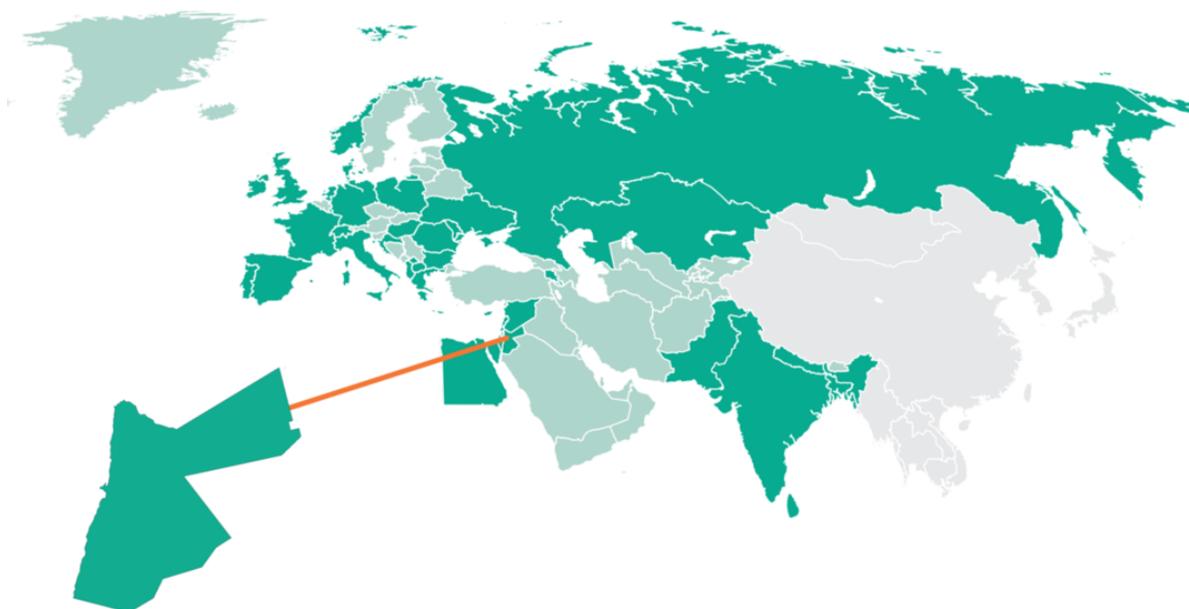


NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

14 June 2023

Eurasia Region



Jordan

The work of the Church of the Nazarene began officially in 1950. Only four years earlier, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan gained its independence in 1946. Prior to this, it had been under the British mandate, given by the League of Nations, to govern much of the Middle East following World War I and the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire. During the Six-Day War of 1967, Jordan lost the West Bank to Israel, and in 1988, under the leadership of King Hussein (1953-1999), Jordan permanently relinquished Jordanian claims to the West Bank. In 1994, a treaty was signed between Jordan and Israel that has helped to bring some stability and peace in the context of Middle East conflicts. King Abdallah, eldest son of King Hussein, assumed the throne following the death of his father in 1999. As you will read in the story below, the Church of the Nazarene in Jordan has been host to many refugee communities fleeing their homes in surrounding countries. This is seen as more of an "opportunity" than a crisis for those who are seeking to share the Good News of Jesus and the freedom that can only truly be found in Him.



1,343 Members



12 Fully Organized Churches; 4 Not Yet Organized Churches



17 District Licensed and 20 Ordained Ministers on 1 District

PRAYER



- Pray for a movement of God among the youth and for more young people to be called, sent, and released into ministry.
- Pray that God would open up opportunities and make a way for new church plants.
- Pray for God to continue to move in our two Nazarene grades 1-10 schools and for new partnerships to develop, bringing stability to these important ministries.

PRAISE



- We praise God for new avenues for discipleship.
- We praise God for new small groups of refugees sharing life together and dreaming about their futures.
- We praise God for His work in the Nazarene grades 1-10 schools and the increasing sense of peace and unity the new leadership has helped to establish.



In Jordan, Christians make up roughly 4 percent of the country’s population. However, there are very few Nazarene or other evangelical churches. Some experts believe there may be as few as 8,000 Evangelical Christians in the entire country of Jordan. Additionally, many of the local Nazarene Christians are new believers, still exploring God’s call in each of their lives.

Though Christians in Jordan are typically free to worship, there is still pressure from some organizations and individuals from other backgrounds to slow the growth of the evangelical church. As a result, there are few opportunities for Arab believers, outside of seminary or other formal institutions, to further explore how God can use them in the Middle East and around the world.

Now, as refugees, many of these persecuted individuals and families are more open to the Gospel than ever before and the church needs a new group of compassionate and trained leaders to reach these marginalized communities around the Middle East.



Group meeting in person.

To meet this need among Arab Christians, leaders at a church in Amman recently launched the EAA Academy: an educational project designed to prepare, encourage, and train new Christian leaders across the region. Through a series of 12-week courses, this Nazarene-based curriculum, also developed by these church leaders, explores topics such as leadership, discipleship, spiritual calling, and how to share your story of faith.

So far, the program has been in high demand, launching with a cohort of more than 240 students! While most students are local, the EAA Academy also hosts students from other Middle Eastern countries, even parts of Europe through online connections. The program is open to youth (ages 13+) that feel they are being called into ministry or leadership within the church. The program is also offered tuition free so that income is never a barrier for those wishing to participate.



Students attending online sessions.

Our hope and prayer is that the EAA Academy will continue to empower new Christians as they explore God’s calling in their lives. This is an essential step toward building God’s kingdom in the Middle East and seeing lives changed through church plants, ordination of new leaders, and outreach through compassionate ministries.

Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to serve in some capacity in contexts where there are significant refugee communities seeking a new sense of identity and belonging? For more information, click [here](#).



See the past archive of NMI Central publications [here](#).



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