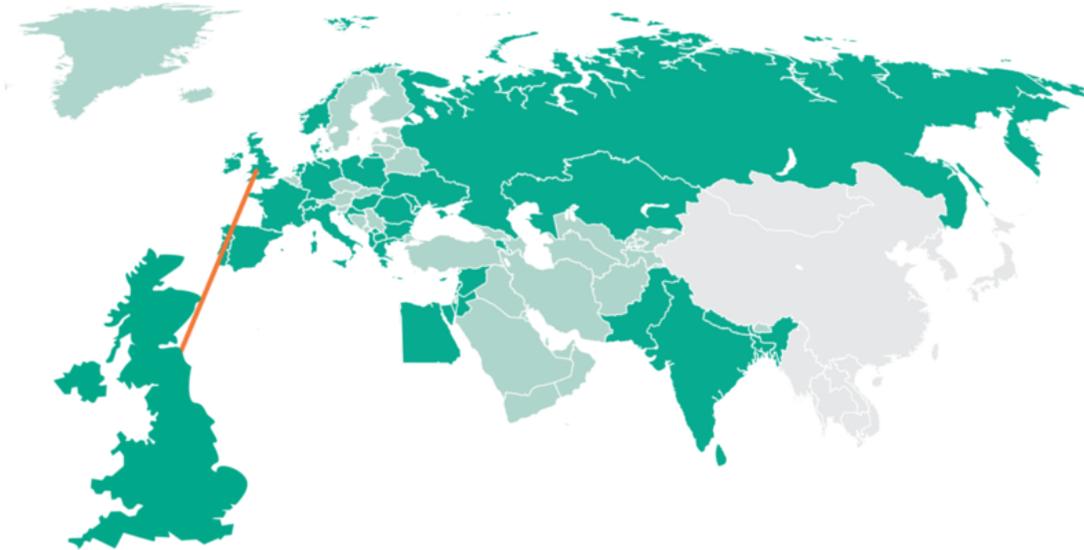


# NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

31 August 2022

## Eurasia Region



## United Kingdom

The Church of the Nazarene began work in the United Kingdom in 1909. The United Kingdom is an island nation in northwestern Europe. It includes England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Because the United Kingdom is made up of four nations, there is diversity in culture, language, and values. Nazarene churches in the U.K. are mostly located in challenged socioeconomic neighborhoods. The British Isles South District (BISD), which is made up of Wales and England, is home to Caribbean, Hungarian, Portuguese-speaking, Brazilian, and Korean congregations. The British Isles North District (BIND) includes Scotland, Northern Ireland, and England.



3251 Members



74 Fully Organized Churches and 4 Not Yet Fully Organized Churches



31 District Licensed and 142 Ordained Ministers

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## PRAYER



- Pray for church planting efforts that are hoping to grow and integrate our Korean, Brazilian, and potentially Indian diaspora church plants into the British Isles South District.
- Pray that a Holy Spirit-breathed, missional, and transformational revival will spread across the U.K.
- Pray for the renewal of smaller churches.
- Pray for the church across the U.K. as they face difficult financial challenges.



## PRAISE

- We praise God for His faithfulness to the church.
- We praise God for the open doors for immigrant ministry.
- We thank God for Nazarene Theological College and the good enrolment in the master's program.
- We thank God for ministers and leaders who faithfully serve the church.



## [Video game tournament leads 70 young people to Christ in England](#)



About 70 young people made decisions to follow Jesus Christ at a video game tournament in Manchester, England.

The multi-day FIFA video game tournament was a part of Festival Manchester, an evangelistic event held 1-3 July in Wythenshawe Park. George Herrera, a student at Nazarene Theological College—Manchester, led the tournament as part of his ongoing video game ministry to teens.

“Most of the young people we engage with are unchurched youth,” Herrera said. “Most of them have never been to church or heard about Jesus before.”

The teens’ love for football and video games draws them in so that Herrera and other youth workers can build relationships with them. When Herrera was approached to run a tournament at Festival Manchester, God began opening doors for the tournament to be even larger than some of the ministry’s past events.

Some of the festival sponsors provided the latest technology and gaming consoles for tournament participants. In addition, they gave away a PlayStation 5. Students from Nazarene Theological College volunteered at the tournament, promoting the college and serving the youth of their community.

During each day of the tournament, the volunteers held a “timeout” called Gospel Time in which individuals gave testimonies of how God transformed their lives. Afterward, leaders and volunteers helped connect those who made decisions for Christ with a local church.

Herrera, who is currently finishing his master’s degree at Nazarene Theological College, has been ministering to youth in the area through video games for several years. He called the work difficult, likening it to a pioneering effort.

“Often you get people telling us how you can’t play video games in church, saying that video games are evil etc.,” Herrera said. “Christians have historically, traditionally, engaged with the latest media technology in church, and video games are no different.” Herrera doesn’t incorporate video game titles that involve violence, instead opting for games like Mario Kart and FIFA.

“I think to myself very basically, what would Jesus do?” Herrera said “If Jesus was alive right now, would he be playing video games? 100 percent.”

Herrera pointed to a young man who attended the tournament as evidence of the work God is doing through the ministry. The man came with his friends, who got into a fight with another group of boys. Herrera and other leaders were able to de-escalate the situation, and the young man appeared again the next day at a smaller, follow-up tournament. That day, he heard the gospel and accepted Christ.

The speaker at the event was a Christian rap artist in England who was able to connect the young man with an apprentice program at a recording studio.

“His life could’ve taken a severe turn for the worse,” Herrera said.

While there is competition involved in the ministry, leaders demand sportsmanship from those who attend events or come to the group regularly.

“I tell them, ‘This is a tournament. Every single one of you is going to lose, except for one,’” Herrera laughed.

Ultimately, he believes video games are something that the church can and should utilize as a tool for evangelism and discipleship. “I think that it’s a great feature of culture that we can leverage to allow video games to fulfill their true purpose, which is to reveal Christ,” Herrera said.

### Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to serve at a missional coffee house in the cosmopolitan area of South West London? Click [here](#) to learn more.



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



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