

***Engage* magazine**
Five-minute Mission Moment
June 2012
Episode 2 Speaking Script

Pronunciations

Turks and Caicos – Terks and Kaycohs

Nathalie – Nah tuh lee

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In early 2012, the Turks and Caicos Islands became the 158th world area the Church of the Nazarene officially entered. This is the story of how an unlikely couple planted this new church with a basketball team and a megaphone.

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Our story takes place in the Turks and Caicos Islands, a British Territory in the North Atlantic Ocean.

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South of the Bahamas and near Haiti, Turks and Caicos includes 30 different islands, with people living on eight of them.

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Half of the population is made up of immigrants from surrounding nations; the other half are native to the islands and call themselves “Belongers.”

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Earlier this year, church leaders of the English Caribbean Field had made a list of countries where there is no Church of the Nazarene.

They began plans to enter 10 new countries in the next 10 years.

Turks and Caicos was at the top of their list.

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They didn’t know was that a Nazarene couple was already living in the islands.

Jeremiah and Nathalie Sweeting had been active leaders in the Nazarene church on their home island in the Bahamas for 20 years.

In 2008, they were shocked when Jeremiah’s company transferred him to Turks and Caicos.

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Nathalie was heartbroken, desperately missing her home, family and church.

Every day she sought comfort in reading her Bible and in prayer with God.

After a year, she sensed the Lord telling her, "I want you to start the work in this place."

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Nathalie didn't know where to start.

Then she remembered how she had led Nazarene youth in basketball ministry in the Bahamas.

She and Jeremiah visited a nearby basketball court. They invited the teen boys to form a basketball team and start a league. The condition was that they must participate in a weekly Christian youth meeting.

The boys agreed. Soon, 15 teams of youth and adults in the community had formed to play against Nathalie's team.

The boys met with her weekly for a Bible study and prayer.

This led to a church plant in the Sweetings' home.

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Next, Nathalie sensed the Spirit telling her to go and preach at an abandoned lot.

Although skeptical, she prepared a sermon, took a megaphone, and stood alone on the broken concrete.

She lifted up the megaphone and began preaching to the empty lot and bushes.

What she didn't know was that Haitian immigrants were living in a nearby ghetto, some sleeping in the bushes.

People began to emerge from the bushes to hear her sermon.

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Today, the Sweetings' house church includes a regular attendance of 30. Twenty-five of these have accepted Christ.

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This spring, missionary Joel Tooley, representing the Mesoamerica Region, and John Wildgoose, the district's superintendent, visited the fledgling church. They dedicated a baby, observed baptisms and helped to welcome new members into the Church of the Nazarene.

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Nathalie has been praying for God to provide a larger tent and chairs for more worship space, a van to pick up attendees, and worship music equipment.

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In June, the JESUS Film ministry delivered a sturdy tent and chairs for the growing church.

Slide 14

We join with Jeremiah and Nathalie and our new brothers and sisters in the Turks and Caicos, praising God for his wisdom, perfect timing and elegant plans to use us, His people, to bring others to Him.

Slide 15

All of us who have given generously to mission offerings, Faith Promise, JESUS Film Harvest Partners and other Nazarene ministries are directly part of this story.

This story happened because you gave.

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