

2016 WINTER TRAINING EUROPE REPORT

THE LORD'S UP-TO-DATE MOVE IN GERMANY

2015 to Summer 2016—Review from the 2016 Summer Training Europe Report

In 2015 the Lord sovereignly moved approximately one million refugees from the Middle East through Turkey and southeastern Europe primarily to Germany. The saints in the Lord's recovery responded to this migration firstly by the distribution of gospel tracts and other materials available through Rhema to the migrants as they passed through Greece. By the end of 2015 most of the migrating refugees had arrived in Germany.

In the early autumn of 2015 brothers in the work began to fellowship concerning how to meet the Lord's need for the care of the refugees flooding into Germany. The focus was mainly on reaching migrants in the camps that were close to four cities in Germany: Berlin, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, and Stuttgart. In each of these cities there were a few saints. Serving saints from the United Kingdom began to move to these four cities to strengthen the testimony that was already there. For this unique time in history the saints in the United Kingdom were burdened to lay aside their ongoing labor in the United Kingdom and be brought more into a corporate view of the Lord's interest by focusing their labor on the situation in Germany. These four churches began to labor to care for the refugees and to function as a net for newly-saved migrants as well as local German-speaking people. This prepared the way for many other saints to join in the labor on a shorter term basis.

In January 2016 approximately 200 FTTA and FTTL trainees and serving ones labored in Germany to contact the refugees. During this first gospel trip the visiting saints contacted and established initial connections with many refugees.

From February through June 2016 seven two-week follow-up gospel trips were carried out to continue to contact the new ones, to shepherd them, and to connect them with the local saints in the homes. During the later follow-up gospel trips, trainings were conducted in each of the four cities to establish the new believers in the truth and in the healthy life practices. Overall, there were nearly 1,000 saints both from Europe and overseas who joined in to care for the new refugees in Germany. The one accord among the participating saints was both the strong foundation and the top enjoyment of each gospel trip. In addition, saints all over the earth joined together to pray for the Lord's blessing on these gospel trips and to give to meet the financial need.

Autumn 2016—Update

From September through November 2016 three one-month follow-up trips focused on shepherding the new ones contacted in the first half of the year. Approximately 100 saints both from Europe and overseas joined in for the shepherding labor. One of the highlights in this stage of the labor is that many of the ones who have been saved and baptized and are attending the new believers' meetings are the warm doors to invite others to meet with us. As a result additional new contacts have been gained and many baptisms have resulted through the ones gained by us these past several months. Furthermore, the four churches have now begun to labor on the campuses with the burden to gain the local German young people. Bible distribution tables have been set up next to key campuses, and the Lord is beginning to bring some promising young ones to us.

2017—CURRENT NEED GOING FORWARD

Although the Lord has done much in the past year, the brothers feel that we are now at an important stage in the Lord's move in Germany. There are four major areas that we feel are within the Lord's heart and require some consideration within His Body:

- 1) The first focus should be on the **emigration** of trained and experienced families and saints for the practical strengthening and building up of the local churches in the four key cities in Germany. "Some can emigrate to Europe to live the Lord..." (*The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move*, p. 46). Saints in this category who can already speak some German would be especially valuable. The churches are small, and the need for pillars is great. There is the need for many more homes to be opened to receive the new students and refugees into the practical church life.

- 2) The second focus should be on the **campuses**, to gain the **local German young people**. In the long run, they are the ones who are needed to spread the Lord's testimony throughout Germany. The FTTA gospel trips in January will help us with some strong Bible distribution and gospel work on the primary campuses in the four cities. Starting in February, we propose that at any given time there would be five campus workers in each of the four cities who can remain a minimum of a month to continue the work of the FTTA trainees and to help raise up a model of gaining remaining fruit from the campus. We need full-timers who are trained, have the experience needed, and are already fruitful on the campuses where they now serve. Saints in this category who can already speak some German would be especially valuable. This work should begin in February and continue into July. To support this focus we also urgently need to acquire apartments near these campuses.
- 3) The third focus, which may be the most pressing need, is with the **perfecting** of the key new ones to do the same things we do, so these key ones themselves can shepherd the others. There is also the great need to perfect the local saints in life, in the truth, and in the God-ordained way. This is a very particular work, carried out not through big meetings but through personal, one-on-one perfecting contact. We propose that at any given time there would be ten participants in each of the four cities who can remain a minimum of a month to carry out this one-on-one perfecting. This particular work will require saints who are trained (FTT or FTT-MA), and who have the skill of perfecting others; these will be screened (or drafted) through a serious vetting process. Saints in this category who can already speak some German would be especially valuable. This work should begin from February and could continue through June or longer.
- 4) The fourth focus should be on **Bible distribution**. As next year is the 500th year anniversary of the Reformation begun by Martin Luther, there is a strong burden to complete what our brother has begun. Martin Luther translated the Bible from Greek into German. This allowed the Word to be opened up for the first time to everyone, and we want to complete our brother's work by distributing the interpreted Bible. We propose that during 2017 we would distribute throughout Europe hundreds of thousands of Recovery Versions of the New Testament in the European languages that are currently available, such as English, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian. We believe that people will be particularly aware of the Bible next year, especially in Germany. Each time we go out with the free New Testament, approximately half of the people who receive one ask for further contact. We believe this is because of their respect for the Bible and their desire to understand it. We are burdened to get this ministry into the hands of as many seeking Europeans as possible.

Bibles for America has offered to replicate their electronic infrastructure to Bibles for Europe. We propose to distribute Bibles in Germany via advertising and the internet throughout the year, as well as by direct distribution at certain events and during the week following the 2017 Autumn ITERO in Leipzig, Germany. This effort will require IT and administrative personnel, especially German-speakers. This work should begin immediately and continue throughout 2017.

May the Lord continue to advance in His move in Germany through the prayer and fellowship of the Body.

For information regarding Germany, please visit germany.lebensstrom.de.

THE BLENDING AND INCREASE THROUGHOUT EUROPE

A Review from the 2016 Autumn Europe Report

We are continually reminded of Brother Lee's speaking in 1991 regarding the consummation of the age:

“Before [the crushing of the great human image in Daniel 2] transpires, **the Lord's recovery must spread to Europe and be rooted there. The spreading of the truths of the Lord's recovery will be a preparation for the Lord's coming back** to bring the recovery and restoration not only to Israel but also to the entire creation.

“Of the three influential factors in today's world, the Far East and the United States have been occupied and taken by the Lord's recovery. Europe still remains as a region in which the Lord's recovery needs to be rooted and grow. **I hope that we would bring this fellowship to the Lord and pray. We should tell the Lord, 'Lord, these days are the consummation of the age. Lord, in these days rekindle my love toward You.'**”
(*The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move*, p. 19, emphasis added)

We believe that in these days the Lord is surely intensifying His move in Europe. In the past two and half years the number of saints meeting in Europe has increased by 50 per cent to a total of just over 4,500 saints. There are now 88 lampstands in 24 countries in Europe. The outward environment, especially with regard to the mass migration of refugees into Europe, is also under the Lord's sovereign hand as He arranges the world situation and governments to further His move and prepare His bride.

2017 Autumn ITERO Blending Meeting, Blending Trips, and Regional Conferences

We are now looking forward to the Autumn International Training for Elders and Responsible Ones (ITERO), one of the seven feasts bequeathed to us by Brother Lee. This coming year it will be held in Leipzig, Germany from October 5-7, 2017.

We would like to invite the saints from all over the earth to join various blending trips to visit the saints in Europe the week following the ITERO. The blending trips would culminate in eight regional conferences throughout Europe on the weekend after the ITERO from October 14-15. The regional conferences would take place in one city in each of the eight regions listed below. For each region we have included the countries where there are saints currently meeting.

The Nordic and Baltic countries (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Sweden)

The Balkan countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Serbia, Turkey)

The Iberian Peninsula (Portugal, Spain)

Eastern Europe (Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine)

Italy

French-speaking Europe (Belgium, France, Switzerland)

German-speaking Europe (Austria, Germany, Switzerland)

The British Isles (England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales)

The saints in these regions are currently preparing for these trips. For more information and to register please visit: itero2017.amanatrust.org.uk.

THE CONTINUED BURDEN FOR TRAINING AND AN ENLARGED TRAINING CENTER

We need to take the trained way and care for training. Currently, in Europe there is the two-year full-time training (FTTL) for the young people who finish their university studies and who want to give some time to be trained. We believe that the number of trainees will grow exponentially very rapidly.

We also realize the need for all kinds of training. One training we have been practicing for some time now is the one-week training, which we are able to have for one month in the autumn and one month in the spring. Brother Lee said that we need a comprehensive training—a training in truth, life, the church, and the gospel—and this was the way he took when he went from China to Taipei (*Crucial Words of Leading in the Lord's Recovery*, Book 3, p. 8). We are endeavoring to take the same way. Our capacity for additional trainees during these times is about 40 people a week, and we reach our capacity each month that the trainings are held. Even with our limited capacity we have had over 1,000 saints who have passed through the one-week trainings from all over Europe and other countries throughout the earth. Some of these ones are new to the church life or may have never been to a meeting before, yet after one week in the truth, pursuing life, realizing what the church is, and having a heart for the gospel to be spread to others, they are changed.

Our burden is to have trainings available almost all the time. For this we are developing more efficient and enlarged training facilities in London. As was previously reported we received the government's permission to renew and expand the training center at Bower House in London with a new and enlarged two story facility. **On November 30, 2016 the local council also voted in favor of our proposal for Woodland Camp, a 17-acre site which is a 9-minute drive from Bower House. They approved the building of 47 cabins, including a manager's house, and a two story meeting hall with kitchen, dining area, bedrooms, and ancillary facilities. With these facilities constructed, Woodland Camp would have permanent meeting and sleeping capacity for over 300 people.** We are also expecting to purchase the land adjacent to Bower House, which would be a preparation for the expansion of the training in future years.

Depending on the release of the necessary finances, it could be that by next spring we would have a much larger capacity for these trainings. It is very affordable to fly from anywhere in Europe to one of London's six airports, especially when flying into London Stansted or London Southend airport, which are only a thirty-five minute drive from Bower House. If we have these facilities, we could increase the number of attendees and the number and length of trainings held. We believe that, aided by these facilities, the Lord will continue to use these trainings for the perfecting of the saints and the furtherance of His move in Europe.

“Throughout the years, we in the Lord's recovery have been hearing His Word and have been built up in the riches of Christ. We have surely been nourished by the divine Word. Now if we all would be faithful to live for God's administration in caring for money and material matters, there would be no financial needs in the recovery. For example, certainly we can exercise our spirit and our will to save a small amount of money each week, perhaps just two dollars and fifty cents, and give this to the Lord for His move on earth. One day, instead of having our lunch at a restaurant, we may eat a simple meal prepared at home. Then the money saved could be given to the Lord. Imagine what the situation would be if we all were faithful to do something like this week by week!” (*Life-study of 1 Corinthians*, p. 627)

While many saints and churches may be burdened to participate, we currently have less than 5% of the amount needed to proceed with the building project. If the saints in just North America and Europe would do as Brother Lee suggested above, within the next two years the total amount needed to complete the building works would be covered. If saints from throughout the earth also join in to participate, the building works can be completed and the trainings enlarged much sooner.

Tens of thousands of seeking Europeans have contacted us with the desire to be brought more into the ministry of the age. We need the training, and we need to see the Lord expand Himself in Europe. May we be those who pick up the burden to labor as one, in a blended way and in a corporate way.

For information regarding praying, giving, and going related to the Lord's move in Europe, please visit amanatrust.org.uk and/or lordsmove.org.

For information regarding Germany, please visit germany.lebensstrom.de.

For information regarding the ITERO blending trips and regional conferences, please visit itero2017.amanatrust.org.uk.