

## A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE LORD'S CURRENT MOVE IN EUROPE

December 2010

In *The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move*, Brother Lee said, "The Lord's direction of His present recovery must be toward Europe" (p. 17). On the next page he continued, "Europe, in the consummation of the fulfillment of the vision concerning the great human image in Daniel 2, is also more vitally crucial than any other country and race" (p. 18). He concluded that before the crushing of the great human image transpires, "the Lord's recovery must spread to Europe and be rooted there" (p. 19).

The ministry helps us to see that Europe is crucial for the Lord's return, and it also gives us a detailed blueprint of how to live out the gospel and bear the Lord's testimony among the Europeans. Brother Lee emphasized the principle of small, living, and organic vital groups: "...two in each place, as they are studying, or working, or just contacting people, could bring at least ten to the Lord" (*The World Situation and God's Move*, p. 84). "We need to go to Europe with the Lord's new way, the God-ordained way. We should go to Europe by emigration, not by a work or by a movement" (*The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move*, p. 46).

### The Spread of the Ministry

For many years there has been a burden for the spread of the ministry throughout Europe. The ministry is now available in 21 European languages. The present need is to distribute the ministry to the hungry seekers. In 1987, speaking concerning the importance of the spread of the ministry, Brother Lee said, "The raising up of... churches has been for the most part due to the issuing of publications, audio tapes, and video tapes in the Lord's recovery" (*Words of Training for the New Way*, Vol. 1, p. 31).

The English *Life-study of the Bible* radio broadcast, which is now available in the whole of the United Kingdom, has reached many seekers and connected them to the ministry. The Spanish radio program is now being broadcast throughout Spain and Portugal twice weekly, and we hope it will bring in a similar response. The distribution of the ministry through Rhema has also been very effective. Another avenue for distribution has been the bookshops. In London a bookshop at Bower House receives many orders daily for the ministry. Recently, a property was acquired in central London, near King's Cross and St. Pancras (Eurostar) train stations, with the intention of opening it as a second bookshop. London is a very significant city for the distribution of the ministry because it has such a diverse population representing almost every country in the world.

Today one of the most effective ways of reaching people is the Internet. The following European countries now have websites offering the ministry publications for purchase: the Czech Republic, France, Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, and the UK. Still in development are online bookstores in Germany and Croatia, which will also serve Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia. Websites are also being developed to contact unbelievers, providing biblical answers to frequently asked questions and directing visitors to read the ministry online and to download gospel tracts. These are a few of the ways in which we are endeavoring to fulfill the commission of spreading the ministry to both hungry believers and unbelievers.

### Migrations

As a result of the spread of the ministry there has been a response in many thousands of seeking ones throughout Europe. Over the past two years the burden to reach the seeking ones in the United Kingdom has led to the identifying of 12 key cities, which have large numbers of contacts and major universities. Saints throughout the UK picked up the burden to pray for each of these cities, with a goal to visit them, hold seminars, and eventually migrate in small groups to bear the Lord's testimony.

In order to gather and shepherd the seeking ones, a series of three seminars was conducted simultaneously in 12 cities in the spring of 2010. These cities were Belfast (Northern Ireland), Cardiff (Wales), Glasgow (Scotland), and the English cities of Coventry, Exeter, Leicester, Liverpool, Manchester, Peterborough, Sheffield, Southampton, and Southend-on-Sea. Over 500 saints participated in these seminars, 418 seeking ones attended, and 74 of these requested home Bible studies.

During this same period the saints were greatly helped by the special edition of the *HWMR: Migration for God's Move for the Carrying out of His Economy*, and many were encouraged to go to the Lord regarding migrating to the 12 cities. Through fellowship the cities of Chelmsford and Preston have now been numbered among the 12 cities, with migrations to Leicester and Peterborough being planned for a later time. In response to those who requested home Bible studies, small groups of saints have now migrated to each of the 12 cities, where they are pursuing the God-ordained way in the principle of the vital groups. Edinburgh, Scotland, is another city where there has been regular contact with seeking believers in recent months. The testimony from many saints who migrated is that after they moved in faith with the desperation to be vitalized, the Lord poured out His blessing and filled their homes with new ones seeking Him.

There have also been recent migrations to France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and Turkey. In both Holland and Romania saints have migrated within these countries. New cities to which saints have migrated include Dusseldorf, Germany; Oslo, Norway; Lisbon, Portugal; and Uppsala, Sweden.

Speaking at a conference in 1981, Brother Lee said, "After a few years there could be a small testimony in many countries. The two in each place, as they are studying, or working, or just contacting people, could bring at least ten to the Lord. Then there would be twelve meeting together as a small lampstand. A lampstand is not big like a lighthouse; I believe the Bible uses the lampstand to signify the church to give the sense that the church does not have to be a big thing" (*The World Situation and God's Move*, p. 84). Brother Lee's speaking has been borne out in our experience. New lampstands have been established in Delft, Holland; Milan, Italy; Murcia, Spain; Bern, Switzerland; Istanbul, Turkey; and Bristol, Chelmsford, and Preston, United Kingdom.

Regarding migration, Brother Lee said, "I encourage you all to pick up the burden to migrate. We should migrate not for the sake of our living but for the sake of the gospel. The Lord called Abraham, and Abraham migrated. In following the Lord, Abraham had no lack. Likewise, as we migrate for the gospel's sake the Lord will meet our needs. To migrate for the gospel is to migrate for the Lord, since the gospel is actually the Lord Himself. The first pattern found in chapter eight of Acts is the migration of the saints for the spreading of the gospel" (*Life-study of Acts*, pp. 181-182).

We believe that the Lord has blessed all the migrations across Europe due to the prayers of the members of His Body. May He continue to pour out His blessing and gain a shining lampstand in each city.

### **The Young People and the Campus Work**

Concerning the work among the students, Brother Lee said, "We need to perfect and train the young people. All the brothers should bear this burden. When the young people rise up, we should not only help them grow but also perfect and train them. Since we are promoting the work of gaining young people, we need to have a training" (*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1967*, Vol. 1, p. 329).

This year there are more students in the church life attending university in the UK than ever before. The first university training took place in September 2010 with over 40 students in attendance. The students entered into the burden for prayer and for a normal, daily God-man living. Following the training, these students have continued to meet together to pray and coordinate concerning numerous university campuses. After the migrations to the 12 new cities, many students also joined the migrating saints to contact university students through Rhema distribution, personal contact, and welcome meetings. During Welcome Week there were over 400 requests for further contact in the 12 new cities, and another 400 requests in London and other cities of the UK.

There have also been encouraging reports of the work among the young people and students throughout Europe. The first conference for all the young people in the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) was held this November. Saints in other places have been able to reach their classmates by becoming students on campus, developing gospel websites, and distributing questionnaires to unbelievers as a tool to spark their interest in the gospel.

At Bower House in London, the European Winter School of Truth is now being held for the eighth year for young people aged 11 to 18. This past summer the sixteenth annual young people's conference was held in the mountain village of Małe Ciche in Poland for young people aged 13 to 18. During the last two years the Lord has opened up the two matters of the young people being "the seeds of the gospel" and the church life being "the family of Noah." We have realized that our work with the young people should not merely preserve them but must perfect them in the way

of life to function in the church and speak the gospel for the testimony of Jesus. We are now beginning to see a response in the young people to rise up to function, to pray for their companions, and to speak for the Lord.

### **Conferences and Trainings**

In October 2010 a European international conference was held in Holland. This was the largest such gathering on the mainland of Europe in a quarter of a century. More than 700 saints attended. Many testified that this was a landmark event and a new beginning for the blending of all the saints in Europe, as well as a restoration and a glory to the Lord.

This year a series of One-week Trainings has been conducted at Bower House in London. This training is open to all the saints in Europe. The material being covered is taken from *The Four Great Pillars in the Lord's Recovery: Truth, Life, the Church, and the Gospel*. A total of 110 saints and new ones from nine countries in Europe and Israel consecrated themselves to be trained. Many more have registered for the trainings scheduled in 2011. In 1978 Brother Lee described the need for training: "We need training in how to speak, how to preach the gospel, and how to teach and shepherd others. Every proper Christian who is up to the Lord's standard should be one who is sent out, who speaks for God, who preaches the gospel, and who takes care of others. If we are like this, we shall be different both from the worldly people and from most Christians. We shall be a heavenly people carrying out a heavenly commission" (*Life-study of Ephesians*, p. 360). These special times of training help the saints to become constituted with the truth, to live by the divine life, and to be brought into a life of fruit-bearing for His increase and spread.

### **Bower House**

The Bower House property has been a blessing not only to the UK but also to all of Europe. In the five years that we have had the property, it has been the home of the FTTL and has also been used for the French and the German Recovery Version proof-reading projects. Bower House is very useful for trainings, conferences, seminars and times of blending, with many events filling the property to overflowing. Until now most of the larger events have been conducted in a large tent on the property, which is not so suitable for the long term. Now, because of the need for more space, the brothers are seeking approval to build a three-story building that will greatly increase both meeting and accommodation capacity. Please pray for this.

### **Conclusion**

Brother Lee said, "If the church in a particular locality is to avoid becoming... a Dead Sea, a 'canal' must be dug to allow the 'water' to flow out. Perhaps ten percent of the saints in a locality may migrate each year. This will allow for the necessary outflow without devastating the church. Furthermore, if water is allowed to flow out, more water will flow in" (*Life-Study of Acts*, p. 181). The number of saints in many places in Europe is small, yet the Lord is moving in a slow, steady, and organic way. A small number of saints going in the principle of a vital group gives the Lord the way to raise up a lampstand in a city. As Brother Lee said, the use of the word *lampstand* in the Bible to portray the church gives the sense that the church does not have to be large. It is our experience that the recent migrations have been a blessing to the churches in Europe, increasing the traffic among the sending churches and the new cities and increasing the blending, the fellowship, and the functioning of all the saints. Maintaining the connection with sending localities and remaining in the unique fellowship of the universal Body is the strength, protection, and supply of the saints who have migrated.

All the saints in the Lord's recovery can participate in the Lord's move by praying, giving, and going. Through all the years the Lord's move in Europe has strongly depended on these three factors. Through the persistent prayer and faithful giving of the saints and churches around the globe, and through the emigration of many saints to live and labor in the European countries, the Lord has gained thousands of Europeans and raised up scores of churches for His shining expression. May the Lord cause us to continue steadfastly in these three matters so that He may fully reach His goal in Europe to prepare the way for His coming back.

For more details concerning the items covered in this brief report, please visit [www.amanatrust.org.uk/europe2010](http://www.amanatrust.org.uk/europe2010). For information on how to support the Lord's move in Europe through prayer, giving, and going, please visit [www.lordsmove.org](http://www.lordsmove.org).