

AN UPDATE CONCERNING EUROPE DECEMBER 2018 SEMIANNUAL TRAINING

In 1992 in *One Body and One Spirit*, Brother Lee shares,

“The unique relationship, fellowship, and blending of all the local churches should be as much as practicality allows, without boundaries of states, provinces, or nations.” (p. 19)

“Some [local churches] are very small with not more than fifteen saints; others have twenty-five, thirty, or fifty...If they would be blended together, they could do many things. They could still meet in their own locality during the week, but on the Lord’s Day they should come together to a central place. Spontaneously, that meeting would be strengthened.” (p. 20)

Although there are between 4,500 and 5,000 saints throughout Europe, many localities, and even countries, in Europe have only a handful of saints, and in the past year the saints in these places have been strengthened by gathering together and blending with other small nearby localities or countries. What was begun by the regional blending times in October 2017 has continued since, and the regions are endeavoring to labor and blend together in the same way. The reports that follow are short updates on each region. May the Lord continue to strengthen and increase His testimony in Europe that He may hasten His return.

THE BALKANS

In this region only four countries have a lampstand. In Greece there is one lampstand in Athens, as well as saints living in Thessaloniki. There is one lampstand in Bulgaria and one lampstand in Croatia, as well as saints living in other localities in both these countries. In Turkey there are almost 30 saints and one lampstand in Istanbul. Albania and Serbia both have a small number of saints, and although there are no lampstands in either country, there is the hope that there will be soon. In total there are around 190 saints in the region. Since the regional blending conference last year held in Thessaloniki, Greece, the saints felt to drop their individual country conferences to have a yearly blending conference that would rotate between these small and very scattered locations to encourage the saints. The regional blending conference this year was held in November in Tirana, Albania, with a view that a lampstand would soon be raised up in that country.

THE BRITISH ISLES

There are about 40 saints in Ireland with one lampstand in Dublin. The saints there are burdened to gain the local Irish as remaining fruit and are praying for the local Catholics to be released from the stronghold of religion. In the UK there are over 1,000 saints. Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK that does not have a lampstand; however, there is a burden that Belfast, where there are some saints meeting, would become a lampstand soon. Scotland has two lampstands, Glasgow and Edinburgh. There is one lampstand in Cardiff, Wales. There are also 14 lampstands throughout England. Since many of the churches in these areas are quite small, the saints have picked up the burden for clustering with the neighboring churches in order to have impact, especially on the Lord’s Day. The focus is currently on Birmingham, which is the second largest city in the UK. There is a lampstand and a purchased meeting hall, but the burden is to strengthen the testimony in this city through the clustering of churches nearby, as well as through migration in the coming year. Lastly, Brexit (the exit of the UK from the European Union) will occur on March 29, 2019. The impact on the labor and travel between the UK and the rest of Europe is currently unknown and something to remember in prayer.

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

In Slovakia there are around 40 saints with one lampstand in the far east and one in the far west. The saints are currently focusing their labor to care for a group of saints in the middle of these two localities. They also are enjoying the blending with the saints in the nearby countries. They can testify that when they travel to meet together there is the impact. In the Czech Republic there are almost 50 saints meeting in four localities, three of which are lampstands. There is one lampstand in Hungary and around 30 saints meeting there. Since the majority of saints are

Hungarian, the saints are enjoying more blending now that there are a few more saints who can help with translation. In Poland there are presently nine lampstands and around 250 saints. The saints blend once a month and the brothers gather regularly. Since the mass distribution of the Polish Recovery Version of the New Testament began, the saints in Poland are more focused on following up on those requesting more contact. Once the new shipment of Polish New Testaments arrives, they will begin advertising online. In Romania there are over 130 saints meeting in eight localities. On the literature side, the serving ones have been concentrating on producing the Life-studies, with the view to prepare for the translation of the Recovery Version of the New Testament in Romanian. In February 2019 they plan to have the complete set of Life-studies ready for printing. The Life-studies will be published as funds become available.

DUTCH-SPEAKING AREAS

In November of this year there was a conference in Brussels, Belgium, which was attended by saints from Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, and the UK. The saints enjoyed much blending and the messages were shared in English and French by eight brothers from five different countries. Many new ones attended the conference for the first time, and the saints are encouraged by seeing some being added to the church life in Belgium. There are around 60 saints in Belgium with one lampstand in Brussels. There is also a campus work in Leuven, Belgium, where there is an increasing number of seeking believers. In the Netherlands there is a burden among the saints for the larger cities, namely Rotterdam and Amsterdam. Two families recently migrated to Amsterdam, and each of these cities have new contacts that the saints are caring for. The saints from the other smaller localities are also joining in to help strengthen these two cities, and they are finding that they are being revived as well. There are seven lampstands in the Netherlands and around 190 saints.

FRENCH-SPEAKING AREAS

For the past year, beginning with Paris, the saints have been building up a coordination, especially among a group of university students and young adults, with the view that the saints would be built up into a corporate vessel. The saints are enjoying participating in regular Bible distributions that are resulting in regular appointments with a number of Bible recipients. There are a number of new localities developing in France where there are groups of saints currently being visited and shepherded by the saints in Paris and Lyon. There are currently around 300 saints meeting in six localities in France, five of which are lampstands. Around 30 saints are meeting in the Lausanne-Geneva area of Switzerland. There is a lampstand in Lausanne, and the saints are burdened to recover the lampstand in Geneva. They are enjoying learning how to pray as the church. In addition, for the past two years the responsible brothers from the French-speaking areas have been gathering together twice a year to fellowship, as well as, in the past year, to pray together each month via Skype.

GERMAN-SPEAKING AREAS

In Germany there are seven local churches and 28 additional cities with saints with a total of over 650 saints in the whole country. In October 2018 the first Lord's table was held in Munich in southern Germany. There were 400 saints gathered from all over Germany and Europe, and there was a strong sense in the meeting that the Lord's victorious and prevailing move has returned to Germany. The saints are burdened for a number of other cities that do not yet have a lampstand, especially for Hamburg in the north, the second largest city in Germany; Bielefeld, Aachen, and Bonn in the west; and Leipzig in the east. Each of these cities has a small group of saints meeting with the burden for increase. In addition to an increased labor on the campuses, the saints continue to labor on and perfect many Farsi- and Arabic-speaking saints who were gained during the immigration crisis of 2015–2016. In the German-speaking area of Switzerland, there is a lampstand in Bern, and as of August 2018, a new lampstand in St. Gallen. The saints are also burdened to recover the lampstand in Zurich. The church life in these cities is very small, so the saints are blending together and laboring to gain students and couples for the Lord's testimony in these cities. There are just over 60 saints meeting in these three cities. For a more detailed report, please visit amanatrust.org.uk/reports.

THE IBERIAN PENINSULA

There are 11 lampstands and over 400 saints on the Iberian Peninsula. On September 28, 2018, the saints closed on the purchase of the new meeting hall in Madrid, Spain. After some remodeling, they held the first meeting and love feast in the new hall on Lord's Day, October 28, 2018. It was a joyous time with over 90 attending. Since winter of 2016, when the church in Madrid started to have the video training, more and more localities have begun having their own video trainings in the same manner with the help of serving ones from Madrid. For the December 2018 Semiannual Training, five localities will have video trainings. One saint from the Peninsula just graduated from the FTTL this past June, and two more are currently in the training. A group of saints, made up of eight FTTL graduates, a couple (both of whom are FTFA graduates), and two older couples, are serving full-time and are covering the entire peninsula. The saints are very burdened for the north of Spain as there are many contacts in that part of the country. In addition, an older serving couple will be moving to the island of Mallorca to care for the saints who have been gained there. Some saints have also recently migrated to Portugal for work, and there is a burden that the Lord would send some key serving ones there. There is also the feeling that the Lord is preparing for the strengthening of His move in Portugal again. For a more detailed report and photos, please visit amanatrust.org.uk/reports.

ITALIAN-SPEAKING AREAS

There are currently two lampstands in Italy—Milan and Rome—and 250 saints. A number of other localities have saints meeting, including a group of Italians in Naples. One of the brothers from this group is now in the FTTL. Recently, the saints have also been in contact with a group of believers meeting in Malta, a small country off the coast of Italy. In the last year and a half, the brothers in Italy have been coming together once every six months to blend, fellowship, pray, and bear the burden for the Lord's move in Italy. They have found that this helps in bearing the burden and understanding what the needs are in the different localities. Lastly, there are 21 books in Italian with 40 titles waiting to be edited. There is a need for a group of saints to be raised up to do this translation and editing work. These books need to be translated along with some Life-study messages in order for the work to start on the Italian Recovery Version of the New Testament.

NORDIC AND BALTIC COUNTRIES

There are six lampstands with over 100 saints in the Nordic countries. The saints in Helsinki, Finland, are burdened to gain local people as most of the saints currently living there are from other countries. There has been an increased focus on the translation of the ministry into Finnish for this purpose. In Norway the saints from Grimstad and Oslo are burdened for the migration to Christensen and Bergen, two other large cities. There are a few saints now living in each of these new cities. The saints in Stockholm and Uppsala, Sweden are enjoying the distribution of the New Testament and the care for the open recipients. They are also caring for a few saints who live in the north of Sweden. Together the saints in Sweden and Norway blend each month with the saints in Copenhagen, Denmark, to help strengthen the new locality, which took the ground in October 2017. In Iceland there is one couple who have been in regular contact with the saints in the Nordic countries and who have begun to translate the first set of the ministry available through Rhema. In addition to blending with the Nordic countries the saints also blend with the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania), where there are seven lampstands and around 150 saints meeting. There will be a Nordic/Baltic blending conference at the end of January in Tallinn, Estonia.

RUSSIAN-SPEAKING AREAS

There are countries in Europe that were formerly under the control of the Soviet Union. Many of the saints in this area learned Russian as a second language. However, these countries are gradually becoming more acclimated to Europe, and many young people are learning English. A significant country where such changes are taking place is Ukraine, and now saints can travel to other European countries from Ukraine without needing a visa. This has released the way for more blending for the saints in this area, especially with the nearby countries. In September 2018 a group of brothers from Ukraine were able to join the regional blending conference in Bratislava, Slovakia. May there be more and more blending among all the countries in Europe!

KEY FACTORS ESSENTIAL TO THE LORD'S PROPAGATION IN EUROPE

1) THE RECOVERY VERSION

The total number of free copies of the Recovery Version of the New Testament being distributed in Europe is averaging well over 5,000 per month. Autumn 2018 has been highlighted by many physical Bible distributions throughout Europe. We are also working on different ways to advertise for internet orders, and we fully expect the number of Bibles distributed each month to increase to over 6,000 in 2019. For a more detailed update on the Bible distribution, please visit amanatrust.org.uk/reports.

To give for the distribution of Bibles in Europe, please send your gift to LME and designate your gift "Distribution of Bibles in Europe" (visit lordsmove.org for more information).

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2) TRAINING

In 1991 in *The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move*, Brother Lee says,

"In both the Far East and the United States, the Lord's recovery is growing, but it is still in the stage of initiation in Europe. We should remember that the United States, Europe, and the Far East are the three influential factors of the present situation of the world. The recovery has taken root in the United States and the Far East, but there is a void in Europe. For this reason the Lord's direction of His present recovery must be toward Europe." (p. 17)

Bower House was purchased in 2005 by gifts from the saints throughout the earth. Its primary function is to carry out the Full-time Training in London (FTTL). The adjoining property Bower Farm was purchased in March of last year. When construction at Bower Farm is completed, we will have the capacity for over 300 FTTL trainees. Another five acres at Bower Farm is available for further expansion in the future. Woodland Camp, a short ten-minute drive from Bower House, is being built and developed as a training facility for all of Europe, and both properties will be instrumental for the advancing of the Lord's recovery in Europe. When fully operational, Woodland Camp will be especially useful for one-week and weekend trainings. Since November 2010, over 1,200 saints from 48 countries have attended one-week trainings at Bower House, of which over 1,100 of these were saints from 28 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom). The capacity at Bower House has been around 40 saints per week for eight weeks of the year, primarily due to limitations in accommodation. When completed, Woodland Camp will have a greatly-increased capacity for one-week and weekend trainings throughout the year. For a detailed report on Woodland Camp, please visit amanatrust.org.uk/reports.

In the concluding message of *Life-study of 1 Corinthians*, Brother Lee says,

"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!" (p. 627)

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