

Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International



- Networking News –
Issued by the European Office

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Please use all or part of this newsletter to communicate to the members of your nation. Would you also encourage your members to take part in our outreaches both national and to other nations.

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This Issue:

Breakthroughs in Europe. FGBMFI Vision for Europe

Love - Link Nepal and other reports.

This newsletter is produced in six languages (including Russian) and is sent to our members throughout Europe

For more information about the Fellowship and coming events see our website www.fgbmfi-europe.com

What About Europe?

We often hear reports about the great things God is doing in Central America, Africa and parts of South-East Asia. Many believers in Europe ask 'what about Europe'? Will revival come again to this Continent? In recent years we have had words from the Lord that indeed revival will come again and that it will come again soon. The Lord has given the word 'breakthrough' and we believe barriers that hinder the work of the Holy Spirit will soon come crashing down. Although we may not see this now in Europe

in FGBMFI, this newsletter gives evidence of signs that are beginning to take place.



Isaiah 58v8: then shall your light come forth as the morning...

In our previous issue of the Networking Newsletter we reported a message from the Lord given to John Walker, our Regional Vice President. He said:

'I believe the Lord has showed me that the next 7 years are vital. Just as God revealed to Joseph that ancient Egypt would experience 7 years of plentiful harvest prior to 7 years of famine, I believe that in the

next 7 years there will a spiritual harvest of souls in Europe, and FGBMFI will play its full part in bringing in that harvest.

Let us accept that challenge and God given opportunity.

I am believing for the beginning of that harvest to start when in March 2007 the European Council meet in Budapest, Hungary, which will be supported by 'fire teams' all over that country witnessing to the life changing power of Jesus.

Richard Shakarian our International President writes:

We have just returned from the wonderful 'all Europe Conference' in Budapest, Hungary WOW! What an incredible time with the Holy Spirit and with our friends who came from 18 nations.

We have to make a movie of the last night! It was FIRE! FIRE! FIRE! . After a brief message I introduced Magnola Vonka. She is a former member of the Hungarian Parliament, and formerly minister of religion. Even though she was the minister of religion, and had even come to FGBMFI meetings in 1996, she had not been ready to accept Jesus Christ as her saviour.

Later that year she came to the Alps in Austria to speak to me at an FGBMFI leaders meeting. There I had the joy of leading Magnola to Christ and, in turn, she opened Hungary for our first 'fire team meeting' ever in 1997. Jack O'Donoghue from Ireland prayed for her, that she would be able to have children. Within a year she had her first child.

The other night she came to our meeting in Budapest. When Miklos Molnar and I introduced her she received a standing ovation. This honourable woman told of receiving Christ, gave her healing testimony, and showed the pictures of her now 2 beautiful children.

Then we introduced the two 'fire team' young men that God used to miraculously heal the broken body of a beggar named Zoltan. He was the young man who had

never walked, whose spine was separated at birth, and wore a heavy belt to keep his spine and body together. Whilst he begged at the train station, he was confronted with two of our 'fire team' men. They were reminded by the Holy Spirit about St. Peter and St. John on the temple steps, and with a powerful anointing they boldly said, 'Look at us!' They said, 'When Zoltan took the first step, it was like stepping into another dimension.'

Jesus came through the faith of our two 'fire team' members who in 1997 were only 25 years old.

Soon shouts of Miracle! Miracle! Jesus healed me! rang through the station. For three days, the former beggar shouted Miracle !, giving the glory to our Lord for his wonderful healing.

Now, 35 years of age, these two young men are just as on 'fire' today as they were 10 years ago! They set the people at the Budapest conference ablaze! We have never seen FGBMFI men and women so excited and on 'fire' as they were that night! I issued a call for everyone who wanted this anointing to run forward and let these two young men anoint them with FIRE! In conservative Europe, it seemed that almost everyone present was on the floor under the power of God'

The Spirit of God moving in Spain and Norway

Our Fellowship in Europe has been blessed and encouraged by the work of Bruce Wick and his team in **Spain**. Bruce and his wife Caroline have been just a couple of years in Spain, and when they first moved there nothing was happening in FGBMFI. Although other members had worked hard and prayed for FGBMFI in Spain for many years, there was no growth and the work came to a halt.

Then after an outreach campaign, with John Wright, UK, chapters started springing up like new plants out of the ground. Even Bruce was amazed at this wonderful work of God. New men started joining FGBMFI and even church leaders wanted to be

involved. Bruce says 'its difficult do keep up with what God is doing'.



We ofcourse pray that this fire and enthusiasm in the Holy Spirit will move north into France and to the heart of Europe.

In the north of Europe, Hans-Petter Thue and his wife Kari, have been very active building up the FGBMFI work in **Norway**. Through the 'fire team outreaches' they are seeing new chapters starting up in different parts of that nation. They go out to where the people are. God is blessing this work and the Fellowship is growing. Hans-Petter and Kari have a vision to see the fire of the Holy Spirit moving towards Central Europe and beyond.

Here is a report from DAWN International (Discipling A Whole Nation), and their view of Europe:

1 million new "churches" for Europe?

Europe: more than 50 countries, more than 700 million people. At least 7 Mega-regions, defined by very different religious and cultural histories. Once defined by Christendom, Europe is in rapid transition - to where? to what?

On the surface, Europe (at least big parts of Western Europe) seems to leave its christian heritage behind - at a fast pace. But under the surface (and under the radar of many) there is another movement emerging. Church is being radically re-

defined, re-invented and re-designed. Tens of thousands of christians are preparing for what could become a grassroots movement that this continent has not yet seen. A movement of disciples by essence, rather than of 'christians' by religion. A movement that is self-sustaining and self-multiplying - without complicated authority and religious structures.

A movement like the first church. And a movement that could very well result in a virus-like spread of tens and hundreds of thousands of groups of 'revolutionaries'. Imagine one million new partisan groups all over Europe, from Portugal to the Urals. Impossible? It is one of the strategic goals of the DAWN European network to identify and get an overview of the grassroots movement of simple, house, emerging groups on our continent during the next year.

'The other side of the coin'

by Reinhold Scharnowski

Last week I was in a beautiful English mansion – home of a christian community – that breathed hundreds of years of spiritual history. With a handful of European leaders, each one active in a successful ministry, we discussed the question, "Why is Europe so different when it comes to revival, christian growth and church planting?"

We had been confronted, once again, with graphs and numbers, all showing the decline of historic christianity in Europe, with the conclusion, 'if nothing changes, the church will be dead by 2040.'

*Scenes like this one happen everywhere in Europe. **But there is some good news.***

It is still true that this once 'christian' continent, home of reformations, revivals and mission endeavours, has become post-christian. The gospel in practically no country is any longer a strong force shaping society. Historic churches are losing ground rapidly.

This *is* one side of the coin and one way to view Europe. The other side, however, is different.

Europe is changing, and the way christianity is connected to our societies is changing, too. **Here is another way of seeing Europe—as a continent in transition:**

- from what was called "Christendom," based on mainstream and state churches in many countries, to a *personal, believer-based* christianity,
- from a church acting from the center of society to one active from the fringes and thus being *better able to be a prophetic voice*,
- from an often boring type of traditional church to *new generation christian meetings, models and experiments based on small groups, excitement and relationships*,
- from complicated structures to *organic, simple groups of believers*,
- from a denominational to a *regional/relational orientation*,
- and, because the groups are small in number, from maintenance to *mission-mindedness*.

Signs of this development are everywhere, here are just a few random examples of what God is doing:

Norway: groups in every high school

A vibrant youth ministry called *Jesus Revolution* has planted student groups in virtually every high school in Norway. It was started by Stefan and Anne Christiansen just a few years ago. Stefan realized that it is not only about starting groups but planting churches. Under the motto 'Europe needs 500,000 more churches—let's start', they are sending out powerful teams all over Europe, have planted several churches in big European cities and three in Norway so far. A church planting school, a leadership academy, media ministries— they have it all. www.jesusrevolution.org).

Throughout Norway, a steady and growing church planting movement is being carried by all major denominations including the Lutheran State Church.

Norway was prophetically seen as a "sperm" invading Europe, like the Vikings did 1,000 years ago. This is becoming a reality now. Especially strong bonds are emerging between young leaders in Norway and Switzerland.

Switzerland: it is possible to disciple youth

The International Christian Fellowship in Zurich, Switzerland, proved that it is possible to lead younger people to Christ in larger numbers and to disciple them. Started as a church in 1996, it has grown to over 2,000 mostly young people today, becoming the largest church in the country. In 2002, they experienced a strong boost in spiritual quality, signs and power. This ICF church has planted several daughter churches in Switzerland and is moving to Germany and other countries as well. www.icf.ch.

Emerging generation: christian groups for and by young people.

All over Europe, there are 'new generation christian groups' emerging: alternative christian communities, not only for, but run by young people. England has long been the forerunner in this field; now there are more and more countries following. http://perso.wanadoo.fr/endirect/av_ant-garde.html).

Romania: churches coming to life

Another area with maybe the best saturation church planting strategy in Europe is in Romania. Thousands of churches have come to life in recent years.

Coordinated by a central office and supported by all major protestant churches and denominations, they have set the goal of 3,650 new churches in the next four years. And what is best: they are already training and sending out missionaries to other countries like Turkey and Italy. www.dawneurope.net).

House groups: emerging from everyday life

House groups are emerging everywhere. Many Christians start 'being' church in their place of everyday life and networking with others. There is now a growing European House Group network emerging led by Wolfgang Simson (Germany), Henk Vink (Netherlands), Sascha Flek (Czech Republic) and Svend Madsen (Denmark), with annual European consultations.

Portugal: aiming at 4,000 new churches.

Pastor Paulo Mendez has developed a strategy for saturating the beautiful country of Portugal with new churches, aiming at a total of 4,000 evangelical churches by 2015. This goal has been accepted by the Evangelical Alliance of Portugal as their official church-planting strategy and would mean that in 2015 there would be a church for every 2,500 inhabitants.

Is Europe returning to God?

Is Europe rediscovering God and Christian values? Last year we reported an increasing openness for the Gospel in secularised **France**. But God also seems to be back in the picture in liberal **Holland** and economically struggling **Germany**.

Both independent and government research confirm it: God is back on the agenda in **Holland**. Last month *Intermediair*, the leading magazine for highly educated professionals, ran a special edition on 'Who is God. Getting to know him'. And Dutch trendwatcher Adjiedj Bakas published a well-received book entitled 'The future of God', in which he hits out at the secular political parties for excluding religion from their electoral campaigns. Remarkably the small Evangelical party Christian Union (CU) recently doubled their seats in Parliament and is currently - for the first time in history - participating in the new coalition government.

The tide is also changing in **Germany**, the nation that currently presides the European Union, and whose chancellor, Angela Merkel, wants to reopen the debate on Christian values in the (draft) European Constitution. Wolfgang Poltzer, editor of the Evangelical news agency Idea, reports that two weeks ago more than 3,500 leaders from commerce and industry, politics, culture and the churches gathered in Leipzig for a congress on Christian values. **The various speakers were unanimous in their call to Christians to live for Christ and include 'Christian compassion and a sense for God's honour and glory, in the affairs of men'.**

Some observers rightfully point out that an increasing interest in spirituality is not the same as a return to God. However, this trend might present a window of opportunity for the Christians in Europe.

When the 'corporate prayer' movement first started in 1996, few people in **Holland** took any notice. Why should they have done so? After all, Holland's manifest destiny was to become a fully secularized country, in which prayer was considered at best an irrational but harmless pastime. That was then. Move forward to 2006, when prayer in the workplace is fast becoming a universally accepted phenomenon. More than 100 companies participate. Government ministries, universities, multinational companies like Philips, KLM, and ABN AMRO - all allow groups of employees to organise regular prayer meetings at their premises. Trade unions have even started lobbying the government for recognition of workers' right to prayer in the workplace.

The idea that secularization is the irreversible wave of the future is still the conventional wisdom in intellectual circles here. They would be bemused, to say the least, at a Dutch relapse into religiosity. But as the authors of a recently published study called 'The Future of God' point out, organised prayer in the workplace is just one among several pieces of evidence suggesting that **Holland is on the**

threshold of a new era - one we might call 'the age of post-secularization.' Dutch media commentator Joshua Livestro describes this development in an interesting article for the Weekly Standard titled 'Holland's post-secular future'.

www.joelnews.org

The Pope criticizes the European Union for forgetting its christian roots.

Pope Benedictus XVI has spoken harsh words in a speech against the European Union, which recently celebrated its fifty-year-old existence. The Pope said that Europe is forgetting its christian roots. **He called on the believers to build a "new Europe"**.

'One cannot build a common European house by ignoring the identity of the peoples of our continent', said the Pope at a conference organised by the European bishops, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome.

For an evangelically inspired Europe :

The Pope called on the believers to build a 'new Europe', with the help of God and inspired by the Gospel. **'Be actively present in the public debate in Europe'**, said the Pope. 'The christian values which radiate the soul of this continent must be preserved in the Europe of the third millennium, if it wants to remain an example for the rest of the world', said Benedictus XVI (belga/hln)

The Vatican has fervently attempted to incorporate references to the christian roots of European civilisation in the European Constitution, but without success. The Dutch and the French voted in referenda against the Constitution, which was rejected for this reason. (novum/hln)

FGBMFI Vision of Europe

Hans-Petter Thue, FGBMFI Natl. Director Norway writes: '...Our Lord Jesus Christ has promised us New Wine.

Are we ready for the new wine? or are we old wine skins ? If we are old wine skins we

cannot stand with the pressure of the new wine. **We have to seek God and ask to be transformed to new wine skins.**

We cannot look at the old wine and the old work; **we have to have the focus on the new wine and God's plans for our work in Europe.**

We are standing in front of a breakthrough in Europe. Our convention in Prague in February confirmed that. We were fasting and praying in Norway from the 1st of January, together with the Belgian, Nepalese and Philippines brothers and sisters.

When I was in Belgium in February I got a vision about 'fire' in Holland. We had been praying about the strategy for the breakthrough in Europe. And the Lord gave me something to work with. I think the 'fire' will start in different areas as follow:

1. Czech Republic, Amsterdam and Rotterdam in Holland, Berlin in Germany. Then
2. Belgium, Stuttgart in Germany, Follow up Czech Republic. Then
3. Essen in Germany, Groningen in Holland, Ukraine.

In England there is something that keeps the 'fire' away. We have to make special prayers for England.

Last night we had a prayer group in our house and we put a lot of maps on the floor. We were praying for different areas on the earth for breakthrough. When I put my feet on Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria 'a fire burned under my feet'.

Doors that have been closed in your life and your country will be opened in 2007.

But it is also a year that we have to close doors to different things in our lives, so the Devil cannot attack us. We have to slam the doors in the Devil's face. And we have to make the decision to work wholeheartedly for FGBMFI.

Hans-Petter and Kari Thue: Love Link to Nepal:

After the blessings of the European meeting in Budapest, my wife Kari and I went to Nepal with the words; **it is the time for new wine.**

After one night in Dehli in India we arrived in Katmandu the capital.

Rajenda Sundas, the new FGBMFI National President in Nepal, met us at the airport with a team and they drove us direct to a chapter meeting. People were already gathering there and were hungry for more of God.

About 20 people attended this meeting. We shared our testimonies and people were inspired to build the FGBMFI strong and to go out and fish for people.



The next day we spoke in two different churches.

Sunday morning we went by bus 14 hours east to the city Bhadrapur, by the border with north east India. You need peace from heaven if you are in the traffic.

The first night in Bhadrapur we slept in a warehouse, and Kari was attacked severely by mosquitos. The next day her arms and legs were painful and double in size.

Next day we gave our testimony in a small church in a refugee camp. They were touched by the Lord and they invited us to sleep in the camp that night. It was a blessing for us to be there.

In the camp we met a very nice family from Bhutan who want to go back to Bhutan and start FGBMFI groups there. We gave them the responsibility as a field representative

for FGBMFI in Bhutan. Please pray for this family.

The next day we went by car up to the Tibet border and prayed for an open border for the gospel. We prayed and proclaimed with banners. The Chinese military came and stopped us, in nice way. But we had finished our prayers, Hallelujah!

Rajenda Sundas and our brothers and sisters in Nepal will work hard to build the FGBMFI strong in Himalaya, and to go out and fish for people.

Our last Sunday there, we attended the first christian outdoor meeting in Nepal's 50 years history.

We walked on the streets with crosses and banners. We gathered on a big festival place and with more than 20.000 christians walked through the streets.

In January 2008 we plan go back to Katmandu to attend the first FGBMFI Himalaya conference in Katmandu. More that 1000 people will attend this conference. Take time and come, and stand together with our brothers and sisters in Himalaya. I will also invite you to help FGBMFI Nepal financially. The time for harvest is today, not tomorrow.

Himalaya is Nepal, Tibet, north-east India and Bhutan

We thank Rajenda Sundas and his family for all they have done to make this Love Link perfect and in Jesus plans.

Kari & Hans Petter Thue
president@fgbmf.no

(a full report with photos is on our European website)

Dijon, France, 2007

More than 200 members came from all parts of France to this important convention. René Agrain, Natl. President France says 'God wants do bring a radical change in our lives, an end-times Pentecost.

Several participants of the Israel tour testified how walking in the Promised Land had transformed their lives

Throughout these testimonies, each one could measure the intensity of the blessing

of God on our Fellowship. Franz Kren, Natl. President Austria and his wife Ulli, reported on the spectacular evolution of FGBMFI in their country.



We were encouraged to always be prepared to give our testimony, remembering that this is our mission within this Fellowship. The Holy Spirit manifested Himself in the meetings with power, comforting, releasing, encouraging and healing. Many testimonies were heard confirming received blessings.

Yes, the Holy Spirit is at work in the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship.

We have started to taste the first fruits of the works that God wants to achieve through us on His behalf.

Dijon 2007 starts without a doubt a new beginning for the Fellowship in France.

A full report of this Dijon convention and an invitation for Ploërmel, Brittany (17 to 20 May) are on our European website.

Luxembourg

After three years that the chapter in Luxembourg city has been dormant it has now come to life again. Jean Dehoy, Natl. Treasurer Belgium, has been assisting the brothers here do get the work of FGBMFI restarted. At a recent meeting fifty people attended, and the Lord touched many hearts. Please pray for the national president Frank Everett and this work of the Lord.

Everettfamily@hotmail.com

Cyprus

We were happy to have Daniel Ioannides and his wife Irene with us at the Budapest convention. Daniel has recently been appointed National Director for Cyprus. Two chapters have been started, one in Nicosia and the other in Limassol. For information about meetings etc. Daniel can be reached at txmcfj@spidernet.com.cy

Other Nations

Please pray for Dobri Tonev in **Bulgaria**. He is our national president there; he has recently had difficult business problems and this has affected his health.

We hope to see a chapter started soon in Tirana, **Albania**, resulting from outreaches by Miklos Molnar and the brothers from Hungary.

There have been recent outreaches in **Armenia**, led by Douglas Raine, USA Director; further outreaches are planned for later this year.

More information can be obtained from the European Office or the European website.

European Events and World Convention

World Convention, July 25 – 28, 2007, Panama

European Conference and EC Meeting, October 5 – 7, 2007 - Innsbruck, Austria.

Outreach Conference and EC Meeting, Spring 2008, southern Spain.