

## AN UPDATE CONCERNING EUROPE DECEMBER 2021 SEMIANNUAL TRAINING

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### (1) FELLOWSHIP ON MIGRATION & REPORTS FROM THE SIX CITIES

#### EXCERPTS FROM THE MINISTRY

When we consider the apostle Paul, we realize that even two thousand years ago, he did a lot of moving and traveling. Thus, we all need to move and travel from city to city, state to state, and country to country for the Lord's return. We do not have any hope on this earth; our hope is with the Lord at His return. The migrations are a way to prepare for the Lord's coming back. We all need to bring this matter of migration to the Lord and seek His leading. (*The Collected Works of Witness Lee*, 1971, vol. 4, pp. 353-354)

#### Outflow and Inflow

Using the illustration of a hose, we may say that every church should be like a hose that is open at both ends. When a hose is open in this way, water is able to flow in and out. But if water is not able to flow out of a hose, nothing more will be able to flow in. How much water flows in depends on how much flows out. If we want the church to increase, there must be the outflow. Only when there is an outflow can the church in a certain locality be preserved from becoming a Dead Sea.

However, the migration of the saints is not a legality. The point we are making is that the churches need to follow the pattern in 8:4. This means that, in principle, we should be willing to migrate.

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).

#### Our Lack of Training Exposed in the Shortage of Proper Leading Ones in the Migrations

Although in the six years from 1964 to 1970 we had not had a formal training, a proper leadership had been produced among us. Wherever the migrations went, they went with a proper leadership; therefore, they were a success.

On the contrary, there were more migrations in 1973, but almost none were a success. This is because we were short of the proper leading ones. After remaining in the new localities for a year, many of the saints could not go on, but they dared not go back. They simply remained there in a suffering way. Eventually, many who had gone out consolidated into churches in certain major cities. This shortage of the proper leadership exposes our further need for training...The Lord has shown me that from now on I must spend all my time in the ministry for the training. (*The Normal Way of Fruit-bearing and Shepherd for the Building Up of the Church*, pp. 11-12)

## THE NEED FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCHES

Brothers, you all must be burdened for the churches in Europe. What is the use of merely studying the Bible, attending conferences, and listening to messages? The Lord needs churches...Oh, the Lord is calling! Who is willing to be burdened to go to a major city in Europe so that the Lord may have a church there? The Lord is calling! He is calling you and me to bear the burden for the major cities in Europe that He may have churches built up in the territory of the coming Antichrist. (*The Kernel of the Bible*, p. 188)

In winter 2020, a burden was presented concerning migration to six key cities in Europe—Barcelona, Brussels, Dublin, Lisbon, Rome, and Zürich. Pages 2 through 9 present updates on the Lord's move in these six cities.

### BARCELONA, SPAIN

Toward the end of October 2021, the saints started to have the Lord's table in person again. In total, there were 40 adult saints in the first in-person meeting, including ten saints from other cities. It was a glorious meeting. We enjoyed the freshness of gathering with the saints in an outdoor events park right next to the ocean. While we were meeting, an older brother from a Brethren denomination heard us and joined our meeting. He also prayed and partook of the Lord's table with us.

Before then, we had been meeting on the Lord's Day by Zoom. Due to the added difficulties of communication and translation via Zoom, the Spanish-speaking and the Chinese-speaking saints have been meeting separately. There are around 20 saints who regularly attend the Spanish-speaking meetings and around ten others who join when they are able. Seven saints are newly-saved, some of whom we recently baptized. We have three saints who are graduate students. We are waiting for another saint who will also come to study. There are also around 25 Chinese-speaking saints, most of whom live in and around Barcelona, with a few who live quite far away.

The saints have prayer and perfecting meetings every day of the week. There are prayer times for sisters and for brothers. Of the second generation, we have seven young people and six children. The children continue to participate in meetings via Zoom every other week with the children in Madrid. All the saints are very encouraged with the resumption of the meetings face to face. However, we desperately need a meeting hall and pray that the Lord will provide us with one soon.

We continue to have the biweekly prayer and fellowship times with the Latin American saints burdened to migrate to Barcelona. The average attendance has been around 30. A sister from the US is about to move here. There are young couples very burdened to migrate and are either applying for jobs or for European citizenship through their parents or grandparents. Some are looking to the Lord for the right timing due to different situations. Several of these saints join our meetings via Zoom.

The work in Spain is able to bring full-time serving ones (who are burdened, approved by the work, and financially supported) to the country. The entity of the work, called Ministerio Nuevo Hombre (MNH), is registered with the Spanish Ministry of Justice as an official "church" with the privilege to carry out activities in the entire national territory and to bring in workers on a Ministry of Religion visa. Once these ones are here legally for five years, they can apply for a Long-term Residence-EU, which allows them to live, and even work, anywhere within the EU. Italy has a similar arrangement.

We thank the Lord for these arrangements and continue to pray that the Lord would raise up the financial support needed to send many FTT graduates to Spain and Europe through these doors. If there is the financial support, we believe many who are currently serving full-time would be burdened to come to Europe. Nowadays, there is the need for full-time serving ones in many areas: in financial administration, in the technological areas (mass outreach online through Bibles for Europe, Rhema, webinars, webpages, social networks, etc.), in the administrative and legal areas (acquisition and management of properties, etc.), and of course, in all the aspects of the God-ordained way, and in the strengthening of the Lord's testimony in many cities.

We have been praying for the Lord not only to thrust out workers into the fields of harvest, but that He would also open the doors to the fields. May the Lord obtain in the near future, through migration, a strong testimony in Barcelona, a major cultural, economic, educational and financial center in Europe.

### **BRUSSELS, BELGIUM**

Brussels is a strategic European city due to its being a major center for international politics and the seat of some of the most important institutions in the European Union and hence, is considered the unofficial capital of the European Union.

It is a vibrant city bustling with young people, having the youngest average age of any European capital city (35.8 years old). With a population of over 1.2 million people, Brussels has approximately 86,000 university students with five public universities and 12 additional higher learning institutions. Because it is a very popular city to study in, the number of university students has steadily increased over the past decade.

The church in Brussels is slowly returning to physical meetings, adjusting to a blend of face-to-face and online meetings. Starting in October the church was allowed to resume meeting at the school (College Saint Pier) where the church has been meeting for the past 15 years.

Several couples have recently migrated to Brussels: two couples from the US migrated in the late summer, along with a couple from Taiwan who are studying in Leuven, a city near Brussels; a young couple moved back to Brussels from Paris in October. In addition, a working saint moved from abroad, having obtained a job in Brussels.

There are 50 to 60 active saints in the church life with about 40 now meeting on the Lord's Day morning in person and online. Saints from other cities in Belgium and northern France join the meetings in Brussels; they are all within a 1.5 hours driving distance. Around 25-30 saints meet for prayer on Wednesday night in three or four homes. On the first Wednesday of each month, the church has a corporate prayer meeting, physically and via Zoom. During the prayer meetings there usually is prayer for one of the six key cities in Europe, for emphasis in migration. This is a wonderful practice among the churches in Europe. In addition to the weekly prayer meeting of the church, there are groups of saints beginning to meet several times a week for prayer to seek the Lord's leading for the advance of His move in Belgium, specifically for the increase, spread, and building up of the church life in Brussels.

The leading brothers are also praying and seeking the Lord's leading to resume the young people's meetings and the children's work after the pandemic; the main emphasis is to beseech the Lord for the increase of the one accord among all the saints that the Lord could have a way to pour out His commanded blessing on the church in Brussels for His testimony

at the end of the age. There is a growing realization that the Lord is intensifying His move at the end of the age. Therefore, there is the need for more migration to the six cities that the Lord could have a strong and adequate testimony in Europe: the land of Antichrist.

## **DUBLIN, IRELAND**

### **Background**

As the world situation degrades, our sense is more clear than ever, that the “time is near” (Rev. 1:3). So let us give the Lord our best cooperation while there is opportunity.

The Republic of Ireland is now the primary nation in the European Union with English as its primary language, due to the implementation of Brexit. As a result, Ireland is in an important, strategic position for the Lord’s move in Europe. It offers a desirable and realistic destination for English speakers from other countries that wish to migrate to or within Europe.

The population of Ireland is about 5 million, with about 40% located in the greater Dublin area, the capital city. As the capital city in the Republic, Dublin is a center for industries that wish to do business in the EU. Many companies have relocated from London to continue their business relationships with the EU and American companies locate their European headquarters here, more than in any other city. It is fair to say that the importance of Ireland far outweighs its size.

Approximately 120,000 students attend the colleges and universities here. Ireland has a strong educational system, with Trinity College and UC Dublin regarded as two of the top universities in the world.

### **Church Life**

Dublin’s significance is seen in church history. In chapter 7 of *The Orthodoxy of the Church*, Brother Nee stated that the actuality of the church in Philadelphia was seen with the early Brethren in Dublin:

In 1825 in Dublin, the capital of Ireland, there were several believers whose hearts were moved by God to love all the children of the Lord, regardless of their denomination. This kind of love was not to be frustrated by the walls of denomination. They began to see that in the Scriptures God says there is but one Body of Christ, regardless of how many sects men may divide her into...In 1825—after more than a thousand years of the Roman Catholic Church and several hundred years of the Protestant churches—there was the first return to the simple, free, and spiritual worship in the Scriptures. (p. 64)

The modern-day church life in Dublin began in 2005. At present, there are about 40 adults in the meetings, with 15 young people under the age of 20. There are 14 young saints attending various universities (graduate or undergraduate). Several of these recently arrived from overseas.

### **Prayer Burdens**

For the year 2021, the church has been praying along these lines:

1. That all the saints would participate in the intrinsic and organic building up of the church through the vital groups;
2. That we would enter into the genuine blending for the reality of the Body of Christ;

3. That all the saints would be fruitful branches of the vine and that the Lord would gain local Irish for the sake of His testimony in this nation;
4. That our young people would be “seeds of the gospel” at their schools; and
5. That the divine truths would spread throughout this country.

### **Encouraging Developments**

The Lord is responding to our prayers. With the help of the video conferences, there is no shortage of life supply and fellowship. An important development for the churches in this region has been the experience of intensified blending. The brothers from Ireland and parts of the UK meet biweekly and there have been monthly meetings with the churches. The brothers are burdened that we aggressively pursue the practice of the vital groups.

Several local Irish and others have been joining us in Bible studies and small gatherings. For example, a pharmacy student at Trinity College has been enjoying our Zoom student meetings, as well as some personal contact. A member of the Garda (Irish police) that we met by the River Liffey continues to be in fellowship with us. A classmate of one of our students wishes to be baptized. A Dubliner who is amazed by our fellowship has introduced members of his family to us. Several Bibles for Europe (BfE) contacts residing in Ireland have been enjoying the Recovery Version and are now in regular fellowship with us. Praise Him!

### **Migrations to Dublin**

We believe that through the prayers of the saints, the Lord is stirring within many to consider migration. It is encouraging to report that six students from Asia and the US have moved to Dublin in recent weeks to attend university. A brother is moving to Dublin for work. A sister is arriving in early November to attend language school. A couple from the US is moving in the next few months. A sister from the US is due to move here early next year through a work transfer. Several other saints have contacted us for fellowship regarding migration. Please pray for these and others that the Lord might send to Ireland. As we are able to add more saints, we believe this will benefit all of Europe.

## **LISBON, PORTUGAL**

### **About Lisbon**

Lisbon is the capital of Portugal and has 545,000 inhabitants. It sits in a metropolitan area of 2.3 million people and hosts 14 universities with over 119,000 students. The city has both a long history and a modern infrastructure with a growing technology sector. Due to the high rate of residents fully immunized against COVID, most restrictions have been withdrawn, which now allows for in-person gatherings.

### **Burden for Lisbon**

In the last several months, the Lord has continued to bless His move in Portugal through the prayers of the Body. There is weekly prayer with the local saints via Zoom and a local sisters' prayer time once per week. Since mid-December 2020, we have had a weekly, and now biweekly, prayer time with several saints from Brazil who are burdened for Portugal. A full-time serving family, as well as one working saint, migrated this summer to Lisbon. They are actively participating in the Lord's move here and the saints are strengthened by their presence. We look to the Lord that He would raise up a lampstand in Lisbon and call more saints to migrate to this city.

## **Translation Work**

The translation work of the BfE website into Portuguese (Bíblia para a Europa) is finalized. We expect the website to be live soon. Translation of the Rhema website into European Portuguese is proceeding at a steady rate, as well as translation of gospel tracts provided by Bibles for America. We are grateful for the assistance of saints from Brazil, the UK, and the US for these translation efforts.

## **Literature Distribution**

As reported earlier this year, we continue to print and distribute the HWMR on the Iberian Peninsula in the Portuguese language. We have learned of several scattered saints and new contacts throughout the country who reached out to BfE or Rhema, and we are also supplying them with the ministry. A few contacts, principally in the north of Portugal, have received the New Testament Recovery Version and are participating in Bible studies through BfE.

Over the last twelve months, the saints are entering further into the ministry as we corporately cover books that are available in Portuguese including: *The Vital Groups, A Word of Love to the Co-workers, Elders, Lovers, and Seekers of the Lord, The Exercise of the Kingdom for the Building Up of the Church*, and *The Speciality, Generality and Practicality of the Church*.

## **Blending and Shepherding**

The saints in Portugal have enjoyed blending with the churches and regularly participating in many of the virtual conferences. This has been profitable as the saints are now also accessing the Lord's up-to-date speaking in Europe in Portuguese through conference materials and recordings. We are also now meeting on the Lord's Day in a hybrid format, with local saints in Lisbon gathering in person as they can and the saints in the north of Portugal joining virtually.

Through weekly and other regular shepherding times, some saints who are scattered around the country are participating in the fellowship. In addition, there are a few new ones gained through the gospel, or new to the Lord's recovery, who are advancing in their experiences of the Lord and handling of the Word. We are also learning of saints from Brazil who migrated to Portugal and are open to fellowship, and we are establishing contact with them. In November 2021, the saints in Lisbon are traveling together to the north of Portugal to blend with the saints there in person.

## **Prayer Burdens**

1. That the Lord would bless the spread of the precious truths in the New Testament Recovery Version so that these can get into needy hearts through the newly translated BfE website and tabling events planned before the end of the academic semester.
2. That the translated Rhema websites into European Portuguese be completed soon and that the Lord would send a hunger among the Portuguese people for hearing His Word (Amos 8:11).
3. For the Lord to raise up a lampstand in Lisbon, to burden saints to migrate, to shepherd the current contacts, and to add more Portuguese people through the preaching of the gospel.
4. For the saints in Portugal to continue to blend with all the churches by participating in the International/European conferences.

For any questions or more information, please visit the webpage of the work in the Iberian Peninsula: [laobramspi.es](http://laobramspi.es) or email [info@laobramspi.es](mailto:info@laobramspi.es). Currently, the webpage is only in Spanish; it will have a Portuguese section when the resources are available to create it.

## **ROME, ITALY**

### **Background**

Italy has a population of 60 million people with the fourth largest economy in Europe and the eighth largest in the world. There are 2.8 million people living in Rome with about 4.1 million living in the greater Rome area.

There are a number of public universities in Rome with a population of over 225,000 students, as well as academies, colleges, and private universities. Most of the public universities are very economical.

### **Church Life**

Saints migrated in the summer of 2011 with one working family, a couple serving full-time, and a brother who was on the campus. That first semester they gained two Italian brothers. In June 2012, the saints established the Lord's table and began to meet as the church in Rome. Over the next year, three more students were gained. They eventually moved away from Rome for further study at other universities in Europe.

Currently, around 26 saints are meeting in Rome. Recently, a family moved to Rome, along with two sisters from the US. We are laboring on a number of Italian seeking ones whom we have met in our neighborhoods and classes, in addition to some who want help with their English.

### **Visa**

The work in Italy is now able to bring full-time serving ones (who are burdened, approved by the work, and financially supported) to the country. "Chiesa in Roma" is a registered entity with the Italian Ministry of Interior as a "judicial person" with the privilege of bringing in workers on a religious visa. One brother has already completed the process this year and is now serving in Italy. Once these ones are here legally for five years, they can apply for a Long-term Residence-EU, which allows them to live, and even work, anywhere within the EU. Spain has a similar arrangement.

### **Recovery Version in Italian**

Over the past years, there has been much prayer for the Recovery Version in Italian. We believe that the Lord is responding to these prayers, allowing us to gradually move toward starting the actual work on the Recovery Version. A team of saints is being built up who, we hope, will be able to carry out this project. Among these saints, one brother has completed a course in New Testament Greek, and all of them are involved in the translation of the ministry into Italian, which is their preparation for the translation of the Recovery Version.

The printed ministry is being successfully spread among the seeking believers in Italy, yet without the Recovery Version with its accurate and literal translation of the text and its rich footnotes and outlines, the truth cannot be properly presented in a full way. We desperately need the prayers of the Body for this project and hope that producing the New Testament Recovery Version in Italian will be a major step for the spreading of the truth in Italy, as it has been in many other places on the earth.

## Ministry

If there could be a church in Rome with a hundred fifty people who are shining, filled with Christ, and immersed in Christ, the Lord would be able to boast to Satan. (*The Kernel of the Bible*, p. 192)

In light of the Scriptures and the ministry in the Lord's recovery, the city of Rome is of great significance, especially in terms of the prophecies related to her in the end times. At the end of the Bible in Revelation 17 and 18, for example, we see Rome as the place where the destruction of Babylon the Great takes place. Paul wanted to see Rome (Acts 19:21) and testify for the Lord in Rome (Rom.1:15), and the Lord confirmed it to him (Acts 23:11). Hence, in these days of the consummation of the age, we should be burdened that the Lord would raise up a strong testimony in this city.

In Acts 16:9-10 we see that God called the apostles to go from the continent of Asia to the continent of Europe and thereby propagate the gospel and raise up churches in another continent. We look to the Lord to lead many to migrate from the continent of the Americas to the continent of Europe and specifically to the city of Rome.

## Prayer Burdens

1. That the Lord would send more students, retired saints, serving ones, and working saints to Rome.
2. That there would be more open homes for the saints to participate in the intrinsic and organic building up of the church through the vital groups.
3. That a team of saints would be built up for the translation of the New Testament Recovery Version in Italian.
4. That many from the Italian "tribe and tongue" would be added to the church.
5. That the divine truths would spread throughout Italy.

## ZÜRICH, SWITZERLAND

Zürich is a beautiful and historic city on the northern rim of Switzerland near both France and Germany. It is an ancient city originally settled by the Romans in 15 BC. Today Zürich is a major economic and cultural center in all of Europe, a global financial hub with a thriving economy. It is also home to more than 20 universities with more than 60,000 students. Year after year, Zürich is ranked as one of the most desirable cities in the world in which to live. As Switzerland's largest city, there are 430,000 residents in the city proper, with 1.3 million in the urban area and nearly 2 million in the greater metropolitan area.

Zürich played an important role in church history as a center of the Reformation in the 16th century. The famous Swiss reformer Ulrich Zwingli lived in Zürich and was a contemporary of Martin Luther. The Lord used him greatly in recovering the practice of the Lord's table and in refuting the false Roman Catholic teaching of transubstantiation. At roughly the same time, another group of believers was raised up in and near Zürich known as the Anabaptists. These devout believers are often referred to today as radical reformers because of their absoluteness for the Lord and their unwillingness to be identified with either the Roman church or the Protestant or state churches that followed the more establishment reformers like Luther and Zwingli. Thousands of Anabaptist believers stood strongly in Zürich for their opposition to infant baptism and their absolute commitment to the Bible and following Christ without compromise. They even enjoyed a kind of early church life in Zürich and other cities in this area. Thousands were eventually martyred for their testimony by both the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant state churches of Germany and Switzerland.



These are truly believers that the Lord used in the early stages of His ultimate recovery and we today stand very much on their shoulders. Surely the Lord's recovery today is a vindication of the faith and testimony of these martyrs.

The history of the Lord's current move of recovery in Zürich is also important. Zürich was one of many cities in the German-speaking world that had a strong beginning in the late 1970s. By the mid-80s there were around 120 saints meeting on the ground of oneness, but the rebellion and turmoil of the 1980s wiped out many lampstands in Germany and Switzerland, including in Zürich. A few faithful saints remained true to the ministry and committed to oneness with all of the local churches. They met in a nearby suburb called Regensdorf. This number has increased over the years, and now more than 30 saints gather weekly with the longing that the Lord's table and the testimony of the lampstand in Zürich could be re-established. This is our great hope and earnest prayer.

Bit by bit in the German-speaking world, we are seeing the testimony of oneness being regained in city after city. In the last two years the saints in and around Zürich have been steadily revived. There is vitality and joy in their Christian life and much yearning and strengthening in their prayers for the Lord to restore the church life in full. Due to the central location and close proximity of Zurich to many other churches, the saints are discovering the benefit of regular blending with the nearby saints. This has given them a strong taste to meet, blend, prophesy, and be built up in mutuality for the Lord's testimony.

Our burden for Zürich can be summed up in this way:

We pray continuously for the Lord to recover His testimony in Zürich.

- For this purpose, we pray that the Lord will send one or two well-established families and release the right jobs and right housing within the city; for the saints to have a strong desire to meet more frequently during the week; and for the saints and the new ones to be blended and built up together, nourished, fed, shepherded, and established.

May many saints enter into this burden, earnestly take this matter to the Lord, and join us at the incense altar to pray that the enemy would be put to shame and that the Lord would be fully glorified through His move in Zürich.

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## **(2) THE BURDEN AND NEED FOR TRAINING**

### **EXCERPTS FROM THE MINISTRY**

A training in the Lord's recovery is very crucial, and we must bear the burden to pray for it. Without a training the church cannot be prevailing. Because of the training, a number of saints who have been in the church life for only a short time have been growing quickly. Without a training, however, we may all be common Christians, simply attending the meetings year after year. To be trained makes a great difference in our Christian life. After a few months of training we will never be the same. The regular church meetings help us only in a general way. The training, however, helps us in particular ways. To be trained is to become more useful in the Lord's hands. (*The Exercise and Practice of the God-ordained Way*, p. 300)

To be trained is to have the rich supply of Christ ministered to us that we may grow, and it is to be equipped that we may be skillful in speaking, in contacting new ones, in shepherding, and in preaching and teaching. Do not say that you cannot speak because you are not a talented speaker. We all are able to speak for the Lord. (*Life-study of Ephesians*, p. 353)

In recent years, properties have been acquired throughout Europe that are suitable for the saints to gather to be trained.

### **Gut Elim (Germany)**

To support the burden for growth within the saints, and subsequently the spread among the churches, the Lord has given us a conference facility called Gut Elim. Acquired in 2017, this historic site can be used for blending, training, conferences, and retreats. It is centrally located on 25 wooded acres in the German State of Hessen. In 2018 renovations began, and when fully completed, there will be 200 beds available, two large meeting areas to seat more than 300, and professional kitchen and catering facilities, as well as a camping area with water and electric hookups, showers, and a laundry area. At the center of the property is a large Manor House with ten guest room suites, a large sitting area, a corporate dining area, a library, and a fellowship and blending room. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless the use of this facility to strengthen His move in the German-speaking world.

### **Iberian Peninsula**

A building was purchased in late 2018 to be used as a meeting hall in Madrid, with further work to be completed to increase its usefulness. The house adjoining this property was purchased in March 2021, and the work to integrate the house with the meeting hall is now finished. Currently, three sisters are living in the house and have already received multiple groups for hospitality; it is also being used for young people's meetings on the Lord's Day. In early autumn the first in-person university training was held in the meeting hall in Madrid and around 20 young adults joined from all over Spain.

In addition, in the south of Spain, part of the floor where the church in Malaga has its meeting hall was made available for purchase. In fellowship, it was decided that the work would acquire it. Together with the church in Malaga's meeting hall, the purchase represents more than 70% of the entire floor. There is also the possibility for acquiring the remaining space in the future, in which case the entire floor would be ours, making it a very useful space for the saints to gather for blending and training.

### **Bower House and Farm and Woodland Camp (UK)**

Brother Lee said that "we should realize that Great Britain is very crucial for the Lord's move throughout Europe" (*The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move*, p. 48). Based upon Brother Lee's fellowship, we have been endeavoring to respond as much as possible. European young people have passed through the Full-time Training in London since 1997. Since 2010, saints of all ages from throughout Europe have attended the One-week Training to be trained in the pillars of truth, life, the church, and the gospel, based on Brother Lee's training that began in Taiwan in the 1950s.

To strengthen this endeavor, Bower House was purchased in 2005, Woodland Camp in 2014, and Bower Farm in 2017. Bower House is the location of the Full-time Training in London, and currently has the capacity to receive 100 young adults for the two-year residential training. With the acquisition of the adjoining Bower Farm, there is much potential. Plans have been drawn up for an extended training center on the combined Bower House and

Bower Farm property; it would have the capacity for a total of over 300 residents to be trained. The plans have been submitted and we are awaiting a decision from the local council.

This summer, Amana Trust was able to provide a two-year visa that allows young people to attend religious residential training communities exactly like the Full-time Training. This visa enables young people from any country, especially in Europe, to attend the training for the full two years, and in the autumn of 2021, ten trainees joined with this visa. This visa and the growing trend for young people to learn and be proficient in English is increasing the accessibility of the training to the young people throughout Europe, and this is of great value to the local churches in Europe.

Woodland Camp, which is less than 4 miles away, has been under construction for several years. The current pandemic delayed the ability for events to take place on site; however, this summer, construction reached a stage that completed and fully released a large portion of the site for events. Once the restrictions were lifted, residential events with appropriate precautions were held in the summer for the young people, and beginning in September, Saturday events were held for the local saints and the new contacts that the saints have been shepherding, particularly through phone Bible studies during the pandemic restrictions. The site now has accommodation for 120, with meeting and dining facilities for 75. The brothers laboring on the site are working on a reception building at the entrance and a larger cabin that will expand the meeting capacity to 120. The goal is to complete these buildings by next summer.

There are council-approved plans to construct a main meeting hall and another 15 cabins of varying sizes that would expand meeting capacity to 350 when funding becomes available.

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### **(3) BIBLES AND BOOKS**

#### **EXCERPT FROM THE MINISTRY**

Today there is the need of the spreading of the understood divine truths for the Lord's recovery and restoration. We can borrow Romans 10:14-15 and say, "How shall people hear without one who spreads? How beautiful are the feet of those who spread the interpreted and understood divine truths!" (*The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move*, p. 31)

This year, a shipment of 250,000 Bibles were printed through the giving of saints. They arrived at the depot in Lille, France in October 2021. There is a great need for these Bibles to be distributed throughout Europe.

Amana Trust and Bibles for Europe (BfE) have set a goal of sending out 1,000 Bibles a month (or 250 a week) in the UK and Ireland. This fellowship was brought to the churches in the UK and Ireland, and to date, the churches have supplied the full amount needed per month with some left over. As a result, we have indeed consistently sent out approximately 250 Bibles each week in the UK and Ireland.

Based on responses from the Bible recipients, we are finding that for every 1,000 Bibles distributed each month, approximately 80 recipients respond and receive ways to be supplied by the ministry, and of these, as many as 32 agree to begin a phone Bible study. This means that up to 32 seeking ones are produced each month, or one per day, for the saints to care for. Also, the saints in the churches are distributing many more Bibles personally, week by week, in places such as campuses, parks, markets, and bus and train stations.

The impact of what happens next is absolutely dependent on our faithfulness in consistently praying for them, phoning them, visiting them, and inviting them to our homes, our meetings, and our events. Little labor results in a dropping away of the contacts, but consistent labor results in steady increase.

We feel that there will be benefit as we go forward in targeting the distribution where there is the most potential for follow up by visitation and events. BfE is therefore currently targeting their distribution at an area of London with a population of approximately 1 million people, where this is a significant focus for the gospel and migration.

In the last two months, two serving families have migrated to this area and have testified of the joy of contacting their believing and unbelieving neighbors and inviting them into their homes. The saints live near a busy train station and are being joined by other full-timers, workings saints, and trainees to regularly distribute Bibles, especially on Saturdays when people are more available. By regularly and consistently going out, they have established a presence in the local community and over 500 Bibles have been given out so far, and there have been many opportunities to preach the gospel and help people pray to be saved.

In the North of England, the local saints are also laboring to have Bible studies with those who request one. One of these ones who requested a free New Testament is now not only enjoying the Recovery Version with the footnotes but she has also been reading *The Economy of God*. She testified to how much light she received through this book in discovering that the Scriptures show that man has three parts—spirit, soul, and body. She said that her spouse also wants a copy of this book and commented, “I’m thankful for lockdown or I would never have rung them up and asked for a Recovery Version. This is helping my spiritual growth in the Lord.” The couple also has friends who have left the denominations, and they would like the saints to meet their friends.

Thirteen trainees who graduated in June 2021 are currently participating in an internship with Amana Trust to be trained further in the matters of truth, life, the church, and the gospel. These interns were able to join the gospel labor of the saints throughout London as well as Scotland, and they were able to preach the gospel at the university campuses and shepherd the students. One of these saints testified that “sometimes the fish were jumping into the boat, and we simply needed to go where the Lord placed the nets.” A student on one of the campuses approached another one and said, “There must be something more to life: can you tell me what it is?” The interns were able to visit Scotland twice. The first time, they met students and invited them to the saints’ homes. One month later, the interns returned and were so encouraged to see the students whom they have previously met continuing to meet and being kept because of the homes.

In Oxford, two couples rented an AirBnB that was within walking distance to the Freshers’ Fair at the University of Oxford for three nights. Having previously attended the fair as representatives of BfE, the saints were surprised at the openness of the attendants and they easily gave out 500 Bibles. Students walked up to the table and asked how to be saved. The saints led at least ten to the Lord while caring for many others who simply wanted to know more about their new study Bible. One saint testified, “A young man wanted to know about the Lord so I was showing him *The Mystery of Human Life* and pointed out the prayer. I said when he got home he could simply pray that prayer to receive the Lord; his response was why not right now. So we prayed, and he got saved.”

## EXCERPT FROM THE MINISTRY

We do not need to do that much. We just need to go out with a pure heart, without anything to ourselves but all things to Him. Just go out with all the truths and the Recovery Version to read to people. I assure you that you will catch someone every week. You do not need to preach your teaching or your kind of doctrine with your terminology. We have to see what the Lord's recovery is. The Lord's recovery has been commissioned with a big enterprise to spread the Lord's truths. He has given us the truths that we are holding. But we need the faithful, pure-hearted ones, who do not have any intention to live to themselves but to Him, to go out to spread these "gold bar" truths. There is no need for you to preach or teach in your way. Open up the Recovery Version and read some of the footnotes with the hungry ones. (*Elders' Training, Book 8: The Life-pulse of the Lord's Present Move*, p. 126)

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### (4) VITAL GROUPS AND THE HOMES

The saints in Europe are burdened to follow the way set out by Brother Lee concerning the normal way of fruit-bearing in the vital groups to gain people one by one for the church life.

Although we may gain many people through large gatherings, without the vital groups the ones we gain may not remain or blossom in the church life... Only the vital groups can cause the church life to continue to flourish in the long run. (*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1993*, vol. 1, pp. 211-212)

As long as we are willing to open our homes, prepare the best refreshments, and invite our relatives and friends to come, they will surely be saved. This is the best way to preach the gospel. I hope that from now on, every saint would open his home for the preaching of the gospel, and every saint's home would be a gospel station for the preaching of the gospel once a week or at least once every two weeks. (*Truth, Life, the Church, and the Gospel—The Four Great Pillars in the Lord's Recovery*, pp. 128-129)

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### (5) BLENDING

Since the blending conferences held across Europe in October 2017, the saints are continuing to be refreshed and renewed in practicing the blending in the Body among the churches and areas in Europe. Brother Lee stressed the critical importance of blending at the end of his ministry, to bring the local churches into the reality of the Body of Christ and to build up the universal Body of Christ.

The blending is for the building up of the universal Body of Christ (Eph. 1:23) to consummate the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2) as the final goal of God's economy according to His good pleasure (Eph. 3:8-10; 1:9-10). (*The Divine and Mystical Realm*, p. 89)

The purpose of the blending is to usher us all into the reality of the Body of Christ... We need to be in the local churches so that we can be ushered, or brought, into the reality of the Body of Christ. (*Practical Points concerning Blending*, p. 10)

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## (6) THE MASTER KEY

If you really want to practice the proper way to preach the gospel, you need the one accord. Without this key, no door can be opened. The one accord is the “master key to all the rooms,” the master key to every blessing in the New Testament. (*Elders’ Training, Book 7: One Accord for the Lord’s Move*, p. 18)

Finally, nothing is more crucial, vital, or valuable than the one accord for keeping the oneness. We must always endeavor to keep the oneness by practicing the one accord.

If we open to the Lord and receive the fellowship in this book, I believe we will be blessed, we will enjoy the Lord to the uttermost, and we will be a living testimony to the people of Europe. (*The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord’s Move*, p. 59)

More detailed reports and quarterly updates concerning all these areas can be found at **[amanatrust.org.uk](http://amanatrust.org.uk)**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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