

FELLOWSHIP CONCERNING EUROPE AUTUMN 2020

Prov. 29:18a Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint.

Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.

A summary of The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move

The book *The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move* was written in 1991 in the context of the Gulf War and the fall of the Soviet Union.

We would like to begin this fellowship by summarizing Brother Lee's burden in this book in five points.

1. The need of an appropriate direction for the Lord's move today.

In light of the world situation, Brother Lee opened up a need for a change in the direction for the Lord's move, and that direction would be toward Europe. He took four verses as the banners for the fellowship.

Dan. 11:32 The people who know their God will show strength and take action.

Matt. 24:14 The truths in the Lord's recovery need to be spread to the whole earth.

Matt. 28:19 Go and teach all the nations.

Rom. 10:15 How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the news of good things.

2. Emigrating for the spreading of the divine truths.

Brother Lee hoped that hundreds would emigrate to Europe for the spreading of the divine truths. In the book of Acts there was a wonderful beginning, but the saints became stuck in Jerusalem. When persecution came to Jerusalem, they all migrated out to the surrounding areas except for the apostles (Acts 8:1). As they went out, they announced the word as the gospel which they had received through the teaching and fellowship of the apostles (Acts 2:42).

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 8:4 Those therefore who were scattered went throughout the land announcing the word as the gospel.

Acts 11:19 Those then who were scattered by the tribulation which took place on account of Stephen passed through as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews only.

3. In the principle of one on one.

Brother Lee shared that our going should be in the principle of speaking to people one on one.

We have found out that the way to gain people directly is by one on one contact. Do not talk to too many; simply talk to one person at a time. This was

very much practiced by the Lord Jesus, as seen in John 3. Nicodemus came to the Lord in the night, and the Lord dealt with one person, one on one. Nicodemus came to the Lord Jesus, but in John 4 the Lord went purposely from Jerusalem to Samaria to the very well of Jacob. There He waited for one Samaritan woman to come, and He spoke to her in the principle of one on one. In chapter eight He talked to a sinful woman, one on one. In chapter nine He talked to a blind man, one on one. In Luke 19 the Lord dealt with Zaccheus in the principle of one on one. Even Barnabas took hold of Paul when he was newly saved in the principle of one on one (Acts 9:26-27). We must learn to contact people one on one. (*The Way to Practice the Lord's Present Move*, pp. 49-50)

4. All this being done in one accord.

Brother Lee explained that if he drives, he takes the best way, but if someone else is driving, he will go along with them. This is the principle of the one accord. This is what the Lord prayed for in John 17, and this is the practice of the proper church life.

John 17:11 And I am no longer in the world; yet they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given to Me, that they may be one even as We are.

John 17:21 That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.

John 17:22 And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one.

John 17:23 I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.

Acts 1:14a These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer.

Acts 2:46a And day by day, continuing steadfastly with one accord.

Eph. 4:3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace.

Eph. 4:13a Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith.

5. The issue being the Lord's blessing.

Brother Lee shared that if we take this way, we will be blessed.

Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is / For brothers to dwell in unity!

Psalms 133:2 It is like the fine oil upon the head / That ran down upon the beard, / Upon Aaron's beard, / That ran down upon the hem of his garments.

Psalms 133:3 Like the dew of Hermon / That came down upon the mountains of Zion. / For there Jehovah commanded the blessing: / Life forever.

- Acts 2:41** Those then who received his word were baptized, and there were added on that day about three thousand souls.
- Acts 2:47** Praising God and having grace with all the people. And the Lord added together day by day those who were being saved.
- Acts 5:14** And believers were all the more being added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women.
- Acts 6:7** And the word of God grew, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem multiplied greatly; and a large number of the priests obeyed the faith.
- Acts 9:31** So then the church throughout the whole of Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it was multiplied.
- Acts 16:5** And so the churches were strengthened in the faith and increased in number daily.

The burden for the phone Bible studies

The saints in London began to meet together in 1985. In 1997 the Full-time Training began in London, and it was in 2000 that we began to see a significant increase in the church through the broadcasting of the *Life-study of the Bible* radio programme, the sending of literature to the listeners, and our meeting together with them. Today there are children of those original radio listeners serving the Lord with their full time.

Our history continued with the move to Heckfield Place in 2002, the purchase of Bower House in 2005, the purchase of the central London bookshop in 2011, the Bible distribution at the London Olympics in 2012, the purchase of Woodland Camp in 2014, and the purchase of Bower Farm in 2018. Thus, we are well-equipped for the spreading of the divine truths, the Full-time Training in London (FTTL) at Bower House and Bower Farm, and the one-week trainings and weekend retreats at Woodland Camp.

Today there is a great change in the world situation—a pandemic that is affecting the whole world. Because of the limitation on the full-time serving ones and the full-time trainees to be involved in other activities, it has been possible for many thousands of contacts in the Amana Trust database to be phoned. Moreover, many more people have requested a free Recovery Version of the New Testament from Bibles for Europe and many hundreds have gone on to request a Bible study.

This increase in requests, coupled with the availability of the trainees and serving ones, led to the development of many, many phone Bible studies with seeking ones throughout the UK. Brother Lee had fellowshiped the benefits of contacting people in this way long before in 1986.

The Lord has indeed rendered unprecedented provisions for the new way. He has prepared man's heart. The minute we send the gospel to the homes, many doors are opened, and people invite us to come back. I hope that we will deliver the truth as well as the gospel to people's homes. In this way the new believers will be educated in the truth. We can use short twenty-minute videotapes to help the new ones, or we can take advantage of the telephone and teach them over the phone. In this way we deliver the gospel, the truth,

and the meeting to people's homes. This is the best way to build the church locally in the Lord's recovery and to bring in the spread and increase universally. (*Crucial Words of Leading in the Lord's Recovery, Book 1: The Vision and Definite Steps for the Practice of the New Way*, ch. 17, pp. 325-326)

We are experiencing a fresh way to care for people one-on-one. We are going from house to house to meet with people, but we are doing it through the telephone. The seeking ones are nearly always there and nearly always receptive.

Presently we have almost 300 Bible studies every week in the UK. A Bible study takes approximately 30 minutes. If all the 5,000 saints in Europe would be involved with this kind of labour, taking one hour a week to pick up two Bible studies, we would be having at least 10,000 home Bible studies every week in which new ones would be in the Word and the ministry through the Recovery Version and the Life-studies of the Bible. If we could do this, we would be amazed at what could happen. We believe each year we would see each saint gaining one new one and caring for one other. The ones we are caring for will become the same as we are, carrying out the same thing we are doing. In this way we will see the Lord spreading and reproducing Himself one by one all over Europe. Brother Lee said:

Even though we are here in the Lord's recovery, our Christian life is not normal because the increase among us is less than twenty or thirty percent. Therefore, we must pass through the test of fruit-bearing...We desire that by the end of the year, at the latest, we would all bring one person solidly into the church life and be burdened to take care of one younger one. If we do this, we will learn many lessons. The church life and fruit-bearing afford us many lessons, but caring for young ones gives us even more lessons. We must all pass the tests of the church life, of fruit-bearing, and of caring for others. Our enjoyment of the riches of Christ's life and our lessons in the spiritual life and church life depend mostly upon our fruit-bearing. If we do not bear fruit, we will be cut off from the enjoyment of Christ's life, and we will forfeit the lessons in our Christian life and church life. Therefore, if we wish to constantly enjoy the riches of Christ's life and to learn the lessons, there is no other way but to bear fruit and care for others. We must bring this matter to the Lord and deal thoroughly and seriously with Him. (*The Normal Way of Fruit-bearing and Shepherding for the Building Up of the Church*, pp. 51-53).

We would like to encourage all the saints reading this to have fellowship with the leading brothers in their church to see how you could avail yourself of this and enter into this burden. In this way we will see the spreading of the truths to all the people of Europe through the one-to-one contact. Brother Lee said:

We should go to Europe to have a new start with the Lord's new way. Our time is short, so we should spend it to contact people in a new way with the high gospel, the deeper truths, and the Christian experience. (*The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move*, p. 54)

The need for training and for facilities

Brother Lee also fellowshiped 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 endeavouring 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. Many saints have migrated from the UK to Europe over the years, including many of the saints who began to migrate to Germany in 2016.

To strengthen this, Bower House was purchased in 2005, Woodland Camp in 2014, and Bower Farm in 2018. We are currently carrying out a large construction project at Woodland Camp, and we are expecting to complete the first phase by the end of October this year. This will give us enough space for 150 people to sleep, be fed, and meet. Further phases will allow the expansion of the facility at Woodland Camp and the growth of the training centre at Bower House and Bower Farm to take place for the increasing number of university students giving themselves to be trained.

Conclusion

This fellowship was given during the UK and Ireland Conference in the last weekend of August this year. We hope to coordinate together and soon see a lampstand raised up in Belfast, the leading city in Northern Ireland. Some saints have recently migrated to join the saints who were already living there, and we hope many more would migrate to many places throughout Europe.

What is happening in the UK is for the benefit of all of Europe. Every Wednesday morning we have a coordination meeting through Zoom for the full-time serving ones and burdened saints, and you are welcome to join. Recordings of previous coordination meetings and information on how to join future meetings can be found at:

<https://amanatrust.org.uk/page/wednesday-coordination>

Works Cited

Lee, Witness. *Crucial Words of Leading in the Lord's Recovery, Book 1: The Vision and Definite Steps for the Practice of the New Way*. Anaheim: Living Stream Ministry, 2004.

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All Scripture references are quoted from the Recovery Version of the Bible unless otherwise indicated. The Recovery Version of the Bible is published by Living Stream Ministry, Anaheim, CA.

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