REPORTS FROM THE SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP AT THE INTERNATIONAL BLENDING CONFERENCE BAARLO ONLINE

OCTOBER 2020

Baltic & Nordic Countries

The Nordic countries refer to the five countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden in Northern Europe. The Baltic States are also in the north but towards the east in Europe. They are composed of three countries: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Currently, there are lampstands in all these countries, except Iceland, with about 100 saints in the Nordic countries and 150 saints in the Baltic States. A number of saints in the US, UK, Norway, and Sweden have been praying for Iceland and contacting open ones there.

The eight countries in the Nordic countries and Baltic States each have their own language. Russian is also spoken in the Baltic States. Thus, there are nine languages used in our region. But praise the Lord for the blending among us. We have two conferences a year for all the saints in our region to gather to enjoy the ministry and to be blended for the building up of the Body of Christ. The first one is the Nordic Conference in July every year, and it has been held for the last ten years. The churches in Sweden and in Norway take turns to host this conference. This year, because of the global pandemic, the conference was held online as a virtual conference. It was a rich time of fellowship and building. The second blending conference takes place at the end of January each year. For a number of years, it was held in Uppsala, Sweden, but since 2019 the church in Tallinn in Estonia has had the blessing of hosting this conference. In January 2021, this conference will be held online and the Baltic churches have accepted the responsibility for the arrangements, and we look forward to a rich blessing from the Lord.

In addition to the two conferences, every six months the responsible brothers from the Nordic countries and Baltic States meet together for fellowship and prayer. In each of these brothers' gatherings we have the practice of inviting two leading brothers from other regions to join us for mutual learning and encouragement. The last time we met was in February 2020 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Because of the restrictions imposed due to the current pandemic, we have not held joint brothers' meetings since then. Instead, we encouraged all the responsible brothers in our region to participate in the semiannual ITERO and to join the UK online brothers' meetings. These wider fellowship times in the Body have been very profitable.

During the current pandemic, church meetings are conducted according to the guidelines provided by the local public health authorities. In many churches in our region, most meetings and fellowship times are now held online. Nevertheless, the church life is active and enjoyable. The online format actually allows more saints to participate in more meetings, and a few scattered saints in cities without a local church are able to join online meetings at a locality and participate in the church life just like a local saint. Also, saints are able to join online conferences organized by other churches, which they previously could not attend because of travel costs and time constraints. Campus gospel and small group meetings are mostly also conducted online, and there are a number of one-to-one online weekly fellowship times between the saints and new ones. Praise the Lord that He is able to flow over any hindrances and frustrations! He will still gain what He desires!

Please continue to pray for us, and please also consider joining us for the online Baltic-Nordic Conference that will be held in the last weekend of January 2021.

Further information is available by visiting amanatrust.org.uk/page/events.

British Isles

United Kingdom

The UK consists of the four countries of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. There are over 1,000 saints in the UK and there are 16 churches across England, Scotland, and Wales. There is also a group of saints meeting in Belfast and reaching out to seeking believers all over Northern Ireland. Belfast is a 90-minute drive from Dublin in the Republic of Ireland. There is a burden to raise up a lampstand in Belfast in coordination with the saints in Dublin and the rest of the UK. Please pray for the Lord's testimony in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Like so many of the other countries in Europe, the UK has been greatly affected by the coronavirus pandemic, and all the saints and churches have been meeting online since March. While we miss our physical gathering together, we are very thankful that the Lord has provided a way for us to meet together online.

The pandemic has caused many people, especially seeking Christians, to consider the meaning of their human life. Many of these have requested a New Testament Recovery Version from Bibles for Europe. Along with receiving their Bibles, these seeking ones are offered the opportunity to have a Bible study online, and more than 150 saints have joined many of Amana Trust serving ones and full-time trainees to host more than 300 weekly Bible studies with these seeking ones. These Bibles studies are conducted either online or via telephone. They typically last 30 minutes, but some Bible studies with seeking Christians last for even up to two hours. We can testify that there are still many hungry and seeking believers in the UK and Ireland whom the Lord desires to reach. May we be faithful to join Him in the reaching of these ones.

Another practice that has been picked up as a result of the online gatherings is the regular scheduled blending of halls or churches in the UK on the Lord's Day. For instance, recently a group of saints from Hall 6 in London blended with the saints in Dublin and the saints in Scotland. We are thankful for this wonderful way for the Lord to blend His body together.

Finally, this is a brief report on the Full-time Training in London. We have been able, by the Lord's grace and mercy and through much and thorough prayer, to have a physical training this autumn at Bower House. We have 41 trainees from 17 countries. The trainees are in good physical health, in excellent spirit, and they are very exercised. We hope next spring to also conduct the training in person, and we invite all the young people who have graduated from university to come to London to join the training in the spring. We also ask you to pray for the Full-time Training in London. Praise the Lord.

Dublin, Ireland

Dublin has had a particular role in the history of the Lord's move. In *God's Overcomers*, Brother Nee states:

In 1827 a group of people were raised up in Dublin, Ireland. Among them were men like Edward Cronin and Anthony Norris Groves. They saw that many things in the church were dead, lifeless, and formal. They began to ask the Lord to show them the church according to the biblical revelation. Through prayer and fellowship, they felt that they should rise up and meet according

to the principle of 1 Corinthians 14. As a result, they began to break bread at a brother's home. A short while later, a former Anglican minister, John Nelson Darby, began to join their meeting and to expound the Bible among them. Gradually, more and more expositors were raised up among them, such as William Kelly, C. H. Mackintosh, B. W. Newton, and J. G. Bellett. *Through reading their books, I received light to see the error of denominational organizations and to realize that there is only one Body of Christ.* The church should not be formed by human opinions but should be under the direct leading of the Holy Spirit. When we consider the present-day church organizations, we see many human traditions and opinions and little direct leading of the Holy Spirit. This is not according to God's desire. In God's will, the church should not be under man's control; it should be directed only by the Holy Spirit. All those who belong to the Lord should learn to be led by the Holy Spirit and should not follow man's direction. These are all truths discovered by the Brethren (ch. 7, section 3).

From this we can see that the roots of the modern day recovery of the church life began with the brothers at 9 Fitzwilliam Square in Dublin. Brother Nee and Brother Lee both acknowledged that we "stand on the shoulders" of the Brethren.

The present church life began with the Lord's table meeting in 2005. Since then, the church has grown to about 40 adult saints. There are an additional 22 young people from 1-year-old to 25, the majority of which are under 15. Six young adults have attended the Full-time Training. Currently, several students among us are attending Trinity College, UC Dublin, and other universities. There are about 120,000 students attending these universities.

With the approval of Brexit, Ireland now is the *only* nation in the EU with English as its primary language. This places Ireland in an important, strategic position for the carrying out of the Lord's ultimate move, as a potential destination for migrating English speakers. Our prayer is that the Lord will use this fact for the advancement of His interests in Europe.

As we began the year 2020, the church prayed:

- 1. That all the saints in Dublin would have new and fresh experiences of Christ, that we would take the time to absorb Him, and that we would grow in life in a normal way in 2020.
- 2. That we all would spend time with the Lord, persevere in prayer, and have a vital living for the church life.
- 3. That our second generation would grow up knowing God and His ways, loving Christ and the church, and that they would be kept for His purpose, formed into an army to fight the battle to enter the good land and bring the Lord back.
- 4. That 2020 would be a year of blending for our entry into the reality of the Body of Christ, especially with the saints in Belfast and Scotland.
- 5. That through the blending and clustering of the saints in Ireland and Scotland and our faithfulness in the gospel, the Lord's testimony would shine with impact in this region and that many local people in these nations would be gained for His kingdom.

In response, the Lord has raised an environment in which each of these matters can be realised. Along with so many others, the saints are advancing in the prayers, the burden for the second generation, blending with the saints, and in the gospel. In particular, we are

learning that these "extraordinary times require extraordinary prayers." (Autumn 2020 ITERO, msg. 5)

In these days of Zoom meetings, the saints are also encouraged with much blending, especially with the other churches in the British Isles. Of note, the saints in Dublin are in continual fellowship with the saints in Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland (part of the UK), about a 2-hour drive from Dublin. There is much burden and prayer for a lampstand to be raised up in this important and historic city.

Further information is available by visiting amanatrust.org.uk/page/events.

Central & Eastern Europe and the Balkans

Poland

The saints in Poland enjoyed the first ever online video training, which took place in the cities of Elblag, and Warsaw, as well as a corporate gathering among the churches in Opole, Sosnowiec, and Krakow.

A Zoom conference for Polish-speaking sisters also took place for the first time. They enjoyed very much listening to the messages, and they loved the group times. The total number of registered sisters was 93 and included sisters from Poland, the UK, Israel, Russia, and Germany.

The saints also conducted online the International Blending Conference in Poland. It was a wonderful time in the recent ministry of the Word of God with saints from many countries.

After a long period of no physical meetings, three churches in the South-west of Poland gathered together on a recent Lord's Day to enjoy the divine transfers of four saints from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of the Son of His love. Praise the Lord for His move in Poland!

Slovakia and Czechia

Throughout the pandemic, the meetings in Slovakia and the Czech Republic have continued mainly through Zoom. During the months of daily meetings on Zoom, the saints were able to pray the prayers of the Body and for the Body. Through the continual prayer and shepherding, the Lord was able to recover nearly all of the saints who had become backslidden or lukewarm during the last several years.

Some new ones were brought into the church life and several of the saints were baptized recently. The outreach has continued mainly through Facebook and the local Living Stream Ministry websites. As a result of the online meetings, all the saints in Slovakia and the Czech Republic are being blended and mutually vitalized as never before.

The saints still continue in their prayers and also in shepherding in twos and threes either online or on a personal basis. In Slovakia, there are still five Zoom meetings during the week, where the saints from the whole country meet together for ministry reading, prayer, and fellowship. There are also many personal meetings in small groups, locality by locality, so the saints are experiencing the day-by-day church life in simplicity. Praise the Lord for His ceaseless care and continual move.

Hungary

The saints in Budapest, Hungary, are corporately entering into the practice of the vital groups, which has become a source of much mutual enjoyment and encouragement. Though still in the very early stages, the saints are eager to learn and are endeavoring to practice according to the brothers' perfecting.

Meetings in person have resumed on the Lord's Day, and the saints are regularly gathering online and in each other's homes during the week. A sweet family atmosphere is being built up among the saints, full of joy and mutuality.

Prayer in twos and threes is also becoming more regular, and the saints have been encouraged to pray specifically for fruit-bearing. The saints are looking to the Lord for increase in His way and timing.

Romania

Just before the beginning of lockdown due to the pandemic, a mini-conference was held in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, on 14-15 March. Many local saints were gathered together for a time of blending and fellowship among the churches. During that weekend, the saints enjoyed and digested messages from the Crystallization-study of Deuteronomy.

In June, because of the pandemic, the saints in Romania held their first online conference. The saints were able to enjoy the messages from the 2020 Memorial Day Conference and be under the up-to-date speaking of "A Timely Word concerning the World Situation and the Lord's Recovery."

In August, the saints held the first online video training of the Crystallization-study of Jeremiah and Lamentations.

Also, two sisters from Romania are currently supported by the churches to attend the two year Full-time Training in London. Praise the Lord for His recovery, and for making it practical for the saints throughout Romania to be in the conferences and training, and under the Lord's current and fresh speaking!

Croatia and Serbia

After a short time of meeting through Zoom, the saints from Croatia and Serbia have resumed physical meetings in their localities. They continue to meet during the week in the church meetings and also in contacting the new ones. The saints in Zagreb, Split, Osijek and Hvar, Croatia, and in Novi Sad, Serbia continue to meet for the reading of the ministry, for fellowship, prayer, and the Lord's table.

After many years of prayer and remote shepherding of the saints in Pula, Croatia, the Lord was able to recover some of the saints in that city. For the purpose of shepherding and taking care of the new situation in Pula, a couple moved from Zagreb, Croatia, to Pula.

The Lord is taking care of His interests and His move to the city of Pula by also adding a number of new ones. We hope through the continual shepherding and the prayer of the Body the new families and their contacts will be fully gained for the Lord and the church life.

Albania

The saints in Tirana, Albania, have been recently enjoying a line from one of our favorite songs: "Finding joy and pleasure, in abounding measure, we are drinking at the fountain of life" (Hymn 322). The saints are very happy to announce that the seven free ministry books

distributed by Rhema are now available for download in the Albanian language. May the Lord use these books to gain all His seekers in Albania!

Bulgaria

Prior to the lockdown, the saints were distributing the Recovery Version of the New Testament and the first volume of *The Basic Elements of the Christian Life* on the university campus and by the students' dormitories.

During the lockdown, the saints endeavored to reach out to the seeking ones in Bulgaria through online advertisements, mainly on Facebook. Within the last few months, three young brothers were baptized and began to meet with the saints.

We thank the Lord for His faithfulness and the provision in His Body, that despite the pandemic, the saints were able to purchase a meeting hall near Sofia University and the saints' homes. Since then, the local saints have been meeting regularly, functioning in a mutual way in all the meetings and taking care of the meeting hall.

Furthermore, the first few Living Stream Ministry titles have been printed in Bulgarian, and the free ministry literature distributed by Rhema have become available on the website.

A couple of months ago, the saints in Bulgaria began to corporately read *The Economy of God* in the weekly home meetings. We are praying that all the saints will be constituted with the ministry of the age and will receive a governing vision of God's economy unto the organic building up of the church in Sofia and the Lord's testimony in Bulgaria.

Greece

The brothers and sisters in Greece are very thankful to the Lord and His Body for His care for the country of Greece during this period of time.

Prior to the outbreak of the global pandemic, the saints in Greece had been enjoying a house-to-house church life. Like all the saints throughout the earth, they also were affected by the measures enacted by the governmental officials to stem the spread of the virus, but Hallelujah, grace abounded!

Many of the saints participated in an online conference for the first time during the combined Central and Eastern Europe and Balkans Conference.

Additionally, although they were not able to send out physical books during the pandemic, there was a noticeable increase in electronic downloads for the free ministry materials distributed by Rhema. Praise the Lord for His supply, and even though the numbers of the saints in Greece are small, they look to Him to increase them with "...men like a flock" (Ezek. 36:37).

Turkey

The first Lord's table meeting took place in Istanbul, Turkey, on 21 February 2010. The church life in Istanbul began with eight brothers and sisters meeting in a saint's home on the Lord's Day on the European side of Istanbul.

The Rhema literature distribution of physical books in Turkish began in 2014. Over ten thousand ministry books have been sent to local Christians and seekers during these six years.

In July 2018, a new district meeting was developed on the Asian side of Istanbul. The saints in this district are mainly Chinese-speaking.

Starting from this year, the Lord's table and prophesying meetings are held in different languages. There are Turkish-, English-, and Chinese-speaking meetings.

Right now there are around 30 saints in the church life in Istanbul. Istanbul is the only locality in Turkey currently practicing the church life.

There are some saints scattered in other cities, such as Izmir (ancient Smyrna), Antalya, Rize, and Malatya.

Up to this point, 36 titles of the ministry books and 95 hymns have been translated into the Turkish language.

2020 CEE& BLK Blending Conference

On 11-13 September, the Online Central and Eastern Europe and Balkans Blending Conference took place. The subject was "The Consummation of the Age and the Coming of the Lord". There were five messages translated into ten Central, Eastern, and Balkan European languages.

Besides the ministry meetings, the saints enjoyed the blending during the two afternoon small group meetings for overflow. Saints from approximately 42 countries and 159 cities around the globe registered to join the conference. Praise the Lord for this opportunity to blend and enjoy the rich speaking of the Lord together with so many saints from all different parts of the earth!

Further information is available by visiting churches-cee.org.

Dutch-speaking Areas

The Lord's recovery has been present and advancing in the Netherlands for over 22 years. There are presently six churches established that are bearing the Lord's testimony in their localities. We are thankful to the Lord for these localities but feel that our spreading of the Lord's testimony must accelerate.

Many of the churches are engaged in flyer distributions and other means to find and shepherd the seeking ones into His recovery. New ones are being gained in these days. There has been several salvations and baptisms.

There has been a continual prayer for over two years regarding the spread of the Lord's testimony in Holland. We believe that this has led to two migrations within the Netherlands—to Amsterdam and Rotterdam—for the establishing of His testimony in these leading cities. Several families have moved to these cities with the clear goal to declare the Lord's salvation and build strong testimonies. The saints in Amsterdam have sought fellowship among the saints locally, among the churches in the Netherlands, and with the brothers outside of Holland regarding establishing the church in Amsterdam. There has been a strong Amen to this desire of the saints living there. A building is now being sought for the first bread-breaking meeting in Amsterdam.

There has been a gradual shift towards small group gatherings among the churches. As an example, several homes are selected in a locality to host the Lord's Day meeting with the saints coming to these homes. The number of saints meeting in these homes has been limited to the restrictions imposed in Holland to prevent further spread of Covid-19. As a

result of the blending in these meetings, there has been much joy in the church life in these localities.

Despite these encouraging developments, there remains a great lack in our labor to reach the Dutch-speaking world. The fields are white. We continue to look to the Lord to raise up many more workers to thrust out into His harvest.

French-speaking Areas

In the French-speaking region of Europe (France, Belgium, and Switzerland), there are currently seven local churches: in Paris, Lyon, Bordeaux, Dieppe, Strasbourg, Brussels, and Lausanne. In addition to these seven established churches, there are 10 to 15 localities where there are groups of saints. The saints very much enjoy the blending and fellowship with the saints in the other localities. We have the feeling of being one church.

Paris

This year has certainly been a time of changes and new beginnings for the church in Paris. At the beginning of the year, one of the leading brothers was asked to return to Taiwan to take care of an urgent need there. This was a great loss for the church, but at the same time we realized that it was a privilege for us to give up a vital member for the Lord's need in a different part of the world. The Lord blessed our giving in life, in numbers, and in the increased function of the saints. We are seeing that more saints are being brought into their organic function in the church. As in so many other churches, the pandemic caused us to move our church life more into the realm of small groups and personal contact. Many saints have testified that having this kind of a practical church life has been an excellent experience and that they feel they have touched something of the vital groups.

Lyon

Three years ago, we started to pray and cooperate with the Lord for His testimony in the southern part of France. The Lord raised up a small number of saints and seekers in Marseilles, Nice, Montpellier, and Toulouse. These are all large and important cities in southern France. However, the severe restrictions in place because of the pandemic have impacted our ability to visit and shepherd these groups. We pray desperately for these cities that the local saints will be strengthened and encouraged to go on.

Strasbourg

Although we are in an unprecedented situation caused by the pandemic and the lockdown, we have "continued steadfastly in the teaching and the fellowship of the apostles" (Acts 2:42) via online meetings and conferences. The outward stress and constraints awakened our inward awareness to Him and His purpose for this particular time. The white horse continues to run among us in Strasbourg, both in the bearing of fruit through personal contact with others and in the distribution of the Recovery Version.

Dieppe

We praise the Lord for His faithfulness, love, and grace. The saints' experience of life has been steadily increasing, and this infusion of life has resulted in fruit being born and families being gained. The saints here are also cooperating with the Lord for what He is doing in the nearby city of Rouen (a major city in Normandy). We are in constant fellowship with

eight believers. It has also been a joy for us to have regular blending with other churches through the Internet and in particular, through visits from the saints in Paris.

Lausanne

The church in Lausanne has been distributing Bibles this summer and has found very open people. We are now following up with these contacts, including some from the gospel time during the last winter Olympics in Lausanne. We have also been enjoying online blending times with the saints from Switzerland and many other regions.

Bordeaux

The church in Bordeaux has been strengthened by a number of saints migrating here. Our burdens for the near future are to labor to raise up the Lord's testimony in the city of Toulouse and as the pandemic eases, to have increased blending with the church in Lyon.

Brussels

There are over 55 active saints who meet with the church in Brussels. Approximately twothirds of the saints practice the church life in French and one-third practice the church life in English. The saints represent 15 different nationalities and many different languages.

Bibles for Europe & Bible Study Follow-up

A recent highlight of the Lord's move in French-speaking Europe is the Bible distribution and follow-up Bible studies. We are following the practice of the saints in the British Isles to conduct one-on-one Bible studies with Bible recipients. We have over 15,000 recipients in French-speaking Europe who have elected to receive further information. These Bible studies will be conducted by over 50 saints in France, Belgium, and Switzerland. All the infrastructure has been established, and the Bible studies are scheduled to begin by the beginning of November. We are anticipating that there will be over 100 weekly Bible studies taking place by the end of the year. Our view is that these Bible studies will not only be a way to shepherd the seeking ones into the ministry of the age but also a way to shepherd the saints into the God-ordained way and practice of the church life.

Further information is available by visiting <u>legliseaparis.fr</u> or emailing <u>contact.egliseaparis@gmail.com</u>.

German-speaking Areas

We thank the Lord for the way He has been moving in the German-speaking world. This includes Germany and significant portions of Switzerland and Austria. In 2015 there were approximately 340 saints with churches in six cities; presently there are close to 850 saints with churches in eleven cities. We thank the Lord for this growth. About half of this increase is from migration, and the other half of the increase came from new ones added as a result of the Lord's blessing on the labor with the refugees and also among the local German community. In addition to the eleven churches, there are small groups of saints meeting in at least 20 additional cities. These groups of saints present a great opportunity for the Lord to spread His testimony by establishing more lampstands. Our burden is to continue to shepherd the saints for the increase of Christ within them so that He can spread from city to city.

In 2020 the Lord established churches in Hamburg and Bielefeld, and presently the Lord is organically burdening saints to move to Tubingen and Aachen. There is much prayer that the Lord will soon establish churches there. There is also a burden among the saints for churches to soon be established in Zurich, Switzerland, and in Vienna, Austria.

One key area of our labor is the work among the Farsi-speaking refugees. This work began in 2017 and presently there are close to 125 Farsi-speaking saints meeting with the churches. We are endeavoring to perfect and build up this fruit to become normal functioning members of the Body of Christ. To accomplish this, we had our first of six weekend trainings on October 4, with about 50 Farsi-speaking new ones. This training was on a series of lessons titled *A Healthy Walk with God*.

Another key aspect of our labor is the work among the university students. In the book *The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move*, Brother Lee pointed out the importance of having teams of saints, including a couple, living near major universities. By following this fellowship, there are presently teams of saints praying and fellowshipping daily near campuses in at least five cities. This type of prayer and fellowship is how the Lord was able to have a revival in Chefoo almost 80 years ago. We pray that the Lord will pour out His blessing as He did at that time. Presently there are over 100 native German-speaking students or young adults of student-age who are being shepherded by these teams. Also included in this number are some being shepherded in smaller localities without teams where the saints are very burdened for university students. About forty percent of these students are now solidly in the church life. Many of these students were gained through Bible distributions on the campuses. We pray that they will eventually become pillars in the Lord's recovery. Especially important is the fact that some of their parents are open to the Lord's move in His recovery and are coming into the church life.

One important event we had this fall was a 15-day church history trip that approximately 45 students and serving ones participated in. Twelve of the participants were German students. At the end of the trip, the students testified that they were impressed by two matters in particular: 1) by the benefits we received from the Lord's servants upon whose shoulders we stand, and 2) that the goal of the Lord's recovery is the oneness. These realizations are a key revelation for the next generation to see.

To support the burden for growth within the saints, and subsequently the spread among the churches, the Lord has given us a marvelous conference facility called Gut Elim. This is a beautiful and historic site that can be used for blending, training, conferences, and retreats. It is centrally located on 25 wooded acres in the German State of Hessen. It was acquired in 2017 and since early 2018 has been under renovation. At present the renovation project is more than 85% complete. After the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions are lifted, the facility will be operational with nearly 140 beds, two large meeting areas able to seat more than 300, and professional kitchen and catering facilities. What truly enhances the use of the facility for blending and shepherding of the saints is the historic Manor House at its center. This house has ten guest room suites, a large sitting area, a corporate dining area, a library, and a fellowship and blending room. Finally, when all the renovation is fully completed, there will be 200 beds available at Gut Elim, as well as a camping area with water and electric hookups, showers, and laundry area.

To date, Gut Elim has hosted more than 25 gatherings of the saints and churches in Germany. The facilities have been used to host groups of young people, university students, small groups, leading brothers, families, and many other gatherings of the saints. We pray that

the Lord will continue to bless the use of this facility to strengthen His move in the Germanspeaking world.

Further information is available by visiting <u>germanyreports.info</u> and <u>sites.google.com/view/elimsprings/english</u>.

Iberian Peninsula

Spain

As a result of the continuing confinement and meeting virtually, the full-time serving team in the Peninsula has been busy with the technical support for the international gatherings as well as in the live and written translation of the outlines and ministry portions. Spain had been a hotspot of the pandemic during the first wave earlier in the year, and the situation is even worse now during the second half of the year in the second wave. Therefore, the virtual mode of meetings will continue for the foreseeable future.

In spite of the continuing situation with the pandemic everywhere in Europe, the Full-time Training in London was able to receive five saints from Spain. There is also a sister from Spain who is in her second term in the Full-time Training in Caacupé, Paraguay. This is a significant matter for the future of the Lord's move in the Peninsula.

Since the confinement, we have conducted two webinars. Although the contacts have not been too many, we are encouraged to start to labor in the outreach by this means. We will continue to carry out webinars every other month. We are also in fellowship with Bibles for Europe to follow what London is doing in shepherding the Bible recipients who have expressed a desire to be contacted.

We will begin remodeling the building that we purchased in late 2018 to rectify some deficiencies and also to add some features. This building is used both as a center of the work and as a meeting hall for the church in Madrid. We have also committed to purchase the house adjoining our property that came on the market early this year. The addition will greatly help meet the needs of the church in Madrid. We still need about 600,000 Euros in order to be able to close on the purchase.

A family migrated from Barcelona to the city of Lugo in Galicia in the northwest of Spain, which is north of Portugal. The husband is Galician, and since he came into the recovery, he has had a burden for his family and the people of that region. They join a family who immigrated there from Cuba. With the example of these two families going to Galicia, we hope others in the Peninsula will see a vision and eventually have the burden for intra-Peninsula migrations.

We have created a website for La Obra MSPI—the work entity in the Iberian Peninsula—<u>laobramspi.es</u>. It is still under construction, but it is functional. We will be developing it in the coming weeks and months.

Portugal

In spite of the pandemic, a couple was able to migrate from the United States to Lisbon in July of this year. This is a great encouragement to the saints in Portugal as well as saints in Brazil who have a vision and burden for that city. The Lord covered their move in a wonderful way through the prayers of the saints.

Currently, there are 14 saints meeting online regularly for prayer, getting into the ministry, and prophesying and enjoying the Lord on the Lord's Day. We are working on building up vital companionships through regular contact with each other and through in-person gatherings of two to four as we can.

Specifically, nine saints (plus two young people) live in the south of Portugal in the city of Lisbon, and six saints in the north of Portugal who have been standing there for the Lord's expression for many years, and we look to the Lord for the best timing to strengthen the testimony there. Furthermore, a sister from Brazil is awaiting final authorization to practice medicine in Portugal. There are also several new ones/contacts in Lisbon as well as in other parts of the country for whom we are caring.

We believe that the Lord desires to have a lampstand in the capital city of Lisbon soon, and at this time we are seeking the Lord's leading to raise up 30-40 saints to migrate to Lisbon in the coming months. Once a strong testimony is established in Lisbon, we believe that the Lord will continue to spread throughout the country in one accord with all the saints in Portugal and with all the churches in Europe.

Current burdens:

- Unceasingly pray for the Lord to open the door for other saints to migrate in spite of the pandemic, to raise up a lampstand in Lisbon, to shepherd the current contacts, and for the Lord to add more Portuguese people through the preaching of the gospel.
- Have the Bibles for Europe website translated into Portuguese and develop a mechanism for the distribution of the Portuguese New Testament Recovery Version.
- Develop a Portuguese section on the website for La Obra MSPI.
- Continue facilitating participation in the International/European conferences by the saints in Portugal.

Further information is available by visiting <u>laobramspi.es</u> or emailing <u>info@laobramspi.es</u>.

Italian-speaking Areas

The church in Milan was established with the first Lord's table in 2009. There are currently 40-50 saints meeting on the Lord's Day. Due to the coronavirus, all the meetings were conducted online for many months. However, about a month ago the church in Milan resumed meeting together on the Lord's Day. The saints have been uplifted by seeing each other face-to-face. A computer is used in the meeting to stream to those saints who can only join online.

Earlier this year, a piece of property was purchased, including a building which the church is using as a meeting hall. The building is located near Bicocca University, where there are over 32,000 students enrolled. The new building has proven very adequate for the saints to meet, as there is sufficient space for everyone to sit at least one meter apart from each other.

A couple who have been laboring in Milan for many years is migrating to Vicenza to join the saints there. They have found a place to rent and intend to open their home as soon as possible. We hope this will be a strengthening and encouragement to the saints there. The church in Rome was established with the first Lord's table in 2012. In the autumn of 2015 a piece of property in the center of Rome was purchased and remodeled as the meeting hall of the church. This meeting hall is within walking distance to La Sapienza University, where there are over 140,000 students enrolled. The church began meeting there in 2017 at the time of the 2017 European blending trips. In 2016 a brother from the United States purchased a home near both the university and the meeting hall. It was remodeled and has been used for Bible studies, coordination meetings, and neighborhood outreach. It has also been used for hospitality for gospel trips, saints traveling to and from the European Young People's Conference (EYPC) in Poland, and other blending purposes, as well as a transition home for saints moving to Rome.

There are 20-25 saints who are meeting on the Lord's Day. The meetings are currently being conducted virtually, although they were conducted face-to-face over the summer when the number of people contracting the virus in Rome was quite low and as a consequence, the video training was also conducted at the meeting hall with 15 saints participating. In addition to prophesying on the Lord's Day, the saints are endeavoring to read a ministry book in Italian during the week and to come prepared to share after the Lord's table. They are currently reading *The Knowledge of Life*.

At present, there is one couple and one sister who are serving full-time with two more couples and some other saints who are burdened to migrate in the near future.

The young people, ages 12-19, are cared for through one-on-one phone call shepherding, where they read the Recovery Version and in some cases, the Life-studies. Since these publications are not in Italian, this also helps to improve their English. We are praying that the Lord will build them up together that they may become gospel seeds in their schools and share the Lord to their friends. The young people in Italy are scattered throughout the whole peninsula, thus limiting the blending to mostly conferences and trainings, such as the EYPC and the Winter School of Truth. This limitation makes the labor on the young people difficult, especially in the shepherding work. May the Lord continue to strengthen the serving ones to care for them in a constant way.

The burden regarding the university students in all of Italy is for the Lord to prepare them in such a way that when they graduate they are open and willing to be trained in the Full-time Training. Currently, we have about seven students we are caring for. We encourage them to participate in reading appointments over the phone or online, reading either the portion from the Holy Word for Morning Revival or a ministry book. Some also attend some group meetings and/or student meetings. Several participate in university conferences and serve at the EYPC in Poland and the Winter School of Truth. Some are involved in the translation of the Holy Word for Morning Revival into Italian. A year ago, a student came to Northern Italy from abroad to do graduate study. He has been inviting several Italian classmates over to his apartment for meals, and they have met some of the local saints. They truly enjoy singing our Italian hymns and songs. Please pray that more homes in Italy would be opened to the students, and more students in the church life would come to study in Italy.

The saints are faithfully laboring in Prato, Turin, and Vicenza along with other cities throughout Italy. For more information, please visit the Lord's Move in Italy website.

Italian Translation of Literature and Hymns

The Lord has graciously provided some translators, editors, and proofreaders in the literature work. There are presently 26 books and 13 booklets published in Italian. There is also

a hymns team translating the hymns into Italian. There are 134 hymns translated and published, with the goal of producing a hymn book of 200 hymns in the near future.

There are nine CLC bookstores throughout Italy that carry titles by Brother Nee. These books are a bestseller for CLC.

Immigration Project

The church in Rome, in coordination with the church in Anaheim, is working with an Italian law firm to apply to be recognized by the Italian government as a "foreign church". All of the required certified documents from the church in Anaheim have been received by the law firm, along with the new bylaws of the church in Rome. All appropriate translations have been completed and the draft of the application is being reviewed by a government official to ensure that everything is clearly stated and all supporting documents are in order. We expect to submit the official application in the next 30 days, and then the process should be completed within 6-8 months. This status will provide the way for those burdened to migrate to Italy and obtain a religious visa. This visa will be valid for all of Italy.

We treasure the prayers of all the saints in the Body and are expecting the Lord's blessing to increase in the churches in Italy in life and in number.

Further information is available by visiting <u>lordsmoveitaly.it</u> or emailing <u>info@lordsmoveitaly.it</u>.

Russian-speaking Areas

Here is a brief quote from the book *The World Situation and God's Move*, chapter 5.

These recently reported moves, which will further isolate Russia, are part of the world's ultimate situation...This situation of the United States in the lead and Russia increasingly isolated is the ultimate situation. Its purpose is the carrying out of the Lord's ultimate recovery.

We believe that the most recent events show that these words are becoming true.

The Lord's move in the Russian-speaking world started almost 30 years ago, in the fall of 1991. At this point we have 191 churches in 12 countries of the former USSR with about 5,500 saints meeting together.

This year Moscow, Russia, was to host the ITERO in the autumn. We believe that it is not cancelled, but postponed for one year. We believe that all the brothers will be able to meet in Moscow next year for the ITERO. Last weekend we had an online ITERO for the Russian-speaking world. We had 500 brothers who were able to watch these messages and meet in groups to fellowship over them.

Because of the pandemic, most of the meetings of all the churches are conducted online, although some of the churches are able to meet in person. This situation led to an increase in attendance and more blending as there are no borders with the Internet.

One of the countries that was affected the most is Kyrgyzstan. Over 70% of the saints had coronavirus. This is one of the poorest countries in the world right now. We asked the saints from all over the world to pray for them, and the prayers helped the saints to get through this situation. Also, many of the saints from different churches were burdened to give an

offering for the suffering brothers and sisters in Kyrgyzstan. Right now, since most of the saints there have already had coronavirus, the meetings are conducted in person.

There are currently 62 trainees in the Full-time Training in Moscow. Last semester we sent everyone home to continue the training online, but this semester we tried to gather everyone together in person. Since the borders are closed, we were able to gather them in four pockets. Moscow has 36 trainees. Kiev, Ukraine, has 15 trainees. Yerevan, Armenia, has 4 trainees. And Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, has 2 trainees. Also, we have a number of scattered trainees in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. The trainees are happy to be together. Please pray that the Lord would preserve them from this sickness.

On September 1, the co-workers in Russia created a website for prayer, similar to unceasinglypray.org and beseeching.org. It is called the Word of Prayer (slovomolitvy.ru). We offer some direction for prayer and portions from the ministry for the Russian-speaking saints in the Russian-speaking world and everywhere else. At this point we have over 400 saints who are subscribed to this website. We believe that the main result of this pandemic is the development of the prayer life of the saints.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have increased advertisement for the free Recovery Version on the Internet. Before this year, we had about 100-200 orders for the New Testament every month. Now we have over 400 orders every month. We have acquired a large pool of recipients. We have about 5,000 people in Russia and about 2,000 in Ukraine. Recently, we have begun to call every one of these recipients. We pray and hope that the Lord would reap some of them for the church life.

Because of the current armed conflict in Transcaucasia, which started over two weeks ago, there is a heavy burden for the saints and churches in this area, namely Armenia and Karabakh. Armenia, a small country with a population of about 2 million, has 16 churches with a total of about 500 saints. There are no churches in the region of Karabakh, but there are a number of saints who appreciate the ministry. A few brothers from the churches in Armenia have been drafted into the army and sent to the battle zone. We are praying for them and their families. We are also praying that the situation in this area would lead to the spread of the gospel, especially in the country of Azerbaijan, which remains one of the few former Soviet republics that have not yet opened to the Lord's recovery.

Further information is available by visiting slovomolityy.ru and slovozaboty.ru.

Bibles for Europe

We continue to receive an average of over 5,000 online Bible orders every month across five languages (English, French, German, Polish, and Spanish). Over half of the Bible recipients continue to request further information regarding how to understand and enjoy the Bible.

Starting in the UK and in the English language, the Bible recipients now also have the option to request a Bible study as they are placing their order. These Bible studies began in March of this year and are carried out one-to-one by over 150 saints throughout the churches in the British Isles. Currently these 150 saints, together with trainees and serving ones, are caring for over 300 weekly Bible studies. These Bible studies are not only shepherding the seeking ones into the ministry of the age but are also ushering the saints further into the God-ordained way and practice of the church life. The French-speaking saints are preparing to start Bible studies in the same way. We are expecting to have the same kind of results

throughout French-speaking Europe as we have had in the British Isles. The saints in the Iberian Peninsula are also beginning preparations to carry out these Bible studies in Spain and Portugal as well.

We are grateful to the Lord for providing such a wonderful way to shepherd the Lord's seekers into the church life. We fully expect the Lord to reap many chosen ones all over Europe through the New Testament Recovery Version and the one to one Bible studies to enlighten them with the vision of the age through the ministry of the age. May the Lord continue to bless His word to carry out His economy as He moves to close this age for His imminent return!

Further information is available by visiting <u>biblesforeurope.org</u> or emailing <u>info@biblesforeurope.org</u>.

Woodland Camp

On Wednesday, 30 September the local councillors voted in favour of approving the revised plans for the site, including an enlarged Leisure Hall and a Security/Reception Cabin. We had intended to finish the first 16 new cabins by the end of October. However, through fellowship we have decided to adjust the schedule and shift manpower to start on the recently approved Leisure Hall and Security/Reception Cabin, being mindful that winter weather will soon set in and make outside work more difficult.

The new key date is May 2021, whilst most of the facilities will be ready beforehand. By this date we will have sleeping capacity for 150, improvements to the old hall for dining, a Security/Reception Cabin, and an indoor Leisure Hall. The Leisure Hall can be used as a meeting facility for 150 until the way is opened for the completion of the Main Hall.

For regular updates and photographs please visit amanatrust.org.uk/page/woodland-camp-recent-update



Amana Trust

Amana Trust is a UK Charity that began about two decades ago. It is based in north-east London at Bower House. Bower House was purchased by Amana Trust in the summer of 2005 through the gifts of saints from all over the earth. The Full-time Training in London (FTTL) is conducted at Bower House and the adjoining Bower Farm, which was purchased in 2017. Woodland Camp, purchased by Amana Trust in 2014, is a ten-minute drive from Bower House and is used for short-term trainings and weekend events. At present, Bower House and the surrounding properties can accommodate up to 100 full-time trainees. Due to the temporary marquee on the Bower House grounds, we presently have meeting capacity for up to 700 saints at any given time. The marquee also provides packing and shipping capacity for the thousands of Bibles being shipped to the UK, Ireland, and France each month. Bower Farm will provide further expansion of the training and meeting capacity in the future.

Within a few months, Woodland Camp will have meeting, eating, and sleeping capacity for up to 150 saints at any given time. The buildings at Woodland Camp can facilitate as many as three or four groups of saints at the same time. Further building work to accommodate up to 300 saints is planned for the near future. Priors, a large country house adjacent to Woodland Camp, was recently purchased to enhance the function of Woodland Camp.

Amana Trust also works closely with Bibles for Europe, a charity also based at Bower House. At present, hundreds of saints in the UK are conducting weekly phone Bible studies with seeking ones who have received a New Testament Recovery Version through Bibles for Europe. The saints in Ireland and France have also begun to participate. These phone Bible studies were initiated by the seeking ones who ordered a copy of the New Testament. We hope to have many events for them at Bower House and Woodland Camp in the near future. The office of the church in London is also located at Bower House.

Additionally, Amana Trust has a bookshop in central London, which is located in close proximity to the hundreds of thousands of university students studying in central London. The bookshop contains the full ministry of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee as well as a large upstairs room devoted to fellowship, truth pursuit, and training. There is a bus stop twenty feet from the front door of the bookshop, which hosts five different bus routes into various areas of London. Six tube lines and four major rail lines are within walking distance of the bookshop and include the Eurostar train that provides daily rapid transit into continental Europe. The trip from London to Paris is a little over two hours on the Eurostar train.

In the book *The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move*, Brother Lee said, "...we should realize that Great Britain is very crucial for the Lord's move throughout Europe" (p. 48). Throughout its existence, Amana Trust has endeavoured to provide various services to the saints from throughout Europe, including the two-year training for young full-time trainees and short-term trainings for saints of any age from throughout Europe. To date, over 1,200 saints from 29 European countries have attended the short-term trainings, especially one-week trainings. The properties in London, which have been provided by saints from throughout the earth, help facilitate these trainings and the spreading of the divine truths throughout Europe. All of these properties (Bower House, Bower Farm, Woodland Camp, Priors, and the Amana Trust Bookshop in central London) are free of debt and available to the European saints throughout the year.

As a service to the saints and seeking ones, Amana Trust provides a calendar of events being conducted throughout Europe and the Middle East each year. This yearly calendar also

includes information regarding the seven annual feasts hosted by Living Stream Ministry. Another major burden of the saints serving with Amana Trust is the blending of saints from various cities and countries as much as possible. We encourage all the churches to keep us informed so that many can be aware of the numerous events available to the Lord's seekers.

Further information is available at: amanatrust.org.uk/page/events.