

AN UPDATE CONCERNING EUROPE—DECEMBER 2020 SEMIANNUAL TRAINING

The following report contains excerpts from Brother Lee's speaking from the book *The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move* and a short report of how our present experience is confirming the fellowship of Brother Lee and the need for many saints to emigrate to Europe.

The four chapters in this book were originally spoken by Brother Lee in a conference in May 1991 in Anaheim, California, and the first message opens with four statements expressing the burden:

1. The people who know their God will show strength and take action.

But the people who know their God will show strength and take action—Dan. 11:32b.

2. The truths in the Lord's recovery need to be spread to the whole earth.

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole inhabited earth for a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come—Matt. 24:14.

3. Go and teach all the nations.

Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit—Matt. 28:19.

4. How beautiful are the feet of those who go and teach.

And how shall they proclaim Him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the news of good things!"—Rom. 10:15.

Brother Lee began by explaining why he had considered a new direction for the Lord's move.

While we have been changing in recent years in order to practice the church life according to the God-ordained way, the world has also been changing. Because of the present situation in the world, there needs to be an appropriate direction for the Lord's move in His recovery today. We should not think that the present changes in the world situation are meaningless. The Lord is not only the Creator of the universe but also the Ruler of the entire world.

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, learned this lesson. He came to know that he was not the ruler of the earth but that the unique God, the One in the heavens, is (Dan. 4:28-37). There is the rule of the heavens on earth. Whatever happens in the world situation must be something of the Lord. When we see the many changes in today's world situation, we have to wake up. Our eyes need to be opened. We should exercise our spirit to say, "Lord, what do You mean in all these changes, and what concerns us in all these changes?" (*The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move*, pp. 7-8)

Brother Lee then explained a historical fact—that the world situation has always been the indicator of the Lord's move on earth, focused on the carrying out of God's economy. From the flood in Genesis 7, to God's establishing of the nation of Israel, to the four great empires represented by the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, to the Reformation, and to the Spanish Armada, he illustrated that the world situation is the indicator of the Lord's move on earth.

He then laid out the current world situation and its influential factors—the United States, Europe, and the Far East. The Lord's recovery was initiated through Brother Nee in the Far East and was brought to and rooted in the United States for its growth, but it was still in the stage of initiation in Europe. He hoped that we would bring this fellowship to the Lord and pray, "Lord, these days are the consummation of the age. Lord, in these days rekindle my love toward You." (p. 19)

In the second message Brother Lee came to a great and profound point which he hoped would touch our heart—to see the need of the spreading of the divine truths for the Lord’s recovery and restoration. He began by explaining that the gospel includes the entire Bible and proceeded to explain that God does everything by speaking.

Brother Lee then spoke that this will be carried out by hundreds emigrating to Europe to spread the divine truths and to speak to people one by one.

In chapter 1 we saw the recent changes in the world situation and the need of an appropriate direction for the Lord’s move in His recovery today. In this chapter we want to see the need of the spreading of the divine truths for the Lord’s recovery and restoration. I hope that our hearts would be touched through this fellowship.

Some Christians may refer to the need of the spreading of the gospel, but in this chapter I want to stress the divine truths. The Bible unveils to us not only the gospel in a narrow sense but also the entire divine revelation. Actually, the gospel includes all the divine truths. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are called the four Gospels. They cover many things that are altogether neglected and missed in today’s Christianity. When I say “the divine truths,” I am referring to the New Testament economy of God, which is the gospel.

Paul called his entire sixteen-chapter Epistle to the Romans “the gospel of God” (1:1). The gospel of God in Romans does not include merely the truth concerning justification by faith in the first four chapters. It also includes the Body of Christ in chapter 12 and the local churches in chapter 16. Even the local churches are included in the gospel. Without the church, where is the gospel? According to my experience, the gospel would be very deficient and poor without the church. Actually, the entire New Testament is the gospel, from the first page of Matthew through the last page of Revelation. The New Testament as the gospel is typified by the Old Testament. Thus, we may say that the gospel actually includes the entire Bible. (pp. 21-22)

We hope that many saints will emigrate to Europe according to what is recorded in Acts 8 when the disciples were scattered from Jerusalem while the apostles still remained there. I hope that many will go to Europe to teach the Bible. Some of the seeking ones in Europe have asked the brothers to send people to them to teach them the Bible. This is our burden.

We should not have the concept of going to Europe to have big meetings in the old way. The young people who are burdened to study in the universities there can talk to their classmates one by one about the truths concerning God’s economy, God’s dispensing, Christ, and the church. We will save and gain people in this way. (pp. 27-28)

The Lord’s recovery is full of the divine truths but is inadequate in the application of the truths and slow in the spreading of the truths. If we do not get into the truths in the printed ministry, we will be short in the application of these truths. If we are short in the application of the divine truths, we will be short in the experience of these truths. We are also slow in the spreading of the truths. Who among us is willing to be sent by the Lord to another place for the spreading of the divine truths? Instead of having the burden to migrate to spread the Lord’s recovery, many of us have become set, settled, and occupied. (p. 37)

In the final message of the conference, Brother Lee outlined the way to spread the Lord’s recovery in the countries of Europe. The way is not by a movement but by some emigrating there—to serve full time or to take a job or to study—and all being burdened by the Lord and having a clear guidance from the Lord. This would be to the leading cities that have colleges or universities for us to work

on in teams of at least four. These saints would live a life in resurrection under the cross, and contact people one by one in preaching the high gospel, in teaching the deeper truths, and in testifying the Christian experience. Such a service is always in the spirit and according to the divine revelation, and as we meet, we meet according to the God-ordained way as revealed in the New Testament.

Brother Lee concluded the conference with a particular word.

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. We should always practice going along with others, not insisting on our way of doing things. We should not be “back-seat drivers” in the church life who are full of opinions. This does not mean that we should drop our discernment. When I do things by myself, I will take the top way. But when I go with others, I will take their way. We should learn to do this.

We also need to learn to teach the divine truths in the central lane of God’s New Testament economy. I served the Lord with Brother Nee for eighteen years, and we never had any discrepancy in our teaching concerning Christ and the church in the central lane of God’s economy. In our teachings we always practiced the one accord. (p. 59)

Since this word in 1991, Brother Lee’s fellowship has been vindicated time and time again. The Bible has been written and translated and, standing on the shoulders of so many before, the truths in the Lord’s recovery are now interpreted. By diving into the truth ourselves, by spreading these truths, and by contacting the hungry ones one by one, the churches have grown and been strengthened. This has never been truer than today. Brother Lee considered the Recovery Version “as the aggregate of the proper understanding of the New Testament...Today the proper understanding of the Bible has been collected in our writings in order for us to study, learn, and spread the divine truths” (p. 35).

In these days, this Recovery Version, this aggregate of the proper understanding of the New Testament, is being requested by about 5,000 people across Europe every single month, in either the English, French, German, Polish, or Spanish translation.

Despite the lockdown, the Lord has kept the way open for the saints to continue to pack and ship out the Bibles. The Bible recipients are hungry, and over half of these ones go on to request further information regarding how to understand and enter into the Bible.

In the British Isles there is an additional option. As they are ordering the Bible, they can also say that they would like to have a Bible study. Then we phone them and say, “Would you like to do this



by email or would you like to do this by phone?” Many of them say that they would like to do it by phone.

We have been doing this since March, and now there are over 200 saints throughout the British Isles who are carrying out these phone Bible studies. Week by week they meet with 350 people by phone, simply feeding them with the written, translated, interpreted, and understood word. This has been wonderful not only as a way of shepherding these ones

into the enjoyment of the word but also as a way of bringing us all into the practice of the God-ordained way. One day soon we will meet them face-to-face in our home or theirs.

The French-speaking saints have begun to have Bible studies in the same way. We fully expect the Lord to have the same way with the same result 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 the same way in Spain and Portugal. We are grateful to the Lord for preparing such a wonderful way to shepherd all these seekers into the church life.



Meanwhile, the construction of Woodland Camp has slowed but not stopped. The cabins are going up and the beds are being prepared to receive these seekers from all over Europe to be saturated with these truths. Saints, today the Lord is gaining Europe through the spreading of the divine truths and by the emigration of saints who are constituted with this word and exercising to remain in the one accord.



The first 16 cabins shown here are nearing completion, and we have now begun work on a 150-seater hall which can be used for meetings and recreation. We are also preparing to start the work on a security and reception building at the entrance to the site. The cabins have been transformed in recent weeks by the laying of turf around the cabins, and it is very easy now to imagine a time when the site will be full of saints enjoying the fellowship in this lovely setting. Priors, a large country house adjacent to Woodland Camp, was recently purchased to enhance the function of Woodland Camp.

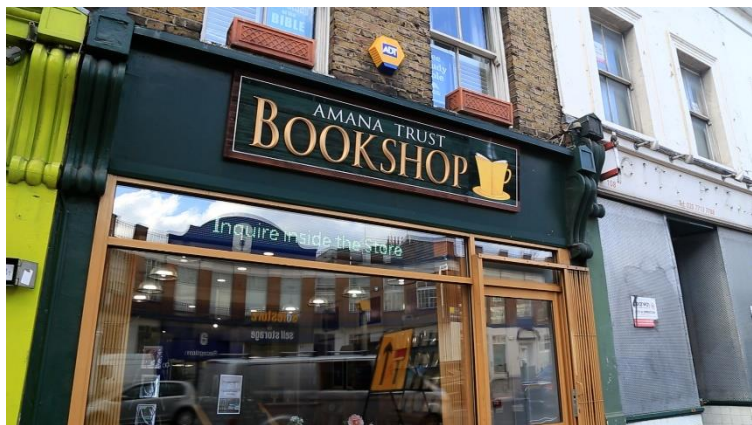


By May 2021 there will be meeting, eating, and sleeping facilities for 150 saints in a section of the camp that will have been made ready for full operation. Additional buildings to accommodate up to 300 saints, including the main hall and additional cabins, can then be constructed later without disturbing the events.

As most of you know, Amana Trust is a UK charity that began about two decades ago. In addition to Woodland Camp, it owns a number of buildings in London, including Bower House in northeast London. 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. 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 by Bibles for Europe. Bower Farm will provide further expansion of the training and meeting capacity in the future.



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.

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.

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 endeavored 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 and two Middle Eastern countries have attended the short-term one-week trainings.

In Autumn 2020, due to the pandemic, we were not able to hold our regular one-week trainings at Bower House and instead held an online training via Zoom. Over 400 saints participated, which is one-third of the total attendance since the one-week training started almost 10 years ago. The training was carried out on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings over the course of a three-week block. The saints came together online for messages on the four pillars of the Lord's recovery: truth, life, the church, and the gospel. They were split into 31 groups during each session to read ministry excerpts and fellowship over the messages. There was translation into six European languages and ninety percent of those who joined were from within Europe, representing 20 countries. More than half of the saints joined for the first time.

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.

In conclusion, we can testify to Brother Lee's word in the book *The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move*. The Lord is unveiling an appropriate direction for the Lord's move today, and the saints are emigrating to Europe for the spreading of the divine truths. Now we are endeavoring to care for the people in Europe in the principle of one-to-one, teaching them the divine truths that they also may be constituted to do the same. But most of all, we can testify that the practice of the one accord is vital for the keeping of the oneness and bringing in the Lord's blessing.

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. (p. 59)

I hope that we would bring this fellowship to the Lord and pray. We should tell the Lord, "Lord, these days are the consummation of the age. Lord, in these days rekindle my love toward You." (p. 19)

For those saints interested in emigration to Europe, please refer to the presentations available on the following websites:

Lord's Move to Europe (LME)

lordsmove.org

Amana Trust

amanatrust.org.uk

You will find information on a presentation made on October 25, 2020 to approximately 950 saints from Latin America.