



PEF NEWS

September 2016

Editorial

STANDING TOGETHER

In the last several months, Europe has been experiencing challenging and tumultuous times. Terrorist attacks in France, a coup attempt in Turkey, Brexit, the refugee situation, new laws regarding religion in Russia, and many other things are changing the political and cultural landscape. Besides this, we can see a growing polarization between religions and political perspectives. People are worried and it seems that a sense of security is decreasing among people.

I believe that this is a very crucial time for our churches. Now is the time for the church to raise its voice

and proclaim the freedom, security, and salvation that exists in Jesus. This is also a time when we need to stand together as churches in Europe. As borders are again becoming more forcefully observed and nationalistic fervor is growing, the idea and concept of the Kingdom of God is more important than ever. As churches, we must show that unity and equality for all can break the curse of separation and individualism. We belong to each other.

Unfortunately we are also seeing that some of our member churches struggle with splits and disharmony. I hope and pray that we can help each other find ways to stand strong in unity in our different national movements.

In times like these, I believe that PEF is not just an organization or some administrative office in Brussels. It's a fellowship, a family that gives us better possibilities to stand strong together in this challenging era. My vision and my dream is that PEF will develop a feeling of family; a warm and loving atmosphere that brings us together in a day and age when so many things tend to separate us.



Pelle Hönnmark,

Chairman of PEF

In the top cover picture: Some of the participants during Impact Skopje 2016

A WORD IN SEASON

Devotional

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GUARD YOUR HEART

There are a lot of things we want to protect: our lives, our families, and our property. We want to protect our reputation as pastor, as leader in society and in the church. These things hold tremendous importance for us. And we will make an effort to find ways to guard what we love because they are a part of us.

Solomon was known for his intelligence and wisdom. Many leaders, kings and queens visited him to hear his wisdom, and to see the power and riches of his kingdom. He wrote more than a thousand wise sayings and poems. He was gifted by God. In Proverbs 4 he speaks about wisdom and the importance it is for young men to learn from the wisdom of their fathers. And he comes to this conclusion:

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." (Proverbs 4,23 NIV)

Whatever in your life is important to protect, whatever is your first priority, there is still something else to protect that surpasses all others in importance, and that is your heart. Solomon reminded us: "above all

else, guard your heart." This is really important for us as leaders, pastors and workers in the Kingdom of God. Before we can protect our people, our churches, and of course, our families, we must look after our own hearts. The apostle Paul instructs Timothy to first *"Watch your life..."* and secondly *"...your doctrine closely..."* (1 Tim 4,16 NIV). He knows, like Solomon, that it is important for leaders to keep their hearts and to save their souls. In previous verses, Paul encouraged Timothy to be an example for all believers. In so doing, *"...you will save both yourself and your hearers."* (1 Tim 4,16 NIV)

How can we guard our hearts?

There are many things we can do. Let me mention only some. We have to live a life of integrity before our God, our families and the people. There is no space for falsehood, and dishonesty. Let us be honest and humble before God and every man. Sometimes we have to deal with people who provoke us and make us aggressive. And in such situations we get riled up, wanting to fight against them with all our power. This is when we need wisdom and a heart filled with the Spirit of God. We can train ourselves to be wise and patient, but we can only do this with the help of the Holy Spirit. Like David prayed to his heavenly Father: *"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."* (Psalm 51,10 NIV) The best thing to do in our life is to stay close to Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Only in his presence can we have clean hearts and protect our souls.

The Fountain of Life

There is a profound truth: If we learn to guard our hearts, we will see fruit in our lives. As we saw in the words of Paul *"...you will save both yourself and your hearers."* (1 Tim 4,16 NIV). If we live with integrity and our hearts are pure, people will be saved. But



there is another wonderful picture in Proverbs 4:23. In the German bible you can read: *“Denn in ihm entspringt die Quelle des Lebens.”* (Elberfelder). That means: “In this heart springs the Fountain of Life”. The result of a guarded heart, a clean heart before God is a Fountain

of Life that springs out of this heart and brings life to yourself and the people.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us guard our hearts. If our hearts are healthy, we can be used by God to bring healing in our world.

Pastor Edwin Jung

Superintendent of the Pentecostal Movement in Austria and
Member of the PEF Presidium
(Regional representative for Central Europe)

IMPACT SKOPJE 2016

July 4-10, 2016, about 150 participants from 13 countries in Europe and the USA, beside local believers, pastors and missionaries, took part in Impact Skopje 2016, a city-wide outreach conducted under the auspices of PEF in full cooperation with the Evangelical Church in the Republic of Macedonia.

Every morning the youth teams had refreshing times of worship, intercession and Bible teaching, featuring a variety of specialized ministries in the area of

contemporary and contextualized evangelism. PEF team members made the following comments:

“It was exciting to see the youth’s willingness to learn how to be used by the Holy Spirit to speak words of hope and prophetic words to people in the streets. Even during the training, as the participants ministered to one another, many were touched, encouraged and heard God’s voice speaking to them. Some of the teams said that they will continue to put this into practice in their home countries”.

“We went with our team to the old city where mostly Muslim-background Albanians live. Prayer and intercession had a very

important role in our team outreach. Part of the team prayed and interceded the whole time, while others contacted the people. We were able to speak and pray with about 15 people, mostly Muslims. There was a growing freedom and we had very good conversations and responses.”

In the three evenings of the outreach, our teams had intensive conversations with at least 50 people, were able to present the Gospel to them and pray for their personal needs. Most of them were young Muslims although some elderly people also responded to our invitations. Some were deeply touched after the Holy Spirit spoke into their lives. At least two persons



were healed after prayer and possibly three prayed to receive Christ as their Savior.

IS16 national coordinator, Zivko Bartutov, reports that three people applied for Bible studies which is significant for the local culture as people do not want to put their names on any paper. A few days after the event, two young people reported that during the final evangelistic event, while they were just sitting in their seats, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and started speaking in tongues. Also, young Orthodox activists were touched by the same event which will certainly result in greater openness from the Orthodox community. For example, they recorded the evangelistic message and shared it on YouTube.

In the words of Marino Mojtic, a national leader, "Impact Skopje 2016 was such an important event, ordained by God in such a crucial time for Macedonia, a land with political instability. Where people have abandoned hope, the message of hope was preached and proclaimed in the streets. The youth of our local churches in Macedonia were encouraged to have brothers and sisters from Europe and beyond come and encourage us in this great endeavor for God's Kingdom here in Macedonia. We are thankful for the



support of PEF and the willingness to stand with us in this time of need!"

Momentum is growing among all the IS16 participants who have started to pray about the possibility of going to another country in the Balkans next year, namely Montenegro.

Praise be to God for His guidance and blessing on Impact Skopje 2016!

Source: PEF Head Office, Brussels, Belgium.

www.pef.eu

PEF Team:

Daniel Costanza, Markku Ovaska, Veera Hug, Stefan Ross.

National Team in Macedonia:

Mircho Andreev, Zivko Barbutov, Tim Bentley.



REPORT OF EPTA CONFERENCE, SOFIA 2016

We met in the beautiful and comfortable surroundings of the Festa Hotel in Sofia, Bulgaria, June 27 to 29. Focusing upon 'The Re-evangelisation of Europe' we opened the conference with a fine and inspiring overview by Daniel Costanza who provided us with a statistical outline of changes within Europe and examples of the way PEF has been evangelising with teams, inspiring Pentecostal denominations through its conference and been working with EPTA.

Jean-Daniel Plüss of Switzerland opened the morning session with a focus on common discipleship patterns functioning to bring Christians together. He showed how, against the moving and sometimes hostile and complex background of Europe, major differences between Christian groupings lose their significance. William Atkinson of the London School of Theology in a detailed analysis of Luke's theology

of mission showed how miracles in Acts often became the trigger and occasion for evangelism. Miracles gave credibility to the proclamation of the gospel, and are exemplified in the prayer of Acts 4:30 'Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus'. Jacqui Grey from Alphacrucis, Australia, considered the theological inversions within the book of Isaiah as Jewish people took Assyrian motifs and applied them to their faith in Israel's God. Isaiah took the theology of the Assyrians as they swept down on Jerusalem; Luke gave a theology of the outpoured Spirit to the crowds leaving Jerusalem.

Opening the afternoon session Dave Newton, of Regents Theological College, UK, laid bare the shortcomings of incarnational theology that becomes merely a heology of Christian presence if evangelistic content is stripped out. William Kay considered statistical

evidence for the demographic composition of Europe, the notion of the European Commission that classifies religion as a 'recreational activity' and the role of broadcasting and education in spreading the faith. Olga Zaprometova tracked the extraordinary and turbulent changes in Russia since the underground church emerged into the open, the Berlin Wall fell, and preachers from the west arrived to spread all kinds of heterogeneous theological ideas before today's relative stability.

In the evening David Courey of Continental Theological Seminary and as a Canadian newly arrived in Europe, shared his perspective on European secularisation and made clear that, if Europe is to be re-evangelised, Pentecostals alone cannot achieve the task. David Reed, of Wycliffe College, spoke on the prosperity gospel including its intellectual antecedents and variants. Samuel Svensson recounted his experiences in evangelism and



Tanya Petrova provided a marvellously succinct and complete overview of Bulgarian history including the history of the church in recent years showing not only how it is enjoyed a revival but also how many Christians have taken advantage of the new freedoms to emigrate.

We concluded with a rich time of reflection and prayer that gave evidence of the seriousness and hope with which we now face the current situation in Europe. We need miracles, cooperative evangelism, church planting and effective education.

William K Kay

Retiring chair of EPTA



Please join us in prayer for the next summer outreach project of PEF:

IMPACT MONTENEGRO 17 July 2017

More details soon! Info: www.pef.eu

LEADERSHIP TRANSITION IN THE EPTA

During the annual business meeting of EPTA, recently held in Sofia (Bulgaria), the conference expressed special thanks to Dr. William Kay, outgoing Chair, and elected Dr. William Atkinson as the new Chairman.

Professor **William Kay** has been involved with EPTA since the 1980s when he attended the annual conference as part of the faculty of Mattersey Hall, the Assemblies of God Bible College in the UK. In those days EPTA members used to drive across Europe in minibuses and enjoy the fellowship on the journey and, once on campus, they discussed matters of mutual

interest like teaching, assessment and pastoral care. Then, even after leaving Mattersey's full-time faculty in 1993, Kay continued to attend EPTA as part of his job establishing the Centre for Pentecostal and Charismatic Studies at Bangor University in Wales. From this base he was helped to design BA and MA courses and assisting in the validation of these and other courses at six Pentecostal colleges in Europe. He took over the editor's chair at the *Journal of the European Pentecostal Theological Association* in about 2005 and was able to publish articles that had been initially delivered at the annual EPTA conference as well as from elsewhere in the world.

After Dr Paul Alexander stepped down, Kay was elected to the chair of EPTA and began to think strategically about how the Association should function. The journal was moved to professional publishers (Taylor & Francis) and, through the encouragement of Dr Arto Hamalainen, they were able to agree to come into PEF and bring theological expertise to bear on matters of importance to our common Pentecostal heritage and the challenges that face us.

Dr. William is also a member of the PEF Presidium, a regional representative for Western Europe.



EPTA Board members honoring Dr. Kay



William Atkinson

Rev. Dr **William P. Atkinson**. Having grown up in London, England, William studied medicine in Edinburgh, Scotland. After working briefly as a medical doctor, he heard God's call to church ministry and took up a position on the ministry team at Kensington Temple, London. While there, he gained a Master's Degree in Theology from London Bible College. In 1997, William became Principal of Regents Theological College, the

college of the denomination with which he is ordained, the Elim Pentecostal Church. While at the college, he pursued a PhD with Edinburgh University, completing this in 2007. In the same year, he moved back into local church ministry in south-east England. Since 2011 he has worked at the London School of Theology, where for some time he was a Vice-Principal. He continues there as Academic Secretary and a Charismatic Studies. He is on the

senior lecturer in Pentecostal and Board of Advisers of the Foundation Pentecostal Scholarship and in 2016 was elected Chair of the European Pentecostal Theological Association. He has written several books as well as both scholarly and "popular" articles.

William has been married to Alison since 1983. They have two sons: Iain, married to Maggie; and Stephen.

ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE OF THE "FREIEN CHRISTENGEMEINDEN" IN AUSTRIA

On the 14th December, 1946, after World War 2, in a small kitchen for refugees close to Linz, 26 brothers made a ground-breaking decision: the foundation of a church movement in Austria. Today, 70 years later, out of small, seemingly insignificant Pentecostal beginnings, a sustainable and strong church movement has evolved with five branches, a variety of ministries, and high relevancy in today's society. With more than 90 local churches and around 10,000 members, the Freie Christengemeinde – Pfingstgemeinde is the largest free evangelical denomination in Austria. It represents the majority of members in the state-approved (since 2013) Free Churches movement, which is held in high esteem throughout all churches in Austria.

On Pentecost weekend, 2016, the anniversary conference was held in Wels. In a very moving address, Dr. Greg Mundis (AG World Missions Executive Director) spoke about his relationship to Austria where he served as a missionary for many years and left a lasting influence. Moreover, Peter Wenz (Gospel Center Stuttgart/Germany) encouraged us with a word of knowledge, stating that God's vision is set on Austria and that we are to recognize the times when God is about to do something extraordinary in Europe.

The young Austrian band "Worship Revolution" inspired the crowd, including many of the younger generation, to worship our Lord. The president of the FCGÖ, pastor Edwin Jung (also president of the Free Churches in Austria) pointed towards the huge responsibility and challenging task of the Freie Christengemeinden in Austria, Europe and all over the world, based

on John 20:21-23 *"As the father has sent me, so I am sending you! With that, he breathed on them and said: Receive the Holy Spirit!"* He reminded the audience that "We can, without pride and in humility, say that the Freie Christengemeinde – Pfingstgemeinde in Austria, the largest organization within the Free Churches, shows a strong presence and considerable influence within the Christian landscape of our country, increasingly in Austrian society, and in Europe."

"According to our vision, (Vibrant churches that love God and people), we have a substantial mission for the present and the future; to spread the everlasting gospel, not only by words but by practical compassion and involvement in all areas of our country and Europe. This involves a positive attitude as well as active participation in caring for refugees, using the available resources of each church. As a church movement we identify ourselves with the mission of love for others and the task of being there for all people and giving them hope in their challenges - a hope that is relevant and

perceptible for all through Jesus Christ."

The anniversary conference of the FCGÖ was a motivator and a great encouragement for today and the future; namely, that God uses his church in a mighty way to make history.

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PEF ANNUAL CONFERENCES

Were you there?

2006 Vienna, Austria
2007 Paris, France
2008 Madrid, Spain
2009 Emmetten, Switzerland
2010 Palermo, Italy
2011 Chisinau, Moldova
2012 Budapest, Hungary
2013 Emmetten, Switzerland
2014 Hannover, Germany

2015 Amsterdam, The Netherlands
2016 Zagreb, Croatia

Will you be there?

2017 Stockholm, Sweden
(March 8-10)
at the Filadelfia Church

*The 2017 Leadership Conference of
PEF will be jointly organized with PEM,
with combined plenary sessions*

More details soon!!
www.pef.eu