

Burdens related to Europe (week of 6 December 2015)

1) Mass Migration out of the Middle East into Europe

A video recording of the fellowship given on November 28 to the saints who attended the Thanksgiving conference in Jacksonville, FL, can now be viewed online. The video is entitled "Report on the Refugee Crisis affecting the Middle East and Europe" and is available to all who have an LSM Webcast account. Instructions for viewing the video are:

- Login to www.LSMWebcast.com
- Go to 'Recent Conference Archives'
- Click on 'A Report on the Refugee Crisis affecting the Middle East and Europe'

There is no charge to watch the video; however, anyone who wishes to watch the video must have an LSM Webcast account. Most churches already have an account. Those who do not have an account can create a per-message user account. The video is intended only for the churches and the saints in the Lord's recovery. It cannot be downloaded but must be streamed from the Internet. A written report is attached to this document. At this time the report is available only in English.

Please continue to pray:

- For the response of all the saints to the fellowship released during the Thanksgiving conference.
- For the Lord's clear leading concerning the way to carry out the Lord's present move in a coordinated way.
- For the free mass distribution of literature and the response of the seeking ones.
- For the participation of saints who are proficient in the Arabic and Farsi languages.
- For the salvation and gaining of the Lord's chosen and called ones, especially the useful ones and the young ones.
- For the Lord's protection of His present move from the attack of the evil one, Satan.

2) Follow-up from contact with university students in the UK

Please pray for:

- The shepherding of the newly contacted students into the church life so that they will become part of a nucleus for the establishing and strengthening of the churches all over Europe.
- The perfecting of the university students to be "fishers of men" and "feeders of lambs" for the priesthood of the gospel on the campuses.

3) Seminars in three cities in Romania

Please pray for the ongoing seminars in Bucharest, Resita, and Deva to contact the readers of the ministry, and pray for the organic increase of the churches through these seminars.

4) Continuing distribution of ministry publications and shepherding of seeking ones

Please pray:

- For the radio broadcasts in the UK, Sweden, and Spain and the continuing distribution of the New Testament Recovery Version and other free ministry publications in all the European languages.
- For the shepherding of the seeking ones and their entering into the church life.

5) The raising up of the Lord's testimony in major cities in Europe, including Lisbon, Portugal; Krakow, Poland; Budapest, Hungary; Vienna, Austria; Sofia, Bulgaria; Thessaloniki, Greece; Zagreb, Croatia; Belgrade, Serbia; Geneva and Zurich, Switzerland; Bilbao, Spain; Hamburg, Frankfurt, and Munich, Germany; and Tirana, Albania.

Burdens related to Israel

To receive prayer requests for Israel, please write to isra_news@yahoo.com and ask the brothers to add you to the mailing list. Please include your name and locality.

A Report on the Refugee Crisis affecting the Middle East and Europe, especially Germany

Since 2014 the number of refugees fleeing to Europe from war and persecution in their native countries has steadily increased. After German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, indicated publically that her country would be willing to take “all the refugees”, the number of people attempting to reach Europe has exponentially increased. What was a flow of people has almost overnight become a flood. Most of these fleeing ones have made Germany their destination of choice. The refugees are mainly from Syria, but also come from Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, the Balkans, and north and equatorial Africa.

When the refugees enter Germany, they are placed in large facilities with capacities of up to 3,000 people. Many of these initial “camps” are former military bases and the conditions are very basic, even harsh. Access to these camps is difficult because of a necessary security presence. If they are granted asylum, the refugees are then placed in smaller, housing projects of 150 or 200 people. Even though conditions in these projects are improved, the refugees are still in much need and they do not know what the future will bring.

In 1991, Brother Lee, in *The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move*, said the following, “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 of these changes, and what concerns us in all of these changes?”(pp. 7-8)

A number of the co-workers in the Lord's recovery, considering the flight of so many peoples, and Germany's unprecedented willingness to take them, suggested that this could indicate a major move of the Lord in His economy. Consequently, they asked a team of brothers from America and Europe to go and “scout out the land”. In September, these brothers traced the routes of the migrants from their native countries into Europe.

In October of 2015, continuing on from the first scouting trips, several brothers spent some days scouting and researching the situation among the migrants in Germany. This was followed this month by another trip with a larger team of saints further assessing the situation and “experimenting” with different ways to reach the refugees for the Lord. This report covers the October and November trips.

In October, three teams of two brothers each from the UK, with the aid of some local saints, visited refugee camps in the cities of Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Mannheim, and Karlsruhe. In all the camps we found that the people were very needy and eager to talk about their experiences. Despite the significant language barrier, we were able to get an impression of some of their stories, and speak a little about the Lord and our purpose in visiting them. We were also able to give out a limited amount of gospel material. This trip mainly connected us with the local saints and brought them into the burden for the refugees. It also opened our eyes to the vastness of this field of labor, and opened our hearts wide to these downtrodden ones who are desperately needy in body, soul, and spirit!

In November, a team of 14 saints visited Germany for 10 days with different sub-teams visiting the churches in Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, and Stuttgart, as well as some saints in Munich. We also visited many “camps” of refugees in these and other cities. This time we were joined by Arabic and Farsi (Persian) speaking saints from the US and UK. This greatly enhanced our ability to communicate with the refugees, allowing us to more fully hear their stories and allowing us to speak the Lord into their situations.

On the November trip, we visited refugees who had already been registered and given medicals in the larger processing centers. These ones are now waiting for their travel permits and residency documents. In most of these interim camps, security is low or non-existent allowing us relatively easy access to the refugees. Again, we met people who had risked everything to get away from war and persecution in their native countries. Most of their stories were extraordinary. We could not help but be touched by their desperation, fortitude, and stoicism in the face of death, robbery, deception, persecution, and maltreatment, and the loss of family, friends and homes. Many told us harrowing stories of the dangers of their journey from the Mideast to Europe; traveling long distances in dangerous conditions, some capsizing in rubber rafts, or beaten by police or gangs.

We met one 63 year old man who had travelled from Syria to Algeria and on to Libya. There he attempted to cross the Mediterranean Sea in a small boat twice before being picked up by a naval vessel which brought him to Italy. From there, he first tried to get into France, then Norway, before finally being accepted by Germany. He was accompanied by his wife and three children (aged 22, 20, and 13). His eldest son (aged 24) had been robbed and killed a year ago trying to reach Germany.

In the same camp, we met a 24 year old civil engineering student who, with his 20 year old sister, and 12 year old brother, had walked for 43 days from Syria to Germany. We also met a young, Iraqi Kurd whose father and seven uncles had been killed by the old regime in his country. He fled his TV station job because some of his colleagues were killed and he himself had received death threats.

Despite their pitiful stories and the harsh conditions, the people are most appreciative of our contact with them and they welcome friendly visitors. Within minutes they invited us into their living quarters for coffee, tea, and snacks, soon to be followed by a meal. We were deeply touched by their warmth and hospitality. Additionally, as terrible and tragic as these events are, they have caused these refugees to question the very meaning of human life and rendered them very open to hear the gospel of salvation.

Our prevailing impression is that “the fields...are already white for harvest” (John 4:35). In a sense, you just have to stretch out your hand into the harvest and it is filled with grain! Because of their sufferings and loss, the refugees are in desperate need of all the care that can be offered to them, and they are wide open to hear the gospel. On this visit, we had ministry material printed in Arabic and English, and Farsi (Persian) and English. Because we had Arabic and Farsi speakers with us, we were able to preach the gospel to a number of refugees who openly prayed with us to receive the Lord. As of today, eight have definitely received the Lord and we have over 100 “warm doors” who are desirous that we return and visit them.

In addition, we are standing with and encouraging the local German-speaking saints in their outreach and follow-up with these desperate and seeking peoples. There is a very great need for many saints, especially those with some proficiency in Arabic, Farsi, or German, to pay an extended visit or migrate to Germany to participate in this move of the Lord.

In conclusion, for many years, the Middle East has been virtually impenetrable to the preaching of the gospel due to the persecution, and even the killing of Christians by radical Muslims. Instead of sending martyrs into the Middle East, the Lord has removed and scattered its peoples into Europe where they can hear the truth of the gospel and be saved in an atmosphere of relative freedom and tolerance.

This removal from their native lands and culture coupled with the persecution and suffering the refugees have experienced has made them question the meaning of human life and caused them to be wide open and ripe to receive and trust in a better Life.

Surely the ways of the Lord are higher and His wisdom is far greater than that of men (Rom. 11:33-34). It seems that the Lord is presenting His recovery with an opportunity to cooperate with Him in His economy comparable with His move into the former Soviet Union a generation ago. May His people show strength and take action (Dan. 11:32) to match Him in these last days.

From: *Rising Up to Preach the Gospel*

WORLD HISTORY BEING COMPLETELY UNDER THE LORD'S GOSPEL

If we study world history with spiritual insight, we will see that since the ascension of the Lord Jesus, the entire world history has been completely under the direction of the Lord's gospel. It is the gospel that directs the world; it is not the world that directs the gospel. By the Lord's mercy, I have studied this matter a great deal. Actually, even before the birth of the Lord Jesus, the world situation was working in different ways to coordinate with the gospel. (p. 12)

According to the prophecy in the Old Testament, the Lord Jesus had to be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), but at that time Joseph and Mary were residing in the city of Nazareth... Because many had come back, the town's inns were all occupied and there was no place for them. It was at such a time that the Lord Jesus was born (Luke 2:1-7). (p. 13)

Mary had been pregnant for nine months and was living in Nazareth with Joseph. Just when it was time for her to give birth, the emperor gave the decree to take a census, paving the way for the Lord Jesus to be born in Bethlehem. This proves that the Roman Empire's ruling the whole world was for the birth of the Lord Jesus, that He might truly be born in Bethlehem, the hometown of His ancestor David, in order to fulfill the prophecy in Micah chapter five. (p. 13-14)

THE WORLD SITUATION GOING ALONG WITH THE GOSPEL

If we study the book of Acts and observe world history, we can realize that the world situation always goes along with the gospel. God's way is marvelous. Whenever the gospel was about to reach a certain place, a certain change or action, such as a migration, would occur there. (p. 16)

THE LORD CONTROLLING THE WORLD SITUATION FOR THE SPREADING OF THE GOSPEL

...based on my observation, my understanding of history, and my fifty years of study of the world situation and the news, I came to a conclusion: Apparently the gospel has nothing to do with the world situation; actually according to history the world situation is all under the control of the Lord's hand with a view for the spreading of the gospel. (p. 34)

Numerous events in history show us clearly that the world situation is in the Lord's hands. He is the Lord of the heavens and the earth, and the throne is His. On the throne He carries out the universal administration and rules over the entire universe. Daniel 2 says, "He deposes kings and causes kings to ascend" (v. 21). We can see in the Old Testament that whatever nation He raised up, that nation would rise; and whatever nation He caused to fall, that nation would fall. What is the purpose of God in governing the universe and ruling over the nations on the earth? We all have to answer that it is fully for the spreading of the gospel. (p. 34-35)

THE LORD'S SOVEREIGN WORK IN THE MOVES AMONG MANKIND

When people are settled, it is not easy to preach the gospel to them. When people move, their hearts turn and become open to the gospel. I saw this in Shanghai and in Chefoo as well. (p. 37)

Given to the FTTA April 3, 1991 – Spring Term

[A portion from]

LIFE-STUDY OF ISAIAH

MESSAGE THIRTY-NINE

(Pages 273-275)

We also have to overcome frustrations for our preaching of the gospel in the Lord's move. I was recently fellowshipping with some brothers about my feeling that the Lord's recovery should reconsider its direction. The world has changed and it is still changing. There have been four great recent changes in the world situation. First, today Europe has a common market. Second, East and West Germany have been united. Third, there has been much political change in the small European countries. Fourth, Russia and all her satellite countries have changed and are still changing. All the leaders of this earth are considering what steps to take for their economy, their industry, and their education for their future among all the nations on earth.

We have pointed out in the past that the entire world situation is the preparation for the Lord's move in His gospel. The book of Isaiah shows that God's chastisement of His chosen people and His judgment of the nations ushers in Christ. Christ is just the gospel, and the world situation is for the gospel. The present world is changing for the advancement of the gospel. Even the Lord Jesus came as the world was changing. The Roman general Pompey had conquered Jerusalem in 63 B.C. In 27 B.C. Augustus received the approval of the Roman Senate to form the Roman Empire. That prepared the way for Christ's birth just twenty-seven years later.

The apostles' preaching of the gospel followed the political situation at that time. In the past twenty centuries, the gospel has always traveled according to the political changes on this earth. The brothers who have traveled to Russia recently have shared that the Lord has opened up Russia to our publications. There are many encouraging letters from the Russian people testifying of this. We cannot merely observe this situation and be complacent. We have to reconsider our direction in light of the world situation today.

Acts 13 shows five prophets and teachers in the church in Antioch fasting and praying together. Then the guidance came that Paul and Barnabas should be separated and sent out. They carried the gospel from Antioch to Asia Minor. That was a big step for the Lord's move. I believe that these five prophets and teachers were considering how to bring the Lord's gospel from the Holy Land to the Gentile world, and during their consideration, the guidance came.

In Paul's second journey, he and his co-workers intended to speak the word in Asia, but they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:6). Then they tried to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them (v. 7). The Holy Spirit's forbidding them to go to the left, to Asia, and the Spirit of Jesus' not allowing them to go to the right, to Bithynia, indicated a straightforward direction for the apostle and his co-workers. Spontaneously, they should have just gone forward to Macedonia. But Paul had to receive a vision during the night of a Macedonian man entreating him to come over across the Aegean Sea into Macedonia to help them (v. 9). Then Paul and his co-workers concluded that God had called them to bring the good news to Macedonia.

They crossed the Aegean Sea into Europe and came to Philippi. Philippi was a fortified outpost of the Roman Empire in a foreign country, where the citizens had equal rights with those at the capital, Rome. As a fort of the ancient empire of Rome, Philippi was a very strategic city for the spread of the gospel at its beginning in Europe. From there the gospel spread throughout Europe and eventually to Greece and Rome.

We have to consider the present world situation and our present direction. Should we just look at the situation and say that everything is good with the Lord's recovery? Many young ones among us have been trained in the past few years, and we presently have over one hundred in the full-time training. We are praying about this matter. It may be that in our next term of training, we will change our language lessons to Russian, French, and German, plus British English. If one has a knowledge of these four languages, he can travel and speak to people throughout nearly all of Europe and Russia. I encourage the young people to learn French, German, and Russian for the Lord's move.

In these days we need to pay our full attention to the all-inclusive Christ, who is the centrality and universality of the great wheel of the move of the Divine Trinity for the divine dispensing of Himself into His elect. In the church life for the Lord's recovery, where the proper revival and restoration of life are taking place, Christ should be the twig, the branch, the banner, and the standard. First, we ourselves must have a restoration of life. Then this will be propagated and will be designated by a banner, Christ. He will then be sought after by the nations, and He will become a standard to them. Hallelujah for Christ!

Responding to the Present Situation in Europe

1. Praying:

The brothers and sisters who are presently going out to contact the refugees and immigrants are sending to us the names of their most promising contacts. We are in turn giving information to various brothers and sisters in the churches throughout the earth. In this way, there can be very definite and personal prayer for these individuals. If you would like to join in this service, register by emailing: pray@AidMyFreedom.com.

Of course, we strongly encourage the churches to pray for this present move in a regular way.

2. Giving:

Those who have the burden to participate in this move by giving should give through their local church with a designation to: European Refugee Situation.

3. Going:

If you are burdened to help with the translation work or if you are burdened to go to Europe you should fill out the application at participate.AidMyFreedom.com. This is an interactive online form.

Specifically, there is a need for oral and written translation into Arabic, Farsi, German, or other European languages.

There is also a need for many to go to Europe for a short period of time or to migrate there.