



Dear Praying Friends

The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter (about circumcision). And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, **“Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. (Acts 15:6 – 9)**

LAUSANNE EUROPE 2021

We could call the above introduction a first official meeting of believers to discuss a number of issues.

Here only Jewish believers were gathered to talk about the new believers from the Gentiles. It was such a totally new concept for them to get together with people they'd always thought of as people you didn't associate with when it came to religious matters. We can safely speak of a revolutionary process, which could only be set in motion when the Holy Spirit convinced them.

It is now about twenty centuries later and the gospel has reached almost all nations. Looking at Europe, we see how this part of the world was slowly but surely transformed from Macedonia onwards into a continent where the Bible became the foundation of life. This can only be the work of God Himself, because if it had been up to us humans, we would have stayed in our own bubbles and left the others outside. And how often hasn't that happened, if we just look at our dealings with the Jews or with others when our prejudice viewed them as followers of a 'false religion'.

Yet this has been changing since the last century and the process is still ongoing. A wonderful example of this is the so-called 'Lausanne meetings'.

The Lausanne Movement came out of the First International Congress for World Evangelisation held in Lausanne on the shores of Lake Geneva in July 1974. Billy Graham and John Stott were the two main initiators, bringing together many disparate evangelical groupings around the globe in a spirit of unity and corporate inquiry into the meaning of the gospel for a world in transition.

'Lausanne' signalled the acceptance of the 'two-handed gospel', or holistic mission, when the socio-political implications of the Good News were recognised as integral to the spread of God's kingdom. Prior to Lausanne, many evangelicals viewed social engagement as the domain of liberals and half-believers, a betrayal of the commitment to simply 'preach the gospel of salvation'. Two Latin American speakers in particular, Rene Padilla and Samuel Escobar, brought prophetic challenges to their western listeners urging the necessity of both evangelism and social justice in mission.

Ralph Winter's focus on the unreached people groups of the world shaped a whole generation of mission thinking, while the Lausanne Covenant, drafted under John Stott's oversight, has proved to be one

of the most significant documents in modern church history, providing theological foundation for modern global missions.

Lausanne II was held in Manila in 1989 during the momentous changes in the imploding communist world. Lausanne III, in Cape Town 2010, reflected the growth of the global church in the majority world.

Lausanne Europe 20/21 is the first European regional gathering since Cape Town, and comes as the world experiences huge shifts through the pandemic, but politically and socially as well. The immense implications for mission in, to and from Europe demand prayerful reflection and discussion.

Last year it was cancelled in the hope to have it this year in November in Wisla in Poland. But it was decided to proceed with an online Gathering. This set-back also means that many more people can participate in the whole [programme](#) online. The event starts on Wednesday 17th November at 17.00 CET and concludes with a worship service at midday on Saturday 20th.

All those who participate, request the organisers, need to be in agreement with the [Lausanne Covenant](#).

If you would like to follow some of the online content but not participate fully in the Gathering, it will be possible to view some plenary streams for free via YouTube. You will be blessed and encouraged by the variety of talks and the networking.

For more information look at <https://www.lausanneeurope.org/>

Prayer

1. Pray for the Lausanne Europe conference that many will join and be encouraged with one another for Spirit-filled ideas and strategies to bring hope and salvation to many more in Europe and beyond.
2. Pray for fruitful networking between believers, groups, churches, etc. in Europe, as this is a time that only God can solve the many problems of today in Europe. He often uses his people on earth for these tasks.
3. Let us search our hearts regarding how we think about 'the other' who doesn't belong to 'my way of thinking about God' and strive for unity, so that the world will know that God has sent His Son.

Call to Action on migration from EEA:

In 2015 the European Evangelical Alliance launched the Refugee Campaign. Now it is 6 years later and the EU member states are supposed to have agreed a new migration and asylum pact to enable better, fairer, more efficient collaboration to handle the migrants, asylum seekers and refugees who come to the EU. The migration pact is a long way from being concluded.

With more than 1000 migrants drowned in 2021 and new Afghans refugees the EEA decided to issue a new Call to Action on migration.

- Urging governments to remember humanitarian values (most based on the Bible),
- Calling Christians to pray and to speak up,
- Thanking its members for all their efforts to care for migrants and refugees and to persevere. (for more information: <https://www.europeanea.org/the-refugee-campaign/>)

Additional Prayer Points:-

- Please pray for the Bulgarian Elections on the 14th November, the 3rd elections this year as no coalition has been able to be formed and the caretaker government seems reluctant to take hard decisions in case of unrest.
- Please pray for the situation at the border between Belarus and Poland, where more than 4000 refugees are trapped in appalling conditions. And for wisdom what needs to be done.

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