

AN UPDATE CONCERNING EUROPE JULY 2023 SEMIANNUAL TRAINING

BIBLES FOR EUROPE

Bibles for Europe continues to distribute the New Testament Recovery Version to many countries throughout Europe. We are currently distributing the Recovery Version in English, French, German, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. Although the Recovery Version does not exist in every European language, the prevalence of the English language across Europe, especially among the European young people, makes the English New Testament Recovery Version accessible to nearly the whole continent.

As Brother Lee said:

I consider the footnotes that we have published in the Recovery Version as the aggregate of the proper understanding of the New Testament. (*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1991-1992*, vol. 1, "The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move", p. 293)

He also said:

We do not need to do that much. We just need to go out with a pure heart, without anything to ourselves but all things to Him. Just go out with all the truths and the Recovery Version to read to people. I assure you that you will catch someone every week. (*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1986*, vol. 1, "Elders' Training, Book 8: The Life-pulse of the Lord's Present Move", p. 276)

Bible Distribution at the Olympics

London

In 2012, the Olympic Games were hosted in London and became a remarkable opportunity for saints throughout the world to visit London for both the torch relay and the games themselves. From May to September, over 500 saints from Europe and 400 saints from overseas participated in the distribution of the New Testament Recovery Version.

During the torch relay, the saints distributed the Bibles across 32 key cities, and over 15,000 Bibles were given away. The distribution continued at the Olympics and Paralympics, and an additional 55,000 Bibles were passed out. The saints discovered that during the torch relay and the games alike, at least 50% of the recipients were open for further contact.

Paris

The Olympics will be returning to Europe in 2024 to be hosted in Paris, and we would encourage all the saints to open to the Lord regarding this next milestone in the Lord's move in Europe. With over 2.1 million people, Paris is one of the largest cities in Europe.

Millions of people traveled to London during the 2012 Olympics, and it could be expected that as many will travel to Paris to visit this famous city. In addition, the UK torch relay had been designed to be within one hour of 95% of the UK population. This provided an unprecedented opportunity to reach the local people as they gathered to watch the torch, and we believe the same will happen in France.

The Paris Olympics is still a year away, and we do not know how many Bibles to expect to distribute during this international gathering. We are looking to the Lord as the brooding

and life-giving Spirit to prepare this city and the many visitors that will come to receive the Word of life.

We would like to invite the saints in the Lord's recovery to join us in Europe next year by praying, giving, and going. The distance by train between London and Paris is just a little over two hours, and the saints are welcome to stop by Bower House to blend with the saints in London before or after Paris. We had many experiences in London that will be very useful for the Paris distributions. May the Lord bless the coordination and one accord among all the saints that He may use this event to gain His seekers in France for the sake of His move in Europe.

Today there is the need of the spreading of the understood divine truths for the Lord's recovery and restoration. We can borrow Romans 10:14-15 and say, "How shall people hear without one who spreads? How beautiful are the feet of those who spread the interpreted and understood divine truths!" (*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1991-1992*, vol. 1, "The World Situation and the Direction of the Lord's Move", p. 288)

ROME

Rome is the capital of Italy and is one of the largest cities in Europe with a population exceeding 2.8 million people. This city has occupied a significant role throughout history and will be very significant at the end of this age. Concerning Rome, Brother Lee wrote:

This is not a matter of doctrine. I hate the mere doctrine of the church. I want to see some genuine, living churches. I do not care for the number that are in these churches. If there could be a church in Rome with a hundred fifty people who are shining, filled with Christ, and immersed in Christ, the Lord would be able to boast to Satan. He could say, "Satan, in your city of Rome I have a shining church!" Brothers, you all must be burdened for the churches in Europe. What is the use of merely studying the Bible, attending conferences, and listening to messages? The Lord needs churches. Young people, the Lord needs churches, and you must bear the burden for this. Surely the Lord desires a church in Madrid, the capital of the old Catholic country of Spain. Who is willing to be burdened to go there? The Lord is calling for this. Who will go to Paris? To London? To Rome? In these dark cities there is no lampstand. Oh, the Lord is calling! Who is willing to be burdened to go to a major city in Europe so that the Lord may have a church there? The Lord is calling! He is calling you and me to bear the burden for the major cities in Europe so that He may have churches built up in the territory of the coming Antichrist. Go and tell others that today the Lord needs churches! (*The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1977*, vol. 1, "The Kernel of the Bible", p. 335)

There are now flourishing lampstands in Madrid, Paris, London, and many other European capital cities, but the lampstand in Rome is still quite small. Through fellowship, Rome has been designated as one of the six key cities for migration in Europe. We hope that many saints would become burdened to strengthen the testimony of Jesus in Rome and to supply the saints that are already there.

There is also a great need for the translation of the New Testament Recovery Version into the Italian language from the original Greek. With more than 60 million people, Italian is the last remaining major European language group without the Recovery Version. Recently, a brother has been approved to begin working on this, and others are needed to join him in this endeavor. The saints in Italy currently distribute the ministry in Italian and the

Recovery Version in English, but the Recovery Version in Italian would greatly help the gospel and the interpreted truths to reach the native Italians.

Please pray for these key matters related to this crucial city in Europe.

ICELAND

Iceland is an island nation in the far north Atlantic between North America and Europe. It has a population of approximately 375,000 people and is one of the few European countries without a lampstand. Iceland has their own language, but there are no Recovery Version, ministry books, or literature available in Icelandic. However, up to 98% of the country can speak English, making the way open for the vast riches in the ministry to reach the Icelandic people.

In the last few years, saints from the United Kingdom, the United States, and Finland have been visiting Iceland to distribute the English New Testament Recovery Version as well as shepherd two couples who live in Iceland that have been reading and enjoying the ministry.

In March 2023, over 140 English New Testaments and a few ministry books were distributed in the capital city of Reykjavik, including in the city center and the campus of the University of Iceland. Not only did many stop by the Bible table to pick up a Bible, but there were also many meaningful conversations with Icelanders who are seeking reality. After sharing from the footnotes and speaking of their experiences of the Lord to many Icelanders, the visiting saints testified of an unprecedented openness, especially among the young people of Iceland. Surely there is an urgent need to bring the gospel of the kingdom to the Icelandic people.

We continue to look to the Lord that He would gain this nation and our cooperation through our praying, giving, and going.

A TRAINING CENTER FOR THE FULL-TIME TRAINING IN LONDON

We would like to bring you an update on plans for accommodating the growing Full-time Training in London (FTTL), the full-time training center for all of Europe.

Within a two-hour, 120-mile radius of central London, there are more than 1,000 saints, and a general populace of more than 33 million people, at least half of the total population of all of the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland). This is more than the population of the whole state of Texas and slightly less than that of the whole state of California. Within this same area there are more than 500,000 university students. The FTTL is strategically located in the middle of this large population. It also serves the entire continent of Europe with an approximate population of 600 million.

At present, spring 2023, the Bower House property and nearby housing can accommodate approximately 100 trainees at the maximum. The United Kingdom now has an excellent two-year visa for FTTL trainees not only from Europe but also from almost every country on earth. Historically, the spring intake has been small with about 5 to 10 percent growth. This spring, the intake was a 48 percent growth. If the training continues to grow at the same rate, we will reach 150 trainees by spring 2025, which is two years from now. Historically, nearly every graduate of FTTL remains in Europe to serve or work.

There is a great need to expand the capacity of our buildings not only for the full-time trainees but also short-term trainees and saints blending from all over Europe and over the world.

At present, any gathering larger than 150 saints must be conducted in our marquee (tent), and the marquee has been in constant use for over 12 years for conferences, blending events, seminars, meetings for the church in London, and FTTL graduations. This marquee is also the site of Bible packing and shipping for the UK and parts of Europe, and hundreds of Bibles are sent out from Bower House each week. However, the marquee is reaching the end of its capacity as well as its lifespan. The other meeting rooms at Bower House are insufficient for the growing full-time training, as well as for events for the ever-growing number of new seeking ones generated from the Bible requests and the *Life-study of the Bible* radio broadcast, in addition to the visiting and shepherding by the trainees, serving ones, and local saints.

Permission has been fully gained to build a new training facility on the grounds of Bower House. This new building will include classrooms, a kitchen, dining space, AV rooms, restroom facilities and a lobby and will be capable of holding at least 400 full-time trainees. The main room will have capacity for almost 1,000 saints, conference style, and can be used for meetings by the church in London as well as the FTTL. Having removable classroom wall partitions, the main room can be quickly converted into three separate rooms capable of holding 250 to 300 each, conference style. Using tables and chairs, training style, the main room can hold at least 500 at a time.

With a small team of planners and construction workers, we have currently begun this work on the new training center. However, we can only go at the speed of the available funds. We will continue as we can, and our hope is to complete this training center in two years in order to meet the need of the growing full-time training.

For information regarding participating in this current building project by either praying, giving, or going, please visit **lordsmove.org** and/or **amanatrust.org.uk**.

If you would like more information about Europe, including area reports and burdens for migration, you can find it on our website: **amanatrust.org.uk/reports**.

WORKS CITED

Lee, Witness. *The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1977*, vol. 1, "The Kernel of the Bible." Anaheim: Living Stream Ministry, 2021.

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