

General Assembly 2017



Mission in Europe 500 years after the Reformation

Europe in a secular, post secular, postmodern,
post Christendom, post communism context

Prague, Czech Republic ▪ 9 -12 October



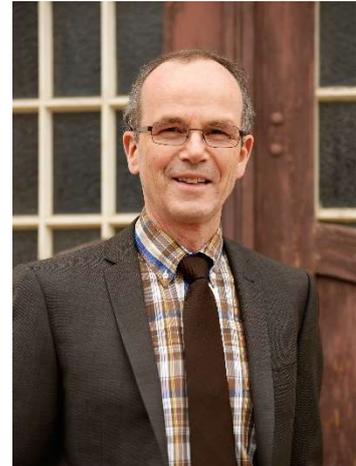
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Dear participants of the EEA General Assembly 2017,

Time wise we are nearing the culmination of the Reformation year. At the end of October, it will be 500 years since Martin Luther's 95 Theses went "viral". That changed the course of history in Europe and beyond.

For this EEA General Assembly (GA) we set the theme: **Mission in Europe 500 years after the Reformation**. Not historical, not a commemoration of the Reformation but looking at where we are now, as Evangelical Protestants, 500 years later. With an emphasis on the mission of the Church in current European societies.



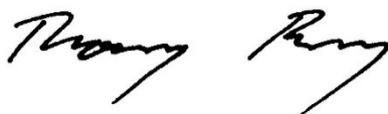
Quite a task for the few days we are together. And yet I believe it is worth tackling for all of us. Because it is not just listening to some speakers but much rather listening to each other, conversing with each other and learning from one another.

It is our goal and prayer that you will go away equipped with very practical and applicable input. That you will be able to testify a few months down the road: "I got this insight at the EEA GA and therefore I have been able to put this and that into practice. This is making a difference in my ministry. This is enriching the churches I am in contact with."

As an overall trend, the Church in Europe is losing ground. Its influence in society is dwindling and there is a loss of membership. However, there are some hopeful signs of change in some countries. Let us work together so that we will see this happen in many more places. This is a journey which might take us to some not yet known places. Are you ready for it? Do you want to see the Church transformed and growing and a new reformation taking place?

Let us set out together and expect God to open up new perspectives, new ways, giving new wine into new wineskins. Let us wrestle together what is central and not get taken up by the peripherals.

Looking forward to go through these few days with you and journey onwards together,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Thomas Bucher'.

Thomas Bucher
EEA General Secretary

Programme overview

Monday 9 October 2017

Day leader: Thomas Bucher

16.00 Opening of the General Assembly
18.00 Dinner
19.30 Evening programme
20.00 Evert Van de Poll: <i>Barriers and bridges for the Gospel in a world become 'post...'</i>
21.00 Fellowship

Tuesday 10 October 2017

Day leader: Leendert Wolters

07.30 Breakfast
08.30 Worship & Bible Study with Rosalee Velloso
09.45 Break
10.30 Tom K. Johnson: <i>Evangelicals, Roman Catholics and Evangelisation</i>
11.00 Reports of different country on Roman Catholics
11.30 EEA Staff time
12.10 Midday Prayer
12.30 Lunch & meeting with General Secretaries
14.15 Interest groups
15.00 Break
15.45 Evert Van de Poll: <i>The challenges of a society becoming more secular</i>
16.30 Thomas Schirmacher - <i>WEA time</i>
17.00 Time for Prayer & Worship
17.30 Free time
18.00 Dinner & meeting with Network Chairs
19.30 Evening with... Dave Patty & Hester Zoutman: <i>Youth work in Europe</i>
21.00 Fellowship

Wednesday 11 October 2017

Day leader: Helen Calder

07.30	Breakfast
08.30	Worship & Bible Study with Rosalee Velloso
09.45	Break
10.30	Panel Discussion: <i>Evangelicals, Roman Catholics and Evangelisation</i>
11.10	Presentations interest groups
12.10	Midday Prayer
12.30	Lunch & meeting with Affiliates
14.15	EEA members meeting
15.15	Good Practices from Network & Affiliates
15.45	Break
16.30	Johannes Reimer: <i>Evangelicals and reconciliation between the peoples of Europe</i>
17.00	Prayer & Worship
17.30	Free time
18.00	Dinner & meeting with Network Chairs
19.30	Evening with Krish Kandiah & Julia Doxat Purser: <i>Home for Good</i>
21.00	Fellowship

Thursday 12 October 2017

Day Leader: Jan Wessels

07.30	Breakfast
08.30	Worship & Bible Study with Rosalee Velloso
09.45	Break
10.30	Evert vd Poll: <i>Evangelicals and Nominalism and how does it feed into nationalism</i>
11.00	Written statement of GA outcomes
11.40	Lords Supper (Andrew Funka)
12.20	Thanks & Goodbye's
12.30	Lunch
14.00	Departures & Outing into the city of Prague

Programme speakers

Bible Study with Rosalee Velloso

- **Tuesday: Who are we?**
Evangelical identity in Europe 500 years after the Reformation
Key texts: Genesis 11-12, Acts 2
- **Wednesday: Who are our neighbours?**
Listening to the Holy Spirit with others
Key texts: Luke 5 and Acts 10
- **Thursday: Where are we going?**
Being God's missionary people in the 21st century
Key texts: Jonah & Philippians 2



Rosalee Velloso Ewell is Principal of Redcliffe College and Executive Director of the Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance. She is a theologian from São Paulo, Brazil, currently living with her family in Birmingham, UK. Rosalee is married to Sam and they have 3 children. She & her family are involved in revitalising urban neighbourhoods around gardening and cooperatives. They are also engaged in prison ministries, in teaching and writing.

Monday, 9 October 2017

The paradox of Europe and Christianity: barriers and bridges for the Gospel in a world become 'post...'

When reflecting on Gospel communication and Church development in European societies, mission theologians, evangelists and Church leaders usually concentrate on one or more of the following three challenges: secularisation and/or the postmodern outlook and/or the decline of Churches institutions. This then leads to identifying major barriers to the Gospel that call for a response.

We shall look at these phenomena together from the more general angle of 'the paradox of Europe and Christianity'.

This allows us to see that the phenomena of 'post' this or that, not only create barriers but also provide bridges to create a hearing for the message of the Bible. We shall identify some bridges that are typical for the Western and Eastern European contexts.



Evert Van de Poll is professor of religious studies and missiology at the Evangelical Theological Faculty in Leuven (Belgium), and pastor in France, serving Baptist and other Evangelical Churches in the area of teaching. He and his wife Yanna live in Nîmes.

Evert has authored and edited several books on mission, Church planting, creation care, liturgy and music, and the movement of 'Messianic' (Jesus believing) Jews. His special area of research and writing is the influence of the Gospel and the Church on European cultures and societies, in past and present. Cf. his major book *Europe and the Gospel* (London/Warsaw, De Gruyter, 2013. Revised edition 2016).

www.evertvandepoll.com

Tuesday, 10 October 2017

Evangelicals, Roman Catholics and Evangelisation'



Prof. Thomas K. Johnson, Ph.D., has served as pastor of three evangelical churches, including serving as a church planter. He taught philosophy or theology in eleven universities and theological schools in nine countries, including the dissident, anticommunist European Humanities University in Minsk, Belarus, and Charles University in Prague.

Dr. Johnson is presently Vice President for Research, Martin Bucer Seminary; Special Advisor for the International Institute for Religious Freedom (WEA); Professor of Philosophy, Global Scholars; Board President of the Comenius Institute (Prague); and an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church in America. In March 2016, he was appointed Religious Freedom Ambassador to the Vatican, representing the WEA and its 600 million members. In December 2016 he was honored for his international human rights efforts with a knighthood from the Sovereign Imperial House of Ghassan.

The first edition of Johnson's *'Human Rights: A Christian Primer'* (2008) became a standard evangelical resource. The second edition (2016) was

jointly published on behalf of the WEA and the Vatican-based Dignitatis Humanae Institute. He has written five other books and some two hundred articles and essays, many of which are available on the Martin Bucer website. He has edited 20 books on issues of religion and society as well as numerous human rights reports. He lives in Prague with his wife, Leslie P. Johnson. She was the first director of the Christian International School of Prague and is now an educational consultant for the Association of Christian Schools International. They have three grown children as well as grandchildren.

WEA time



Prof. Dr. theol. Dr. phil. Thomas Schirmmacher, PhD, ThD, DD, serves the World Evangelical Alliance as Associate Secretary General for Theological Concerns (Theology, Theological Education, Intra-faith Relations, Interfaith Relations, Religious Freedom, Research) and as Chair of the Theological Commission of WEA. He also is Chair of the same commission of the European Evangelical Alliance. As President of the International Council of the International Society for Human Rights he regularly testifies in the parliaments and courts in Europe and the Americas, the OSCE and the UN in Geneva and New York. He has authored and edited 102 books, his newest including *'Fundamentalism'*, *'Racism'*, *'Human Rights'*, *'Suppressed Women'*, and *'Human Trafficking'*.

Bishop Schirmmacher earned four doctorates in ecumenical theology, in cultural anthropology, in ethics, and in the sociology of religion and received two honorary doctorates from the USA and India. He is Distinguished Professor of Global Ethics and International Development at William Carey University in Shillong (Meghalaya, India), extraordinary professor of the sociology of religion at the state University of the West in Timisoara (Romania) and director of the International Institute for Religious Freedom (Bonn, Cape Town, Colombo, Brasilia). He is professor of social ethics as well as president of Martin Bucer European Theological Seminary and Research Institutes (with branches in Berlin, Bielefeld, Bonn, Chemnitz, Hamburg, Innsbruck, Istanbul, Izmir, Linz, Munich, Pforzheim, Prague, Sao Paulo, Tirana, Zurich).

Evening with... *Youth work in Europe*



Dave Patty is the founder and president of Josiah Venture, a leadership training organization focused on equipping next generation leaders throughout Eastern Europe. He has a BA in Theology from Multnomah University and a MA in Education from Wheaton Graduate School.

During the last 24 years the Josiah Venture team has grown from two couples to over 350 staff serving in 14 countries of Central and Eastern Europe. Josiah Venture has been recognized by the Minister of Education in the Czech Republic for its pioneering work in prevention and ethics education of High School students.

Dave is well known in the region for his practical Bible teaching. He produced a weekly television broadcast called *Exit 316* that aired for 82 weeks on national television the Czech Republic.

Dave (56) lives with his wife Connie in Frydlant, Czech Republic. Dave loves to ski, chop wood, and enjoy time with his children.

Wednesday, 11 October 2017

Evangelicals and reconciliation between the peoples of Europe

Our world is in turmoil. Millions of refugees flee their countries and come to Europe. Many of them are deeply traumatised. If anything else - the world need Peace and Reconciliation. Dr. Johannes Reimer will talk about the challenging new network of the global fellowship of Evangelical Alliances and present cases from Europe, the Middle East and Latin America.



Dr. Johannes Reimer is Professor of Missiology and Intercultural theology at the Ewersbach University of Applied Arts in Germany and the University of South Africa. He is the global director of the Peace and Reconciliation Network of the WEA and EEA.

Evening with... *Home for Good*



Dr. Krish Kandiah is the founding director of *Home for Good*. He lives in Oxfordshire, UK with his wife and seven children. He is an award-winning author, an adopter, foster carer, activist for refugee resettlement and a theologian.

Special features in the programme

EEA staff sharing

EEA's goals are to equip, connect and represent. On Tuesday morning the EEA staff will share with you shortly about their work. This is a great opportunity to learn about the impact of EEA and its networks in Europe!

Interest Groups

On Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning we have scheduled for you to come together in groups. Each group is focused around a theme and the purpose is to share ideas and good practices.

The topics are:

- **Cherishing our nations** – What are your greatest concerns for your nation? This is an opportunity to express your thoughts and to hear from others so that we increase our understanding of the challenges we face across the EEA family.
- **Refugees** - The arrival of big numbers of refugees and migrants on European soil, provoke a myriad of emotions and also opportunities. How are Christians responding? How are they feeling? This group is a chance to share great ideas but also any concerns.
- **Youth** - What is the story youth is telling us about the gospel? What is the story we would like to hear from them? How can we work together in Europe to equip youth?
- **Evangelism** – Do we still have a good news for Europe? What does mean for us to be Good News People? How do we reach our neighbours for God today and how are we preparing for tomorrow. A group for sharing of perspectives, ideas and practices

Panel discussion

On Wednesday we will have a panel discussion on the topic: **Evangelicals, Roman Catholics and Evangelisation**. The panel will discuss different local perspectives. The panel is formed by Giacomo Ciccone (Italy), Jan Wessels (Netherlands), Gordon Margery (France) and Tom K Johnson. The discussion will be led by Frank Hinkelmann (Chair EEA Board).

Market

In the plenary room there are tables available to present materials. The market is there to share your ideas, projects, success stories and questions. Feel free to bring flyers or brochures.

Lunch/Dinner Meetings

On Tuesday and Wednesday during meal there are meetings planned with the General Secretaries, Affiliates and Network. For details consult the programme schedule.

Worship

The times of worship are led by Scott Andrews.

Prayer

Each day before lunch and dinner we have set a prayer moment in the programme. We would like encourage you to take a time to pray and reflect on the issues discussed that day, to give thanks, to pray for each other and for our nations, organizations and circumstances.

Lords supper

On Thursday morning we will celebrate the Lords supper together. This has become a GA trait. We invited the local pastor Andrew Funka to minister to us.

At the end of the service there will be a collection. The offerings will go for the work of *Home for Good*.

Thursday Outing

After the closing lunch on Thursday there is an outing into the city Centre of Prague. The excursion is by foot and will be led by Leendert Wolters. The outing will end at 16.00.

Gratitude

We would like to thank the Czech Evangelical Alliance for welcoming us in Prague. Jiri and Leendert you have been of great help!

Practical information

Address of the conference centre

Hotel Olšanka

Táboritská 1000/23,
130 00 Praha 3, Tsjechië

hotelolsanka.cz

+420 267 092 202

Tramstop: Olšanské náměstí (line: 5, 8, 9, 15 and 26)

EEA Conference coordinator: Hester Zoutman +31 (0) 6 2505 8898

Internet

You will receive the code for Wi-Fi upon arrival.

Meals and Drinks

All meals are included in the conference fee. During the day you will be offered two breaks with coffee and tea. Soft drinks are available at your own cost.

Lunches will be in the cafeteria and tap water is included. The dinners include one drink and tap water. All other drinks are at your own expense.

Programme Rooms

The plenary meetings will take place in Hall Praha. The coffee breaks are in Lounge Plzeň. The meals are in restaurant Symphonie and part of the cafeteria. Look for the designated area we can use.

Payment and Registration

Room check-in and all questions concerning the facilities and your stay are to be directed to EEA helpdesk.

Check in time is 14.00 and check out time is 10.00.

Questions concerning the conference, fees, transfer, scholarships or other issues can be directed also to the conference coordinator. The helpdesk is available 30 minutes before each session and in the evening till 21.30 h.

Extra Nights

If you have requested to come early or stay longer in the hotel, please make sure you pay the hotel for these nights. You will be charged at the rate we had for the conference.

EEA staff



Thomas Bucher
General Secretary



Julia Doxat-Purser
Socio-Political Representative & Religious Liberty Coordinator



Arie de Pater
Brussels Representative



Hester Zoutman
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