



DYNAMIC GOSPEL NEW EUROPE

CONVERSATION
AND GATHERING

PRESS RELEASE
#LausanneEurope

Evangelicals unite to share the Dynamic Gospel in the New Europe

From 17-20th November, around 1.200 European evangelical leaders participated virtually in the Lausanne Europe 20/21 Gathering with the theme of Dynamic Gospel New Europe, the first continent-wide event of the Lausanne Movement in Europe since 1974.

Jeff Fountain, Director of the Schuman Centre for European Studies, summed up his experience of the Lausanne Europe Gathering: “Whether following alone from one’s home or office, or in national gatherings such as the one I joined in Almere just outside of Amsterdam, we were all drawn into a broad, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, multi-national ‘communion of saints’ blanketing Europe and far beyond. We became more conscious of our own cultural blind-spots, nationalistic limitations, linguistic differences and perhaps even racial prejudices. We were confronted with needs and challenges in today’s needy mission field of Europe. The four days of online conversations, video reports, exchanges through chat boxes, interactive seminars and bible expositions have created a landmark event which will impact the evangelical landscape of Europe for decades to come.”

Usha Reifsnider was a member of the organizing committee and also served as one of the four hosts for the event. As a British woman of Indian decent, she says that she has often felt that she was used as a face to represent female converts from the Majority World, but without real influence. “The acceptance of the contributions from the Majority World was a big leap. To accept them as a mission force in Europe requires some humbling from all sides. The Majority World has been working on re-evangelizing for some years, but this event recognized their efforts and hopefully will lead to practical partnerships that would see us lead initiatives rather than only follow,” Reifsnider says.

The Scoocs platform enabled the delegates to meet up virtually with people from other parts of the continent and to discuss cooperation and partnership. The platform also enabled delegates to participate in over sixty seminars on the crucial issues for mission in Europe today. Many difficult subjects were discussed, sometimes revealing culture clashes and disagreements, but whether the topic was Christian responses to the EU, Christian identity in the era of identity politics, or biblical and practical responses to climate change, a sense of unity and a willingness to understand each other prevailed.

Philippe Monnery, a French evangelical leader who was a member of the organizing committee and chair of the plenary sessions, said this about the plenaries: “We were studying the new Europe with all its challenges: identity crisis, cultural diversity and secularism, we explored through Philippians what it means to be worthy citizens of the gospel in a hostile world. We celebrated how the dynamic gospel shaped Europe in the past through radical gospel-centered identity and looked through many testimonies on how God is moving in Europe today especially through church planting by new generations of diaphora Christians from the Majority World.

That leads us to look at the future of the Gospel in Europe and participants were challenged to go out of their comfort zone especially when it comes to crossing cultural barriers and work in partnership between European churches and Majority World churches in Europe. The last night addressed our unbelief and tendency to look at the future with cynicism instead of having faith in the promise of God that has great purpose to our continent!”

Whilst we cannot deny how secularized Europe has become, participants were encouraged on the final morning by Lindsay Brown, former International Director of the Lausanne Movement, to draw inspiration from past examples of the gospel transforming Europe, and by Luke Greenwood, to believe in the power of the gospel to speak into the spiritual hunger of today’s and tomorrow’s Europeans.

The Lausanne Europe 20/21 Gathering is the first major Lausanne conference since the original congress called by Billy Graham in Lausanne Switzerland in 1974. It became a watershed event in the history of Christian mission and the statement from that gathering, The Lausanne Covenant, is recognized as one of the most important Church documents in the 20th Century.

Since then, the Lausanne Movement has functioned as a relational network and a theological platform. From now on, it will also function as a digital platform for ideas and initiatives on strategic mission. Lausanne Europe 20/21 is over, but rather than an end, it marks a new beginning for Lausanne Europe.

For the twenty months leading up to the Gathering, delegates were encouraged to participate in the Lausanne Europe Conversation by forming Impact Groups to discuss the key issues for mission in Europe today. Many of these groups will continue and we hope new ones will be started. All these materials, and videos of the plenaries and seminars, are available on the [Lausanne Europe website](#).

It has often been said, the fruit of the Lausanne Movement grows best on the trees of others. As we look to the future, Lausanne Europe will continue to work to help churches and ministries across Europe to be more fruitful.

The Coordination Team for Dynamic Gospel – New Europe

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