



**Seeking God's will:
A Theological Training Center in Europe**

THINKING BIG FOR GOD'S GLORY

Although a young mission agency, *From His Fullness* has seen enough of the Lord's wonderful blessings since its founding in 2017 to deduce that it is God and not man that has brought the ministry into existence. Already, *From His Fullness Ministries* has a global reach, due to ministry in Africa, Asia, and the Americas, and publication of *The Way* in Spanish (*El Camino*), Italian (*La Via*), and French (*Le Chemin*).

Since the outset, we have felt a draw to establish a headquarters in central Europe. This would enable us to serve the Lord strategically in and from the continent and would advance our aim to strengthen and to extend the church there, even beyond our days. The headquarters would serve, then, not chiefly for administrative purposes, but as a theological and practical training center, replete with a library to serve as a study center. We have the books to start, both our president's and the remainder of Dr. Peter Trumper's library (currently housed in Wales), but we seek from the Lord an endowment to confirm that what we envision is from his Spirit rather than from our minds.

"Europe may be very sophisticated, but it's also very lost; it's the spiritually neediest continent in the world right now, especially in terms of the (low) number of real Christians, biblical churches, and faithful gospel workers. Europe needs our prayers and our help!"

Andrew Birch, director of the European Mission Fellowship.



We are inspired in thinking big not by today's celebrity culture, but by the lessons of Scripture and the example of faith of those who have gone before us. Daniel 11:32 comes to mind: "the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits" (NKJV). Peter Trumper, one of the significant influences on the founding of *From His Fullness Ministries*, would often quote William Carey, the father of the modern missionary movement: "Expect great things; attempt

great things." The saying likely arose as two headings in Carey's famous sermon to the Baptist Association Meeting in Nottingham, England, May 30, 1792. He was seeking to encourage his Baptist colleagues to engage the missionary enterprise.¹

Ironically, our president's birthday is May 30! We make nothing of that other than to take encouragement to follow Carey's belief that our God is sufficiently big and gracious to provide all the resources needed to accomplish his will. We share with you, then, our vision for a training center in the heart of Europe, believing that if it is of the Lord, he will supply the resources needed to proceed.

THE TRAINING CENTER

Why Europe?

- Europe has an incredibly rich Christian history. Yet, despite the official statistics of Christians on the continent, Europe is today the most secular of the world's continents.
- The study of theology in many European universities is theologically liberal or, worse, post-Christian.
- God is turning the attention of his people to Europe for the restoration of her Judeo-Christian roots. We are interested in surfing where God is beginning to create fresh waves.
- There are worthy conservative evangelical colleges in Europe with which we would have much affinity and fellowship. However, there are few explicitly Reformed training centers (of whatever kind) on the mainland of Europe.
- Relocating to Europe would not only help us to join the battle for the recovery of the Christian roots of Europe and to spread the gospel there in person, it would place us in closer reach of church leaders from Africa and Asia whom we would continue to serve through ministry trips.

¹ Photo: Dr. Tim at the grave of William Carey, Kolkata (Calcutta), India, in 2014.



"The European evangelical church is small and fragile and a Reformed presence hardly visible, but it seems to me that there are some signs that that it has pleased Almighty God to very slowly strengthen and even grow Reformed churches in Europe"

Dr. Sacha Walicord, Christian Renewal.

(Dr. Walicord is Iranian-Austrian, now pastoring at Walker United Reformed Church, Walker, Michigan, U.S.A.)

Although the country has been known as a difficult territory for missions—Innsbruck in particular has been called "the graveyard of

evangelical missions"—our hearts are drawn there. There are solid reasons for this:

- Located at the heart of Europe, Austria is accessible to church leaders from both western and eastern Europe.
- Austria has a population of eight million, yet has few churches which are Protestant in biblical and theological conviction.
- Austria is underrepresented by mission agencies. After the fall of the iron curtain, mission organizations relocated from Austria since they no longer needed the near access to eastern Europe which the Vienna/Bratislava corridor afforded.
- It is said by missiologists that the great need of Austria is experienced Christians who are able to share the truth of Scripture and the heritage of the Christian faith, given that there are generations now forsaking Roman Catholicism for secular materialism, occultism, and the like.
- Specifically, there are very few Reformed believers in Austria. We know of the Evangelical Reformed Church in Austria and Switzerland

(Westminster Bekentnis Evangelische Reformierte Kirche) but such believers need support and encouragement (<https://reformiert.at/>).

- Dr. Tim has experience of central Europe having studied at the Karl Eberhard University of Tübingen, Germany in the mid-1990s.²

"It is true that Austria was a grave of missionaries. Even supposing around one percent of Austrians are evangelical (of which sixty percent are Pentecostal), the Reformed biblical faith is almost non-existent. Good teaching is a major shortage in Austria (and Europe)."

*Pastor Reinhard Mayer, Evangelical Reformed Church
Westminster Confession, Rankweil, Austria.*

Why a training center?

- A training center would afford us the opportunity to serve on both our stated fronts: indigenous theological education and the promotion of community outreach. We would aim to contribute to localized ministerial support and church-officer training, the theological training of refugees coming into Europe from Africa and the Middle East, continuing in the meantime our endeavors to spread the gospel in Europe by means of *The Way*.
- We already have the makings of a theological library and pray that God would use it and the center far into the future, should the Lord tarry, as a resource for the church in Europe.

To what use would the training center be put?

- The training center would develop in conjunction with the planting of a church (or the support of a church plant), for we are committed to

² For a sample of the needs of Austria, go to: <https://www.evangelical-times.org/27008/missionary-spotlight-church-planting-in-austria/>.



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the primacy of preaching and to the local church. Such a church would need theological and practical training as also help with outreach.

- Additionally, the training center would allow for day visitors and boarders, whether for the formal teaching and training sessions, or for sabbaticals and retreats. We would need to purchase a property with sleeping quarters, kitchen and administrative facilities, room for the library, the teaching, and for making recordings.
- The center would advertise our courses internationally within Europe. These courses would be in theology, church leadership, women's ministry, evangelism and apologetics. In other words, we would deliver in Europe the ministry we are already disseminating in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. We would also be open to teaching courses customized to address specific needs.
- The training center could also become a resource for the church in Europe for conferences, vision retreats, church holidays, youth camps, and the like.

How would the training center be financed?

Obviously, this vision requires the sighting of God to become a reality. Yet, how many Christian conference centers exist which began with a vision that God brought to pass, and which, today, are divinely used to strengthen his people. God loves to show his hand to those seeking in faith to glorify him, and whose dreams are of his inspiring.

Thus, we make this vision known as a means of waiting on the Lord, watching to see the traction it gains. Since God uses means, we invite you to connect with us. We would be delighted to hear from those whose interest is piqued and who are empowered by God's gifting and desire to contribute to the realization of the center. From reconnaissance of representative properties for sale in Austria, we estimate a need of \$750,000 in pledges over and above our current operating costs.

The running costs of the center we would aim to cover:

- By the regular fundraising (to cover salary and administrative costs), by income from boarders and/or apartment rental fees, and through income from course fees.
- By the enlistment of volunteer support (from students and the like) and short-term mission teams.

Thank you for your interest. Writes Pastor Reinhard Mayer in response to this proposal, "We now begin with prayer. Please let us know when we can do more." Feel free to share this proposal with any you know who might share our passion. Enquiries may be submitted to fromhisfullness@mail.com and donations through the website.

As ever, the Lord's will be done! Nothing more, nothing less. This is our prayer.

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