

EEA News



'Uniting to serve'

Including EEA's Impact, news from the socio-political team

EEA's General Assembly

Thinking and praying about Europe's future!

Leaders of Evangelical Alliances, Christian organizations, churches and youth leaders from across Europe and Central Asia gathered together, 17 – 21 October in the beautiful Monbachtal, Germany. Nearly fifty countries were represented.

Keynote speakers were among others: dr. Thomas Schirmmacher, dr. Os Guinness, and Evert Jan Ouweneel. According to Thomas Schirmmacher Western Christian theology tends to become unbiblical, because it doesn't include a 'theology of suffering', while suffering is the usual pattern in the gospel, the book of Acts and the New Testament letters. Evert-Jan Ouweneel said that the established churches have to take a Sabbath, to reflect about their situation. 'It is time to be more silent, to pray and to confess our past.' Os Guinness emphasized that the Kingdom of God works in a different way as we are inclined to work. We need a radical critique and a radical return to the dynamism of the Holy Spirit to expect a new renaissance. Dr. Guinness also presented his thoughts about working together for a public space that guarantees freedom and equal rights for all, based on mutual respect and solidarity of all. We hope to be able to make the main lectures accessible through audio-files at the EEA website in the near future.



During the Assembly the delegates of Central Asia brought reports of the growth of the church there as well as the many forms of discrimination and suffering that they face. The EA leaders prayed for Greece and for the financial situation in Europe.

Significant event was the official launch of EEA's Biblical approach related to engagement in the public arena (see article below). In the meanwhile French, German, Russian and Spanish translations have been published. You can find these at WEA website, link: <http://www.worldevangelicals.org/news/article.htm?id=3736&cat=main> EEA is also confronted with financial challenges that might force us to cut off staff time. At the Assembly the EEA members did a strong plead to do everything to avoid that. Encouraging that many committed themselves to provide extra financial pledges.

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European Evangelical Alliance concerned about Europe's Financial Crisis

The European Evangelical Alliance (EEA), representing Evangelical and Protestant Churches in 36 nations of Europe and Eurasia, covering 15 million people, indicated its great concern for the financial crisis in Europe today. European political leaders should do their utmost to handle this crisis and the social agitation evoked by it.

EEA's General Secretary Niek Tramper says: 'The crisis is not accidental but a consequence of a moral crisis. Human and social values of justice, freedom and solidarity have been replaced by distrust, greed and self-enrichment.' Behind the moral crisis he sees a spiritual crisis that evokes fear instead of love, and egoism instead of respect for God and for the neighbour.

140 EEA representatives from nearly 40 nations, gathering in Bad Liebenzell, Germany, prayed for wisdom and courage for the European political leaders. The EEA assembly emphasized the necessity to work together for a public space that guarantees freedom and equal rights for all, based on mutual respect and solidarity of all.

They EEA delegates committed themselves to do this as followers of Christ, seeking the welfare of the society. EEA emphasizes that all humans are equal for God, and that all need His reconciliation.

(Press release from the General Assembly)

Interserve Europe welcomed as affiliate member of EEA!



We were also happy to welcome Interserve Europe as an affiliate member of EEA. Mrs. Annie Kramer gave a presentation of the ministry of Interserve, both in Asia and in Europe. There is a growing work in Europe.

Website: <http://www.interserve.eu/>



Jennifer Roemhildt-Tunehag and Bert de Ruiter welcomed as associate EEA staff

During the members meeting at GA two associate staff members were welcomed officially:



Jennifer Roemhildt-Tunehag, already started as a coordinator of the European Freedom Network already at the beginning of this year. At General Assembly Jennifer gave a wonderful presentation of the EFN anti-trafficking ministry. See: www.europeanfreedomnetwork.org

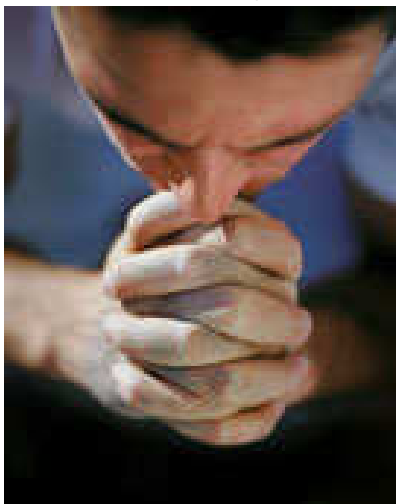


Dr. Bert de Ruiter will start as the EEA Muslims Ministries Associate. He is a champion for ministry with Muslim people in Europe. He will work for a European platform to raise awareness for Muslims in Europe and find ways Christians can build relationships with them. He consults members of the EEA in dealing with Muslims in their contexts and is available to help them find ways to reach out to them with the love of Christ.

We are very happy that Jennifer and Bert could join the EEA staff, both for one day a week. They can do their work without extra financial charge of EEA. Pray for their ministry and pray also for enough resources for them to do their important work!

Week of Prayer (8 – 12 January 2012)

The European Evangelical Alliance asked the French-speaking European Alliances to write the meditations for the week of prayer in 2012. So the Evangelical Alliances of Belgium, France (CNEF, Conseil national des évangéliques de France) and French-speaking Switzerland (RES – Réseau évangélique suisse) decided to ask the major evangelical Bible and Theological Colleges in their countries to write them. They said: ‘We would expect “Bible professionals” to find it easier to deliver the “meat” of a text in a few lines, since they know how to get straight to the heart of a Bible text. Actually there is another reason for our choice, and we’re sending out a subliminal message here: we want to spotlight our Bible and Theological Colleges so that we can emphasise how important they are in edifying the body of Christ. We want the people who take part in the Week of Prayer to think how they can support the colleges, and also how they can make best use of them as resources. Christians are supposed to use wisdom and discernment to know how to act in our times. But they can only do that if they are rooted in the Word of God. Thank God for the women and men who teach God’s word in our various colleges, pray for them, find out what they’re doing and ask yourself if God wants you to spend a few months or years in one of them...’



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Theme 2012: Transformed by the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor 15.51-58)

	<i>Themes for the day</i>	<i>Bible texts</i>
Day 1	Transformed for eternal life	1 Cor 15.51-58 Isaiah 25.6-9
Day 2	Transformed by a Suffering Servant	1 Peter 2.18-25 Isaiah 53.4-6
Day 3	Transformed while waiting for Christ the King	Psalm 2
Day 4	Transformed, thanks to the victory over Evil	Rom 12.17-21 Psalm 37.1-11
Day 5	Transformed in the peace of the risen Lord	John 20.19-23
Day 6	Transformed by God’s love	John 15.9-17 1 Peter 4.10
Day 7	Transformed by the Holy Spirit	2 Cor 3.12-18 Ezekiel 37.1-14
Day 8	United under the reign of Christ	Rev 3.21 Psalm 97

EEA's new socio-political Code of Conduct

After the launch, what next?

EEA's new socio-political Code of Conduct and the longer Approach (the biblical rationale) were launched on 19th October. Julia Doxat-Purser said: 'We have been so encouraged by comments – thank you! And thanks to WEA for immediately arranging a Spanish translation to add to the English, French & Russian versions.'

It is vital that all Christians have a strong biblical foundation for how they engage in society or we will inevitably be moulded by the world's way of doing things. So here are suggestions how you can use it in your nation:

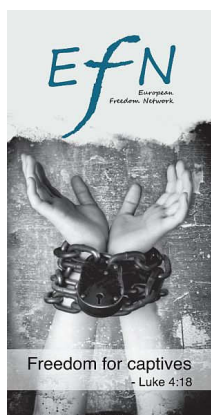
- Can the Code and Approach be a useful discussion tool for your leadership and staff?
- Can you adopt or adapt the texts to become your foundation for engagement? Can you regularly review your socio-political activities to see how well they meet Christlike standards?
- Can you share the texts or the ideas within them to your members, especially the politically active ones?
- Can you seek and share stories that illustrate good practice?
- Can you provide reflection opportunities, perhaps creating Bible study materials?
- We already have some great endorsements from respected Evangelical leaders. Can you ask others to endorse the texts, thus adding extra credibility to the content?

Finally, thanks for sharing your stories, news and endorsements with the other members of the EEA and for praying that Christians across Europe will be increasingly Christlike in our public engagement.

"Knowing we are called to be Christ's ambassadors in all of life, being so aware of our inadequacy, and motivated only by a desire to glorify the King of Kings, we ask the Lord to help us engage in the following ways and recommend these guidelines to all Christians involved in the public arena."

EEA's Biblical Approach for Public Engagement, see link

<http://www.worldevangelicals.org/news/article.htm?id=3736&cat=main>



European Freedom Network launches Prayer Letter

Thank you for praying for EFN! The Prayer Guide started on Tuesday, October 18th, European Anti-Trafficking Day, and gives you an opportunity to know and pray for some of our wonderful partners working around Europe.

Find the EFN prayer guide on
<http://www.europeanfreedomnetwork.org/>

Jews for Jesus

on the Streets of Europe and Israel in 2012

2012 promises to be a busy year for us Jews for Jesus in greater Europe and in Israel. In keeping with our commitment to proclaim the Gospel in a loving, direct and forthright manner, we've scheduled street outreaches in Frankfurt (in May), Kiev and Warsaw (in June, during the Euro 2012 Football Championship), Berlin (in July), London (during the Olympics), Budapest (in August), and Köln (in October). We'll be partnering with local churches on the follow-up work with the non-Jewish contacts while we focus on pursuing the Jewish contacts who want to know more. In the spring, we'll also launch the second half of "Israel, Behold your God," our program of holding high-profile outreaches in two key Israeli cities per year. Six cities have been covered so far, so we have six more to go. Our first passion is to bring the Gospel to our Jewish people, so that they may believe in the One of whom Moses and the Prophets wrote. But our hearts also long for the salvation of the nations, so that God's salvation may reach to the ends of the earth (Isaiah 49:6). Our fellowship with the EEA means so much to all of us, and we hope that you, our partners in the Gospel, will keep us in prayer. And if any wish to explore more hands-on ways of being involved, please let us know!
www.jewsforjesus.org; www.judenfuerjesus.de



Latvian Evangelical Alliance supports Christians in politics

The Latvian Evangelical Alliance supports Christians in politics, parliament and the government of Latvia. God needs His people to work in all areas of society, especially those that influence the nation. As one of our obligations, we believe that we must bring this news to the Body of Christ preparing and sending out Christians to all seven mountains of influence (family, church, business, education, government, art and media, science and technology) so that Christ is represented everywhere, not only on the Church mountain. On July 23, 2011, the Latvian Parliament was dissolved and a national election was called for 17th September. Preparing for the 17th of September, the LEA prayer group prepared prayer guidelines inviting churches in Latvia to pray for the upcoming elections and the new parliaments. These prayer guidelines were sent out electronically to prayer groups throughout Latvia and the world as well as being published on a webpage in Latvian and Russian - www.jesajas61.lv.

The aim of this webpage was to highlight our brothers and sisters in Christ who have responded to God's call to go into politics and be a candidate for the 11th Saeima. We did not ask anyone to vote for a specific political party but invited everyone to pray and support brothers and sisters in Christ.

Why was the webpage called Isaiah 61? Because this is a special word that we believe has been given for the nation of Latvia and its people. This word from Isaiah 61 was also our prayer and proclamation for our brothers and sisters, parliamentary candidates, because it contains God's call, His promises and His protection. Politics is one of the platforms that influences the fate of a nation. This is a spiritually heavy place because, as we all know, we fight not against flesh and blood but at against evil principalities and powers in heavenly places. This is why those who work in this platform must be men and women called by God, who have given their whole hearts to God and desire to follow Jesus and who will be the salt and light of the world, the city on a hill:

Five political parties were elected into the new Saeima on September 17th. We are thankful that of the 100 deputies, 9 are Christians, representing each of the five elected parties. Praise God! We believe that God has a good plan for Latvia! Please pray for Latvia. In Christ's love, the www.jesajas61.lv team

Greetings and news from Estonian EA



Greetings from Tallinn, Estonia! We would like to ask you to join us in prayer for a very special event from 24-29 July – Heartbeat Tallinn 2012.

This outreach to Tallinn, our capital city, could well be one of the most exciting events in Europe during 2012. We are praying that 3,000 volunteers from over 30 countries will reach out to more than 400,000 people over a one-week period. Quite possibly this will be one of the largest city-wide mission efforts ever held in Europe.

The Evangelical Alliance has made this event a top priority, and is building a nation-wide prayer network to support it. Heartbeat Tallinn is organised by Agape Europe, Agape Estonia and the Mission Centre of the Estonian Lutheran Church, with support from the Estonian Evangelical Alliance and the Estonian Council of Churches.

As you may know, Estonia once had a rich Christian tradition, but 50 years under Soviet rule people were taught that God does not exist and those who still believed were persecuted. This history has affected the people living today. The present reality of our country is that Estonia has the lowest percentage of religious affiliation in Europe.

We are trusting that Heartbeat Tallinn will present a positive image of Christianity to society, and show our people that following Jesus is a good and valuable thing to do. We plan to explain the gospel to people at many levels of society, to meet people's physical needs, and to involve believers from the various churches in Estonia

As the Evangelical Alliance of Europe plans the annual prayer week next January, we would kindly ask you to pray for the Heartbeat Tallinn project in several specific areas:

1. That as the name of Jesus is lifted up in Estonia, people would realise that faith in Christ has something valuable to offer both society and the individual
2. That many Estonians would respond to the gospel, and choose to follow Jesus
3. That God would draw many Estonian believers to participate, and give them an excitement about sharing the gospel with their neighbours.

Heartbeat Tallinn will pioneer new ways to reach cities, and we believe it could be the beginning of a new spiritual wave that will sweep across Europe! We trust that through Heartbeat Tallinn, God will bless the entire continent, as delegations from nearly all European countries return with a new enthusiasm for sharing their faith with others and a bigger vision of what God can do in a city. Please join us in prayer for this unique event.

<http://www.2012.ee>

Prayer requests

Pray for Heartbeat Tallinn 2012 event
Estonia

Pray for Latvia

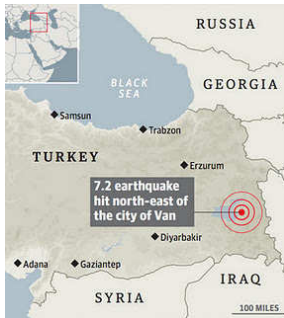
Pray for Turkey

Pray for Greece

News from Greece

Greece has been in the news every day. The Greek society struggles in politics, economics and faces social unrest. And as we know it is not simply Greece, the whole of the EU is suffering a crisis of which the outcome is very unsure. Please pray for Greece and for Europe. Enclosed some points of our brother Fotis Romeos from Greek EA:

- We are glad for the formation of the Alliance of Migrant churches in Greece which will be working along side with the Greek Evangelical Alliance. We do have more than 70 ethnic/migrant churches only in Athens area.
- Praise the Lord for all the churches of our community as they are getting very active in helping our communities, of Greek and foreigners, during these days of financial crisis. A lot of food distribution program and feeding programs for homeless, poor and refugees have been organized in Athens and Thessaloniki.
- Pray for the financial crisis of Greece which affects severely all common people in Greece. That creates a growing pressure of needs on every local church as the real unemployment rate is very high
- Pray for the religion freedom in Greece. Unfortunately, the dictatorial laws against proselytism are still active. Damavolitis Emmanuel, a Pentecostal Christian and the father of six children from age 30 to 11 years old, was charged with a violation of the Greek anti-proselytizing law recently in a appeal court of Rethymnon Crete.
- Pray for spiritual awakening among the people in Greece and for the church of Christ to declare with boldness the hope we have in Christ during these challenging times.



News from Turkey

Zekai Tanyar from Turkey reported us: 'The earthquake in Van has caused much pain and its results will be felt for a long time. The State, various bodies and individuals continue with their significant efforts of aid. It is encouraging to see from all the correspondence that local and global churches and ministries are making efforts to help. However if we do not coordinate these efforts we will encounter numerous difficulties. In fact the believers in Van, even if encouraged by all the concern, are finding themselves overwhelmed. The following steps have

been decided upon discussions with and the approval of those responsible for the Van church and numerous others (from Diyarbakir, Ankara, Istanbul etc.) who have been to and are involved with helping in the area:

- 1) A "communications and coordination centre" has been set up for aid efforts from within Turkey and from abroad to help share the load the believers in Van are carrying.
- 2) **IMPORTANT:** In line with the above, we PLEAD with you that you firstly contact the "Churches Van Coordination Centre" and do NOT contact the believers in Van.

Accounts for aid sent from abroad:

Garanti Bank, Suadiye Branch

Branch Code: 350

Bank Address: Bagdat Cad. No: 459, Istanbul 34740, Turkey

Tel: +90 (216) 6651200

Account name: Pamela Wilson

USD Account No: 9095246

IBAN: TR16 0006 2000 3500 0009 0952 46

EURO Account No: 9003472

IBAN: TR49 0006 2000 3500 0009 0934 72

SWIFT.BIC: TGBATRIS

Please write "Van Deprem" (ie Van Earthquake) in the Remarks section of your bank transfer. ALSO please forward your bank receipt (dekont) or send a message to "Churches Van Coordination Centre", email: tpkborg@gmail.com.



Mission-Net Congress Germany

28.12.11.- 2.01.12

Transforming Our World

The Mission-Net congress aims to gather together around 3500 younger Christians from across Europe for thinking and praying about mission, for equipping to a missional lifestyle. It includes a New Years Eve celebration with thousands of young Christians from all over Europe. Join the people who are willing to live out their faith everyday and make a difference in their world!

The Mission-Net congress is organized in Erfurt, Germany. Erfurt, a city where Luther the Reformer studied the Word of God.

More information: <http://www.mission-net.org/congress/node/549>



Speaking Hope to the World

TWR-Asia launches corporate website

TWR-Asia (Trans World Radio-Asia) is pleased to announce the launch of its revamped corporate website.

<http://www.twr.asia/>



News from WEA
(www.worldevangelicals.org)



Stéphane Lauzet has been appointed to serve the WEA's French-speaking national Evangelical Alliances and Fellowships and the wider francophone world. Stéphane's appointment will help to increase the connections between French-speaking evangelicals globally and strengthen the regional Evangelical Alliances. His role will bring the cultural and spiritual riches of the francophone world to the wider global community. Stéphane was General Secretary of the National Alliance in France for 16 years and played a very key support role in the European Evangelical Alliance.

Links:

<http://www.worldevangelicals.org/news/article.htm?id=3693&cat=main>

EEA's new Socio-Political Code of Conduct & Approach



To put in your agenda

Week of Prayer 8 – 15 January 2012

The dates for the General Assembly 2012 are not fixed yet. We are negotiating with a conference centre in Croatia. You will hear it soon!

CONTACT INFO

European Evangelical Alliance
Hoofdstraat 51a
3971 KB
Driebergen
The Netherlands
Tel. 00 31 343 513693
Fax 00 31 343 531488
Skype: eea_office
office@europeanea.org
www.europeanea.org

Bank account information:
Rabobank Utrechtse Heuvelrug,
Postbus 82, 3700 AB Zeist,
The Netherlands
Account no: 162198639
IBAN: NL52 RABO 0162 1986 39
BIC: RABONL2U



Meet the European EA on Facebook
and join the group
"Friends of the European Evangelical Alliance"
(for more information contact the EEA Office)