

**EUROPEAN EVANGELISTIC SOCIETY**  
**POST OFFICE DRAWER 90150**  
**EAST POINT, GA 30364-0150**  
[WWW.EESATLANTA.ORG](http://WWW.EESATLANTA.ORG)  
**404.460.2443**  
**SAMUEL W. HUXFORD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**2008 GENERAL BOARD REPORT**

The European Evangelistic Society continues to seek to be an important ministry within the Stone-Campbell fellowship of churches. We are grateful for the relationships that we have within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and are pleased to report to the Office of the General Minister and President on the progress we have made and the plans we have for the future.

**How will your unit/office contribute to the transformation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), called for by the Vision?**

The European Evangelistic Society will continue to bear witness, both within and without the church, to the value of community as given to us by God in the church. Such a sense of community, in particular the idea that the church should seek to be one, has been and continues to be at the heart of the ministry of EES. In both our American Agenda and in our work in **Tübingen**, Germany, we continue to demonstrate our commitment to the idea of a faithful, growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice. A part of the uniqueness of the ministry of EES continues to be our work among all three streams of the Stone-Campbell movement, which allows us to share this focus with a broad audience. The executive director of the European Evangelistic Society is an active participant in the Stone-Campbell Dialog group and the Great Communion group – both of which are efforts among all three streams of the movement to promote the oneness of the body of Christ.

**Becoming an anti-racist/pro-reconciliation church**

The European Evangelistic Society, while not working specifically in any one congregation, seeks to bear witness that in Christ there is neither male nor female, Jew nor Greek, slave or free. While that ideal could simply become a phrase Christians say, once it is taken to heart, it speaks loudly and forcefully to the sin of racism and the need for reconciliation among all people. All the members of our Board of Directors are actively involved in congregations that work to speak to this need in our American culture. Our work in Germany at the University of **Tübingen** may be one of the most multi-cultural congregations to be found anywhere. The Sunday Vespers Service led by the Institute for the Study of Christian Origins is typically attended by people from all over the world. At the very least, EES is actively demonstrating that, in Christ, we can overcome the temptation to treat others in ways that dishonor Christ and the use of His name.

**Establishing 1000 new congregations**

EES is in the initial planning stages of planting a new church in **Tübingen**, Germany. Our ministry is actively searching for a team to move to **Tübingen** in order to begin the process of planting a self-replicating congregation of believers. We want to develop a plan that will include the potential for planting new congregations elsewhere in Germany as the new plant progresses. One of our chief goals in this process is to include believers from all three streams of the Stone-Campbell movement.

**Transforming 1000 existing congregations**

EES continues to work within the fellowship of the Stone-Campbell movement as a resource for leadership and congregational development. Through the Walker Lecture at the General Assembly each year (and at other venues as well, such as the World Convention), we are accumulating an impressive collection of

relevant and challenging booklets about the nature of the church and its leadership. Fred Craddock gave the 2007 General Assembly Walker Lecture in Fort Worth and Doug Foster from Abilene Christian University spoke at the Lecture at the 2007 North American Christian convention in Kansas City. The European Evangelistic Society is a sponsor of the 2008 World Convention in Nashville where Barry Blackburn from Atlanta Christian College will be the speaker at the Walker Lecture function. The booklets are available from the EES office. This lecture series is a visual demonstration of the potential for Christian unity among Stone-Campbell churches.

Our executive director also participates in the Stone-Campbell Dialog and has served with the Great Communion Celebration committee.

### **What is God calling your unit/office to do differently?**

The European Evangelistic Society continues to undergo significant transformation. We have completely revamped our promotional pieces, including the quarterly newsletter, brochures, displays, etc. We have also developed a web site that is regularly updated. Each Monday, the EES office in Atlanta sends a weekly devotional and ministry update to those who have requested it.

In terms of ministry activities, EES has made two very important decisions that will have long-term implications for the effectiveness of our ministry. The work of the Institute for the Study of Christian Origins will continue to be an important witness at the University of **Tübingen**. EES has signed a legal agreement with the university which recognizes our presence in the university community. This agreement will insure our work in the future and gives official recognition to our New Testament Colloquium which is offered on Monday evenings as a regular part of the university's graduate program in New Testament.

The university, however, has a large population of undergraduate students and we are planning to initiate a campus ministry which will focus on ministry to undergraduates. The European Evangelistic Society has entered into a partnership with Globalscope Campus Ministries, a ministry arm of Christian Missionary Fellowship International. In addition to the potential of this campus ministry, this partnership represents further efforts at encouraging Stone-Campbell ministries to partner with one another. Along side of this campus ministry will be the planting of a new congregation in the **Tübingen** area. We believe that these two ministry areas will serve to make us more effective stewards of resources directed our way and will also help us in contributing to the 2020 Vision of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

### **What other information would you like to report as a matter of record and accountability?**

The European Evangelistic Society is committed to being a faithful ministry of service to Christ and His church. Our long history of working with all three streams of the Stone-Campbell movement places us in an important position of service to the church in an age where we seem to be taking more seriously the call of God for oneness among His people. One of the plans we are currently working on is to provide opportunities for leadership development among mission leaders in Europe at the Institute building in **Tübingen**. We have had a regular presence at important meetings like the General Assembly, the World Convention, the National Missionary Convention, and the North American Christian Convention. We are currently working on a more effective presence among churches of Christ. As Newell Williams described this ministry at the Walker Lecture for the 1999 General Assembly, we see ourselves as "an invisible fellowship of prayer." The content and hope of that prayer is that our ministry may continue to be a source of oneness among believers.