



Transforming our World

For Immediate Release

Missional movements in Europe strengthened

ERFURT. 2,650 young Europeans from 40 nations gathered for the 2nd Mission-Net Congress in Erfurt, Germany from 28 December to 2 January 2012. Commissioned by the European Evangelical Alliance and European Evangelical Missions Association, Mission-Net exists to encourage and promote new Mission-Net movements across Europe, as well as bring 16 – 30 year old Christian Europeans together for mutual encouragement, teaching, training and mobilisation.

“As Mission-Net is not just a bi-annual congress, but a movement,” said Evi Rodemann, Director of Mission-Net, “we are dependant on National Motivators in each country to promote Mission-Net at a national and regional level. The congress itself was only made possible through the help of many volunteers. Without their help, Mission-Net would not have been possible!”

Amongst guest speakers from Portugal, Bulgaria and Germany were George Verwer, founder of OM International, and Ramez and Rebecca Atallah, Director of the Bible Society of Egypt. They spoke about what it means to live a missional lifestyle at home and abroad, and challenged participants to transform their world through sharing God’s love with others. “I see a new generation in an old Europe,” said Niek Tramper, Secretary General of the European Evangelical Alliance during the opening ceremony of the congress. Making reference to the reformer who studied in Erfurt, Martin Luther, added Tramper, “Even if you are not Luther, you can change history and the world.”

Global initiatives including Micah Challenge were presented, and participants were encouraged to help alleviate poverty by writing a letter to Danish EU President Helle Thorning-Schmidt. CDU Member of Parliament Frank Heinrich from Germany encouraged participants to pray that politicians would have a “strong head and strong backbone, so that their hearts may remain soft.” George Verwer emphasised the meaning of prayer and added, “Christians are needed in all spheres of society. But especially missionaries.”

The “World News Band” from the Netherlands led inter-cultural worship during the week, while well-known bands from Croatia and Northern Ireland performed after the evening sessions. Through mime and the arts, participants were encouraged to seek new ways of expression in worship



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and 13 different missional tracks were on offer each afternoon. 400 young people put into practice what they had learnt during two outreaches in Erfurt on Friday afternoon. 1500 participants filled in a personality profile and 500 participants did a gifting exercise at the Mission Advice Centre adjacent to the “Global Market” where over 100 Christian organisations, mission agencies, Bible schools and theological seminaries were exhibited. “The congress definitely contributed towards the strengthening of missional movements in many countries in Europe,” said Rodemann. “The atmosphere during the congress was also really great.”

For more information, check out: www.mission-net.org

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