

Needs of Europe today



What is needed for the Churches in EUROPE ?



Working close together
European Evangelical Missionary
Association





European Evangelical Missionary Association

EEMA

Iceland

Sweden

Danmark

Germany

United Kingdom

Switzerland

Hungary

Norway

Finnland

Estland

Netherlands

Irland

Austria

Portugal

Greece

Ukraine

Italy

Spain (COMIBAM + EEMA)



Values of Europe

Family

Work

Society

Politics

Religion



CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN EUROPEAN MISSION?

What major issues does the European mission community need to be aware of so that it can be more effective?

What cultural issues, especially church teaching and culture, are affected by our own culture and increasingly by the "global culture"?

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE IN EUROPE

Many of us still live in the past and fail to catch up with prevailing trends, let alone think about the European future?

Yet predicting the future is difficult. Let's stretch our minds by looking back to 1984 - the year of "Big Brother". What have been the major changes since then? What were the key issues culturally, economically and in the church?

KEY ISSUES AFFECTING EUROPEAN MISSION

GLOBAL ISSUES

- Globalisation and the nation state
- Globalisation and trade
- Globalisation and civil society

KEY ISSUES AFFECTING GLOBAL MISSION

GLOBAL ISSUES

- Growing gap between rich and poor
- Money and power concentrated in the West
- Ease of travel and communications
- People movements

KEY ISSUES AFFECTING MISSION

CULTURAL ISSUES

- Rise of individualism in the West -
- Community still a concept in most of the rest of the world -
- No certainties any more -
- Post-modernity -

KEY ISSUES AFFECTING GLOBAL MISSION

RELIGIOUS ISSUES

- Demise of Christendom -
- Weakness of the Western Church -
- Rise of Islam -

KEY ISSUES AFFECTING MISSION

RELIGIOUS ISSUES

- Rise of South to West mission -
- Racism in the Church
- Power of the Western Church -

KEY ISSUES AFFECTING MISSION

RELIGIOUS ISSUES

- Religious freedom -
- Tribalism in the church -
- Lack of young people -

KEY ISSUES AFFECTING EUROPEAN MISSION

EUROPEAN & WESTERN ISSUES

- Increasingly elderly population in the West -
- Pensions' Crisis -
- Living alone

KEY ISSUES AFFECTING EUROPEAN MISSION

MISSION ISSUES

- Visa restrictions -
- Short-termism -
- Inward looking -

KEY ISSUES AFFECTING EUROPEAN MISSION

HOW DO WE RESPOND TO THESE ISSUES

- How can we overcome the western individualism? How much does it affect our theology?
- Are the Europeans exporting still the successful multi-national and business structures in our "international" agencies without thinking?
- Are the South-American Missions exporting their style of church planting and what happens if the expectations of fast growing churches are not met?
- How do we engage with the Muslim world and other major religions as Christians in Europe?
- How can we make the most of people movements to this and other countries in Europe?



References

- PARTS OF PPT ARE BASED ON „CHANGES IN MISSION,, GLOBAL CONNECTIONS CONFERENCE 2004 „IS THERE A FUTURE FOR MISSIONS“
- WOLFGANG BÜSING (EEMA)