10 Year Update from the European Training Center Berlin

TMS Alumnus Christian Andresen (BTh’97) is Dean and Professor of Pastoral Ministries at EBTC, located in Berlin, Germany and Zurich, Switzerland. Below is his update highlighting a visit from TMS President, John MacArthur at their 10 year anniversary.

"It’s hard to imagine that a decade has passed since the European Bible Training Center (EBTC) was founded in Berlin in 2001. Established as a church-based training ministry to equip men to lead and preach in the local church, our motto was, “...the things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2).” God gave us a dozen men, three of whom graduated three years later.

Today we have more than 250 graduates and seven different academic programs. By God’s grace the ministry has expanded into two new locations (in Zürich and the Rhineland), and all together nearly 200 students presently are enrolled.

It was a joy this month to slow down and reflect on God’s blessing the past decade during our tenth anniversary conference (October 14–16). We had the great privilege of hosting Dr. John MacArthur at this special time with students, alumni, and friends.

By the grace of God, Pastor John’s reputation for deep conviction and understanding of God’s Word brought more than 750 men and women together for the conference. Hundreds of believers..."
heard sound teaching and many were introduced to the EBTC.

John’s teaching on the right understanding of the Lordship of Christ and our role as slaves of Christ was clear and convicting. Clearly the truth—God’s Word, taught so that believers might understand—has a lasting impact on individuals and His kingdom!

We are grateful to our Grace Church family for sharing John with us during this special, pivotal time in our ministry here in Germany and Switzerland.”

Please pray with us for Christian and fellow TMS grads Dieter Borchmann (MDiv.’01), Martin Manten (MDiv.’09). You can learn more about their ministries in Germany and Switzerland at www.ebtc.org.

Yours for the Master,

Bob White
Vice President for Development and Operations

More on the Ministry of the European Bible Training Center

Their students have gone out as missionaries, church planters, senior pastors, elders, and youth ministers. Six of their students’ home churches have successfully started church-based Bible training ministries, and an annual Hirtenkonferenz (Shepherds’ Conference) has become a regular meeting point for church leaders across Germany. More than 70 books, including the German edition of The MacArthur Study Bible, have been published through the ministry of the EBTC. (Predicted to be a small seller on the German Christian book market, the Study Bible had to be reprinted every year for the first three years!)

What’s next for the EBTC? They would like to see other training centers established in Europe, and are presently pursuing plans with groups in the Czech Republic and Poland. EBTC is also developing new master’s programs in Old Testament studies and biblical counseling. It was never their goal to extend the EBTC’s influence throughout Germany and Europe. Rather, they wanted men and women to be deeply grounded in God’s Word, to be independently dependent upon Christ, and to be strong witnesses for Him in their churches and communities. This has always been the single focus and the Lord has seen fit to bless the ministry by expanding it farther than they ever hoped.

We Train Men as if Lives Depended on It!

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