



EUROPÄISCHES BIBEL TRAININGS CENTRUM

EBTC



EBTC News June 2009

Dear partners and supporters of the EBTC, This year over 40 students will graduate from our training center in Berlin and Zurich, eight years after our official beginning with the first German Shepherds' Conference in 2001. This is a significant year for us since this is our first graduating class of Bible Expositors in Zurich, Switzerland, and it has also been a year of great growth in other aspects. The EBTC has expanded gradually since the beginning and is not only expanding in number of students but also in the extent of our programs. Last year we duplicated our program in Russian and now provide interpretation for the deaf in our Bible Survey classes. This year we started a Masters of Arts in New Testament "MANT" and since this past January the EBTC airs on the radio four times a week for a one-hour program featuring our third-year students, faculty, and guest speakers. So far nearly 100 messages have been aired over the past six months. In addition to this our seminars and conferences have grown steadily so that this year

we will have more than 1000 people attending our conferences and seminars which focus predominantly on the exposition of the Word and biblical counseling. It is always a joy to share about the expansion of God's ministry but ultimately what counts is—do our men who graduate from the EBTC have an impact on the local churches in Germany, Switzerland, and abroad? And that is where the focus of the ministry lies—how to train men who will strengthen the local church in such a way that the church will be a pillar of truth in this time where many churches turn to shallow teaching and preaching.

Another new and important development at the EBTC is our interrelationship with other training centers of The Master's Academy International. Without the input of the Irpine Biblical Seminary in Ukraine we would not be able to facilitate the Russian training in Berlin. In the near future we will also conduct a joint seminar for the masters class with the training center in Croatia. We have also gained from the training of Christ

Seminary in South Africa by gaining Thomas Hochstetter as a new faculty member in Berlin. He will begin teaching our first year hermanutics class this up-coming school year. Four of our staff and two church leaders are currently enrolled in our new MANT program—Master of Arts in New Testament Studies— in order to further qualify them for teaching in our European training centers. The MANT program is a part-time three-year curriculum that includes New Testament Theology, Greek Language, and the Exegeses of NT books, as well as a trip to Israel among other things. It is important to note that all our programs are part-time programs so that our students are able to continue their involvement in their local church and ministry as they take classes at the EBTC. This is an important emphasis in our training for several reasons. First of all, our

students are dependant on their full time jobs to provide for their family. Secondly, our students stay involved in their local church ministry so that they are growing with the church and the church witnesses their development as they study God's word. Thirdly, the local church supports this model of training more willingly because they cannot afford to lose pivotal men for a period of two to three years and we also experience that the fruit of their training is directly taken into their church ministry.

Looking towards the coming school year we are thankful for the return of Martin Manten and his family. For the last two and a half years Martin has been studying at the Master's Seminary and just recently graduated and was sent out by Grace Community Church to return as he takes over the responsibility of the training

center in Zurich and fulfills one of the growing needs for teachers in Switzerland.

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Graduation Zurich June 13th
- Graduation Berlin June 20th
- The Mantens
 - Their safe move
 - Their reintigration in church and culture
 - Their financial support so Martin can be free for the ministry of the EBTC
 - Guidance and wisdom in the candidating process with strategic churches in Germany and Switzerland
- Biblical Counseling Seminar with Jim Pile and Dr. Street in Zurich, Switzerland Aug. 11th-15th
- Bibilical Counseling Seminar with Jim Pile and Dr. Street in Gummersback, Germany Aug. 16th-21st
- EBTC Berlin classes begin Sept. 11th
- EBTC Zurich classes begin Sept. 25th
- Shepherds' Conference in Bonn, Germany Oct. 8th- 10th
- TMAI European Summit Nov. 16th-18th in Zurich, Switzerland
- Russian speaking Shepherds' Conference with Alexey Kolomyitsev Janary 7th-10th

