

## **The EBTC's Third Berlin Shepherds' Conference**

was definitely a highlight and God was honored. The focus and theme of the conference was "Training Men for the Work of the Ministry"

*Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. 1 Peter 5:2-3*

It was a great privilege and encouragement for all of us that Dave Deuel, Rick Holland and John MacArthur were able to serve us through their challenging messages out of the Word of God. This year's Shepherds' Conference furthered the ministry in a significant way. This was the first time that the messages were translated, not only into German, but also into Russian for the Russian speaking churches in Germany. The German-Russian evangelicals are the fastest growing group in Germany. Many of the largest churches are German-Russian speaking. For example, the church where the Shepherds' Conference was held, "Die Evangeliums Christengemeinde Hellersdorf", is only two years old and has an attendance of 50 in the German service and 120 at the Russian service each Sunday. Most of these are new believers and are eager to learn the Word of God. That is why this conference had such a great impact, because the leaders of those churches want to learn, since they have a pressing need to train their flocks.

Aside from the regular conference schedule, there were meetings with the leadership of several German-Russian churches who were pleading to be taught how to teach the Word of God in the way they heard it during the conference. The first fruit of the conference is that we have 10 new students at the European Bible Training Centre (EBTC) this year, 8 of which are from German-Russian Churches.

Dave Deuel, Rick Holland and John MacArthur complemented each other by addressing the same topic (Equipping Men for the Work of the Ministry) from different angles giving a clear overall picture.

Dave Deuel poured out his heart by teaching on the shepherd's life; how he lives before God and his flock. It was driven by a clear exposition of God's Word, and yet practical and applicable for all of us. One of the Pastors said that he had "never had anybody explain the Old Testament in such a clear and practical way".

Rick Holland came with the intent to strengthen the church here in Germany. He had the unique opportunity to challenge the youth leaders during the

conference to have a biblical approach to the ministry and to exhibit an exemplary life.

His clear and profound teaching had such an impact that pastors and youth pastors responded by saying that they don't know of any youth ministry that has a biblical approach like he taught them. They are already asking for follow-up conferences on youth leadership.

The "video conference" allowed us to benefit from John MacArthur as he taught from the book of Acts, on Paul's leadership during his journey to Rome. He as a prisoner ended up as the advisor and leader of the whole ship.

John's careful explanation and application of the passage in Acts was an example to the men how to expose God's Word. The teaching which God has given us through Grace Community Church is something unknown in Germany. This is why John MacArthur is gaining a reputation all over Germany as an expositor of God's Word.

Some of the men were so encouraged that they have already planned to attend the next year's conference with a group of men from their churches and some of the pastors are considering enrolling in the preaching class of the EBTC.

We also had a delegation from Ukraine attending this conference, lead by Greg White and Brian Kinzel, and they were so encouraged that they plan to have their own conference next year.

*"The conference was absolutely fantastic. We heard exactly the topics we needed from John MacArthur (via video conference from Grace Community Church), as well as Rick Holland and Dave Deuel. One unforgettable moment was when we gave the Russian-speaking pastors and preachers the Russian version of the MacArthur Study Bible, which Slavic Gospel Association graciously provided for them." (Brian Kinzel)*

Some of the German leaders have said to us, that there is no other conference for shepherds in Germany that gives a biblical approach on church leadership. And just like the Shepherds' Conference at GCC, this has provided an opportunity for like-minded Pastors and Shepherds to build relationships. One man said that "this has been the best conference I have ever attended. Good topics and great fellowship." The Lord did answer our prayers!

We are looking forward to our next years Shepherds' Conference September 8-11, 2005 focusing on expository preaching with John Glass, Steve Fernandez, and Doug McMasters as our speakers.

Please remember to pray for those men who have been challenged by the word of God to live according to it as they serve their churches in Germany!