

## BIENVENUE...

Kathy and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for standing with us this year in prayer and financial support as we 'Elevate Europe' through the ministries of the European Worship Institute, Spark Church Media and our current church plant project, 'Elevate Milan'.

This newsletter features our latest ministry projects as well as a peek at what's around the corner in 2017.

Thanks for taking a few minutes to catch up with us.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2017!

*Jeff & Kathy Slaughter*

## TAKING CONVERGE TO THE BELGIAN HINTERLANDS

For many years, we held worship training events at Christian Center, our home church in Brussels. While these were helpful to many churches in the Brussels area, we knew we weren't reaching the 'hinterlands' of Belgium.

Belgium has its peculiarities, one of them being that the southerners in the Wallonia region (French speakers) don't mix well with the northerners in the Flanders region (Flemish speakers.) And neither group likes to travel to Brussels for events - which is unfortunate since Belgium is a small country.

In order to reach more Belgian churches with training opportunities, this year we



partnered with two organizations to take ConVerge to the south and to the north.

On October 1 we partnered with our friend Daniel Costanza and his organization, 'Hope for Wallonia' and held a ConVerge in the city of Charleroi. Thirty participants from 13 churches attended.

In Flanders, we partnered with a denominational youth organization to offer a training conference in the city of Antwerp. Some 90 worship leaders and their teams from across the northern part of

Belgium attended. We were amazed at the response! Our teaching team included the worship team from Cornerstone Church in Jackson, Mississippi led by worship pastor Jim Young. Also joining us was Zach Lowrie who has co-taught with me at ConVerge in Turkey, Morocco, Kosovo, Paris and Barcelona.

We're excited that plans are already in the works for more ConVerge training events in Charleroi and Antwerp in 2017. How wonderful to see a new hunger for worship training rise up in Belgium!



## JEFF & KATHY SLAUGHTER

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## SPARK CONFERENCE HITS THE MARK

Our first Spark Church Media conference hit the mark!

Some 40 church communicators including graphic designers, videographers, photographers, social media specialists and web designers – attended our first Spark conference in Brussels on October 22.

Word about the conference spread far and wide: in addition to some 15 Belgian churches represented we welcomed representatives from churches in Vienna, Austria and southwestern France.



Friend and colleague Jason Brown delivered our keynote session as well as a session on social media. We worked with Jason and his wife, Celeste, at The Bridge in Paris. They now pastor a church in Alexandria, Egypt.

Workshops were led by Tiago Braga of Lisbon, Portugal; Nigel Wiggins, of Eastbourne, UK; JC Cailleau, Benjamin Cailleau and Tom Wart all of Belgium.



Participants gave us rave reviews about the Spark conference and validated the idea that there is a need for training church communications and media volunteers.

We've set the date for our second conference in Brussels: October 21, 2017.

The goal with 'Spark' is to train communications and media volunteers to use their gifts to serve the church – much like what we do with worship leaders and teams through the European Worship Institute. Our hope is to take the conference 'on the road' as we've done with 'ConVerge' and offer the Spark Conference in other European cities.





## **ELEVATE MILAN: SMALL BEGINNINGS**



It was great to spend three Sundays with Life Church Milan in October. The church is meeting in the home of pastors Josh and Becca Jones while they wait on renovations to be completed in their building. So far the core group consists of two Italian families, a Romanian family and a number of single college students.

Josh and Becca are doing a great job networking with local churches and pastors and building support for the work they are doing. In a place like Italy – where the Italian church is strongly entrenched – that's important.



I'm looking forward to being back with the Jones and Life Church in March and throughout the year as my schedule allows. Looking forward to seeing this church get off the ground and launch well!



## **FEIC SUMMIT: RENEWING RELATIONSHIPS AND FORGING NEW ONES**

Each year, pastors and leaders from all over Europe gather at the annual Summit of Fellowship of European International Churches to share strategies and ideas, new projects and build relationships. I've had the honor of serving on the admin team for this Summit for the past 10 years.

This was our second year to meet in Bratislava, just over the border from Vienna, Austria. It's always a great time of reconnecting with old friends as well as forging new relationships. Several of our ConVerge opportunities have come from relationships built at this Summit, including ConVerges held in Italy, Spain, Vienna, Turkey and Morocco.

## **BACK AT THE BRIDGE**

I had the privilege of serving at The Bridge in Paris one Sunday, leading worship. It was great to be back and see how the church continues to grow and reach internationals and Parisians.

The Bridge now has three services on Sunday morning and recently signed a lease on a space which will serve as the church office and a meeting place for small groups.

Sunday services will continue to be held at the Novotel in Rueil-Malmaison which is located near a major train station.



## COMING UP IN 2017

We're working on our 2017 ministry calendar and have some exciting opportunities ahead. While the calendar is still in development, here's what we know so far:

### SPRING

- Life Church Milan
- ConVerge Spain
- ConVerge Portugal (*tentative*)

### SUMMER

- Life Church Milan
- iYouth Camp, Germany
- Immerse Worship Camp, Brussels (*tentative*)

### FALL

- ConVerge Wallonie
- ConVerge Antwerp
- Spark Conference
- FEIC Summit
- Life Church Milan

## ABOUT US

Our names are Jeff and Kathy Slaughter. We've been on the European mission field since 1998, serving as worship pastor of two churches: Brussels Christian Center and The Bridge in Paris; trained worship teams in Belgium, The Netherlands, France, Austria, Italy, Spain, Morocco, Turkey, Kosovo and Indonesia through our organization, The European Worship Institute; and worked on the admin teams of the Fellowship of European International Churches and the Global International Church Network. Our newest focus, 'Project Elevate', involves helping church plants launch their worship and media ministries.

Our ministry is financially supported by churches, friends and family through our 501c3 sending organization, Cornerstone International.

## OUR BULLETIN BOARD



Jeff and Nick see a bit of Milan before church one Sunday

Jeff spoke at the Broadmoor Baptist Church ESL class in September. Look at all of these internationals in Shreveport!

Jeff with Doreen Sore-Walsweer, former children's pastor at Christian Center

Leo helps Honey cut the cake!

Jeff with Marianne Henderson. Still going strong at 93, Marianne was a member of the Dutch resistance during WWII

22/03/16

New signs at Brussels airport memorialize the fateful date of the terrorist attack

If you would like to join our monthly support team or make a one-time gift to support our ministry, you can give on the Cornerstone website at [www.cstonems.org](http://www.cstonems.org) or send a check to:  
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**ELEVATE**  
EUROPE