

report on the 2024

EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

Dear Friends,

After the 2024 European Leadership Forum (ELF), **I can say with all my heart that God is on the move in Europe!** I experienced God's work firsthand as I led the Scientists Network at ELF 2024. Over 800 Gospel leaders from Europe and beyond met in Wisła, Poland, to be united, equipped, and resourced at the Forum. It was a joy!

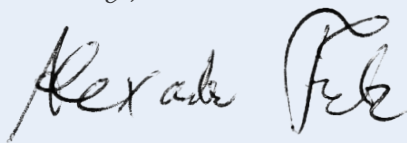
This is my 21st year serving at the Forum. In my first ten years, being a biophysicist, I learned so much from many experienced apologists and Christian scientists at ELF. This journey of learning and growth has not only boosted my knowledge, skills, and attitude for persuasive, respectful, and inviting communication, but it has also shaped my identity. It has prepared me for the challenging task of giving apologetic lectures in the secular universities of Germany and Europe, a mission I am deeply committed to.

However, in the last ten years, I have also become someone who encourages and equips younger leaders. Hence, it has been a special privilege to see how leaders who joined my Year-Round Mentoring now have also given lectures and have been developing a growing impact in their ministry. **ELF embodies this: receive examples, get resources, and be equipped so you can become an example, provide resources, and equip the next generation!** And I am still learning more at every ELF, even after over 20 years!

ELF has effectively fostered networking across countries and ministries. Through ELF, I have brought inspiring speakers and resources back to Germany. I have also been invited to several European countries to speak on science and faith topics, thanks to ELF. Further, when I see the amazing ELF bookstore and the enormous amount of recorded talks on the website, I feel that these incredible resources are dynamite and can ignite the hearts and minds of people who have never been to the Forum (and I have met some who caught fire through these resources).

As you read the following pages of this report, I hope it is clear in the stories and statistics that **your support and generosity are not just financial contributions, but they are the very fuel that powers the impact of ELF. They reflect how the Lord is using your generosity to shape and transform His kingdom, and for that, we are eternally grateful.**

Blessings,



Alexander Fink

Director of the Institute for Faith and Science
in Marburg, Germany (www.iguw.de)

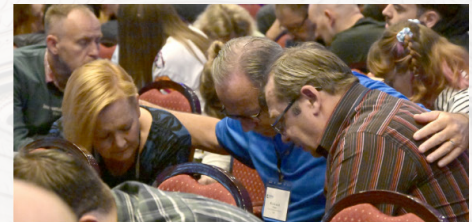
European Leadership Forum Steering Committee Member



The Annual Meeting

Over **800 Gospel leaders** gathered in Wisla, Poland, for the 22nd European Leadership Forum (ELF) annual meeting at the end of May. This year's Forum was a snapshot of heaven—**53 nations were represented!** Each Gospel leader arrived at the Forum carrying various burdens from their unique ministry challenges. Some were looking for creative inspiration, others looked for continent-wide connections, and more than a few sought respite from ministry burnout.

The Lord used the 2024 European Leadership Forum to fill leaders' cups. He moved through the **27 Networks** to meet their unique ministry needs. We praise Him because He gave leaders the encouragement, training, and resources needed to return home rejuvenated, refreshed, and reinvigorated to share the Gospel in their communities.



*"I can say with all my heart
that God is on the move in Europe!"*

— Alexander Fink

UNDERSTANDING EUROPEAN GOSPEL MINISTRY

The European Evangelical Church Is Struggling

Europe is the continent with the smallest percentage of born-again Christians. Most Europeans have never heard the Gospel or met a genuine believer—Europe is the neediest mission field in the world. Over the last 100 years, European unbelief has stormed in like a spiritual tsunami, sweeping the European church off its feet.

As a result, today's European Gospel leaders face the following challenges:

1.

Lack of Hope:

Many Gospel leaders—amid church decline and lacking resources and relationships—are often discouraged. They need to be loved, encouraged, mentored, trained, and resourced.

2.

Lack of Relationships:

Gospel leaders across Europe are divided by language, culture, denomination, and country. They need relationships with peers and mentors to develop their gifts and be effective leaders.

3.

Lack of Training & Resources:

Most Gospel leaders do not have adequate access to training tools and materials in their denominations or countries.



Disciple-Making Leaders Foundational Network Participants

The Most Effective Way to Help the European Church Is to Train National Gospel Leaders

The biblical renewal of Europe is possible if eager and faithful Gospel leaders who know the language and customs of their local communities are trained to spread the Gospel and build up the church in their contexts. This is why the mission of the European Leadership Forum is to unite, equip, and resource evangelical leaders to renew the biblical church and evangelize Europe.

For 22 years, God has been graciously using the European Leadership Forum to this end. Those trained at the 2024 European Leadership Forum annual meeting are now passing the torch and spreading the flame of the Gospel throughout Europe. This report is a glimpse of what the Lord did at the 2024 European Leadership Forum annual meeting.



The mission of the European Leadership Forum:

**TO UNITE, EQUIP, AND RESOURCE EVANGELICAL LEADERS TO
RENEW THE BIBLICAL CHURCH AND EVANGELIZE EUROPE.**

UNITING EVANGELICAL LEADERS

Stronger Together

Evangelical Christianity is a tiny percentage of the population in Europe and most Gospel leaders struggle with **isolation**. That is why it is such a delight to be welcomed to the European Leadership Forum! It is a movement where no leader stands alone because they are united with hundreds of others who understand their ministry demands. The unity embedded in the Forum is unlike any other conference or event, and this is one of the central highlights of the Forum for many Gospel leaders!

Over **800 Gospel leaders** from **53 countries** were united at ELF 2024. They represented **427 churches and organizations**. Of the over **800 Gospel leaders**, **375** received scholarship support— **100** more scholarship recipients than last year!

Every Gospel leader was covered in prayer throughout the Forum. There were hundreds of prayer meetings, small group prayer times in every plenary session, and numerous opportunities to be prayed over by a Forum volunteer. A prayer room was also available 24/7 for personal prayer.

During ELF 2024, **258 Gospel leaders** participated in **342 mentoring sessions** in one-on-one and small-group settings. **Efraim Smits** left his mentoring session encouraged and motivated:

“The session helped clarify my vision and strategy for ministry, and I took away several actionable ideas for events, partnerships, and outreach. My mentor’s expertise and enthusiasm were incredibly motivating, and I’m looking forward to implementing the discussed plans.”

— *Efraim Smits* (Pastor; Latvia)





Timotei Bulzan (*Church Leader, Bethany Church; Romania*)

“I am blessed to be part of this Forum because I have the opportunity to connect with my brothers and sisters from other countries. I’ve learned that we are so diverse, with different backgrounds and specific challenges, but in Christ, we are one in prayer, singing, and mission—for eternity.”



Dana Stanciu (*Church Leader and Pharmacy Resident, The University of Medicine and Pharmacy; Romania*)

“Each year I feel at home at ELF, and the sense of belonging is noteworthy. I have many reasons to believe that ELF is a sneak peek at what heaven will be like.”



Marek Tomasovic (*Pastor, Evangelical Free Church; Slovakia*):

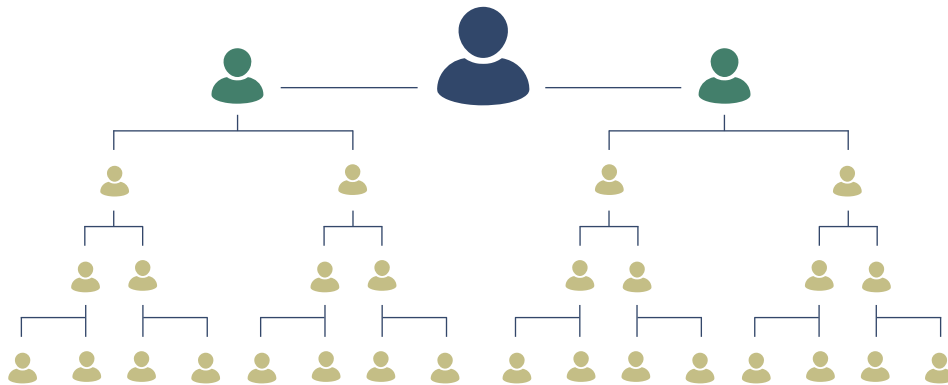
“It can feel so lonely in Christian ministry in Europe, but when I’m at the Forum, I’m reminded we are not alone but that the Lord has kept His remnant all over Europe. The Forum brings us all together in a unique way.”



EQUIPPING EVANGELICAL LEADERS

Exponential Impact

The European Leadership Forum equips leaders with the mentoring, training, best practices, and strategies they need to do what God has called them to. But the Forum's reach extends much further than the 800 leaders who are equipped at ELF's annual meeting – **the Forum reaches tens of thousands all across Europe, and around the world,** through the faithful work of every Gospel leader as they pass on what they have learned to their local community.



Each Gospel leader was specially trained and equipped in one of **27 Networks**, such as Bible Teaching, Evangelism, and Youth Ministry. Two highly-requested Networks were launched at ELF 2024: Marriage & Family Ministry and Soul Care for Leaders. Looking ahead to ELF 2025, the Forum will offer 28 Networks, featuring one new Network - the Muslim Ministry Network!

One hundred forty expert Gospel leaders donated their time, talent, and treasure to lead **389 Network sessions, workshops, and seminars.** These expert leaders make significant sacrifices to pay their way to serve at the Forum because they want to teach and mentor hand-picked Gospel leaders!

The Forum Expo allowed Gospel leaders to connect with and be equipped by others in similar ministry work. **Twenty-three Exhibitors from Christian organizations across Europe** networked with leaders, offering best practices and opportunities for Gospel leaders to get involved and gain additional resources.

Our Leaders

Eighteen global leaders from 11 countries were equipped at ELF 2024. Some have been inspired to develop a Forum in their own countries! An African-wide Forum launched in Kenya in 2023, making 8 national Forums designed after the European Leadership Forum (the other 7 are in Albania, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Ukraine, and Wales). From the abundance of biblical teaching at the plenary sessions to the ministry-specific teaching in every Network session, Gospel leaders returned home more equipped to minister in their communities.



Christa Adeline (*Regional Representative, International Christian Medical and Dental Association; Indonesia*)

“Coming to ELF is such a privilege for me. I am learning and seeing things from a European perspective that help me understand the times that, sooner or later, will occur in Indonesia and Asia. Bringing the content and insights of the mentoring, workshops, and just everything in general to the younger people I am ministering to will be very leveraging and sustaining to my ministry.”



René Bruel (*Founder and Lead Pastor, Hopera*) taught from the book of Revelation at morning plenary sessions and encouraged the leaders

to see Christ as the One who is reigning on the throne because—as René said—“when you see Jesus for who He is, it changes everything!”



The evening plenary sessions were led by **John Dickson** (*Professor of Biblical Studies and Public Christianity, Wheaton College*),

Roland Werner (*Professor of Theology in a Global Context, Tabor Evangelical University*), **Sharon Dirckx** (*Freelance Speaker, Author, and Broadcaster*), and **Dave Patty** (*President, Josiah Venture*). Roland Werner made ELF history by presenting the first-ever ELF play as he did a dramatic interpretation of the life of Martin Luther, and the evening ended with a resounding rendition of “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”!



Cristian Bulica (*Church Leader, Vox Domini Church; Romania*):

“Participating in the Forum allows me to be better equipped for ministry as I gain valuable information, experiences, and advice from Christians who have paved this path before me. This calling is challenging but I cannot be indifferent to what is happening around me. I can’t find better support elsewhere.”



Anja Zevart (*Psychiatrist; Slovenia*):

“At ELF, I have found incredible support, mentors, and teachings that have helped me immensely in my work. I am the only Christian children and adolescent psychiatrist in my country and this Forum has encouraged me so much. I am excited and eager to see where the ideas stirred in my heart lead in the work done in Slovenia and beyond.”



Arvid Gogaj (*Pastor, Disciples' Church; Albania*):

“Being at ELF is so helpful for me because I have the ability now to address issues of revitalizing our church in a more biblical way. I have learned so much about leadership development—I can’t wait to get back to my church and apply these principles.”

Every plenary session was live-streamed. Thousands of viewers were trained and equipped through these live teachings!

RESOURCING EVANGELICAL LEADERS

New Resources

Every Gospel leader gains an array of Forum resources to pass on to others throughout the year. With these resources, they can renew the biblical church and evangelize Europe, one community at a time.

Gospel leaders are resourced throughout the year through Forum initiatives, including Year-Round Mentoring. **Over the past year, Gospel leaders were united and trained through 15 Year-Round Mentoring groups.** At the end of the Forum, 17 Year-Round Mentoring groups were launched for the 2024-2025 year.



Year-Round Mentoring



Vadym Biriukov (*Seminary Professor; Ukraine*) explains how Year-Round Mentoring has benefitted his ministry:

“The Forum has been valuable for my work during the last year. The Year-Round Mentoring program brought a lot of benefits to my youth ministry. Now our team is thriving through the methods and practices I received.”

The Forum’s **Online Mentoring program** is another year-round resource. The goal is to equip and resource Gospel leaders personally, professionally, and spiritually throughout the year by connecting them with experienced mentors who can speak into their lives and unique ministry situations. Since leaders have a wide variety of needs, the Forum offers many types of one-on-one mentoring in areas ranging from Marketplace Leaders to Church Life, Leadership, and Planting.

The Bookstore

The Forum bookstore continues to be one of the greatest resources offered at ELF. The **total value** of this year’s books was **\$91,270** and the **cost to leaders was only \$23,686**. Forum staff and volunteers brought extra boxes and bags for the Gospel leaders to stock up on as many books as needed. Many do not have access to these affordable resources apart from ELF!



Courses & Online Tools

The Forum also offers **Ten-Week Courses**, free online interactive courses that can be accessed worldwide. The next courses—Apologetics, Church Revitalization, and Confident Christianity—will launch in the Fall.

All of the Plenary, Network, and Workshop sessions from ELF 2024 will soon be available on **foclonline.org**. This enables Gospel leaders to rewatch sessions that impacted them and to receive further training by watching sessions they didn't have a chance to attend. Additionally, they can share these videos with others. **Sixty-six million minutes of Forum video were watched online last year!**

Every Gospel leader returned to their local community with a robust toolkit of ministry resources—resources that will assist them year round! They have everything they need to pass on the torch to others.



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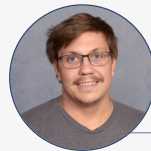
“He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.’”

Mark 16:15



Vanja Nikolinovic (Church Leader, Evangelical Church; Bosnia and Herzegovina):

“It is a humbling privilege to be back at ELF, once again making new friends, strengthening relationships with old friends, and learning more about how the Lord works. It is my dream to use these resources and networks in my ministry, especially building up our church’s youth, for they are the foundation of our future.”



Matej Bela (Theology Student; Slovenia):

“Being at ELF is helpful for me because I have gotten training in apologetics, which is very helpful in my context. I have also been able to get much-needed resources that I can take home and use to encourage others. I will also be able to talk to them about what I have learned here and train them, as well.”



Rebeca Neciosup Alburquerque (Youth Leader, Hopera Church; Italy):

“Being at ELF as the youth group leader of my church has been an incredibly enriching experience. Every day, I am inspired by the teaching and new knowledge I am acquiring. These experiences are not only expanding my understanding and commitment to the faith, but they are also providing valuable tools that I can bring into my ministry with the youth of Rome.”

THE FORUM'S PRESENCE IN UKRAINE

The Lord is using the Forum movement to renew the church and share the Gospel throughout Europe, including areas that face extreme hardships. In February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. In a moment, the lives of Ukrainians turned upside down, and their sense of normalcy diminished. Their home became a warzone, no longer a place of peace.

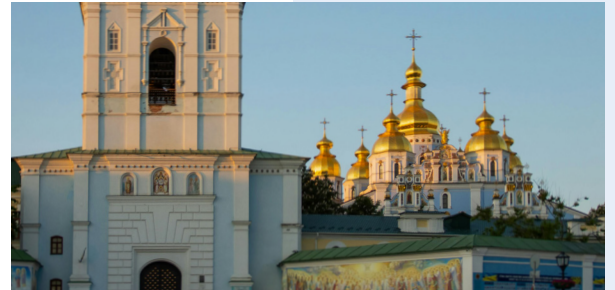
Ukrainian Gospel leaders boldly minister despite living in a warzone. This situation is challenging, isolating, and burdensome. These leaders need the global church to come alongside them and encourage them to continue being a bright light in pitch darkness.

We praise God because He is using the European Leadership Forum to encourage and equip the Ukrainian church. Fourteen Ukrainian Gospel leaders were trained at the ELF 2024 annual meeting!

One of these leaders, **Jaroslav Lukasik**, has been a long-time ELF partner and serves on ELF's Steering Committee. Jaroslav is a well-known speaker in Ukraine. He is the President of the Eastern European Reformation Foundation, an organization that runs a spectrum of projects in the areas of leadership development, education, evangelism, and humanitarian aid.

In 2009, he began his ELF training as a participant and he has grown into the role of an ELF speaker. Through his ELF training and speaking, he noticed the need to bring the Forum to Kyiv, Ukraine. So, he spearheaded the Eastern European Leadership Forum (EELF), a smaller-scale replication of the European Leadership Forum. The EELF has trained and equipped hundreds in their native language within their local community. We praise God that He has used Jaroslav to further the Gospel.

We also praise God for you. Thanks to your generous funding, Ukrainian Gospel leaders like Jaroslav can be trained and encouraged at the Forum through scholarships. These leaders are so grateful for your loving support!





Ksusha Bondarenko (CEO, Forward United; Ukraine) shares her thanks:

“My team and I are passionate about sharing the Gospel with the next generation of Ukrainians in such a difficult time. Thank you for making it possible for me to be part of ELF 2024. Thank you for your prayer support and love for Ukraine. May God bless you and your dear family. I’m going back to Ukraine and my heart is grateful for you and for all who made it possible—for His glory in Europe. Thank you very much!”



Ruslan Khymz (President, Kyiv Theological Seminary; Ukraine) expresses his thankfulness:

“At the Forum, I had the chance to hear about the principles of ministry in the modern world, meet new friends, and take a break from the war currently happening in Ukraine. This Forum was a source of inspiration and motivation for me and my ministry. Thank you very much for your support and encouragement. I will use the resources and experiences to share the Gospel and bring more people to Jesus!”

Thank you for ministering to Ukraine through your prayerful and financial support of the Forum!

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we are all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.”

1 Corinthians 12:12-14

Your Part in the Forum Movement – Thank You!

Since 2003, the European Leadership Forum has united, equipped, and resourced thousands of Gospel leaders from over 60 countries. This would not be possible without you! The 2024 ELF-trained Gospel leaders thank you for your Gospel partnership:



Stanislaw Bialecki (Pastor & Instructor, Institute for Biblical & Theological Studies; Poland):

“I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your contribution to this great and very needed initiative. It is a true blessing for our church and the missionaries I train using what I am learning here. My prayers are that it will have an impact for eternity on many generations of my kinsmen and other nations of Europe.”



Nilmersson Pereira Da Silva (Pastor, Hungarian Evangelical Church; Hungary):

“I compare the 2024 Forum to Moses going up the mountain and seeing the promised land. Here I gained perspective of who God is, who I am, and what He wants to do in Europe, and if you could see it, I promise you would cry because it’s beautiful! Thank you for being part of what God is doing in Europe and Hungary. I will go home restored and motivated to another year of walking and working with the Lord.”



Jonas Sorensen (Youth Worker, The Word and Israel; Denmark):

“I want to give thanks to you for not forgetting Europe. We need this! We struggle to spread the word of God but your support encourages us to keep going, keep praying, and keep relying on God to reach His people in Europe.”

**God is not done with Europe!
Thank you for partnering with the European Leadership Forum.**

You Can Continue Your Partnership In the Following Ways:

— **Pray:** Prayer is the bedrock of the Forum’s work—it is the Forum’s greatest resource! Pray that God will continue to use Forum leaders to dismantle unbelief and renew the biblical church.

— **Volunteer:** The annual Forum is reliant on the support of faithful volunteers. This year, 90 volunteers steadfastly served to ensure every Gospel leader felt welcomed and every Network session and event ran efficiently. It was **Shelli Genn’s** 14th Forum. She finds it a joy to serve at ELF every year!

— **Follow:** The European Leadership Forum regularly posts ministry updates on social media. Stay in the loop by following us on Instagram, Facebook, X, LinkedIn, and YouTube.

— **Give:** Financially partner with the Forum to ensure Gospel leaders are united, equipped, and resourced through the Forum movement. Recurring gifts, no matter the size, are particularly helpful in partnering with the Forum’s mission. You can set up or increase your monthly gift by scanning the QR code below:

GIVE HERE

*Scan code
to
get started*



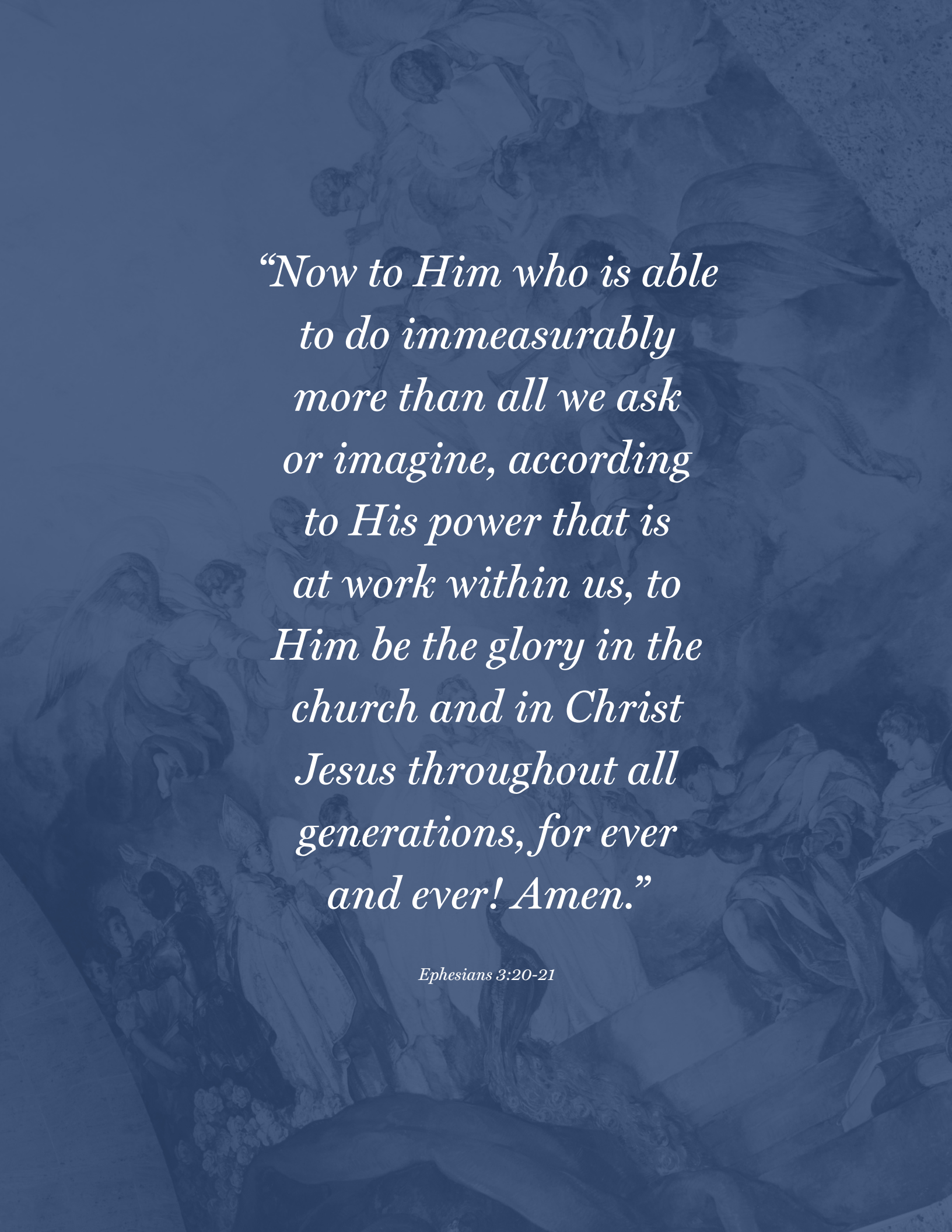
Shelli Genn
(Volunteer):

“My greatest joy is hearing what God is doing through the Gospel leaders’ ministries. I also love it when someone shares how God answered the prayer request they gave at the previous ELF. This year, someone shared on their prayer card that they’ve put in the same request since 2010, and God answered it this year. Amen!”

If you are interested in
volunteering, check out:

euroleadership.org/volunteer





*“Now to Him who is able
to do immeasurably
more than all we ask
or imagine, according
to His power that is
at work within us, to
Him be the glory in the
church and in Christ
Jesus throughout all
generations, for ever
and ever! Amen.”*

Ephesians 3:20-21

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