

As you probably know, the Polish government has cancelled all meetings above 500 people. We have been told that this ban on conferences will be extended into the foreseeable future and thus the European Leadership Forum (ELF) would eventually be cancelled by the Polish government. But we cannot wait on Poland to make an official government decision.

In my last letter, I informed you that we had established a Coronavirus Taskforce to evaluate whether ELF should be held this May in Wisla, Poland. *The Taskforce has unanimously recommended that the 2020 ELF Conference be cancelled.* The consensus of the Taskforce was that it would be irresponsible if we did not cancel the conference, to ensure we are doing everything we can to limit exposure and lower risk.

**We will not hold the European Leadership Forum in May in Wisla, but we will hold an online version of ELF instead.**

Let me briefly explain our plans at this point.

**1) We don't have all the answers.**

In the midst of this fluid situation, we do not have all the answers, and in fact, we probably have not even thought of all the questions people will ask. These include questions about finances or how we will actually host an online ELF. I would ask you to be patient. Our FOCL team is working very hard to put together a plan and come up with answers for the many questions we anticipate.

But we do know the general direction we are moving toward.

**2) We plan to hold the European Leadership Forum as an online conference.**

In recent years, we have hosted hundreds of Zoom webinars and held thousands of Zoom and Skype conference calls. We have some experience in how to organize interactive educational sessions online. In the next two months, we will pivot the Forum of Christian Leaders staff's time away from the preparation of ELF in Wisla, Poland -- and instead develop a strategy to deliver ELF online.

**3) With your registration for this year ELF – you will be allowed to participate in this year's online ELF -- and also participate fully funded in the 2021 ELF in Wisla, Poland.**

In short, with one registration you will be able to participate in two ELFs.

This year, our goal is to create an online ELF experience that is as similar to the normal ELF as possible. This year we are going to ask 130+ Forum speakers to give the talks that they have agreed to give. We will have Plenary sessions, Network sessions, 100 Workshops and 12 Pre Forum Seminars and Conferences and Post Forum Seminars. We will also ask 70+ Forum mentors to

mentor in the 35+ areas of Forum mentoring, and the 15 types of Forum Year-Round Mentoring will continue as planned.

**4) We will ask ELF volunteers to give their time and energy to be trained in our conferencing technology so they can help us host the ELF meetings online.**

**5) What am I asking of you?**

**a) *I am asking you to set aside the time for the Forum -- and do not fill it up with other activities.***

You've already given the time of ELF to the Lord to be taught, connect with brothers and sisters and be mentored and encouraged. Granted, the Online ELF this year won't be the same as being together in Wisla.

But there are many reasons to set aside this time and fully participate in the Online ELF conference. Let me explain a few.

- 1) ***Your Network sessions*** will be meeting together for 3 hours every day and there will be significant time for discussion and Q&A. You will have excellent teaching, Q&A and fellowship with leaders that have the same calling.
- 2) ***By attending ELF's [Workshops](#)*** you will have an opportunity to receive teaching from some of the best Gospel leaders and teachers in the world like Pete Williams and Stefan Gustavsson. You get to choose to learn from absolutely amazing teachers in 100 unique workshops. Take advantage of this opportunity!
- 3) ***Many of you cannot typically attend [Pre Forum Conferences](#) or [Pre Forum Seminars](#) or [Post Forum Seminars](#)*** because you could not come early to ELF or you were traveling.

But that won't be true this year!!! You can be taught by [Dave Patty on Spiritual Warfare](#) or the other 11 leaders giving in depth (3 to 6 hour) sessions on really crucial topics.

Set aside the time and prepare for an at home ELF conference. Begin to prepare your heart to connect with the rest of the body of Christ during this time. Don't miss out -- by filling up your time with other activities. Keep these days reserved for the ELF Conference!

I want to acknowledge that it would be difficult for most of us to be online in front of a laptop for 12 hours in a day. But this doesn't mean you don't show up for your Network. ELF Workshops in Wisla are optional and so are these online workshops. But which of these amazing workshops are you not going to attend?



***b) I am asking you to sign up for ELF mentoring sessions.***

We normally have mentoring sessions for over 250 leaders at ELF each year -- in more than 35 different types of mentoring. We are planning to create a mentoring plan that will allow hundreds more mentoring sessions this year with our online ELF mentoring. My goal is for you to be able to sign up for multiple one on one Zoom mentoring sessions. If we are able to pull this off, you will be able to have more one on one mentoring during the online ELF than you would have been able to receive by actually coming to Wisla.

We will be back to you soon about our plan! *But when we open up the opportunity to be mentored – sign up!!!*

***c) You will have the opportunity to invite other believers to attend ELF online – We are opening up the ELF Plenary sessions, and Seminars and Workshops for free for other Evangelicals.***

Only leaders (like you) who have been invited to attend the European Leadership Forum, will be able to attend Network sessions or participate in Mentoring sessions at ELF this year.

But because someone else is watching an ELF Plenary or Workshop session from their laptop would not reduce your experience, we are planning to open up the ELF Plenary sessions and Workshops and Pre-Forum and Post-Forum Seminars and Pre-Forum Conferences to other participants – for free.

Some of you have family, friends and church members who ask you every year “*What did you learn at ELF this year?*” Now you can invite them to attend the ELF Plenary sessions or the 112 ELF Workshops and Seminars. This could deeply encourage your team and even launch you into deeper discussions and new directions.

You could offer these Forum sessions to your church or send the links to family and friends to watch on their laptops at home.

I am excited to see how the Lord can use the ELF teaching to encourage and equip many more believers this year.

***d) I am asking you to be faithful***

Those of you coming to the European Leadership Forum for the first time might not know this, but every ELF speaker pays their own way (including all their own travel costs and conference costs) and they don't receive any honorarium. All the ELF National leaders and Network leaders are also sacrificially giving their

time, talent and treasure. Everyone who is teaching or leading at ELF is sacrificing for the gospel. ***They are doing all of this to serve you.***

It is important that you show respect to them and actually come to their Networks and Workshops and Seminars where they have sacrificed so much to love, teach and help you.

***e) I am asking you to Pray!***

Obviously the Corona virus epidemic was unforeseen and it has created a uniquely challenging situation. I am reminded of how the Apostle Paul had various doors shut for ministry and yet how the Lord kept opening other doors. Acts 16 relays how Paul was prevented from “*preaching the word of God in Asia*” but then had a vision of the man from Macedonia and was led by the Lord to start the first mission to Europe.

Think about that. ***The Gospel came to Europe from a closed door!*** I am praying that through this difficult situation that the Lord will open other doors for the Gospel. Will you pray for the Lord to work “*exceedingly abundantly more than we can ask or imagine.*” in the midst of these challenges?

Under the mercy,

Greg Pritchard Phd

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