



REPORT ON THE 2022

European Leadership Forum





2022 FORUM ANNUAL MEETING

How Did It Go?

After two online Forums in 2020 and 2021, we were all excited to gather in Wisla, Poland for the 2022 European Leadership Forum. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, Evangelical Christian leaders from across Europe and around the world were united, equipped, and resourced.

ELF gave isolated leaders a chance to worship the Lord together and participate in specialized training, mentoring, resource sharing, and networking. These key Gospel leaders left the Forum equipped and energized for a new year of ministry, and we couldn't have done it without your generous support. **Thank you!**

- 1** **Almost 600 participants** from **41 countries** attended the Forum. Nearly 200 of these hand-picked leaders were scholarship recipients from Eastern, Central, or Southern Europe. Thanks to you, all the leaders who needed scholarships to be equipped and resourced at ELF received one!
- 2** In addition to leaders from Europe, we also expanded our **Forum Global strategy** for leaders from around the world. Gospel leaders attended ELF from countries like Kenya, Pakistan, Egypt, Korea, Philippines and Ghana. These global leaders came to ELF because they want to learn the Forum strategies and duplicate them in their own countries. Ministry leaders in Ghana, for example, after attending ELF in the past, launched the Ghana Forum, which held its second annual meeting in the fall of 2021. Just one example of the ripple impacts of this year's ELF is that **African Gospel leaders attending ELF decided to launch a Forum-like conference for all of Africa in 2023!**
- 3** ELF participants learned in **25 Forum Networks designed to mentor and resource leaders in specific ministry and vocational callings.** Different Networks focused on such diverse areas as youth ministry,

apologetics, church planning and revitalization, leadership, discipleship, science, fundraising, counseling, evangelism, and more. Participants found these Networks encouraging, strategic, and helpful. In just one example, participants rated the Organisational Development and Fundraising Network a full 5 out of 5 in overall satisfaction. Gospel leaders loved having the chance to be trained by Christian experts and encouraged through fellowships with their peers.

- 4 Spiritually mature Forum speakers led over **300 individual Sessions and Workshops**. These speakers are leading experts on various discipleship, evangelistic, leadership, and biblical topics. They are doing incredible work for God's Kingdom across Europe and around the world. The opportunity for speakers to share their knowledge and best practices is one of the greatest blessings the Forum offers.
- 5 This year we were excited for the first time to successfully livestream our plenary sessions through our YouTube channel and website. Throughout the week, **up to 1,000 online viewers** participated virtually in our morning and evening plenary sessions.
- 6 We also hosted the **Forum Expo**, where **21 exhibitors from Christian ministries and organizations** connected with leaders, shared their visions, and offered resources

and opportunities for leaders to get involved. The Expo provided a clearinghouse for participants to meet people from outside their Network, across Europe, and around the world and to make new connections for future partnership.

- 7 More than **2,800 excellent books** were distributed to Forum participants at the **Forum Bookstore**, where leaders received a 60 to 80% discount off retail. Forum volunteers reported seeing tears in participants' eyes as they realized the number of books they could purchase at such discounted prices!
- 8 Participants built relationships in **197 one-on-one mentoring sessions**. Throughout the 2020-2021 season, our 21 Year-Round Mentoring initiatives involved **more than 150 participants**. There will be 25 Year-Round Mentoring strategies in 2022-2023, and registration is still ongoing through September.
- 9 All participants were invited to **submit prayer requests** to the Forum prayer team. These requests were brought before the Lord multiple times during the week. At least twice a day all leaders also came together to pray with their fellow leaders.



PETER J. WILLIAMS, Principal and CEO of Tyndale House, Cambridge, served participants as the morning Plenary Bible Teacher. He explored Jesus' parables from the Gospel of Luke, included Old Testament insights, and challenged participants to apply Jesus' message in a world rocked by war and uncertainty.



How Did God Work?

Throughout the week, participants were asked to provide feedback on different aspects of the Forum, including their Network sessions, seminars, and workshops. Their feedback was encouraging and exciting to hear. Here's some of what the participants shared:

Every single part of my Network gave me food for thought, encouragements, and challenges. Please thank the Network leaders for me. **The time to interact and talk to the participants and the question and answer panels were precious moments of gaining wisdom from the body of Christ.** Thank you so much for this well-thought-out programme.

The **most helpful part** of the Network for me was an **unexpected encounter with God** through one leader's session.

This speaker loves God and answered questions with the humility of **someone who is in awe of God.**

This was **so encouraging!** Lots of **wisdom** and **practical insights** for my ministry.

The **teaching** and **preaching** of the word of God was **amazing.** This is my first time here and I was **so happy to be involved.** See you next year!



In addition to participant surveys, **scholarship recipients** – both participants and volunteers – from Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe also **provided their own thoughts** on how the Forum went in their thank-you letters to sponsors.



*"Being here is a great opportunity to learn and connect with others who share the same passions as I do. I got some great ideas and thoughts on evangelism and a new perspective for developing young leaders in Poland. **I am leaving with new ways of equipping people to share the Gospel. I would like to say "thank you" by doing whatever I can to use the knowledge I am gaining here for my ministry in Poland. I will try to invest further in your investment in me.**"*

KRYSTIAN ZAREMBA

Evangelist and Youth Leader, Poland



*"Coming from Africa and participating in the 2022 ELF in person is such a blessing – an immense one! My Year-Round Mentoring group were so kind to me. They look time during the Forum to help me develop a communications strategy for my ministry! This has been such a key highlight for me since my peers brought such great thoughts and deep insights in a very practical way. **What I received from this year's ELF will have direct and immediate impact to my ministry!**"*

ESTHER CHENGO

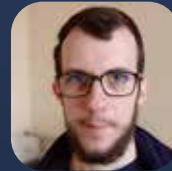
Nonprofit Leader, Kenya



*"I have made some deep and lasting relationships at the European Leadership Forum. A couple of them in particular were instrumental to my perseverance in ministry over the last year or two. **So I want you to know that relationships that are formed here go beyond this week and they overflow into all areas of life. Without a doubt – I would not have lasted were it not for these relationships.**"*

MAREK TOMASOVIC

Pastor, Slovakia



*"I am currently a theology student. After graduation, I plan to become a pastor and, hopefully, one day a professor. Thanks to you and the scholarship you gave me, I am one step closer to that goal. I was able to attend the Forum as a volunteer and meet theologians that really inspired me (like Wayne Grudem and others). **I hope one day to be able to help other people just as you helped me!**"*

ANDREI TURCU

Student, Romania



*"I especially appreciated attending the Academic Network where I could share with other academics and talk about opportunities to share the gospel and our lives with our colleagues and students. I also appreciated access to the Christian literature provided at ELF. **This was especially important for my preaching ministry.**"*

PETR MATOUSEK

Church Elder and Pastoral Assistant, Czech Republic



What are Others Saying?



JONATHAN BOND of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches published an article from his UK perspective on his experience at the Forum. He writes:

"I counted it a wonderful privilege to be at ELF this year – the first time meeting together since 2019. It was a blessing and encouragement to my soul to be able to spend time and pray with brothers and sisters in Christ from around Europe, who are seeking to serve the Lord as I trust we all are here in the UK. We've all read of the church in various European countries, but to spend time talking to and praying with those who serve in Evangelical churches across the continent makes everything so much more real."



SARAH BREUEL is the Director of Revive Europe, a ministry that seeks to unite students in Mission and to pursue a move of God in the student generation in Europe. Sarah announced at ELF that Revive would become its own organization at the end of 2022. Already over 1,500 students from 90 nations have registered to attend their end-of-year conference. Sarah shared:

"Our dry continent needs fresh streams of water. We can't simply strategize our way over the re-evangelization of Europe, as important as strategies are. We need a fresh outpouring of the Spirit of Jesus to turn the tide for the gospel in our continent... We stand together as we long for God to do something much larger than any organisation. We would love your prayers for God's breath as we try as best to build this 'ark' and we trust God for the rain."



CHARLES KELLEY, leader of the Artists Network, shared his thoughts in an article on the importance of the Artists Network for promoting connection and faith:

"Artists need encouragement, and this is my number one goal. You need to recognize that your talent is from God, and God gives both talent and responsibility. We want people to get the opportunity to inspire each other and to ask the question: What can we do together that we cannot do alone?"

God has used ELF to **encourage** and **inspire** leaders to work **together** for the Gospel in **new** and **powerful ways**.

What Makes ELF Unique?

For many participants, the Forum's annual meeting is a **totally unique opportunity** for connection and learning with other ministry leaders. **What stood out?**



TIMO HEIMLICH, leader of Church Planting Catalyst in Germany, said:

*"My first ELF was in 2019, followed by two years online. This year, it was fantastic to be back in person to meet old and new friends. Long talks in the evenings, meals and worship together, meeting not only new people but also their friends and colleagues – this is all something that has been missing for some years. While I appreciate the quality content from experienced trainers now as much as during the online ELFs, it was **definitely good to again feel part of the three-dimensional body of Christ in Europe.**"*



MARIA KAMRAN, Co-Director of ACT in Pakistan, said:

*"If I say it was **the best lifetime gift to be part of the ELF journey.** What a wonderful door of knowledge and learning is opened for Pakistan and will be multiplied to equip other emerging leaders. The way I was welcomed and leaders invested their knowledge, experience and precious time to know more about my Ministry in Pakistan is incredible. **Thank you ELF for giving me a clearer vision about my Ministry and an invaluable experience of learning.** And especially my Mentor, Ann Blaser has just transformed my spiritual journey and sharing my heart with her has healed me in many ways. She is one of the most precious gems of ELF."*



DR. WOJCIECH KOWALEWSKI, President of Golden Apple Institute in Poland, said:

*"It is always good to come to ELF. It is so much more than just an excellent conference. **ELF offers a community for like-minded leaders to network, engage with one another and get practical tools for growth in ministry.** It is truly great to be back in person after 2 years online because of COVID. Meetings with other leaders from all over the world at ELF are truly enriching and it is such a blessing to be here. I am so grateful that I can lead one of the networks here to be part of this movement."*



Thank You!

At the end of the Forum, one participant said to the Forum Steering Committee, **“You might be at the beginning of a spiritual awakening.”** After so long apart, the 2022 European Leadership Forum was truly a God-honoring, spiritually encouraging time. God is using your support and partnership to impact Europe (and the world!) for His Kingdom. **Thank you!**

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