

# WESTERN EUROPE (Agape Europe)

Javier & Gema Garcia

## Area wide and Amigos area leadership team (LTA)

- Pray for the candidates who are now thinking about joining staff in September. Pray for their application process and wisdom regarding whom we should accept.
- 20-23 April: LTA meets in Berlin. Pray for inspiring meetings with the Berlin team and leadership and for God's help in setting direction for Agape Europe.
- 6-11 May: Agape Europe Leadership Forum - Theme: "Full of His Riches ;" all national leadership teams join for inspiration and training. Pray for exciting meetings.
- In preparation for the AE Leadership Forum several teams are working hard to make this a successful event. Pray for the development of 'Growing Effectiveness,' a handout with much practical information about integrated processes.
- 4-8 April: First-year staff members in the UK meet to study "New Testament Survey."
- 20-24 May: David and Pam Wilson and Javier Garcia will join with the German staff for their annual conference.
- This season of the year a whole new group of people are thinking about applying to join the staff. Pray that we get top people (spiritually) who will then attract others to the cause.
- Pray for God to raise up student leaders in our movement. If you know particular students with leadership capacity pray for them by name.
- Praise God for a new PR tool, a 15-minute film (English) documenting how God is causing "Spiritual Multiplication" through Agape Europe.

## Crescendo

- 15-30 April: Pray for a spiritual harvest during the Crescendo tour with Franz Mohr (legendary Steinway chief technician) to Steinway London and Munich, to Luxemburg, Helsinki, Bern and other cities.
- 11-14 May: Crescendo is co-organising a European "art summit" in Austria.

## Finance and Development Priority

We thank the Lord for the open hearts of several national directors and their teams, who fully embraced the urgency of financial independence and have taken bold steps in fund development.

- We thank the Lord for different teams who have already watched the teaching video of Earl Pitts on personal financial freedom and the influence of the spirit of Mammon.
- We ask God's Spirit to give us open hearts while we teach and train more than 170 European leaders in Fund Development during AE Leadership Forum mid-May.
- May these endeavours and the planned AE Development Institute as well as all faithful activities lead to a strong increase of locally raised income.

## Future Leader Priority

- Please pray that youth and students would grasp that God desires to use them where they are, and that they would know how to take the next step in being available to Him.
- Pray for many USA STINTers who are serving in Western Europe, as they consider coming back as long term ICS.
- Pray for students as they consider investing a part of their summer in a summer project

## All Staff

- A new “Relationship Development System” is being introduced to the Internet Ministry of Agape Europe. This custom-designed software will ensure more effective evangelism and follow-up for those seeking God on the Internet. The system will be beta-tested in May-June in Switzerland.
- Please pray for our Swiss team and our technical consultant as they prepare to set up this new ministry tool.

### Staff Care & Development Priority

- Pray for a person to take leadership of the European HR department.
- Pray for all the staff families undergoing challenges with parenting.
- For a person to take responsibility of Staff Care within the Staff Care and Development Priority.
- Pray for implementation of the Design Team’s second track for new leaders training.

### AUSTRIA

- Praise God for the recent founding of GAIN-Austria.
- Praise him for the March meeting of leaders from different churches and different missions in Vienna. They all were involved in the European Soccer Championship outreach last year, including AIA. All want this cooperation to continue to reach young people for the gospel.
- Pray for GAIN-Austria: For R&J to find open doors for their fundraising and that many Austrians will participate in the different projects. Pray that this ministry will grow.
- AIA: 1-3 May staff retreat for all full-time and associate staff members. Pray that many associate staff members will come and that a new generation of leaders will be developed.
- Pray for Austrians who will be ready to invest in the kingdom of God with their money.

### CYPRUS

- Pray for all the people with whom we come in personal contact, that God will touch their hearts as we have the opportunity to talk about spiritual things with them.
- 24-26 April: a key Marriage Conference in Cyprus.

### FINLAND

#### Praise:

- The special joint year of prayer of Christians in Finland in 2008 and the Christ Day, a national prayer event in October, encouraged prayer across the country. We praise God for His blessing on the Christ Day and for growing unity between Christian leaders. Now it is important to pray for the work to continue, for unity to deepen. One of the goals of the day was to share a vision that every person in Finland would have someone praying for them for hearts to be open to the gospel. Follow-up prayer events will be held.
- Praise God for the sign language version of *Story of Jesus for Children* DVD in Finland. It came out in early April! Pray for it to reach many families.
- Praise God for the continued distribution of the regular *Story of Jesus for Children* DVD in schools and churches.

#### Requests:

- Discussions are underway for a Festival of Hope with Franklin Graham to be held in Turku in 2011. Please pray for the negotiations for this between churches and denominations; decision should be made by end of the summer.
- Pray for stronger vision for evangelism for Christians in Finland.
- For the student ministry - for more resources for that and their outreach with a special DVD.
- Like all the world and the rest of Europe we are experiencing turbulence of the financial world. Many people are losing jobs and there is much uncertainty in the air. Pray for us to know clearly the way ahead, how to plan our ministry, where to focus and how to meet the financial challenges.
- Preparations for summer camps are on the way, as well as group leader training. Pray for the preparations and for those coming to the camps.
- 24-26 April: Pray for follow-up to the outreach and retreat for men in Eastern Finland.
- 7-15 May: Pray for a course in evangelism at Vivamo.
- 1,5, &17 May - follow-up gatherings from the Christ Day prayer event last October. Praise God for these and other follow up events. Pray for growing unity between Christians in praying for the country.

## FRANCE

Thank the Lord for:

- Our staff and volunteers – they give themselves both to the Lord, and to His work in France. Pray He would continue to guard and protect them. Thank Him for those new interns, staff and volunteers. (Romans 15:13)
- Movements of students around France – their heart, passion and creativity to bring the good news of Jesus to those who know no one who walks with Christ. (I Thessalonians 1:3)
- Partnerships we have from within France and from the outside - they give joyfully and full of faith with great generosity. (II Corinthians 8:2)
- The very successful events around the Martin Luther King commemoration, which were attended by churches, political figures, intellectuals, and secular associations, some of which even gave speeches at the events. Praise Him for the financial support for the project, which surpassed our expectations.
- The promising results for the *Magdalena* film. We've had positive reactions. It was proposed to churches, and women leaders of the Baptist and Independent Church Federations have publicized the film in their magazine.

Pray:

- Please pray that the French staff and student leaders would love God deeply and proudly proclaim the gospel - that France would be a blessing to the nations.
- For all the preparations for re-launching the campus ministry in Paris and for the development of a solid, God-honouring team there.
- About Internet Ministry France - We have launched a new Web site (a discovery journey to understand the gospel through multimedia resources). Please pray that we would find Christian counsellors for this site and for participants to become Christians.

## GERMANY

- For about a year now, Campus für Christus has been going through a change/consulting process. We are praying earnestly that this will help us be more focused in ministry.
- We are praying for our ministry leadership to be well equipped and for the Lord to provide new leaders in a few vital areas.
- In German evangelicalism there seems to be a gap between evangelism and social commitment. We, even within our national ministry, need to learn and live out how the two belong together.

- Over Easter the young people's conference, mission.net, took place in Oldenburg/Northern Germany. We pray for the young people attending to remain excited about evangelism, among their peers and globally.
- Many artists have to work extremely hard to make a living. Ask the Lord to release workers into His harvest in the arts who will have the time and the means.
- We pray for musicians to take the initiative to organise Crescendo-like events in their respective cities. We have a lot of contacts, but few initiators.
- 21-23 April: Our annual discipleship training course "growing spiritually" is drew 50+ young people from various missions organisations. Pray for the Lord's ongoing work in their hearts.
- 25-30 May: A combined pilot is taking place in Gießen, merging Internet evangelism and the *JESUS* film.

## GREECE

- We are seeing strong partnerships from the US Campus Ministry and US churches form and commit to send labourers here in the future.
- We have made great strides toward finishing the translation of EveryStudent.gr, and have begun to see students visit the site, spending time reading through the articles in both Greek and English.
- We are meeting students who are responding positively to spiritual discussions and desiring to spend time with us in relationships.
- Ask the Lord to show favour on the relationships we have, that His Word will not return void, and that people will place their faith in Christ.
- Intercede for our partnerships to develop momentum quickly so that we can expand out of our two main cities into other places where there are strategic universities. Please pray for STINTers from the US and for Greek interns this coming year.
- We are asking the Lord to provide student leaders in Thessaloniki who are growing in their walks with Jesus, sharing their faith with their friends, and leading others from God's Word.
- For the backgammon student tournament that will be part of the cultural events of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 14-20 May.
- That many students will come to play and know our student team and learn more about God through the different opportunities that will be given.
- 28 May: The movie "The Climp" will be projected at the amphitheatre of the student dorms in Thessaloniki. Pray that the students will be touched and be willing to take part in discussion groups afterwards.
- For creation and promotion of a coaching ministry for current leaders in different areas of society.

## ITALY

- Pray for Rome spring break follow-up! That relationships from early April would continue and deepen, allowing us to communicate and process the gospel with our new friends.
- Pray for creative ideas on how to connect with students. Several are in the works (photo club, dinner/discussions, new soularium) but can use more!
- Pray for a potential Agape Italia/Roman Churches Prayer and Praise night 25 April. We want to rally the Body of Christ in this city. Pray for believers to be available, or a platform of understanding/love among different churches, and for details to fall into place (location, etc.).
- Bologna will have its first summer project 27May – 30 June. Pray for the preparations.
- Two interns arrive in Bologna in August. Pray for their support and a good housing situation.

- For our new families and their adjustment to Bologna.
- For discipline in pursuing language for everyone in Bologna.
- Rome Current Leaders Priority: Pray for our daily walk with Christ, Spirit filled lives, and short accounts of confessing sins.
- For spiritual, physical, and mental protection.
- For clear direction and discernment for the ministry in Rome.
- For Corrado and Febi Primavera, an Italian born pastor and wife - for their protection and wisdom, and our partnership as we work together to see their new church in downtown grow in number. He is one of the few formally trained Protestant pastors in Italy!
- Ask the Lord to raise up new Italian leaders who would be the future church and para-church leaders in this great city.
- Continue to pray for our staff children. They are doing well academically and enjoy their classmates, but they long for deeper relationships at times.
- Pisa: In the past two months, we have been contacted by two students who were involved in Agape with the STINT team five years ago. Both are wanting to meet and talk about spiritual things again. Please pray for as we pursue these women and connect well with them. Pray that they would truly follow Jesus. Pray that the Lord would still raise up laborers from Pisa, specifically interns, in spite of the absence of a big team.

## LATVIA

Pray:

- For the *Story of Jesus for Children* mini CD Project.
- For fruit from the teachers conference, 25-26 April.
- For the Latvian Teachers Convention, 29 April.
- For the teachers and students as they prepare for the annual Bible Festival, 9 May.
- For wisdom in how we can better communicate to Christians and non-Christians, who we are and what we do, for ministry opportunities and fund development.
- For children and adults with special needs and that society may be positive
- That our staff, teams, and disciples would be putting God in first place, having the motivation, boldness, and freshness to share Christ and help people grow.
- For commitment to good communication and unity of spirit and action in helping build movements of multiplying disciples.

Praise God:

- For the teachers who are devoted to spreading the good news during extra-curricular activities and Bible groups.
- For the children who are missionaries to their parents.
- For the development of the Christian teaching in Latvian schools and its progress in the primary schools.
- For open doors for equipping new church pastors and workers to do evangelism among friends, family, and people they meet who are in need. We are praying that it gets passed on to their congregations.
- That author Dr. Robert Coleman (*Master Plan of Evangelism*) came to Latvia to share how Jesus built multiplying disciples. We have translated his book and are using it as a tool to help teach spiritual multiplication. Pray for the families where parents have lost their jobs and are not able to care for their children: may God provide for them and help to find positive solutions.

## LITHUANIA

- Praise God that one student finishing her studies this year has decided to join the staff!

- We have a few guy students who help us in the ministry. Thank you Lord!
- We have a good relationship with local churches, and God provides through local Christians.
- Pray for the coming few months when our senior and new staff members raise support. We do not have a big Christian circle here, so our contact list is short.
- Pray that God would help us recognise and meet new potential leaders to serve with students.
- Pray for wisdom during our strategic planning in April.

## NETHERLANDS

- Please pray for the launch of the student ministry in Utrecht. By September we want to start in a second city. Five of our staff will move there. Pray for housing.
- Pray for development of a Web site with interactive possibilities for students and staff to connect with each other, one that will make a clear presentation of the gospel.
- Agape Netherlands celebrates 40 years of God's faithfulness this year. Praise the Lord with us for all He has done through this movement. Pray that many non-believers still will be reached in the course of the celebration preparations.
- GAIIn Holland is actively involved in promoting and raising funds for the African project, Water 4 Life. Pray for the 200 wells GAIIn hopes to put in this year, that the project will be a blessing and life giving, not only to the villages but also to the sponsors.
- Intercede for preparations and recruitment for our summer projects: Road 2 Africa and Coming Home (in the Netherlands). Pray that many will come to a living knowledge of Jesus.
- Most of our staff members are trusting the Lord to provide 100% of their projected support before July 1. Pray that our eyes will be focused on God and not on the world crisis around us.

## PORTUGAL

- We praise God for the opportunity to start our ministry in Lisbon this year and pray that God will specially guide our staff couple there as they prepare for this big transition.
- Praise God for opening doors at several Portuguese public and private high schools to do exchange programs (ConneXXion) with US student Venture groups. Pray for follow-up.
- Pray for the Dawn Refuge in Portugal: for the children and staff that live there, for the many opportunities to minister to the community through this ministry and for the need of resources.
- Pray for FamilyLife in Portugal as we develop programmes that aim at non-Christian couples and families; also for our work with churches, especially during the month of May.
- Pray for the preparation of the big National Gathering of Agape Portugal on September 12. This event that happens every other year has the goal of celebrating what God has been doing in and through our ministry and of casting the vision for the next 2 years.
- Pray that God will lead many people to attend and to feel challenged to join Agape in winning, building and sending wherever He leads us.

## SPAIN

- Please pray that our teams in every city may "Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be brave and strong."
- Pray that our staff members insist on being focused on the Lord, all walking filled with the Holy Spirit every day.

- Pray that the new staff candidates would find an environment of growth among us.
- Pray that we may be used to raise up a new generation of disciples of Christ Jesus in every area of influence.

## SWEDEN

Pray for new volunteers and staff members.

## SWITZERLAND

- Praise God for the Praise Camp where 2,500+ youth came together, giving their lives to God to make a difference for Him in our country.
- Thank God for the widespread partnership in the ad campaign for the Jesus Internet Project. We have received positive feedback and heard from motivated people who want to take "Gottkennen.ch" cards with them on the streets.
- Pray for the sports chaplains and volunteers who will be involved with the Ice Hockey World Championships, 24 April – 10 May, in Zürich-Kloten and Bern.
- Pray for wisdom for the E-coaches as they answer the questions of seekers coming to our site.
- Pray for the Women's Breakfast: That members would be filled with the Holy Spirit, that speakers would have courage in combining their knowledge with the spiritual content, and that in every area we would grow in numbers.
- Other breakfasts are planned for 4 April in Lenk, 18 April in Vilters, 23 April in Gossau, 25 April in Ebnat-Kappel, 25 April in Ascona, 2 May in Oensingen, 9 May in Altstätten, 26 May in Chur.
- Pray for God's clear leading for the Leadership Conference. 4-8 December. Pray also that we receive the accreditation discount for the rent of the room.

## UNITED KINGDOM

- Pray for our first-year staff to be encouraged by their study of God's word.
- Pray for the UK staff as we continue to raise additional financial support to cover significantly increased National Insurance payments and taxes that start in April.
- Pray for First Acts team members as they raise financial support. They find it particularly difficult to find financial support among speakers of their primary language. Because English is their second language, it is also tough to approach others.
- The leader of our "First Acts" team in UK has been discipling a group in Norway by Skype every week. They call it Skypelship!
- 27 April - 1 May: A pioneer "learning team" of staff from the UK will spend the week in Dublin learning about pioneering by doing it.
- 27 April: Pray for those who responded at an outreach to international students, "Globe Café," in Newcastle.
- Pray that a Community staff couple on sabbatical would be spiritually refreshed, gain insight on the work they do and return with fresh vision and direction.
- 9-10 May: Pray for FamilyLife's Weekend to Remember conference for engaged and married couples near Warwick. Pray that couples would make the step to fully commit their lives and marriages to the authority of Christ.
- 17-23 May: Some key UK staff members are taking part in the Agapé School of Movement Builders. Pray that they would gain useful skills and insight as they go on to lead others in a variety of context over the coming years.

- 17-23 May: The UK's team leaders are meeting together this week for training as well as discussion of important issues. Pray for a fruitful time together.
- Pray for the development of a new ministry to help graduating students get connected to other Christians in their workplaces and continue to grow as effective representatives of Jesus.
- Thank God for the Agape interns who are spending a year being equipped to share their faith and disciple others either in the workplace or the mission field.