

REBUILDERS



igniting personal
and social transformation™

Fall 2006

Strategic Christian Services' European brothers and sisters have not only embraced the Kingdom message – they have taken off and are running with it.

In July, Dennis was in Lille, France for its first *Strategic Life Training (SLT)* Intensive, followed by their second Transformum, which stands for "A forum for transformation".

"It seems to us that it was the deepest penetration of the message of the Kingdom we have seen; we are filled with hope for the future the Lord has prepared for our great nation," said Jean-Marc Potenti, who leads our partnering organization in France, ID2R.

The focus of the conference was on social entitlements and economic policy in France. The country faces massive debt and an over-extended government, as well as a general deterioration of the family unit. "The leaders coming out of these teaching times are going to be the ones helping shape the debate," Dennis said.

A vision to reach French-speaking countries began when several people from Switzerland attended the first *SLT* Intensive in 1995.

They expressed an interest in having the program offered in their country. The goal was to offer the schools and other SCS materials in German and French, and as a critical mass was built, to expand to other nations.

Some who attended these initial meetings were in Lille this summer to see this vision actualized. Dennis noted that, "Some people have been around long enough not just to understand the concepts but to come up with interesting ways to apply them."

Both the *SLT* and the *Business Leadership School (BLS)* Intensives have been held in Berlin and Austria as well. Translations are constantly being expanded and refined to make the curriculums useful in each region.

In August, Jan joined Dennis for the 10th annual Transformum in Biel/Bienne Switzerland. This is the original Transformum, held in conjunction with *BLS* and *SLT* Intensives. Over 400 people from throughout Europe attended. Using an extensive team of translators, the message was communicated in three languages. The theme was

"Building from the Inside Out, and the Bottom Up."

"The Transformum stressed the fact that we cannot expect a transformation of society unless we are being transformed and living a victorious and Christ-like lifestyle," said Hans-Peter Pache, of Berlin.

The conferences not only had an impact internationally, but also locally.

Walter Duerr, the event organizer, invited area pastors to make the Transformum a joint project. Twelve pastors responded and brought numbers of people from their congregations. The city mayor came to bring a greeting at the conference and was so encouraged, he cancelled other engagements and stayed for the whole day.

Jan shares, "Dennis and I are so encouraged by the work in Europe. Each year the growth in both depth and breadth is evident. Already many in the partnering groups are taking the message to their mission fields. This fruit is proving the principle of growth used for the theme; God does build from the inside out and the bottom up!"

Impact and Growth



Biel Pastors

Worship

Jan

Dennis

Some SLT Grads

The SCS vision continues...

Around the world, SCS impacts thousands of believers by equipping their leadership through our schools, seminars, educational materials, and personal interaction. Since 1979 we have endeavored to serve those who are seeing God's Kingdom and seeking to express it in the whole of human life and culture.

SPIRIT TO SPIRIT

~ Learning to Hear ~

A disciple is one who is listening to the Father amidst the traffic of life and a plethora of people with something to say. The discipline of hearing is a critical tool for disciples because it allows us to know where the Father is working in and around us each day. Hearing requires getting quiet, listening to the right people, applying what is heard, and daily asking the Lord for the ability to hear what he is saying.

What keeps us from hearing? We often listen with a wandering, untrained mind. First, we cannot hear if we are moving too fast and filling our spirits with constant noise. Our culture is driven by demonic influences that demand constant excitation and noise to keep us from slowing down long enough to get quiet.

One of the ways we hear God is by taking a weekly Sabbath day. The purpose of the Sabbath is not to make us holy; it is to make us quiet. Until we quiet down, we cannot evaluate where we have been or prepare ourselves for where we are going. My most precious times before the Lord are times of silence.

It is also important that we do not listen to the wrong people. Hearing requires us to know who to hear from, and who not to. When I believe God is saying something to me, I talk about it with my wife, my kids and those I know through revelation or experience are trusted counselors. One of the reasons God gives us relationships is so we can keep what we are hearing in front of others.

What else keeps us from hearing? When we listen, we are listening for good teaching or information; we are not listening to do anything with it. Jesus says if we will *do* the will of the Father, we will know whether His teachings are true (John 7:17). God often requires the doing before the knowing. We have to listen with an inner ear that says, "Lord Jesus, I want to be a doer of the Word, not just a hearer of the Word."

Listening requires a daily routine. As Isaiah 50:4 says, "He awakens me morning by morning, He awakens my ear to listen as a disciple." We must ask the Lord to give us a hearing ear everyday. We desperately need to hear as disciples in order to do the Father's work on earth.

Matching Grant for Website Development...

The SCS vision to train believers from all nations on how to live strategically in Christ will be dramatically enhanced with our plans to re-launch our websites. The new user-friendly sites will enable us to broadcast the message of SCS and provide vital remote learning support through the web. We will be adding teaching audios from both our *BLS* and *SLT* schools, article archives, questions and answers, as well as a new bookstore and shopping cart.

We believe the re-launch of the SCS websites will mark a new stage of our ministry in training and equipping believers and leaders. A long-time SCS supporter has just pledged \$20,000 as a matching grant to help us re-launch the main Strategic Christian Services website (www.gostrategic.org) and *The Business Leadership School (BLS)* website (www.scsbusiness.org). To complete this project we need an additional \$20,000. **Please consider supporting this project with a donation, and each dollar donated will be matched.**

If you have participated or benefited from one of the SCS schools in the past, please consider this an alumni investment to help train and equip others after you! Each gift, whether \$20 or \$2,000, contributes to the whole project. You can donate online at <http://www.gostrategic.org/ResBusiness1.asp>. Please designate in the notes section at checkout "web matching funds." You can also send in a check to our offices; in the memo please note "web matching funds."

We deeply appreciate your prayers and support to help us launch these new websites and communicate God's ways for believers to live more strategically in these days.
- Dennis & Jan Peacocke



PRAYER & EVENTS

CALENDAR

Please pray for the "matching funds" web project, SCS events, and that Dennis' trips to Mexico and South Africa would be used to impart vision, motivation to be equipped for God's purposes, and commitment to follow through.

SEPTEMBER

Seattle, WA:

SLT: 19-23

Seattle, WA:

Transformum: 21-23

Santa Rosa, CA:

SCS Board Meeting: 26-27

Web Project:

Matching Fund Goal: Sept.30

NOVEMBER

Monterey, Mexico:

Conference: 2-7

Dallas, TX:

Ambassadors: 10-12

South Africa:

Various Events: 13-22

*CALVIN HAD AN INTENSE PASSION FOR THE CONVERSION OF FRANCE TO THE REFORMED FAITH AND BEGAN SENDING MISSIONARIES IN 1553... BY 1562, THE MEMBERSHIP OF REFORMED CHURCHES IS ESTIMATED AT THREE MILLION (OUT OF A TOTAL POPULATION IN FRANCE OF ABOUT 20 MILLION).
- SCOTT J. SIMMONS*

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