

A call by Thomas Schirrmacher in Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul September 9, 2017

Dear Servant of Christ and close friend, Pastor Young Hoon Lee,

Dear Pastors and Elders, fellow servants as shepherds in Gods' flock,

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is privilege to greet you all in the name of our beloved Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and an honour to visit a place in which so many mighty acts of the Holy Spirit have taken place!

It is a privilege to be together with you. I see you all as a living example of what the Holy Spirit has been doing in the last 70 years since the Second World War. In spite of wars, colonialism, poverty and financial crises, and in spite of secular and religious megapowers like communism, national socialism, racism or islamism, the church of Jesus Christ and world mission have become global as never before. Not, that we do not have a task left, but never before has the approaching fulfillment of the task of world mission been so visible.

Today I want to call you on a mission to my beloved continent Europe, which once was the source of spreading the gospel into all the world, but meanwhile needs missionaries again, to bring the gospel back into the heart of the people.

In a document, I was honoured to help develop, the Vatican, the World Council of Churches and the World Evangelical Alliance stated together in 2011 in the opening sentence: „Mission is the very essence of the church“. This is, because God himself is a missionary God.

1 God was the first missionary. When men sinned in the Garden of Eden, God sent himself into the Garden to find Adam and Eve: „where are you“.

2 Jesus is the missionary by definition. He was sent by his Father to create the Gospel through his death and preach to humankind.

3 Last but not least: The Holy Spirit is the most successful missionary of all times, as he has been involved in every single conversion in history!

Yet Father, Son and Holy Spirit want his church to be involved fully in his mission.

A typical example of the story, how the gospel came from Asia to Europe for the first time. Acts 16:9-10 tells us: During the night Paul had a vision of a

man of Macedonia standing and begging him, „Come over to Macedonia and help us“. After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.“

Through dream and prophecy the Holy Spirit called his messengers to help and thus to sail over from Asia to Europe.

After many years of experience with the global body of Christ and studying the condition of the churches in Europe, The Holy Spirit has laid it as a heavy burden on my heart to once again repeat the prophetic call to Asia:

„Come over ... and help us“ (Acts 16:10)

Dear disciples of Jesus in Asia, I beg you to bring the gospel back to Europe.

1 The secularised people and liberal churches need the example of Asian Christian living in prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit. I could tell you many stories how got opened the heart of hardened Germans, who denied the gospel for decades, through the love and prayer of Asian and Africans.

2 Help us in reaching out to the many Muslims from Africa and Asia coming to the West and being disillusionists from all the hatred and violence in their own religion, longing for the love and peace of Jesus Christ. They rarely listen to European Christians, but they are very, very open to listen to Asian Christians.

This might be the time to win Muslims for Christ in the West, especially in Europe. Already now many Muslim refugees especially in Germany turn to Christ. I had a doctoral student from Korea, who not only finished his thesis in time, but started three churches, one in Arab, one in Turkish and one in Kurdish. God used him in a way he does not use Westerners in the moment.

So churches in Asia, here the prophetic call: “Come over and help us!” What better place could I find to issue this call than in this church?! And what better timing, than when we are discussing the Future of Global Christianity in a global conference here in Seoul.

I pray that we all will be filled by the Holy Spirit. According to Jesus' words he alone can and will “convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment“. But he has chosen to use us as his messengers. So we can become witnesses to others, yet even more have the privilege to witness his mighty acts before our eyes.

“Come over and help us!”