



# CBS

## International EUROPE

Everyone in the world...in the Word

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A bridge to Lithuania!  
~ Marrietta Smith

### Director's Note



### Synergy is Energy!

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1). As evangelist Billy Graham once shared, “The suspension bridge at Niagara was started by a thread attached to a kite. When the wind was favorable, the kite went across. Then on the thread they put a string and pulled it across. Then on the string they put a rope and got it across. Then they were able to build their bridge.”

One January night in 2009, God began a new work in a cozy attic apartment in Klaipeda, Lithuania. Through CBSI and a small group of women, He began construction of a bridge that would link Lithuanians with valuable resources for studying God’s Word.

It was over 22 years ago that Communism fell and newspaper headlines proclaimed the news, “**Europe is now united!**” (Or words to that effect.) Then as now, we can speak similarly. But, never before in the history of CBSI has this been true. In those first years of CBSI the dream was for a unique ministry in Europe that would especially reach the people who had been so long behind the Iron Curtain.

This spring, for the first time leaders from all over Europe, east and west, will meet together as one. The first weekend in May the group of about 35 leaders will convene in Budapest, Hungary to consider new ways and means to accomplish our ministry. This event is worth your attention. It’s important because our desire is to impact **every culture in which we minister**. In fact, the DNA and value we hold as a ministry... to raise up nations and impact the culture, is illustrated in this first spring retreat. There are 21 nations in CBSI-Europe. All are in varying stages of coming to national autonomy, some having reached it, such as the UK and Netherlands, and others still in process.

CBSI – Europe is creating a “**synergism**”, a dynamic that will empower leaders to focus on the whole continent, to work together. This synergism is the joint action of people that when taken together increases each other’s effectiveness. What we can do together is far greater than what we can do alone. Cross-pollination, encouragement between nations, insights and innovations are possible when synergism exists. In our pursuit of “**Everyone in the World in the Word**”, we now have a big boost that will provide new enthusiasm, motivation, corporate courage and efficiency of ministry. In short, there is new energy resulting from the synergism of a unified Europe.

It is with great anticipation of multiplied blessings we enter a new era of ministry in Europe. It’s both a privilege and a responsibility for me to preside over the synergy of the unified Europe.

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Picture of Student CBSI class honoring Marrietta’s birthday!

A few years prior, “a thread attached to a kite” found its way to Lithuania. The kite, none other than **the Spirit of the Living God**, transported me – a mere thread – to the post-Soviet world of Eastern Europe. The occasion was a summer English program with evening Bible studies to supplement the daily instruction. It was there that the Holy Spirit pierced my heart with an awareness of the rich benefits that had accrued to me through CBS USA, while my counterparts in the Baltic States thirsted for such experiences. God enabled me to look beyond the chasm of spiritual void to the opposite shore where I envisioned eager believers and seekers immersed in God’s Word. In August 2005, I heard the equivalent of Jesus’ entreating command to Peter and Andrew. To me He said, “Come... and live among these people.” God wanted more than summer trips and modest donations. He wanted all of me – my time, my energy, my focus. He wanted my life to be a living sacrifice of worship and praise to His holy name.



We invite you to visit  
Dr. Glenn Collard’s blog:  
**www.aknighterrant.net**  
A place where ponderings, wisdom,  
experience and insights are shared.



# Around the Region...

## Serbia



CBSI Training in Belgrade and Novi-Sad CBSI is new to Serbia, having begun this year. In early February, Margre Hays, National Director in the Netherlands, held a CBSI training day where 12 people attended. More training was organized for the city of Novi Sad. Ira Bogeski writes, "There were 37 people attending this training. Many of them took some materials home in order to start using them in their own small groups. There were also those who were encouraged to start a small group within their church family. Our desire and prayer is that CBSI will be a great blessing to every individual and all the churches throughout Serbia."

## The Netherlands



It was the desire of Margré Hays, the national director of CBSI NL to give away 10% of the national budget to another country because giving and tithing is a good biblical principle. The Dutch national board supported this idea. In December 2010 for the first time a gift was made to the CBSI ministry in Nigeria where Sholy and Mercy Yusuf are directing the ministry.

CBSI Netherlands had their national CBSI day on February 5, 2011. About 75 men and women, Christians and non-Christians met together around the theme "rooted and grounded". A Dutch Bible teacher spoke on this topic and started out with "I want to be known as the "man of the One book!" as he held up his bible. He challenged all to be rooted and grounded in the love of Christ as Ephesians 3:17 says.

## Wales



A super team came to train 11 new leaders in Cardiff, CBSI-UK Director Veronica Alvarez, Training Director Grace Wort, and UK Children's Ministry Director Ardva Boyles. She gave us an intense day of immersion into the CBSI study method.

Speaking of training, it was also a joy to have 5 new leaders from an evening home group trained to use CBSI in this new context. One of them had done a previous study and knew CBSI strength first hand. There were also several young people who desired to lead children. Now a team is trained to use CBSI Youth Materials to minister to kids (see picture).

## Spain



The Leibrocks are Calebs who are working in Spain, currently following up on previous contacts. There is a group in Madrid that is strong and growing. They are enthusiastic and loving the CBSI studies. Another group in the North of Madrid are building a team for a group to begin and we trust that they will grow as they start a book study soon. The Lord has opened the door to the Basque region of Spain where we now have a group of enthusiastic people for studying the Word. We have added the Basque language to the growing number of translated languages where we work around the world.



Multi-cultural class leaders met for their annual conference in the Netherlands. Leaders came from Milan Italy, Geneva Switzerland, Berlin, Kandern, and Ramstein Germany, Alkmaar Netherlands and Brussels Belgium (see group photo). They were drawn by the spirit of the Lord and love for His divine Word. The 300 people who study the Bible in MCC classes are usually on foreign assignments in Western Europe because of their military, ministry, diplomacy or business skills.

This year's theme of "Lost and Found" centered on the redemptive and compassionate heart of our Father God. The CBSI leaders reflected on how Jesus continues to seek and save the lost through the message of the Bible.

One discussion leader commented during the conference on how disappointed she was to be transferred from her previous location where she wanted to join a CBSI class, and how excited she was to discover upon arrival in her new city in Germany that a CBSI class was starting. All were strengthened and encouraged to continue to shine the light of God's Word amidst the spiritual darkness of Western Europe as they returned to their homes!



Finland



Committed leaders are emerging in Finland where interest in the ministry of CBSI is growing. A presentation to pastors to begin to work with us was well received recently. We are encouraged that the ministry has sprouted new growth in this last year, after sitting somewhat dormant for 10 years. CBSI for Finland is a well kept secret that is about to be broadcast.



Reach out...

Tell your neighbors, friends, and family members about the life-changing power of God's word. Invite them to the class you are attending, or one of our classes located in:

- Belgium • Finland • France • Germany • Italy • Ireland • Netherlands • Norway • Spain • Sweden • Switzerland • United Kingdom • Albania • Armenia • Bulgaria • Czech Republic • Lithuania • Poland • Romania • Russia • Slovakia • Ukraine

A bridge to Lithuania! ~ Marrietta Smith

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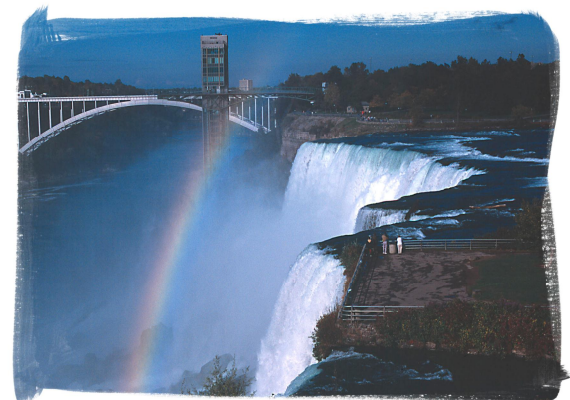
"At once they left their nets and followed him" (Matthew 4:20). Upon hearing His voice, I returned to my beloved Colorado and began the radical process of selling my home, distributing personal belongings and retiring from a longtime teaching career. Securing the blessings of my two daughters and son-in-law, I moved to Lithuania five months later with only two suitcases and a carry-on bag. Arriving in Vilnius among the Russian-style fur hats, tall boots and languages that thoroughly baffled, a deeper, personal application of Romans 12:1-2 had begun.

Sometime later, having prepared for the future by immersing myself in Lithuanian culture through teaching English and living among the people, God granted the deep desire of my heart. Toward the end of 2008, I was commissioned as a CBSI Caleb to Lithuania. The initial class begun in January 2009 has spawned classes for multinational university students, elderly WWII survivors and Lithuanians who are studying God's Word in their own language. Even as I write, a request has arrived from a pastor in the capital city of Vilnius who desires CBSI studies for his congregation. **Praise God for continuing to build the bridge!**

Prayer Request:

I pray for the **courage** of Joshua, the **perseverance** of Paul, the **heart** of David and the **faithfulness** of Caleb – whose energy at 85 years of age was comparable to the strength he enjoyed upon entering the Promised Land at the age of forty (Joshua 14:6-14). To all who desire to be carried aloft through the power of the Holy Spirit, I promise... God will land the kite with the thread attached in the place where He purposes to build a bridge.

**Will you consider the possibilities?**



# Prayer Requests

## ❖ Sweden

Pray guidance and blessing as we seek to form a national organization this spring, and to connect a Christian leader as our National Director.

## ❖ Germany

We seek to know God's mind for Germany and pray the newly registered non profit CBSI ministry with new leadership will catch fire.

## ❖ Bulgaria

Pray for the newly registered ministry and leadership. The challenge is to find the means to reach the country and the resources needed.

## ❖ Russia

CBSI is 10 years old in Russia this year. A 10th anniversary celebration was planned for May, but now due to circumstances effecting the national director, a new date will be planned for the celebration.

## ❖ Spring retreat

Pray for unity and oneness of spirit as the leaders from all over Europe gather for the first ever united Europe meeting, May 6-8, in Budapest.

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of **prayers** and **requests**.  
With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Ephesians 6:18



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