



# FEB

## Bringing Communicators Together

**FEB CONFERENCE - DUBLIN:**

**NOVEMBER 29th - DECEMBER 2nd 2018**

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The Conference Theme is *"Towards Unity - Building Strategic Networks and Partnerships"* and we have an excellent international group of speakers. The Emmaus Centre is a beautiful countryside Venue near the airport just outside Dublin and it would be wonderful if you can be with us. We are happy to say we have been able to reduce the cost a little from last year. We hope to see you in Dublin in November!



Speakers will include (from top left): Niall Barry (Ireland), Kurt Sprenger (Germany), Lars Dahle (Norway), Robbie Frawley (Ireland), Brad Turkington (UK), Julia Bicknell (UK), Rob Clarke (Ireland), Beate Busch (Germany), Per Birkeli (Norway), Stephan Busch (Germany)

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# SNIPPETS - MAY 2018

In this edition: Europe, Africa, Asia, Central America, Global, North America, South America

## EUROPE

### UK

Global Village (OM's interactive missions simulation), is working with the Keswick Convention this summer. With the theme of '*SENT: Serving God's Mission*', OM's Global Village will provide a practical element to the Convention's programme during weeks Two and Three. Working alongside the Convention's Base Camp and other agencies, OM's Global Village will allow Conventioners the opportunity to catch a glimpse of missional life at home and around the world.

Visit [www.uk.om.org/globalvillage](http://www.uk.om.org/globalvillage) for more information.

Contact: [info.uk@om.org](mailto:info.uk@om.org)

### Belgium

Politico and the Tony Burch Foundation will sponsor a "*Women Rule*" summit on June 21st 2018 at Les Ateliers Des Tanneurs, Brussels. It will examine questions such as: *How do women calling the shots view the challenges facing our world today? What difference, if any, do women make when they are at the table? What is the role of government in levelling the playing field?* Featured participants include: Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Canada; Kaja Kallas, MEP (Alde, Estonia), Committee on Industry, Research and Energy; Lindsey Nefesh-Clarke, Founder & Managing Director, W4 (Women's Worldwide Web); Carlos Moedas, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, European Commission and Klaus Ukens, Country Director Germany, Caterpillar.

Contact: [www.womenrulesummit.eu](http://www.womenrulesummit.eu)

### UK

So many teenagers can no longer read traditional clocks that schools are installing digital ones in exam halls instead. A generation of pupils who have grown up using their phones to tell the time are flummoxed by analogue clocks, teachers claim. In the past, parents might have bought a child their first wrist watch in primary school - but many are now skipping this step in favour of a smartphone. The phenomenon was exposed by a teacher at a "*Partners in Excellence*" conference in London.

She said; *"It is amazing the number of students I am coming across in Year 10, 11 and in sixth form who do not know how to tell the time. We live in a world where everything is digital. We are moving towards a digital age and they do not necessarily have analogue watches any more - they have mobile phones with the time on."*

Source: *Times Educational Supplement 24/4/18*

### **Germany**

The leader of Germany's Jewish community has advised followers to avoid wearing skullcaps after a spate of anti-Semitic attacks. Josef Schuster said Jews should exercise caution in big cities. Last week, two young men wearing skullcaps (kippahs) were assaulted in Berlin by an attacker shouting anti-Semitic abuse. Mr Schuster, president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, told Berlin radio: *"Defiantly showing your colours would in principle be the right way to go [to tackle anti-Semitism]. Nevertheless, I would advise individual people against openly wearing a kippah in big German cities."* Chancellor Angela Merkel told Israeli TV that as well as anti-Semitic abuse coming from right-wing groups, similar threats were being made by some Muslim refugees.

Source: *Daily Mail*

### **UK**

The UK government is currently considering new guidance for independent schools which would mean that they would not meet the approved standard for Personal Social Health and Economic Education (PSHE) teaching if they promote the view that same-sex marriage should not be legal. Coalition for Marriage is calling on supporters to stand against this proposal: *"Teachers will be gagged. Children will be indoctrinated. Even teachers who give for and against points of view could fall foul of this approach"*.

Contact: [info@christianconcern.com](mailto:info@christianconcern.com)

### **Poland**

CCM reports releasing two new on-line courses, *"How to pray"* and a study of James' epistle. After several months of preparation, they have also launched a new small group programme: *"The journey of transition"* on how to raise children in a wise, godly manner. The script was written by CCM partners Outback America and it is considered a new concept, which is expected to create interest and wide distribution. A home group course, *"Life explored"* is now used extensively across Poland, with one church having 15 groups studying it every week. The primary aim of the courses is to provide a safe bridge for people who visit CCM online, to help them join in real offline fellowship

and a church.

Contact: [hkrol@ccm.pl](mailto:hkrol@ccm.pl)

## **UK**

CARE will hold a Conference on Friday 29th June on Robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) - a series of tools that have the potential both to help or to harm, and may challenge our understanding of what being human means. CARE will be hosting the conference at the Knowledge Centre at the British Library in Central London to explore the theological ethical, social and practical implications of advances in AI and Robotics and to discuss how the Church might respond. Those involved in local church leadership or who have a particular interest in theology, science and technology, [please click here to book a ticket](#) (there are special concessions for students and those retired from church ministry).

Contact: [mail@care.org.uk](mailto:mail@care.org.uk)

## **Norway**

Despite disapproval from citizens, Norway has been the first country in the world to transition completely to digital radio. The Norwegian government completed its first switch to digital radio at the beginning of 2017. They closed down FM broadcasts as a cost-cutting measure even in the face of concerns from citizens. The government estimated that the change would save an estimated 18 million Pounds Sterling annually. The Norwegian newspaper *Dagbladet* published a survey saying that 66 percent of citizens were opposed to the transition when it began. Normal radios, including those in cars, became useless with the move to digital and forced Norwegians without DAB radios to buy special adapters. Critics argue that the government pushed through the transition to DAB at a high cost for citizens. Similar criticism arose in the United States in 2009 when Congress forced television broadcasters to drop analogue signals in favour of digital television. Ib Thomsen, a Progress Party member of parliament, said *"there are 2 million cars on Norwegian roads that don't have DAB receivers, and millions of radios in Norwegian homes stopped working when the FM net was switched off. So there is definitely safety concern."*

Source: [Huffington Post](#)

## **AFRICA**

### **East Africa**

By 2022 the Bible Society aims to teach 20,000 women to read and write in Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi

and Tanzania. The project will see 1,600 new teachers trained, to run literacy classes in 16 minority languages. In some of these communities, literacy rates are below 10% - and women are among the least educated. Being functionally literate is seen as the key to helping women access healthcare, trade their goods effectively, improve their self-esteem and have a voice in society. They will also be able to read God's word for themselves for the first time. Learning material for the literacy classes is currently being prepared and edited. More than 400,000 workbooks and Scripture booklets will be printed - 11 for every student. Teacher training is due to begin soon, and the first women and girls will sit down for classes in January 2019.

Contact: [contactus@biblesociety.org.uk](mailto:contactus@biblesociety.org.uk)

## ASIA

### **Nepal**

Up to 20,000 children are trafficked in Nepal each year. Viva's partner network CarNet Nepal has grown from five churches engaging in this problem to 500 churches working together today. Last year, the network hosted a four-day Anti-Human Trafficking conference with over 100 pastors and leaders. One church leader said, *"This conference made me realise that this is the time for the churches of Nepal to come out of their comfort zone and be the voice for the voiceless."*

Contact: [info@viva.org](mailto:info@viva.org)

### **Siberia**

Maksim felt a calling to move his family from Omsk to a predominantly-Muslim area in southern Siberia. Reaching out to Muslims is a new thing for the Russian church and he asked for some help. The Good Word Partnership arranged for Maksim and five other Russian evangelists from Siberia to take special training in Stockholm this month on sharing Jesus with Muslims. GWP's Blair Carlson will be in Stockholm to continue planning with them for a November Conference on Evangelism and future outreaches in Siberia.

Contact: [info@goodwordpartnership.org](mailto:info@goodwordpartnership.org)

### **India**

In 1978, TWR India launched with 5 languages. This has grown to 100 and their plan is to grow to 150 languages by 2020. 2000 people travelled for up to 4 days to reach the 40th anniversary celebrations which included a three-hour celebration on a beach. TWR India now has over 5,000 radio home groups, where groups of 7-10 people meet to listen to a programme, then have

discussion, prayer and fellowship together. Broadcasts come from 3 different locations to ensure good coverage in the nation of 1.3 billion people.

Contact: [twr@twr.org.uk](mailto:twr@twr.org.uk)

## CENTRAL AMERICA

### Caribbean

In late 2017, Hurricane Irma hit the Caribbean, closely followed by Hurricanes Jose and Maria. Widespread devastation resulted across Dominica, Barbuda and other Caribbean islands, with reports indicating that 90% of homes were made uninhabitable, roads impassable, power lost, and access to clean water and food becoming limited. One OM worker reported, *"Most communities are badly affected: the devastation of the hurricane flooding and unclean water continues to affect the people. Most villages are not expected to have electricity back in operation until mid-2018."* OM Caribbean, although not a relief agency, made contact with local churches and partners to see how they could assist. With *Logos Hope* in the area, OM partnered with MAF and Samaritan's Purse to assist in basic house repairs on useable structures and to distribute relief packs. In the next stage of restoration, OM plans to work with local churches to rebuild 18 houses on Dominica in the coming months.

Contact: [info.uk@om.org](mailto:info.uk@om.org)

## GLOBAL

### Global News Alliance

The Global News Alliance is a group of Christian broadcasters, reporters, ministries, media-equipped churches, and citizen journalists coming together from around the world to provide outlets with Christian news stories. GNA is facilitated by the non-profit Christian News and Information Institute, Inc.

Contact: [stan.jeter@cni.institute](mailto:stan.jeter@cni.institute)

## NORTH AMERICA

### USA

Middle-aged people are most at risk from the mental side-effects of too much Facebook and Twitter, US researchers found. Social media users were 22 per cent more likely to have felt on

the point of a nervous breakdown. But the trend was only seen in people over the age of 30. They suggested that those aged 18 to 29 are better able to cope because they have grown up with social media. The study also suggests that after the age of 30 people are more likely to dwell on whether they have achieved their goals. They do this by looking at the timelines and status updates of former schoolmates. But study authors, led by Dr Bruce Hardy at Temple University in Philadelphia, warned: *"As most people present themselves hyper-positively online, social comparisons are unrealistic and may deteriorate self-worth and mental wellbeing."*

Source: *Computers in Human Behaviour Journal* 20/4/18

### **Cuba**

Good Word Partnership's Blair Carlson joined Robert (New Zealand) and Ario (Mexico) to lead evangelism training seminars in Holguin, Santa Clara and Havana, with an overnight stop in Camaguey. Evangelism is not allowed by the Cuban government except on church property, but the Team spent time with pastors and leaders looking at the scriptures, praying and discerning together God's heart for outreach in their particular situations. One key need that emerged was reaching children. The next step is to invite children's evangelism trainers who will help them share the love of Jesus with the newest generation. The Team will return to Cuba in September to train in three more cities.

Contact: [info@goodwordpartnership.org](mailto:info@goodwordpartnership.org)

### **USA**

Zelma's Farm is a functioning farm in Vermont, owned and operated by Zelma Loseke, where a community of farm animal characters live and interact. The farm is an ecosystem that illustrates a faith-based lifestyle. Various aspects of the farm and day-to-day activities provide a platform to tell stories that deliver life lessons, family messages and values-based communication. Zelma's Farm has three core functions: Family Values Home - inspiring living environment for Zelma's writing and faith-based lifestyle; Production Setting - enables a broad range of content to be created to support publishing, websites, events and multimedia concepts; Volunteer Destination - a place where children and families can come to experience the benefits of Zelma's wholesome lifestyle and outlook.

Contact: [bdod@sover.net](mailto:bdod@sover.net)

## **USA**

The 2018 International Christian Visual Media (ICVM) Conference *"Unite 2018"* is at the Cool Springs Marriott Hotel in Franklin Tennessee from June 11th to 14th 2018. Speakers will include Karen Abercrombie, an award-winning actress; Gary Chapman, a singer, songwriter and television host who has won multiple Dove Awards; Beverly Holloway, a Casting Director and Chuck Howard, an entrepreneur, producer and publisher.

Register at: [www.icvm.com](http://www.icvm.com)

## **SOUTH AMERICA**

### **Bolivia**

Viva's *Good Treatment Campaign* runs in six cities in Bolivia. Supported by youth leaders, children took to the streets and handed out over 72,000 'Good Treatment Licenses' which asked adults to commit to treating children well and to improving family relationships. The campaign in Bolivia has the support of 91 churches, 100 schools and 14 governmental organisations. 15-year-old Gabrielle says, *"I have learnt that what we do makes a difference."*

Contact: [info@viva.org](mailto:info@viva.org)

### **Bolivia**

Eduard and Heidi Giesbrecht, ministry partners of Square One World Media, produce *"Ekj Ran"* (I Run) in both radio and video formats from their home studio in Villa Neuva, Bolivia. *"Ekj Ran"* features testimonies, interviews and biblical teaching on topics that matter to youth from the conservative Low German-speaking communities of South America. It also features contemporary Christian music by David Toews, whose hit song "Ekj Ran un Jaew Nich Opp" (I Run and Don't Give Up) is the most listened to Low German song on YouTube.

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