

FOUNDATIONS

IN CHRISTIAN YOUTH WORK



*European Evangelical Alliance
Youth Network*

Foundations in Christian Youth Work

Introduction

Young people in Europe live in an increasingly secularised, post-Christian environment. Only the local church is positioned to play a strategic and pivotal role in reaching young people with the Good News of Jesus Christ in their communities. More than ever, effective church-based youth work is vital to bring the Gospel to a new generation of European young people.

Nearly all Christian youth work in Europe depends upon the committed activities of volunteer youth workers and this is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future in most countries. In many European nations the evangelical community is small and churches have limited resources at their disposal. Consequently many volunteer youth leaders have little or no access to relevant, practical youth work training.

Intentional leadership development and youth worker training is essential, especially at a time when the culture we are attempting to speak to is changing rapidly and dramatically. The goal of 'Foundations in Christian Youth Work' is to make a significant investment into church-based youth work by training and encouraging youth workers across Europe.

The European Evangelical Alliance through its European Youth Workers Network is in a unique position to develop a like-minded coalition of trainers to deliver this new training initiative through the national alliances and partner organisations to churches and their volunteer youth workers. Our initial goal is to host 15 training courses in ten nations over the next three years to equip and empower up to 1000 youth workers.

We also hope the added value of mutual encouragement, praying together, networking and serving one another through these new training opportunities will have lasting consequences for the relationships and support between youth workers in a city, region or nation.

Foundations in Christian Youth Work

Vision

To provide access to high quality practical training for voluntary church-based youth workers.

Goals

- + To understand the essentials of Christian belief and how to communicate these to young people.*
- + To promote the development of Christian character and leadership skills.*
- + To equip leaders with practical youth work skills.*
- + To network volunteer youth leaders for mutual support and encouragement.*
- + To provide a training course for national alliances and networks of youth leaders which is accessible and at minimal financial cost.*

What is it?

The syllabus of three core subjects is divided into 20 individual topics which includes 30 hours of seminars and workshops. A range of teaching styles are used with an emphasis on learning activities and application. Youth workers who complete the course will graduate with a certificate from the EEA.

- + **Foundations in Christian Belief** - a foundation course to help participants 'know why they believe' and to equip leaders to teach and disciple others in the Christian faith.*
- + **Foundations in Christian Leadership** - understanding Christian leadership; the personal life, character and disciplines of a Christian leader; communication skills; team building skills; mentoring; networking.*
- + **Foundations in Christian Youth Work** - purpose, strategy and planning; mobilising for witness, evangelism and mission; leading young people to Christ; effective discipling strategies; practical 'how to' workshops to impact your weekly youth programme.*

Who is it for?

Volunteer church youth leaders and emerging young leaders.

When will it take place?

'Foundations' training takes place over 12 months. Three different configurations are available; three weekends (Saturday and Sunday only); two weekends (Friday, Saturday and Sunday), or one five day course.

Who are the trainers?

The training team is made up from the EEA 'associate' staff and leaders of the partner youth networks. The course is delivered in English (with translation where required). Experienced youth workers from the host city or region will also be invited to teach elements of the course material, where this is possible.



'Foundations' training in Athens, April 2006

The EEA 'Associate' team is:

***Grahame Knox** has been working with the EEA and leading the European Youth Network for 12 years. He has 26 years experience as a youth worker, trainer and networker. He is also a member of the World Evangelical Alliance Youth Commission.*

***Colin and Melissa Piper** and **Jussi Miettinen** joined EEA's 'youth associate' team on a part-time basis in January 2006. Colin and Melissa direct International Christian Youthworks in the UK, a leadership, training and recruitment ministry for young leaders and youth workers. ICY also currently works with partner organisations in the USA, East Africa and Australia.*

***Jussi Miettinen** from Finland is also a very experienced youth worker. He has recently been seconded from his role as youth director with the Finnish Lutheran Mission to develop the youth*

ministry of the Finnish Committee for World Evangelisation. Jussi is also the Chairman of MENET, the Finnish Youth Leaders Network and the second European representative on the WEA Youth Commission working alongside Grahame.

Derek Copley was principal of a Bible College in the UK for 27 years, training people for missionary service. He has huge experience in leadership training at all levels. As an EEA 'associate' he currently has special responsibility for developing and supporting EA's in central Asia.



*EEA Youth Leaders Forum,
Portugal, October 2005*

For more information on 'Foundations in Christian Youth Work' or the work of the European Evangelical Alliance Youth Network please contact:

*Grahame Knox
65 Woodheys Drive
Sale
Cheshire
M33 4JB
United Kingdom
Tel and Fax: +44 161 976 1221
E-mail: GrahameKnox1@aol.com*

Foundations in Christian Belief

1. To review the essentials of the Christian faith. To show that understanding 'why you believe' is vital to our personal Christian growth, witness and mission and to fulfil our responsibilities as youth workers to disciple young people in the faith.

2. To demonstrate creative ways to teach the essentials of the Christian faith to young people.

B01 God in the World and in the Word	How God makes himself know to us.
B02 Knowing God	What is God like? What can we learn about him? The attributes and character of the Triune God.
B03 Who am I?	What are we like? What about sin? A study on man's dignity and sinfulness.
B04 How God saves us	What God has done to rescue us from sin and back into fellowship with himself.
B05 New life, New lifestyle	What is our response to God's mercy and grace?
B06 God's people in community and mission	Living as part of God's family, the church, and sharing Good News with others.
B07 Hope for the future	Strength for today by looking to the return of Jesus Christ.

Foundations in Christian Leadership

1. To learn more about Christian leadership; the personal life, character and disciplines of a Christian leader.

2. To examine skills vital for effective youth work including communication skills, team building, mentoring and making positive connections with other youth workers in your community.

L01 Who me?	Lessons in Christian leadership from Nehemiah.
L02 More like Jesus	Developing our character to become more like Jesus.
L03 Leading by Example	Living a personal life of integrity and discipline.
L04 What are you saying?	Developing effective communication skills and learning from the example of Jesus - the master communicator.
L05 Developing a new generation of leaders	Team building and Mentoring.
L06 Moving forward together	Principles of networking and effective partnerships.

Foundations in Christian Youth Work

Aims:

- 1. To examine principles for effective Christian youth work.*
- 2. To learn personal and practical youth work skills to help your youth group grow.*
- 3. To consider and adopt a 'missional' approach to youth work through encouraging witness, evangelism and mission.*

Y01 What is Christian Youth Ministry ?	<i>Five foundational principles for Christian youth work.</i>
Y02 My Story	<i>Lessons from Paul on sharing your story and testimony with others.</i>
Y03 That's a Good Question	<i>How to lead Bible studies and small group discussions.</i>
Y04 Power for Living	<i>How to develop the prayer life of your young people.</i>
Y05 Mobilising for witness and mission	<i>Five biblical principles to motivate our witness and mission.</i>
Y06 A Change of heart	<i>Learning about evangelism and leading young people to Christ.</i>
Y07 A New Direction	<i>Discipling young people towards Christian maturity.</i>

What is the EEA Youth Network?

Mission

Networking youth workers and young leaders in Europe for prayer, encouragement, spiritual growth and training.

Vision

So that every young European has the opportunity to respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ, be established in a local church and mobilised for mission.

Strategy

Our key strategies are to do with networking and partnership, stimulating biblical thinking, leadership development and training, and mobilising young people for evangelism and mission.

Values

- + **Evangelism** - encouraging strategies to help reach every young person in every community.*
- + **Local church youth ministry** - our focus is the development of effective church-based ministry committed to reach the young people of their community.*
- + **Prayerful dependence** - unless the Lord builds the house, the labourers labour in vain (Psalm 127v1). We freely and joyfully acknowledge our total dependence on Him and His grace.*
- + **Indigenous leadership** - we are committed to encouraging and training youth workers and young leaders of vision, integrity and passion to reach the youth of their nation.*
- + **Partnership** - Building relationships and mobilising youth workers, churches and agencies to greater common effort and to reduced fragmentation. We believe that evangelical Christians are stronger together - that togetherness both glorifies God on earth and helps the world to know that Jesus is sent from the father (John 17v17-21).*

Objectives

- + To network youth workers towards strategic partnerships.*
- + To encourage and stimulate biblical thinking about youth ministry and evangelism to youth.*
- + To identify leadership development and training needs of youth workers and work with others to meet them.*
- + To stimulate prayer for the needs of European young people.*

What is the European Evangelical Alliance?

- ✚ **European.** The EEA represents Evangelical Alliances from Protestant Northern countries, the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Southern countries, Muslim Europe, Western, Central and Eastern Europe
- ✚ **Evangelical.** The EEA is committed to the absolute authority of Scripture and the total uniqueness of Christ. It's statement of faith reflects the historic creeds of the Christian church.
- ✚ **Alliance.** The EEA is made up of national partners (EA's) and Affiliate members from around the European region. The EEA is 'based' all over Europe, in all places where its members are active.

The European Evangelical Alliance brings together both the national Evangelical Alliances of Europe and a number of pan-European mission agencies. It has existed as a regional group since the 1950's, but traces its roots to the 1846 conference at which the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) was established.

EEA serves as a meeting place, a platform for common action, and a voice for Europe's Evangelicals.

The EEA's common desire is to serve the region by making Christ known and extending His kingdom both nationally and internationally. We aim to think globally and act locally, nationally and regionally. Our goal is to help one another to be contemporary Christian communities which both transform and redeem our wider communities.

The EEA encourages national Alliances to serve one another, and seeks to develop national Evangelical Alliances where they do not yet exist. The EEA is active in areas where working together makes us stronger across the continent as a whole:

- ✚ **The EEA Brussels office** represents 10 million European evangelicals from 33 countries to the European Union.
- ✚ **The EEA Youth Network** equips a growing number of national youth networks.
- ✚ **The EEA Socio-Political arm** helps national Evangelical Alliances to develop their social, advocacy, and religious liberty ministries.