

## Report for LCJE Europe 2007-2011 Jean-Paul Rempp, LCJE Area Coordinator

Of course it was a great privilege for me to welcome, for the second time in France, the members of the LCJE CEO Conference, on the occasion of their third Conference, in Lumières (near Avignon), from 18th to 22nd of May 2009. The first time had been in the Abbaye de la Bussière (near Dijon) in May 2005.

On my suggestion, it was finally decided not to schedule the 9th European LCJE Conference in the same year as the 3rd LCJE CEO Conference (as originally planned during the 8th International Conference at Lake Balaton, Hungary in 2007). We would have run the risk it might be too heavy for the participants, as well as for the organizer (as I was in charge of the practical organization as well as of the theological and missiological content).

We did well indeed, for the organization of the 9th European LCJE Conference was not to be exactly restful! Initially planned to be in Poland from 19th to 22-23rd April 2010, I had to decide to stop everything two days before it was due to start, because of the lack of flights due to Iceland volcanic eruption. Having been busy preparing this for over two years, I had to acknowledge that God's ways are really not ours!

Finally, after ensuring it was practically and financially viable, I was able to reschedule and postpone this Conference from 15th to 18-19th November 2010. As I said in my introduction to the Conference in Krakow: "The Lord manifested His grace to us by doing two miracles:

The first in that we were finally able to postpone this Conference in Krakow to November [there was only one date available],

the second by bringing more participants this time than the first!"

### **Why this conference in Poland? Its theological content**

When the question was raised as to where this Conference should take place, requests were put in for France. But since both last meetings of LCJE CEOs were organized there, as well as a European LCJE Conference in 2001, thoughts were quickly directed towards more Eastern countries. The final choice of Poland and Krakow came up rapidly too, mainly for two reasons:

The first one is that I had a close contact in Krakow, a colleague I knew from ProChrist, Pawel Gumpert.

The second is because of what Poland represents in Jewish History.

As far as the content of the Conference is concerned, it seemed important to several among us that we should not only inform the participants about the needs and the accomplished, or current, work, but also about the possibilities of cooperation in Europe, including Israel.

As for the theological content, three topics came strongly to mind for our reflection: The Uniqueness of Christ in Jewish Evangelism, this topic being always relevant. The Christian Theology in the Post-Shoah Era. Could we at all bypass this topic at a conference in Poland?!

Finally: Anti-Semitism, this topic having been requested particularly by our Israeli brethren. Truly, and unfortunately, anti-semitism and its consequences on Evangelism also remain relevant, which no-one would deny.

Besides, we had wished anyway to give special space to Israel in this Conference (which was clearly shown in the content of the program), but we also looked forward to the thoughts our Polish brothers and sisters would bring on those matters.<sup>1</sup>

So in the end the theme kept for this Conference in Krakow was: "The Uniqueness of Christ, Post-Shoah Theology and Anti-Semitism in Europe (including Israel)."

The richness<sup>2</sup> and diversity of contributions must not make us bypass the deeply symbolic aspect of this LCJE Consultation, which met on Polish ground, knowing what Poland has meant in Jewish history. It was no small thing to see Polish and Israeli Evangelicals meet there over the three days, for fellowship and intense thinking. It wasn't by chance that an optional program followed the Conference, which included a visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau.

In Krakow, there were 84 participants from 18 countries. As European Coordinator of LCJE, I was glad that this consultation was unanimously appreciated and a great blessing to many. This Conference proved, anyway, that there is a potential for more networking in Europe. Eastern Europe participants enjoyed particularly the fellowship with more organizations from the rest of Europe. I am also thankful that a good quality Statement was produced at the end of the Conference. I wish to thank very much Kai (Kjær-Hansen) and Bodil (Skjøtt) for being available each time I needed their advice or opinion.

### **Future**

It seems important to me that each LCJE European Conference should integrate new countries and new people who don't yet know LCJE. It was the case for the LCJE 9th European Conference in Krakow.<sup>3</sup> That is why I asked three participants coming respectively from Poland, Romania and Italy, who had never before attended such a conference and who came from countries that had never or rarely been represented until now, to share with us some thing about what this conference meant to them in the LCJE Bulletin.<sup>4</sup>

If God allows, I would like to deepen and develop what Krakow Conference stood for.

*Jean-Paul Rempp*  
*jpnremppbn@wanadoo.fr*

---

<sup>1</sup> In order to reach the largest number possible of Polish brothers and sisters, I had thought of having the Conference texts translated into Polish, as it had been done into French in Dijon in 2001, but unfortunately this was not possible.

<sup>2</sup> I wish to mention at least French Professor Henri Blocher who was one of the main speakers. Both his reference-expositions, entitled *Post-Holocaust/Shoah Theology* and *Theological Reflections on Anti-Semitism* will certainly draw a large audience at the international level. They are now available in the magazine *Mishkan*, as well as, together with most of the other papers of the Krakow Conference, on the website [www.lcje.net](http://www.lcje.net)

<sup>3</sup> This allowed information about the work and needs of several « new lands » could be communicated during the Conference.

<sup>4</sup> No. 103 (February 2011).