

CREATING A CULTURE OF TRULY INCLUSIVE!

Multi ethnic Churches

celebrating diversity,
creating unity

5 - 8 June 2013

Baptist Church, Krummgasse, Wien



Creating a culture of truly inclusive!

- ▣ Google proposals on this topic:
 - Gender Identities
 - People with disabilities
- ▣ Multi-ethnic Churches as a theme focuses our walk toward a culture of truly inclusive
- ▣ How wide should we open up? Do we have an identity?
- ▣ How to create a culture – top down or bottom up?
- ▣ Ephesians 2:19-22 as a guiding text to be truly inclusive

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Part 1: The early Christian communities in Acts

- ▣ The early Christian communities were multi-ethnic
- ▣ Some questions from the present Baptist communities in Europe to the same texts in Acts
- ▣ Acts 2-4: Beginning in Jerusalem – community in unity
- ▣ Acts 5-7: Community in tension/conflict
- ▣ Acts 8 and ff: The Gentiles and the Jews

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Part 2: Creating multi-ethnic communities in the EBF

- ▣ Creating multi-ethnic communities in the EBF
- ▣ Minorities and migration in Europe
- ▣ Baptist multi-ethnic communities:
 - like a mustard seed (Lk. 13:18-19)
 - like leaven (Lk. 13:20-21)
- ▣ Theological education and issues of multi-ethnicity
 - IBTS: no dominant culture, more than 36 nationalities studying
 - TCMI: US dominant culture and about 30 nationalities studying
- ▣ EBF a place to talk and to encourage cultural variety

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Part 2: Creating multi-ethnic local church communities

- ▣ On the local level, multi-ethnic communities have been developing and immigrants and minorities are welcomed
- ▣ A journey to a local culture of truly inclusive communities:
 - Hospitality as a core – beginning of the journey (protection, listening and sharing)
 - Encounter on a local level (explore, share stories, tensions, and openness to conflicts of cultures)
 - Shalom as the goal of a truly inclusive local community (share also power and responsibility with those from other ethnicity, culture and background)

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- ▣ Hospitality – Encounter – Shalom
- ▣ Not the lowest common denominator but a community that is both: **deep and wide**
- ▣ Truly inclusive is keeping the tension of diversity and unity of a by God transformed culture
- ▣ This is what we pray when we say: Your Kingdom come – Your will be done – on earth as in heaven.

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Multi-ethnic Churches - celebrating
diversity, creating unity
EBF Mission Conference
(Vienna, 5 - 8 June 13)