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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- 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)