



# Global Network

## The Outcome of the 2016 European Generosity and Transparency Consultation

By Dr. Sas Conradie



Thank you for your prayers for a productive 2016 European Generosity and Transparency Consultation. With enthusiasm, I would like to share the vision statement for a movement in Europe that was collectively approved by the participants in attendance.

**Reclaiming generosity as a key part of our identity as transparent disciples of Christ so that through the Church we can be fruitful in sharing grace joyfully.**

This statement summarizes the fruitfulness of this consultation. It came after presentations and discussions that I facilitated with 48 participants from 10 nations. Global Generosity Network organized the consultation in collaboration with the ECFA, Compass, and other organizations to ignite a vision for generosity and transparency in Europe.

One of the central themes of the consultation was facilitating greater generosity through better transparency. Dr. Gary Hoag, ECFA International Liaison, gave clarity to this theme with a plenary address entitled, *Financial Transparency and Christian Generosity: New Testament Insights for Modern Application*. He exhorted attendees to teach principles of Christian generosity by: (1) studying the teachings of Jesus, (2) modeling simplicity and service, and (3) providing practical tips for people. Coupled with that, so that people have confidence to give, Dr. Hoag urged ministry leaders and finance professionals to set standards for financial transparency by (1) appointing approved administrators, (2) establishing procedures for handling ministry funds, and (3) preparing to give an account before God and man. The theme was then further discussed during an elective workshop on peer accountability standards in various nations and a possible European accountability initiative.

The subsequent [presentations](#) were of a very high quality and resulted in stimulating interaction and discussions. Here are a few wonderful nuggets from the presentations:

- “Let us learn from an anti-hero [the poor woman in Luke 21:1-4] or an anti-idol, who knew how to trust God for her provision, to give joyfully, and in doing so to resist the devil's economic system.”
- “Generosity is what ordinary Christians do.”
- “If we want young Europeans to live generously, we need to teach them missional living and radical discipleship.”

Participants agreed to form a [European Community of Generosity](#) that will express God's generosity in Europe and reclaim generosity as part of our individual and collective Christian discipleship. This community of transparent people will show that generous living is what normal Christians do by

- Committing to model generosity
- Encouraging and influencing others in generosity
- Connecting and collaborating with one another to achieve more generosity
- Sharing and distributing resources, stories and events which stimulate generosity

Transparent living in all aspects of life emerged as one of the core values that the members of the European Community of Generosity commit to exhibit. Additionally, a suggested specific initiative surfaced that members of the European Community of Generosity facilitate good practices in ministry accountability as needed in their respective nations.

We praise God for what was accomplished during the European Generosity Consultation. But this was only the start to see every European Christian and Christian body grow as faithful stewards of God's resources, sharing those resources generously with others, living transparently, and giving to their full potential to advance God's Kingdom.

As Connie Duarte, chairperson of [Mission-Net](#), said after the consultation, "We long to see this younger generation live their faith fully, seek justice and mercy, and to be generous with their money, time, gifts and resources. Whatever Mission-Net can do to aid in that goal... count us in! Count me in!" Just think what can happen if all Christian leaders join this movement to inspire greater generosity and transparency in Europe!

I believe the concept of a European Community of Generosity has the potential to catalyze a movement in Europe that could impact the continent greatly. So with Connie Duarte, I am willing to do whatever is necessary to help Christians in Europe become more generous and transparent with my money, time, gifts, and resources. Count us in at Global Generosity Network. And yes, count me in, too!

I am looking forward to the UK launch of the European Community of Generosity on 19 July 2016 during the [Insights into Global Generosity Conference](#) that will take place from 18-20 July 2016 at the High Leigh Conference Centre near London in the UK. As European countries face an influx of refugees, social tension and economic challenges, I pray that Psalm 112:5 will become a greater reality in Europe: "Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice." This was at the heart of the European Generosity and Transparency Consultation in Spain!