



Dynamically Energized to Contend!

"To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me." (Col. 1:29)

The words of the apostle Paul ring in our ears as we write this update. Lately, we have been keenly aware of that contention to which Paul refers:

- ◆ Just as we were preparing to launch the registration page for Connect 2016, we learned that the *SFC-Europe* website was infected with destructive malware and had to be taken down, losing much content in the process.
- ◆ Three members of a five-member *SFC-Belgium* missions team headed to France were forced to cancel their participation at the last minute because of medical & legal issues.

Both of these events followed closely on the heels of our annual prayer weekend, a time of intense and intentional intercession for the unhindered proclamation of Jesus' message to student communities in Europe. This weekend also brought to our attention the fact that the Spirit is equipping and MOBILIZING *SFC* students to participate in God's mission in the world. Here are a few reports:

- ◆ The two remaining members of that team who were bound for southern France, traveled anyway and saw the Spirit contend on their behalf via divine relational connections with several people.
- ◆ Also powerfully assisted by the Holy Spirit, eight others from *SFC-Belgium* were Jesus' hands extended through food distribution, personal witness and prayer offered to the homeless on the streets of Budapest, Hungary.
- ◆ A team of 11 students & leaders from the DR:UM group in Maastricht, Netherlands traveled to Malmö, Sweden to help with the Kick-Off week of a new Mosaik student ministry plant.
- ◆ Returning from helping to lead a recent missions trip, one of our workers recently wrote to say, "Thanks to *Students for Christ* who believes in God's mission!"

So despite the "contention" often faced, we remember that "we are not of those who shrink back," but of those who strive onward and upward with faith as the Spirit's powerful energizing sustains us (Heb. 10:39)!

In other news, Dina had an opportunity recently to host about seven young stay-at-home moms for a Saturday brunch. It was a rich time of adult conversation & mutual encouragement; and it's even MORE exciting to have young mothers come to see their role as a calling and ministry. Blair is currently mentoring four young men several times a month, preaching in various locations, and traveling for *SFC-Europe*. The boys are growing up quickly and we're enjoying our time with them while we can!

As always, your part in this mission is a veritable lifeline! Thank you!
Your grateful co-laborers,

Blair, Dina, Claire, Evangeline, Christopher, David & Josiah Bonin



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