Dear Friends of EuNC,

Advent season is a time of preparation – not just for Christmas gifts we buy, but for the most important present God made: His Son Jesus Christ “that the world might be saved through Him” (John 3:17). Presents, parties, dinners are all good to have – but we must be careful that they do not divert our attention from the actual gift. There is always the danger that “He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him” (John 1:11). We rather want the following verse to be true in and through our lives: “But as many as received Him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in Him” (John 1:12).

As you read this edition of our newsletter be reminded that our students and alumni are involved in some form of ministry to share this Good News, the True Light – that many might receive Him. May you enjoy a wonderful Advent and Christmas season in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ!

First Graduations in Italy

In a moving service at the Italy District Assembly on Saturday evening, 17 November 2018, the first three students from the Italy Learning Centre were graduated with a Diploma in Christian Ministry: Luca Raciti (Catania), Allessandro Urso (Catania), Stefano Pani (Florence). All three gave powerful testimonies about God’s help and presence in their lives and throughout the studies. Stefano could not be present personally, but was connected via video-conference. It was a special privilege for me as Rector that Rev. Salvatore Scognamiglio (former pastor and District Superintendent in Italy) and his wife Milva were present – two of the first graduates of our college in Büsingen! They expressed their gratitude to be present at this event almost 50 years after the first Italian students were graduated and then started their ministry in Italy. Praise be to God – and a moment to be thankful for God’s guidance.

During the service we also took time to honour and thank Dr. Giovanni Cereda, who has been coordinating the Italy Learning Centre since its inception. After many years of faithful and fruitful ministry (now also seen in the graduations) he is retiring from this role. May God continue to bless you, Dr. Cereda, and make you a blessing to many!

By Dr. Klaus Arnold
(Rector)
A Word from the Rector

In this last EuNC newsletter of the calendar year 2018, I want to wish all of you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2019. These Christian wishes are not “good luck” wishes, but are based on the promises of God in the Scriptures; e.g., “that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6)

God’s promises are so true and real. I realized that again, as I was standing on Mount Nebo, where Moses was allowed to see the Promised Land before he died (Deuteronomy 34:1-5). Although Moses did not enter the land himself, God kept his promise and the people of Israel conquered the land.

As we “enter a new year” I want to encourage you to “conquer” it for God and His kingdom and that through your lives you will bring light where there is darkness, faith where there is distrust, hope where there is despair, and love where there is indifference. God made this possible by becoming human in Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to himself. To Him be the glory and honour for ever and ever. Amen.

Let us continue to “stay in touch”,

Dr. Klaus Arnold, Rector

Albania-Kosovo District Assembly: Graduation and Ordination

Parallel to the Italy District Assembly the assembly of the Albania-Kosova district took place in Durres. Because Rector Arnold could not be there, Piet Boekhoud, chairman of the EuNC Board of Trustees officiated at the graduation ceremony. Here is what he experienced: “I really enjoyed both the graduation and the district assembly. It all took place in the same hotel in Durres where we had the EuNC Board of Trustees meeting and Faculty Assembly in 2017. I felt very welcome by everyone. As chairman of the board it was great to personally meet the graduates from this Learning Centre and celebrate with them their accomplishment together with the entire district.”

Two additional circumstances made the events of this weekend very special: First, two of the graduates (Ergest Biti and Sonila Bejtja) were ordained the next day by General Superintendent Dr. Eugenio Duarte as ministers in the Church of the Nazarene! This is a wonderful picture of how the school and the districts work hand-in-hand to accomplish the mission of God. Secondly, the third graduate (Mustafa Isufi) is a pastor in the United Methodist Church in Albania. What a great witness of collaboration between Wesleyan churches. We received a report of the gratitude of the Bishop of the Methodist Church of the Central and Southern Europe Area (Dr. Patrick Streiff) about this accomplishment and how EuNC is a blessing to the Methodist church in Southeast Europe.

By Dr. Klaus Arnold (Rector)