



# Leaders to Follow

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## The International Leadership Institute

- Was founded in 1985 in Princeton, NJ
- Remains dedicated to leadership development
- Has run more than 70 educational programs in the US and Europe, for more than 896 participants.
- Has partnered with the US Department of State, the University of North Florida, the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and more than 700 other businesses, universities, religious organizations, private citizens and government agencies

## LOOKING AHEAD

by Jarda Tusek

Each year since 1990, the International Leadership Institute has taken a 2-3-day retreat to plan the upcoming year's activities. During this retreat we consider our past accomplishments while seeking a vision for the upcoming year.

Over the past seventeen years, these meetings have taken place in such beautiful and inspirational settings as Marienbad, Czechoslovakia; Murren, Switzerland; Jekyll Island, Georgia; Maggie Valley, North Carolina; Cloudland Canyon, Georgia, and Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. For the 2008 retreat we chose Crooked River State Park in St. Mary's, Georgia, as a quiet and peaceful place to plan for not just 2008, but for the next five years.

### ILI's New Mission

Friends and supporters of the Institute know that we have always focused on helping people. Sara and I are both educators at heart, and are most effective when we teach. Our teaching specialties include leadership and career development, as well as con-

versational English. Each ILI mission has included educational programs; the new mission follows the tradition.

### Changes coming in 2010

Sara and I have become increasingly committed to us-

ing the resources of ILI for a purpose more enduring than simply helping people to succeed in their careers. While being good at what you do, and being effective in doing it, is an important factor in human



A snowy day in Murren. Courtesy Sava Medonos

happiness, we know that there's more to life than what we see in front of us.

In our own lives we have committed ourselves to developing our spiritual nature—specifically, to becoming faithful followers of Jesus Christ. This commitment has led us to reconfigure the activities of ILI, maintaining our focus on useful educational programs while adding the element of helping interested people get to know Christ as their personal lord and savior.

We plan to move the Institute's headquarters to Prague in June 2010, to run a new, 2-year program, "Cesta Tam" ("there is a way" in Czech). The purpose of Cesta Tam is to provide conversational English lessons to young, career-minded Czechs, to befriend them and to introduce them to Christ in the process.

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Sara on top of the world in Murren. ILI archives

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## “Looking Ahead”

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We will need to use all of our entrepreneurial and leadership skills and talents to develop a well-run ministry, so we can discover how to meet the needs of Czechs living in a sophisticated, skeptical culture. We must balance the requirements of God for His people with the changing desires and difficulties of the people we want to reach.

## Values and Principles

Our core values and principles include the following:

- i. resistance to catering to society’s insatiable demand for entertainment;
- ii. presenting a God-centered rather than a me-centered teaching;
- iii. realizing that people are essentially sinners in need of salvation, rather than going along with the popular belief that all people are essentially good;
- iv. preaching the full Gospel of Christ, including the hard-to-accept parts, rather than preaching a “Christianity lite” message of the Gospel mixed with pop psychology.
- v. clearly providing an alternative to secular culture rather than trying to mesh with its values and principles.

We need to capture the attention of those



who will come our way to investigate our ministry through our English lessons, not turn them away by making them feel inadequate. Our model is Jesus, Who spoke directly to people’s needs.

## A New Educational Program

Our goal is to invite our English students to our advanced English sessions, and then to our Alpha sessions, mentoring program and church-related activities such as prayer groups and Bible studies.

Our calling is to teach people how to be successful in following Jesus by applying His teachings to everyday life. We will provide a customized spiritual-growth plan for anyone willing to walk with Christ, to provide mentoring of new disciples, who will then be equipped and find new disciples.

## Our New Mission

We at ILI believe our new mission is to help the people whom God will send our way in the Czech Republic to discover (through a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, our redeemer and savior) the true potential that God has planted within them.

We will use a refined “seeker” ministry model, believing that one of the best ways to reach the irreligious is to lower the threshold between the church and the secular world (without compromising the essential evangelical message of the Good News of Jesus Christ). By offering practical help in English and by becoming friends before we evangelize, we hope to “lower the threshold” to becoming a follower of Jesus Christ.

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