



# Servant Leaders

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## *Church Planting in the Czech Republic*

by Jarda Tusek

At the International Leadership Institute, we are developing a strategy for church planting in the Czech Republic.

Europeans today live in a time of cultural overlap, transition, and uncertainty. Churches are struggling to adjust to the arrival of an emerging era of “post-Christendom” in parts of the world that have traditionally been Christian.

This is definitely the case in Czech Republic and, therefore, we need to focus on understanding how to proceed with our work in the context of a post-Christian society.

This new era presents us with an unprecedented missionary challenge. What kind of churches do we need to plant in a post-Christian society? Is there a new, secularized and dechristianized European person... and is this person a “not-yet” Christian or a “no-more” Christian?

### ***NEW REALITIES, A SPECIAL APPROACH***

Certainly new realities in Europe call for a special approach in communicating the gospel. According to American theologian Lesslie Newbigin, contemporary society in Europe is a neo-pagan society, and its paganism, having been born out of the rejection of Christianity, is far more resistant to the gospel than the pre-Christian paganism.

Over the last several centuries, Europe has been deeply influenced, if not battered, not only by such political and historical realities as the Enlightenment, the industrial revolution, urbanization, fascism, communism and secularization, but also by a relatively new philosophy, post-modernism, which has cut deeply into such notions as absolute truth.

Gradually and steadily, churches have been pushed out of their former key role in the society to the margins of the private sphere. The public arena is now clearly dominated by faith in science and technology, and, above all, by hardened skepticism about anything which comes from the Christian churches.



### ***A NEW COMMUNION OF CHURCHES***

We are blessed in being part of a worldwide family of relationally connected spiritual communities who follow and worship Jesus Christ in a variety of expressions of being the Church. The articles in this issue on the ***CCC-USA Convocation*** and the ***CCC-USA Fast Facts*** will give you some information on our communion, which will be helping us in our church-planting activities in the Czech Republic.

We will keep you informed as we proceed on this exciting journey of spiritual discovery, rooted in the ancient faith revealed in the incarnation of the Divine Creator of all in His Son, Jesus Christ, as we are moving forward in relevant and fresh new ways in this 21st century.



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## ***National Cathedral of CCC-USA Hosts Historic First Convocation***

**Christ the Redeemer Church in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida**, was the site of the first-ever convocation (on September 21–23, 2005) of the **Communion of Convergence Churches USA (CCC-USA)**. Prelates representing CCC-USA churches in Africa, South America, India, North America and Europe gathered, along with clergy and laypeople, to sign the formal covenants of the CCC-USA, to ordain clergy, appoint canons and consecrate a new bishop in the communion, and to publicly inaugurate the work of the new communion.

The public launching of this new communion came as the result of years of prayer, inspired by the prompting and guidance of the Holy Spirit, by members of those churches which are now united in the CCC-USA communion. A joint focus on church planting, evangelism, discipleship formation and leadership development characterize the member bodies of the CCC-USA.

Abp. Daniel Williams, Abp. Wayne Boosahda, Dr. Robert Webber, and Dr. Robert Stamps, all leaders in the Convergence Movement, were featured speakers in day-long sessions. The World Missions Report was an all-too-brief time to tally the numbers of churches (well into the thousands) in the CCC-USA all over the world.



The mission of the CCC-USA is “the apostolic empowerment of God’s people for service through convergence of Scripture, Spirit and Sacrament to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commissions.” The CCC-USA Convocation provided time and space for committed Christians to consider ways in which these commands of Christ will be fulfilled. Our prayer is that this new Communion will bring the saving hope of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.

*Some of the information for this article, including the CCC-USA logo, was taken from Archbishop Wayne Boosahda’s CCC-USA Archdiocese Resource Portal*

### ***Communion of Convergence Churches USA (CCC-USA) Fast Facts***

- The CCC-USA is a communion stressing the practice of convergence, rather than a denomination. In the spirit and practice of convergence, the CCC-USA seeks to unite like-minded believers in fellowship, so that their combined ministries may be enhanced and strengthened.
- September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005, is the “birthday” of the CCC-USA, which was formed by uniting the ICCC (International Communion of Christian Churches, of which Christ the Redeemer is the founding member) with the former CEEC Province USA, a ten-year old communion with which the ICCC has deep ties of friendship and community.
- The CCC-USA may be seen as “a worldwide family of relationally connected spiritual communities who follow and worship Jesus Christ in a variety of expressions of being the Church” (Boosahda “Welcome”).
- The CCC-USA, although the name may suggest otherwise, is not geographically-based. Rather it is a relationally-based network of Christian Churches around the world through a growing number of prelates on five continents, leading churches which may vary in the particulars of structure and style, but which are united in their longing to save souls for Christ.
- A joint focus on church planting, evangelism, discipleship formation and leadership development unites the members of the CCC-USA.

