



# SERVANT LEADERS

Volume 1, Issue 1

Spring 2005



INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE  
PROVIDING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND PROGRAMS IN THE US AND EUROPE  
SINCE 1985

## EUROPEAN CENTER FOR EVANGELISM

by Sara Tusek

The International Leadership Institute would like to announce the establishment of a new Christian component of the institute, the European Center for Evangelism. This is the mission of the ECE:

*The Lord rules and the Lord leads the International Leadership Institute, going ahead of us and preparing our way for everything He has chosen for us. He is granting us massive doses of His amazing love, joy, grace, peace and power, so that we can creatively affect the lives of others for His kingdom. He empowers us in all we do, so that we can help others to recognize and receive Him through knowing us, This is a great privilege and tremendous responsibility, which we can only do by sharing His yoke, which is easy, and carrying His burden, which is light.*

In other words, the ECE is the "spiritual arm" of the International Leadership Institute, focusing on the development of Christ-centered leaders in Europe. Since its inception in 1985, the Institute has put assisting individuals at the heart of its mission. The Institute's first goal was to help business and professional leaders to overcome the isolation and hardships placed on them by their communist governments, which were dissolved in 1989 after more than four decades of totalitarian rule in Central Europe. The *Business Leadership Forum: USA* programs were tailored to give participating executives a taste of American business methods and principles, allowing the participants to choose what would work for them in their own country to move their economies forward and away from state-planned economies.

Partners in these executive education programs have been the United States Department of State, US Agency for International Development; the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic; the Jacksonville, FL, and Bratislava Chambers of Commerce; the World Trade Center-Chattanooga (TN) and Covenant College, GA, to name a few organizations. In addition, more than 1000 Central European and American companies, and 267 European program

graduates, have taken part in the *Business Leadership Forum: USA*. Programs. We continue to offer programs for young people to help them develop American English language skills (*American English Language Immersion Programs in the United States*) and custom-tailored internship programs; more than 150 young people have graduated from these programs.

All these programs have given us, the Institute officers, the privilege of working with Central Europeans, especially Czechs and Slovaks. We have gotten to know them as friends, and glimpsed the challenges and opportunities of their lives.

In the process, we have also gone through change. We have more and more realized our complete dependence upon the Lord God in every part of our lives. We want to be able to offer our friends in Central Europe the new life we have found in Christ to our friends in Europe, where religion has been, as often as not, either an empty ritual or an excuse for conflict. We know Christ as savior and friend, and want to introduce Him to our European friends in the same way.

We will continue our business leadership development programs through the *Business Leadership Forum: USA* division of the Institute using the *Leaders to Follow* newsletters, as we have since 1991, to let our readers know what new programs and services we offer, and to trace the remarkable economic and political progress made by the countries of Central Europe. The *Servant Leaders* newsletter will have an explicitly Christian focus and will help us prepare the ground for our new ministry to be headquartered in the Czech Republic. Thanks to all our friends who have given us the gift of their interest and, in many cases, their prayers through the last two decades. We look forward to deepening our relationships as we become even closer friends in Christ.

**Servant Leaders**

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## Five role models for the ECE

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*As we begin the work of the European Center for Evangelism (ECE), the lives and accomplishments of the following five noted Christian leadership models will provide inspiration and insights for our prayers and actions.*

1. James Hudson Taylor (1832—1905) was the founder of China's Inland Mission. He was a man of faith, who trusted in the power of prayer and mobilized a missionary force intent on reaching the entire nation of China. Taylor was known for his "postmodern approach" of living alongside people: he grew his hair long in a ponytail, dressed as a Chinese man, learned Mandarin, and ate and lived among the average Chinese.

2. William Carey (1761—1834) was a shoemaker by trade, but scholar, linguist and missionary by God's training. In 1793 Carey went to India. There were years of discouragement (no Indian convert for seven years), but by the grace of God, and by the power of the Word, Carey continued and conquered for Christ. Carey influenced timid and hesitating men to take steps to the evangelizing of the world. (2) Carey's "Enquiry into the Obligations of Christians to use Means for the Conversion of Heathens" evoked waves of evangelical missionary volunteerism.

3. Mother Teresa (1910—1997) was born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu in Skopje, Macedonia; her family was of Albanian descent. At the age of eighteen she left Skopje and joined the Sisters of Loreto, an Irish community of nuns with missions in India. From 1931 to 1948 Mother Teresa taught at St. Mary's High School in Calcutta, but the suffering and

poverty she glimpsed outside the convent walls made such a deep impression on her that in 1948 she received permission from her superiors to leave the convent school and devote herself to working among the poorest of the poor in the slums of Calcutta. Although she had no funds, she depended on Divine Providence, and started an open-air school for slum children. Soon voluntary helpers joined her, and financial support was also forthcoming. In 1950, Mother Teresa received permission from the Holy See to start her own order, "The Missionaries of Charity," whose primary task was to love and care for those nobody was prepared to look after.

4. The Moravian movement (1732—present) was begun by Count Zinzendorf, who was deeply devoted to Christ and prayer; as a teenager, he and five friends founded "the Order of the Grain of Mustard Seed." Their creed was simple: "None of us lives for himself." The Moravians matched their passion for Christ with a compassion for the lost.

Their first two missionaries, Dober, a potter, and Nitchman, a carpenter, were willing to sell themselves as slaves (following Paul's declaration in 1st Corinthians: 19) to reach the slaves of the West Indies. By 1930 the Moravians had sent out 3,000 missionaries—one missionary for every 12 church members. In a period of fewer than twenty years, the Moravian accomplished more missionary

work than the entire Protestant Church in the 200 preceding years.

5. Daniel Williams, Archbishop of the Communion of Convergence Churches USA and Senior Pastor of Christ the Redeemer Church in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. Christ the Redeemer is a convergence church, reuniting the principal streams of Christianity (Pentecostal, Evangelical and Liturgical) to form a strong body of believers. Beginning in Jacksonville, Florida as Baptists, Daniel and his wife Sharon became missionaries in Costa Rica and Ecuador, serving with several different denominations, showing them that there is but one body of Christ in spite of denominational disputes. He founded Calvary International as a missionary service agency, helped to plant and staff more than 1000 churches in the former Soviet Union, and has been instrumental in establishing Bible schools and seminaries around the world. In 1992 Daniel and Sharon started a church in their home; by 1999 this church, Christ the Redeemer, owned a large building in Ponte Vedra, reaching over 1440 members with a wide variety of services and programs. Embracing theological practices as well as fellow Christians of various backgrounds such as Methodist, Episcopalian and Roman Catholic, Daniel has fashioned a vibrant convergence church, Christ the Redeemer, which now serves as the Cathedral Church of the CCC-USA.