



EAST EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

Leaders together for a new evangelization

Forum's report 2013



*Forum
to Unite,
Equip
and Resource
Evangelical
Leaders*

*Kyiv,
Ukraine*

*13 - 16
November
2013*





East European Leadership Forum



From November 13 – 16, the annual Eastern European Leadership Forum (EELF) was held. More than 400 evangelical ministers from Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Armenia, Moldova and Lithuania gathered together during these days to seek biblical standards for effective Christian leadership both within the Church and outside it.

East European Leadership Forum is a subsidiary event of the European Leadership Forum, which has a solid history and influence in Western European Christianity.

The Forum's goal is to build up a Biblical Church and evangelize Eastern European nations.

This year the Forum included 10 Networks: Church Leadership, Evangelism, Apologetics, Church Planting, Civil Society, Education, Youth Ministry, Media and Communication, Family Ministry, and Arts. Participants were given the opportunity to participate in 100 different seminars. The important elements of the Forum were also lunches and dinners, where in an informal atmosphere, participants could discuss various issues and invite Forum members to cooperate with one another's projects.

65 speakers from Eastern Europe as well as from the UK and USA taught at the Forum.

Plenary sessions inspired participants to become the answer to the needs of society and to meet the challenges faced by evangelical leaders today.

Pastor Jim Cecy from California was the main speaker of the plenary sessions, as well as a series of seminars



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on the topic of sexual purity and holiness. He urged pastors and ministers to be on guard allowing no immorality into their lives.

The Church Leadership Network was the most numerous and considered a wide range of issues, including: effective church leadership, counseling, and administration of a local church. Valeriy Antoniuk, Vice-President of the Ukrainian Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists Associations, and Sergey Tsvor, Deputy Bishop of the United Pentecostal Churches in Belarus, shared their ministry experience, as well as other pastors and ministers from the countries of Eastern Europe.

Alexander Borysiuk, the leader of the Evangelization Network, basing his testimonies on many years of missionary and pastoral experience, shared about the development of the local church through personal relationships and home groups. Paul Shelpuk, violinist of the "Salvation" Christian music band, spoke how to bring the Gospel via creativity. Andrey Dolganov, coordinator of an international evangelistic website "Search for God", shared practical recommendations for writing scripts that communicate the Gospel message in video format for the internet.

Speakers of Church Planting Network presented perspectives and features of the modern missionary and successful programs. Together with the participants development strategies and plans for cooperation were discussed. Valeriy Alymov, pastor and missionary center director at Ukrainian Missionary Church, coordinated the network.





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Participants of Media and Communication Network heard how practically the church of all sizes and capabilities can be an effective communicator through the media in modern society. Vitaliy Stebenev told about the steps on how to reach the younger generation through the project "Superbook".

The message about Biblical principles in the formation of civil society and the rule of law in the country was shared by the speakers at Church and Civil Society Network. The Network was coordinated by a pastor from Belarus, Antony Bokun.



Speakers of Youth Ministry Network stressed the potential and the impact that exists in young people. They inspired evangelical leaders to preach through their professions, take an active civil position and influence the course of history of our nations. Presented topics aroused great response from the audience and fruitful discussions led to the birth of relevant ideas.

The Apologetics Network was presented in three sections: theological, philosophical and scientific apologetics of Christianity. Presentations were made by: Valeriy Reshetinsky, senior pastor of Christian Hope Church, Bishop of the association of evangelical churches "Ukrainian Missionary Church", and the Network leader; Gennady Likhikh, coordinator of apologetic ministry in Russian Baptist Union; Vladislav Olkhovskiy, Doctor of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, professor, member of the Ukrainian Physical Society, and others.



Based on the principles outlined in the Word of God and personal experience, the speakers of the Family Ministry Network provided training, reminding us about the purpose and role of parents, family prayers, and examined contemporary cultural factors and their influence in the formation of the family. Steve Weber, President of the International NGO Charity Association, "Emmanuel", spoke about the particular responsibility of fathers in the upbringing and formation of the child's personality.

Topics at the Education Network introduced the



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integration issues of the Bible teaching in different subjects; teaching initiative of Christian ethics in Ukrainian schools, as well as an alternative method of teaching children at home. It was not just a theory, but a practical demonstration of the possibilities of biblical integration and presentation of various Christian educational projects.

Speakers of the Arts Network inspired participants to create Christian art projects. Together with Bruce Little, Ph.D in Philosophy of Religion, discussion was held about the apologetic value of the arts and how we can communicate the Christian worldview through visual art, film and music. Alyona Sitnik, the Network leader, emphasized the need to use all kinds of art, as well as the media, to go beyond the walls of the church and to establish lasting biblical values in modern culture.

Within the East European Leadership Forum two roundtables were organized. The first one, entitled "The Role and Importance of Psychological Assistance in the Church Today", took place involving Professor Glynn Harrison. The theme and discussion of the second roundtable focused on the development and perspectives of theological education in Ukraine.

Development of partnerships with various evangelical denominations throughout the year has opened up new opportunities for joint projects and helped to increase the number of participants in 2013.

As a result of cooperation with Christian Media, the Forum received strong advertising support. Christian television, radio, and evangelic websites helped spread the vision of the EELF and introduced the speakers through live interviews.

More than 40 volunteers from different churches in Ukraine and Belarus took part in the preparation and hosting of the event. Through their dedicated work the Forum rose to a new level of the organization.

The Eastern European Leadership Forum is not only an annual four-day event. It intends to be a catalyst for a variety of programs and activities throughout the





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year. In December it plans to post the videos of sermons and teachings from the EELF 2013 in the media. Thus, the message, which was passed on by the speakers of the EELF, will be available to a wider audience.

Regular newsletters and media involvement will provide information regarding EELF speakers and will be able to inform the body of Christ of planned projects and activities.

Starting in 2014 seminars featuring the Forum speakers will be held in Kyiv and other cities of Ukraine and Belarus, and will be recorded with the purpose of their further spread in the media. Also as in previous years we will continue to cooperate with Ukrainian universities and holding apologetic meetings with EELF speakers.

We express our thankfulness to the team of Communication Institute, Clay Whitmire, volunteer coordinator at the European Leadership Forum, and his wife Lynn who took the opportunity to come and dedicated themselves to serve with us. We also express our deep gratitude to Greg Pritchard for his mentoring and support over the last years.

Many thanks to all our friends for their sincere prayers and every possible help. May God bless you and multiply the fruit of your ministry.

Jaroslav Lukasik

Director of East European Leadership Forum

