



EAST EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP FORUM

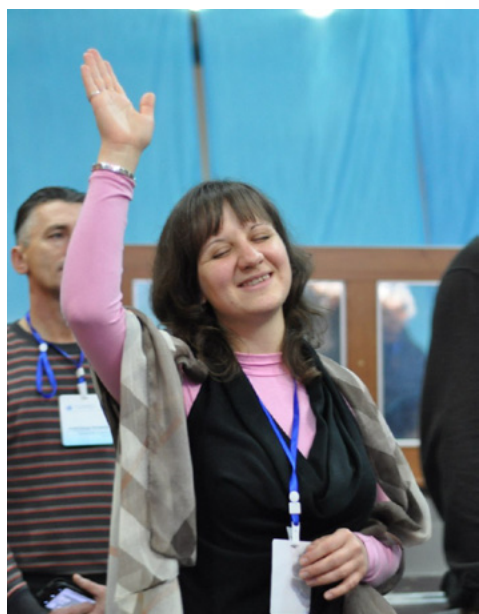
Forum's report 2014

Leaders together for a new evangelization



On November 12 – 15 the annual East European Leadership Forum (EELF) was held. 450 evangelical ministers from Belarus and Ukraine gathered together to listen to what the Spirit says to the Church today; to seek the ways and possibilities to be able to provide answers for the challenges of this time.

The 2014 was rich with challenges: Ukraine is experiencing a turning point in its history and simultaneously being a catalyst for positive changes in Eastern Europe. Now it's a year since the whole world had been gazing at Ukraine. It is obvious that in such crucial moments of history, the Church plays a key role in the formation of a God-fearing and pious society.





East European Leadership Forum

The Forum has brought together evangelical leaders, sensitive to the needs of the time, speakers-practitioners who can teach and inspire. As a result, there were 65 speakers from Eastern Europe, UK and the USA talking at the EELF.

This year the Forum included 10 Networks: Church Leadership, Evangelism, Apologetics, Civil Society, Education, Church Planting, Youth Ministry, Media and Communication, Family Ministry, Christianity and Culture. Besides, all the participants were given the opportunity to take part in 94 different seminars — an important element of EELF vital activity, a time when in the informal atmosphere different questions of interest could be discussed and the participants could invite one another to cooperate in joint projects.

The plenary sessions which started and ended each day of the Forum set the tone and highlighted the accents. Dietrich Schindler, Stanislav Gruntkovsky, Bruce Little, Glynn Harrison, Vladimir Omelchuk, and Steve Weber shared bright messages and presented the challenges faced by today's ministers.

Forum exists as a platform of uniting, equipping and providing resources to evangelical leaders.

The theme of the Christian position in the war was the content of one of the round tables and has prompted lively discussions. According to the data provided by the chaplains who have taken part in the Forum, Anatoly Kushnirchuk and Steve Cooper, as a result of military operations on the territory of Ukraine now the society has to face the challenge of post-traumatic syndrome in about 100 thousands of Ukrainians. What to do with it? What knowledge and skills should the Church have to help these people to return to peaceful life? The ministry of chaplains became demanded in modern Ukrainian society. The military chaplains help not only soldiers, but also their families in the rear, doing those «good works, which God hath before ordained that we should».



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.





East European Leadership Forum



Pastor Vladimir Brychka, senior presbyter of the Pentecostal Churches Union in Zhytomyr region, drew attention of the **Church Leadership Network** participants to the need to focus all Church efforts on helping people overcome misconceptions and stand firm in the last days. Such relevant topic as «Formation of the church budget» was shared by Anatoly Kozachok, senior pastor of Philadelphia Church, Kyiv, and senior presbyter of Pentecostal Churches Association in Kyiv city. The priorities for church programs funding were considered by assessing their effectiveness.

This year at the **Education Network** the leading role of universities in the revival, renewal and reformation of society was discussed.



Family Ministry Network dealt with practical methods of overcoming the crisis in the relations of spouses, the role of fatherhood in the formation of a harmonious personality of a child, biblical principles of family happiness. The theme of family identity sounded very relevant given the fact that the existence of marriage institution in Ukraine is under a threat.

Oleg Gonchar, the head of a media project NaGrani.org and media resource for online evangelism YesHels.com, talked about media projects and media resources for Internet evangelism at the **Media and Communications Network**. Steve Lowisz, an expert in business, teacher, author of a number of publications, founder of the consulting firm «Lowisz





Youth Ministry Network was focused on the formation of integral personality of a young minister, the ability to develop spiritual, moral, intellectual and social spheres of life harmoniously. The participants reflected on the mission of youth in the modern world and its potential as history makers in the 21st century.

Emeritus Professor of the Bristol University, Glynn Harrison held a two-day workshop in the field of Christian counseling. Jerry Twombly, a founder and executive director of the International Ministries "Building God's Way", conducted the trainings on fundraising and development of Christian organizations.

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East European Leadership Forum



The arrival of prominent American speakers, besides the participation in the program of the Forum, was an opportunity to organize a series of seminars for Christian ministers in Kyiv. On Sunday, November 16 they could serve with the Word in the large churches of Kyiv. Chaplain Steve Cooper, as well as Jim Davids, the Professor of Law in Regent University, has lectured in several key universities in Kyiv. New agreements on continued cooperation with Ukrainian universities were reached.

As a result of cooperation with Christian Media, the Forum received strong advertising support. Christian television, radio, and evangelic websites spread the vision of the EELF and introduced the speakers' message. At the Forum there were correspondents from Religious Information Service of Ukraine, Christian News

mega-portal "InVictory" and TV Company "CNL". Online broadcasting of the plenary sessions was conducted all four days. Social networks users could be aware of the Forum events online through short informational posts and photos made by correspondent-volunteers.

More than 60 volunteers from different churches in Ukraine and Belarus took part in the preparation and hosting of the event. These are experienced leaders, involved in the work of EELF for several years; some of them had the opportunity to serve in the team of ELF volunteers in 2013- 2014. Due to their dedicated work the Forum rose to the new level in its administration which was noted by the participants.





East European Leadership Forum

We express our thankfulness to the team of Communication Institute, Clay Whitmire, volunteer coordinator at the European Leadership Forum, and his wife Lynn who found the opportunity to share a parting word with our team of volunteers, although they were not able to be with us in person this year. 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

