

# SUNSET APOLLOS INSTITUTE

Training Leaders  
For Today's Church  
[www.eastbrainerdchurch.org](http://www.eastbrainerdchurch.org)

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**Sunset International Bible Institute (SIBI)** is committed to training able, evangelistically driven spokesmen of the Word, and Biblically proficient local church leaders for the body of Christ. It wants to take advantage of every opportunity to train individuals to persuasively proclaim the Christ, to instruct in how to plant healthy churches and to prepare individuals to serve effectively.

SIBI is already systematically training individuals through a wide range of efforts: training in established schools (57 schools); distant learning initiatives; internet instruction, seminars and video instruction, and onsite campus training in Lubbock, Texas. At present SIBI is training over 8000 individuals throughout the world.

In addition to the already existing efforts, SIBI is in the process of developing a training program for the preachers and developing leaders in countries around the world. The training program to accomplish this training is called the Apollos Institute.

**Why the name "Apollos Institute"?** Apollos is the name of a Jewish Christian from Alexandria who appears in the narrative of Acts (18:24-19:1) and in 1 Corinthians. According to Acts, he possessed great skills in Greek rhetoric and had already learned much about Jesus when he arrived in Ephesus and began speaking in the synagogue. His abilities soon brought him to the attention of the Christians, Priscilla (Prisca) and Aquila, who gave him further instruction in the Christian faith. The Apollos Institute is where individuals who know Jesus, who are eloquent in the Word of God, but who need further instruction, can come and receive additional training in leadership.

On the recommendation of existing local leaders and churches, select individuals will be invited to participate in a three-week Leadership Training Seminar. The seminar will be held in countries where SIBI has a concentration of students, graduates, and leaders. The seminar will be an intense training in leadership, church planting, evangelism, personal and spiritual growth, and ethic and morals of leaders.

## **Describe the need**

The churches of Christ have approximately 166 schools throughout the world dedicated to the training of men and women to be servants of Christ. Fifty-

seven of those schools (the number changes almost daily) are connected to the Sunset International Bible Institute. For the past 46 years thousands of individuals have received thorough knowledge in Bible through the efforts of SIBI. These students are spread throughout the world. The proliferation of "world evangelism plans" by groups and individuals has continued to increase as churches have mobilized to spread the gospel into the far reaches of the world. These efforts have resulted in thousands of people coming to Christ and hundreds of new churches being established.

However, at the same time, there has not been corresponding attention given to developing leaders who will be able to direct and administer the work of God in a dynamic manner. Consequently, we have a deficit of sound, biblical leaders; and with an increase in new churches, there is an increasing deficit of leaders.

In addition to this crisis of quantity of new leaders, we also face a crisis of the quality of existing leaders. It would be careless and irresponsible for us to simply rejoice in the great harvest of souls that is happening today without addressing the issue of leader development.

This crisis of leader development, unless it is addressed, will result in the loss of much of the harvest of souls!

### **Define the purpose and aim**

Traditionally, our primary goal has been to academically train leaders while leaving them to experience the struggles of leadership alone.

**Goal:** The goal of Sunset Apollos Institute is to provide both the academic and the mentoring process which will direct the whole person – spiritual life, relational experiences, ethical and moral character development, as well as ministry skills and competence to handle a growing church.

**Purpose:** The intent of the program will be to select and train recognized and committed leaders (professional, business, and community leaders, local evangelists) in both the classroom and field experience, as well as create a balanced approach to holistic training.

**Aim:** To develop gifted leaders who will be able to further equip and build strong, vibrant local churches through their evangelistic activities.

In this new paradigm of academic and mentoring training, the new leader will experience an immersion in real-life, real-time, culturally sensitive training which will all work together to build the potential leader.

### **Location of Seminars**

The Sunset Apollos Institute will be located in a major city on every populated region where Sunset International Bible Institute has an existing school: Australia, Europe, Middle East, Africa, South America, Central America, Asia [which includes China], and India, etc..

These locations and schools will provide the "built in" resource tools to have a seminar. They can provide the on-site personnel, facilities, and contact information with potential seminar participants.

Also, by using existing school locations, entrance into those countries and the availability of potential mentors for each participant is greatly enhanced.

### **Outline the process of training**

First, there is the seminar training for three weeks. The seminar training will be an on-site academic environment where participants will be trained by skilled teachers and professors. Participants will be encouraged to take notes of the presentation, enter into discussion, write papers, and share experiences. According to the discretion of the teacher, break-out groups will be utilized to work on practical challenges as they relate to the cultural background of the students.

Second, there is a system of mentoring for one year. Mentors will be trained and given material which Sunset Apollos Institute will provide to each mentor. These mentor, on completion of training, will be assigned 2 to 4 seminar participants who will have scheduled meetings throughout the year to discuss their challenges, improve their skills, and encourage each other in their function as leaders.

### **Qualify the professors**

Teachers for the seminars will be a mixture of instructors from across the globe. The top teachers and experts in their particular area will be used to teach the classes. If there are three teachers from the USA then there will be two or three from the host culture.

**Why is it more effective for seminar teachers to be both North Americans and nationals from the host country?** First, for many people of the world, Christianity is identified as a Western religion, originating from the United States and Europe. In reality, Christianity had its origin and growth in the Middle East and Africa. Yet to some, teaching Christianity is viewed as a means of cultural imperialism, a way that Westerners have of trying to press Easterners into their own mold. And, to some religious groups, that has been their agenda (whether intentional or accidentally).

This is not the purpose or intent of Sunset Apollos Institute. The gospel must be communicated in terms of the prospects' own cultural environment. As teachers, we must never change the essence of the gospel; but we must adapt the ways we express it — or, it will not be heard. With that in mind, the blending of teachers will assist in accomplishing that goal.

Second, the most important reason for the blending of instructors is the ability of the seminar to train students with the cultural background of the student in mind. To that end, each teacher from North America will be required to research the culture of the host country. National teachers will make themselves available to assist them in adjusting to the cultural environment and in the presentation of the material. Additionally, each professor will receive a packet of information from the host country students which will assist the teachers in preparing the material to be delivered (see student requirements).

Teachers are required to furnish their own transportation to and from the seminar site. Food, housing, and transportation in the host country will be provided.

### **Student recruitment**

Seminar participants will be recruited from a network of representatives from existing schools, teachers, and local leaders. Relational (one on one) advertising and recruitment will assure that seminar participants receive the enthusiastic spirit that typical advertising cannot communicate. These word-of-mouth recommendations from leaders to leaders will encourage applications to attend the seminar. Leaders in host countries can be given cards to distribute to potential students.

Seminar participants will be required to furnish their own transportation money to and from the seminar location. However, food, housing and student materials will be provided by Sunset Apollos Institute, and scholarship funds must be raised for the students. All other expenses are the responsibility of the seminar participant.

**Recruitment assignment for entering students.** Due to the importance of this document, each participant MUST submit his essay prior to their arrival.

Overview of Required Content

Personal Information about each participant - page 1

Key Information about participants country - page 2

Research concerning challenges of the participant's church and faith - pages 3, 4, & 5

Expectations, Desires, and Vision Statement - page 6

### **Curriculum development**

Major courses for the studies will be fixed and assigned to experts in the field of their lecture. Other courses will be developed as each host country expresses their needs and challenges. These courses are under construction and will be placed on this website in the near future. But here are some general courses which are being proposed for development:

The Bible among other Scriptures

Evidence for belief in God / Christ

The Process and Plan of Redemption/Salvation

Character of Leaders: morals & ethics; relational development.

Epistemology: Developing the process of right thinking. (knowledge, processed thinking, decision making)

Conflict Resolution and Team Relationship Development

Creating an effective Bible class program within the local church.

The Art of Communication (This is not preaching or teaching, but how to leaders communicate ideas, decisions, goals, dreams, information

critical to the group. One of the biggest problems we have in leadership is LACK of communication skills.)

#### Developing Local Church Leaders

How to Spot them

How to Train them

How to Encourage them

How to Release them (allowing the leaders to lead)

How Leaders Involve the Entire Church (Getting members of the congregation involved in the work of God.)

Developing a Strategic and Workable Ministry

Principles of Spiritual Leadership

Training of Mentors

### **Mentoring process**

A mentoring team will be established to continue the training of leaders. In each seminar we will conduct a training session for potential mentors for leaders. As would be expected, these mentors will vary in style, character, and process according to the differing cultures.

Each mentor would meet with the student once each month for coordination of progress, additional teaching and assignments. Materials are being developed which will take the students through an entire year of study, research, and application of the material. A report can then be sent to the Dean of Apollos on the progress of the students.

With the above approach, the developing leader/student will be working with the local church or new church to develop additional leaders within that culture. Training the student to be on the lookout for potential leaders, while assisting in the growth of the body, is an essential element of the program. This provides the local and spiritual environment for the students to learn/gather data and information through experience and practical application of what he/she is learning.

### **Communication process**

We will develop a mailing list of all students, mentors, donors, and interested parties of this ministry. A newsletter will be sent out once a quarter specifically dedicated to leadership and principles of leadership. The newsletter will be emailed each month starting with the completion of the first seminar. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter, please send your email address to [glen@eastbrainerdchurch.org](mailto:glen@eastbrainerdchurch.org)

### **Things That Make Sunset Apollos Institute an Important Ministry:**

1. Sunset Apollos Institute's role is to assist the church in mission areas by training excellent leaders.

2. SAI helps influential Christians in nonwestern nations to be organized, passionate, and effective in their evangelism and church planting process.
3. SAI encourages the local leaders become proficient in leading the church into the future.
4. SAI fuels the evangelistic spirit of the church all over the world. We establish a covenant with each participant to train 50 other qualified leaders. In this way we encourage the development of a vast evangelistic network all over the globe.
5. SAI teachers and administrators pay all their own cost by soliciting contribution from churches and individuals. Also, the students pay for their own transportation to and from the seminar area. Only their meal and housing are provided by contributors.
6. SAI participants do not receive any financial help for their national ministries, but only for their personal training.
7. SAI leadership selection is based on quality. We only train established leaders...full time preachers or members with strong and maximum ability to influence their fellow nationals.
8. SAI has a global reach. Since SIBI already has existing full time schools and professors in countries all over the world, leaders will be trained in their own nation and work with the local church.
9. SAI controls all session content and materials. Therefore we can ensure quality training and materials for the participants.
10. SAI faculty will come from both the western and nonwestern cultures and have been successful in their individual fields of study: leadership, church planting, evangelism, education, etc.

Personally, I would like for you to be a supporter of this global ministry; if not financially, then with your prayers. But it takes money to do what needs to be done. There are travel and administrative costs which are met by your generous contributions. Read the information below for ways in which you may participate financially. My accountability is first of all to God, to the elders of the East Brainerd Church of Christ, and to Sunset International Bible Institute. You can have confidence that 100% of what you give goes to the work of training leaders.

Though the Apollos Institute is under the direction of the Sunset International Bible Institute, sponsorship is through the East Brainerd Church of Christ, Chattanooga, Tennessee. If you are so inclined and would like to participate with us in this work, then you can do so by financially assisting us in with our program. Every little bit of support is essential to the program. You can send your contributions to SIBI, earmarked for the Apollos Institute, or, to East Brainerd Church of Christ, 7745 East Brainerd Rd., Chattanooga, TN 37421. SIBI is a 501 (c) (3) structured program; or for others, cut and paste the following link: [www.sibi.cc/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=43&Itemid=113](http://www.sibi.cc/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=43&Itemid=113)