

SUNSET APOLLOS INSTITUTE

Training Leaders
For Today's Church
www.eastbrainerdchurch.org

SUNSET
International Bible Institute

The first exploratory trip for the Sunset Apollos Institute was a tremendous opportunity to talk directly to leaders in the Ukraine. I can see that it is going to be a daunting task, but one that will reap rewards as we seek to train leaders around the world.

Chris Swinford and I met in London and proceeded on to Donetsk, Ukraine together. Chris is the Dean of International Missions for the Sunset International Bible Institute (SIBI) in Lubbock, Texas. Chris was going to Donetsk anyway, and I just "tagged along." I have been to several countries during my ministry, but this was my first trip to the Ukraine and I felt that I needed someone to assist me through the process introduction to the staff at Donetsk Bible Institute. Chris was ideal for the task. He had worked in Donetsk several years ago and has been going back every couple of years to teach courses at the institute.



Glen in Donetsk, Ukraine

The primary purpose for my trip was to "get a feel" for what the church in the Ukraine needs in the way of leadership development. Jay Don Rogers, the Director of the school in Donetsk, had scheduled me to teach a four-hour session on the "Baptism in the Holy Spirit," as well as conduct the devotional in morning chapel for a week. Then, on Saturday, leaders and preachers met for a short seminar about leadership, presented by Chris, Robert Waller the pulpit minister for the College Hill Church of Christ in North Richland Hills, Texas, and me.



My particular emphasis during this period was to present the Apollos program to these leaders, and to encourage them to be looking for individuals in their congregations who show signs of becoming leaders: elders, deacons, teachers, and preachers. During my session of the seminar I handed out a questionnaire for the participants to complete and return to me before the end of the day. However, I also asked them to openly discuss their perceived needs for leadership in the

Ukraine. They were very open and frank about what they needed. Most of the remaining time was spent listening to their response. (At the end of the report I have included the questions. Take a look and see how you would respond based on your part of the world.)

In many respects, their comments were characteristic of the needs we in the U.S. are facing: evangelism, motivation of the congregation, church planting, ethics and morality, but especially getting individuals to step up and take the reins of leadership. Check out the note by Chris on his blog: <http://alumni.sibi.cc/node/4661> (The forms which they completed are being translated. I will make that available to anyone who desires a copy.)



Fulltime staff. Ukrainian Bible Institute

Jay Don and the rest of the staff were extremely helpful and excited about the potential for the leadership seminar to be held in the Ukraine. The seminar will be scheduled for late spring or early summer of 2009. After an examination of their needs and the comments of the staff and leaders in the Ukraine, I will be working on finding teachers and assigning topics to speakers to make the trip to Donetsk next year.

The need for well-trained and mentored leaders is great all over the brotherhood. It is as great here in the USA as it is in the Ukraine. 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.



Myself, Mary Lee and Jay Don Rogers in the apartment home near UBI.

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; to create a balanced approach to holistic training, and 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. (To learn more about the **Sunset Apollos Institute** go to the link on the www.eastbrainerdchurch.org web site.

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

Questions on Leadership

- 1.** Give five things that are challenges to the church in the Ukraine in the next five years?
- 2.** Have there been any plans set forth by individuals or groups to overcome these challenges?
- 3.** How does a congregation develop a vision and set goals for the work to be done?
- 4.** If the leadership seminar was being held next week and you were ask to be the keynote speaker, what would be the title of your lesson? Why would you choose that topic?
- 5.** How would you describe someone who has developed into a mature leader?
- 6.** What characteristics of leadership are most needed for church leaders in today's world?
- 7.** How can leadership as you described above to be created and trained?

(I have compiled their answers. Go to the following link if you would like to read what they said: Answers to Leadership Questions