

## Proverbs 2:6 (NRSV)

*For the LORD gives wisdom;  
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

# THE SOURCE NEWSLETTER

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students.*

### ***Dear Friends,***

We at *reSource Leadership International* want to express our greetings for this special season of the year. May the God of all grace grant you a deep joy as you celebrate the coming of the Christchild.

As we come to our year end, we are deeply conscious and grateful for the partnerships that have been established through the ministry of Overseas Council Canada and look forward to the future as *reSource Leadership International*.

Our partner relationship with theological schools takes various forms. Surely one that has the longest impact is the work of helping develop qualified and able faculty. In many respects, this is the most vital asset that a school has: the group of men and women who teach and mentor the students.

We have a continuing and urgent need for individuals who bring to the classroom strong academic credentials, along with a deep commitment to the church. Both. Individuals who are scholars and able teachers, while at one and the same time having a vibrant faith in Christ and commitment to God's mission in the world. This dual focus guides our work at *reSource* as we seek to find ways and means to help them reach their potential. In most cases, this means financial assistance for an advanced degree.



*reSource Leadership International is partnering in many countries to help build a strong foundation for theological education. In the next few months Gordon will be in Jamaica to help the school inaugurate the newly designed program in effective leadership for non-profit agencies, and the new year includes scheduled travel to Croatia and Romania. Please remember him in your prayers.*

### **Partnering in Faculty Development:**

Please consider a contribution of \$500 to one or more of these faculty members. In your reply, please specify which school you wish to support by investing in the people who fulfill the mission through teaching and mentoring. (refer to the insert)

Your contribution is a vital means by which you partner with us in this work.

As we come to the end of 2005, we invite you to support one of three schools:

**Evangelical School of Theology** (formerly Biblical Theological Seminary) in Wroclaw, Poland. Through the leadership of Bill Armerding, my predecessor, *reSource* has had a remarkable impact on the development of the faculty of this school with four of the twelve current faculty having received assistance through what was then known as Overseas Council Canada. There is more that we need to do, within an academic system that requires significant post-doctoral work to have faculty who are accredited by the government. To this end, we would like to help Wojciech Szczerba complete his "habilitatus."

**Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary**, Kiev, Ukraine. Here too, we have over the years made a substantial impact on this school, notably in their buildings and in the development of their library. One of our current projects is that we will enable the president, Anatole Glukhovski to complete his doctoral studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. The program has begun and we have been able to provide some initial funding; with this we invite you to join us in securing the funds for the entire program.

**Alliance Bible Seminary**, Guayaquil, Ecuador. Debora Lecaro is a gifted Bible teacher who in mid-career is eager to complete an advanced degree that would, in turn, enable her to provide continued leadership on the faculty of this school. She has taught at ABS for many years and is a valued member of the faculty. She will complete her studies within Ecuador, at SEMISUD, the Latin American seminary located just south of Quito.

Sincerely,

Gordon T. Smith  
President

*P.S. Please send your gift as soon as possible. We are hoping to tell these three scholars the good news – they have sponsors for their advanced studies..*

## ***The Church is ONE Generation from Extinction!***

“The church is one generation from extinction!” The words hung heavily in the air as the speaker continued his apologetic for investing in theological education. Some in the audience questioned his thesis, but my own heart echoed his sentiments. I had seen, first-hand, the results in post-communist Europe of a church that, during the most difficult years of the communist era, had been busy preparing itself for freedom by its commitment to equipping the next generation of theological educators. I thought of theological institutions in Central Europe where for several decades now, *reSource Leadership International* (OCC) has been supporting ambitious attempts to make up for the years lost to the Communist era. Such large vision! Such ambitious plans! Such understanding of the fact that unless capable leaders are trained, and the next generation equipped, the church is always threatened [potentially] with extinction. And the training of leadership is undeniably related to the quality of those who train them. Just as important is the fact that the raising up of national theologians and educators who will “teach others also” is the most cost-effective approach to equipping the next generation in their countries.

That evening, my mind wandered back to visits I had made during the early days when schools like Evangelical School of Theology in Poland, Donetsk Christian University in the Ukraine, and other *reSource Leadership International* supported schools that are now strung across Central and Eastern Europe were being established. In some cases their physical campuses are in need of improvements. They have simple but functional buildings for which the church is very grateful and which they are using effectively today! Buildings are an essential part of the establishing of these institutions of theological education, but they are not the key. I am convinced that the key to the future of leadership development in countries around the world is in the ongoing development of quality, national faculty, men and women who understand theology, church history, the social sciences, pedagogy, and other disciplines that will enable them to effectively equip the next generation of church leaders.

After nearly six years on the Board of Directors of *reSource Leadership International* I am more committed than ever to the vision of investing in the development of national faculty who will train the next generation of church leaders in their own countries. Almost every thriving seminary in Central Europe today is led by nationals, men and women, who understand the strategic role demanded of them by the church in the generation that will follow. For that reason I continue to be committed to the mission and vision of *reSource Leadership International* and have, with joy, agreed to serve another term on its Board.

*Written by Dr. Miriam Charter  
Resource Board Member and  
Associate Professor of Education Studies  
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois*



**Wojciech Szerba**  
EST, Poland



**Anatole Glukhovski**  
UETS, Ukraine



**Dr. Miriam Charter, PHD**



**reSource**  
LEADERSHIP INTERNATIONAL  
Partners in Global Theological Education

# **reSource Leadership International, Inc.**

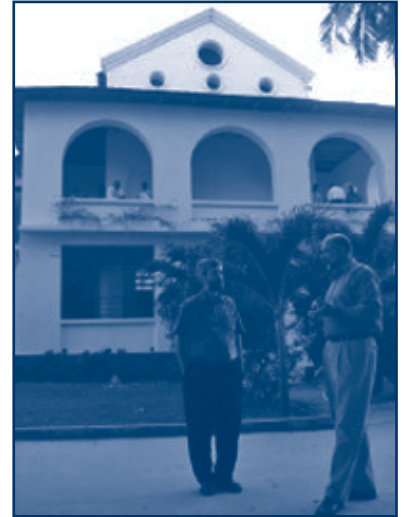
## *Partners in Global Theological Education*

*reSource* works closely with partner schools around the world to provide theological education, training leaders for church and society. We are full partners within the “Overseas Council” network, working closely with our affiliates in Australia, Germany, New Zealand, and the United States, to serve these schools. We partner with Langham Partnership Canada, with a number of joint efforts that bring our constituencies together in common cause. And, of course we partner with our supporters and donors who invest with us in this ministry.

### **An update from Gordon’s recent site visit to Haiti:**

I have just returned from an encouraging visit to *Seminaire de Theologie Evangelique de Port-au-Prince*, (STEP) – Haiti. They have almost 200 students engaged in full-time theological study preparing for church leadership in this terribly needy country.

There is a semblance of order in the country, but it is all very tenuous at best. Yet the faculty and the students persevere, even though the campus is located in a rougher part of the city. They view their campus location as strategically significant, given the close proximity to gang-run squatter settlements. The school has a strong faculty.



*(Gordon Smith & John Berger)*

We currently provide three scholarships to STEP but I came back to Canada deeply impressed with the potential for growth. Courses are offered daily from 3 – 7 p.m. so that students can find employment in the city. Our scholarships help cover the cost of studies and is the least we can do to enable these students to prepare for church leadership.

Let us know if you too would like to sponsor a student at STEP. (refer to insert)

**reSource**

LEADERSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Partners in Global Theological Education

#200 - 5726 Minoru Boulevard Richmond, BC V6X 2A9, Canada

O: (604) 270-6045 • F: (604) 270-6046 • [www.resourceleadership.org](http://www.resourceleadership.org)

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