

INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

## 1:ONE

INT'L LEADERSHIP FORUM

## ONE GROWING OPPORTUNITY

During the week of May 11-16, 200 ITeams ministry leaders from around the world converged on the de Bron Conference Center in Zwolle, The Netherlands for the 11th annual International Leadership Forum (ILF).

The ILF is an extraordinary and unique time of building our internal community in ITeams and offering training and equipping of our leaders serving in ministries around the world. The conference which includes times of worship, prayer, and fellowship, has become an annual high point for many.

As the number of ITeams leaders from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds continues to grow, so do the opportunities to hear stories about what God is doing across the world, to connect different ministries, and to design new and innovative ministry initiatives for the coming years.

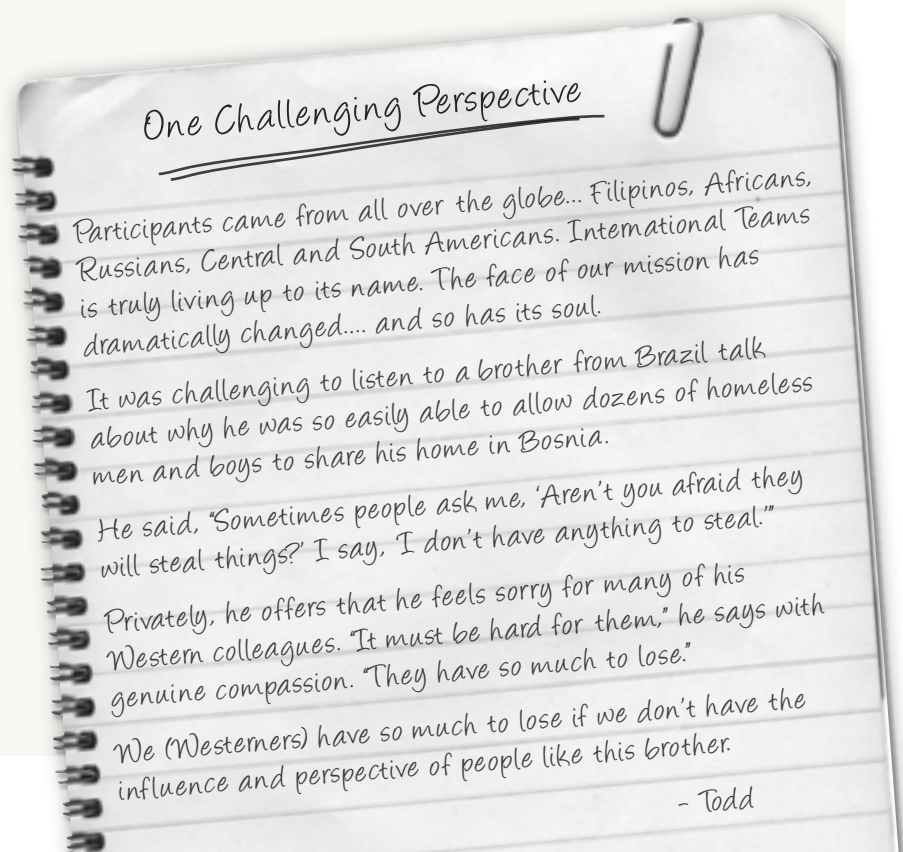
Says Stephen Freed, ITeams International Ministry Leader, "God has given us a powerful vision of His movement across the world. Like a rushing river the work of the Holy Spirit is gaining force and momentum across every nation and every people. But this river is not a river that destroys – it is a river that gives life! We see ourselves coming into the river as streams and tributaries from many nations, cultures, languages, theologies, practices, and all the diversity that makes up the wonderful body of Christ. But we are joined in one river, one faith, one baptism, one mighty movement of God! He is giving us a challenge... to jump into the river!"



ITeams missionaries enjoying time together at the 2006 ILF in The Netherlands. View more photos of the ILF at <http://flickr.com/photos/iteamsblog>

## THE SCOPE OF ITEAMS AND ITS LEADERS

- Leadership Training takes many forms within ITeams and is always experienced in the context of community: through one-on-one mentoring, small weekend gatherings, and the ILF
- ITeams is made up of several national organizations that mobilize and send missionaries from each location: Australia, Canada, Philippines, United Kingdom, United States
- Over 800 missionaries **from 37 countries** comprise ITeams' 150 multi-cultural teams, **ministering in 53 different countries**



### One Challenging Perspective

Participants came from all over the globe... Filipinos, Africans, Russians, Central and South Americans. International Teams is truly living up to its name. The face of our mission has dramatically changed.... and so has its soul.

It was challenging to listen to a brother from Brazil talk about why he was so easily able to allow dozens of homeless men and boys to share his home in Bosnia.

He said, "Sometimes people ask me, 'Aren't you afraid they will steal things?' I say, 'I don't have anything to steal.'"

Privately, he offers that he feels sorry for many of his Western colleagues. "It must be hard for them," he says with genuine compassion. "They have so much to lose."

We (Westerners) have so much to lose if we don't have the influence and perspective of people like this brother.

- Todd

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## **I N T E R N A T I O N A L T E A M S**

### **OPPORTUNITIES TO GO**

**ITEAMS EAST ASIA (Philippines)** - ITeams East Asia is in need of native English-speakers to help with their efforts in recruiting Asians and Asian churches into mission, training Asians for cross cultural ministry, supporting missions in the whole of East/Southeast Asia region, resourcing short-term teams coming to Asia, and equipping and sending short-term teams across the world.

**REFUGEE MINISTRY (Rome, Italy)** - Become part of the refugee ministry team in Rome that is partnering with local churches in order to extend hope and life to forcefully displaced people through ministries of presence, compassion, empowerment and training.

For more serving opportunities visit  
[www.iteams.org/wws](http://www.iteams.org/wws)

### **OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE**

**STREET CHILDREN MINISTRY (Timisoara, Romania)** - Monthly costs for the Day Center that provide food (\$150/mo), clothing(\$50/mo), school supplies (\$15/mo), and limited medical care for street children (\$50/mo).

**ITEAMS USA GENERAL FUND** - A gift to the general fund at ITeams-USA helps provide resources to create new and innovative ministries such as those that help train and equip ministry leaders serving around the world.

You can now give online at  
[www.iteams.org/give](http://www.iteams.org/give)

## **ONE COMMITMENT TO LEADERSHIP**

Since 2001, Paul and Julianne Voltmer have been serving with ITeams in Salzburg, Austria. For the past few years they have been working with a group of Austrians across the country who are committed to loving and walking alongside survivors of sexual, physical, emotional, and spiritual abuse. By experiencing the love of Christ tangibly - through relationships and teaching - survivors begin to find healing from the wounds of their past.

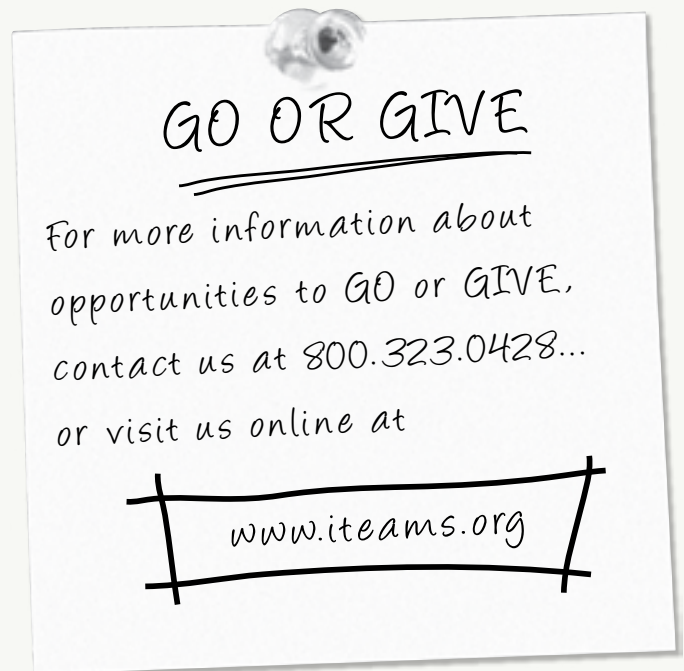


Paul Voltmer (right) shares with another ITeams missionary at the 2006 ILF

Paul shared with us recently about the impact the ILF experience has had on his life and ministry:

“ITeams is committed to seeing its leaders succeed. It’s not just a nice thing we say, it’s something we do and model. At every ILF, when I have time to interact with other ITeams leaders who pour into my life, I leave from the conference with a stronger desire to pass that on to others... because I’ve experienced how life-giving that is.

It’s also empowering to know that I can model good leadership that wants to see people succeed, to see them grow personally, and to equip them with tools to lead the work locally. I’m taking back practical tools and realistic models that will help me equip and encourage others to succeed.”



**NEXT ISSUE: Equipping New Missionaries**