



REACHING ACROSS

Developing Christian leaders globally Mid-Year Report 2026

Little did I know at the time when I was first approached to be a part of a Future Leadership Foundation project in 2013 that FLF would open up the world to me, grow me and my understanding of what it means to be faithful to Jesus Christ and His Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).



The Value of FLF Chris Cook

When Greg Morrow invited me on that 2013 project, I was reluctant. I did not say yes to that request until a year later when our church became involved in an FLF project supporting church planters in Ukraine.

Since our initial involvement, I've fielded two questions that have helped me understand the value of FLF.

The first is, "[Why should we be involved in international work when there are needs here at home?](#)" While it is true that there are many opportunities to share Christ where we live, John 3:16 says, "*For God so loved the world....*" The world is a big place, and God has a big heart to love the world as He does.

As long as we ignore the world and focus only on what is before us, we keep our world small. But when we take interest in others around the world, we begin to grow our capacity to love as God loves.

A second question I have heard is, "[Why leadership?](#)" Aren't there more important tasks for a Christian organization like FLF to be concerned with other than leadership? In the Great Commission, Jesus tells us to make disciples. One of the end results of discipleship is leadership. Leadership is influence. Jesus speaks of influence when He calls His followers to be the light and the salt of the earth. Leadership development is helping others grow their influence for Christ; therefore, leadership development is obedience to the Great Commission.

Through my involvement with FLF I have come to see that the primary work of FLF is developing church leaders through Great Commission Work. Great Commission Work is broad. It involves sharing the gospel, teaching them to how to follow Jesus and growing in Him. It is an exciting work, and we invite you to be a part of developing leaders with us through Great Commission Work.

Chris Cook, FLF Associate Executive Director, International Relations

People will come from east and west and north and south, to take their places in the kingdom of God. Luke 13:29



Telling Our Story United States: 2026

Jesus communicated with stories, and Future Leadership Foundation seeks to tell our story whenever we have the opportunity. Greg Morrow and Steve Easterwood have been involved in several such gatherings in Sacramento, Calif.; Birmingham, Ala.; and Houston, Texas to inform, inspire and invite.

Participants learned about our global partnerships and our work with local believers. They heard about a wider view of missions and the potential for God's

Kingdom. They invited them to pray for, support and engage with FLF.

Greg and Steve were encouraged by sharing the FLF story. They heard issues and ideas: forming a new generation of leaders, equipping people for public service, developing values and responsibility, supporting those suffering psychological trauma (particularly with Ukrainians) and more.



Recent attendees who gathered to hear and give feedback to the FLF story.

[Likewise, we hope you come away from this newsletter knowing more about our stories and our partners and our possibilities.](#) We also encourage your involvement through your prayers, your support and your involvement.



Women's Conference Lithuania: May 2026

More than 83 women from 11 Lithuanian cities gathered for this year's women's conference, "First Love." For two days, the women took the time to pause from the rush of everyday life, enjoy fellowship and being reminded of their first love for Jesus.

During the conference, we heard greetings from our friends at Future Leadership Foundation, as well as inspiring presentations on Christ, the Perfect Bridegroom (Sandra Doan); "The Bride's Identity: Who I Am in His Eyes" (Merri Davis); "Destroyers of Love" (Larisa Bobrickaja); and "The King's Bride on a Mission" (Lara Magalhaes). Diana Goss invited everyone to

rekindle a burning heart speaking on the theme and Alvyta Haist spoke about maintaining a pure heart in the modern world.

Classes were accompanied by practical activities: writing personal letters to Jesus, and creating a symbolic bridal collage that reflected their desire for intimacy with God. One of the most beautiful moments of the conference was "In His Presence," an evening of live worship, gratitude and touching testimonies.

We believe that this time will remain in the women's hearts for a long time as a special encounter with both God and one another, and that the lessons learned here will bring growth, encouragement and empowerment to every area of life.

Sandra Doan, the head of organizational committee



FLF and the Freedom of Belief Belgium: May 2026

More than 60 attendees representing both a wide range of countries and perspectives attended the 6th Annual Conference of The Institute for the Study of Freedom of Religion or Belief – ISFORB for short – hosted by our partners at the Evangelical Theological Faculty in Leuven, Belgium. This year's theme was "Freedom of Religion or Belief and the European Union." About half were first-time attendees, and most are either practitioners or academics involved in study, teaching, working through agencies, or relating to political institutions. Future Leadership Foundation Associate Director John Claydon was one of the participants, explaining our work as they explored these topics.

"This is a different expression of FLF's work," reported Claydon, "but it enables leaders to develop through academic and practical capacity" with speakers and papers presented. He was reminded again that "it is not only government that

can restrict religious liberty, but culture, society, employees, family and peers" as well.

"Imagine a recent convert to Christianity who has fled their homeland for fear of persecution. The person may be fearful of repercussions by the authorities upon their family, or they may find it challenging to convince authorities in their new country that they faced persecution back home or that their conversion is genuine. They may face hostility in the new town because of local fears about refugees' behavior, especially if there has been some criminal activity recently, local fears about health and education services and housing."

As we work to develop Christian leaders, please be in prayer for believers and their families that may experience a variety of persecutions for their faith.

John Claydon, FLF Associate Executive Director, Field Service



Pictured (l-r): Dr. Tatiana Kopaleishvili, ETF Guest Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and Missiology; Prof. Dr. Jelle Creemers, ETF Professor and Department Chair of Religious Studies and Missiology and Academic Dean; John Claydon





First-Generation Training India: April 2025

Praise God for the 72 first-generation Christian pastors and leaders from the Hindi belt - Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Odissa - who attended training on Expository Preaching in Hindi language in Jamshedpur, India, February 9-12.

These new believers are filled with amazing zeal and passion, though with the need for grounding in the Word of God. The fear is that these new converts and leaders will fall into wrong teachers' hands. For an example, two of the participants introduced themselves as an apostle and a prophet, but by the last day they acknowledged that they are simply disciples of Jesus Christ.

There is hunger for learning the Word of God and learning ministry skills. They requested our team to return and help them again. Most of them mentioned that they have many others in their towns and villages who would have benefitted if our training program had also included them.

Mr. Sadiq Masih, a Dogri-language social media producer co-worker, taught a series of lessons on spiritual formation. Ms. Sonali Tirkey, a Hindi social media producer and another co-worker, taught "How to do inductive Bible study." Mr. Vidyut Minz, a social media producer in Hindi, led three morning Hindi devotionals to begin the day, and taught how to meditate on the Word of God every morning.

All these are basic level subjects that are needed in this pioneering region.

Using my own expertise in biblical studies, I explained over eight sessions how to preach

sermons from Psalms, and how to do Expository Preaching. This included sessions on interpreting difficult passages and a Q&A session. All participants came with numerous questions!

It was great to see the participants' joy and excitement at the end of the training; most want to persist and continue. This was a sign that the

Lord was with us, blessing us throughout this training program. Please pray for these states and these participants. God willing, we plan to organize another training next year.

On behalf of Himalayan for Christ and Good Books, I am writing to express our gratitude and thanks for the partnership with

the FLF, which has enabled us to strengthen the young believers in the unreached places in India. May our good Lord bless the leaders of the FLF and bless them with more resources for impacting the Kingdom's work around the world.

*Dr. A. K. Lama, Executive Director,
Transforming Leaders in Asia*



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Discovering True Freedom Lithuania: February 2026

This year was our 10th Lithuania Youth Conference, meeting for the first time in Šiauliai. More than 60 youth came from communities throughout the country, and also was an occasion for ministers from various communities to meet. We gathered, collaborated and contributed as we were in fellowship with God and with one another.

The event was divided into two parts. Participants spent time being active, playing team sports and then listening and discussing what the Bible says.

This event, held on the eve of our country's independence day, used the theme of "Freedom." We asked, What is freedom in Christ? What is permissible? Is everything actually beneficial? How we can grow in our convictions? These are important questions for people both young and older, when we live in an age where the world considers many distorted, immoral and unfit things to be good and acceptable.

The event closed at the Šiauliai Evangelical Christian Church, following a joint Sunday service to hear the Gospel message and conclude in prayer. We know, accustomed as we are to rejoice and thank those who came, contributed or supported us in prayer and financially, that the greatest thanks belong to God. We hope that this time spent together contributed to the spiritual growth and strengthening in Christ of the teenagers and young adults involved.

Lukas Siksniš, writing in Tiesos Draugas (Friend of Truth) newsletter



We are deeply grateful for Future Leadership Foundation's faithful partnership and the financial support you provide for our conferences every year. Your generosity plays a vital role in advancing the work of God here in Lithuania and empowering our congregations. Thank you for your constant dedication and for standing with us in this ministry. May God richly bless FLF for your continued kindness and support.

*Tarasas Sereda, Executive Secretary,
Baptist Union of Lithuania*



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The Future Leadership Foundation (FLF) develops Christian leaders globally, collaborating with churches, ministry organizations and religious entities by addressing needs and goals that facilitate reaching people for Christ and equipping them for ministry.

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