

The **B O T T O M** **LINE**

JUNE 2009

**“... a threefold cord
is not
quickly broken ...”**

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...



“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”

Ecclesiastes 4: 9, 10, 12 (NKJV)

King Solomon was known for his profound wisdom. Queens, peasants, and priests traveled from all over the world to gain insight from this renowned king. Perhaps one of his greatest thoughts (later echoed by the Apostle Paul) was this concept of working together, being of one spirit, and one body. Standing on our own is not only lonely, but also dangerous.

We can be overcome too easily when we try to go it alone.

As Christians, we need to be bonded together in relationships that can withstand the pressures of the world. It is vital for our wellbeing. We will inevitably fall on hard times, make mistakes, or be victims of pride from time to time. But King Solomon gave us a strategy for handling these unavoidable situations: Always be surrounded by close friends who will lift you when you fall, work beside

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



By Jenna Sveen, Integra USA staff

Training Seminar Equips and Encourages Integra Staff

The week of March 8 was unlike any that Integra had previously experienced. Staff members from Integra Russia, Integra Romania, Integra Slovakia, Integra Bulgaria, and Integra USA came together near Chicago for a training seminar. The week was dedicated to providing personal training to the overseas staff and also to equipping them to train their clients upon returning home.

At the beautiful Oak Brook Renaissance Hotel, the Integra team learned from various experts about topics that included Strategic Planning, Analysis and Reporting, Marketing, Project and Time Management, and Donor Relations. Thanks to Integra USA board member Deloris Thomas, we had the privilege of hosting Mark Muse from the Joseph Business School; Vicki Windfeldt, Shelley Klaessy, and Sharon Killoran from Wooddale Church in Minnesota (*see story, page 7*); Integra USA board members Joe Feth, Rick Hornbeck, and David Johnson; and others.

Participants felt the sessions were

outstanding. Irina Shishkina and Elena Ely from Integra Russia commented: "It was unforgettable! And we are sure it will have a positive, fruitful, long-term effect on our work."

Setting the Tone: Be Bold in His Power

Pastor and Board Member David Johnson set the spiritual tone for the week with a meditation on the fear of God and being bold in His power. We all watched in amazement as God revealed similar spiritual themes through the week's other speakers, who had not been present for Pastor Johnson's thoughts. Florica Chereches, Executive Director of Integra Romania, summed up the spiritual focus quite nicely. "Fear not, be bold, and God is bigger than anything. It will stay in my mind for a long time," she affirmed. "It's good to remind ourselves of these truths from time to time."

The theme fit beautifully into the training as we were all pushed to think beyond our circumstances and focus on



the infinite power of God. Persevering in ministry in these times can be quite challenging, and it was evident that the staff who participated in the seminar are overworked, under-staffed, and underpaid. Gabriella Nikolova was encouraged by the words God spoke to her that week. "I sometimes doubt and



fear failure," she admitted. "But I was encouraged that God wants me to be bold and venture out even when I might fail."

Down to Nuts and Bolts: How Will This Work for Us?

The rest of the week the speakers intertwined theory and practical application against the backdrop of those spiritual truths. The staff met in specific country groups to apply the new concepts to their individual programs, and then presented them to the group as a whole. These times were especially important and valued by the participants. It enabled them to address key components of their programs or issues in their offices. The seminars also greatly encouraged the staff. Ivan Ivanov, from Bulgaria, wrote this to Integra USA staff upon his return to Sofia: "Thank you. You helped me to feel surer of what I am doing with the kids here."

The evening dinners gave the staff

the chance to experience a wide array of fare including Mexican, Japanese, and Italian. This was also an opportunity to mingle with each other and strengthen the Integra network on a personal as well as professional level. Florica mentioned that, "Interactions during meals were great and they really gave us the chance to know each other better because even if we had met before, we never have enough time to interact, encourage, and learn from one another."

Built into the week were field trips to Wheaton College, the Joseph Business School, the Integra USA offices, and the Blue Man Group show, as well as a day of sightseeing in Chicago. Staff members also had opportunity to meet several Integra donors and to share their work and vision with them.

Strengthening the Bond: Priceless

The time together was priceless. Those of us at Integra USA gained a better understanding of the needs of the Integra offices abroad and how we can best address those needs. For some it was a time to put a face with an email address and for others, a great week with old friends. We believe this training was vital for the success of the Integra network. It provided the staff with a chance to rest, regroup, and continue learning, and allowed them to step outside their everyday environment and get a fresh perspective. We believe so strongly in the need for and value of these training seminars that we hope to provide another one before the end of the year.

Integra has many partnerships, and the training week in March was a wonderful opportunity to strengthen that network.

Meet Two of Our Partner Organizations

Radstock

Radstock Ministries is one of several organizations that Integra partners with in Europe. A common vision and overlapping ministry goals make them an invaluable resource. Radstock is a



Brad Byrd,
U.S. Director of Radstock

global network of churches connected for mission, and committed to equipping and mobilizing churches to take the Gospel around the world.

The network is represented in the Balkans, the U.S., Zambia, Mongolia, Southeast Asia, the former Soviet Union, and beyond.

Radstock deploys teams to help churches develop their mission strategy and facilitate participation in the wider network. They develop mission partnerships through vision trips, strategy consultations, and ministry involve-

ment overseas. Churches can access experience across the Radstock network, and learn from what other churches are doing. Radstock coaches churches in their next steps in mission by helping them identify needs and play their part in starting churches and ministries in unreached areas. They also offer expertise in church planting, equipping of church leaders, micro-enterprise development, drug rehabilitation, and caring for children in crisis.

Radstock was born out of an organization called *Friedenstimme* (German for “Voice of Peace”), which worked on behalf of unregistered and imprisoned believers in what was then the Soviet Union. With the collapse of communism, the focus shifted to building partnerships with believers in the former Soviet Union. Radstock Ministries was born, named for a British aristocrat who influenced the development of the evangelical church in Russia. Radstock Ministries dedicated itself to seeing churches take up their privilege and responsibility for worldwide mission.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK ■ CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER

you to produce a good reward, and give the enemy a tougher fight than he expected.

At Integra we understand the power and value of working together with others who have similar passions and paths. We are humbled by the blessings of those God has linked together with Integra USA. He has truly surrounded us with people who love Him and believe in the mission and vision of Integra. Between our staff overseas and

each donor who has come alongside us, we have formed a solid strand that will not easily be broken.

The Integra Ventures network consists of many offices in many countries. We work together, combining our distinct strengths and resources toward one common goal: to spread the Gospel of Christ to Central and Eastern Europe through Business as Mission. You may already be aware of this network and our relationships

Joseph Business School

Integra USA became familiar with the Joseph Business School through Deloris Thomas, an Integra USA board member. The school was founded in 1998 by Pastor Bill Winston of Living Word Christian Center, in Forest Park, Illinois.

The vision of JBS is to train and educate Christians in the practice of biblical business strategies and principles. The rigorous, nine-month curriculum, certified by the Illinois State Board of Education, equips

students with the skills and knowledge to be successful businessmen and women and active



Deloris Thomas, Integra USA Board member also serves on the faculty of the Joseph Business School.

with each of the Integra offices. As you read on you will see some of the many ways we interact and work together.

However, Integra USA also wants to strengthen partnerships and bonds with individuals, organizations, and businesses stateside. It has been a privilege to partner with others who align with our ideals and views regarding marketplace ministry. In this edition of *The Bottom Line*, we would like to highlight just a few

participants in their communities.

With the original Chicago location graduating its tenth class last spring, JBS is in the midst of launching 8 to 10 more schools by the end of 2009. Two have already opened, in Kansas City, Missouri, and Sao Paulo, Brazil. From

This model of business-as-mission has proven time and time again to be a positive influence in the surrounding communities.

South America to Africa to Asia, this model of business-as-mission has proven time and time again to be a positive influence in the surrounding communities.

Integra had the pleasure of having multiple JBS faculty members speak at the Integra training seminar in March (see page 2). For more information on the Joseph Business School visit their website at www.josephcenter.com.

of these incredible partnerships.

As you read on, please reflect on the wisdom God revealed to King Solomon. We consider you a strand in the Integra “rope” and hope you consider us a strand in yours. If there is any way we can continue to strengthen each other please do not hesitate to contact us. Two truly are better than one!

Bob Kuhlman, President



**Adi Ban, President,
Integra Romania**

STAFF CLOSE-UP

Adi Ban

Adi Ban serves as President of Integra Romania, a role that has been a natural outgrowth of his increasing involvement in the life of Integra.

In the late 90s, Adi met Brett Howard, of Integra's European Leadership Team, through mutual friend and Integra Reference Board member Bill Pollard. They shared a common vision for reaching people through the marketplace—helping those whose values had been greatly affected by communist ideology to find and apply Kingdom principles. In 1999 Adi helped Brett collect data

for a USAID proposal for a micro-enterprise development program that would assist women at risk. Adi also suggested a person to lead this program: Florica Chereches, who now serves as Executive Director of Integra Romania.

After a brief detour to Trinity International University near Chicago for a Ph.D. in Educational Studies, Adi joined the board of Integra. Before long, he found himself serving as Director of the SME program and eventually as President. "We continue to look to the future to seek what the Lord prepares for us," Adi shares. "I am glad when I know God is using me and others to accomplish His purpose regarding His Kingdom."



**Jenna Sveen,
Integra USA**

STAFF CLOSE-UP

Jenna Sveen

Jenna Sveen first connected with Integra Ventures through an internship while a junior at Wheaton College. She interned in

Bulgaria, working closely with Ellie Tasheva at the Orphan Training Center in Sofia.

Jenna then spent the fall semester of her senior year studying in Israel. Throughout the spring semester, Jenna remained in communication with Bob Kuhlman and Ellie Tasheva about Integra's work. When the opportunity arose for her to work with Integra USA, she took it immediately and has been

on staff since June 2008.

She has traveled to the Integra offices in Russia, Romania, and Bulgaria with board member Deloris Thomas. She loves the idea of "Business as Mission," and has worked closely with Bob Kuhlman to secure other interns from Wheaton, enabling them to experience the incredible work Integra is doing and to prepare the next generation to serve.

Jenna will leave for law school at the University of Denver this fall, but will continue working with Integra in a number of areas. She plans to study International Law, specifically working with international non-profits. We have appreciated Jenna's commitment and dedication, and are excited to see how God will use her in the future.

Minnesota Women Make a Bulgarian Connection



By Vicki Windfeldt, Women's Ministries Pastor, Wooddale Church

The seeds for partnership between Wooddale Church and Integra were planted one spring day in 2007 when Peter and Ellie Tashev visited Minneapolis.

Peter is Executive Director of Integra Bulgaria, and his wife heads the "Youth-at-Risk" program. Tom Correll, Wooddale's Missions Pastor, invited me

to meet them and discuss ways for our women to come alongside Integra in their work with Bulgarian women and orphans. We quickly discovered a "ministry match" for corporate

women to help with training during Integra's microenterprise development (MED) and small- and medium-sized enterprise (SME) seminars. Plus, we saw the potential to encourage teenaged orphans in transition by teaching English as a second language.

That brief visit has since produced four significant short-term mission trips to Bulgaria. Our working relationship has blossomed into friendship with Peter and Ellie, as well as with Gabriella Nikolova and Dessislava Chalamova, who head the SME and MED programs. More than a dozen Wooddale women have experienced the thrill of working with these committed Bulgarian nationals. We have been

inspired by their faithfulness and challenged by the difficulties they face.

When we were invited to join the training seminar in Chicago in March, it was exciting to meet the Integra staff from Romania, Slovakia, and Russia. We witnessed and experienced much sharing and support for one another. We felt the Spirit of God moving, teaching, and leading.

We delight in working with Integra as just one part of Wooddale's commitment to God's work in Bulgaria. We dream of strengthening the partnership with a return trip in October 2009. Our women's team will present a Basic Marketing seminar to women at risk and teach ESL to orphans in transition.

My personal experience with the women and children of Bulgaria has brought me much joy. I reflect often on our sharing and prayer times; on the delight of visiting teenaged orphans in their transition homes; on the encouragement I receive from my Bulgarian friends when I am trying to support *them!* We continue in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Bulgaria, realizing that God is in this and it is He who causes the growth.



Vicki Windfeldt

To learn more about how your church can get involved with Integra's programs, contact Integra USA at 800-472-1828.



209 E. Liberty Drive, Wheaton, IL 60187
Tel → 630-221-0652
Toll Free → 800-472-1828
Fax → 630-580-5757
Web → www.integrausa.org

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Palatine, Illinois
Permit No. 605

Integra USA Board of Directors

Joe Feth

Chairman and CEO
PEOPLE ETC.
Kankakee, IL

Robert Fulton

Founder and Chairman
Web Industries
Westborough, MA

Richard Hornbeck

Business Consultant
Winter Springs, FL

David Johnson

Pastor
Evangelical Free Church
E. Dennis, MA

Robert Kuhlman

President
Integra Ventures USA
Wheaton, IL

Deloris Sterling-Thomas

President
Sterling-Thomas, LLC
Tulsa, OK

Peter Tashev

Executive Director
Integra Bulgaria
Sofia, Bulgaria

Board of Reference

Robert E. Cooley

President Emeritus
Gordon-Conwell Theological
Seminary, MA

Ken Eldred

Cofounder, Livingstone
Foundation, CA

C. William Pollard

Former Chairman and CEO
ServiceMaster Company, IL

Donald McGilchrist

International Vice President
The Navigators, CO

John Warton

CEO
Business Professional
Network
Portland, Oregon

Dan Hofmeister

Attorney
Chicago, IL

Herb Liberman

Investor
Healdsburg, CA

Wendy Jacobi

Fund Development Consultant
Sudbury, MA

Sean McConlogue

President
Tribal First
San Diego, CA

Steve Giere

Portfolio Manager
Smith-Barney
Chicago, IL

Business...

...impacting society

...changing communities

...touching lives with the Gospel.



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*