

PRAISE & PRAYER



**SHAPING
LEADERS
WORLDWIDE.**

IFES LEADERSHIP TRAINING: IFES Latin America Student Leaders Formación – Spanish-speaking Caribbean, August 2024

THE WORK OF HIS HANDS

“Humility”. “Integrity”. “Vision”. “A servant heart”. “Compassion”. “Christ-like character”. “Prayerful”. - a few of the characteristics named by students, staff and supporters on the IFES Global Giving Day website about the kind of leaders they want to see.

Simply watching the news each day shows how desperately our world needs godly leaders. IFES regional and global ministries teams are investing in leaders at all levels in IFES. From students to senior staff, we want God to shape them as faithful, servant leaders. Here are some recent examples of how IFES has been investing in this transformation:

Student Leadership Formación – 40 student leaders focused on living out the upside-down values of God’s kingdom in today’s world – the tension of holding on to God’s values in a world that refuses to acknowledge him as king. This European training program started in person last August, and led into online monthly community groups and mentoring sessions. Pray for participants as they near the end of the program in May.



Scripture Engagement Multipliers – with support from the Global Scripture Engagement team, a number of IFES regions run multipliers programs, training movement staff to train others - more young leaders equipped to lead Bible study are vital for all IFES movements – and for churches too in future. After such events, the most exciting part for trainers is to see participants using what they learned. Dieudonné (who leads the IFES movement in Burkina Faso and volunteers with the Francophone Africa regional team) led a training for 23 multipliers in September and shared his delight when UJC Central African Republic staff did just that in December – training a group of student leaders to lead Bible studies: *“Seeing Karl Rodolphe and Orly leading this seminar is giving me a great joy and I am shouting ‘Praise the Lord!’ During the seminar they were in contact with me at distance and we provided them with some resources and responded to their questions.”*

Graduates Conference – in movements in the Middle East and North Africa, graduates are a huge resource – volunteering as leaders and mentors, helping organise events and donating to support staff and student outreach. In October, 80 participants from 11 countries gathered to study the book of Habakkuk at a time of multiple wars and conflicts. The focus on rejoicing in the midst of disaster, a theme remarkably set a year prior to the event, was particularly powerful, and enables them to share these lessons with those they serve in student groups. A participant shared: *“Habakkuk’s journey made a difference to me. Our God knows how to walk with us, change us, deal with us each according to our needs, open our eyes to things we are not aware of, and in the midst of pain and joy, He is always there, faithful and righteous. Our role is to trust.”*

Praise God with us that all gifts to the Global Giving Day 2025 appeal will be matched up to \$110,000. Any gift you make will be doubled! Find out more about our leadership development projects and how to partner in this ministry at ifesworld.org/ggd





IFES LEADERSHIP TRAINING: ▲ (LEFT) IFES Caribbean Governance Training with IS/IVCF Cayman Islands, June 2024
 ▲ (RIGHT) IFES EPSA Emerging General Secretaries/National Directors mentoring and training, November 2024

IFES E-LEARNING PROGRAMS

Developing leaders and equipping them for service doesn't just happen at events – it happens online too.

While there are, of course, drawbacks to online training – too much screentime, poor internet connection in some places, and lower engagement with some types of training - there are real advantages too. Participants in closed countries accessing high quality training. Sessions can fit in around classes (for students), student meetings (for staff) or work commitments (for movement Board members) – or power cuts or internet down times.

IFES provides a broad spectrum of e-learning opportunities in the kinds of training best suited to this medium. A wide variety of courses meet many movement needs. Courses run in English, French, Spanish, and some in Portuguese and Russian too. Initially most courses had students from multiple movements, but recently, some movement leaders are finding real benefits in accessing them with their national team.

Jeremiah, FES Singapore General Secretary, shared what was learned from going through the Scripture Engagement course as a national movement:



“The course was the way to have all the staff from the different sections of our ministry in conversation and dialogue about our approach to Scripture, ideally leading to a more aligned and common approach for all. It was a good opportunity for staff to reflect on and share their own personal convictions, which helps improve mutual understanding. Before starting, we designed a survey for staff to complete with a few of their students, and those responses were used in our discussions.”

Steve, CEF Taiwan staff, used the same material with their national team:

“I appreciate its flexibility, that we're able to adjust according to where our staff are at. I also like where the course helps us to rethink our basic assumptions about the Bible, which our ministry

centers around. I feel like the other elements that the Singaporean team has added (like the questionnaire to the students) is very helpful because it helps us to understand where the students are coming from in terms of their view about the Bible, which is vastly different from what it was before.”

This is a valuable ministry for IFES movements, their students, staff and board members. Please pray for participants and for course leaders. Pray too for the technical teams facilitating these courses – a vital, but often invisible, ministry.



IFES PERSON: EVA PETRŽILKOVÁ

Eva Petržilková is from Prague, Czech Republic. She currently serves as Scripture Engagement Coordinator in Europe and European Student Leadership Formación Director. She started her role in July 2023, but Eva's path with IFES started much earlier than that.

Eva joined a local student group in her first year at university in 2008 and just a few years later, became a volunteer and then staff for the Czech IFES movement – UKH. Her favourite thing is to read the Scriptures with students and young staff around Europe and the world. She asks us to pray that she “would never forget to stop and sit at the feet of Jesus – the only thing that truly matters”.

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