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# Leaders to Follow

Since 1991, the flagship newsletter of the International Leadership Institute

By Sara Tusek

## *ILI MOVES TO PRAGUE*

Our friends, colleagues and acquaintances have been hearing since 2002 that Jarda and I were going to move our business (the International Leadership Institute—ILI) and our personal residence to Prague for two years of work, both in our business and in Christian missionary work.

No doubt some of these folks became a bit tired of hearing us say this. They might have felt that we were “waiting for Godot” (see green box) to give us the impetus to stop talking and actually leave the USA.

Well, our Godot has finally arrived. We’re packing up, selling off and moving on to Prague next month (on August 3).

## *25 YEARS IN THE USA*

### *Establishment of ILI*

ILI was founded in 1985 in Princeton, NJ, with the idea of providing executive education programs focused on leadership development to American executives.

Drawing on his experience in running leadership development programs at the American Management Association, and his background in running career development programs as a partner in the Career Group in New York City and as the Director of Career Services at New York Institute of Technology, Jarda envisioned ILI as a unique educational institute.

The purpose of ILI, as defined in 1985, was to help program participants develop their leadership potential through programs and services in executive education, career development and leadership skills development. This is the purpose that still drives our business.

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Hradcany Castle, courtesy Luis Blanco

***International Leadership Institute: Providing Leadership Development Services and Programs in the US and Europe since 1985***

*Waiting for Godot*, by Samuel Beckett, is a 2-act play, absurdist in style and modernist/existentialist in philosophy, about man's plight: he waits for he knows not what.

In Act I, Vladimir and Estragon appear on an austere stage, discussing their mission: to wait. They have been waiting for some time for Godot, whom neither man knows. Pozzo and his slave Lucky pass by, with Lucky's neck on a rope held by Pozzo. The four men talk, then part ways, leaving Vladimir and Estragon still waiting. A boy arrives to tell them that Godot will arrive the next day.



Act II carries on with the same characters and themes, ending with the return of the boy with the same message: Godot will arrive the next day. The play ends as it begins, with Vladimir and Estragon waiting for Godot.



## ILI MOVES TO PRAGUE

### 25 YEARS IN THE USA (CONT.)

#### ILI's unique characteristics

From the beginning, ILI has had an international perspective, combining the best insights and theories on leadership from European, Asian and American leaders. In 1985, this was a new idea in the USA, as Americans were still isolated enough from international business and politics to believe that their ways was the only effective way to do things. How the world has changed!

ILI has had, from its establishment, a strong practical streak. Theory is only the basis for leadership development; putting theory into practice is the most significant distinction between ILI and academic institutions which teach leadership strategies but don't always give participants a chance to practice what they learn.

#### ILI's focus from 1991-2010

In 1990, ILI found a new focus for its leadership development activities: the newly-opened societies of the post-communist world. Sara joined Jarda in developing the *Business Leadership Forum: USA* executive education program for Czech and Slovak executives. Over the next 14 years, ILI brought more than 500 East and Central European executives to the USA for learning/doing programs that comprised university courses in management with internships in matching companies and homestays with American volunteer families. These programs were offered to the *US Department of State's AID (Agency for International Development)* for delivery to Eastern European and Asian emerging democracies; ILI became an official training provider for AID, 1996-2004.

From 1991 on, we expanded the Institute's offerings by making English language immersion programs available to students from Central Europe, drawing on Sara's experience as an educator with a background in English, Sociology and Psychology, as well as her professional expertise in career development.

ILI *American English Language Immersion Program in the United States* students spread around the globe in those 2 decades, using their language skills, knowledge of the USA and career development capabilities to create interesting lives and careers abroad.

## ON TO PRAGUE

Over the past twenty years, we made frequent trips to Prague to recruit participants for ILI programs, to visit Jarda's family and keep up with the rapid changes in the economic, political and educational life of the Czech Republic. Having helped Czechs in those three areas, we felt satisfied with the results.

But we are not satisfied with what we have contributed to the spiritual life of people living in the Czech Republic. Life is more that what we see around us every day, and we want to provide an introduction to the spiritual commitment we have made to God, a commitment that has enriched and expanded our own lives immeasurably. Along with offering English lessons, we expect to find a way to let people know that God is real and that He loves them.

So, on to Prague! We are excited that Godot finally arrived, and we are on our way at last to live and work in the beautiful city of Prague.

#### ILI Publications Newsletters at [www.ili.cc](http://www.ili.cc):

- *Leaders to Follow*
- *Servant Leaders*
- *Careers*
- *continuous conversion*
- *A Lesson on English*

#### Blogs:

- [jbt-yourn-extjob.blogspot.com](http://jbt-yourn-extjob.blogspot.com)
- [englishinprague.blogspot.com](http://englishinprague.blogspot.com)
- [praguepies.blogspot.com](http://praguepies.blogspot.com)

#### Books at [www.ili.cc](http://www.ili.cc):

- *21st Century Jobs*
- *Three Things You can't Do in Prague*
- *Three Things that Last Forever*

## The International Leadership Institute

WAS FOUNDED IN 1985 IN PRINCETON, NJ

IS DEDICATED TO HELPING PEOPLE DEVELOP AND USE LEADERSHIP SKILLS

OFFERS PERSONALIZED & EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES TO ENHANCE LEADERSHIP, CAREER, AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILL DEVELOPMENT IN THE US AND IN EUROPE

HAS RUN MORE THAN 90 EXECUTIVE EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN THE US, FOR EUROPEAN CLIENTS

HAS PARTNERED WITH THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA, THE JACKSONVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND MORE THAN 780 OTHER BUSINESSES, UNIVERSITIES, RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, PRIVATE CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

