

DIRECTING ATTENTION TO THE MINISTRIES OF KIEV THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

KTS CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Natasha Tereschenko, KTS Registrar • Ruslan Khmiz, KTS Administrative Assistant to the President

10 YEARS OF MINISTRY AT KTS

Dr. Rick Campana, USA Board Coordinator, Kiev Theological Seminary

SPASEBA (*thank you in Russian*) was the first word my wife Nancy and I learned in November of 1996. We had arrived at Borispol Airport in Ukraine and were whisked away on an adventurous ride into Kiev by our driver, Valodia. Our hosts for the evening were Harold and Erika Kunkel, German missionaries with SEND. What a delightful couple. Those early hours spent with them prepared us for a love affair with Ukrainian people that continues to this day. SPASEBA LORD. Little did we realize when Esther and Dick Camp of SEND approached us, after sitting under my ministry in Naples, Florida, that we would be able to look back over ten blessing filled years of ministry in Ukraine. SPASEBA LORD.

It was my first message, preached in Transformation Church in Kiev that introduced me to a young man (my translator) that would begin a relationship with him, his family and ministry. That young man's name was Anatoly

Prokopchuk. It would be one year later that our lives would begin to intertwine and blend into a personal friendship and brotherly love. SPASEBA LORD. Our first year of ministry took us from Kiev, to Duniefsy, Zakarpata, and Mukacheve. It was during this trip that the Ukrainian people captivated our hearts, and we learned a new expression SCHIRO DIACUYU (*Ukrainian for thank you very much*). It has been my humble privilege over these years to teach in Bible Institutes, preach in numerous churches, take part in two weddings and teach at KTS. It is this latter relationship that has and continues to be most dear to our hearts.

Our Father has graciously raised up this school to train men and women for the ministry of the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Young aspiring pastors,



teachers, evangelists; young women Christian educators along with seasoned faithful servants of our Lord are receiving training to become more effective ministers of our blessed Lord. SCHIRO DIACUYU.

Over these past ten years it has been not only our privilege but also extreme delight to help raise funds and channel them on to KTS. SCHIRO DIACUYU FAITHFUL SUPPORTERS.

As we, together with you, continue to uphold KTS, its administration, faculty, staff, and student body in prayer, I would ask that we might pray Our Loving Heavenly Father would permit KTS to grow in the full experiential knowledge of Christ's fullness and be found faithful in service to His Eternal Glory. SCHIRO DIACUYU LORD.



classmates reunited



Peter Marchenko, graduate and pastor of Transformation Church

being according to His will.

The celebration service was held at nearby Transformation Church, which is pastored by Peter Marchenko (class of 2000). The guests reminisced about the "mileage" from

the beginning until now, times of standing the test, but also the achievements, the problems, but God's hand had been seen in everything.



Transformation Church

Among the special guests were Gregory Komendant, president of the Ukrainian Baptist Union; Vyacheslav Nesteruk, Vice-president of the Ukrainian Baptist Union and KTS graduate of the Doctor of Ministry program; Everett Henderson, representing SEND International; Todd Marshall, representing World Venture (formerly CB International); and Mick Stockwell, representing Southern Baptist International

Mission Board. Faculty, graduates and current students also spoke about the significant role of the seminary.

The graduates told how God had led them to ministry, blessings

they had received and trials they had experienced personally and in their ministries.

Alexander Savich, (class of 2000) pastor of Calvary Church in Lutsk, preached a sermon reminding us that

our learning, ministry, teaching, relationships — in one word all our life — should be focused on Christ. His sermon was a great encouragement and practical for everyone who came. Dr. Anatoly Prokopchuk, KTS president, stated in his greeting that God's power is revealed in our weakness and our absolute trust in God. God will evaluate the ministry of each of us particularly and the seminary in general.

What's so special about the atmosphere at KTS? Why is everyone who comes in contact with the seminary so greatly affected? KTS vice president, Konstantin Goncharov, answered this question. He empha-

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Student praise

acquire in their classes, but also of continuing practicum assignments in the local churches. Current students

and graduates have ministries

sized that an important principle of how KTS works is the freedom that the Word of God gives us. Confidence and great expectations are placed on each faculty member

and confidence is placed in the younger generation who will carry the Light of Life in the twenty-first century.



Konstantin Goncharov, Vice President KTS, pastor

Academic process consists of not only theory, which the students

in Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. In the 10 year history of KTS, more than 300 students have graduated. Currently there are 117 residential and part-time students enrolled in the four Bachelors of Theology degree programs (Biblical Studies, Church Planting, Christian Education, and Youth Ministry). New students are accepted each year into the modular programs.

After the celebration service, there was a time of fellowship as graduates, professors and students gathered altogether at the seminary

for first a buffet and then met in smaller groups to share stories and get caught up with those they attended KTS with. A special atmosphere of enthusiasm and blessing could be felt during the whole day of celebration. The guests took the opportunity to see first hand the construction of the new buildings. Much thanksgiving was offered on that day.

It is our desire that KTS continue to equip believers for effective ministry, teaching them to grow in Christ and to lead others to a close relationship with Him.



Members class of 2004; groups (by graduation year) met all over the seminary wherever space was available — this one in the dormitory.



View of construction



Guests survey new construction



Students past and present

KTS CHURCH PLANTING PROGRAM

Mary Ellen Ragains, wife of Joel Ragains, KTS Director, Church Planting Program

Through the work of the Church Planting Department at KTS my husband Joel and I have been blessed to be out on the field with young church planters and to see the kingdom work that they are doing here in Ukraine.

In the Church Planting Program the students are expected to plant a church during their 3rd and 4th years at the seminary. In order to see this happen, we have the responsibility of pairing each student with a Ukrainian mentor, who guides each student as they begin the process. One of these mentors is Ira's husband Alexander Pavlyuk (2000 KTS graduate). Sasha (his nickname) is mentoring two of our church-planting students.

Another responsibility that we have is to partner churches in America with the church planters, not to build buildings or to pay salaries, but to help these young men launch their new churches. These partnering churches will initially help provide resources and also send volunteer teams to work along side the church planters and their leadership team in specific projects. These projects are strategically designed not only for evangelism, but also to give the church start credibility in a new neighborhood.

With Sasha and Ira the volunteer team from Bellevue Baptist in Memphis, TN worked with their leadership team in a remarkable way. Sasha showed great leadership ability in directing the entire event, which included the children's camp as well as an eye clinic and evening services. Ira did a wonderful job of planning and directing the children's camp. She is a blessing to the Lord, to her husband and to her church as well as a credit to KTS where she is a third-year Christian Education student.

If your church is interested in partnering with one of these new church starts, please contact us via email at mragains@everyheart.net.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Anatoly Prokopchuk

The celebration of the Ten Year Anniversary of Kiev Theological Seminary was really a celebration of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. I have never learned to like official occasions. Throughout the years in

this ministry, I have had opportunities to participate in numerous official occasions, anniversaries, celebrations, graduations, etc. I have never gotten used to them, never enjoyed them. They have always felt too long, too boring, too much focused on human achievements, human abilities and greatness. Therefore, as the founding president of the school, celebrating the ten-year anniversary of KTS felt particularly scary for me, since our culture (even a Christian one) almost demands glorification of the leader. I tried to avoid doing the celebration altogether, sheepishly making it look as if it had already passed and trying to substitute it with an informal lunch for all the seminary workers at the end of the spring 2005 semester.

All these were to no avail. Our team wanted it for the simple reason; they wanted to thank the Lord together with all our graduates for His special provision, leadership and guidance through all those years. I had my doubts, still I submitted to the team's plan. I honestly admit I do not regret it. Everyone worked hard to bring something to the celebration, at the same time everyone was looking for a way to show how marvelously the Lord led us, built us, and nurtured us on a day-to-day basis. The celebration took three hours and I did not feel the flow of time, simply because it just flew by, reminding me of the very rapid ten years of ministry for KTS. As hundreds of familiar faces were passing by, speaking, singing, sharing, I rejoiced as a child seeing the great fruit of our Lord in the lives and ministry of the excellent men and women, we have the privilege to call our graduates.

In those special moments, I saw with sharp clarity, (while not being fogged by everyday routines), that I have both joy and blessings to work and to minister with excellent, educated, talented people, knowing that God himself sent

them our way. It was a great time to see how God transformed yesterday's students into men and women of God who fear no one and nothing except God, who bow before no one except our Lord Jesus Christ. Still, with all these precious people around, everyone's eyes were focused not on us, not on KTS achievements and successes but only on the One who is worthy of all the praise and all the glory, around Whom we gathered together, rejoicing like children that He is our Lord, that He is always with us, that He loves and leads us, and that He will never forsake us.

When I look back on my life all these years, I see and remember my sicknesses and fears, my errors and doubts, my hesitations and trembling. Still much more, I am amazed at the boundlessness of the Lord's grace, which He pours down on this school in the form of its teachers, librarians, students and workers, and numerous other noticeable and perhaps less noticeable blessings we experience everyday in spite of our infirmities and limitations. The Word of God justifies itself again and again and encourages us because His mercies will not cease but will be renewed tomorrow and the day after tomorrow

Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

2Cor.12:10 NAS

This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. The Lord's loving kindness indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness.

Lam.3:21-23 NAS



Ira & Sasha Pavlyuk (2000 graduate)

A SUMMER MINISTRY

Ira Pavlyuk, KTS third-year CE student

I thank God for the wonderful family that He gave me. I have a great husband in all respects. God fulfilled my desire about which I had prayed as a young girl – I asked God to give me a husband who would be a pastor, whom I could help and with whom I could serve God. And He gave me, not only a pastor, but also a good person. Observing his relationship with me, with our children and with other people, I learn a lot of things from him. We have two children: Mark is 5 and Kristina is a year old. Basically, I spend my time at home raising them. I am also a third-year student at KTS, in the program of Christian Education. Studying helps me a lot; I get a lot of theory, which I can apply in my ministry to children.

Five years ago, with God's help, my husband, Alexander, and I planted a new church in Dunaevtsy, and we also planted a daughter church in Zelenche Village. Today there are two ordained pastors who minister in these churches. Then we prayed and thought about a new place where God could use us as His instruments and He showed us a place where there was no work connected with the message about God. This was the city of Khmel'nitsk with a population of 320 thousand people and only 4 Baptist Churches. That is a very few churches for such a large population. God put a desire into our hearts to plant a new church specifically in this area. He gave us a big field where there is much work to be done.

We began our work in the summer of 2005 (June 11-14) by having an outreach for adults and day camp for children. I was involved with the camp for children. We led the camp in a tent in a school stadium with the help of an American team from the Belleview Baptist Church in Tennessee. It was a non-residential camp that began at 9 A.M. and finished at 2 P.M. The program was very concentrated because we had little time. We had 230 children in the camp. We did good advertising in the area where we had our camp, but we know each child was led to come there by God Himself. We focused on children 8 -14 years old, but we were amazed that there were several 15 year old children. They were already teenagers, but it was interesting for them to spend time in the camp. With great interest they listened and perceived everything they were told and observed. All children were from unbelieving families and had never heard about God.

For 4 days we had a relevant topic, namely friendship. We discussed themes, such as Jesus is my best friend, what characteristics should a best friend have, how should we relate to those people who do not deserve love according to human perspective, what friends should we follow and imitate? Of course, we invited children in every lesson to become a friend of Jesus. We



Oksana (2003 CE graduate) serves with her pastor husband Volodya Bogamas

explained to them how to do that. But I want to point out that our primary goal was not having them accept Christ as their Savior immediately at camp, though there were quite a lot of children who did. But, since these children were from unbelieving families, they had never heard about God, so we wanted first of all to give them a general idea of who Jesus is, and only then to lead them to Christ. We learned a lot of interesting songs, played a lot of games where children competed in groups. In general meetings, children had an opportunity to take part in different contests and dramas. American and Ukrainian leaders approached this ministry with great responsibility – for every service we prepared dramas and performances on the day's topic. Bible lessons were always well prepared. Our hearts were overfilled with joy when we saw that the children came to the camp with great interest: interest in participating in different activities and interest in learning from the Bible lessons (they asked a lot of questions).

Beginning in January, if God allows and we have the opportunity, we will continue to work with these children. We have a large database of children's names and we are going to invite them to the children's club. The goal of this club is to lead children to God. Now we are meeting with a team of children's club leaders. We are praying, sharing ideas and making plans about this work with the children. We want to arouse the interest of children through different hobby projects. But, the most important thing we plan to do is to teach Bible lessons. In these lessons we will try to show children what Jesus did for them and that they really need Him. Also children will get points for their participation, memorization of verses, home assignments, etc. And then they will buy things with these points in the store that we

are going to organize for them. This will be a good stimulus to help children to remember lessons and to have good behavior, etc. We also have a plan to conduct interesting activities to which we could invite the parents of these children. Leaders and children will prepare a program — for example, an exhibition of the children's crafts — for the parents in order to make friends with them and invite them to the church.

Working with children is very important. Children are the future of our country. And in their lives they will keep the things that we teach them. That is why we need you to pray about our ministry to these children.



Inside the tent at camp



KTS COMPASS is a publication of Kiev Theological Seminary, associated with the Evangelical-Baptist Union of Ukraine.

Please direct your comments and/or questions to us at president@ktsonline.org

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