

DIRECTING ATTENTION TO THE MINISTRIES OF KIEV THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

KTS GRAD RETURNS TO KAZAKHSTAN

Doug Britton, KTS Student Chaplain & Professor

Dima Larionov was born in Kazakhstan, one of many Russians living in that Asian part of the former Soviet Union. He was raised in a non-Christian home typically colored by parental alcoholism.

Almost ten years ago, Dima, still an unbeliever, came to Ukraine. Here he learned of Christ's love for him and placed his life in Christ's hands. When the first group of students was enrolled at KTS, Dima was among them. His winsome personality and his inquisitive mind made him a favorite among both his fellow students and teachers. In 2000 Dima graduated from KTS with a Master's of Theology degree.

Soon after graduation, Dima married his Ukrainian girlfriend, Alla. They moved to the northern Ukrainian city of Chernigov, where Dima worked in a factory and they both served in their local church. Their first child, Mark, was born in Chernigov. A few years later, he was joined by his sister, Elizabeth.



Several years ago word began circulating in Russia and Ukraine that the Bible Institute in Almaty, Kazakhstan needed an Academic Dean. A KTS professor heard about this need and phoned Dima to ask if he would be interested in returning to Kazakhstan to minister. Dima's reply to that question

was, "I have been dreaming about an opportunity like that!"

Dima, Alla and their two children moved to Kazakhstan two years ago. He has spent the past two years helping to organize and improve the programs at the institute, where more than 150 students are studying so that they can serve the Lord and His church more effectively. At times the administrative and teaching demands at the institute are overwhelming, but God has been faithful and the results of Dima's work at the institute are obvious.

God has also given Dima and Alla another very important ministry in Kazakhstan. A year ago, Dima's older sister died of cancer, leaving behind her three children. She was a single parent. Dima and Alla have taken the two youngest children into their home and are now in the process of legally adopting them.

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KTS GRAD SEEKS FURTHER EDUCATION

Lois Thorpe, KTS Professor



Edward Borisov graduated at the top of his Kiev Theological Seminary class in May 2004. This fall he will begin graduate studies at the Evangelical Theological Faculty (ETF) in Belgium. Unfortunately this level of accredited theological education is not currently available in Ukraine. Edward answers questions about his motivation for studying in Belgium and his plans for future ministry.

During my studies at Kiev Theological Seminary I discovered that theological issues, which had before seemed simple to me, turned out to be rather difficult after deep and careful study. As I evaluated my ministry experience in the church, I came to the conclusion that the Lord was calling me to teach. This would be a benefit not only to me but also to those whom I had taught at some time and would teach in the future. In this way studying became my favorite pastime — to know something, study it in depth, and then pass that knowledge on to others. At the same time I fully understand the warning that the apostle James gives about the responsibility of those who teach. While studying at KTS, I became aware of how the original languages (Hebrew and Greek) are important ministry tools for teachers and

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THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IS STRATEGIC IN UKRAINE

Rick Perhai, KTS Academic Dean & Professor

One of the surprises we faced after living and serving as missionaries in Ukraine for a couple years was the sad reality of Ukrainian church leaders emigrating to the West. Alexander Valuisky discusses this issue from a Russian perspective, but the same realities hold true in Ukraine. "The situation is complicated. Churches in the former USSR are losing leaders, church members and future theological educators [by emigration]. At the same time, to discourage this movement to the West would suggest indifference to economic hardship and lack of freedom ... Many reasons exist for Russian emigration, including economics, crime and security, politics, socio-cultural factors, religious alienation, and apocalyptic theology."



Sergei Tereshenko

Valuisky describes each of these motives for emigration, but I was most intrigued by his suggested solutions. "The only solution to Slavic Christian emigration is to strengthen national church structures and theological education ... Well-educated ministers will produce strong churches. As qualified believers take positions of leadership in society, the situation will improve" he argues. He goes on to recommend, "success will come only as our national leaders and professors become dominant in these schools and Russian ownership develops. National leaders will have more authority and creativity within local conditions than do Western specialists. If this is an indigenous system, although developed with Western assistance, our people will not wish to leave. Emigration of Russian theological students is especially painful, since much money has been invested in them ... We have Bible schools and colleges [in the former USSR]; we now need to prepare national professors. Master's degree programs must be started in Russia so that students will not have to study overseas."

Kiev Theological Seminary is committed to this long-term approach to strengthen the evangelical church in Ukraine and the former USSR, but with a caveat that whenever possible, the new leadership should be homegrown. KTS president, Dr. Anatoly Prokopchuk is convinced this is the best way to insure the quality of leadership and continuity of vision at the seminary. He has placed several charter KTS graduates into key and growing administrative roles. Sergei Tereshenko serves as Assistant to the Academic Dean. Ruslan Khmyz serves as Dean of Students and Assistant to the President. Furthermore, an accredited master's degree program that admits not only students with undergraduate theology or Bible degrees, but also students with secular bachelor's degrees is presently under development.

Lack of national Christian leaders and professors, drained by seventy years of communist persecution and the present realities of Christian leaders emigrating to the West will not be overcome in a year or a decade. However, God is at work building and strengthening His church in Ukraine and we at KTS are privileged to be a part of His solution.



Ruslan Khmyz

MATCHING GIFT WOULD MAKE INITIAL CONSTRUCTION POSSIBLE

Everett Henderson, Area Director SEND Ukraine

Kiev Theological Seminary has received a wonderful opportunity and a great answer to prayer. One of the Seminary's supporting missions, SEND International, has received a challenge from some donors, which could significantly benefit us. These donors have indicated they will give SEND \$700,000 for KTS providing \$700,000 in new money has been received either by SEND for KTS, or directly by KTS by December 31 of this year. If the full amount has not been received by SEND or given through other organizations to KTS then we will not receive this matching grant. The matching grant will become available as soon as \$700,000 has been provided through other gifts, provided it is before Dec 31, 2004. This means that we could potentially see \$1,400,000 for the new multi-purpose facility.

At this point we are praying for a miracle provision of God to allow us to build the new building. Please inform your contacts in North America of this need for our Seminary. Everything given to KTS for the new building project between now and the end of the year can be counted toward this matching grant and need not be given through SEND International. We at KTS are recording gifts and will communicate our receipts.

We believe this potential grant is an answer to prayer. We do not know how God will supply, however we see this as His provision for the needs of His work in Ukraine. Any amount given to KTS during this time will be counted toward the grant.

Again, let us emphasize that we will be given the grant only if at least \$700,000 has been given from all sources including SEND by Dec. 31, 2004. Time is very short and many things must happen before the end of the year. This requires much prayer, much work in making contacts, and special effort in informing friends of this wonderful challenge. We trust the Lord will bless as we are faithful in this service to Him.

ENROLLMENT TO KTS 2004-2005 academic year

Sergei Tereschenko, Assistant to the Academic Dean
E-mail: tereschenko@kts.org.ua

In Ukraine, time of enrollment always happens during June-July when many new students just graduated from public high schools. This is a very exciting part of the academic year. It's a time of changes, decision-making and joy of achievements and sadness of failure at the entrance exams. It is a rush-time of the year. A student has just a little time for making his mind to choose the right school for him/herself. It is a time of competitions in academic field to show one's best and score the goal as high as possible to be accepted into the program.

Theological education in Ukraine is getting to be more attractive for prospective students. This year KTS opened its doors for prospective students on June 8th through 11th. No one could predict what kind of students we were going to welcome to our facilities. We prayed the Lord would send the right ones. And He did, and even gave us more than we expected.

Usually, enrollment process to KTS consists of two stages. First stage is the completion of documents. Admissions department thoroughly checks the references and academic credentials and questionnaire of the prospective student and then informs on the decision made about him. Those who passed stage one are invited to come for the enrollment exams.

This year KTS announced enrolment for Bachelor of Theology (modular program) with two majors, Church

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We at KTS are delighted when our students are able to return "home" to minister in churches and educational institutions. When a student leaves home an unbeliever and returns a well-trained Christian worker, our delight is multiplied!

Please pray for Dima, Alla and their children as they continue to serve the Lord in Kazakhstan, where Islam has still not closed the door to Christian ministry as it has in some of the neighboring countries.

KTS GRAD SEEKS FURTHER EDUCATION

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pastors. Therefore, in my future I want to make a connection between these two areas — teaching ancient languages and serving at theological institutions in the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States, i.e. the former USSR). I hope that my studies in Belgium will help me become proficient in my knowledge of languages and teaching skills. The areas of study at ETF that will be of most interest to me will be theology and Biblical languages.

My goal is to finish the Master's of Theology (ThM) program, which will last two years. In order for me to study in this program I will need to pass exams in ancient languages (Hebrew and Greek) and also an exam in the history of theology. Classes at ETF will be taught in English which I expect will be difficult for me but I am confident that God, Who has led me thus far, will take care of this also. May all praise be to Him forever!

Planting and Youth Ministry. Candidate had to choose one of two offered majors. 30 seats were available this year. 20 for CP major and 10 for YM major.

Admissions department considered 66 application documents and 61 candidates were invited for stage two of the enrolment process. Registration of those who were coming to the campus for examinations ended with 47 candidates. The rest could not make it to the exams due to various reasons. And we found out that the Lord's hand was in this. As we settled the students in conference hall we use as auditorium for large groups, we realized that we cannot seat more than 50 students in this auditorium with only one student per desk. We had just enough candidates in the auditorium to take examinations without splitting candidates into two groups!

Candidates had to take Russian-Ukrainian Grammar Test, write Doctrinal Essay, take Bible Knowledge Test and be interviewed by Interview Committee consisting of KTS Faculty members. This year we canceled Sermon Performance, which was a requirement in the past and usually took the most time because candidates and Admission Committee had to listen and evaluate each candidate. This gave us more time to interact with students and make their stay on the campus as short as possible; they could leave right after the interview.

The results? We accepted 20 male students who feel strong call to do church planting in Ukraine or any other place the Lord will lead them and 10 male students who are willing to change the shape of the youth ministry in Ukraine. All of them currently are actively involved in ministry either church planting and growth or youth ministry. The majority of them are not in full-time ministry as long as their time is concerned, but they are full-time in the work of the Lord when it comes down to their hearts. We are glad and thankful the Lord led these men here. We look forward to serving them, training them and equipping them for the better ministry of spreading the Gospel in Ukraine and Russia and growing the next generation of believers to be faithful to call of Jesus in Mathew 28:18-20.

What about those who were not accepted this time? Most of them fit to our programs but due to the school lack of facilities we had to limit the number of seats in each major, hence producing more tough competition for the seat. We encouraged those who did not make it this time to apply next year. And we sincerely hope they'll follow our advice.

Your prayers and contributions are very necessary to make the ongoing construction project reach its goal and provide more opportunities for those who desire to be trained to serve God in this part of the world. We ask you to join with us in prayer and giving as we strive to actualize it.

KTS GOES TO KHARKOV NEXT YEAR ... the Lord willing

The Admissions Department on main campus received just one applicant's documents for Kharkov extension school. It was reported Kharkov Admission Department received none. So we face the challenge to analyze the case and determine the ways to advertise the extension. And in the mean time to get prepared to provide the same level of education on extension campus which main campus students already have been granted. And for now, time is on our side.

Background picture: The blossoming white-rose branch of the chestnut is an adornment and symbol of Kiev.

From Our FOUNDING PRESIDENT



Dr. Anatoly Prokopchuk
Kiev Theological Seminary

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The seminary expansion, matching grant promotion, long and difficult explanations to Kiev city authorities why KTS could not pay them 10% of the project cost - all these may create an impression that there is nothing more important than to build these new dormitory and library, classes and teachers offices. It is almost easy to forget that the whole project is just a tool helping to meet the challenge of the ever-growing influence and importance of Kiev Theological Seminary's unique position and ministry.

Definitely, we see God given progress in the conversations with city authorities; we see Lord's blessings in the fact that in these financially challenging times, funds are coming for the matching grant from seminary friends, churches and foundations. I thank every one who took time and effort to help Kiev Theological Seminary in making progress to the year's-end goal. Still, it is very important to keep the right perspective, always to keep in mind the answer to the question: Why in the world are you doing this for KTS? Why it is important to make the school even more stable, even more attractive, and even more efficient? These are not ends in themselves. I will try to answer this "why" question as shortly as possible.

Succinctly it is important to give KTS better tools in the form of more space for academic process because the seminary is practically the only church oriented, church serving school consistently staying on the "by grace through faith alone" course (Eph.2:8). The supreme authority of the Bible, the Word of God, over tradition, politics and denominational interests is the firm foundation on which faculty and administration build their teaching, life and relationships. Our Lord blessed KTS tremendously by providing faculty from several reputable missions to minister together and to provide a model of unselfish love and care for one another.

It is important to help KTS to expand and to have better teaching facilities because the seminary is de facto leader in three major areas of church ministry and church growth, collaborating with recognized ministries to reach this leading position.

Firstly, KTS is a leader in pastoral leadership development in partnership with Church Leadership Development Int. (CLDI). The president of CLDI, Craig Ludrick is my friend from my seminary days. He is a dynamic leader himself and has great vision for developing pastoral resources in India, Ukraine and Georgia. He picked KTS graduate Andrew Zalishuk as his ministry director for CLDI, Ukraine and KTS as the base for the CLDI office. Last spring, the pastoral conference in the suburbs of Kiev brought more than 500 of the best pastors and leaders from all over the country. Brother Ludrick has had this great ministry for ten years and would like to start Leadership Development Institutes, where pastors will learn leadership skills on a regular basis.

Secondly, KTS is a leader in youth ministry development in partnership with Youth Ministry Int., which also has its office at KTS. Its director Mike Manna together with KTS faculty

run the special and unique (in former USSR) internationally certified Youth Ministry track in the Bachelor's of Theology program. The importance of the development of youth leaders for the former USSR just cannot be overstated. Unless we have qualified people on the field to help our youth, they will become nothing more than a lost generation in the moral and economical wilderness of the post-communistic states.

Thirdly, KTS is a leader in developing leaders in church planting in partnership with the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Brother Joel Regains, IMB missionary and pastor with more than 30 years of experience, is director of the KTS practicum developed with the seminary faculty church-planting track. It will help believers called to church planting ministry develop the right tools for planting churches in the countries of the former USSR. It is no wonder that such a track took shape at Kiev Theological Seminary - Ukrainian evangelical churches already have more than 400 missionaries in Russia.

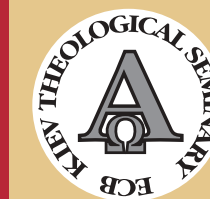
I trust in the Lord that this short presentation will help you, our dear faithful friends, to see the seminary expansion in the right perspective. Its goal is meeting the challenge of God's calling to boldness, innovation and steadfastness in taking God's Word to the uttermost parts of the former USSR and wherever the Lord will call KTS to minister.

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can be made payable to:

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Phone: 239.775.7180

All contributions for KTS
will be forwarded in full to the seminary.



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