

DIRECTING ATTENTION TO THE MINISTRIES OF KIEV THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## A WORD FROM KTS PRESIDENT DR. ANATOLY PROKOPCHUK

### LUDA GURKUN KTS Graduate 2002

*Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work."  
John 4:34*



Luda and husband Volodya

theology courses and all the courses of course which had anything to do with Christian Education.

God put it on Luda's heart to organize a children's club where children from unbelieving families could come to study the Bible.

Luda was already teaching Sunday school, studying at the seminary, and being a wife and mother, so she was especially thankful when an American missionary came to help her. Her family was and continues to be very supportive of her ministry involvements. Her husband is a deacon, her daughter a university student also teaches Sunday school and her son is in grade school. They all love the Lord.

Luda asked God to send her helpers and He quickly answered. Currently the club includes English lessons, sewing, cooking and Bible lessons. God even put in her heart to work with the mothers and now there is a small group studying the Bible.

Luda graduated from KTS in May 2002. Usually during the summers, her club ministry and Sunday school take a break. However, God was preparing even another ministry for her. Someone

suggested to her that she lead a Christian day camp in a Ukrainian village. He showed her how these children needed salvation and Luda began to ask God to use her life in ways that were pleasing to Him. She was already prepared for a new ministry.

Now Luda has a wonderful team, with which she does such camps. But this is not the end. She has a new vision—to train and prepare more teams to do children's camps so that more and more children can hear about Jesus. No one can say how long there will be freedom in Ukraine. Luda and her team want to use this time to spread the good news about our Savior. In December, Luda started to train her first group of team leaders which will work in summer day camps. She plans to widen her ministry to include children in every part of Ukraine. Pray for Luda. She will need much prayer and financial support and ask God to give her wisdom in this continuing and growing ministry.



Let's play!



Craft time is a camp favorite

### MIRACLES HAPPEN!

Admit this or not, consciously or subconsciously, we all long for them. At least, we all long for miracles here in the country of Ukraine. There is a very sound reason for this—we clearly understand that it takes a miracle to bring fundamental change to a country first corrupted by communism and then totally corrupted by the government of our last president, Kuchma. We will see what will happen to the country's administration and economy in the future. Hopefully, the near future, knowing it takes time to get definitive results even with the best president and administration. Still, I will share some miracles my family, the seminary and Ukraine have already received and they were all in practically one package. Why do I think the Lord's special provision and special intervention on behalf of us must be miracles? Let me elaborate.

Firstly, if a 78 years old man goes in emergency to a Ukrainian hospital following several days of constant pain, of abstaining from food and of losing much weight, and is found to have two handfuls of gallstones, then goes through a very difficult operation (done by the old methods with a big incision which requires much younger people several months to recover) and fully recovers becoming self sufficient in two weeks—I can call that a miracle. This old man is my father, on whom I rely as the KTS building construction manager (it is what he has done his whole life). In addition to the fast recovery, the timing was arranged (you guess by Whom) in such a way that the operation happened after the foundation of the seminary expansion was finished and the semester and most activities were coming to the Christmas break.



Dr. Anatoly Prokopchuk with his father

Secondly, you may recall that the Kiev City Council was adamant in their requirement that the seminary pay \$100,000 before starting the seminary expansion. The struggle was ongoing for almost a year, bringing us endless frustration and disappointments. The very day I took my father to the hospital, I was summoned to the City Council meeting to present the seminary case again. Amazingly, Roman Ovcharenko (KTS

graduate 2000) was able to find lawyers who were able to get our case through. Still, I went with all my thoughts about my ailing father, without any opportunity to look through papers or even prepare some arguments. I am not a building constructor and I have no clue of the intricacies of the trade. I asked our administrative director Ruslan Khmiz to go with me. However, the council only let me in and I was supposed to present our case alone. Like a scared Gideon, I just spoke what God gave me to speak. Amazingly, this time the Lord split the council vote in two—50/50. In this case they needed to call for an extended council with city leaders and by the end of that same week, God made the extended council vote to relieve KTS from payment of the exorbitant amount of \$100,000. By all human count, any other decision would only have created additional problems not bringing a favorable solution. But God decided otherwise.

Thirdly, by all human count, considering the still flat curve of the American economy, the many requests coming to American churches for help and support from all around the world, while also bearing in mind the strange Ukrainian economy and the low level of income of the majority of Ukrainian evangelical



churches, to believe in the possibility of attaining the matching grant goal of \$700,000 by the end of year 2004 could be considered great faith or clinical self-delusion. I should admit with all possible honesty, I did not have such great faith and I am not inclined to self-delusion (at least my doctor believes I am OK). My attitude was the kind of Christian stoicism characteristic of many believers in Ukraine who went through prison camps and KGB persecution: Whatever God wills, I will surrender. I guess those who really had great faith were located mostly in Farmington MI, at the SEND International headquarters. Amazingly, even before the year was over, it became obvious that the matching grant was a God given reality when SEND of Japan jumped on the wagon with their timely help, along with a considerable share of the funds coming from Ukrainian churches, the seminary students and workers. There is One Who calls non-existing as existing and impossible as possible.

In order to give you the full impression of the miraculous nature of these events, I would just like to add that everything was taking place simultaneously against the background of a roaring, waving and struggling, however, peacefully "orange" revolution through which God brought the impossible victory of

democracy to Ukraine. No analytic, no politician, no prophet could have predicted that such things might happen in a country under the firm grip of post-communistic authoritarian rulers, in a country when three odious persons—dictator Lucaschenko (Belarus) and almost dictators Putin of Russia and Kuchma of Ukraine—were watching the Kiev military parade in the last days of October. They were sure of the victory of the fraudulent prime minister, their puppet. Sure of their power. Sure of themselves. They definitely did not care what God thought of their plans. In just over a month, they were made a laughing stock by our God who is not only our Savior, not only the Lord of creation but also the great Master of history.

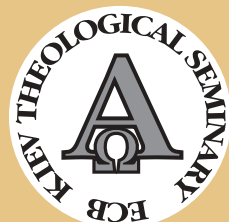
Our dear friends, who love us so much, who stand by us in our difficulties and struggles and now in these exciting days of undeserved gifts and of unexpected freedom, we ask you to praise with us the Lord who is beyond our comprehension, who is always beyond our expectations, for Whom nothing is too big, too difficult or too intricate. We ask you to stand with us in awe before God, who is always able to surprise us, to make us gasp in amazement, and to fill us with the cheerful joy of His always unexpected and always so bright presence.



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

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# OUR ROAD TO KTS

Michael Kuvshnikov, KTS Student Chaplain



Michael (center) with KTS students

Michael's parents were born in Russia. During WW II they relocated to Germany where he was born, the last of ten children. Three siblings had died in Russia. When he was a year and a half old, the family relocated again. This time they sailed to America and settled in Erie, Pennsylvania.

In 1971, Michael asked Jesus Christ into his life at the Russian Evangelical Church in Erie. He began seeking God's will for his future at the same time that his missionary brother in South Korea was asking God to send one of his five brothers to the mission field. Soon afterward, Michael set off for the Appalachian Bible College in West Virginia. At a missions conference during his sophomore year, he dedicated his life to reaching Russians for Christ. While working amongst Russian and Ukrainian Jews in Rome, Italy Michael met Diane Morely who was from Salem, Oregon. They were married in the romantic city of Rome. Since then the Lord has led them on quite the missionary journey.

From Italy the road led to the island of Saipan, which is part of the Northern Mariana Islands in the South Pacific and also part of the Commonwealth of the US. There the Kuvshnikovs helped to broadcast the Gospel into Russia. During this time, their two daughters Audrey (now 15) and Lindey (now 11) were born. Their next stop was Moscow, where they spent two years building a recording studio and finding local believers to staff it. And then,

it was back to Michigan and SEND International, where Michael served in the Short-Term Ministries Department recruiting, training, leading short-term construction and ministry teams to Russia and Ukraine as well as recruiting short-term teachers for teaching at the Bible institutes in Russia and Ukraine. Most recently, God led the Kuvshnikovs to Kiev, where they have served since August 2001.

Michael frequently ministers in various Ukrainian churches and outlying villages by preaching and encouraging the pastors and congregations. They also lead a small group Bible study. Since arriving in Kiev, he has had a growing desire to mentor potential church leaders. This past December, Michael became the pastor to the staff and students at Kiev Theological Seminary.

Presently, there are 19 full-time students and 31 modular students. The modular students attend four two-week sessions throughout the academic year. When Michael was first introduced to the student body, immediately, three of the modular students set up appointments to meet with him. The time spent

with these men was very encouraging. He met with other students as well and believes that once he gets to know them, these kinds of meetings will become frequent.

Michael looks forward to taking students along with him to the villages, where they will have opportunities to preach and minister. The village folk are always glad

to have preachers from the city. The opportunities to mentor and minister to these future leaders are endless. Pray that during this semester, Michael will be able to develop friendships with students.

It's a great joy and responsibility to be a part of KTS, which is dedicated to providing quality education and preparation for future church leaders of Ukraine and the former Soviet Union. We thank you for your interest and involvement in KTS, and thank you for praying and giving.



KTS Chapel



KTS students