

KTS COMPASS

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DIRECTING ATTENTION TO THE MINISTRIES OF KIEV THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

THE SEMINARY'S BEDROCK PURPOSE IN THE MIDST OF CHANGING TIMES

Rick Perhai, Professor & Academic Dean • rperhai@kts.org.ua

The latest news from Ukraine has been amazing, surprising and elating. For example, the reversal of presidential election results – without bloodshed – with the pro-democratic (and non-incumbent) prevailing. And funding for the KTS building expansion given *above and beyond* that required to receive the matching funds. One could get caught up in, and even carried away by all the newness around us, in government, in culture, in buildings, and programs. But some things must never change.

Kiev Theological Seminary exists to serve churches throughout Ukraine and Eurasia by training church leaders. And our training, while sensitive to cultural changes, is rooted in the unchanging nature of God and His revealed Gospel in Jesus Christ.

Paul, said in Galatians 6:14, "May it never be that I should boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world." Why would Paul want to boast in the cross of Christ or exalt in the public humiliation and excruciating execution of our Lord? Answer: because Jesus, who was crucified for our sins, was also raised for our justification (Rom 4:25). It is because of Jesus' *finished work* on the cross, that we have right standing and access before Almighty God. This is the greatest news of all which we proclaim!

So, we boast neither in a country pursuing European Union membership, nor in our expanding programs and buildings in the capital city of Ukraine. Instead, we boast alone in Christ Jesus our Lord, our justification, our righteousness. And we maintain that focus before our students via four bachelor's courses in theology and multiple courses in biblical studies including core courses in Romans and Isaiah.

As a young man, the Lord gave me Col 1:28, 29 as a "life verse." "And we proclaim Him [Christ], admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom that we may present every man complete in Christ. And for this purpose also [we at KTS] labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within [us]." May this foundational purpose of mine and of KTS never change.



Marilyn & Rick Perhai

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dr. Anatoly Prokopchuk

How would I as president describe Kiev Theological Seminary in the current conditions of Ukraine? The school is in a great position. Students are abundant. Teachers are great. Relationships in the team make me want to stay at school day and night; such a comfortable place it is. The new programs of Youth Ministry and Church Planting grow really exciting. The new project of more than 40 young church planters working on the field is just great. The seminary operation is smooth and bright. Even the building construction goes at an absolutely amazing pace with all the necessary paperwork and people in place. What else would a reasonable person like to see?

Simply, as an administrator, I would like to see a little bit further ahead than our operational funds currently permit. Since the beginning of the year, giving to the operational funds has fallen short of the needed projections. Adding to the deficit has been the declining value of the American dollar while the value of the Euro has been steadily increasing. Ukraine depends upon imports from European countries. Yet, I must have confidence in the promise which the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Philippi, "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:19).

In attempting to see the future of KTS, I am in a much better position than the new Ukrainian government. It is my impression, all they see are impossible odds in every direction, anti-revolutionary forces rally together to defeat them as the president and prime-minister work hard to stamp out corruption in the country. The old evil raises its ugly head with lies, slanders and provocations impossible to recall in this newsletter. I just hope people in our government read the Bible. It tells me, and them, who is able to get us through the fog and even dark valleys. Who is our true Shepherd and Guide? "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4).

Dear KTS friends. I know everyone of you has his or her share of struggles.

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

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KTS STUDENTS

In 2004 a new group of men was accepted to KTS. Through their studies at these men desire to more effectively serve God. Here are stories from three of our newest students.



PAVEL GORLENKOV,
from Cherkassi

I was accepted into the Youth Ministry program. Before I was accepted, I was involved in children's and youth ministries at the House of the Gospel church in Cherkassi. I hope that a theological education and serious study of the Word of God will help not only me personally, but also those who are in the church and those who are outside of its doors. I think that the knowledge which is taught at KTS will help me study more deeply the youth culture of our society. While the experience of other churches will be put to use in our church.



MIHAEL SIPRUN
from Cherkassi

My name is Mihael. I live in the city of Cherkassi. I am in pastoral ministry in a small, newly planted church. At the seminary, I hope to receive knowledge and methods that will help me to effectively complete the Great Commission given to us by our Lord: "Go and make disciples..." (Matt. 28:19). The Word of God calls us to "Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching" (1 Tim. 4:16). I hope not only to read or remember but also in particular to deeply study. That is why I come with great joy to study at KTS. I thank the Lord for this and I thank those who have made this education possible and who pass on to us their knowledge, abilities and spiritual experience.

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT *continued*

Many of you have much more life experience than I do and I am sure have carried burdens much heavier than ours here. We pray for you because we know that the Bible teaches us, "bear one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal.6:2). Please relieve our burdens by bearing them with us in your prayers and intercessions for the Lord's work in Ukraine and at KTS as you have done so faithfully in the past.



Following the arrival of spring, construction resumes.



ALEXI SERDYUK

My name is Alexi. I am 26 years old and I was born into a simple working class family. My life has had both good and bad, but what I want to tell you about is the 5 years of my life that were like hell on earth.

I was 16 years old when I finished technical school and my life drastically changed: I became a drug addict. I did not suspect then that I would take a syringe in my hands and sign my own death sentence.

Everything began relatively well: friends, girls, but then later, alcohol and drugs. After a year of drug usage, I understood that without drugs I could not sleep or even live. Besides that, I saw that the friends who had always been nearby, for some reason began to disappear, distancing themselves from me, and ignoring me. I was left alone, needed by no one. Only my mother cried for me and believed that everything would turn out OK. But this did not stop me and I continued to do the things that I could not live without.

I was repeatedly stopped by the police, was conditionally sentenced, but no one and nothing could stop me. I tried leaving the country and travelled to Italy. I thought that by living in a new country and being surrounded by new circumstances that I could change my life. But, alas, even there drugs found me. I was also conditionally sentenced in that country. I returned to Ukraine, not seeing any purpose in life. I continued to use drugs, waiting for the day when death would knock on my door.

Instead of death, Jesus came to knock on my door. At that moment I understood that He was the only One who could help me. It was not easy when I accepted Him into my home and into my heart, but He was always near. He alone did not reject me. He had waited. Waited for a long time for the time when I would allow Him to enter into my life. He taught me, instructed me, and helped me. He was and is protection for me. God alone holds me in His strong arms.

God placed in my heart the desire to plant new churches and so I applied to Kiev Theological Seminary. I have purpose in my life and joy and peace in my heart, and all of this has been given to me by Christ Jesus.