

KTS COMPASS

FALL
2006

DIRECTING ATTENTION TO THE MINISTRIES OF KIEV THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

TALBOT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND KTS PARTNER IN NEW MASTERS PROGRAM

By Mark Saucy, Director, KTS-Talbot Program

A lengthy dialogue between southern California and Ukraine came to a fruitful end this summer as the administrations of Talbot School of Theology (of Biola University in LaMirada California) and KTS received approval for KTS to be an officially accredited extension site of Talbot. The good news marked the end of a three-year process, which included many trans-Atlantic crossings, and mountains of email traffic, but the efforts paid off with a successful site visit to KTS from Talbot's accrediting organization last May.

Officially the summer's news means that Talbot School of Theology will offer its Master of Arts degree in Biblical and Theological Studies at the KTS campus. Not only is KTS proud to be the first international (and presently only) extension of Talbot, but the presence in Ukraine of a western accredited Master's degree in theology is a huge step forward for theological education in the whole former Soviet Union. The program means that students from Ukraine and Russia no longer must travel to the west for highly desired accredited degrees that would allow them to continue studies all the way to the doctorate level.

For the 15 years since freedom, travel to the west for education has been fraught with many difficulties for students and seen only limited returns. There is the hardship for families of students, great temptation to emigrate (and many did), and certain extraction from their home ministry context during the years away. With a bonafided western Master's degree launched on Ukrainian soil all of these hurdles to developing theological education are now greatly reduced.

Besides the high standards and quality that accredited degrees inherently bring, the KTS-Talbot partnership is united around the common vision of both schools for theological education that truly serves the Church of Jesus Christ. All of us here at KTS are very thankful to God that such a vision under girds the first such east-west partnership on the territories of the former Soviet

Union. As you know, not all theological education in the Church's history has been so committed.

For the church of Eurasia the program's course offerings are contextualized to be relevant to apologetic and internal needs. A mix of KTS's own residential faculty, others from nearby countries, plus 2-3 of Talbot's own teachers every year stand to offer a good blend of experience and perspective to challenge our students in their ministries. Further, the economic realities of our students have meant Talbot had to be prepared to significantly underwrite the cost of the extension and invest in the Kingdom work very far from home.

The KTS-Talbot extension program has already begun accepting applications from qualified candidates who are vying for 20 slots available in the first class. Courses will be offered four times every year in two-week sessions each time. The first two sessions are set for March and May of next year.

Pray with us for our beginning steps in this new venture. The Lord has been faithful getting us this far, so there is basis to wait for the future. Pray with us now for all of the logistical details involved for partners geographically so far apart. Pray also with us for the right students who will maximize this incredible opportunity and join it together with the strength that the Lord provides them to serve his Church.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS to KTS

can be made payable to:

Rick Campana Ministries

141 Muirfield Circle

Naples FL 34113

Phone: 239.775.7180

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

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SUMMER MINISTRY

Larissa Fokina, KTS graduate 2003 & KTS Librarian



Small group



Alexander Stasuk, teaching

It's hard, even impossible, to believe that I can now serve my Lord as a teacher of a Sunday school in a Baptist church, because 25 years ago I entered the philosophy department at the most atheistic university in the former Soviet Union. But God was so merciful to me when He opened my eyes and showed me His truth. It happened in 1991 in Germany where I lived with my family because my husband served there as an officer. There, for the first time I took the Bible into my hands. It was a present from some Russian-speaking German missionaries. I then realized that God's Word was the truth I had been seeking. I repented and was baptized the following year.

After returning to Ukraine, I felt a strong desire to serve God with all my abilities. That's why in 1993 I finished special courses for Sunday school teachers and began my ministry conducting Bible lessons for pupils in an elementary school where my daughter was studying. One year later I was invited to be a leader in the Christian summer camp for unbelieving children. The "start" year for my annual summer ministry began in 1994.

Since 1996 I have been working with children at the Sunday school in my church "The House of

Gospel." I graduated from the Department of Christian Education of KTS in 2003.

Six years ago our church and Sunday school authorities decided to organize a special summer camp for our students. Teachers and youth readily endorsed the idea. In 2000 the first 70 to 80 children spent a wonderful time in the camp situated in picturesque surroundings near Kiev. Now we have camps every summer, for two age groups — younger children and teenagers. Since the very beginning I was involved in this camp as a Bible teacher and every year I receive special blessings sharing God's love with the campers.

The main goal of this camp is showing God to our students and leading them to Him. That's why the name of our camp is "Compass." During the very first lessons we teach children that the Lord gave us His Holy Scriptures, which like a compass, show us the way to Him and help to orient ourselves in this world.

From time to time other KTS students have also participated in the camp's program as group leaders, coordinators, workshop facilitators and teachers. Present KTS students in the ministry are Oksana Kotenko, Compass Director and Oleksandr Stasyuk, Coordinator of Programming.

Every year God greatly blesses our camp in all possible ways. Very often Christian children invite their unbelieving friends, classmates or siblings and then these children start to attend our Sunday school. Many teenagers, after being participants, come the next year as assistant group leaders. In this way they start their ministry for God. Several years ago those teenagers organized two youth groups for studying the Bible and now my own children are attending one of the groups. Praise the Lord, they are also serving Him in "Compass." Formerly my son was just a participant, then leader's assistant, and for the last two years he is a leader for the youngest boys. My daughter progressed from being a leader's assistant to the Youth Program Coordinator. I'm so happy that God can use my family for His work!

Almost every year we have at least one "difficult child" who breaks the rules and offends others. But God gives us His love, patience and wisdom to solve such problems so that at the end of camp the child's behavior is changing, he or she begins to pay more attention to the Bible lessons and finally leaves camp having friends and lots of impressions.

Every camp has a theme and all camp activities

(games, lessons, general evening meetings and within small groups) are related to it. Children can reveal their abilities by taking part in different workshops: drawing, sports, drama, studying English, cooking, crafts and so on. We have a special teenage program, which includes discussing current issues about smoking, drug and alcohol abuse, dating, etc.



At this stop students practice the 10 commandments. They must step in each tire and quickly recite the matching commandment!



Each day begins with an obstacle course. At this stop students must put the books of the Bible in order in less than 3 minutes before they can advance to the next task.



Larissa Fokina teaching Bible lesson



Oksana Kotenko



Youth camp (Alexander center front row, Oksana second row and second from left standing, Larissa last row in red shirt)

Still our main goal is not to entertain children through an interesting program but to show them God's love and confirm through our actions all that we are telling them during camp and then in Sunday school. That is why it's so joyful for us to see

our students repenting and devoting their lives to the Lord.

If God allows us, next summer (2007) we will have our seventh camp for children from our church. So I would like to encourage you to pray for our staff and program. We need a team of devoted and trained leaders and teachers, and the program should not only be interesting but one through which we help children to come to Jesus Christ.

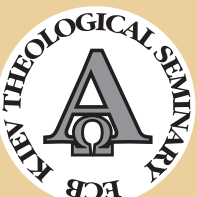


Interest group- reading

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

Visit our website! www.ktsonline.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Anatoly Prokopchuk

Everything is ambiguous in Ukraine. One of the most ambiguous things is progress. When you look at many external features of life in Kiev, you will definitely see progress — cleaner streets, shiny supermarkets, many cafés and restaurants, more light in the evening, even more cars letting you cross the street (but, when in Ukraine, do not count on that too much). At the same time when one leaves Kiev and areas around the city, signs of progress diminish rapidly and stagnation becomes visible, even regression, especially if one moves to the provincial south or southeast. However, there is definite regression when one looks at political life in Ukraine. On average, if anything remains stable, it should be considered progress in this country ridden by constant and often unpredictable change.

The building construction of Kiev Theological Seminary is not totally exempt from the general economical and cultural pressure of ambiguity. Considering the financial situation in our country and the rampant prices for food, materials (including building materials) and the housing market, the progress of the KTS building construction is way beyond any expectation. Due to the great efforts of the construction managing team, the cost of the new buildings has been kept way below our country's (and especially the Kiev area) average. Our great progress was made against tremendous odds and opposition from people who hate



believers and tried to do everything in their power to stop the expansion construction. At the same time, the initial funds were eaten up by price



inflation and did not let us reach the goal we had set. We still need one million one hundred thousand US dollars to get us to

the point when we will be able to invite teams to help us finish the interior. It is definitely not regression, but if anything KTS life and development remains the "Pilgrim's Progress" at its best.

We praise the Lord that the seminary academic and financial operations look much less ambiguous. Through two admissions we enrolled 25 new students — all carefully hand-picked by our academic team according to the best standards of ministry and learning. Some of the students were waiting a year and made several attempts to get into our seminary. We now do special advertisements and plan to have two more admissions before the year's end. We would like to make sure we have covered all areas in Ukraine and beyond to give the opportunity to the very best students to find their way to KTS. Our operational finances amazingly take us to the end of April 2007. We still do not have a general sponsor and only one regularly supporting church, Grace Bible Fellowship in NJ. Still our Lord is faithful to keep this school operational, to make it the standard of His grace and magnanimity in this generally legalistic environment.

It gives us a sure foundation for optimism and boldness to look into the future. As one commentator in our weekly magazine mentioned, "In this country and with this government we just could not afford pessimism." And what looks ambiguous and challenging for us is just as clear as crystal for our almighty God. Shaky economics and unstable politics just cannot even touch the rock solid foundation of "the faith, which was once for all delivered to the saints." (Jude 3)