

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 2

allotted to special saintliness. They also acquired a status that made them exempt from criticism.

Somehow I was always taught and implicitly believed that the long suffering of my ancestors, of my brothers and sisters, pastors and leaders, guaranteed the quality of our doctrine and church practice. I was and am deeply embedded in the history of the life of the evangelical movement in Ukraine and the former USSR. I observed it for many years; saw many leaders and pastors in action, in times of persecution and in time of freedom. I should have learned from these observations. I was no different from any other person fully immersed in his or her paradigm, being blind to the realities right before my eyes.

I believed together with many that having suffered much for our faith, the Evangelical Church in Ukraine would stay the course biblically and that freedom would provide even greater opportunities for the spread of the Gospel throughout Ukraine. I did not pay attention to the simple fact that being isolated by atheism, deprived of biblical and theological educa-

tion, mostly banned from secular education, we had lost our theological foundation. The sheer survival of us and of the evangelical church was not our achievement, this did not bring us some deserved merit, and it did not make us more virtuous than our brothers and sisters abroad. It was in fact by the mercy and grace of God.

The truth is that "unless the LORD of hosts had left us a few survivors, we would be like Sodom, we would be like Gomorrah" says Isa. 1:9. It took the painful realization that the man, whom I respected for many years, now teaches unbiblically. This hard blow brought the blessing of release from the old paradigm of self-righteousness. This also forced me to see how badly injured we came out of the communistic wasteland and how much we lost in the long battle for survival. This theological injury prevents many people in our evangelical circles from seeing our true condition and thus to call for much needed help.

Only now I begin to understand how much we lost "in the land of Egypt", how poor and how badly beaten we are, how much we still need to learn and how far

we need to travel just to return to the faith of our grandfathers. It is not going to be easy. And I do not believe and expect an overnight theological miracle. Ahead of us is the hard work of building a new biblical foundation. And we need all the help we can get. I have always believed in the importance of the missionary work of our brothers and sisters from the West. I believe it is needed more today. Before I mostly thought about good work ethics, consistency, integrity, level-mindedness, even entrepreneurial skills that our American teachers would bring. Now I think first of the need to help us build a sound Biblical foundation upon which the evangelical Church of Ukraine can build.

In March 2007 a new fully accredited modular program of a Masters of Biblical Studies will be offered through BIOLA's Talbot School of Theology extension here at Kiev Theological Seminary. This I believe is one of many new building stones that will enable us to help build a much-needed new Biblical foundation for our Lord's Church here in Ukraine and throughout the former Soviet Union.



Valentin Shamara, David & Joan King, Andy Rist and Denis Yuxemets.

## SERVING WITH THE KTS PASTORAL LEADERSHIP DEPT.

### David King, Pastor to KTS Students

My wife Joan and I serve with SEND International here in Kiev. How I found myself at KTS is one of God's special appointments. Let me share events the Lord used to lead us to Ukraine and KTS.

In 1998 my younger brother, Dwayne King called from Far East Russia and asked if I would come over and help him. My response at that time was "Not me brother. I'm a pastor of a growing church, we have just built a new home and our children and grandchildren live near us." Dwayne came to visit us in 1998 and stayed for nine days. Again he asked me to come over and help him. Finally, with the help of the church where I had served as senior pastor for 20 years and the encouragement of the elders and most importantly my wife Joan, I went to Far East Russia for four weeks to teach seminars. I enjoyed the experience of my life. As a result, our lives have never been the same.

In the year 2000, Joan accompanied me, and my brother Dwayne and wife Carolyn to Moscow, St. Petersburg and Bryansk where the National Pastors Conference for the Baptist Union of Eurasia was held. For the first time in our lives we traveled to Kiev Ukraine. WOW!! Joan gained a view of

*continued on page 3*

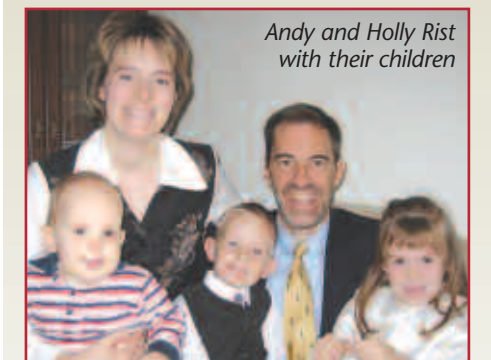
## PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

Andy Rist; Professor of Church History, Bible Exposition and Systematic Theology

After a year of prayer and planning, in September 2006, Kiev Theological Seminary launched a new major in September 2006 that specifically focused on preparing students for pastoral ministry. During the seminary's early years, pastoral students comprised the majority of the student body. But over the last couple of years, the seminary has grown and new majors were added to the curriculum. As a result, pastoral ministry students were overlooked.

In response to this problem, the KTS faculty made the necessary adjustments and introduced the Pastoral Leadership program. In addition to the five existing majors — Biblical studies, Christian education, church planting, youth ministry, and Talbot graduate degree — KTS again features a program uniquely designed to train men for the pastorate.

Andy Rist, who has served with SEND International for ten years, and has been teaching at the semi-



Andy and Holly Rist with their children

*continued on page 2*

## PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

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David King

nary for the last four years, was appointed to direct the Pastoral Leadership program. As the new director of the program, Andy has a passion to train men who will fill the hundreds of vacant pulpits that exist in churches throughout Ukraine.

Also serving in the Pastoral Leadership department is another

SEND missionary, David King. David and his wife Joan moved to Ukraine last summer. Prior to joining SEND, David ministered for 25 years as the senior pastor of a large church in Maine, and also served as a certified Biblical counselor.

The pastoral leadership major at Kiev Theological Seminary is designed to give students a solid Biblical and theological understanding of the Bible so that they will:

- Preach God's Word effectively (*2 Tim. 4:2*)
- Lead His church with a shepherd's heart (*1 Peter 5:2*)
- Seek after the lost (*Luke 15:6-7, 9-10; 19:10*)

Students desiring to enter this program must display the spiritual giftedness necessary to pastor a church. This four-year program will never "create" a pastor, but it will sharpen and develop skills that a student already possesses, in order to enhance his pastoral ministry once his seminary training is completed.

This program also emphasizes leadership development. Too often Ukrainian church leaders are overly authoritative, domineering, and even self-serving in their respective ministries. But the Pastoral Leadership

program will train a pastor to exemplify Christ-likeness and humility in all situations, as well as motivate the Christian to walk in greater dependence on God.

Training men for ministry is not strictly based in academics and classroom study. The Pastoral Leadership program will also shape and develop students as they are ministering in their churches. Each KTS student will be assigned a mentor to whom the student will be accountable during his seminary career. The mentor will help the student grow personally in his love for the Lord, while helping the student apply all facets of pastoral ministry while he is studying at KTS.

Denis Yuxemets is one of the new students to begin training at KTS in the Pastoral Leadership

program. Ten years ago he emigrated from Ukraine to the United States. While in the states he began his own construction business and became quite successful. He married another Ukrainian immigrant and God blessed them with two children. Denis was living the "American dream" but deep in his spirit he was not content.



Denis Yuxemets

A year ago Denis returned to Ukraine with his family for the sole purpose of ministry. He desired to serve Christ in the land of his birth and following his return he became the pastor of a small church. In September 2006, Denis started his first year at KTS. He is looking forward to receiving further training because he realizes there are deficiencies in his ministerial skills. Denis is not certain what the future holds, but he intensely desires to serve in the pastorate by preaching the Word of God, by shepherding the flock, and by evangelizing the lost in Ukraine.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Dr. Anatoly Prokopchuk*

Shattered illusions do not necessary belong to the young. I discovered that it is quite possible to have illusions in middle age when one should know better and think more critically. It is so easy to become numb and to miss the obvious, especially concerning the

truth. It requires a shattering blow to wake us up to the truth and its implications. We do not like such a blow, but it is a sure way to grow and to shed the old skin of illusion and misconception.

I always lived in an environment that implicitly believed in the

virtues and merit of suffering. Most of my relatives in the underground Baptist group believed that we should seek suffering, to provoke suffering if it did not come to us naturally because those who suffered for Christ acquired respect

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## KTS PASTORAL LEADERSHIP DEPT.

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what I experienced in 1998. At that time we met the SEND Ukraine team and loved them as well as Kiev, not realizing that one day our new home would be in Kiev.

We retired in 2002 from 40 years of pastoral ministry to serve with SEND International as representatives for the Church Department. In 2003 we returned to Kiev for two months. We attended the SEND Ukraine Field conference and taught Hermeneutics at the Sumy Bible Institute. Hanging out with Everett and Nancy Henderson and spending time with the team did a number on both of us. We wanted so much to return and join their team. However, it wasn't the Lord's timing for us to return just yet.

During the 2005 SEND Family Conference, the Lord made it clear to both of us that it was finally time to move to Kiev. So here we are happily serving our teammates as well as Kiev Theological Seminary.

Not long after we arrived and settled into our apartment in Kiev, one of our teammates fell ill to cancer. The family returned to the states for medical treatment leaving open the position of Pastor to the students at KTS. Although I have no language skills and a profound hearing impairment, the Lord has enabled a special relationship with the students, the seminary faculty and staff.

While serving as interim pastor, it became clear to SEND's leadership and the seminary administration that I would be a good fit to work with Andy Rist and the Pastoral Leadership Department. Together, Andy as the department director with his administration and theological background and I with 40 years of pastoral experience including 25 years as a certified Biblical Counselor, make a good team to mentor the students in the Pastoral Leadership Program. During the month

of January, Andy and I made two trips visiting students enrolled in the modular KTS Pastoral Leadership Program. The purpose of the trips was to better understand the students' lives, family relationships and ministries. We also helped to establish a mentoring relationship with an older, experienced and wiser pastor who will take these students under wing as their mentor. We traveled to Korosten Ukraine and to Yalta on the Crimean coast of the Black Sea. Our goal, for these students and for those who will enter this excellent program, is follow-up to their classes at KTS. This follow up, along with the on site mentor, is for the purpose of molding young men into world class pastors and leaders of the church of Jesus Christ here in Ukraine. I continue to help with the pastoral role at KTS by overseeing chapel services and writing the small group curriculum.

Both Joan and I are humbled to be here in Ukraine where God is visibly at work bringing Ukrainians to Christ, planting churches and equipping students and pastors. I never dreamed that one day we would be playing a small part in the education and preparation of such excellent young men and women here at KTS. These special Ukrainians and Russians will one day take the gospel all across the former Soviet Union, the Baltic's, the Stan's, and on to the Silk Road into East Asia and the uttermost parts of the earth in fulfillment of Jesus Christ's command to his disciples: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." *Matthew 28:19-20 NIV.*

**KTS COMPASS** is a publication of Kiev Theological Seminary.

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