

## KTS COMPASS

is a publication of Kiev  
Theological Seminary.

Please direct your comments  
and/or questions to us at:  
[president@ktsonline.org](mailto:president@ktsonline.org)  
Visit our website @  
[www.ktsonline.org](http://www.ktsonline.org)



## MEET TARIEL KVARATS'HELIA

### A Current Student at Kiev Theological Seminary, Church Planting Program

Several years ago, I was leading a youth ministry in the small town of Berezino. It was an interesting time. We were searching for ways to make our ministry effective. With time, God was changing my heart and to do that, He used people who were precious to me. I realized that I cannot do anything in the ministry by myself and God was convicting me through the Word that I read. One verse stuck in my memory: "His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it." (John 2:5). Everything changed; my approach to my ministry became different. We organized a youth prayer ministry and started discipleship. God was doing something amazing in the church and all we had to do was to patiently wait for the time when we would understand His plan.

Time flew day by day. My wife and I started building a house. This was a test for us. It was always difficult to balance everything so that nothing suffered. As soon as we started building, I had a thought that we would never live there. I kept praying and trying to see God's will. When I told Lena about it, I realized that God would be moving us to start a new church. But where should we go? Certainly I understood that God would not tell that in the Bible. To me it meant a need for careful observation of events in my life and conversations among brothers and sisters in the faith. God used them and spoke to my heart three times.

After four years of our prayers, God gave the location. By that time I had intentionally entered the Kiev Theological Seminary, in order to better understand what God was calling me to. As I was entering, I told myself that there was no way I would study there if I didn't see in the interview that the Church Planting program director was using God's guidance. I prayed and God, through the interview with Joel Regains, let me know that I needed to study.

Once I had entered, God showed a lot and taught me a lot through different professors, giving me His blessings. God helped clarify the vision of starting a new church in Belarus and every time through the classes He encouraged me. Now He gives an opportunity to share these blessings with others. I am thankful to God that I have good prayer support, which is so important for my family and me.

Right now God is doing something amazing. Sometimes I watch what He is doing and I am a spectator, yet at the same time I am an instrument in His hands and He uses it all for His glory. When one lives with these thoughts it is hard to imagine a better and happier life. The seminary studies help me balance everything I come to deal with, namely, it helps me balance my ministry (my family is my ministry as well) and my everyday responsibilities. I believe that my further studies will be as great of a blessing to me as they have been thus far.

## CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS to KTS

can be made payable to:

Rick Campana Ministries  
141 Muirfield Circle, Naples FL 34113  
Phone: 239.775.7180

# KTS COMPASS

WINTER  
2008

DIRECTING ATTENTION TO THE MINISTRIES OF KIEV THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Anatoly Prokopchuk

Humanly positive thinking was always out of my reach. I was never able to find anything by itself positive in everyday life. Even something, which is inherently positive, such as love, family and health, was spoiled by the thought of their temporal nature. Neither was it possible to think positively in young years, nor in more mature years. Generally, the gloomy attitude of the churches where my parents took me during the Soviet Union time did not help at all. However, from the very day when the Lord converted me, real positive perspective became a possibility in Him and in Him only. And in this, the measure as His life was growing in me, thus my positive attitude toward life grew in spite of, and even in contradiction to everyday experience. The Lord's words become brighter and clearer today than they were yesterday. "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

However, I am still mightily surprised that I might think joyfully about the upcoming Christmas season even in spite of the gloomy, cold and humid weather in Ukraine, in spite of dirty streets and even for sure dirty drunken celebrations characteristic of this part of the world. Even more I should be concerned, perhaps even depressed, about the seminary's financial situation. We scarcely have funds for the beginning of the spring semester, precisely up to the first week of March is all. KTS building construction has come to unproductive stand still.

## GOD BUILDS HIS CHURCH IN UKRAINE BEYOND OUR EXPECTATIONS

By Rick Perhai, KTS Professor

During Thanksgiving week one of our recent graduates visited Kiev Theological Seminary. I was surprised at the strength of Sergei's conviction as he preached in chapel to our students, faculty and staff. He looked so mature in his black pinstriped suit. Afterwards, I sat with Sergei to hear of his ministry in a western Ukrainian town where he has recently married, found a full-time job, preaches the word of God every Sunday and ministers to the youth in their church of 400. He has become known as a brother who takes God's word very seriously and others come to him with their Bible questions.

When Sergei was in my classes at KTS, I was not always sure how he would turn out. He liked to goof off too much. But in God's time and by His grace, Sergei is serving faithfully in God's place, ministering the Gospel of truth. We talked about some of the other brothers who graduated with him. For example, there is Oleg. Although Oleg did not meet the church planting internship qualifications, he has nevertheless moved to a new town in central Ukraine with his wife and two-year-old daughter and planted a church where there was none. Another KTS graduate, Akif (who during his seminary days started a church plant that did not survive) is now starting a church plant in Kiev with a younger brother in the KTS church planting program. He's also training church planters for a Ukrainian mission agency in south-eastern Ukraine, the Caucasus of Russia and Kazakhstan where he teaches solid biblical theology to those who have not had the training opportunities he has.

These are just three stories from our recent graduates. Though we were not always sure how well things would turn out for them, God is showing Himself faithful to lead them,

provide for them and open the doors of the gospel for them. Parents know what joy it is to hear that their children are doing well and prospering in the Lord. As with our physical children, so with our spiritual children – the apostle John says "I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth" (3 John 4)."

Please pray for our spiritual children, the students and graduates of KTS, that they would ever walk in the truth. Jesus is the truth (John 14:6). Pray too that our physical children will also give us joy by walking in the Truth. God's kingdom is increasing as He has many in this place who are His people (Acts 18:10).





# STREAMS OF GRACE ON THE KAZAKH STEPPES

This past summer I had the great blessing to work with a team of missionaries in Central Kazakhstan. The team leader is an experienced servant of the Lord, whom I met in Kiev in 2000 as part of a church-planting group. In 2005, he moved with his family to Kazakhstan to partner with Russian-speaking churches in evangelism. As he said himself, they experience spiritual battles almost every day, facing not only hard spiritual soil but also difficulty in training national evangelists. The primary emphasis of this team is to reach ethnic Kazakhs for Christ. Therefore, they have started several Kazakh centers in the town and villages around. He tries to present Isa Masih (the name of Jesus the Messiah according to Koran) to people who have heard this name but do not know the Jesus of the Bible.

The one who shares the gospel in Kazakhstan should know several things about the people of Kazakhstan. Even though many Kazakhs are nominal Muslims, they are Muslims because they are born Kazakhs. They may not know a lot about their beliefs, but their religious

traditions are very strong. Thus, Christians need to find common ground in terminology but at the same time be aware that some of the terms they use may have different theological meanings. Translators of the Bible into the Kazakh language are struggling to find correct wording so as not to mislead the reader using familiar terms but at the same time to remain close to the biblical text. For these reasons, theological education is significant. Kazakhs are very family-oriented, making family a very restrictive factor in accepting Christ. At the same time, family ties may become a good ground for evangelism. For the sake of Christ some converts lose their families and even become enemies with their relatives. Such a decision requires boldness and risk on the part of the so-called "infidel". Kazakh children who repented during summer camp may have heard the gospel for the first and possibly the last time; it's up to God to keep that seed of faith in their hearts in their non-Christian surroundings.

My task and that of the two teams from the US was to show the love of Christ through our work. We rebuilt a children's playground and expanded a Kazakh ministry center. In both places we saw God's provision and Satan's opposition. Some people responded with enthusiasm and willingness to help; others became a distraction when under the influence of alcohol. In spite of many difficulties the Kazakh ministry is growing, not only in the number of missionaries who are willing to serve but also in ethnic Kazakhs who have become wonderful witnesses for Christ.

Edward Borysov, author of this article was born in 1979 in eastern Ukraine, graduated from KTS in 2004, then received his Th.M. from Evangelical Theological Faculty in Belgium in 2007. He is currently a teacher of New Testament studies at KTS.

The vast territories of Kazakhstan in Central Asia are home to more than a hundred nationalities and dozens of religions with Islam the dominant one. The financial and economic centers of the country (Almaty the former and Astana the present capitals) represent a common phenomenon in the countries of the former Soviet Union – growing wealth of dozens of oligarchs and a stable low income of the majority of the population. In these countries we say, "If you've been to the capital, you haven't seen the country yet", so drastically different is life between the cities and provinces. Kazakhstan is one of the biggest gas exporters, yet does not supply gas to every region in its own country. Therefore, coalmines are still a significant source of energy and income for many in Kazakhstan.

The evangelical church of Kazakhstan is in the minority because of former communist persecution and dominance of Muslim traditions of the country. During the past decades evangelicals (mostly Russian-speaking Germans who were exiled to Kazakhstan during the time of the Soviet Union) were concerned about the perseverance of the church, having the great task to survive in the midst of political and religious oppositions. Thus, the evangelistic vision of the leaders of the Baptist Union was only a matter of prayer and perhaps some illegal attempts to evangelize. Today in most Russian-speaking churches in Kazakhstan you still see few Kazakhs.

With the fall of the iron curtain, the door of opportunity for the gospel was slightly opened. The church leaders understand the need to reach out to ethnic Kazakhs and at the same time they recognize the shortage of ministers who are trained to work with the people of Kazakhstan. Few mission agencies are permitted to work in the country.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*continued from page 1*

At the same time, by Lord's grace I have come to see tribulations and problems to be of instrumental value in our lives to keep us humble and obedient, to shift our eyes from our limitations and to direct them to the great power of our Sovereign God. These same tribulations and challenges amazingly underline the Lord's encouragement, they let shine brightly the love and care of the Lord's people and most important – point to the comforting presence of the Holy Spirit.

The whole history of the Christian church, and every step ahead of personal history, teaches us the value of self-denial, even in this age of aggressive self-realization. Still, it takes years of experience to understand Dietrich Bonhoeffer's thought that when the Lord calls someone, He calls him to come and die. It seems to be a terrifying perspective, but in truth abandonment of fleshly trends and concerns brings true freedom, a tremendous feeling of release from dependence on external circumstances for comfort and for external stimuli for joy. To realize these Biblical truths is easier in Ukraine, where nothing is taken for granted, where to live is "always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body", 2Cor.4:10.

Therefore, here in Ukraine we defy insurmountable obstacles, disregard common reason and cautiousness; we ignore our possibilities and do not heed the bad prophecies of cultural and religious oracles. We, like little children, jump from delight, anticipating unbelievable blessings and heavenly gifts, we hang our socks around the chimney and wait for the Lord to proclaim again His definition of life and future for us, our families and KTS ministry in the upcoming year of 2008. This special work of the Holy Spirit, the manifestation of His life, makes it possible for us to shout joyfully through winter gloom and darkness, through political turmoil and economic mess to all our seminary friends – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year of our always – victorious Lord Jesus Christ!