

Equipping Reliable Leaders in
Sound Doctrine
in

Russia
Ukraine
Latvia
Hungary
Romania

Thanksgiving 2000
Volume 3, Issue 4

Training the Shepherds in the
countries of the former Soviet
Block

Inside this Issue

- 1 STATE OF ITEM BRIEFING (SHARING THANKSGIVING)
- 2 STANDING IN THE GAP FOR FELLOW CHRISTIANS
- 3 STEWARDSHIP REPORT UPDATE (NOVEMBER 2000)

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STATE OF ITEM LETTER



Thanksgiving

STATE OF ITEM BRIEFING (SHARING THANKSGIVING)

By Dr. R. David Ludwick, President

In Donetsk, Ukraine...

In Tyumen, Siberia...

In Riga, Latvia...

Victories and new Hopes!

I am taking the opportunity of writing to you to share with you a few of the victories we have experienced in this first year of the new millenium. It has been nearly ten to twelve years since “the wall came down” in the countries of the former Soviet Union, now the Commonwealth of Independent States, and we have representative schools fully functional or waiting to be activated in Donetsk, Ukraine; Riga, Latvia; Campina, Romania; Budapest, Hungary; Odessa, Ukraine; Kiev, Ukraine; and Tyumen, Siberia (waiting). We have had inquiries from five other locations and can only attest that God’s people are rising up, patiently.

Donetsk Regional Theological College will graduate 28 students with Bachelor of Theology degrees and 24 with Bible Certificate degrees in June of 2001! The denomination with whom we co-labor at that college has designated our efforts there to be the training facility for its pastors in all of the Eastern half of Ukraine—the spreading of the truths of scripture as contained in the doctrines of Reformed Theology have not only permeated the “grass roots”—pastoral level, but are now rising



First Homiletics Conference was held in this church, they are ready for another, and only the funds fall short...

through the hierarchy of the denomination, the head of the denomination having attended as an observer, classes at the college! The preaching conference, “Power in the Pulpit” in May of this year was an overwhelming success with 564 pastors attending—the vast majority of which were receiving the homiletical training for the first time ever! We hope to begin two such conferences per year immediately and eventually move to four times per year—the need and the demand is so great and the cost so reasonable that we can hardly not afford to equip these pastors with homiletical skills founded in the hermeneutics of Reformed doctrine—approximately \$11,000 per conference, or \$19.50 per pastor (for the full week, 2 meals per day included), or \$.48 per pastor per classroom hour! ITEM’s board of directors has also approved a Master’s Degree Program in order that we might equip nationals to train nationals in Reformed theological education and the equipping of pastors by professors who are also nationals!

The cost of this undertaking is approximately \$50,000 per year and includes all costs of administration, room and board, student scholarships/stipends, translators, and local professors and transportation... a matter of stewardship when seen to be \$50,000 divided by 42 students or \$1,190.47 per student per year or \$.74 per student per classroom hour! The college has also established two satellite schools with approximately 70 students in

each and a third to be begun in the spring of 2001! All in all, we will be serving more than 300 pastors and teachers in training imminently!

We solicit and covet, in the best of all possible ways, your prayers and empathetic support as His work in Eastern Ukraine grows and those who have been Anabaptistic/Arminian for over a hundred and fifty years are coming to the truths of Reformed Theology because of His hand on the hearts and lives of those who serve as ITEM professors and those whom He sends to be their students!

These special projects have been added to our budget in the confident expectation that His people will rise up and come to the harvest for there is opportunity to share in the work (Luke 10).

In Riga, Latvia we have approximately 28 students attending lectures at the Riga Reformed Theological Institute, receiving instruction in order to equip them to pastor their growing churches—three of which are less than one year old and are led by our students! All of the churches that teach the doctrines of Reformed theology under the equipping of our professors are experiencing growth and growing pains. For this school, these pastors and teachers, and their congregations, we ask your fervent prayers. The cost is approximately \$25,000 for the five terms of instruction and therefore approximately \$5.95 per student per classroom hour.

Some 59 prospective students are waiting for us to open a Bible Institute/Seminary in Tyumen, Siberia to meet the needs of the people who are served by only six Protestant churches within 300+ miles! These prospective students are prepared to leave their full-time employment and become full-time students as soon as we can put in place the financing

necessary to accomplish a successful registration with the government, procurement of facilities, and designation



In Tyumen, Siberia, a facility for students is available. Reformed theology can be taught when the money for registration and rent are raised.

of professors.

The initial cost of establishing the school in Tyumen is approximately \$5,000 for registration with the Russian government and approximately \$4,500 per month to cover administrative costs, rent, library and student stipends/scholarships or \$918 per student for the first year (a \$76/month or \$0.95 per student per classroom hour). Please pray for the raising of these funds and the designation of professors to serve.

While these are only three of the activities which I have chosen to detail, I would also like to thank our gracious Lord for the opportunities of translating Francis Schaeffer's book *Escape from Reason* (just completed) and the partial translation of Doctor G. Van Groningen's book *Messianic Revelation in the Old Testament* (partially funded by the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine because of the book's importance to the training of church leaders). Another book to be translated is Dr. John R. Dewitt's *What is the Reformed Faith?* and a long list of others—the only obstacle is financing the translations, pray as He leads.

The work is growing faster and bigger and as we seek His Will to meet the growth of His Work, we entreat you to share with us the joy of being useful tools in His Hand.

Again, I ask you for your fervent prayers for His work through ITEM, for the lives that will be touched by the pastors, teachers, and church leaders whom He equips through our schools and for the generations whom they serve.

If there is any opportunity to make known the mission of ITEM in your church or community, to any group of churches or individuals, please do not hesitate to call us in order that we may meet these growing needs in ways that would glorify our Lord and not men.

In His service and in yours,
RDL ~~~

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STANDING IN THE GAP FOR FELLOW CHRISTIANS

By Andre V. Bouravnev, M.Div.-cand.,
ITEM Director of Publications

Professors... Scholarships...
Translations... Libraries...
Time and Energy...
Financial Gifts... Faithful
Prayer...

You can help them... until they have taken hold of the promises of God through the spreading of the Gospel in sound teaching!

It has been fifteen years since the Iron Curtain fell and, in a land historically divided along ethnic, political and social lines, Christians of the countries of the former Soviet Block still have an historic opportunity to cross lines with the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the teaching of sound doctrine. They desire to lead their people, to plant their churches... and to cross cultural lines with the Gospel, and unite them under the banner of Truth which has been for much too long denied to them.

Almost 8 decades of scientific atheism, communist propaganda and severe persecution for faith have left the Church theologically and numerically devastated. Yet today the light of the Gospel has dawned on the people of this land and relative freedom of religion has arrived bringing thousands of people to Christ and multiplying the numbers of believers and Christian churches. Growing at an unprecedented rate new churches hunger for educated and mature leaders since only one out of ten pastors have any type (if any) of sound theological training. This limits the spreading of the Gospel and growth of the churches.

Young and old Christians alike are willing to sacrifice their time and welfare in order to become better equipped for the service to God's people, to have the right tools to build the house of God in the land which has for so long been ruled by the ungodly.

To give them the right tools and equip them for the ministry is in fact the very reason International Theological Education Ministries came to be (originally as Christ for Russia, then as ITEM to reflect the wide range of ministry fields).

Because we are to help our brothers and sisters in Christ until the Lord gives them rest as he has done for you; and, because the challenge to serve is great,

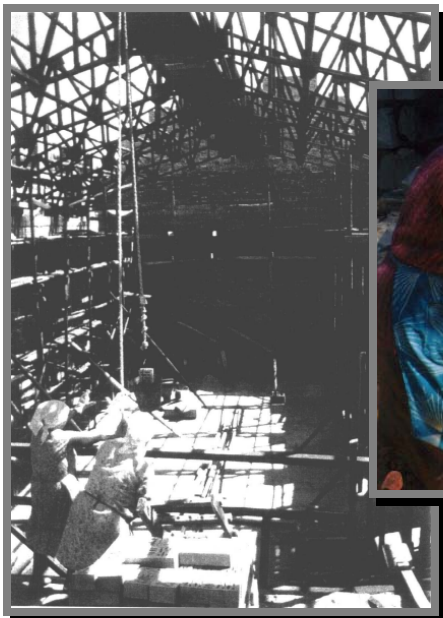


"Builders of His Church..." equippers: Prof. Dr. Warren Lammers, Kalamazoo, MI, Rev. James Bultman, Zeeland, MI, Rev. Barksdale Pullen, St. Louis; and students - pastors & teachers being equipped... "to build their church..."

for over a decade the Christians here have been dedicating their time and energy, their financial gifts and faithful prayer to the Lord's work through the ministry of ITEM. It is through your efforts as prayer warrior and faithful co-laborers that we can send gifted professors to teach at seminaries and Bible schools in Donetsk, Ukraine, Odessa, Ukraine, Kiev, Ukraine, Riga, Latvia, Pecel, Hungary, Campina, Romania; that we can help establish and fund libraries and provide with translations of sound theological works in Moscow, Russia, Donetsk, Ukraine, Odessa, Ukraine; that we can provide scholarships for those students who have had to quit their jobs in order to have this opportunity to be trained in sound theology; that we can explore new areas and establish new schools.

Your support has been vital and that is why the ministry is ever expanding with new projects under way: Masters Degree program in Donetsk, Ukraine; new Reformed school in Tyumen, Siberia; new translations of crucial theological works into Russian.

For the Word of the Lord says, "I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land..." (Ez. 22:30). In our love and reverence for God we are united in promoting His truth and righteousness with brothers and sisters of the former Soviet Union, and so we proclaim to you that the harvest is still plentiful and the workers are still few... so COME... ~~~



And... the babushkas (grandmothers, 72+ years) who invest their lives in His Church - even making and hauling bricks - "to build their church..." "to possess their land" (Josh 1)

Christian Education—It's a Matter of Stewardship (*now updated*)

Why do theological education and missions?

<i>U.S. Seminary</i>	<i>\$49.58 per classroom hour per student</i>
ITEM	<i>\$2.49 per classroom hour per student</i>

20 Ukrainian pastors and teachers can be equipped for the price of one American.

It is a Matter of Stewardship—talents and gifts...

It is a Matter of Prayerful Support...

It is a Matter of Victories... 52 of them... the students; and the professors, and the supporters.

Won't you join us... in the preparation of the Bride of Christ, His Church, by sharing in the preparation of Her leaders? Prayer; professors; finances.

The adjoining chart details the budgets of the two academic programs of the Donetsk Regional Theological College and the cost of educating those students per classroom hour.

The costs of an American seminary student per classroom hour per student, when using whole cost comparables (tuition, room & board, books, but without administrative costs), is 20 times as much and with no endowment... yet.

Bachelor of Theology Degree		Certificate of Biblical Studies	
1. Student expenses:		1. Student expenses:	
a. Stipendia 28 students @ \$50 per month	\$1400	a. Stipendia 24 students @ \$50 per month	\$1200
b. Lodging 20 students @ \$10 per week for 2 weeks	\$400	b. Lodging 20 students @ \$10 per week for 2 weeks	\$400
2. School expenses:		2. School expenses:	
a. Meals \$800 per week @ 2 weeks - \$2.15 per meal	\$1600*	a. Meals \$750 per week @ 2 weeks - \$2.15 per meal	\$1500*
b. Cooks, 3 @ \$100	\$300	b. Cooks, 3 @ \$100	\$300
3. Utilities:		3. Utilities:	
a. Electrical bill	\$0	a. Electrical bill	\$30
b. Phone bill	\$0	b. Phone bill	\$55
c. Office and teaching supplies (copier, computer, white board, etc.)	\$0	c. Office and teaching supplies (computer, white board, copier, etc.)	\$100
d. Association fee for apartment	\$0	d. Association fee for apartment	\$50
e. Administrator and part time secretary	\$37.50	e. Administrator and part time secretary	\$37.50
4. Interpreters:		4. Interpreters:	
Interpreting during classes, in churches, on streets, homework and exams, etc., \$200 per week (60 ⁺ hrs), \$4.16 per hour	\$500	Interpreting during classes, in churches, on streets, homework and exams, etc., \$200 per week (60 ⁺ hrs), \$4.16 per hour	\$500
5. Visiting professor care @ 2 professors:		5. Visiting professor care @ 2 professors:	
a. Daily transportation @ \$20 for 15 days (car rental, driver pay and gasoline)	\$300	Paid for by Bachelors Degree program.	\$0
b. Meals, laundry, housekeeper for professors' apartment, @ \$75 each week @ food \$100	\$250		
c. Travel transfer arrangements @ \$50 each way	\$100		
Total Expenses:	\$4887.50		\$4172.50

It is not only a matter of good stewardship: it is also a matter of good missions because on going ministry is not interrupted.

Won't you get more involved?

Churches and individuals may adopt a school, a program, a translation or a library...

* Actual number of people eating at school each day (three meals per day) together with Certificate and Degree program students, school personnel, professors is about 60 people total.

Grand Total: \$9,060.00

That would amount to \$2.49 per classroom hour per student - covering all expenses incurred in their academic preparation to be pastors, teachers and lay leaders.

Will you or your group or your church prayerfully consider participating in the victories by underwriting a term of study January, February, March, April, May, June, August, September, October, or November of 2001?