

Equipping Reliable Leaders in
Sound Doctrine
in

**Hungary
Latvia
Poland
Romania
Russia
Ukraine**

Summer 2005
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*Serving Christ by equipping pastors,
teachers and lay leaders in Reformed,
Biblical doctrine in Central and Eastern
Europe and the former Soviet Union*

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NEWSITEMS

Summer Edition

SHARING IN THE PREPARATION OF THE BRIDE: A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*By R. David Ludwick, ITEM
President*

This is one of the most exciting newsletters not only because of the "stories being told" but for the presence of the Truth in each one! In 1996 I rode a train across Ukraine with Rev. Jonathan Taylor who is now a missionary to Bulgaria. In the middle of the night as I looked out and I saw a thousand acres of sunflowers.

I said to Jonathan who was asleep, "What shall we tell our people about what we have found and how shall we all share in what we have found?" Sleepily he said this, "Tell them that they can have a share in the preparation of the Bride."

Preparation comes in many forms, including preparation as it appears in Eph 5. But it also comes in administration of necessary details, of teaching and of telling, and of reporting and of presenting the Gospel and in all that carries it. Both the message and the messenger are important as is the way it is handled and presented. The creative aspects of projects and programs play an important part in what might otherwise be considered mundane. This is true even for the issuing of receipts for those who support the work of I.T.E.M.! Yes, even these scraps of paper are indicative of His active participation in this work.



Do you know that the sunflower is another plant known to be one of the symbols of Ukraine? The country has always been famous for its huge sunflower oil production.

Each one tells of someone enabled by God's Grace to go or to be sent; to mentor or to educate those who come and who will serve their fellows in the years to come.

Please, know this, our "children" both spiritual and natural will grow up all too soon and we must instill in them a heart for Christ, the Kingdom and missions or surely something else will fill the void.

We look forward to continuing to serve and labor with you through the work at hand and its growth and to see its fruition.

Should you desire any kind of presentation or report do not hesitate to contact Will or David, Andre or Margie and we will arrange a meeting with you.

In His service and in yours,

**Dr. R. David Ludwick,
August 2005**

SUMMARY OF MINISTRY IN POLAND

By Moner Shaded, Pastor of Good Shepherd Church in Warsaw Poland

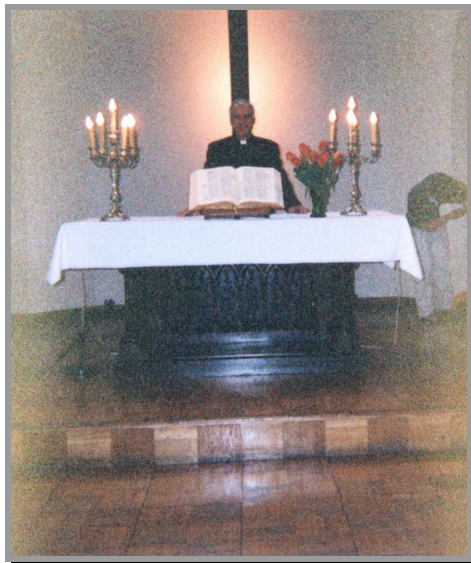
Stenia, my wife, and I are ministering in Warsaw, Poland, pasturing a growing church in the challenging Catholic culture that has been a part of Poland's identity for over 1,000 years. Theological education and the church planting in Poland face a special set of challenges. The Catholic Church has been such a strong influence in Poland that the lines between traditional Polish culture and Catholicism have grown together. Another way to say it is that "to be Polish is to be Catholic". Consequently, the Polish do not easily accept Protestant evangelical churches.

Poland, a country with 95% Catholics and more Jehovah's Witnesses than evangelical Protestants, is in great need of culturally relevant, Bible-believing, Gospel-proclaiming, reproducing churches. Our goal is to facilitate the planting of such churches in each of Poland's 16 districts, which will reproduce themselves to the forth generation.

In response to the need, Stenia and I planted the Good Shepherd Church in Warsaw in 1993. The church has now around 70 members (first generation Christians, with Catholic background). Along with continued ministry in the Good Shepherd Church, we are seeking to develop and equip leadership for a church planting movement.

The church established Covenant Theological Seminary in Warsaw as the national seminary of our denomination to recognize that Covenant is the only seminary whose Board of Trustees is elected by and submits to the governance of the Good Shepherd Church in conjunction with ITEM.

The purpose of Covenant Theological Seminary is to train servants of the triune God to walk with God, to interpret and communicate God's Word, and to lead God's people.



Moner Shaded at the altar of Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Warsaw Poland

Doctrinal Commitments

The primary standard for our faith is an unqualified commitment to the Bible as God's Word, immediately inspired and inerrant in its original writings and to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms which, although subordinate to the Bible in their authority, set forth the seminary's understanding of Biblical faith in a consistent and reliable form.

Covenant Seminary students affirm the Reformed Christian beliefs as expressed in the great confessions and creeds of the Church. Special admission is given on a case by case basis to attendees who do not share these beliefs.

Contemporary Needs for the Seminary:

1. Professors to teach: ongoing need for ten professors to come once a year for ten days.
2. A place to hold classes: begun in Moner's house.
3. A room for professors to stay: begun in Moner's house.
4. Food for students on Friday evening and Saturdays.
5. Translators: finances and training of theological translators per se.
6. Part-time administrator: to organize translators, student registration and grades, professor needs, food for students, etc.
7. Marketing strategy.
8. Expand a small but growing library.
9. Your prayers.

In Christ's care and grace,

Moner Shaded
August 2005

INTRODUCING ALGIMANTAS KVEDARAVIEIUS

By Algimantas Kvedaravičius, pastor of the Evangelical Reformed Church of Lithuania

I am Algimantas Kvedaravičius, pastor of the Evangelical Reformed Church of Lithuania. I have worked for the Reformed church in Lithuania since 1993, ordained as a full time minister since 1995. Prior to my ordination, I worked as a physicist from 1960 until 1993. I have a wife, Zita, and three children: Vytautas, 14, Vaiva, 12, and Laima, 5.

We are in the rapidly growing but still early stages of planning the Reformed Bible College we wish to begin in Lithuania. This college will function primarily for the training and equipping of teaching and ruling elders and lay teachers and leaders of our congregations. We are currently developing a program with Vilnius Pedagogical University through which we will be able to offer state accredited master's degrees to the students of this Reformed Bible College. In addition, Vilnius University will offer courses in financial management, church law, and similar classes. We are also working with Baltic States Reformed Theological Seminary to provide professors, a seminary established by ITEM in Riga, Latvia. ITEM provides a professor pool from the US, England, Riga, and elsewhere, where available, to teach biblical and systematic theology, as well as other necessary classes to prepare our students for their future work for God's kingdom.

Currently, I am working with Kristofer Holroyd, sent to us by ITEM, as a Scholar in Residence and professor in training, developing a concrete and detailed plan and mission statement for our Bible College, including the necessary details of the curriculum, schedule, etc.

The Evangelical Reformed Church of Lithuania has many needs. Above everything, we yearn for godly leaders to be pastors, elders, and teachers to help feed and shepherd our spiritually starving people. At present, we have 14 congregations (9 of them are currently inactive) served by only two ordained ministers, and a total budget of approximately \$1500.

Continued on page 3

TEACHING IN LITHUANIA

By Kristofer D. Holroyd, ITEM professor to Lithuania and Romania

Though we have three other men who help with teaching and leading services, these men are not able to preach or administer the sacraments. Therefore, the other pastor and I must travel extensively in order to serve all of these congregations. Because of such travel demands, the ability to administer the school, answer correspondence, prepare lectures and communicate by email, etc. is difficult. Modern technological advances, such as laptop computers, because of the matter of cost, are practically speaking impossible to obtain. The cost of travel is expensive due to high gas prices, even higher than in US. Several of our church buildings are in poor condition and in desperate need of repair. We need construction materials and workers for these projects, but have no funds. Also, as we are beginning the school, it would be of great academic benefit and cost efficient to be able to videotape lectures for future class use. We would then be enabled to expand into other cities, even other countries, one of which is Belarus. We are uniquely positioned in relation to Belarus in spite its political situation and oppression because of our diplomatic status with that country's governmental officials. Please pray for our congregations and our pastors and teachers, for the new Reformed Bible College as we pray for you, for ITEM and for the professors who come to teach.

Algimantas Kvedaravičius
August 2005



A Landmark of Vilnius

Last January, I went on a mission trip to Lithuania and Romania to teach in the local Bible colleges about the person and work of Jesus Christ, to encourage our fellow brothers and sisters, and to continue the work in these countries started by the many before me. All these tasks I did, and more. During my time in Lithuania, I met the people, learned about the ministry, and witnessed God's wonderful work in this country. In such a short time-I only spent five days in Lithuania-I saw one young lady make a profession of faith, a young man commit to vocational ministry as a pastor, and many brothers and sisters in Christ encouraged.

During my time in Lithuania, the spiritual starvation of the believers assaulted me: in one city, I completely changed my lesson plans, because the people knew so little about the basic doctrines of salvation. The people in Lithuania are starving for sound biblical teaching. As recently as 15 years ago, people had to go to graveyards in order to read the Bible: they wandered among the tombstones reading the passages engraved on the tombstones, because it was illegal to own the Bible or to worship publicly. Moreover, when they read these passages, they had no idea what the abbreviations that marked the passage meant. Even the most educated people did not understand what "Mk." and "Jn." meant. One woman told me that until recently, she didn't even know what the "Old Testament" or "New Testament" or "Bible" were. Today, there are still congregants who do not own their own Bibles. The church is in desperate need of pastors and teachers.

Lithuania, though independent from the former Soviet Union for almost 15 years, still shows the effects of living under communist occupation. Depression and alcoholism affect almost every family, and Lithuania has one of the highest suicide rates in the world, leading the world in suicides of children under the age of 18. Poverty ravishes most people, so that many have to choose each month between eating and paying bills. Hopelessness consumes the culture, and more people die or flee the country each year than are born, so that the Lithuanian population steadily decreases. Lithuania needs the gospel.

Last week, I attended a service at the Reformed church in Lithuania. The worship leader, the organist, my fiancée, her father, and I were the only people in attendance; the pastors were at other congregations that week.

However, this small gathering of people is a typical worship service. Some weeks there are

15-20 people; others: fewer than five. There are only two pastors to shepherd five congregations scattered throughout the country, and, consequently, the pastors are weary. The church in Lithuania is extremely poor: one pastor's wife works two jobs in order to support their family, because he receives almost no income, and there are not enough hymnals in the church for everyone to sing during a worship service. However, the believers of these congregations, contrary to the culture at large, remain hopeful. They are encouraged at the mere presence of other believers, and they long for sound biblical teaching. They are full of questions and are hungry for answers. They love their God and Savior, and they are eager to learn more about Him.

Algimantas Kvedaravičius, one of the Lithuanian pastors, earnestly longs to see Bible colleges in Lithuania where people can be trained to be pastors, elders, teachers, and leaders of God's community. The primary school would be located in Vilnius, the capital city of Lithuania, with satellite schools located in Birzai and Kaunas. Currently, the church is working with Vilnius Pedagogical University to develop a program that would facilitate students of the planned Bible College to receive a state-accredited degree. As I have begun to pursue a calling to Lithuania, confirmation of this calling has come through my bride-to-be. I met Jone Juronyte during my first trip to Lithuania, and we pursued our relationship over the phone and through emails. Our relationship continued to develop over the next few months, and eventually I formally proposed to her. By God's grace, she accepted. Currently, we are applying for a "fiancée petition" visa. If accepted, we will marry upon her entrance to the United States, and she will stay with me in St. Louis during my last year at Covenant Theological Seminary. If our petition is rejected, we will marry in August of 2006, following my graduation from seminary. Either way, we will begin our work in Lithuania next summer. My future role in Lithuania has many facets. I am tentatively being called a "Scholar in Residence" and will have teaching responsibilities (2-4 classes per year) as well as some administrative responsibility (specifics yet to be determined) and all under the aegis of ITEM and the Reformed Church Synod. I will participate in the administrative aspect of the school being responsible to Synod and to ITEM while also teaching. In addition to these tasks, I will also pursue ordination in the Lithuanian Reformed synod, so that I can assist in the regular pastoral duties. In Lithuania, these include preaching, shepherding, leading small groups, and discipling future leaders. Please pray for me as I prepare for the work to which God has called me.

Kristofer D. Holroyd, August 2005

COURSES NOW BEING TAUGHT

By Dr. R. David Ludwick, ITEM President

This article will help to inform you of the type of curriculum and subject matter now being taught in Bible colleges by ITEM faculty. It is planned that this curriculum will form the basis for more than 39 Bible colleges/seminaries anticipated to be planted by ITEM during the next 10-15 years in one country alone! Our professors go and serve in one or two week modules, teaching Biblical Truth from a Reformed perspective in order to meet the needs of those who seek to serve and who will replicate the work by teaching those Biblical Truths to this generation and for generations to come.

Standard fare for basic preparation includes the following which is completed by those courses that determine each student major or school education – ministry/pastorate, music/worship, adult education, children and youth education:

#	Subject	Total Classroom Hours
1	Dogmatics	64
2	Old Testament Survey	32
3	New Testament Survey	32
4	Homiletics	80
5	Hermeneutics	32
6	Church History	48
7	Missiology	16
8	Christian Ethics	16
9	Apologetics	24
10	Pastoral Theology	32
11	Exegesis	32
12	Cults	16
13	Age Psychology	16
14	Marriage and Family	16
15	Biblical Geography	16
16	Pastoral Care	16
17	Management	16
18	Social Skills and Ethics	16
19	Conflict Resolution	16
20	Being a Student	10
	Total	546

This curriculum gives a well rounded and specifically focused education when both components are joined. It applies the consistency of well planned programs to serve actual needs.

Fiscal matters of the budget for institutions like the Bible colleges of Ukraine yield a premium for each dollar invested. Much of this premium quality is due to the diligent efforts of our Ukrainian brothers and sisters.

In an effort to further acquaint our supporters with how the Lord's money is being spent; the following represents the cost of producing programs described above in one of the four major fields.

While budgetary items include the following: staff salaries, taxes, water/gas/electric, food (two hot meals per day during session), professor accommodations and transportation, rent and building expenses, maintenance and janitorial expenses, telephone, internet, faxes, office equipment and supplies, translator and translation expenses, etc. These costs are kept as low as possible and total approximately \$1,500 a month and when coupled with the remaining cost of the rest of the program (e.g. those of a Major) the total is \$1,800 a month, which nets the cost to be \$1.07 per student per classroom hour!!

This is the type of investment that constitutes good stewardship of the funds entrusted and it also gives opportunity to work with the local church, Christian students, and it provides a vehicle for practicum service in the local churches between lecture terms.

ITEM operates under a contractual understanding with each school and the expenditures appear to be consistently lower where the administrative personnel have been trained, at least in part, by ITEM. Sometimes the work may be contracted to an independent contractor until the school is able to direct itself. In some instances competency is found in the nationals who operate the school from the beginning: operation and the teaching of classes by nationals is the ultimate goal.

Several different programs have been tried. This format appears to be among the best to meet the needs in the various countries. Exceptions occur where there are additional goals in mind. Baltic States Reformed Theological Seminary (an ITEM school) is one example – BSRTS faculty is peopled by professors sent by ITEM and the goal is to reward a Masters degree recognized by the European Community (this is also planned for the Lithuanian schools).

As I said at the beginning of this newsletter, this is one of the most exciting newsletters because of the presence of the truth in each story. Here, I am delighted to tell that in the former Communist countries where the Truth of the Scriptures was anathema, the Truths of Scripture are being taught and teaching of the philosophy of Tillich and Bultmann is being done from the Reformed perspective by ITEM professors. This is the kind of activity in which we are vested and invested!

Dr. R. David Ludwick
August 2005

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