



JUNE 2016 NEWSLETTER

Meet Some of Our Students

We would like to introduce three ITEM students from our newest fields – Croatia and Andhra Pradesh, India. Their stories of calling and service inspire us to come alongside with Biblical and Reformed training that could enrich and enhance their ministries.



Pastor Raj Das (left) and elder Jacob Jacob

Raj Das grew up in southern Andhra Pradesh where he worked as an actor for 20 years. His wife, who converted before him, asked him to come to church, but he refused, saying, “There are many gods beside Jesus Christ.” As she continued to pray, he sensed the Holy Spirit directing him to read the gospel of John. As Bibles were scarce, Raj’s wife took him to a pastor who would read the Bible to him. After being baptized in 1987, Raj felt called to preach, but resisted for 13 years. Finally, in 2003, after lying sick in bed for a year, Raj submitted. He began pastoring a small 3-family flock which has now increased to 80 families! Six years ago Raj first learned about the Presbyterian Church of South India (PSCI), a Reformed group of Indian churches that provides training. This year when ITEM’s first class started in Andhra Pradesh, Raj eagerly attended. Filled with anticipation for how the Lord might use him, Raj hopes to plant two more churches in 2016.



Alen Rankovic, wife Romana, and one of their 5 children

Alen Rankovic is a part-time church planter laboring among the Roman (Gypsy) people in the remote village of Kapelna (near the Hungarian border). About four years ago Alen started a home Bible study and fellowship with neighbors; within two years, the group was able to buy (with the help of money from America) an old house in the village and convert it to a chapel seating about 50 people. The Chapel of the Holy Trinity has grown to a core group of about 30 people who attend regularly. Pray for wisdom and strength for Alen as he serves this young congregation, labors in his other part-time job (farming), attends ITEM classes, and seeks to be a godly husband and father. Also, please pray for Alen’s health. Two months ago he went to a doctor with severe headaches and blurred vision. After some testing, the doctors said he has a rare disease that attacks brain cells. Only one other person in Croatia has this disease. Medicine seems to have stabilized his condition for now, but long-term prognosis is uncertain.

Vjekoslav Borocic of Croatia



Vjekoslav Boričić hails from Cerna, a small village 15 km south of the city of Vinkovci. He is a

seminary student at the Mikhail Starin Institute where ITEM has begun sending instructors. He is a member of Good Shepherd Church (PRKC) in Osijek, serves as an acolyte (a pastoral assistant) in the church, and also works as a care-taker/custodian at the church and seminary. With this mix of hands-on experience and theological studies, he hopes to become a pastor.



Announcing ...Another Matching Fund!

Recently a new investor indicated that he and his wife wanted their investment of \$4-5,000 to be used as a matching gift challenge. This is the amount we estimate will be needed for each of the Preaching Conferences we've been asked to do in Ukraine, Romania, and India in 2016-17. Imagine the impact of equipping pastors to preach more Christ-centered messages! Would you consider matching this gift for another Preaching Conference?

Opportunities to Pray for ITEM

1. Praise for Mike McLaughlin, who taught in Romania from May 23 to May 27.
2. Praise for Jeff Richards, who taught at KRBC in Ukraine from May 23 to May 27.
3. Pray for the 12 graduates of KRBC that the Lord will use them to expand His kingdom.
4. Pray for Bill Wilton and Rob Toornstra who will be leading the preaching conference in Ukraine from June 2 to 4. Pray that a large number of pastors will be able to attend and sharpen their preaching for God's glory.

Dollars and Sense - by Jeff Klinger

We all want to do what we can for the Lord while here on earth. BUT we can further the Gospel even after we go to be with the Lord. Have you provided for the Lord's work after you die?

Since you're reading this newsletter, you likely are supportive of ITEM's mission to bring much needed theological and ministry training to national

Christian leaders worldwide. ITEM continues to expand. In 2015 we added two new locations in India - Bangalore and Chennai. This year we've added Croatia and two more locations in India. The opportunities keep coming but we do not want to overextend our financial resources.

Maybe you have thought about providing for God's work through ITEM after you die but weren't sure how to? There are several ways that you can. The first is by providing for the Lord's work in your will or trust. You can give a lump sum gift of cash or stock to a charity like ITEM. Your gift won't take effect until you die. You continue to control the property until death and can use your funds if you need to. Any appreciated value is not charged or taxed against your estate to be paid by your heirs. Check with your tax advisor for your tax planning.

A second way is to establish a charitable annuity. If you wish to do this for ITEM, you would make a lump sum gift of cash to Barnabas Foundation. You receive an immediate income tax deduction and receive partially tax-free payments for the rest of your life. ITEM receives a lump sum when you go home to the Lord. Again, your appreciated assets aren't taxed if they are contributed to ITEM through the Barnabas Foundation. For more information on establishing a charitable annuity with Barnabas Foundation, please contact Jeff Klinger, ITEM's Secretary, at 314-965-9616 or jklinger23@att.net.

Finally, maybe you don't want to wait until your death to support ITEM's work. You have appreciated assets such as stocks or property but don't want to be taxed on the appreciated gains. You can defer the tax by giving the stock or property directly to ITEM, a 501-3C non-profit charitable organization. Then ITEM will liquidate the assets without incurring a tax because of our non-profit status. If you'd like help with this, please contact ITEM's Treasurer, Dr. Bill DeWert, at 314-434-8504 or 314-277-9770 or bill.dewert@gmail.com.

Contributions to ITEM in Canada may be sent to ITEM, % of Action International Ministries, 3015 A, 21st Street NE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2E 7T1. In the U.S. to ITEM, PO Box 31456, St Louis, MO 63131 or through paypal at www.ITEM.Org.
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