



JULY 2016 NEWSLETTER

Graduation at KRBC by Dr. Jeff Richards

May is not only graduation season in America but in Ukraine also. On Saturday morning, May 28, I was privileged to represent ITEM and to gather together with families and friends to celebrate graduation from KRBC. Following are some of the pictures and stories from the graduation.



Valentina Shurgalska comes from the village of Kashperouke, Ukraine. The mother of 7 children, 4 still at home, Valentina came to Christ 15 years ago. With greater knowledge about God, the Bible, church history, and Bible geography, she would like to start a children's camp where they will grow in Christ.



Sasha Savinov, from Fastov, Ukraine, came to Christ at 24 and decided to come to KRBC after friends told him about the college. With his newfound understanding from classes at KRBC, Sasha plans to use his administrative skills in his local church to help organize church retreats, to continue singing in the choir, and to preach there also.



Nadya Levishenko is from Zybery, a village about 100 miles from Kiev. She came to Christ at 15. Although now on maternity leave from her company, she plans to return to work after her baby's arrival. Through her studies at KRBC



Nadya has learned how to share her personal experience of coming to Christ, and she believes she now knows the importance of applying the material she has learned at the College. Because of her studies at KRBC, she has gained confidence to start a children's ministry at her church. She has also been invited to state schools to teach there. She plans to work primarily with children by helping to set up camps especially for non-Christian children. Her passion is evangelism.

Mission to Vyshneve, Ukraine by Dr. Jeff Richards

Leaving Charlotte onboard a Lufthansa jet at 6:30 a.m. May 20, I landed in Kiev at 3:00 P.M. on the 21st. After a 45 minute scenic trip with Vitaly Shulga, Dean at KRBC, we arrived to a wonderful supper. Because the food was so plentiful, I made sure to exercise more than usual.

The five-day, four-hours- daily course I taught was hermeneutics or methods of studying the Bible. I had ten students varying in ages. I also preached at the Wednesday evening service on James 1. I also had a devotional message from Romans 12:1, 2 for the students and some staff members on Thursday morning. I brought greetings from ITEM at the

Saturday morning graduation service and spoke on Daniel and his example of living each stage of his life fully for God. The service was very moving with several speakers and musical selections. Allister Torrens, missionary from Ireland with ITEM and the PCA Mission to the World, and I placed medallions on each graduate and gave words of encouragement to them.

Each day I had some time to walk around Vyshneve and to meet and speak with people. Not many knew English, but some knew a little and wanted to learn new words. It is seen as "cool" if one knows even a little English.

I went to an Orthodox church in Vyshneve, and witnessed a service with the priest in his black cassock robe chanting and many parishioners standing. What a contrast in atmosphere this Orthodox church was to the Church of the Gospel--an oasis in a spiritually-parched land offering both temporal and eternal hope.

I witnessed joy, exuberance, and gratitude from everyone: staff, teachers, pastors, and especially the students. Their lives are not easy, many come at a great sacrifice and distance. Some came from as far as over one-hundred miles and will continue to do so until they finish their courses. Some told stories of how the war with Russia has made life uncertain.

Opportunities to Pray for ITEM

1. Pray for the 12 graduates of KRBC that the Lord will use them to expand His kingdom.
2. Praise for the successful Preaching Conference in Kiev June 2-4 taught by Bill Wilton, Rob Toornstra, and Allister Torrens.
3. Pray for Tom and Anna Smith in the US this summer for graduations, selling their home, and sharing their work in Croatia. Pray for Anna recovering from a concussion due to a fall.
4. Pray for Jeff Richards teaching "Christ and Salvation" in Romania in July and for Fritz and Brenda Harms teaching "Biblical Hermeneutics" and "Prayer" in Andhra Pradesh, India, in July.
5. Praise for Mark Vander Hart's Latvian trip.

Don't forget our 2 matching grants - \$5,000 for more future preaching conferences and \$25,000 for new investors in 2016. Mark your gift accordingly. For more info, check our website.

Third Preaching Conference a Great Success by Will Hesterberg

Expanding our training levels, we conducted our third preaching conference in Ukraine, June 3 & 4. Led by Rev. Rob Toornstra (Salem, OR), Rev. Bill Wilton (McMinnville, OR), and Alister Torrens, (missionary serving jointly with ITEM and the PCA), the conference drew 43 from many backgrounds: Evangelical Reformed Seminary of Ukraine students and staff, Presbyterian teaching and ruling elders, Reformed pastors, Western Ukrainian Baptist Union pastors and lay leaders, and independent Baptist pastors.

Responding to requests voiced at last fall's preaching conference, Rob, Bill, and Alister designed a conference on "Christ-centered Preaching from the Old Testament" using I Samuel as their source book. The team used sermons from I Samuel to show how these passages (and all of Scripture) point to Christ and His salvific work, conducted classes demonstrating the various principles of interpretation, and then led small group discussions in which the men practiced what they had learned. By the end of the conference, attendees left with the beginnings of 9 sermons on which to build for future use. Everyone was extremely pleased with the conference and readily suggested topics for future conferences.

These preaching conferences have been proposed to several of our other fields, and students are looking forward to the conferences coming to their locations. Through these conferences we further train national Christian pastors and church planters already active in ministry so that many more believers worldwide will grow from more sharpened Christ-centered preaching and teaching.

Contributions to ITEM in Canada may be sent to ITEM, c/o 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. Ph: 618-939-4836 Email: lwhesterberg@gmail.com