



## AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER



Ukrainian Evangelical Reformed Church. It exists primarily to train pastors and leaders.

Just like ITEM, we welcome any evangelical student who wishes to serve the church. Our lecturers subscribe to the Reformed Confessions. We currently have over 40 students from four countries. Half are from other denominations. Eleven are already pastors, church planters or missionaries, and the majority feel called to ministry. Our 28 graduates include 16 pastors, two chaplains, one biblical counselor, two lecturers and one Wycliffe Bible translator/consultant.

### On Teaching, Buildings and Raising a Family

Before seminary I was involved with student ministry in Russia. During the final year of my MDiv coursework in Philadelphia, having come to more fully appreciate the importance of the church in missions, I learned of the opportunity to serve in Ukraine alongside a vibrant young reformed denomination—the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ukraine (EPCU). I had come to see the strategic place of theological education in missions.

After a teaching a “test-run” at Kiev Regional Bible College, I arrived on the mission field in Kiev, Ukraine in 2006.

During those first years I combined ministry in the local church with occasional classroom teaching at institutions including KRBC. In 2011 I was invited to set up and direct an Online Bible College for the Evangelical Reformed Seminary of Ukraine (ERSU). In 2013, I came onto the faculty of ERSU and have served as academic dean since 2015. ERSU is the denominational seminary of the EPCU and the

We are thankful we could acquire a building for our classes, offices, library and dorms last October. Please pray we can sell our current office (an apartment) and raise \$20,000 so we can finish and furnish the office. Pray for our students and for two new Ukrainian staff members joining this fall.



In family news, please pray for us as we feel led to begin a new church plant; as we hope to move to a suitable new home; and for the Lord to provide the needs of our kids’ Ukrainian-language Christian school.

## Tinklenberg: Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant



Virgil John Tinklenberg was born in Rock County, MN, on June 20, 1933. He graduated from Edgerton High School and joined the Army before marrying Beverly Faye Ten Cate on March 2, 1954.

The couple settled in Sioux Falls, SD, where Virgil graduated from Sioux Falls College with a degree in social work. He began his career in urban renewal, later becoming the Director of the Sioux Falls Housing Authority. He emerged as an influential voice on the national level in various public housing agencies and associations.

He served as an ethics advisor on a congressional housing committee reporting to Housing Secretary Jack Kemp and Vice President Dan Quayle. In 1988 he retired for medical reasons but acted as a consultant for cities around the country.

Virgil discovered that the Panama City, FL, climate moderated his pain and so he became housing director of Panama City, where the couple lived for 28 years.

Virgil served as an elder at churches in Sioux Falls and Panama City. He also led young men as a Cadet Counselor and was the Cadet National Camporee director in the Black Hills. The Calvinist Cadet Corps awarded Virgil the blue star for local service and a gold star for international ministry. He served as a Bible Study Fellowship discussion leader and enjoyed mission trips to Liberia, Mexico, China and Guatemala. In retirement, Virgil served as the volunteer president and primary fund-raiser for ITEM.

Beverly was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer last year, and soon thereafter the Lord called her home. Virgil then lived with his eldest son, Perry, in Spokane, WA. During a visit to California, his health failed, and the Lord called Virgil to heaven on July 4.

Virgil and Beverly are lovingly remembered by their three sons and their wives: Perry and Kathy, Roy and Esther, and Jay and Kathy, eight grandchildren and spouses, and five great-grandchildren. And they are also lovingly remembered by everyone at ITEM who knew them.

Virgil served tirelessly and sacrificially for ITEM. He encouraged us when we struggled and helped us regain our bearings.

We miss him, but we rejoice with him. "Well done, good and faithful servant."

### Opportunities to Pray for ITEM

1. **Pray for Bob Clark and Jim Roszell teaching "Biblical Theology" in Kenya Aug. 13-18.**
2. **Uphold John Lewis in prayer as he teaches the book of Acts in Bangalore and Chennai Aug. 1-10.**
3. **Ask God to bless the teaching of Will Hesterberg on "Christ-centered Preaching" and Norris Lessley on "Marriage and Family" in Bolivia Aug. 23-Sept. 1.**

In the U.S. send contributions to ITEM, PO Box 31456, St Louis, MO 63131 or at [www.ITEM.org](http://www.ITEM.org) through PayPal. Email: [lwhesterberg@gmail.com](mailto:lwhesterberg@gmail.com). Contributions to ITEM in Canada may be sent to ITEM, c/o Action International Ministries, 3015 A, 21<sup>st</sup> Street NE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2E 7T1. **Phone # 618-939-5069.**