



Susannah Project Spreads E-books Far and Wide

By Tom Smith, ITEM Executive Director

If you have heard of Charles Spurgeon's wife, Susannah, you might recall she was ill and home-bound for much of her life. Did you know she cared about equipping pastors for ministry? She helped send 200,000 books to pastors in England.

Last month, ITEM learned about a new ministry called Discerning the Faith. The founders, Mike and Erin Miller, joined a Zoom call with ITEM and others in the International Discipleship Coalition. The Millers explained that the Susannah Project (named for Mrs. Spurgeon), loads e-books onto Kindles, which are given to pastors. Thus far, they have given Kindle kits to 13 pastors in six countries.

A kit includes a Kindle, a solar-powered charger, and a long-use battery bank that can be charged once a month, presumably when the pastor is in a town with reliable electricity. The Millers say it costs \$5 per book. A kit costs about \$1,250. Presently, they can put 200 e-books on a Kindle.

They work with Banner of Truth, Crossway, Moody Publications and others. As more books become available electronically, they can be "pushed" through the Internet onto the Kindles overseas.

Books printed on paper are always preferable. The problems are the weight of books and the shipping costs. For example, buying and sending 200 books through a postal service can easily cost \$5,000 or more. It is a shame there is an abundance of good theological books in America as pastors retire and downsize their libraries, while at the same time schools in India and East Africa could use those same books.

How to get the books to them? The Susannah Project seems like one option. It is of course not an ideal option. Two hundred students could use 200 books at the same time, whereas only one student can use a Kindle at a time.

One ITEM site in India is asking for help in getting books. They want paper but would be happy to take a Kindle. This is also true in Kenya. If you are interested in knowing more or want to get involved in helping to get books to pastors overseas, please contact Will Hesterberg or Tom Smith.

How to Contribute

In the U.S. send contributions to
ITEM, PO Box 31456,
St Louis, MO 63131 or
at www.ITEM.org through PayPal.
Email Executive Director Tom Smith at
tomsmith@item.org
or call 717.640.6268

Contributions to ITEM in Canada may be sent to:

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Meet (and Pray for) the New President of ERSU

By Tom Smith, ITEM Executive Director

In the July 2021 ITEM newsletter, you read about Evangelical Reformed Seminary of Ukraine holding its graduation ceremony and celebrating its 21st anniversary on May 29th. In September, ERSU will have a new president, Rev. Alister Torrens, who is an ITEM missionary. Until now, Alister has served ERSU as academic dean and professor.

ERSU was founded in 2000 from combining a PCA seminary in Odessa with one in Kiev started by Dutch missionaries.

In the first 10 years, all of the professors were Western foreigners. Over the past 10 years, ERSU has found qualified Ukrainian men to teach. By the end of this year, ERSU hopes to have 3 full time Ukrainian professors on staff.

When the former president of ERSU retired and returned to his home country, Alister was asked to help direct the seminary until a replacement could be found. At present there are no Ukrainians willing and able to step into the role of president. So in September, Alister will add the job of president to his plate as academic dean and professor.

When not working at ERSU, Alister along with his wife Sarah are helping plant a new Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ukraine called Christ the Redeemer in Kiev. In the past two years, the Torrens have been conducting Bible studies in person, online (during the worst of the pandemic) and sometimes in hybrid combinations.

This summer two women from the States helped catalogue more than 1,000 English Language books into ERSU's new library system. ERSU is now working on the task of getting the remaining 4,000+ Ukrainian and Russian books into the system. This will not only make the seminary's library more useful and searchable to students, but it will allow ERSU to participate in Interlibrary loan programs with other seminaries and Bible colleges.

Alister and Sarah have a daughter, Saphira and a son, Thaddeus. Both attend a Christian school in Kiev, where Sarah assists in many roles.

Thaddeus is an active exuberant boy who likes doing stuff outside. Saphira is a gifted artist and loves creating.

Pray for the whole Torrens family as all the areas of seminary, church plant work, Christian school, and family overlap and are under the Lordship of Christ. As in Romans 12:1, they are offering themselves as living sacrifices unto the Lord.



Prayer Requests

1. Pastor Maxim Fokin, who coordinates ITEM training in St. Petersburg, for healing of his hip as he undergoes therapy.
2. Jim Roszell and Bob Clark as they travel and teach at All Nations College, Sept. 17 to 24.
3. Thanks to God that our pastor-students in India are recovering from COVID-19.
4. The 2022 training schedule for our 11 locations plus new fields is being developed for in person, online, and some hybrid training.
5. Board members' wives: Jobbe Lammers, who is fighting pancreatic cancer, and