



International Theological Education Ministries, Inc.

APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

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“Join our International classroom as we seek to equip pastors, teachers, and laymen and women to accomplish their God-given callings.”



‘Dad, will they throw a missile on us?’

This is the account of the escape of Vitaly Shulga, the dean of Kyiv Regional Bible College, and his family from Kyiv to western Ukraine. Natasha Seleznova, ITEM’s translator, who with her husband is still living in their apartment in Kyiv, translated this. Shulga reports that everyone from KRBC is safe. Many have fled to western Ukraine.

I awoke at 4 a.m. when the bombing started. My wife and two kids were still asleep.

Immediately I had anxiety. I understood by the sound that something serious was happening. A series of explosions rocked the early morning air.

And then I jumped out of my bed and realized we needed to pack. At that moment, I heard the sound of a missile that flew over our house toward the airport. I never heard that sound before. It felt as if all of my inner organs stopped functioning. Our younger son awoke and got out of his bed. “Dad, what is that?”

I told him, “it’s just an airplane,” because I saw that he was scared. My wife was sick with covid and sound asleep. I told her, “Wake up, Putin is bombarding Kyiv.” And she got up like a soldier—all straight lines. At that moment, I realized covid was over for her.

Our older son heard me talking to her. So he ran to our younger son to tell him that Putin was bombarding Kyiv.

The younger one was so scared. But he was also like a little soldier, standing straight. I went to him. He said, “Dad, is it a dream?”

When we drove to see relatives outside Kyiv, a one-hour drive took five because of all the people leaving. On the way, jets flew so low over the road. It was so scary to be in that car with the sound of the jets right above our heads.

We didn’t know what was going to happen. Our older son kept asking me, “Dad, will they shoot us, will they kill us, will they destroy us, will they throw a missile on us?”

The younger one was silent, quiet, all the way, because he was so scared. We finally arrived at our relatives at 10 p.m.; he slept until 4 p.m. the next day. After that, I knew I needed to take the children somewhere far away.

Now, all the areas where there were battles and bombing, of course there are problems with water, electricity, no power and so on. My friends spend two weeks in their basement. They only came out at night to get water from a pool.

Where we are now, there is no shortage of food. But we left everything in Kyiv. We rented an apartment here, and we are living on our savings. We have to be very careful about what we buy to make our money last longer.

Check us out on Social Media

Staying informed on what ITEM is doing around the world has never been more important. We encourage you to follow us. ITEM is on **Instagram**: @itemmission, **YouTube** (<https://youtu.be/Mc24JfvgOoA>), Channel: ITEM-Videos,

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/InternationalTheologicalEducationMinistries/>



Refugees seeking rest through ReST in India

By Tom Smith, ITEM Executive Director

The war in Ukraine has overshadowed conflicts and upheavals in other countries. One place getting little attention is Myanmar (Burma) which shares a border with India. In February 2021, the army overthrew the elected government and severely restricted the freedoms of its 54 million citizens. Tens of thousands have fled to India.

A young man and two young women from Myanmar have come to the Reformed School of Theology (ReST) in Churachandpur, India for help as well as to study.

They have joined seven other students in the Bachelor of Theology program. They are currently staying in Sunday School classrooms in a local church. ReST would like to put them in dormitories. The girls' dorm construction has begun with 30 percent of the funds raised. As the Lord supplies, they will keep building.

The three refugee students from Myanmar have no money and very little else. ReST has given them 110 lbs of rice to eat.

It is estimated that they will need about \$70 a month for support. While ITEM does not typically support students financially, we do let our newsletter readers know about these needs, so that they can help if they feel a calling to do so.

ReST asks for prayer for God's provision for the school to finish building the girls' dorm as well as the monthly support these three refugees need.

Perhaps a few folks in North America will be led to step in and financially help ReST and these students and "excel in the grace of giving" 2 Corinthians 8:7. Instructions for giving are below.

Prayer Requests

Please pray about these issues.

1. For the safety of Natasha Seleznova (ITEM translator), her husband, Sergei, and their daughters in Kyiv and for KRBC dean Vitaly Shulga and his family in western Ukraine. And for this war to end.
2. For the pastoral training in Orissa, India, by Joseph and five men ITEM trained.
3. For Rev. Pau as he travels to Bangalore and Mumbai, for his safety and successful work.
4. For Larry McAuley, who will teach a Theology of Work and Vocation at All Nations College.
5. For John Owen Butler, who will teach Leadership online to students in Indonesia in April.
6. For David Dively, who will teach online to Seminario Reformado Latinoamericano students in Cochabamba, Bolivia at the end of April.

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:
Action International Ministries
3015A 21st NE
Calgary AB T2E 7T1

To send money for Ukrainian relief efforts, mark the donation as "Ukraine relief."