

REFORMED INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION - CANADA (RITE - CANADA)

VOLUME 2, SPECIAL EDITION

AUGUST 2012

Update for the Reformed Seminary in Donetsk,

We are making headway. By September 17th, 2012, we hope to have one week of classes in the unfinished seminary building in Donetsk, Ukraine. Our president of RITE USA, Dr. Merle Messer, is going to be there D.V. to oversee what needs to be done at the last minute and Sasha will be the other teacher for the 22 excited students expected. Normally we have just over 30 students but we are still too much in an uncertain state to risk having too many students and not enough finances.

To date, we almost have two classrooms ready to go. We have 20 out of the 30 needed chairs, but no desks yet. The work has been progressing slowly but surely. Every time some extra funds are sent, more work gets done.

One could easily ask why RITE purchased a building in Ukraine that was only partially built when renting makes a lot more sense. When RITE held its first classes in 2003, the only rent we could find was in a very small room in an apartment that was used for Sunday School classes. It was so small that our students had to sit on three-legged stools with no backs. There was no room for chairs. The next school year we met in an apartment with two classrooms. The bigger problem was finding places to rent for dormitory space. We moved a lot for a few years. We also faced extreme hostility at the beginning for having started a reformed seminary and it was difficult for many of the students. In the last few years we were able to rent a building which was built for a seminary that never materialized. We had rooms for the dorms, classrooms, kitchen and it had heat. (Well, heat except for last winter.)

We then began hearing that the landlords were

going to increase the rent. We had been paying about \$1,200 a month, and in November of last year they increased it to \$4,200 a month, plus a share of the utilities, maintenance and renovating cost for some other buildings. We moved out immediately. We had already seriously started looking for a new place to rent because of the rumours but could not find anything. The only building we could find was one that was for sale but it was only partly built. So, we purchased the building and we are finishing it off.

Natasha and Sergei have been working day and night to get the building this far. Sergei has been lending money from his small business to pay the workers so that they can keep going but I am sure that they both will relax more when they see that the funds are starting to come in.

For this reason I am writing to you. Would you be willing to financially support the work of preparing the seminary and relieve some of the financial burden that Natasha and Sergei are carrying? We have heard many people who have said that they would like to help but do not know how to proceed. If anyone reading this or hearing about this need would like to help RITE with the expenses, it would be greatly appreciated. We are in need of 7 more bunk beds at \$360.00 a bed. This includes mattresses. To be more specific, we are building bunks for our dormitory in our new multi-purpose seminary building. The only way we could get bunks to fit in the room was to build them ourselves. We could have purchased some, but they would have been much too expensive and they would not fit as well. Also, if we make them they can be made to fit mattresses that we can purchase. Purchasing beds

or getting bunks made in Canada would be so easy; one could wonder why we stress this as a project. However, in Donetsk we first have to find enough lumber. Then we have to arrange transportation to get the lumber to our building and then hire carpenters to build them to our specifications. We then have to find mattresses and arrange to have them delivered to the building. This takes quite a few trips to different places and we cannot call businesses to see if they have what we need because they don't have telephone books. It can literally take days just to do this. Sometimes work is slow because we are on a pay as you go basis for the renovation. But, this is good in the long run. We have running water (cold only) but we need to put in at least two showers for the students in order for them to stay in the dorms for the week. They cost \$100.00 each. They will have hot water sometime in October! We have ONE toilet to date. More will be installed as funds come in.

Things are going slowly in the kitchen because that is more complicated and more difficult to get the appliances etc. to finish it off. We still don't have a gas permit. But, our cook, who is Eugene's wife, is resilient and will make do. For now she will be cooking at home and bringing the lunch and dinner (for those in the dorms) to the seminary. She is happy to do that. The students will surely enjoy some borsch heated with a propane burner each day from a large kettle.

I will tell you 3 different methods how you could assist in this project (as always, 100% of all contributions go directly to support the seminary).

1. If you live in Canada and want to donate for this project and would like to have a tax receipt, please send a cheque payable to RITE CANADA to the following address.

RITE CANADA
c/o Mr. Ian Moes
300 - 31935 South Fraser Way
Abbotsford, BC V2T 5N7

2. If you live in Canada and would like to donate and don't need a tax receipt (such as money made from a bake sale or collecting pennies en masse), please send a cheque payable to RITE USA.

RITE USA
c/o Dr. Van Lees
115 Spring Leaf Drive
St. Peters, MO 63376

3. If you live in the USA and would like to donate and would like a tax receipt, please send a cheque payable to RITE USA.

RITE USA
c/o Dr. Van Lees
115 Spring Leaf Drive
St. Peters, MO 63376

Thank you for any consideration you can give to our seminary and it's students. We thank the Lord for the many people who are praying for this Reformed Seminary and for the teachers and students. We thank our God for allowing us to work together with Him as co-workers in His kingdom. Let us pray that He will richly bless the work of this seminary and the start of the Reformation in Eastern Ukraine.

On behalf of RITE Canada and RITE
USA, Mrs. Thea Van Dixhoorn
Union, On N0L2L0