

# REFORMED INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION - CANADA (RITE - CANADA)

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## Introduction

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RITE-USA Budget for 2012

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## A Permanent Home for RITE

The Bible is full of stories where seemingly bad circumstances bring glory to a gracious God and His sovereign control over events. One thinks of Joseph's enslavement in Egypt. He says to his brothers in Genesis 50:20; "*You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*" In the New Testament, we remember how Jewish persecution caused the new sect called "Christians" to be driven from Jerusalem, "...*in[to] all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" And of course, the most wonderful example of a seemingly terrible event that was orchestrated by the Father for our great benefit, was of how His Son became a man and died for the sins of His people.



Recently, something of this nature has arisen in the life of the RITE seminary in Donetsk, Ukraine. We enjoyed several years at the Light of Resurrection (LOR) facility in Makeevka, just north and east of Donetsk. Classrooms, dormitories, and dining facilities for our students were rented at very reasonable rate. But in the early fall of this past year, we were advised that our rent would be more than tripled going forward! Terribly disappointed, we began immediately to search for other

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venues. The Donetsk Christian University (DCU) had previously denied us tenancy inasmuch as they didn't want to be perceived as a proponent of Calvinism. But in October, they changed their minds and we held classes there for the first time in November.

Unfortunately, DCU is a temporary solution at best, as we cannot be assured of the dates we need, and the rent, although less than LOR, is also much more than we can afford.

During the search for new classroom and dormitory space, Natasha, our seminary administrator and translator, and Eugene Polyanitsa, one of our advanced students, found a building for sale in downtown Makeevka. Although incomplete, they believed it to be a real possibility as a permanent home for RITE. I (Bob Beasley) visited the building in November while on a teaching assignment. I measured the interior space and layout and concluded that the building would be more than spacious enough to meet our needs. It has roughly 4,500 square feet of interior floor space for 2 classrooms on the first floor, and dormitories and a library upstairs. Additionally, two garages within the building could be converted to a large kitchen and a dining area.

Construction was halted on the former office building in 2010, and much work needs to be done to bring it up to our requirements. For instance, two additional baths with showers need to be installed next to the second floor dorms. Floor and ceiling tiles need to be installed and walls in the dorm spaces need to be put in. Finish electrical, heating, and plumbing work are yet missing.

Additionally, driveway and parking spaces need to be paved, the building exterior needs to receive a color coat of stucco, and landscaping needs to be installed. That said, it is roughly estimated that the building may be purchased, completed, and fully furnished for approximately \$180,000.

Well, the good news is, RITE USA was able to purchase the building for \$130,000. With the money we have in our bank account, we were able to put \$20,000.00 down on the purchase price. Up to this date, we have received \$25,000.00 of special donations for the purpose of finishing off the building and paying off the mortgage.

Now it is longer necessary to change the RITE class schedules to fit the conflicting schedule of a landlord. Additionally, RITE's ongoing monthly expenses will be greatly diminished. We can also potentially take on more students by some day expanding our schedule to two monthly sessions rather than just one. The classroom sizes are larger than those at LOR and only slightly smaller than those at DCU. In short, the building fits all of our needs.

The building's downtown location is ideal for several reasons. Makeevka is located about 13 km from Donetsk, (about 5 km further than our former space at LOR), and plays the role of a satellite community. Its 2010 population is about 400,000. Transportation to and from the seminary would be greatly improved for the students due to the proximity of bus facilities, as would their ability to purchase needed items during their stay on campus. There are many stores nearby. Being in a sizeable city, RITE could plant a Reformed church in the building and work to expand that ministry throughout the community and surrounding area. Evangelistic work by

the students, as well as their help for the poor would be encouraged as they would be in close proximity to many unsaved citizens of Makeevka. Other paying tenants might be found who are in need of temporary facilities, such as nearby secular schools or organizations that meet in the evenings.

Did the Lord put barriers in our path for a reason? Did He bring about these difficult changes in our circumstances to bring about a greater good? We believe that He has, but only time will tell.

*Bob Beasley. Bob is originally from Nashville, Tennessee, but lived 45 years in San Diego California. He worked in the commercial real estate industry. He started COMPS InfoSystems in 1981 to publish confirmed market data on commercial real estate. He grew the company nationwide and sold in 2000. He then moved to Asheville, NC where he is a ruling elder emeritus at Trinity PCA. He graduated from Westminster Theological Seminary in California in 1997. He has published 5 Christian books, including "101 Portraits of Jesus in the Hebrew Scriptures." He is married to Amy since*

*1993. He has three daughters from a previous marriage and six grandchildren.*

If you would like to make a special donation towards paying down the mortgage of the building, please contact our treasurer. His address is at the bottom of the last page of this newsletter.



## Natasha in Her 14th Year with RITE

Natasha Seleznova has been with RITE for thirteen years. Actually, the seminary was known as "ITEM" in those days, and RITE since 2003. She was born in Donetsk, but grew up in Siberia. Natasha studied English and Russian in linguistic school, then began her translating career with Campus Crusade for Christ in 1994. Husband Sergei owns a camera and computer accessory store in Donetsk with Yana's husband, Max. Natasha and Sergei have two beautiful daughters, Yasya and Alyona, ages 17 and 12. They have both been involved in gymnastics, but since returning from schooling in America, Yasya has turned to competitive pistol shooting.

Natasha enjoys watching a movie with her family or going on picnics. Alone, she loves to read Russian and world literature. She says, "Since being with RITE my whole worldview has changed! It has been a precious experience that I wouldn't trade for anything. I am so thankful to the Lord for the many friends I have made in Canada and the USA. I truly

feel like one family with many of them. The blessings I've received since being with the seminary are incalculable." In addition to her translating duties, Natasha has the formidable job of managing the seminary from A to Z. She is extremely capable wearing both of her "hats."



## RITE - USA 2012 Budget based on 2011 expenses

### Expenses:

Natasha's salary:	6,600.00
Yana's salary:	3,300.00
Tanya's salary (1):	660.00
Eugene's salary (2):	825.00
Sasha's salary (3):	3,600.00
Natasha & Yana cell phones:	330.00
Natasha's auto expense:	1,320.00
Yana's transportation:	390.00
Student transportation (4):	6,840.00
Student stipends (4):	24,909.00
Student food:	9,000.00
Dorm rent:	5,000.00
Classroom rent:	4,000.00
Prof. food:	370.00
Prof. apt. rent:	3,000.00
Prof. apt. utilities:	280.00
Prof. apt. repairs:	70.00
Classroom supplies/copies:	30.00
Web site:	41.00
Graduation expense:	400.00
Library books:	400.00

**Total:** ----- **71,365.00**

It is estimated that the mortgage payment on the building will be approximately \$1,200.00 per month equaling \$14,400.00 per year. As soon as we move into the new building, the dorm rent and classroom rent will end. The expenses listed above are estimated expenses for this year until we move into the building. Therefore, the estimated expenses for 2012 are: **\$85,765.00 (5)**

(1) Tanya is Yana's mother, but we pay her to clean the apartment, do laundry for the profs, and cook profs meals.

(2) Eugene coordinates the students' service projects. Each student is required

to do ministry in an area different from his normal ministry work (if he's a pastor). Eugene directs that work and helps find service areas.

(3) Sasha does some teaching, grades papers, and works with the students individual and as groups on points of theology and student worship and devotional life.

(4) On our assistance to help students come (stipends and transportation), none of our students could pay to go to school. They simply don't have those resources. Also, many of them are married and have families. The stipends allow them to go to school and still survive. About 2/3 of our students come from outside the Donetsk area. Again, they don't have the money to travel to school so we help in those areas.

(5) Last year, RITE CANADA was able to contribute \$11,000.00 towards the 2011 budget. We thank all those who donated. At the moment, just under \$1000.00 has come in. Would it be possible to donate \$15,000.00 this year towards the budget?

## Translator Yana Took Over for Husband Max

Yana Matveyev has been a translator for RITE for several years. She was born in the Donets'k area into a military family. Following high school, she studied English and literature at Donets'k University. After her studies she began work as an English and German teacher, then translated for three years at Donets'k Christian University before coming to RITE. Her husband, Max, translated for our seminary before it became independent and was renamed RITE. He now works with Natasha's husband, Sergei, in a local camera and computer accessory store, which they own with another partner.

Max and Yana have been married for ten years. They have two children, Mark, born in 2004, and daughter, Yeva, born in 2007. They are also expecting a third child in May. The family loves to travel to the Crimea-Black Sea area on vacations, or to the forests in the north of Ukraine. Yana writes, "Translating at RITE changed my

theological perspective to Reformed. While I am translating, I'm also learning! The counseling courses have really helped me with 'every day' issues. One great benefit has also been the friendship of several professors and students."



## Support A Student

It is possible to support a student attending the Reformed International Theological Seminary in Donetsk. The cost per student is very reasonable by Canadian standards, yet it makes an enormous impact in the spiritual lives of these students and their churches in Ukraine. The total cost of operating the seminary in Donetsk includes renting the professors' apartment, renting seminary classroom space, translator's salaries, utilities, student stipends, desk, chairs, library and other miscellaneous expenses. At the present time we have between 80-100 good solid theological library books written in Russian for our students to use.

You can *Support a Student* on several different levels:

**Level 1** For \$85 a month, you can fund a student's monthly stipend.

**Level 2** For \$100 a month, you can fund a student's monthly stipend and cover their transportation, food and lodging for a month.

**Level 3** For \$170 a month, you can fund the entire cost of operating the seminary for a month per student.

**Level 4** Any contribution to help with the monthly cost of operating the seminary would be greatly appreciated. You can make either a one-time gift, an occasional gift or regular support for one or more students.

If you would like to participate in the *Support A Student* program, please send your Name, Address, E-mail address to the information listed on the bottom of the last page of this newsletter.

## Ways in which you can help

Set up a 'Mission Circle.' Participate in sending warm clothes to the students and their families and extended families. This alleviates some of the material concerns and worries and frees up some finances for perhaps meat on the table or fruit for the children. You can make hats, mitten, scarves, afghans, slippers, pneumonia prevention vests for the children, sweaters, etc.

### **Coppers for Donetsk**

Please help the students of the Reformed International Theological Seminary (R.I.T.E.) in Donetsk, Ukraine by saving your pennies or small change.

### **Coppers for Donetsk Program**

Start the 'Coppers for Donetsk project in your church, your society, your social group, your community. Pennies add up.

The Coppers for Donetsk Program is working well and we are thankful to God for that. If you need some extra cans for your neighbours and friends and local businesses, please do not hesitate to ask for them. We will be happy to oblige. We hope to have 1000 cans out by the end of the year 2011. This would create a wonderful help for the seminary. We have received cans with \$5.00 in them and also as much as \$80.00! We receive them weekly from all over and from all kinds of businesses and people from all walks of life.

For more information of how to start this project please email [theavandixhoorn@rogers.com](mailto:theavandixhoorn@rogers.com)

If you would like to donate to RITE-CANADA or participate in the *Support A Student* program, please send your Name, Address, E-mail address, and let us know what level of support to this address:

**RITE Canada**  
C/O Kuhn & Company  
300 - 31935 South Fraser Way  
Abbotsford, BC  
V2T 5N7  
Attn: Ian Moes

Please make checks payable to RITE CANADA.  
RITE CANADA is registered charitable organization pursuant to the provisions of the Income Tax Act (Canada) under registration number 85102 4000 R0001.

100% of all contributions go directly to support the seminary in Donetsk, Ukraine .