



(RITE - CANADA)

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RITE Welcomes Sixteen New Students

Report from Dr. Van Lees

In October, I had another great teaching trip. I taught part one of the book of Revelation to our advanced students and early church history to our beginning students. My teaching partner was Jonathan Bennett. This was his first trip and really enjoyed the time teaching and getting to know our students.

Several good things have happened in our school since I was there last spring. First, the dinning room and kitchen are completely finished and operational. This was the last of the major interior work that needed to be completed. This is so much better for Olga, our cook. She no longer has to prepare food at home and then bring it to the school. Our students also enjoy stepping into the dinning room and getting a cup of coffee or tea on the breaks. The contractors were also finishing the work on the outside of the building. They were applying an insulation and outer plaster-like substance. When I left they were painting it with a primer coat. Second, we have sixteen new students in our school. Last summer we discovered four churches fairly close to our school who are wanting to move to Reformed theology. They were very happy to learn about us and many of our new students are coming from these churches. They are really eager to learn and grow in Reformed theology.

In September, a prospective student named

Natasha called our administrator Natasha (a common name in Ukraine) and asked about coming to school. She was informed that with our new and older students, we were now at our capacity of thirty students, but if we had room in near future, she would be welcome. The prospective student Natasha asked if she could come one day and sit in on some classes to see what they were like. She was there the first day Jonathan and I started our teaching session. She came to our administrator, Natasha, and asked if she could attend classes if she didn't take the stipend and didn't eat any meals at the school. She really wanted to come to our school. When Natasha told me about this, my response was that we had to take someone who had such a desire to learn. However, in God's providence, one of the students who had started decided she couldn't do the program right now so there was an opening for this new student. All through the teaching sessions, I watched this new student Natasha take notes and give very focused attention. She was obviously very happy to be there.

People in my church gave me enough money for our students that we were able to give each student who was married a bonus of 1000 grivnas (about \$120.00) and each single student 475 grivnas (about \$59.00). They were all extremely

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grateful for this unexpected bonus. The new student, Natasha, who was willing to come without a stipend and without meals not only received the stipend and meals, but the 1000 grivna bonus. She is married and has two sets of twins so I'm sure it was a great help to her.

As usual, it was great being with our students. The advanced students I knew well from many teaching sessions with them. It was also good getting to know our new students. Thank you for your support of this important ministry in Ukraine.



The sixteen new students are pictured here with Rev. Richard Blauw and RITE Administrator and Translator, Natasha Seleznova, seated left. Student Natasha, whom Dr. Lees speaks of in his report, is standing fifth from the right. Notice the quilt and picture in the background.

An Interview with Eugene and Yana

One of the great pleasures of teaching in Ukraine is that of becoming friends with the students over the years they are with us. It is a joy to see them as they grow in their knowledge of Reformed theology and as they grow in Christ. For a few students, a further joy is to see them fall in love and plan their future together. Such is the story of Yana and Eugene Grinishin. They were married in 2012.

Yana came to the seminary five years ago from Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine. She completed her four year Bachelor's program in May, but says she still needs to finish her thesis in order to graduate. Eugene is originally from Makiivka, has completed his bachelor's degree and has stayed on to study for his master's degree, which he hopes to complete in 2014.

While Eugene is relatively new to the faith, receiving Christ but eight years ago, Yana says she has never known a day when she did not love the Lord. Eugene was encouraged by his pastor, our other Eugene, to attend the seminary. (We call them "Young Eugene" and "Pastor Eugene.") He says he has been blessed beyond measure in many ways, not the least of which is his marriage to Yana. The 22 year olds plan to continue their work with young people and children in a nearby orphanage as they complete their studies.

It should also be mentioned that Eugene and Yana have served as our campus caretakers since the building has been open. There were problems in the

winter of 2012 and 13 when the building was without heat for two months. The terribly cold weather required that they move into his parents' home over that time. We're happy they are back with us protecting the building now that we have heat.



Yana and Eugene stand before one of Thea Van Dixhoorn's Reformation pictures and caption. The pictures, which fill the classrooms and dining room, as well as halls and stairwells, are a wonderful new addition to the seminary.

Pictures and Quilt Add a Final Touch

The RITE board and all who participate with us, join in thanking Thea Van Dixhoorn of Ontario, Canada, for leading the effort to place many large pictures from our Reformation heritage in the seminary. Beneath each picture is a plaque describing in both English and Russian the historic moment depicted. In addition, a quilt hangs in the first classroom with contributions by many women. With help from the staff, Thea spent many days in Makiivka framing and placing the pictures and quilt.

Thea writes, "The ladies from Southern Ontario wanted to do something special for the new seminary and made a quilt to hang in one of the classrooms. Each person who participated created a square which was put together to make the quilt. There are some squares that have Russian Scripture texts

which was a treat for the students to see. The students each seem to have their 'favourite' square."

The building interior now truly looks the part of a Reformed seminary. We thank all who participated in the project!



Thank-You

On behalf of RITE Canada, I would like to thank you for your prayers and financial support. While the final amount needs to be determined, at present we have received just over \$50,000.00. That is an amazing amount for one year. It is even more amazing when we consider that RITE Canada has only been in existence for three years.

As you know, some of the money raised has been used for finishing the kitchen. Other money has been

used for operating costs and paying off the mortgage. At present, there is about \$80,000.00 remaining on the mortgage.

On behalf of RITE Canada, I wish you all a festive Christmas season and a prosperous New Year in the Lord's service. Should you like to make a year-end donation, that is always appreciated.

Warmly in Him!
Dick Moes

Kitchen and Dining Room Complete

In earlier editions of our newsletter, we asked for funds to complete our student kitchen and dining room. The response was overwhelming! Thanks to all who made it possible financially! We can now cook our own food on site. In the photo, translator Yana gets ready to sit down as student Vadim prepares tea.



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 neighbors 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

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 \$100 a month, you can fund a student's monthly stipend.

Level 2

For \$120 a month, you can fund a student's monthly stipend and cover their transportation, food and lodging for a month.

Level 3

For \$200 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 below

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

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#100 - 32160 South Fraser Way
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Attn: Ian Moes

Please make cheques payable to RITE CANADA.

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