



SPECIAL EDITION

A P R I L 2 0 1 4

Dear Friend,

I was sitting at my computer looking at a blank screen wondering how I could write what is on *my heart and could not find a way to say it. Then my computer announced I had mail. My mail* was interesting, it was a tweet sent to me by one of my elders, originally from Tim Keller. It said, "Don't let success go to your heard and don't let failure go to your heart." I realized I had let what I considered a failure to go to my heart. After Hurricane Katrina and two other massive hurricanes hit the southern coast of the U.S. the giving to RITE stopped. We had to drop an entire new class of eleven students in order to survive financially and that has haunted me ever since.

Ukraine Invasion

Now Ukraine has been invaded, Crimea is occupied and Russia has massed troops and military equipment along the border of Ukraine & Donetsk which is a city that Putin refers to quite often. Now, this does not mean that we have failed, or that some type of defeat is in place for our seminary, but it does represent a serious bump in the road.

Cancelled Classes

Because of the uncertainty in Ukraine our professors for April, May and June thought it best not to travel to Ukraine and that is understandable. For April we have two of our students teaching and for May and June classes we have purchased teaching videos of Dr. R.C. Sproul and Dr. Richard Pratt that are translated into Russian. We will use others if we can get them. We do not have classes in July and we are planning on having classes resume as normal August.

New 'cloud technology'

One of our professors is also looking into how we can use 'cloud technology' so we can teach from here via the computer when necessary. This will take purchasing 2 larger TV screens and cameras for the seminary.

Higher Cost *without* the Professors being there

Now to the point of this letter. Without our professors going over, our costs are actually slightly higher than normal. We cannot ask Ukrainians to teach without paying them for their preparation time and their teaching time. In addition, with the situation as it is at the moment, we cannot use the normal procedure of getting funds over to meet our monthly expenses. Subsequently we have to use different methods, all of which have various charges attached to them. We have a debit card in Donetsk, but using that now comes with problems. Natasha can only withdraw Ukrainian grievnas and we are charged a large fee for that by their banks. We have other methods of getting money there, but they all come with a cost. With the threat of an invasion in place, there is one matter we need to address seriously and immediately.

Operating under adverse conditions

We recently purchased a partly finished building to use for classrooms, dormitory and our seminary in general. The building cost \$140,000 and we spent about \$60,000 to finish it enough to use it. We borrowed money in Ukraine to fund this and we owe approximately \$80,000 at 12 % interest. (This is better than the 30% interest which most banks charge in the Ukraine.) It is obvious that with all of the problems in Ukraine, that if we are debt-free we can concentrate totally on operating our seminary and educating our students so they can continue planting churches, pastoring churches, teaching others and working in spreading the gospel. Some of our students are leading their churches to become solidly reformed and that is exciting. RITE is preparing to operate under adverse conditions and at the same time to operate as normal.

Need for serious prayer

RITE needs serious prayers and if possible some extra giving to help eliminate the debt on the building. Our RITE board needs prayers for wisdom as never before.

Our desire and Goal

Tim Keller gave some good advice about success, failure, heads and hearts. Right now if we eliminate our debt, it will not go to our heads, but sleeping will be easier, especially for Sergei and Natasha. Failure is not an option when working to advance the Kingdom of Christ, but he still gave good advice. Thanks for reading this letter and your responses to it.

In His service,
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Please Note: NEW TREASURER FOR RITE CANADA

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