



SPECIAL EDITION

AUGUST 2014

The Latest Developments about our students & Reformed Seminary in Donetsk, Ukraine. Aug. 1, 2014

"MY HOUSE IS UNDER BOMBS RIGHT NOW! MY DAD'S CHURCH IS DESTROYED, MY RELATIVES AND NEIGHBORS ARE IN OUR BASEMENT PRAYING, RUSSIAN TERRORISTS ARE SHOOTING EVERYTHING AND EVERYWHERE. MY FRIENDS, I BEG YOU TO KNEEL AND PRAY ABOUT IT RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE. GOD , HAVE MERCY ON MY UKRAINE!!!!!!!!!"

This is the message that Olga, one of our students daughter posted yesterday! This is the church where Anya and Thea visited last September and this is where they *were* going to have the Women's Conference this past June. These are the people who love the Lord and who are still saying that 'God IS still in control'.



Anatolyia & some church members.

“GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL!”

Anatolyia and his wife Natasha and 6 others are now living in their daughter's one room apartment in Kiev where at present it is safe. They cannot get back to their town because the rails have been blown up. They actually don't know if their house is still standing. The nationals had taken position in their prize garden for defence. Empty shells are scattered all over. Anatolyia has contacted Ivan and his wife (20 km away from them) and offered them a roof over their heads if they can make their way to Kiev. They will try and find a bigger apartment. However, Anatolyia has not received his pension and his wife can't work at the small job she had either. They are trying to stay positive but it is getting very difficult. Some of the money collected for the conference will be going to help these pastors/students to survive.

Close to Anatolyia's village you find remains of the airplane with 297 civilians that was shot down last week. One 15 year old orphan girl witnessed a young boy fall from the sky into the vegetable garden and then another body falling on the orphanage grounds. Nearby a woman fell through the roof into the kitchen of someone's home.



Anya & her mother Galena

Bombs falling, people dying, how tragic!

Natasha and Sergei are trying to join their children in Kiev. Many are fleeing out of Donetsk. Anya's parents are still there. Theodore's father remains in the area where heavy fighting is going on.

Not only are the seminary classes suspended, (the safety of the students is at stake) but the 'Women's Reformed Conference' has also been cancelled, (we hope --more like 'postponed')

“The Mortgage Reduction Dining Extravaganza” organized by Tony and Shirley Bruinink ----- cancelled

Sad to say but due to the circumstances the dinner which Tony and Shirley organized at the Ukrainian Country Club in Dorchester, for September is cancelled for the time being. Their goal was to make \$15,000.00 to knock down the mortgage of \$59,000.00 which we are now paying 12% interest. If we would have gone through the banks they would have charged us anywhere from 20 to 30% and the way they are right now, we would have been in much trouble. God opened the doors for us that we could get the 12% interest rate which is very high for our standards but the only way we could do it. ***Our prayer is that we would find 12 donors who would each donate \$5,000.00 to finish paying for the building!***

Now Natasha was going to fly over in September and speak for us at this dinner but her safety is more important and therefore this notice of cancellation. Any questions feel free to call Tony at 519-264-9750 or contact him at tonybruinink@execulink.com

Often we get the question, 'How is the seminary building itself?' Is it safe there?' So far we have been spared any damage and we pray that we will be able to resume

classes in January.

Natasha keeps working for our seminary and is regularly in touch with the students. Her knowledge, her care and her dedication to bring the gospel to her country is far beyond the line of duty. Her whole life is wrapped up in teaching young men and women to go and share the 'good news of our Lord Jesus Christ' to those who are living in such darkness. Dr. Messer and Natasha's desire is that they want to get assignments to the students but the mail system is down which makes it pretty well impossible. The board has decided that the stipends for the students will continue. Most students have had to quit their full time jobs in order to go to seminary but now even the part time jobs are extremely scarce. As Natasha has mentioned to our president Dr. Messer, that for some of the students, it has been a life-line to receive that stipend which runs from \$65. to \$100. a month. For many, that is the only income they have.

We are still sending money but we do not want to put anything in print as to how. It is costing us more to get it there but we ask that the Lord will bless it as He did the widow's mite.

Are we still shipping boxes??

We have been asked whether to keep sending boxes at the moment or use the shipping money to support the seminary students. Our request and suggestion is this:

Yes, please, by all means send the money for this month's shipping to RITE to help in other areas. The addresses for the city of Donetsk cannot be used at the moment however we are in the process of getting addresses in Kiev where many of our students are staying. The needs for warm things are just as great and probably even greater seeing that many have lost their homes, and all their belongings and winter will bring many into dire straits. We are keeping close track of our shipments. We want to let the students know that we have not stopped working but that we are waiting for a safe passage to them. Thankfully 'Meest Corp' has not lost one box up to this point. So please, do not stop making things. Pray while you are working on that blanket or slipper that it will arrive safely to help our brothers and sisters in Christ.

One of our new students is in a hostel in Kiev which gives free rooms for refugees. There is no running water, it is just one room. She and her four children are in this room. One of the men who work there took pity on her and let her use his shower.

Years ago, when we started the Mission Circle we would frequently remind ourselves that we must work while the doors to the Ukraine were open. Now we can still send things but we have to be selective as to where and to whom. Before communism fell, our brave men still went and taught even under tense situations. Who knows whether we will have to go back to that. Only God knows. Until then, we must work and use the time wisely which God has allotted to us.

Our seminary is still there. We are still planning classes. Natasha is still preparing assignments with Dr. Messer. We will still send our boxes. We will still send our donations to help the seminary, the mortgage, the students. May God preserve this seminary and send more students to train to be pastors for His honour and His glory.

Any questions, feel free to contact:

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