



(RITE - CANADA)

VOLUME 5, NO 4  
DECEMBER 2015

*The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your loving-kindness, O LORD, endures forever (Ps. 138:8)*

Dear friends,

Loving-kindness is a key word in the Old Testament. It is a kindness that is motivated by love. Sometimes, the Hebrew word is translated "steadfast love." Essentially, it means having pity on those in need and showing mercy to them. The good Samaritan in the parable that bears his name, is a beautiful little picture of this loving-kindness.

God is a God of loving-kindness. And while our loving-kindness is often fickle and changeable, not to be counted upon and relied upon, God's loving-kindness is so much different than ours. As his Word does not change and his purposes do not change, so also his character does change. Thus, his loving-kindness is everlasting!

Accordingly, we rest assured that the LORD will fulfill his purposes towards us. God's ultimate purpose for our lives is that we live in a thankful communion of love with him and our neighbour in the Lord Jesus Christ—today and in eternity. Whatever God sent our way during 2015 were ultimately meant to fulfill that grand, overarching purpose—also when we were in need of pity and mercy. I trust that when we look back over the year 2015, together with David we can make this profound profession of faith.

RITE Canada considers it a privilege to have been used by the LORD to fulfill this purpose in the lives of those whom he has entrusted to our care. In addition to the teaching that was done, boxes of clothing were shipped for the benefit of the students. Moreover, no less than \$50,000.00 was raised so that, together with RITE USA, we could meet our budget. Last but not least, hundreds prayers were offered up for the wellbeing of the students and staff in Ukraine.

On behalf of RITE Canada, I would like to thank all of you for participating in this work of loving-kindness. Ukraine is a needy country. The students at our seminary are needy. Compared to our western standards, the staff is also needy. Thank you that the LORD has enabled you to take share out of the riches he has given you! In doing so, He was not only fulfilling his purpose in the lives of those entrusted to our care in Ukraine, He was doing the same in your life.

On behalf of RITE Canada, I wish you all a prosperous New Year in the LORD's service!

Dick Moes  
Chairman RITE Canada

#### IN THIS ISSUE:

Page 2	Teaching Report by Dick Moes
Page 3	The Evangelical Reformed Seminary of the Ukraine
Page 3	Teaching Report by Bpb Beasley
Page 4	Ways In Which You Can Help

## Teaching Report

The first two week of November, I had the joy of making my fifth trip to Ukraine for a two-week teaching trip. This time, instead of teaching in our own seminary building in Donetsk, we taught in a rented sanatorium on the outskirts of Kiev.

Since I had not been for two years, the first and second year's students were new to me. They were a wonderful group of 20 men and women from all walks of life. Since they had been informed we would be studying book one of Calvin's Institutes, they had downloaded a digital version of this book in Russian onto their smartphones. Every evening before the next class, they read the assigned chapters wrote a response to what they read regarding what they liked, what they disagreed with and what they had questions about. Before they handed these responses in to my teaching assistant, a graduate of the seminary, two or three of the students would give an oral presentation of their report. In addition to these responses to the daily readings, each student also had to write a 500-word paper on one of the doctrines that personally impacted them the most. The evaluation of the course was rounded of with an exam. On the whole, I was very impressed with how they had interacted with the material they read.

Book one of the Institutes deals with some fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith, such as God's revelation of himself in creation and Scripture, the Trinity, the creation of man and the angels, and the providence of God. Since Calvin's Institutes is not a systematic theology like we have them today, I interspersed material presented by Calvin with excurses on how finite human beings can speak about God, the attributes of Scripture, the relationship between general revelation and special

revelation, the heart of the Christian faith as participation in the life of the Trinity, how God relates to time, does God suffer, faith and science, and the soul.

The students were incredibly eager to learn, asked very good questions and were very enthusiastic about reading and studying the Institutes.

Since I had already taught books one, two and most of book three of the Institutes to the seniors, I taught the last part of book three and selected portions of book four to this group of ten students. Like the juniors, they too had what they needed to read downloaded on their smartphones. And they too wrote a response to the assigned readings, which a few shared each day as well as a 500-word personal impact paper on one of the doctrines we covered. The topics we covered were predestination, the church, the sacraments, and civil government. In addition to covering the material in the Institutes, I presented the students with an extensive summary of Dr. J. Van Bruggen's exegesis of Romans 9:6-23 which made for some lively discussion. The students also found the summary of Dr. Benjamin Milner's *Calvin's Doctrine of the Church* to be very insightful.

I had given both the juniors and the seniors a copy of my notes in Google Russian. Thus, when Natasha and Yana did the official translation, the students did not need to write as much as they otherwise would.

I have fond memories of this fifth trip to Ukraine. I look forward to returning in September 2016.

Dick Moes



## The Evangelical Reformed Seminary of the Ukraine

The Evangelical Reformed Seminary of Ukraine (ERSU) is a seminary run by the Mission to the Word (MTW) of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) and the Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (GKv). In the past, I had already had contact with one of the Dutch professors at this seminary.

Since RITE has now moved to Kiev, I thought it would be wise to pursue further contact. Bob and I spent a very enjoyable Sunday afternoon and evening with Eric Van Alten (President of the seminary) and Cor Harryvan (Chairman of the Board) and their respective families. The GKv employs both these brothers. Later in the week, we

### Report from Bob Beasley

November marked my fourteenth trip to Ukraine and my third in the new venue in Kiev. What a joy to meet so many new students, as well as to reconnect with those who continue to study with us.

The arriving students are all so bright and so committed to serving the Lord in various capacities throughout Ukraine. For most, it is a real hardship to leave their communities and families for two weeks and travel several hours by bus or train to reach us in Kiev. Fortunately, all roads lead to Kiev, and so transportation is abundant.

I taught Christ's Sermon on the Mount to the new students and some who have been with us but have never participated in that foundational class. Questions flew as we discussed Jesus's magnificent address to us His followers. The more senior students and I then looked at many verses in the Old and New Testaments which may be considered difficult. We studied almost 200 passages that have either been questioned in the past because of faulty interpretation, or because they are just hard to explain, such as the "spirits in prison" of 1 Peter 3:19. All in all, the class was a review of basic hermeneutics, biblical inerrancy, and apologetics.

My teaching partner this time was pastor Dick Moes of Vancouver, British Columbia. Dick taught different sections of Calvin's Institutes to both classes. It was a good time of fellowship for Dick and I as we shared scrambled eggs in the apartment for breakfast and a pizza or some other dish in the evening. We continue to receive good reports of our former students serving God in various ways, even in the midst of their troubles. For instance, Pastor Eugene, formerly of the Light of Resurrection church in Makeevka, has moved his family from the war zone. He has joined masters graduate "Tall" Sasha in assisting and teaching RITE students when we're in session. Eugene plans to plant a church near his new home in Kiev, should the war continue in the east. Graduates Eugene and Yana

went out for dinner. I also had the opportunity to preach in the Ukrainian church the Van Altons and the Harryvans are members of.

As you know, we own our own building in Donetsk that we are unable to use. The ERSU plans to build its own building which will be able to accommodate no fewer than 70 students in dormitory space. Furthermore, they have a library of at least 5,000 volumes of good theological books, mainly in Russian. The brothers indicated that we would be more than welcome to use their building and library once the building is ready in 2017. We will keep you informed on how this contact develops in the future.

Grinishin are now in Dnipropetrovs'k, in central Ukraine. Besides their work there in an orphanage and in their new church home, they have been collecting money and taking food, clothing, and Bibles to refugees near Donetsk on a regular basis. Graduate Fedor Minakov is about to finish his first semester at Westminster Seminary in California. Fedor also has a ThB degree from Donetsk Christian University. He plans to go on to a PhD at a European university and ultimately teach at one of the universities in Ukraine.

Finally, it had always been graduate Valery Akimov's dream to be a missionary to India. The war provided the reason to leave Donetsk, so he and wife, Tanya, and their family have been serving there for months, teaching Christ's gospel in that faraway place. Meanwhile, we were happy to welcome their daughter, Julia, to RITE as a new student in September. As we continue to hear of our former students and their work, we will pass it on to you all. Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support of RITE seminary in 2015. We hope 2016 will bear much fruit as a



## 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. We are now collecting **nickels, dimes and all change**.

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](mailto:theavandixhoorn@rogers.com)

## Support A Student

It is possible to support a student attending the Reformed International Theological Seminary that has relocated to Kiev. 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**  
C/O Rev. Hank Vanderwoerd  
PO Box 3244  
Leduc, AB  
T9E 6M1

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.

100% of all contributions go directly to support the seminary.