



(RITE - CANADA)

VOLUME 6, NO 1

MARCH 2016

Our Students Do Evangelism

I just returned from another teaching trip to Kiev, Ukraine. As usual, our students are very attentive and focused on learning. This time I taught a class on the sacraments to our advanced students and early Medieval Church history to our new students. One student, Valery, told me that he whole Christian life was different from what he had learned in our school. He was excited to be growing and gaining a systematic understanding in biblical doctrine. It is always gratifying to see the eager faces and watch our students take careful notes during the day. Even though many of them had to flee from their homes in eastern Ukraine, they are joyful and express deep trust in the Lord. They are truly examples of trusting God's providence in the midst of struggles and hardship.

We meet in an old resort building just outside of Kiev. This supplies us with dorm rooms, classrooms, and meal service. There are quite a few works in the building with kitchen, cleaning, and maintenance staff. Our students decided to do an evangelistic outreach to this staff that works in the building. One evening they invited all the staff to concert and party. Some of our students who sing and play the guitar did some Christian hymns and songs for the staff and then one of our master degree students, Anatoli, presented the gospel. The next day, a

kitchen worker told our administrator, Natasha, "I've tried to read the Bible, but never understood it. The way Anatoli explained it, I understood things about God and Jesus for the first time." She also told Natasha how much she liked the Christian music. Our students then spent time personally talking with the staff and answering their questions.

It was a great evangelistic time with the staff of the building. The next day in class we had prayer for the staff. What is especially good about this is that our students initiated, planned, and carried out all of this on their own. They are planning to do this regularly as we meet monthly in the building. In the midst of political turmoil in Ukraine, the gospel is continuing to go forth and God is building his kingdom.

Van Lees



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Depart in Peace, Be Warmed and Filled

It was a privilege to accompany Dr. Van Lees and Kim Carmichael to Kiev to teach at the RITE Seminary there. I taught an overview of systematic theology to our advanced students. To goal was to make sure there was clear understanding of the major topics of systematic theology.

It was my third trip and it is always a blessing to minister to our Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Christ. It is hard to imagine such a genuine spirit of joy and thankfulness in people who have been forced to leave their homes and live as refugees in their own

country. Yet, they show u every day with joy in their hearts and mind ready to study God's holy Word. They are so appreciative of this opportunity to study and be cared for through RITE. James' words, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," look a whole lot better when I see these precious people fed by the Word and the lunchroom provision of the saints here in the States and Canada. It is an honor to be a part of the Lord's work through RITE. Thank you for your support and prayers.

Kirk Swanson

The Socks Have Arrived

We are very thankful to God and we are very happy to tell you that the socks have arrived with no problems. Our Ukrainian shipping company did receive a phone call asking about the 300 socks per box but Tanya informed them that these socks were collected by churches to be given out. As you know, each pair of socks has the gospel of John inside them. Please join us in praying that each the Word of God will have great effect!

Here is a letter from Eugene, the volunteer head of the sock project in the Seminary of Ukraine.

Hi Thea,

We're doing well, thanks. We had a good Lord's Day yesterday. We went to a local Baptist Church, and then I led Bible class in

our apartment with my family.

Also all students liked the classes last 2 weeks. Van, Kirk and Jim came to us teaching us: "Sacraments", "Church History", "Biblical Theology", and "Reformed Doctrines".

Last Thursday our 5 students received sms from Meest-Express that the boxes had already arrived. This morning I called Vadim and he said that he had already sent about 80 pair of socks to another Vladimir (also our student). Vladimir is going to spread socks and the Gospel of John in a military hospital in Dnepropetrovsk.

I asked the students to inform me about this ministry, and I'll inform you.

Your brother in Christ,
Eugene.



**RITE - Advanced Students
Spring 2016**

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.

Coins for the Ukraine

Start the 'Coins for the Ukraine' project in your church, your society, your social group, your community. We are now collecting **nickels, dimes and all change**.

The Coins for the Ukraine 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 2016. 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 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.