

November, 2018

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Dear Friends of RITE Canada,

Many of you remember around 20 years ago how we rejoiced when we heard of the wall of communism falling in Ukraine. For the first time in years Christians were allowed to gather freely to worship our Triune God. Do you recall how many churches and organizations from all over the globe sent missionaries to Ukraine to bring the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to those who were steeped in communism?

For years the Christians in the west followed the motto “Work While the Doors Are Open” and truly that is what happened. Thousands were reached for Christ; however, the majority of those that had come into Ukraine to help had to go home at some point. Sadly many Ukrainians lost heart because there was no one to teach them further. They were not disciplined in the Word because there was no one there to disciple them.

Not many years later several schools were started in Ukraine to teach pastors. Among one of those schools was the Reformed Seminary of Ukraine run by RITE (Reformed International Theological Education). It was a great joy and privilege to be able to teach hungry students the Word of God.

Now we are in 2018, only twenty plus years later. Once again we are hearing about persecutions to the Christians in Southern Ukraine. Right now Russia is closing down churches in the Lugansk and Donetsk regions making communications more difficult than in the past. Militants have raided churches and in some cases have taken the buildings.

When speaking to Eugene Grinishin, one of our graduates, we asked him how accurate this news was. He replied that it was true. He said, “Many churches which I know in Donetsk and Lugansk areas are closed right now and the members gather together at homes.” One of Eugene’s friends, a Pastor from Donetsk city, related that four people with guns came into the church and took over the church.

“This church was helping 700 people with food and clothing. The pastor spoke with DNR government to give back his church building and they refused. The same situation happened in other churches in the Lungansk area.”

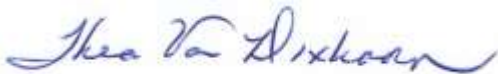
As I was hearing this news my heart became sad so you can imagine how delighted I was to hear Eugene’s next sentence when he said

“In Ukraine it is a very good time to preach the Gospel.”

We know for sure that God’s work is continuing in those areas, God always has His remnant.

Please access our website ritecanada.ca for more information and for a link to the RITE USA website riteukraine.org. You may also wish to follow the work of the “Mission Circle for Ukraine” on facebook.

In His Name,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thea Van Dixhoorn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thea Van Dixhoorn
On behalf of the Board of RITE Canada