

April 2020

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Donations may be sent to:

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Or by E-transfer to:

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Dear Friends of RITE Canada,

Many of you have been asking if we have heard from our students in Ukraine and how they are doing. Speaking to Natasha Seleznova this morning we received an update during this pandemic and are happy to report that as of April 8 none of the students have taken ill. That can change from day to day. We cancelled our classes and the students are staying home as much as possible, most of them isolated in small apartments.

The students are still doing their assignments from the March classes but have already been asking to have classes over zoom. As in every other country, the date set for 'things to change back to normal' is April 24. However, if we cannot have classes in May, the students will have reading assignments and online classes will be discussed with board and staff. The problem is that not all the students have access to the technical resources required. In fact, we have one student who has such an old phone that he cannot take part in online student conversations at all.

The students do not own cars so most of the time the only transportation for them is via bus, train or taxi. However, now they are also shut down. Grocery stores are open but people have to walk everywhere. This presents problems for those who live in a village or a distance away from the stores. Some people in the villages still have old soviet-era bicycles which is helpful. They do not allow you in the grocery store if you are not wearing a mask. Everyone has to carry their I.D.. Also, a decree has been put out that they allow no one over 60 to come out of their homes, but this is hard to follow up. You could get arrested. Some churches have their services online but because the people do not have the technological equipment, only about 20 families out of a substantially sized church joined online on Zoom last week.

As far as the students and staff, here are a few excerpts from their emails.

Good morning friends!

We are trying to stay at home as much as we can. It's hard to isolate living in the apartment. They say there are some people with the virus in our district of Kyiv. And there are more people infected in Kyiv than in any region in Ukraine. As far as I know all of our students stay safe. Thank you for your prayers. Five or six days ago, the ambulance took away a woman from our apartment building with Covid19. She was using our side of the building's entrance. We are very close to it. We have one dog in our building and since you can only go outside if you want to walk the dog, this dog is getting about 60 walks a day. It is amazing this dog has not collapsed. :-) love Natasha

Dear ... students are sitting at their homes. The situation is all the same all over the world. ((On Monday the rules will be more strict- everyone must be in the face mask (before you could be outside without mask, but inside you had to wear it). Next, no more walking, you can go to the store only. People after 60 can hardly leave the apartments. This includes some of our students. Most of our students don't work, so they have to be inside and do whatever. Even if some had the opportunity to have part time job, not anymore. Especially difficult for those who rent the apartments. No public transportation, no way to get somewhere unless you have a car, or know someone with a car. We have food in the stores, the variety is not great, but still enough. So far the quarantine is till the 24th of April, but we suspect it could be prolonged. I think this is pretty much it.

Yana

Good evening ...

we are sitting at home ... Thank God no one is sick. I do not know if there will be a session next month and in June .. pray

Nadia

Good morning

Thanks for your care. Children are at home. Praise God, the Covid19 has not effected neither us nor students. How are you doing?

Eugene

Nothing comes as a surprise to God. We are so thankful that God is in total control. We pray that the nations of this earth will turn back to God to worship Him and Him alone. As we pray for our country as well as other countries, please remember our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

So that you know, we are continuing to pay our students their stipend to be able to get through this time. They have no other income at this time so they are extremely thankful for your love and generosity.

We are now set up to receive E-transfers for donations using our email:
ritecanada2018@gmail.com.

In His service



Thea Van Dixhoorn
On behalf of the Board of RITE Canada