

DIRECTING ATTENTION TO THE MINISTRIES OF KIEV THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM GRADUATES

By Professor Mike Manna; Director of National Center for Youth Ministry at Kiev Theological Seminary

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DENNIS SHULGA

Dennis is from Yagatin, a city located 2 hours east of Kiev. He has been the youth leader at his church for the past 6 years. He is married to Yulia and they recently lost their first unborn child that was nearly 7 months along. He helps with new church plants in villages around his region. His wife is the Sunday school superintendent for their region. He is also the director of a camp for orphans during the summer months.

"The knowledge I have received the past 4 years has helped me in my own spiritual growth as well as in my ministry. I mentored one young man to the point that he started his own youth meetings in a village without a church. He came to my youth group for encouragement

and we spent time together as he also developed this ministry. He now has 10 youth in his group, and I am so excited for him."



Randy Smith, President of Youth Ministry International and Professor Mike Manna, Director Youth Ministry Program at KTS

Five of our youth ministry students have completed the task. On May 26th they received the first Bachelors Degree of Youth Ministry in the former USSR (and maybe the first students outside of the U.S. and Great Britain to have a true Bachelors degree in youth ministry). They graduated with over 144 credits in Theology, Bible, and Languages — 44 of those credits in youth ministry. It has been my honor to teach them these 4 years. I will miss them greatly, but I have 36 youth ministry students still studying in our program. I wish that some of you could have been at the seminary graduation, but since you were unable to come halfway around the world, I'd like to share some words about and from my graduates.

TOLIK VOLOSHIN

Tolik is from Ivano-Frankivsk in Western Ukraine. He has a heart for non-Christian teenagers.



He has led a youth ministry for 2 years and has currently been leading a home youth club on Saturdays for non-Christians with his wife, Kristina. He wants to move back to his home region sometime this year, become a youth pastor, and begin teaching our youth ministry courses in the next couple of years. A Bible Institute is already waiting for him.

"The seminary has changed my view of ministry, especially youth ministry. It has given me a new insight for my heart about youth, their needs and their worldview. I continue to see the

youth I disciplined in the past. They come to me for advice. One thing I know is that God is faithful to His word."

DIMA DANILCHENKO

Dima is from a village west of Kiev. He has assisted 3 youth ministries during the past 4 years and is currently the assistant youth leader in his home church. He has been accepted at the International Baptist Seminary in Prague for Masters studies in the fall.

"The discipleship class and the family ministry class were the most helpful to me at the seminary. I recently counseled a friend about the need for purity in a relationship with a girl. This is a foreign thought in Ukraine. A couple living together before marriage has become very common. I told him what the Bible says, and he disagreed. Yet he also told me that he would seriously think about it. He told me that no one had ever said anything like that to him before."



SASHA KULBICH

Sasha is from Bucha, a small town near Kiev. He has been a youth leader for 8 years and is married with 2 children. He was one of the young people on the Ukrainian ministry team that my Belle

Fourche youth partnered with on our first trip over here in 2000. He has recently become the Director of Youth Ministry for a para-church organization in Kiev.

"I was able to put to practice some of the principles from our discipleship course with 2 young guys named Maxim and Jenya. After some time of mentorship, I have seen God change their lives. Now Jenya is the youth leader of another church in Kiev."

SERGEY REVUT

Sergey is from Rivna, a city in western Ukraine and has been ministering in a church plant in downtown Kiev for the past two years. He started a youth club for non-Christians that has seen some growth. He will be getting married this summer and will become the youth leader of his home church where they have 40 non-Christian youth coming weekly to their youth club. He also hopes to help teach at the new Center for Youth Ministry in Rivna.

"I see our responsibility as youth pastors to bring teens from evangelism to leadership. Small groups are very important in this process. One guy I disciplined is now the leader of a small group of non-Christian teens. He is starting with relationship building. It is excellent to see what God is doing in his life."

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KTS COMPASS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Anatoly Prokopchuk

Graduation brings much joy. Especially seminary graduation when new workers are added to the Kingdom force. KTS graduation, in this sense, was especially joyful because graduates from five programs finished their studies. The Youth Ministry Program graduated its first group of students. They are unique in the international evangelical community. KTS is the only school, in this part of the world, which has an internationally certified Bachelor of Youth Ministry program.

Several years of partnership with Youth Ministry International has brought tremendous fruit and the very first wave of graduations all around the world. This first group of internationally certified graduates will focus on youth outreach and youth ministry, the most needed areas of ministry in the former USSR. In these countries young people are suspected, neglected and effectually marginalized not only in society but also much more in traditional evangelical communities. At the same time, right in the youth environment the adversary wages his most ruthless battles using the lack of experience in youth and the lack of interest in adults. If the Kingdom suffers violence, it is of the worst kind in the youth culture. Through these first graduates, KTS moves to the immediate front lines of the battle for young people, and again finds itself in the unique position that demonstrates clearly the unique features of KTS.

And no wonder, KTS is the only theological school in the former USSR that is academically evaluated by a main U.S. accrediting organization – the Association of Theological Schools (ATS). KTS is now home to the Talbot School of Theology – Kiev Extension (BIOLA University) and its fully accredited Master of Biblical Studies program.

KTS has the best library and most excellent academic team of professors with Master and Doctoral degrees from BIOLA, Dallas Theological Seminary, Fuller, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Bethel, etc.

KTS is the only school, I know of in this part of the world, that staunchly stands for the conservative evangelical theology of grace and freedom in Christ. This is vitally important in the fuzzy environment of general post-communistic disarray in church theory and practice. KTS stands firm in a difficult time in Ukrainian evangelicalism, when the focus and principles of reformed theology of the best churchmen are considered inconvenient for existing church structures, which care mostly for power and positions.

The ministry area of the 330 KTS graduates extends from Portugal to far eastern Russia and from Belarus in the north to Kazakhstan in the south. There is no type of ministry where KTS would not have its graduates leading or involved – including evangelism, church planting and academic ministry. In view of all these things, I ask myself, what does Kiev Theological Seminary lack?

It would seem there is only one thing. I see an obvious and painful deficiency in financial stability, lack of reliable income and, relating to that, lack of ability for long term planning and budgeting. Still, I find the answer also encouraging because it means that together with the apostle Paul we can say, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ." (Ephesians 1:3) Obviously finances are not relevant to the heavenly places and our security does not depend on them.

In addition, our Lord knows that KTS needs financial resources. He knows that we can start the fall semester but we have no funds to finish it. He has already sent many new applicants to start their studies in the fall. Our Heavenly Father sends us enough students and He is able to send enough funds to make it possible for KTS to continue to teach and train them. You, our dear friends, can become a great instrument in God's hands, to help our unique school continue to serve and to bring more glory to our Lord Jesus Christ.



2007 Graduates

WOMEN IN MINISTRY CONFERENCE

November 2007



Remember this great photo — wives relaxing, laughing and learning? This ministry is a blessing to all who participate! Our next biennial conference is just around the corner (November 2007) and the women are greatly looking forward to our special time together. Compared to the 2005 conference, we are way ahead with our planning. We already have a wonderful location and a keynote speaker. This year's conference will be open to our past and present female students in addition to wives of our students.

Our plans are being made in faith. Right now we have only \$1,300. For the first time, we are asking the participants to contribute toward the costs of the conference. Would you or your small group, Sunday school class or women's group consider sponsoring a woman for \$50, or perhaps covering the cost of a craft at \$100, the coffee shop for \$200, or a gift book at \$300? We expect that the total cost of the conference will be close to \$4,000.

Designated contributions for the Women in Ministry Conference can be sent through Rick Campana Ministries, 141 Muirfield Circle, Naples FL 34113.



Prof. McDonnell

VOLODYA YAKIM KTS Outstanding Student

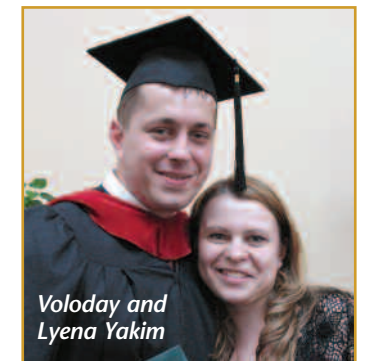
by Professor Mark McDonnell
Director of the Biblical Studies Program

Graduation always brings a mixture of joy and sorrow. As teachers we have worked for several years with students to better equip them for the ministries to which God has prepared them. But, in that process we have the joy of learning and serving with them. Students become colleagues. Colleagues become friends. And then the courses come to an end with graduation.

We are so thankful for all our graduates and look forward to seeing how God will use them. As a special honor, the faculty chose one student who best represented the values that we strive for in the training process. As you can imagine, this was a difficult task. But after some deliberation we selected Volodya Yakim a very friendly Godly young man is married to Lyena who has served as a translator at KTS in the Youth Ministry Program.

In addition to his classes, where he always performed well, Volodya served in a variety of positions at the seminary and at his church. He was the student liaison in organizing chapels each week. He ran the projector during chapel. He helped organize the student spiritual formation groups in which students and teachers have an opportunity to interact on a more personal level. He often preached at his church and was a participant in the youth ministry there. I had the privilege of going with him and another student to do a Bible teaching seminar in a city in southern Ukraine.

Volodya has a love for his own country, Belarus, located north of Ukraine. He made many trips home to see his family and to do ministry, which is still sharply restricted, much as it was in the former USSR days and believers are still imprisoned for their faith. On one of his trips home Volodya had taken Sunday school materials to believers there to help them better tell children about Jesus. He said, "But this is contraband. It is illegal now to bring Christian material like this to Belarus."



Volodya and Lyena Yakim

But this student has such a love for his homeland that he and his wife have committed to bringing Christ to Belarus. They had three large boxes full of materials and were worried about getting them across the border. The Ukrainian border guards were very thorough causing them to be very worried about the guards in Belarus. But when they passed through the Belarus customs, the guards did not even notice the materials!

Hearing Volodya's story, I couldn't help but think of years passed when God made seeing eyes blind so that the Word of God could be spread in persecuted countries. Praise the Lord for a God who still works miracles to spread the Gospel, and for men and women who are still willing to go the distance to be faithful to the Great Commission.

Volodya graduated from the resident Biblical Studies Program. He is planning to go to an evangelical school in Belgium to receive further training in order to return to teach. We have already had one of our graduates, Edward Borisov go to this school and return to teach at KTS. Please pray for Volodya and Lyena as they begin this new phase of their lives and ministry.