



# BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL *Challenger*

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## More Laborers for God's Harvest

*After the Soviet Union disintegrated, new ministries became possible. Kyiv Theological Seminary is one of the ongoing ministries that church leaders requested BIEM to help establish. In May, KTS once again held a graduation ceremony for the preachers, musicians, and choir directors who have been prepared to bless churches with the training received at KTS. Here's a summary from Vitaly Yurchenko, a church planter who also serves as Rector of the seminary:*

**T**his spring, the session of the seminary was special even though we experienced a few difficulties. Due to the quarantine, we were not able to do everything that we had planned. The pandemic makes us adjust our lives but, praise God, He controls all of this and permits that which happens in accord with His will.

We had planned a graduation ceremony for this session, and indeed a graduation took place. Unfortunately, not all of those who were to graduate could be at this spring session, and not all the other students were able to attend either.

This spring session began with online teaching. Dr. Eugene Crouch taught pneumatology via Zoom. This was an interesting experience. Perhaps in the future we will utilize this again. After

which was taught by Vladimir Krishko. Nikolai Rozhnyatovsky taught the history of Christianity. In general, despite the complications stemming from the quarantine, this session was blessed.



*Kyiv Theological Seminary continues to prepare believers for ministry.*

the lectures on pneumatology, all the students received a copy of John MacArthur's book *Strange Fire*. Kevin Gaugler taught the book of Joshua. (The students love Kevin. He brings a suitcase full of candy to every lecture.) In addition, at this session the students studied rhetoric,

At the graduation evening, Sam Slobodian and Kevin Gaugler presented diplomas to each graduate and gave good words of exhortation. Sam Slobodian also played his trumpet along with several young saxophonists.

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*This year, for the first time, circumstances compelled Dr. Eugene Crouch to teach via Zoom with an interpreter. It worked!*



*Students from multiple nations have studied at KTS. This graduate is from Iran and expressed his gratitude for the valuable theological training.*

## Time for Summer Camps!

Every spring, it happens like clockwork. No sooner does the weather turn warm than children, teens, and even parents in Eastern Europe begin asking about BIEM's summer camps. Although the year 2020 created certain limitations for camps, this year we're proceeding "full steam ahead" with camping plans!

Whether overnighting in tents and cabins, or ministering to youth in day-camp scenarios, camp ministries provide unequalled opportunities for touching young hearts. No doubt, the sheer fun of the games, competitions, and fellowship is what draws most campers. But God's Word is at the core of our camp programs. Both saved and unsaved children hear daily Bible lessons geared to inform and warm their hearts. Preachers and counselors seek to draw them closer to God. In addition to action-packed games, the campers learn Christian songs, spend time in prayer, and have opportunities to pose



*Camp gives uplifting opportunities to fulfill Psalm 47:6, "Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King, sing praises."*

any spiritual question on their minds. It's no coincidence that many adult leaders in our churches made major decisions for God while in a camp.

We're excited that many of you have already sent donations to assist with this year's camps. In fact, of the \$40,000 goal, we already have \$35,970 on hand. That leaves only \$4,030 left to raise. But as this *Challenger* goes to press, summer is nearly upon us. Can you help us to reach our goal?

As in past years, we trust that the Lord will work very definitely in the hearts of children, teens, and young adults. After summer is over and the reports are collected and translated, we'll provide an overview of highlights to everyone who gave toward camps. Thanks for helping! ■



*In Central Russia, these boys pause to snap a photo and to rejoice in the wholesome friendships they've formed at camp.*

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*"Reaching the world for Christ since 1981"*

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#### ...More Laborers *continued from page 1*

All the pastors present prayed over the students with uplifted hands and blessed the graduates to ministry for the Lord. It was specifically for the sake of ministry that these students dedicated these several years of study. They expressed the very best impressions of the seminary, and some students publicly shared their thoughts about it. Here is what one said:

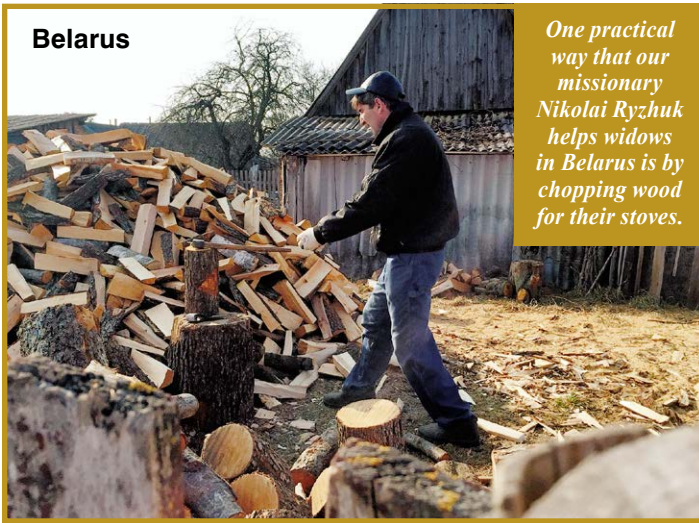
"My name is Abbas. I'm from Iran, but for several years I have lived in Ukraine, because I can't live in Iran due to religious persecution. For me, it's very difficult to express fully my

gratitude to the seminary and to all the sponsors for the opportunity to study here. I'm a refugee from a distant country, from a country with a different language and a different culture. But despite that, throughout all the years that I have been here and studied in the seminary, I have experienced nothing short of respect, attention, love, kind looks, open arms, and hospitality from my brothers and sisters in the faith. I'm thankful to God for you, my family in Christ Jesus. I'm thankful for your fellowship and your conduct, which

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# Quick Glimpses

*Our newsletter is too short to include full articles about every development in the mission fields. However, the following photos will give you a few peeks. Thank you for helping us to minister for the Lord!*



**Belarus**

*One practical way that our missionary Nikolai Ryzhuk helps widows in Belarus is by chopping wood for their stoves.*



**Lviv, Ukraine**

*Our missionary pastor Yura Levtseniuk (far right) in Lviv, Ukraine, has been leading a project to renovate the church's building. Although it's not finished, enough was done to permit hosting a regional meeting of pastors.*



**Smolin, Ukraine**

*In Smolin, Ukraine, the new church is now fully enclosed. Services still take place in the army surplus tent as construction continues.*



**USA**

*In May and part of June, BIEM's Vitaly Bilyak and Igor Fomichov traveled to the U.S. to visit supporting churches and bring updates.*



**Moscow, Russia**

*Near Moscow, this year's conference for men who had completed the drug & alcohol rehabilitation program emphasized the theme "Be Strong and of a Good Courage!" (Joshua 1:7) God has used the rehab centers to work mightily in lives.*



**Kyiv, Ukraine**

*Our missionaries the Kellers and their team rejoice for warmer weather and increased opportunities for street evangelism in Kyiv, Ukraine.*

**...Quick Glimpses** continued from page 3



*Congratulations go to our missionaries Nikolai and Svetlana Ryzhuk, whose son Tolik married a godly young lady named Alexandra on May 29.*



*In May, our missionary Bruce Tuttle once again traveled from Ukraine to the Republic of Georgia to teach Bible classes for both adults and young adults.*

**...More Laborers** continued from page 2

delights me all day. I'm learning from your actions and desire to be like you. Please accept my gratitude for everything. And please greet and thank all the instructors, pastors, leaders, professors, and all church members who have prayed for us, financially sacrificed for us, and inspired us in any way. We know that several instructors are no longer with us, but the memory of them is dear to us. I ask that you all pray for me, that I will be able to take the Word of God to my people, to convey that which you have taught

me, with the love of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for each moment, for each ministry. I give you all a brotherly hug, and I extend my hand to each of you as a sign of my thankfulness."

I, too, am grateful to you, dear friends, for your faithfulness, your prayers, and your support. Thank you! Pray for us—for the seminary and for the students—so that we can continue to carry out our ministry without impediments. May the Lord bless you!

Sincerely yours,  
Vitaly Yurchenko



*For over a year, Covid prevented ministries like this puppet show, which has taken the Gospel to all sorts of locations. Now, praise God, such ministries are now resuming.*



*Tossing their caps into the air was more than just gladness at graduating. It was also these graduates' expression of joy for God's blessing.*

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