

Newsletter *CALLING*

summer 2010

ODESSA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Equipping Christian servants for the 21st century

Odessa Theological Seminary exists to train members of the evangelical Baptist churches - brothers and sisters whom God has called to a variety of Christian ministries. Graduates are expected to display Christian character, possess knowledge of the Bible and theology, and practical skills in ministry.



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TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS for
Odessa Theological Seminary could
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American-Ukrainian Evangelical
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1526 - 14th Avenue Franklinton, LA
70438 USA

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**But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am too young.'
You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever
I command you."
Jer. 1:7**



With warm greetings to you, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

The Odessa Theological Seminary put all the efforts to assist our churches. It is very important for us not only give our students knowledge but also help to make the connection between their knowledge and practical ministry.

It is impossible to describe the ministry of each student in this issue, but we will present testimonies of several brothers and sisters. They led Summer Christian Camps, participated in evangelizations, preached in churches and went to missionary trip.

We are grateful to the Lord for the devotion of each of them.

We do appreciate yours prayers for our students and for the Odessa Theological Seminary. May God bless you and your ministry!

In Christian love,

**Volodymyr P. Shemchyshyn
President of Odessa Theological
Seminary**



MISSION TRIP TO TATARSTAN

In August we had mission trip to republic Tatarstan, Russia.

Our team (that consists of 7 people, brothers and sisters of local churches of Odessa region who



are students and graduates of Odessa Theological Seminary) responded at the call to help in church ministry and evangelism.

The Holy Scripture tells us "It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, and He adds no



sorrow to it." The participants of the trip experienced a special God's blessing in spite the fact that the most part of population of Tatarstan is Muslims. Every new day showed the Greatness of our Lord and Savior.

Alexander Mandzuk, the bishop of Evangelical Christian Baptist Churches of Tatarstan, and Leonid



Baymistruk, a missionary, warmly welcomed us when we came to the city of Naberezhniye Chelni. They directed us to the local community of Chistopol. Before our arrival they led a tent evangelization there. It was very important to continue working with new people.

The members of the missionary group were settled down at the House of Prayer. Every day we invited unbeliever youth. Several days later three brothers from Naberezhniye Chelni joined our group. They also actively helped us in the ministry. During the day we shared the Good News at the



streets of the city. Evenings we spent at the central park where we sang songs and shared the New Testaments. At the House of Prayer we regularly led Morning Bible Study groups, devotional meetings,



showed Christian films and led evening fellowships. We also had personal meetings with people who showed an interest to God's Word. By Sundays our whole team participated in worship services of Chistopol Baptist Church.

Valentin S. Verbitsky, pastor of the local church, shared: "The team from Ukraine did a significant assistance in the church ministry and brought encouragement for the local church." After the farewell lunch we went to Naberezhniye Chelni. The church ministers, after the report of the ministry that we led in Chistopol, proposed us the farther

work for the Glory of our Lord. "At the end we did not want to leave that place. It was a really good experience and wonderful fellowships. We wish to have more such trips" - shared the participants of the team.



If it is God's will we are planning to visit churches of Tatarstan again. We appreciate your prayers and financial support. We also invite you to be part of our missionary team.

**On behalf of missionary team
Dmitry Murkin, alumnus of the OTS
Andrey Polulyah, student of OTS**



SUMMER PRACTICE IN CHRISTIAN CAMPS

The ministry in Summer Christian Camps is very effective. It is much easier to bring the Good News to children at the Bible lessons in natural environment and let them develop their skills in crafts, singing and sport.

This summer I had an opportunity to be in four different camps. The first camp was in Sanzheyka. It was a special for me as I was able to serve two dumb girls as a sign language interpreter. The second camp was in Pervomay where we had children from unchristian families. It was kind of evangelization camp. The third camp was in Protopopovka village. I participated in leading Christian Camps there for several years. The fourth



camp was in my local church in Odessa. I was a leader for teenagers in each of these camps.

**Eugene Ustinova,
third-year student**

I was planning to participate in children day camp. My group supported me in prayer for it and we prepared to this camp. Praise the Lord He really blessed this camp. It lasted only one week but we were able to do a lot for this time.

I also had an opportunity to participate in leading the other summer Christian camp for children. The first shift of this camp went good. But we had to stop the second shift as the weather unexpectedly changed and soon our tents were washed away by the flow of water. We had to send all children home. But God has kept us and granted His comfort. Nobody was hurt, and the bad weather did not stop us. Later, we were able to lead the third shift.



**Natalia Dvoeglazova,
Second-year student**

In the beginning of June I participated in summer day camps in several daughter churches of our local Illichevsk church: Novogradovka, Nikolaevka and Sanzheyka. Then I led two shifts in "Precious pearl" camp. After this camp I took part in children day camp at Frunzovka church. And at the second part of August I helped in the children camp of Temple of Salvation church in Odessa. My ministry was to help in crafts and singing. I also was a leader for teenagers and children.

**Alina Vakuh,
Third-year student**

