

Newsletter **CALLING**

Summer 2011

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 Semi-nary
could be sent to:*

American-Ukrainian
Evangelical Fellowship
1526 – 14th Avenue
Franklinton, LA
70438 USA

*Please make a note to indicate what
purpose your donation is to be used
for and give your name (or your
organization) and your address.*

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

A few weeks ago our seminary had Graduation ceremony. It was a great day for all the students, staff, and faculty. For some the line “In 2010-2011 academic year OTS graduated 29 men and women” would have exclusively statistical meaning. Other people would think that 29 people got good training, which would enable them to realize their potential more fully and do their work better.

Recently I heard a story, which stuck into my memory by its mere simplicity. Once, in one of our churches in Ukraine, during the worship service, an American missionary, listening to the preacher, asked the interpreter who was sitting next to him: “What is the preacher speaking about?” The interpreter was brief and short-spoken: “It is all about God”.

Now, when I am thinking of these 29 graduates, I pray that the life and ministry of each one of them would be “about God”, that the first motivation and reason for their further ministry would be not the result, or success, or even number of new churches they open, or people they bring to know Jesus, but love for our God.



I pray that our school would always be a school where the common denominator underneath all of its activity would be God first of all, and only then the quantity of promising graduates or quality of academic process.

I will appreciate if you join me in this prayer for us, our students, and graduates.

In Christ,
Volodymyr Shemchysyn
President of Odessa Theological Seminary

PRAYER REQUESTS:

We are very thankful to all who pray for us and support our seminary financially. Could you continue praying...

- for our graduates, God’s guidance and vision for their further life and ministry;
- for the enrollment of new students who would come to study at our seminary;
- for summer missionary trips of our students, some of which are going to areas where the majority of local people profess Islam.



OUR GRADUATES SAY...



Maxim Shlykov:

"I will always think of Odessa Theological Seminary as a great blessing of God's bestowed upon me."

Alina Vakukh:

"Knowledge that I got at the seminary inspires me for further ministry. I believe that what I know is not just for my personal use, but for benefit of people to whom I serve and for the Kingdom of God."



Vladimir Pavlov:

"During my years at the seminary, I often thought about the goals and sense of my personal life, what I should strive for. I understood how important personal relationship with God is for me. I should say that this was one of the most important things that I got during my time at the seminary."



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Eugenia Ustinova:

"Training at the seminary gives you a lot: it teaches you stereotype-free thinking."



Timothy Peychev:

"So, what were these three years at the seminary for me? Well, I put on 10 more kilograms (for which I am so thankful to our cooks who served us home-like meals)! I grew a beard. In addition, I became three years older. However, all these "achievements" are nothing in comparison with the fresh view on my faith in God. My understanding of God the Creator and Savior underwent certain change. I was even surprised! There were moments when I was listening to our teachers with open mouth!"



Anna Kamennaya:

"I am so glad that the seminary was a part of my life. To be honest, at present I cannot even imagine how I will live without the seminary and people with whom I made friends here. Studying at the seminary gave me a huge positive experience both in my life and in ministry."



Andrew Poluliah:

"What I especially treasure in my seminary training is that studying the Scripture helped me better understand its Author."



*In the open air
October 2008*



*Christmas Eve
December 2010*

GREAT DAY IN PICTURES



The president's welcome address



Guests and Board of Trustees members



They are coming!



Nowhere to hide today!



A time to smile



Meet our academic dean





The tassel should hang on the right side!



Presentation of diplomas



A word of encouragement from Larry Odle (a Board of Trustees member)



In tune with the message...



I'll be smiling all day today!



A graduate





Hallelujah! This is the graduation day!



And now, what's next?

