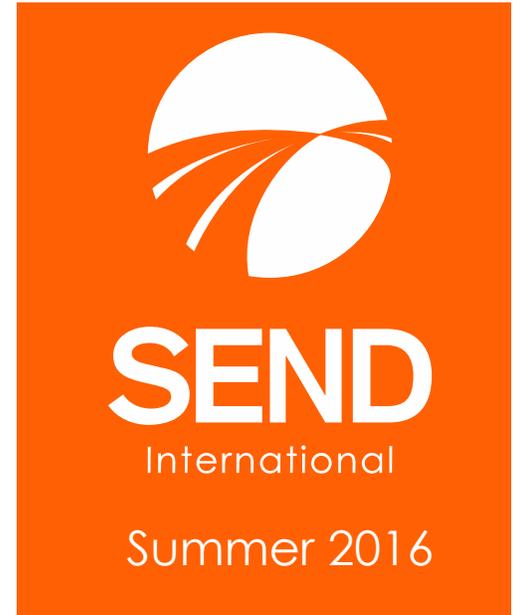


The Benge Bulletin



2016 Graduates from the Pastoral Leadership program at KTS



Looking back



The goal of our ministry in Ukraine is to promote healthy, Gospel-centered churches by equipping and encouraging local church leaders. Because it has been several months since our last newsletter, we want to give you a “big picture” perspective of this past school year and what God has been doing to move us toward this goal. *Our ministry can be summarized in four ways:*

Training

“Ministry is equipping the next generation of leaders.”

Most of Jerry’s time is spent teaching at **Kyiv Theological Seminary**. This past year he taught or co-taught 4 courses in the Pastoral Leadership Department; Introduction to Biblical Counseling; How to Study the Psalms; and Homiletics 1. He also taught the Psalms course at the **Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary** in L’viv and two courses on Biblical Conflict Resolution at **Kremenchug Regional Bible College**. New doors opened to church-based Biblical Counseling training in Kyiv and Poltava as well as two marriage conferences and a seminar on “How to Have Gospel Conversations” (by using the storyline of the Bible). And Kellie has been able to travel with Jerry on several of these teaching opportunities, providing an added dimension with female students.



Pastoral Ministry class

Resourcing

“Ministry is providing training beyond the classroom.”

We began to develop a book ministry 4 years ago that has grown significantly this last year. Through expanding relationships with Ukrainian Christian publishers, we have been able to distribute hundreds of books (translated into Russian) to students, pastors and churches from all over Ukraine. We also have been able to ship books to pastors in surrounding countries such as Slovakia and Russia. The result is that many are being exposed to writers such as Mark Dever, Jerry Bridges, John Piper, Paul Tripp, Ed Welch, Tim Keller, Ken Sande, Colin Marshall, Tony Payne, D.A. Carson, and John MacArthur—to name just a few. In addition to distributing books, we have also partnered with a local publisher to translate new books (our most recent being, The Shepherd-Leader by Tim Witmer) as well as Gospel tracts (“Two Ways to Live” and “The Story”). In the past 6 months we have seen over 30,000 of these tracts distributed through churches and individuals in different parts of Ukraine.



Peacemaker Seminar at Kremenchug

Networking *"Ministry is a team effort"*

The longer we serve in Ukraine, the more God connects us with like-minded partners. In recent months, Jerry has been developing a relationship with Leadership Resources International, which trains national leaders to develop local training fellowships. This approach not only gives our graduates ongoing "on-the-job training", it also provides an opportunity for leaders who cannot attend seminary to be exposed to sound hermeneutical principles coupled with a passion for heart transformation. Currently this training is going on in Poltava and L'viv. In the near future we hope to help initiate this training in Kyiv.



Mentoring via Hospitality *"Ministry is being with people"*

One of our biggest joys is having Ukrainians in our home. We often host students for meals, fellowship, and discipleship. We are providing pre-marital counseling with one of our students and his fiancé as well as providing mentoring for one of our graduates who was recently appointed as the senior pastor of his church.

This summer, Jerry is meeting with young leaders from our local church to study the book of Ephesians and to assist them as they preach through Ephesians during the summer months. It is encouraging to spend time with these faithful men whom we believe will be effective trainers of others in their present and future ministries.



Above: Teaching biblical counseling in Poltava and Psalms in L'viv.

Left: Discussing book projects with Olena, the office manager of In Lumine publishers in Chernihiv.

Below: Entertaining and mentoring in our home.



Praises and Requests

Praises

- Our fifth grandchild arrives in September.
- Joel and his wife have 25% of needed support.
- A slower summer pace to recover from a very busy year.
- Confidence in God's presence and power demonstrated in your prayers and support! Thank you!

Prayer Requests

Family

- Karissa - healthy pregnancy
- Joel & wife - support for M ministry (goal: 80% by year's end)
- Jerry - health: kidney stones in both kidneys.

Ministry

- Continued relationship development with non-believers
- **July 18-23** - Our church's English camp outreach
- **August 8-13** - Our SEND area conference in Odessa. Pray for a time of spiritual refreshment, team growth, physical rest
- **Perseverance** in Russian language development.
- **Biblical priorities** for personal growth, growth as a couple, and preparation of teaching for coming school year.

Summer Schedule

July 6-9 - Trip to a beautiful Ukrainian city and castle with Seva, our good friend whom Jerry met on the train 2 years ago.

July 18-23 - English camp with our church as an evangelistic outreach

August 8-13 - SEND Ukraine Conference in Odessa on the Black Sea

Connect with us!

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