

Dear friends,

April 2019

As you read this letter, the Easter season is upon us. In Ukraine, we will celebrate Easter on April 28th, one week later than Western Easter. In the harshness and messiness of living in a fallen world, praise God for the living Hope we have in Jesus.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”.
1 Peter 1:3



Ukraine Update: Tensions with Russia have scaled back since our last writing and are currently at their normal simmering point; we're still a country at war with uncertainly felt for the future. On Sunday April 21st, Ukraine will conduct the second round of presidential elections between current president Petro Poroshenko, and political newcomer, Volodymyr Zelensky, who won the first round of voting by a large margin. Zelensky is a well-known TV personality and comedian/entertainer, who has captured the attention of the younger generation. They are deeply disappointed with established politicians and the lack of progress by Ukraine over the last five years. Even though he is favored to win, Zelensky has significant connections with Moscow, while Poroshenko still favors a stronger relationship with Western Europe,

To the Nations: Our fourth-year Pastoral Leadership student, Oleg, recently traveled to Uganda. The exciting part of this story was his desire for this trip, which was stirred up by one of our Pastoral graduates, Pavel, who has been serving 2-3 months at a time in Uganda. (* Pavel, far right; Oleg second from the left). Oleg spent several weeks there, joining a team of Ukrainians already on the ground in ministry. Oleg taught the book of 1 Peter in a small Bible school, and also did ministry in the local church and orphanage. God is good. Nothing brings us greater joy, than seeing the Gospel go out from Ukraine. We are deeply encouraged as we see our students take what they have learned and pass it on. Thank you for your faithful ministry with us over so many years, to build the Church in Ukraine, so she can impact the world for Christ. Another praise point is that the bulk of Oleg's financial support came from fellow KTS students, who gave sacrificially so that others might be equipped for ministry.



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Teaching & Discipleship: This Spring Andy taught Church History 2 and a Homiletics course, then spent many informal moments with students. Next week he will be team teaching Theology 2 with our Ukrainian brother, Edward. Here's some pictures from the last few months of what God has done.



Special Guests: In February we were pleased to welcome Pastor Craig Peters and Matthew Young from Maranatha Bible Church (Ohio) and Equip Ministries International (<https://www.equipministriesinternational.org>). They spent a night pouring into and encouraging our second-year KTS students.



Quick Trip to the States: Holly and Abigail made a one week trip to the States in March to look at two colleges – Cedarville University in Ohio and Cairn University in Langhorne, Pennsylvania. While we had good visits at both, the Lord really confirmed that Cedarville is the school!

Thank you for praying with us in this process. While in Ohio, Holly and Abigail were also able see Holly's Mom, Wanda Spangler, who since we last came back to Ukraine was moved to an assisted living facility. Mom Spangler is still struggling with many things, both emotionally and physically. We pray our visit, although brief, was an encouragement.

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Upcoming Ministry & Prayer Needs:

1. Praise God for Oleg's trip to Uganda. May his faithful report and joy encourage other Ukrainians to Go!
2. Pray for Andy as he teaches Theology 2 from April 15-19th, and as he prepares our fourth-year students for graduation on May 18th.
3. Pray for Kyiv Theological Seminary Leadership that they will exercise wisdom, seek a unified vision and God's will in all things, bringing Glory to Him.
4. By God's grace, Abigail will be studying at Cedarville next fall. Ask the Lord to continue to open the doors for financial needs, enabling her to attend.
5. Pray for Abigail as she is preparing to leave Ukraine, her home since she was four months old. Ask God to give us wisdom as we guide her through this transition process.

Snapshots of life:



- Andrew (in red on the right) with his friend Sidney on Twin Day at school ... just "chillin". And yes they wore the snorkel masks for the entire school day!
- Visit with Grandma ~ Abigail's cheerful spirit was just what the doctor ordered.
- Noah played Middle School basketball with his buddy, Josh.

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