



Ukraine Partnership
Foundation

DECEMBER 2018

HELPING RAISE UP DYNAMIC
CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN UKRAINE

OPPORTUNITY & IMPACT REPORT

Dear Friends,

The Ukraine Partnership Foundation (UPF) began as a mustard seed. Several like-minded friends, convinced of the need to prepare dynamic Christians for leadership in churches and ministries throughout Ukraine, began supporting the Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary (UBTS) in 2006. After four years of individual giving through local churches, we founded UPF in 2011 as a nonprofit charitable organization managed by volunteers.

That leap of faith has been instrumental in the growth and success of UBTS. To date, Kingdom-minded donors have contributed more than \$4 million to support infrastructure, scholarships, operations, and missions. In addition to offering a Master of Theological Studies degree, UBTS offers undergraduate degrees in Pastoral Leadership, Church Planting, International Missions, Women's Ministry, Christian Education, and Music Ministry. Enrollment has soared to more than 700 students who are being equipped to lead churches and ministries that are transforming communities and the nation.

Thank you for your gifts – your generosity made this possible!

Political uncertainty and economic hardship have continued to impact Ukraine. Today, there is great opportunity to preach the Gospel to a nation that includes war-weary refugees and people still living in the war zone who are eager to find hope and peace. The need for Christian leaders who embrace the Biblical, Missional, and Accountable core values championed by UBTS has never been greater – and UPF is committed to broaden and deepen its support for this vital work.

UBTS students are profoundly blessed by our support and are determined to fulfill God's call on their lives. As we enter the holiday season of thanks and celebration, we ask you to prayerfully consider how you can help meet the needs presented in this newsletter, particularly with gifts to support students from the War Zone and for Women's Ministry programs. Pass the information on to your family, friends, and colleagues who share your heart for missions. *You can be confident that the seed you sow today will be on fertile ground and reap a mighty harvest.*

With deep appreciation for your support,

UPF Board of Directors

Cliff Eason

Bob Fasani, CPA

Tom McCarthy

Joe Privott

John Smith

John White

UPF IMPACT

Students Flee Ukraine War Zone with Determination to Return

Imagine living in a War Zone where open hostility to the Christian faith is expressed through violence against people and property. Where the “new normal” is an atmosphere of fear, deprivation, and mistrust. Where it seems the rest of the world – and maybe even God – has forgotten about you and moved on to other, more pressing issues.

That’s the reality for thousands of Ukrainians who live in the Eastern Ukraine War Zone. Half a million people are homeless and Christian persecution is widespread. Many have fled, becoming refugees in their own homeland.

Thankfully, there are Ukrainian Christians who imagine a better way – a way of hope, reconciliation, and peace. Some undertake an arduous journey to attend UBTS, located in Western Ukraine, in preparation for the time they can return home to minister to their broken communities.

Strengthened by the Gospel message, UBTS-trained students and graduates are equipped to encourage and disciple family members, friends, and other refugees. They model leadership, integrity, and accountability in the midst of confusion and corruption. They share Christ’s love with people hungry for acceptance and stability.



The church before and after its destruction.



Yelisey Pronin was the pastor of a church in the War Zone that was destroyed by the Separatists. He is now Director of Church Planting at UBTS and the pastor of a new church for displaced people in L’viv, Ukraine.

There is great risk in this commitment – as well as great reward. **The following video demonstrates the powerful impact of a church planted by UBTS faculty and students – as it ministers to refugees from the War Zone and changes the life of a young man who is now attending UBTS. It is a vivid affirmation of Joseph’s bold declaration to his brothers in Genesis 50:20: “You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.”** The evil that separatists meant against one church congregation has transformed to good for countless more people and generations to come.

View the video here:

<https://vimeo.com/389462931>

Our support for students from the War Zone can be applied in many ways. It can mean scholarship relief for a student unable to afford the monthly cost of \$400 for travel, tuition, housing, meals, and other essentials. It also provides faculty support to offer conferences in East Ukraine and develop the capability to offer some seminary classes in a church near the War Zone. Our gift will make a tangible impact today and help establish courageous Christian leaders in Eastern Ukraine who can change the trajectory of that vital region’s future.

Make your gift to UPF’s War Zone Needs & Opportunities Fund through a secure link on the UPF website at:

www.upfmissions.org/donate

UBTS IMPACT

Ukraine's Women Encouraged and Sustained by UBTS Women's Ministry

The women of Ukraine are daughters, wives, mothers, and friends – much like other women all around the world. They share the same desires – to be safe, loved and appreciated, raise healthy children, and find meaningful ways to contribute to other people's lives that will, in turn, bring joy and purpose to their own lives. Adding to their day-to-day financial and emotional strain is a hovering sense of uncertainty from the ever-present shadows of an uncertain economy, disintegrating families, and war in the East. These women need encouragement and fellowship with other women who understand. The Women's Ministry Program at UBTS is designed to meet this growing need.

The women who attend UBTS have traveled many different paths to faith. A few were raised in evangelical Christian homes, but most found faith in a non-Christian environment at a desperate time in their lives. Some are partners with their husbands in service to their churches and communities. Most have spouses who are either indifferent or hostile toward Christians. All have open hearts and are dedicated to serving women and children through a wide variety of ministries.



Sasha prays with other UBTS students for a young woman she is mentoring.



Sasha Furmanchuk is a student in UBTS Women's Ministry Program who has ministered to Ukrainian orphans for more than a decade.

And these students and graduates from the UBTS Women's Ministry Program are having an impact! They bring hope, friendship, and salvation to women of all ages as they learn about and experience God's love. Young women, in particular, are eager to learn about God's purpose for their lives and his design for marriage and family life.

Sasha Furmanchuk is a UBTS student and mentor in the Women's Ministry Program. She has a compelling vision for how churches can help care for Ukraine's 71,000 orphans; help them experience God's love; and grow into healthy, independent adults. You can meet Sasha and learn more about her ministry in the following video.

View the video here:

<https://vimeo.com/389463271>

Women are unique transmitters of God's love to their children, grandchildren, and others in their circles of influence. Your gift today in support of the Women's Ministry Program at UBTS will benefit many generations to come.

Make your gift to UPF's Women's Ministry Fund through a secure link on the UPF website at:

www.upfmissions.org/donate

NEWS & NOTES

A Shared Vision for UBTS

UPF is blessed to recognize that a wide range of mission organizations and churches share our vision to raise up Christian leaders in Ukraine. Our mutual goal is to see UBTS thrive and grow in enrollment, influence, and impact.

The International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention has three priorities: Evangelism/Discipleship, Church Planting and Training National Leaders. In partnership with UBTS, the IMB is training Ukrainian leaders and pastors by providing personnel resources to advance the Seminary's mission and work.

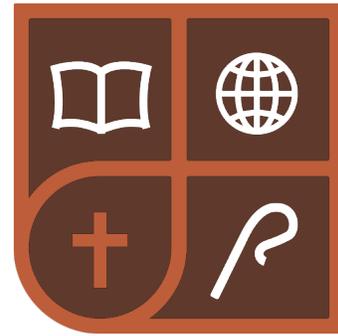
For example, Dr. Russell Woodbridge, previously professor and Assistant Dean at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, now serves as Academic Dean at UBTS, working closely with Seminary President Slavik Pyzh to develop new programs and strategic initiatives. Dr. Ingrid Woodbridge, his wife, teaches two courses and is a mentor in the Women's Ministry Program. They have been joined by Dr. Dan Upchurch, now a professor at UBTS, and his wife, Lori, who is developing a new Christian Education Program.

SEND International is an interdenominational, multinational, evangelical mission organization with over 500 missionaries serving in Asia, Europe, Eurasia and North America. Missionaries Herb and Kim Burkett serve in the UBTS International Missions and Women's departments respectively, where Kim teaches and both are mentors.

Mission Eurasia, through its School Without Walls program, brings flexible, hands-on leadership training to equip young Christian men and women with biblical wisdom, leadership skills, and practical ministry experience. The program provides complete teaching and support for a class of 73 students in the UBTS Young Leaders Program.

In addition, the **Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary** and **TCM International Institute** offer fully-accredited Masters of Theology programs for UBTS students.

We are honored and grateful to co-labor with these outstanding organizations and missionaries.



Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary

Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary (UBTS) was founded in 2000 to train and develop Ukrainian church leaders who are committed to growing churches. Students and faculty share a commitment to express Biblical, Missional, and Accountable core values in all that they do.

Ukraine Partnership Foundation (UPF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization that solicits donations to support the work of raising dynamic Christian leaders in Ukraine. All contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.

How You Can Help

- *Pray for the students, faculty, and staff at UBTS.*
- *Share your heart for the Ukrainian people and their churches with family, friends, and colleagues.*
- *Be an ambassador for UPF to your church's mission board and congregation.*
- *Make a financial gift to support the mission and work of UPF.*

www.upfmissions.org

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