



WINTER 2021

HELPING RAISE UP DYNAMIC
CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN UKRAINE

OPPORTUNITY & IMPACT REPORT



Multipurpose Chapel Nears Completion!

In June, UPF reached out to supporters with an urgent appeal for funds to help complete the Multipurpose Chapel building that is being constructed adjacent to the UBTS Academic Building. **Spurred by the generous offer of a \$100,000 matching gift, UPF benefactors stepped forward with gifts that exceeded all expectations!** This prompt and generous response enabled UBTS to purchase building materials in a timely way and work on this important addition continues.

With UBTS enrollment surging to over 1,000 students, the need to finish this new addition is critical. The chapel, multipurpose gathering spaces, cafeteria, and several additional classrooms will ensure that UBTS students – who sacrifice so much to attend classes in L'viv – can study, worship, and fellowship in a safe, learning-centered environment.



UBTS President Slavik Pyzh traces the exciting growth and impact of UBTS in the video posted on the UPF Website at: upfmissions.org/news

Your gifts create opportunity...

Recap: The UBTS Campus Construction Plan

In 2017, UBTS submitted and received approval from the city of L'viv for a three-phased construction plan:

- **Phase 1** began in 2017 and has been completed. The **Academic Building** is a four-story structure housing the majority of UBTS classrooms and administrative offices.
- **Phase 2** adds the **Multipurpose Chapel**, located directly behind and linked to the Academic Building. This addition includes the Chapel, as well as urgently needed Kitchen and Dining facilities and several large meeting and student gathering areas. It will be completed in 2022.
- **Phase 3** phase of construction, currently under consideration, will add an on-campus **Dormitory** capable of housing up to 250 students. When approved, this two-year construction project could begin as early as 2022.

The Phase 1 construction of the Academic Building has transformed how students learn and enabled UBTS to adapt to the challenges of the global pandemic. Completing the Multipurpose Chapel will cap Phase 2 of the UBTS Master Plan for growth and impact – ensuring that hundreds of servant leaders for churches throughout Ukraine and Eastern Europe will be educated and trained each year.

The remaining cost to complete the Multipurpose Chapel is \$261,000. Please consider a year-end gift to help UBTS reach the finish line on this essential building project.



Students Describe the UBTS Experience

The experience of students attending UBTS is far removed from typical undergraduate education in the United States. Each UBTS degree or certificate program enrolls a cohort group of students who attend classes together in L'viv for one week and then return home to continue their studies and field work for five weeks. They continue this back-and-forth cycle from September to the following May.

The spacious classrooms in the new Academic Building, faculty mentoring, and other resources make the UBTS learning experience positive and productive. But securing transportation, meals, and accommodations has become a significant challenge through ongoing waves of COVID-19 infection and restrictions.

Public transportation requires proof of vaccination or a daily COVID test costing the equivalent of \$10. Pre-packaged meals are prepared in a small kitchen in the old building and delivered to the new building for students to pick up and eat wherever they can find a place to sit. The nearby hostels, formerly used to house students, are closed. This leaves students with very limited and expensive options for accommodations during their stay in L'viv.

Despite these obstacles, students are eager to attend. **UBTS projects enrollment will reach over 2,000 by 2023 – with cohort groups numbering 250 students each.** This affirms the need to complete the Multipurpose Chapel building as soon as possible.



In videos posted on the UPF website, two new UBTS students explain why they chose to study at UBTS and their hopes for the future. View them at: upfmissions.org/ubts/student-stories.

...and have impact!

Reflection from a UBTS Guest Lecturer

Pete Mallowney, a former U.S. Naval Officer and retired Strategic Planner at AAI Corporation, first visited Ukraine in 2011 with UPF President Joe Privott to teach a class in Strategic Planning at UBTS, then located in Boryslav. In 2012, at the invitation of the Ukraine Baptist Union, Pete started to present the same topic twice a year to pastors in various locations throughout Ukraine. His interpreter for those sessions was Slavik Pyzh, who had just returned from the United States with a doctorate degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Today, Dr. Pyzh is the president of UBTS. Pete travels to Ukraine twice a year to teach UBTS students the fundamentals of Strategic Planning – a skill that can help clarify and strengthen the mission, vision, and goals of a local church. Emerging leaders are eager to learn about the topic, as the practice of local planning was suppressed during decades of central government oversight when Ukraine was a member of the Soviet Union.



Here are Pete's reflections about his teaching trips to UBTS.

When I was traveling with Slavik, every place we went we were received enthusiastically. But the learning environment was inconsistent. The venues generally lacked essentials for learning, the PowerPoint charts I used to teach were poorly translated from English to Ukrainian and lacked cultural sensitivity in some areas. Few pastors had laptops to store my charts, the internet was non-existent in many places, and the roads off main highways were treacherous, especially at night. Despite these challenges, I was amazed to see the pastors express excitement for learning about strategic planning!

On the road, Slavik and I generally met with pastors from Thursday to Saturday, so I could really only teach them **about** Strategic Planning. When we moved our “traveling road show” to the UBTS building in L'viv in 2014, I had more time and an actual classroom in which to teach. Now I could focus on teaching students **how to do** Strategic Planning.

And everything changed! While the pastors I had been teaching were interested, the students at UBTS were enthusiastic, committed to learning, and fun to be around! Each person was equipped with a laptop and could download my presentation and exercises. Although the old UBTS building was sparse in amenities, the students, most in their late 20s, had one thing in common: they all wanted to learn how to Plan Strategically. Some of those students traveled 20 hours one-way to attend UBTS. Talk about dedication and commitment!

Having cancelled both of my classes in 2020 due to Covid, on November 15th this year, I taught my first Strategic Planning Course in the new UBTS Academic Building. It was an awesome experience! Our classroom was large and fully equipped for teaching and learning. My students started the class on Monday knowing nothing about Strategic Planning. By the end of the week, working in groups of four to five students, they completed Strategic Plans for a fictitious church I assigned each of the groups. It was amazing to see “the light of understanding” turn on in each of the students during the week.

Having taught students in the old, cramped building for six years, and now in the new academic facility, I can say that UBTS continues to attract the best and brightest, most intelligent, committed and, I might add, the happiest students I've ever been around. And the numbers of entering freshman, both men and women, continue to grow exponentially! It is a joy to teach there, and I plan to keep returning to UBTS twice a year to teach Strategic Planning to the future leaders of God's work in Ukraine.

Visit upfmissions.org/donate to make a secure, online gift.

To send a gift by mail, please make checks payable to Ukraine Partnership Foundation and send to:

Ukraine Partnership Foundation
14027 Willow Breeze Court
Chesterfield, MO 63017



A Message from the Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

Despite the ongoing challenges of the global pandemic, we have much to be thankful for as the year ends. Thanks to the grace of God, and prayers and support from our generous benefactors and friends, we have watched UBTS pivot and adapt in many creative ways as it continues to fulfill its mission.

Classrooms in the new Academic Building were completed just in time to make on-campus learning possible – following a year of virtual teaching that left students and faculty yearning for a return to in-person learning, mentoring, and fellowship.

Completing the Multipurpose Chapel building – with dedicated common spaces for worship, dining, and fellowship – will immeasurably enrich the UBTS experience for students who, against great odds, obediently respond to God’s call on their lives.

Our vision for what God can accomplish in Ukraine and Eastern Europe through UBTS is brighter than ever. Surging enrollment and joyful, committed students inspire us to keep praying, keep giving, and keep believing: *the truth and power of the Gospel can transform churches, communities, and nations.*

**Thank you for all you do for UBTS through your prayers and gifts.
Best wishes for a blessed and holy Christmas season!**

Joe Privott, President

Retired President and CEO,
Novus International Inc.

Cliff Eason

Retired President and CEO,
Southwestern Bell Division,
ATT; Chair of Board,
Reinsurance Group of America

Bill Jefferis

Chairman of the Board of
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Nebo Systems, Inc.

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President, Ukrainian Baptist
Theological Seminary

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Retired Chief Financial Officer,
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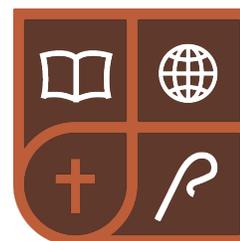
Retired Vice President,
Southwestern Bell Division, ATT

Tony Vermillion

Vice President, Global Security,
Emerson

John White

Retired President,
Kairos Private Equity Fund;
Retired President, CEO and Chair,
Haemonetics Corporation



How you can help

- **Pray** for the people of Ukraine – that many will turn to the Lord for hope and strength in this uncertain time.
- **Pray** for church leaders in Ukraine and Eastern Europe – that they may serve and lead with compassion that demonstrates Christ’s love for all people.
- **Pray** for the physical, mental, and spiritual health of UBTS students, faculty and staff – that they will remain faithful to their calling and mission.
- **Pray** for the UPF Board of Directors – that we steward the resources God has granted to us with vision, wisdom, and discernment.
- **Forward this newsletter** to family, friends, and colleagues who share your heart for the lost, no matter where they live.
- **Make a gift** to UPF that will help us provide critical support to UBTS.

Visit upfmissions.org/donate to make a secure, online gift.

To send a gift by mail, please make checks payable to **Ukraine Partnership Foundation** and send to:

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14027 Willow Breeze Court
Chesterfield, MO 63017

Thank You

Thank you for caring so deeply about the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe and the students, faculty, and staff at UBTS. Your prayers and gifts reveal a missional heart that extends beyond Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria – to the ends of the earth. **We are honored to partner with you in a shared mission to raise up and equip Christian leaders in Ukraine.**

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.

upfmissions.org