

## Vitaly Petrov FROM SIBERIA

In late March, Marina and I spent a week in the Siberian vast region of Krasnoyarsk Krai, meeting at different churches whose pastors have significantly benefited from our courses. Siberia is a vast region covering 5 million sq. miles and seven time zones. The Krasnoyarsk Krai region is 3.5 times the size of Texas!





I had the privilege of reuniting again with a dear friend and former student of TVS, Bishop Ivan Bulechev. Ivan is pictured at the table second from the right with our other friends from the World Evangelical Alliance, the largest international organization of evangelical churches. Ivan has completed many courses through TVS and has influenced and assisted many Siberian evangelical churches in utilizing them for their own congregations and leaders.



Much like in the U.S, churches in the region have installed large screens to display teaching material.





I was thrilled to meet with more bishops and leaders of six multi-denominational evangelical church

associations in the Krasnoykark Region. These multi-denominational leaders were familiar with TVS courses and have several students active in their churches. Some of these leaders traveled over 800 miles over Siberian roads to connect relationally with me and learn more about the leadership and reliableness of TVS as an organization. Our meeting together was very fruitful as new friendships in the Lord were made.

The Krasnoykark Region of Siberia has a Baptist Church Association, consisting of around 35 churches. I spoke at a service of the Associations leading church in the city of Krasnoyarsk. This church has over 750 members! One of the pastors and several of the leaders and members are current students of TVS.

Many of them expressed their gratitude to us for providing this valuable resource to them. I was blessed by the beautiful music offered in praise, and I spoke to the congregation on John 3:16.

You can see a video of part of the service by <u>clicking here.</u>



**Dear friends, would you please pray for our upcoming fund-raising event** (described below) Because of COVID 19, we had to cancel many trips and U.S church invitations in 2020, and this event will raise money directly for tuition for our students.

As always, thank you for your prayers for our students, and our work at TVSEMINARY. Vitaly Petrov Executive Director

#### RAISING SCHOLARS & FORMING LEADERS

# Global Academic Benefit

LIVE IN PALMYRA PA. MAY 14 & 15

This Event Benefit is being held because we believe in the ministries of our 5200 students, and we want to allow you to share in their success.

## An Awesome gift is given? Two generous friends of TVS have come

Two generous friends of TVS have come together for a unique opportunity that will multiply the generosity of your financial investment! They will match up to \$10,000 for every gift donated in response to this event. \$360 or \$30 per month for a year provides a student with 2 full courses of study for a full year!

\$20,000 FOR 5200 TVS STUDENTS IS



### How far can \$20,000 go?

55 international ministry leaders will be equipped with the knowledge of 114 courses! With an average congregation of 100 members, these leaders will be able to share their course knowledge with 5500 people!

IVS Students thank you for your gift



From Vitaly Petrov February 1, 2021



**This past May**, we delivered some hard news concerning COVID-19's effect on the staff of TVS in Kursk. Our team had remained healthy at that time, but our lead translator Larisa Kuzmenko's husband became quite ill with COVID. Here is the journey of how she and two TVS co-workers ultimately expressed their COVID experience through this unique video creation.

"Because Sasha is Head of ICU in a large city hospital, I knew from scratch that he would be on the front lines working with Coronavirus patients directly. Needless to say, I suspected what that would entail."

Larisa's husband Sasha did contract the virus and was quarantined, away from Larisa, who would have taken care of him through his illness. Knowing little about the unpredictable virus, Sasha did not want to take chances with his family and continued to isolate himself. The situation created tremendous stress for the young family.



Praise God, Sasha survived, unlike some of his friends and colleagues. After two subsequent negative tests, he "returned to action." The hospital filled to occupancy with virus-positive patients – sick, coughing, short of breath, and scared. Physicians succumbed to the virus one after another and those who recovered "filled in the gaps" and worked 24/7. The workload tripled for medical professionals as they were away from their families and forced to navigate between the red zone and sleep. Doctors



and patients fought to the death. Many people in Russia underestimated the seriousness of the new virus and neglected mask-wearing and social distancing that reduce the spread. Unhappy with border closures and other restrictions, altered travel plans created an attitude of insurrections. They ignored the reality. As a result, hospitalizations increased every day and subsequently more work and less rest for health

professionals.

"I just hoped and prayed that the physicians' sense of vocation and God's grace would help them overcome the growing mental and physical stress, and pressure."



In December, Daniel Polukhin, a significant member of the TVS technical team, also began feeling ill and was quickly hospitalized with severe COVID symptoms.

"I steadfastly tried to bring the seriousness of the situation home to people," Larisa commented, "but I often hit a blank wall of incomprehension, skepticism, and denial. So, when Daniel ended up

in a hospital bed and started recovering, I thought it would be a good idea to add some images to my words."

A real video artist, Daniel utilized his craft amid his own recovery. He captured the suffering he experienced and saw in the Russian hospital on film. TVS Technical Director and head of the Word Art Ministry in Kursk, Ivan Silenin, composed music to support the message of the footage. With Larisa's intense words, they created a video that was quickly picked up by media platforms in Russia

and subsequently appreciated by thousands!

Today, the battle is still going, and physicians are still working hard.

"At this point, Sasha keeps working as Head of ICU and is a part of the medical consultative team on COVID treatment in Kursk Region. His working schedule is still pretty busy, but he finds some time to spend with us, which is precious. We praise the Lord for everything He has done and is doing in and through us! "



#### THE WORK CONTINUES

TVS staff continue the work of editing, translating,
And providing technical support for over
5000 enrolled students

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when He Has stood the test he will receive the crown of life,
Which God has promised
To those who love him.

**JAMES 1:12** 

Thank you again dear friends for your love and care. Please continue to pray for us as we prepare for the annual board meeting this month.

For Him Vitaly Petrov *Executive Director*