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FW: Thomas Family Prayer Letter Update - Winter 2018

1 message

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To: Ann Hayner Cell Hayner <Ann.Hayner@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 19, 2018 at 1:19 PM

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Missionary Derek Thomas](#)
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2018 12:20 PM
To: [klargentwhbc@yahoo.com](#)
Subject: Thomas Family Prayer Letter Update - Winter 2018[View this email in your browser](#)

December 19, 2018

Dear Praying Friends,

Your persistent prayer ministry for us is making a difference. **We held our inaugural session of SBI Advanced in November with 40 pastors and servants in attendance.** During the week there were helpful discussions with warm times of fellowship. We are already looking forward to our next session of this graduate program in March anticipating the Lord's blessing. **SBI**

Advanced was followed by our Fall undergraduate session of SBI. We hosted a group of students hungry to study God's word, including 10 new students. One of our new students had come to Christ as a child through the pulpit ministry of our founder Neil Cadwell! She shared at the point of her salvation 10 years ago, she had purposed to one day study at SBI. That opportunity has now come and she looks forward to completing her degree. Continue in prayer for the ministries of SBI and for the Lord's continued work in our students that they may "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

Through the burden of a Ukrainian believer, God opened a door to travel to a restricted access nation in Southeast Asia. In late November, we held institute classes there for national pastors. These men came craving training and faced with spreading the gospel in a country ranked in the top 20 most persecuted nations in the world. The majority of souls in this nation have no access to the gospel. While there I visited a missionary's home in the shadow of a Buddhist Temple. The words of C.T. Studd came to mind, *"Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell."* Dear friend, try to imagine yourself in a country where all you've ever known is the oppression of Buddhism or Animism. Would you want someone to arise and bring you the hope of the gospel? How would you feel if no one ever came bringing this transforming truth? What if you could only acknowledge, "no man cared for my soul." (Ps. 142:4) Please add to your prayers for us further "open doors of utterance" to train and evangelize in this demonic stronghold.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for co-laboring with us and to wish you and yours a "Blessed and Merry Christmas." This season at its core is the celebration that "the Son of God became the Son of Man, that the sons of men might become the sons of God." But let's not forget about those living in the dark and treacherous crevasses located only yards "from hell" with no light of the gospel and no "rescue shop" to hold it forth. ***Christmas is a reminder of our indebtedness to take the "light of the world" to every lost soul in the world, because He is the Savior of the world!***

For the glory of Christ in Ukraine and the regions beyond,

Derek and Julie



Inaugural session of SBI Advanced with 40 pastors and servants in attendance.



SBI Fall Session student body including 10 new students! Don't forget to pray for the war in the Donbass region of Ukraine. One of our students in this area had his church closed by the authorities. Another student has not seen her mother for 4-5 years and lives as a refugee in free Ukraine.

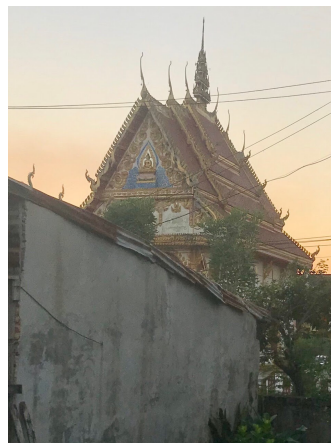


SBI Advanced men singing before a class. Do you know the song?



Please pray with us as we consider and seek the Lord's will and wisdom concerning a church plant in Kyiv.

***If you'd like a printable version of the prayer letter and haven't received one



Buddhist temple photo taken from the front porch of a missionary's home, that brought Studd's above quote to mind.



Thank you for your faithfulness and concern for the Lord's work here in Ukraine and Eastern Europe. We love you and praise the Lord for you. ***We wish you a very "Merry and Blessed Christmas!"***

**SBI Advanced
students at work
during a class.**

already, please send
us a request.

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