



# Novosibirsk Biblical Theological Seminary

## INFORMATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Issue #1  
October 2011

*Make every effort to present yourself before God  
as a proven worker who does not need to be ashamed,  
teaching the message of truth accurately  
(2 Tim 2:15).*

Greetings to you, beloved brothers and sisters in Christ!

Today you read the first issue of the Novosibirsk Biblical Theological Seminary newsletter. We wish to share with you our life, our delightful events, and our needs.

The seminary was founded as a result of the Russian Evangelical-Baptist Union's aspiration of a spiritual education for pastors and missionaries ministering in different parts of Russia. Evangelical believers in Russia always realize the necessity of a spiritual education, because the lack of doctrinal knowledge can easily lead to new trends and doctrines which always make harm to the Church of Christ on the earth. The main mission of NBTS is providing a higher theological education to prepare faithful people for the pastoral ministry, who will be competent to teach others as well. The priority task of the seminary is a biblical-theological education for operating presbyters.

At present there are no pastors in 30% of Baptist Churches in Russia. NBTS is trying to help churches in solving the problem.

The seminary was founded in 2000 by Russian Evangelical-Baptist Union together with the Slavic Gospel As-

sociation. It is the only higher theological institution in the Asiatic part of Russia (there are only two higher theological institutions in the European part of the country) so, in view of the scale of our country, the seminary is of great value.

There are two departments in the seminary - the resident instruction and the nonresident instruction. Our students are trained under programs «preacher», B.Div. B.Th., M.Div.

We thank our God for 11 years of the seminary's existence, during which we have graduated 75 brothers. Many of them have a ministry in different regions of Russia; some of them have a ministry on the regional level in our country; four of them have become professors of the seminary, two of which have entered a nonresident Ph.D. program in USA.

Now 60 persons are being trained in the seminary.

We thank our Lord Jesus Christ for the possibility to minister Him and to His Church.

President NBTS  
Edward Adolfovich Genrikh





## Interview with our professor

**Pavel Shvetsov, professor of NBTS since 2008. He teaches homiletics, apologetics, basics of Bible study, biblical Hebrew and world cults and religions.**

*Pavel, as I know you yourself were once a NBTS student. And you've been working as a professor for almost five years. How seminary has been changing through these years?*

When I just started studying in the seminary practically all the professors that we had were from the USA. They had their own theological approach and materials for study. Then some professors changed and more Russians came to teach at the seminary. They started editing the program and doing lessons only in Russian. I'm not talking about another level of quality but Russians have the same mentality that's why it was easier to understand each other. Later seminary started a program of distant education and it gained big popularity.

*Is seminary education popular today among Novosibirsk Christians?*

I would say yes. Today church pastors looking at their communities see a big need in a good theological education. And they stimulate believers to study at the seminary. It's important for pastors to see this need. If he doesn't see it, others will act the same way, they won't have a desire to study, they won't seek an opportunity to enter seminary and get a degree. It's vital for the whole church to understand the necessity of a sound Biblical education. Because it has influence on sermon, teaching and general church growth.

*What are the differences between NBTS and other biblical schools?*

We strictly adhere to authority of the Scripture in all questions, and we initially have an emphasis on biblical disciplines. From the first year on we equip our student with tools for deep Bible study. There are no such subjects as psychology, philosophies or anything superfluous. All subjects help the student to find the will of God, to study Scripture and to preach it. We teach our students expositional sermon, so they could use all the books of the Bible to learn the will of God in every aspect. This way we guard students from undermining the authority of God. Instead by their imagination. they are guided by the Bible.

*Besides the NBTS in what ministry are you participating?*

I served in one small church in Novosibirsk but recently I was invited to serve as one of the pastors in the biggest church in town, Salvation Church. I was invited to coach brothers, to teach them to preach and to share my own experience and knowledge. Every week we come together in group of about 15 people, these are people who desire to grow spiritually and improve preaching. I also meet with other active members of the church ( about 30-40 people). We discuss different questions about the goal of the church, of our ministries, our vision, philosophy, strategies of the ministry. These active men are able to change the church for the better. Among them are some seminary students and others plan to study there.

*What important problem church is facing today?*

There's a huge chasm between theory and real everyday Christian life. Church is turning into a community of passive church-goers – a lot of people come on Sunday, listen to the sermon and then go home. There's no everyday Christianity. And we discuss this problem a lot with other brothers, we try to do a different ministry, make changes so the whole church could become a serving church for the sake of real Christianity. Brothers can learn a lot of important things in the seminary and with that knowledge they will be able to help and lead the church.



**Our seminary asks you to support us in our prayers.** We need it regularly. We believe that our Lord through your prayers would support our future ministry. Remembering NBTS, please to pray for the following needs:

- 1) for establishing of the new Th.M. program (nonresident instruction);
- 2) for the success of our two professors (P. Togobitsky and G. Rehvald) in Ph.D. studies and for the further involving of the other two professors (P. Shvetsov and I. Shaifulin) in the Ph.D. studies;
- 3) for the seminary professors and students;
- 4) for searching of the potential sponsors for the building of a hostel for resident students (because of great financial expenses on their residing);
- 5) for repair works for a more effective operation of the seminary building.



## Our manager Sergey Turkov

As the new school year kicks off a lot of preparation work is waiting for Sergey Turkov. For eleven years, from the first days of the seminary he serves as property administrator. “Before the students arrive we are busy preparing the building. Cleaning the façade, maintenance work as far as the budget allows and of course preparing the heating system. The Siberian winters are strong.” The seminary building was bought from a former bank and reconstructed to meet the demands of an educational institution. “We have enough room to guarantee a smooth running of the lessons. But we are short of accommodations for the upcoming on-campus session of the distant program in November.”

Already in planning is an extension of the dormitory section of the building. A lot of regulatory approvals are needed; much documentation has to be done. “I enjoy this job. You have the intellectual side of it with paperwork, documentation and constantly changing legal provisions. On the other hand I am also driver and loader. It is a healthy mix of physical and intellectual challenge. And all this in an environment of believers in Christ. I think that is what counts. Everyone serves with his abilities in the work of God.”

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## Student's Missionary Activity

Crossroad is a church planting project in Akademgorodok, a city of approximately 50.000. The only evangelical witness in this area is the church housed in the facility of the seminary. The church and the seminary joined up to reach out to the unreached. A combined group of ten church planters (local members, seminarists and a missionary couple from the US) started an English language club some time ago. Now about twenty people gather for worship. At the moment they still use the facility of the seminary as it is difficult to find a suitable place. Dmitry Sliapin, seminarist in his fourth year, is part of the team: “In this project I like the possibility to try my hand at every kind of service. Be it in evangelism, discipling new believers from scratch, preaching or counseling. The seminary equips us with the sound foundation. Crossroad is the place to put it into action. It is my dream, for my future ministry after seminary, to maintain that balance of evangelism and discipleship.”



## **DONATION**

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