



Novosibirsk Biblical Theological Seminary

INFORMATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Issue #3

The priority for the Novosibirsk Seminary is faithfulness to Scripture

Our seminary was founded in the midst of an ongoing struggle for the authority of Scripture. For us, this is as a privilege as well as a great responsibility.

From the beginning, NBTS considered itself a theological school, with its curriculum under the authority of the Bible.

Even the naming of the seminary took this into consideration—Novosibirsk Biblical-Theological Seminary (NBTS). Our doctrinal statement is the creed of the Union of Evangelical-Christians Baptists, which was adopted at the 1985 Congress and remains in use with the Russian UECB to this day.

The first paragraph of this creed deals with the confirmation of Holy Scripture. Here the Bible is, as the Word of God, confirmed as written through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, confirmed as revelation from God to mankind, and the true source of knowledge about God. The Bible leads into truth, proclaims God's love and eternal life in Jesus Christ. This book constitutes the only infallible rule of Christian faith and practice for the believer in our daily Christian lives. We confirm the inspiration of every

word of Holy Scripture in the original manuscripts, and its infallibility in all questions with which it deals. The meaning of Scripture is to be found as one diligently applies the literal grammatical-historical method of interpretation.

We believe that the authors of Scripture were the first and last authors, and deny the theory that parts of the New Testament are results of later redaction by the early church. In matters of creation, we believe in a literal six-day creation and deny the existence of death prior to the Fall of Man. The Bible went through many trials and was contested by critics throughout the centuries, yet remained victorious, because God is its author.

Therefore, we teach our students faithful obedience and humility before God and His Word. All the efforts of our



school are aimed to prepare servants for God's church, which is "the pillar and the foundation of truth." May God bless us and safeguard our faithfulness to His Holy Word!

*Eduard Genrikh
Director, NBTS*



Interview with Dr. Terry Mortenson

In January, Novosibirsk Biblical-Theological Seminary hosted an extraordinary event. The meeting's theme was entitled "Different Views on the Origin of the World." Several scientists and professors from Novosibirsk-area universities accepted our invitation and took part in the discussion with Dr. Terry Mortenson, our guest speaker from Answers in Genesis.

At the beginning, every participant gave a short outline of his view. Very quickly the discussion divided into two camps—either evolution was seen as doubtful or was totally rejected. The process [of creation] is too complex and too obvious a result of intelligent design. After the presentation of the local scholars, Dr. Mortenson shared an alternative—the creationist model of the origin of the world. In a very descriptive fashion, he demonstrated that the evolutionary approach has a "religious and philosophical" background not possible to prove, as with the as the creationist model.

Q: Is it your first visit to Russia?

Dr. Mortenson: No, I think it's my fourth time here. My first visit was in 2001, then I think in 2003 and then in 2006.

Q: Why did you first decide to come here?

Dr. Mortenson: I was a missionary in Eastern Europe and travelling all over Eastern Europe. Our organization had staff here in Russia, as well as in Ukraine and Romania. So the first time I came to speak to those staff, and it was a good experience. Not everybody agreed with me, but I shared what I believed and encouraged people to think about it.

Q: What do you think about your lectures at the past conference in Novosibirsk?

Dr. Mortenson: Russians don't reveal much to the speaker with their facial expressions. So as I looked I thought, "Do they understand? Is this boring?" You know, it was difficult but a number of people came to me afterward and said it was very helpful. That's encouraging!

Q: Do you think today's discussion with the scientists went good?

Dr. Mortenson: I think it was good. It's difficult with such a huge subject involving astronomy and geology and biology and chemistry. But I think it was a positive



thing that we could talk without getting angry and raising our voices. I hope that people will investigate further.

Q: Are there any other major worldviews among scientists besides creation and evolution?

Dr. Mortenson: Well, there's really a confusion of two categories. There are Hindu scientists, Buddhist scientists, Muslim scientists, Christian, Jewish, and atheist scientists. Those all are different worldviews, but the vast majority of scientists believe that evolution is a fact and they teach it as a fact. It doesn't matter what their worldview is. Yet all of those worldviews except biblical Christianity are perfectly at peace with evolution. It's only the Bible that stands against evolution. There are some Muslims who are creationists. But the Koran doesn't say very much about creation. As far as I know, the Muslims who are creationists still accept the millions of years and the Big Bang. They just don't accept Darwinian evolution.

Q: What would you recommend people who want to know more about creation?

Dr. Mortenson: I would encourage them to go to our website, AnswersinGenesis.org and to the Ukrainian website, Scienceandapologetics.org. There are a lot of Russian-language resources there. My challenge to people who have only heard evolution is to be really intellectually responsible. They need to consider the arguments against evolution. That would be my challenge to them.

NBTS Curriculum

(Core Courses)

- I year** Basics of Bible Study
Old Testament History
New Testament History
Life of Christ
Old Testament Studies
Greek Grammar
Russian Grammar
Pastoral Ministries I
Ancient Church History
Pedagogy
- II year** New Testament Studies
Greek Exegesis and Greek Readings
Exegesis of 1 John; 1, 2 Thessalonians
Homiletics I
Hermeneutics I
Bibliology
Theology of Missions
Apologetics and Contemporary Cults
Medieval Church History
- III year** Hebrew Grammar
Hebrew Exegesis and Hebrew Readings
Systematic Theology
Homiletics II
Exegesis of Romans
Exegesis of Revelation
Counseling
History of the Reformation
- IV year** Old Testament Theology
Exegesis of Jeremiah; Genesis 1-11
Textual Criticism
Homiletics III
Hermeneutics II
Pastoral Ministries II
History and Theology of the Russian Orthodox Church
History of the Russian Evangelical-Baptist Church
Modern Church History
Worship and Music
Church Management

Our students: Konstantin Kurmantsev

NBTS Distance Learning Program

When I was 17, my parents divorced. At that time, I was student at high school. A group of missionaries from the USA visited our school with the “Book of Life” project. I became very interested. At the evangelistic meeting held at our school, I heard the Gospel and prayed to receive Christ as my Savior. So I acquired a Heavenly Father soon after losing my earthly one. Afterward, I entered the university to study economics, and after graduation God gave me a well-paid job at a prestigious commercial bank. Later, in response to Gods calling, I left my job to study at Bible College. Though it was not an easy decision, now I realize why God completely changed the direction of my life. God led me into my service for His church. I grew in time to become the leader of a small group and in the youth group. Today I am pastor at Krasnoyarsk Grace Church. Three years ago, I realized that in order to be professional in ministry I needed an education just as I did for the banking business. NBTS was the best choice because it’s really good and close enough. My sermons and personal spiritual counseling are getting more biblically grounded. I can use this knowledge for strategic ministry and public ministry. Because many brothers study at the same theological school, we are in harmony with each other, which is good for church communication.



Gratitude and Prayer Needs of NBTS

We are thankful to all who have been praying for NBTS students, professors, funds, legal issues, etc. Praise be to God! There are 60 men at the Distance Learning program and 10 men at the Full Time program; two our professors continue their Ph.D. study at the Baptist Bible Seminary (USA); we have got a new timeless license from the government to conduct educational activities.

We pray for the successful graduation of our students this spring and for their fruitful ministries in local churches.

We pray for the enrolling of new students this summer, for God's providence in preparation of devoted brothers to study in NBTS.

We pray for further development of the strong sound theology in the Churches of the Russian Evangelical-Baptist Union and for our helpful participation in the process.

We pray for God's help in raising finances to meet the requirements of the fire department, as well as those of the sanitary and epidemiological service. We are required to replace the ceiling and renovate the cafeteria.

We continue to pray for the funds needed to reconstruct the Seminary building so that we will have a dormitory for students and their families.

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