



Campaign Update

News from the Save the Seminary Campaign

JULY 2020

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CAMPAIGN FUNDS CONTINUE TO GROW

God has blessed the *Save the Seminary Campaign* remarkably. Contributions have now surpassed the \$1.2 million mark, including more than \$808,000 in cash gifts and \$ 420,000 in gifts that will result from donor estates. Much has been accomplished in the past 18-20 months, and we continue to seek new donors among Lutheran churches—and other sources—as we identify them.

We have a great team of people working on this important endeavor, Lutherans who are deeply committed to the cause of the seminary in Novosibirsk and the evangelization of the Russian people that the seminary serves. We are thankful that the Lutheran Legacy Foundation has granted us the funds necessary to cover the administrative expenses associated the committee's fundraising efforts. Support from the LLF means that every dollar donated goes directly into the *Save the Seminary Campaign* and not to cover expenses.

DONOR OFFERS TO MATCH NEW MULTI-YEAR, MONTHLY PLEDGES

A recent donor is challenging other new donors with an offer to match their gifts to the *Save the Seminary Campaign*, up to a total of \$10,000. To qualify for the match, your gift must be in the form of a multi-year, monthly pledge, not a single gift.

LIFE WITH A MAN WHO IS 'MARRIED TO THE CHURCH'

REFLECTIONS OF A RUSSIAN PASTOR'S WIFE



Tatiana Khramov—wife, mother, and professor of mathematics.

Ask Tatiana Khramov what it's like being married to a pastor, and she will tell you that her husband's work affects virtually every part of their family life. Her husband is Pastor Pavel Khramov, a professor at the Lutheran Theological Seminary as well as pastor at St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Novosibirsk, Siberia.

"The church has always been an integral part of my adult life and the lives of my children," she says. "My husband's work is part of our family reality. I met Pavel 30 years ago, and we have been married for more than 25 years. Almost all of my adult life I've lived with a man who is 'married' to the Church."

As Tatiana explains, “Pavel became a priest when he was a student. (In Russia, pastors are often referred to as *svyaschennike*, which is translated into English as priests.) It was 1994 and Pavel and Tatiana were studying at Novosibirsk State University. They graduated together, and for a while, Pavel continued with graduate studies and taught math at another university. Tatiana also earned a doctorate in mathematics and now is an assistant professor at the university.

“When I got married, I didn't see it as ‘marrying a priest,’” Tatiana says. “I didn't really know what to expect. This was a period in my life and in the history of our country just after the fall of the Soviet government when everything was very new and different. Of course, by that time I also knew some of the wives of other priests; some were Russian, and others were the wives of missionaries from other countries. However, I can't say that I considered being a priest's wife as something out of the ordinary.”

As a pastor's wife, Tatiana says things can get confused at times—communication, ministry, organizational issues—because their family life is so closely related to church activities and schedules. “Sometimes, parishioners treat me as if I were the priest's secretary,” she says. “Occasionally, after talking with my husband, they may say something to me that suggests I am in touch with all those discussions. Sometimes I am, and sometimes I'd like not to be.”

Tatiana says that the most difficult thing for a Russian pastor to deal with is getting people to church. “In our country for the majority of people, the church is not an integral and everyday part of their lives,” she explains. “Most Russians go to church only on festivals. People rarely understand the purpose for church and why they should go.

“Sometimes they just use consumer logic: ‘there are good people in the church, I'll go ask for something.’” Tatiana says. “Then when the pastor says ‘no’ to their request, they get upset and may try to accuse him of being hard and insensitive to their needs. People also may ask the pastor badly formulated questions and feel offended that he does not answer their questions. Of course, sometimes, people just do not want to hear uncomfortable answers.”

In general, Tatiana sees life as a pastor's wife much the same as wives whose husbands aren't pastors. There are differences, however. “I have already talked about the fact that I am sometimes perceived as a priest's secretary,” she explains, “When strangers begin to load me with problems—yes, it is strange. Sometimes the ‘attack of grandmothers,’ happens. They bring gifts from their garden and smother me with kind words in honor of my husband. Parishioners' attitudes toward the priest often influence how they treat his family, as well. I am very well treated by beautiful people, whose kindness I did not deserve.”



Family life and church life are closely related for Tatiana, Pastor Pavel, their son, and daughter.



Tatiana and Pavel Khramov have been married for more than 25 years.

CAMPAIGN STRIVES TO MEET TWO ESSENTIAL GOALS AT THE SAME TIME

Securing the perpetual sustainability of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Novosibirsk requires meeting two vital goals simultaneously—raising \$75,000 each year through 2023 to keep the seminary doors open until the long-term goal of establishing a \$7 million endowment has been reached.

Will you help us ensure that the seminary remains a strong force in training Lutheran pastors, even while we work to raise a permanent endowment? Your assistance in communicating with the faithful members of your congregation will not only advance the Lutheran Church in Russia, but more importantly, it also will help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a nation long-starved of that good news.

Please contact **REV. DR. TIMOTHY QUILL**, DIRECTOR OF SEMINARY FUNDRAISING (260 580-0812) or **GERRY WILEY**, CHAIRMAN OF THE *SAVE THE SEMINARY CAMPAIGN* FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (909 419-1327) with any questions you may have about the *Save the Seminary Campaign*.

TELL THE STORY OF GOD’S WORK IN RUSSIA TO YOUR CONGREGATION

To bring the story of the restoration of the Lutheran church to more congregations, we’ve prepared a presentation package with everything needed to tell this wonderful story. About 45 minutes in length, the package includes PowerPoint and video presentations, as well as a bulletin insert, handouts, and other aids. If you would like a package to use for your congregation, please let us know. Just call the *Save the Seminary Campaign* office at 260 209-1647.

“And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

2 Timothy 2:2

This is a publication of The Siberian Lutheran Mission Society. For more information about its contents, please contact:

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