

Tymchenko News 12.15.2021

Dear partners and friends!

As I begin to type out my thoughts, I can see your smiles and hear your friendly voices in my mind. Irina and I are so thankful for all of you who support and enable us to do our work here in Ukraine.

You probably know that **Ukraine** is once again at the center of international attention. There is no reason to doubt the information reported by most sophisticated intelligence organizations: that Russia is well prepared and willing to invade Ukraine in the next few months. What often flies under the radars of observers is that the state of affairs in the whole region is quite troublesome and gloomy. Trusted sources describe the situation in Russia as being "two steps away from Orwell's '1984.'"

Nevertheless... the wonderful and mighty Prince of Peace has been born! We are under His protection. We participate in His work here in Ukraine and we trust that He "will carry it out to completion."

Let me briefly describe the work of **REALIS** this year.

1. We currently have three educational programs and are preparing to start a fourth one in January. In 2021 we had eight teachers: four from REALIS and four from the US and UK. We teach mostly (though not exclusively) online, which has allowed us to welcome international students from six other countries (four continents!). Of course, most of our students are still from Ukraine.
2. We continue to participate in several international research projects, engaging with researchers from 15 countries and five continents on a regular basis. My colleagues and I taught at international conferences and forums and participated in various seminars.
3. Our counseling ministry continues to bring fruit as our five counselors work both online and in-person.
4. We finished constructing the library in the new REALIS building. Most of the books have already made themselves at home on their new shelves.



And last, but not least, is news from our **family**. This year Irina and I spent some vacation time with our children, both in the US and in Ukraine. We look forward to gathering with them for Christmas and New Year celebrations (except for Masha and Michael, who are spending the holidays with Michael's family in South Carolina). We also look forward to July 2022 when Masha and Michael, along with the rest of our children, will come to Kyiv for Andrey and Mariana's wedding. As you may remember, two of our children are currently pursuing graduate degrees: Katya at the University of Rochester and Ilya at Harvard. The other children continue working hard in their professions: advancement (Masha), law (Michael), consulting (Andrey), and counseling (Nathalie). Irina and I are currently working on a new project. Our home church, where I preach monthly, asked us to lead a marriage retreat to share our experience with other couples. This has been a great opportunity for us to reflect, learn, and minister to others together.

We know we can enjoy our work, our church, and our family only because the Lord gives direction, strength, and resources. Thank you for being a part of our lives and the exciting ministry of REALIS Christian Center.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Sergey and Irina