

A Noble Aspiration

MARCH 2017

Kiev's First Elder Appointments

Over two and a half decades ago, God established a church in one of the most “unchurched” areas of the world: Kiev, Ukraine. Since then, the church there has grown to over sixteen hundred disciples. On Sunday, December 17, 2016, we witnessed the historic appointment of elders in this incredible church. The Kiev Church is the first Eastern European church in our family of churches to establish an eldership. The evangelists of the Kiev Church, with the help of Wyndham and Jeanie Shaw and Valdur and Irene Koha, have spent the last few years training and raising up these men and their wives.

AT Arneson, Valdur Koha, and I were able to attend this memorable service in Kiev. It was so exciting to watch the humility of these men and women as the moment came to appoint them elders in God's church.

1 Timothy 3:1 says, “Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.”

On that great day, God recognized these men's noble aspirations. Please keep these men and women in your prayers as they shepherd the hearts of the disciples in Kiev and all of Ukraine: Oleksii and Tanya Kravetz, Dima and Ira Korninko, Pavel and Lydmila Petrin, and Ivan and Stella Kharchuk.

Ed Dawson
Elder, Chicago Church of Christ



Oleksii Kravetz, Dima Korninko, Pavel Petrin, and Ivan Kharchuk

Berlin Update

March, 2017

Three years ago, we agreed to take up a commission from the European Missions Society and the Berlin Church of Christ to help bring German missions forward to what we pray will be its best days. It has been a privilege, an adventure, a challenge, and a joy to do this great work. Since Scott's brain cancer diagnosis this past fall, the work and privilege have been even more meaningful. **(For updates on Scott's cancer, see his blog periodically at www.lifescrptrevisions.com).**

This threat has brought three long-term goals into stark relief: one, train a German couple to replace us; two, train a young couple to lead the Berlin campus ministry, which once was the pride of continental Europe; and three, train the Berlin Gemeinderat into a team—perhaps the future eldership—that can be an example for all the German churches. To this last goal, we are readying to host our 2nd annual Leadership Summit for these teams—Gemeinderäte—this year in Berlin, March 3-5. The summit



The Berlin Leadership Team

features TEDtalk style presentations, followed by extensive times in group discussion. Our hope is to build a culture for the long run of teamwork, team-building, and team values.

Rebuilding our campus ministry has really been Task One since we arrived in 2014, but Satan has strongly opposed this strategy. Nevertheless, the tide is turning, and this in no small part due to the dedication of “campus deacons” Normen & Katja Rohde, who will be replaced this month by Mathis and Myriam Wosegien, who once served in the ministry full-time in the 90’s and into 2013. The Wosegiens have committed the next year of their lives to the work, and it is beginning already to flourish.

Collin Urbani, from the Boston church, has been a model and inspiring campus leader, and helps administrate our Campus Steering Committee of four students. Studies have at last begun to multiply, and this past Sunday we had an attendance of over 170, highlighted by the baptism of a woman named Katarina. Many are nearing a decision for Christ, and we pray to have our two campus interns ready to lead in 2018. We covet your prayers and look forward to your visits.

Much love and respect,
Scott & Lynne Green
Gemeindefleitere, Berliner Gemeinde Christi

Switzerland— Meet the Muellers

In 1997, Christoph Mueller became a disciple in Zurich, and in 1996 Dasha was baptized in Prague, Czech Republic. In 1999, Dasha joined a mission team sent to her own home country of Slovakia. One year later, Christoph came to Bratislava, Slovakia to support that same mission team. It was during this time that Christoph and Dasha met, fell in love and eventually were married.

In 2003, they moved to Zurich. Christoph had always desired to be in the ministry, and in 2006 he accepted an offer to serve part-time in the Zurich church. Sometimes God allows difficult situations to change the normal flow of life so He can shape us in new surroundings. So it was for the Muellers in 2010 when the EMS gave them opportunity to move to Boston to receive more ministry training as a couple. With their two children they began an adventure without really knowing where God would lead them.



Christoph and Dasha Mueller with their family

One year later, the Berlin church began looking for a ministry couple to support the work being done by Terry and Sue Folker and the Berlin leadership group. The partnership that began with the Folkers continued when Scott and Lynn Green moved to Berlin.

Over the years, the Muellers regularly visited the church in Prague and deeply loved the church there. In 2014 the opportunity arose to move there, but family related reasons made it clear that this was not possible. It was one of their most difficult decisions as they surrendered to the fact that God’s ways are not ours.

Finally, after 6 years of shaping and forming, the Muellers returned to Switzerland in summer 2016. Today, this is where the Muellers are preaching about Jesus with passion, inspiring others to follow Him.