TMS Alumnus, Greg White (M.Div.’92) recently wrote about John MacArthur’s visit as the special guest speaker for their pastors’ conference celebrating 20 years of fruitful ministry at Irpin Biblical Seminary in Kiev, Ukraine. One of Greg’s “Timothys” sent the following testimony:

“I am thankful to God for the joy and privilege of helping out in Dr. John MacArthur’s visit this month. It was an enormous blessing to spend some time with him because our Lord has used Pastor MacArthur’s ministry in my life in many different ways.

I heard the gospel for the first time from a member of Grace Community Church who came to Ukraine on a Short-Term Ministries trip. I was baptized and discipled by Greg White, who started the only evangelical church in the area where I live. Also, I greatly benefitted from Pastor Greg’s weekly exposition of Scripture and observing how he faithfully lived out what he preached. I started helping out at Irpin Biblical Seminary where I had more opportunities to mature in Christ, learning from visiting professors—many of whom were professors or graduates of The Master’s Seminary.

I’ve also been blessed by Dr. MacArthur’s writing ministry. His book, Hard to Believe, made a profound impact on my understanding of the gospel and Christ’s work on the cross. I also listen to his sermons online. Knowing so much about Dr. MacArthur, it was a special blessing to spend some time with him, because he is an example of a faithful and humble slave of Jesus Christ that I want to imitate.

Because of how my life has been transformed, I find great joy in being able to help other believers in Ukraine who are starving and thirsting to learn Scripture. Praise be to God for what He has done through His faithful servant,
More on the Ministry of Irpin Biblical Seminary

In the late 1980s, Grace Church elder Bob Provost began making trips to covertly assist the persecuted churches in the USSR. The Soviet church leadership was guarded in their welcome until the president of the Baptist Union realized that Bob was from John MacArthur's church. The president had read one of John's books and been impressed with his commitment to the Scriptures and proper theology. Because of John's writing, Bob was asked to send missionaries to come alongside local churches and help plant new seminaries.

Four families were sent—the Whites, along with the Awords, the Kinzels, and the Edwardses. Since then, they have worked with six existing churches and are in the process of planting two new ones.

The Lord has also allowed them (along with many visiting professors from The Master's Seminary) to help plant and grow two Bible schools—one in Samara, Russia, and Irpin Biblical Seminary (IBS).

They have 1,215 graduates who have gone all over the world to other faithful men just as they were trained, to places like Russia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Azerbaijan, and even Israel.

Yours for the Master,

Bob White
Vice President for Development and Operations

We Train Men as if Lives Depended on It!

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