

A photograph of a church interior. A priest in black vestments with a green stole is performing a ceremony with a young man in a black robe and green stole. They are surrounded by a group of people, some kneeling and some standing. The church has wooden pews, a tiled floor, and a large window in the background. A cross is visible on the wall.

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne For the Life of the World

December 2015, Volume Nineteen, Number Four



From Kazakhstan to Fort Wayne to Odessa: Ukrainian Bishop a CTSFW Graduate

By Timothy C. J. Quill

Spanish-Speaking Pastoral Formation

By Don C. Wiley

A Bold Vision: Blessed by God Through Many Partnerships

By Theodore Krey

CONTENTS

Volume Nineteen, Number Four

FEATURES

4 From Kazakhstan to Fort Wayne to Odessa: Ukrainian Bishop a CTSFW Graduate

By Timothy C. J. Quill

In March 1991, the young man was confirmed. At the time, no one could have imagined what the Lord had in store for him—an adventure that would take him to America to study at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and eventually to Ukraine where he would be consecrated as bishop of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ukraine (GELCU).

7 Spanish-Speaking Pastoral Formation By Don C. Wiley

Most recently, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, has expanded its service in Spanish Language Church Worker Formation with the inauguration of the Bilingual Pastoral Formation for Latinos (BPFL) in August 2015. This new program recognizes God's hand in bringing Latinos to the United States where the LCMS can carry on international mission within our own communities. It also recognizes the need for continuity in handing on the faith to the saints across generations of immigrants.

10 A Bold Vision: Blessed by God Through Many Partnerships

By Theodore Krey

Five years ago, 23 men were studying at Concordia Seminary Argentina. Now, thanks to the additional 20 scholarships from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the joint certificate program with Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, enrollment is at 65. With only 140 Spanish speaking pastors currently serving across all of Latin America, the Lord is making possible the opportunity to double the number of pastors in the coming five years.

Also in this issue:

What Does This Mean?	p. 13
Called to Serve	p. 14
Faculty Focus	p. 16
Military Project	p. 27
Profiles in Giving	p. 28
Bible Study	p. 30
Calendar of Events	p. 31



For the Life of the World

PUBLISHER
Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr.
President

MANAGING EDITOR
Jayne E. Sheaffer

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
Colleen M. Bartzsch

COPY EDITOR
Trudy E. Behning

ART DIRECTOR
Steve J. Blakey

For the Life of the World is published by Concordia Theological Seminary Press, 6600 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825. No portion of this publication may be reproduced without the consent of the Managing Editor of *For the Life of the World* by email at SeminaryRelations@ctsfw.edu or 260-452-2250. Copyright 2015. Printed in the United States. Postage paid at Berne, Indiana.

For the Life of the World is mailed to all pastors and congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the United States and Canada and to anyone interested in the work of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture verses are from the English Standard Version (ESV).

From Kazakhstan to Fort Wayne to Odessa:

Ukrainian Bishop a CTSFW Graduate

By Timothy C. J. Quill



(l-r) Bishop Serge Maschewski, Dr. Gennadij Khonin and Dr. Timothy Quill

Serge Maschewski was born in 1975 in the remote city of Pavlodar, Kazakhstan, near the Mongolian border. At that time Kazakhstan was part of the Soviet Union, and the United States and the Soviet Union were engaged in the Cold War. Kazakhstan was used by the Soviets as a place to test nuclear weapons as well as launch rockets in the Space Race with the West. Northern Kazakhstan also contained many prison camps or gulags where countless Lutherans are buried in unmarked graves.

Despite relentless persecution from the communist government, shortly after his birth the infant Serge was baptized. His father and mother were Lutheran, but it was his devout grandfather and grandmother who brought him to church. In March 1991, the young man was confirmed. At the time, no one could have imagined what the Lord had in store for him—an adventure that would take him to America to study at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, and eventually to Ukraine where he would be consecrated as bishop of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ukraine (GELCU).

In 1989, the world watched in awe and amazement as events surrounding the dissolution of the Iron Curtain and the breakup of the Soviet Union unfolded. Serge first heard about The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in 1993 when a woman in Pavlodar told him about LCMS missionaries who were holding theological seminars in Kazakhstan. He attended several seminars. The first was a homiletics course taught by CTSFW professor, the late Dr. Harold Buls.

In 1995, the Schwan Charitable Foundation gave a generous grant to CTSFW that enabled men from the former Soviet Union to study in Fort Wayne. Students were recruited from Russia, eastern European countries, the Baltics and Kazakhstan. In 1997, Bishop Moser of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kazakhstan approached Dr. Gennadij Khonin who was assisting the CTSFW Russian Project with student recruitment in Kazakhstan. Moser told

him that he had an excellent young man whom he would like to send to Fort Wayne. When Khonin inquired about his age, the Bishop replied, “Serge is 22.” Khonin responded that maybe he was a bit too young. Moser replied, “What do you think? Does the Church only need old men like you?” At the time, Khonin was a mere 52-years-old, however the life expectancy of Russian males had dropped to 57 years. As Maschewski recounts the story, “Bishop Moser didn’t ask me if I wanted to go to the Seminary in America. He just told me I was going. I was so shocked I didn’t answer at first. I told him that I had to think about it. Moser replied, ‘Why do you have to think? We don’t have any educated pastors, you have to go.’” Maschewski continued, “My grandmother was very happy to hear I was invited to America. She and my family said I had to go. Moser was a hard man, so I went.”

When asked about his time at CTSFW, Bishop Maschewski recalled, “It was very difficult but also a blessed time. We had to learn a huge amount of information in our classes. It was difficult working through the language barrier and thus integrating into student life and American society. We came from a different background. We grew up in a different country with a different ideology. But we had great professors and in time developed close friendships with the American seminarians. We prayed together in daily worship, and the Lord gave us the ability to pass through difficulties. The worship in Kramer Chapel was wonderful. CTSFW has great liturgy and hymnody. It has a magnificent organ and organists.

When asked about his time at CTSFW, Bishop Maschewski recalled, “It was very difficult but also a blessed time. We had to learn a huge amount of information in our classes. It was difficult working through the language barrier and thus integrating into student life and American society. We came from a different background. We grew up in a different country with a different ideology. But we had great professors and in time developed close friendships with the American seminarians. We prayed together in daily worship, and the Lord gave us the ability to pass through difficulties.”



On the balcony of St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Cathedral of the GELCU in Odessa, Ukraine. From left to right : Dr. Naomichi Masaki, CTSFW associate professor of Systematic Theology, Bishop Serge Maschewski and Dr. Gennadij Khonin of Kazakhstan.

We need to build worship like this in my church in Ukraine.”

In May of 2000, Maschewski graduated from CTSFW with a M.A. degree and returned home to serve as a pastor in northern Kazakhstan in the capital city of Astana. He also served as a teacher at the church education center. In 2009, he was called by a congregation in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine. The call included responsibility for four other congregations in Zaparoski, Bergensk, Mokeevka and Dontesk. The five congregations are part of the GELCU. Dontesk is located in the war zone in Eastern Ukraine and is often featured in media news reports. It is very difficult for the current pastor to reach the congregation in Dontesk. The GELCU is very involved in works of mercy and human care to those suffering from the ravages of war between Ukraine and Russia. The GELCU does its best to help both refugees and those who remain trapped in the war torn region.

In 2014, Pastor Maschewski was elected Bishop of the GELCU. He currently serves at the cathedral in Odessa. From August 29–September 4, 2015, Dr. Albert B. Collver III, LCMS director of Church Relations, and Dr. Timothy C. J. Quill, CTSFW director of International Studies and professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions and director of Theological Education for the LCMS, traveled to Kiev and Odessa at the invitation of Bishop Maschewski. Extensive discussion centered on theological education for pastors and laity, unity in the church, strengthening Lutheran identity, evangelism, church planting and financial problems resulting from national disorder and inflation. Bishop Maschewski requested the initiation of official theological discussions between the GELCU and the LCMS. When Dr. Collver asked him how he viewed future relations with the LCMS, Bishop Maschewski expressed a desire for continual theological dialogue, cooperation in diaconal work and help with theological education for pastors and church leaders.

In many respects, the challenges faced today by the GELCU and other re-emerging post-Soviet era Lutheran churches echo the biblical hermeneutics, doctrine and practices that challenged the LCMS in the 1970s. The Bishop is responding to these destructive influences with additional theological education for his pastors and church leaders. This includes regular continuing education courses for his pastors. In October, Dr. Naomichi Masaki, CTSFW associate professor of Systematic Theology, taught a week-long course in Odessa on the Liturgy and the Office of the Holy Ministry. The LCMS Office of Church Relations and Office of International Mission are considering a request for more classes. In addition to courses held in Ukraine, Bishop Maschewski is identifying gifted young men for theological study at CTSFW and when his busy schedule permits, he hopes to return to his alma mater for further graduate study.

The Global Seminary Initiative and CTSFW are thus working together to carry on the tradition of the CTSFW Russian Project initiated in 1995. The fruit of the serious theological training of the next generation often takes a decade or more to manifest itself fully, and when it does, it frequently includes unexpected and miraculous surprises. The Maschewski story is just one of many examples of how the Russian Project and similar programs have made a significant contribution to building strong Lutheran churches at home and abroad.

It has been a remarkable journey from Kazakhstan to America to Germany and now Ukraine. May our Lord bless the courageous efforts of Bishop Maschewski and the GELCU to proclaim the lifesaving Gospel and keep him faithful to Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. 🙏

*Dr. Timothy C. J. Quill
(Timothy.Quill@ctsfw.edu)
serves as director of
International Studies and
professor of Pastoral Ministry
and Missions at Concordia Theological
Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and
director of Theological Education for
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.*



The Divine Service following the conclusion of the “Liturgy & the Office of the Holy Ministry” course on October 24, 2015, at St. Paul’s Ev. Lutheran Cathedral in Odessa, Ukraine