



Volume 16
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St. Petersburg Christian University

CONTACT

ENCOURAGING LOCAL CHURCH SUPPORT OF SPCU

February 2006 – The mission statement of St. Petersburg Christian University concludes with the following words, “Following the calling of the Triune God, SPCU prepares Christians to serve and lead in the church and society.” In order to facilitate the realization of this portion of our mission we have been working diligently to further develop and deepen our relationship with churches. Our correspondence with churches and pastors has increased dramatically, pastors have been and continue to be invited to participate in the life of the university, and special projects have been developed to assist in developing these relationships. In the last issue of the “Contact” we shared with you the project of “Pastoral and Church Care for SPCU Students”. This month we would like to share with you about another project which has assisted SPCU students in their studies while seeking to encourage churches to engage more with the students they send for studies.

MUSTARD SEED FOUNDATION

The Mustard Seed Foundation is a “Christian family foundation” which is guided by four distinctive principles: Christ and His Kingdom, Family, Local



Students read the letters outlining their scholarships



SPCU students and spouses who participated in the MSF Scholarship Program

Church, and Individuals in Community. They offer a scholarship program which supports “non-Western individuals pursuing degreed theological studies at select interdenominational theological institutions outside of the West.” In 2005 St. Petersburg Christian University participated in this program. The one distinctive requirement which each student applicant must meet is that they are “sent and supported by their home church or Christian organization.”

Sixteen SPCU students qualified for the Mustard Seed Foundation theological education scholarship program in 2005. While financial support of the students is a welcome assistance, the most exciting part of the program is the primary focus on the participation of churches and Christian organizations in the lives of the students they send to study. This focus fits well with the mission of SPCU to be involved with the churches. Our hope and dream is that in the future all students studying at SPCU will be sent and supported by their local churches. We are excited by our relationship with the Mustard Seed Foundation and their encouragement in the area of deepening existing relationships and developing new relationships with local churches and their ministries. May the “bride of Christ” continue to grow and impact the world!

**FIFTEEN YEARS OF SERVING ALONGSIDE THE CHURCHES IN RUSSIA!
FIFTEEN YEARS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION!
FIFTEEN YEARS OF PREPARING LEADERS!**

Join us as we celebrate our fifteenth birthday. Be sure to mark the following dates on your calendar:

MAY 19-21, 2006

We are hoping that many of you who have served with us as professors, students, staff, prayer partners, financial supporters, volunteers, as well as other friends of SPCU will consider joining us for this wonderful time of celebration and praise to God for His abundant grace and provisions which have allowed us to develop as a servant to Him and to His churches in the former Soviet Union.

For more information please visit our website at: www.spcu.spb.ru
or contact us by e-mail at: pr@spcu.spb.ru

Alumni Update - Alexander Akimov, 2004



Recently we had the opportunity to meet with SPCU graduate Alexander Akimov. Alexander is a 2004 graduate of the Bachelor of Christian Education program. He stated that the knowledge he received from studying at SPCU he is now able to incorporate and utilize in his ministry as the

coordinator for the mission "Youth For Christ" in St. Petersburg.

The main focus of Youth For Christ (YFC) is developing and encouraging youth ministries. Today many youth do not know where or in what to best apply themselves and they are in special need of assistance and support. Thus the ministries of YFC are designed for assisting and supporting the youth. One project that is currently being developed by the leadership of YFC is a summer youth music festival which will be held in July 2006. YFC also provides a two year program of study called "Bright Spot" for training people

especially for working with youth. Not long ago their first group of 12 students graduated.

Youth For Christ also participates in a program of social adaptation for children from orphanages. This program is known as "The Harbor." Alexander's wife Nellie serves in this ministry along with Alexander. Nellie is also a graduate of SPCU. While Alexander was studying at SPCU they met and were married and now have a wonderful daughter Valeria who is four and half years old.

Alexander also actively serves in the church council and youth ministry of his home church "Resurrection." He has many ideas of other projects that he hopes to realize some day. Alexander gave wishes to our current students and future graduates that they would maximize their calling as they serve the Lord in ministry.

It was a joy to have this time with Alexander and we wish him all the best as he continues to serve in and develop youth ministry and that he would continue to be the spiritual leader that God has called him to be in his family, in his church and in his ministry.

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Dates to Remember

- April 13-14, 2006 - Third St. Petersburg Christian Reading Conference: "Christ, The Gospel, Russia"
- April 18, 2006 - SPCU Easter Concert
- May 19-21, 2006 - Fifteenth Birthday Celebration of SPCU
- May 20, 2006 - SPCU Graduation