

Euro- Asia Division

From Humble Beginnings...

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Harry Mayden

When the Euro-Asia Division was created at the General Conference Session in 1990,

Christian education, as we know it, had made little progress in the former USSR. In September 1987, the first 16 students were admitted to study at the Zaokski Theological Seminary. Officially dedicated in December of 1988, this building was the first Protestant institution of higher learning established within the USSR.

November of 1992 saw the first graduation of 40 theology students from the three-year external-study program. The first graduation, with 17 students from the four-year in-residence program, was held in June 1993 in the newly constructed educational building. In June 1994, 20 more stu-

dents graduated from the theology course.

In the Russian Far East, on Sakhalin Island, a college was established in the fall of 1992 by the Korean Union to offer courses in theology for the young people of that area. In 1993, business management and foreign languages were added. Some 450,000 people of Korean descent live in the Russian Far East, and the Korean Union has felt a strong obligation to bring them news of the gospel. The college has received acreage upon which to build and has been promised an additional 60 hectares of land, which will be used to produce food and work opportunities for students.

When the division was created in 1990, there were no church schools in its territory. Today there are six, with an enrollment of 423 students. These church schools are located in Chernovtsy, Kiev, Moscow, Ryzan, Tula, and Zaokski. In Ryzan and Tula, the schools are now offering secondary grades as well. Two of the schools, Moscow and Zaokski, also have kindergarten programs.

The school at Tula was the first church-operated school in the division.

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Kiev Adventist School students.

It opened in the fall of 1991 in an old house on property the city had given to the church to begin a Christian school. Since that humble beginning,

the church members have renovated a large building on the property where 140 students in grades one through seven currently are enrolled.

At Ryzan, the church members received an old kindergarten building from the city where they began to hold classes in the fall of 1992. Today, the enrollment in grades one through nine stands at 140. The students from this school have the unique honor of having won eight of ten prizes at a city-wide scholarship competition. In their second year of operation, they captured the prize for the best school choir at a district-wide choral festival.

Now in its second year of operation, the school at Zaokski has had the unique honor of introducing our Bible books and our science and health books to the city educational officials of Zaokski. To license the school, a small group representing the education department of Zaokski came to inspect it. While at the school, they noticed the Bible and science and health books and asked if these books could be made available to the public schools. And so our science and health books are currently in use in the first and second grades in the public schools of Zaokski.

In the Ukraine, it has been more difficult to begin church schools. In Kiev, our church school, with 65 students in grades one to four, operates under the aegis of ADRA. In Chernovtsy, we are trying to get a license through a sponsoring group of individuals from the church. In the Ukraine, the church may not sponsor a school but a group of individuals may do so. The school may have a Christian flavor but cannot be called a church school. This law is intended to forestall attempts by diverse groups to operate religiously oriented schools at public expense. Since Ukrainian law makes the state responsible for the financial support of any school-aged child, the state would, therefore, be helping to sponsor religion, which it has no intention of doing.

Nevertheless, after much prayer

and work on the part of the parents and our educational representatives in the Ukraine, we have 123 students enrolled in these two schools within the Ukrainian Union. Parents report that their children are eager to go to school, whereas they had exhibited a lack of interest in attending the public schools.

In Chernovtsy, school is held in a church-owned building, while in Kiev, the school rents quarters from a public school. Each has its own kitchen for providing a noon meal for students.

We thank God for the progress in Christian education in the Euro-Asia Division during the present quinquennium. The work is going forward

rapidly in spite of the disastrous economic situation in this great land.—
Harry Mayden, Director of Education, Euro-Asia Division.

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Chernovtsy Adventist School.

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Graduation, 1994, at Zaokski Theological Seminary.

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Opening day, September 1994, Zaokski church school.

Ryzan School Wins Music and Scholarship Awards

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The Ryzan Seventh-day Adventist School in Russia has won top honors in an area-wide music festival. The school, in its second year of operation, beat out all the other choral groups to win first place in the musical competition. For 20 years,

this honor had been won by one particular school.

In addition, the Ryzan Adventist School students, in a regular city-wide scholarship competition, won eight of the 10 awards offered for top scholarship.—*Harry Mayden, Director of Education, Euro-Asia Division.*

Kiev Adventist School.

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Second grade, Moscow SDA School.

Award-winning Ryzan SDA school choir.