



Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

www.mnchristianschools.org

Volume XIX, Issue 2

March 2012

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The Messenger

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

The Precious Privilege We Have

The students of Fourth Baptist Christian School recently heard the testimonies of several Ukrainian pastors who came to speak at our elementary and secondary chapels. Pastor Nicholai Velichko pastors the largest independent Baptist church in the Ukraine. This church is the same church that the well-known preacher, Georgi Vins, attended in the city of Kiev. Besides serving at his church, Pastor Velichko serves as President of the Brotherhood of Independent Baptist Churches of Ukraine, a missionary-minded association of 140 churches striving to win souls for Christ across their country.



Pastor Nicholai Velichko, Ukraine

More than 100 churches have been planted since the fall of the Soviet Union. The other pastor we heard from was Pastor Eugene Buyko, Baptist International Evangelical Ministries (BIEM) missionary director in the Ukraine. Both men shared the story of persecution in the former Soviet Republic.

Pastor Velichko went to jail for three years for doing what the government, at that time would not allow, teaching the Word of God. It was the Soviet government's objective that no one, especially children, could learn about God. The government taught that there was no God. The government was determined to make it so that the younger generation grew up entirely without God.

Pastor Buyko told us of when he was a boy: "We used to have church in houses. As teens, we would go and have church in the woods. Our youth groups always met under the open skies. When the preacher would stay at our home, we would ask to borrow his Bible and we would stay up all night and write, by hand, as many of the verses from his Bible as we could. We didn't have Bibles

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The Precious Privilege We Have *(continued from page 1)*

of our own and we wrote those verses down to try to memorize them because we understood how precious the Word of God was.” Pastor Buyko shared another story of his childhood in the mid-1980’s. His mother was teaching the children the Bible after school and the police showed up at their home. About fifteen children were playing outside and the police planned to take the children away. They began to load them in their bus when the pastor’s mom demanded that they give back her children. The police told her that she could board the bus and take her children off. So, she stormed into the bus and told all fifteen children to get into the house. When the police asked if they were all her children, she replied that all fifteen children were her children. The children quickly scattered to safety and escaped going to jail.

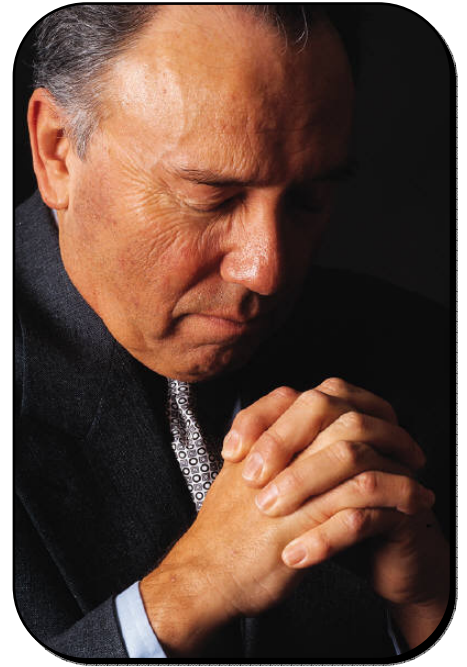


The Ukraine is now free. Churches are operating free from government intrusion and there are even Christian schools operating in the country. Both

men stated that people hungered after God’s Word under government oppression. Now, the economy has finally started to improve and people are starting to become complacent about the things of God.

After the men left, I must admit that I was quite troubled. I take so much for granted. We have been given so much, and the freedoms we have enjoyed in our country are tremendous. I read today that the Blunt Amendment was voted down in the Senate. There are numerous court challenges to the current Obamacare legislation. This legislation has been described as the largest abortion funding bill in history. The direction our liberal government is taking us is far away from God. We continue to attempt to get clarification regarding the stipulations in the Early Learning Challenge Grant that the state of Minnesota recently won. We continue to fight to secure legislation to protect our Christian schools. I don’t know if there was ever a time in our history when our Christian schools were needed more. Could it be that God is allowing us to go through a time of uncertainty? Could it be that we may have to lose the religious rights we have enjoyed to draw us back to God as a people? The Republic of Ukraine fought for its religious freedom and won those freedoms when the Soviet Union

fell. But even a place that knew religious persecution as recent as 25 years ago seems to have forgotten the blessings of the religious freedoms she now enjoys.



What about the United States? What about the people of our communities? What about you and me? We must come to the place where we realize the great privilege we have to be able to worship freely in our churches and for our children to attend our Christian school. May we not forget. May we not take any of this for granted. May we fall on our knees in gratefulness to God for what He has allowed us to have – churches that teach God’s Word and Christian schools that act as an extension of the Christian home, schools with Bible-believing teachers who

mentor our children, schools that pray for and with our children and equip them to think from a distinctly Christ-centered world view. We are so blessed.

As both Ukrainian pastors spoke, they spoke simplistically. They communicated genuine gratefulness for what God was doing in their nation and reminded us of the privilege we have enjoyed. So what was the Lord teaching me today? I believe He was teaching me that I cannot grow weary in the fight. We cannot become apathetic regarding current issues, the upcoming election, or in our faithful service to God's work. While it seems that our government desires that our children grow up without God, we must renew our commitment to stand firm for the teaching of the Word of God in our churches and schools. The battle is great, but the battle is worth it. Much

is at stake. We cannot turn a deaf ear to what we are hearing and we cannot be blind to what we are seeing. We cannot be so apathetic that we stand idly by and watch our freedoms slip away.

Why did so many members of the House of Representatives want to speak to our contingency of administrators and pastors back in September at our American Association of Christian Schools Legislative Conference? What they told us I cannot forget: "The next election will determine the direction of our nation for many years to come. Will we continue to move in a godless direction? Or will we regain some of the ground we have lost to maintain and guarantee our religious freedoms?"

The pastors from the Ukraine reminded me of how far they had come and where the United



States could go.

May God give us the grace we need to continue to be faithful in our service to the Lord and the strength to speak up and be involved in the issues of our day.

We have enjoyed great privilege. God help us not to forget...

Sincerely,

Mr. Alan J. Hodak

MACS Calendar 2011-12

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| March 9 | Jr. High Fine Arts Festival at Woodcrest |
| March 12 | Bible Quizzing at Fourth Baptist, Plymouth |
| April 13 | Fine Arts Festival at Fourth Baptist, Plymouth |
| April 13 | MACS Annual Meeting at Fourth Baptist, Plymouth |



REMINDER: Tournament pictures are available for purchase from Shot in the Dark Studios. Check out their website for more info:

<http://www.shotinthedarksports.net>



THE SPORTS REPORT

MACS 2012 Basketball Tournament Winners

BOYS TEAMS

First Place—Rosemount
 Second Place—Fourth Baptist
 Third Place—Heritage
 Fourth Place—Lake Region
 Fifth Place—St. Francis

GIRLS TEAMS

First Place—Lake Region
 Second Place—Owatonna
 Third Place—Rosemount
 Fourth Place—Heritage
 Fifth Place—Fourth Baptist

BOYS All-Tournament Team:

- 1 MVP - Daniel Foster (Rosemount)
- 2 Kostya Haug (Fourth)
- 3 Nathan Rupe (Rosemount)
- 4 Bryar Klopp (Heritage)
- 5 Patrick Trout (LRCS)
- 6 Levi Horner (St. Francis)

GIRLS All-Tournament Team:

- 1 MVP - Emily Beltran (LRCS)
- 2 Cherilyn Jorgensen (OCS)
- 3 Bethany Cressman (LRCS)
- 4 Liz Helder (Rosemount)
- 5 Marissa Steien (Heritage)
- 6 JoJo Hodak (Fourth)

Special Competition Winners:

3-pt. Contest — BOYS:

Levi Horner (St. Francis) - 16

3-pt. Contest — GIRLS:

Vikki Goncharenko (Rosemount) 11

Hot Shot Contest—BOYS:

Fourth Baptist—coach Jason Webster
 Michael King & Rajan Mohinani

Hot Shot Contest—GIRLS:

Prior Lake—Coach Jim Wolfe
 Shayla Carlson & Tracey Fischer

Dunk Contest Winner—Matthew Bruffey, Fourth Baptist



Boys All-Tournament Team L to R: D. Foster, N. Rupe, K. Haug, P. Trout, B. Klopp, L. Horner



Girls All-Tournament Team L to R: E. Beltran, B. Cressman, L. Helder, J. Hodak, M. Steien, C. Jorgensen

MACS 2012 Basketball Tournament

All-Conference Selections



BOYS All Conference First Team

| | | |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Levi Horner | St. Francis |
| 2 | Bryar Klopp | Heritage |
| 3 | Daniel Foster | Rosemount |
| 4 | Daniel Newton | Lake Region |
| 5 | Robert Horn | Fourth Baptist |
| 6 | Paul Watson | Victory-Rosemount |

GIRLS All Conference First Team

| | | |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Bethany Cressman | Lake Region |
| 2 | Alyssa Larson | Owatonna |
| 3 | Liz Helder | Rosemount |
| 4 | Marissa Steien | Heritage |
| 5 | JoJo Hodak | Fourth Baptist |
| 6 | Shayla Carlson | Prior Lake |

BOYS All Conference Second Team

| | | |
|---|-----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Nathan Rupe | Rosemount |
| 2 | Matthew Bruffey | Fourth Baptist |
| 3 | Bret Klopp | Heritage |
| 4 | Trevor Palm | St. Francis |
| 5 | Patrick Trout | Lake Region |
| 6 | Ben Watson | Victory |

GIRLS All Conference Second Team

| | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Emily Beltran | Lake Region |
| 2 | Jaclyn Graves | Rosemount |
| 3 | Cherilyn Jorgensen | Owatonna |
| 4 | Marah Horner | St. Francis |
| 5 | Ciara Guentzel | Grace-Mankato |
| 6 | Amber Wikstom | Heritage |

BOYS Honorable Mention

| | | |
|----|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Coltan Allen | Prior Lake |
| 2 | Jeff Fruetel | Rosemount |
| 3 | Sander Dagen | Heritage |
| 4 | Tim Rogers | Mankato |
| 5 | Joel Antilla | St. Francis |
| 6 | Kevin Steuck | Owatonna |
| 7 | Michael Towberman | Woodcrest |
| 8 | Kostya Haug | Fourth Baptist |
| 9 | Josh Gazelka | Lake Region |
| 10 | Alec Hraba | Chisago Lakes |

GIRLS Honorable Mention

| | | |
|----|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Ashley Amborn | Fourth Baptist |
| 2 | Jessica Springer | St. Francis |
| 3 | Tracey Fischer | Prior Lake |
| 4 | Joanna Watson | Victory |
| 5 | Rachael Darling | Woodcrest |
| 6 | Kayla Schultz | Grace-Mankato |
| 7 | Marlee Moore | Lake Region |
| 8 | Kari Weil | Owatonna |
| 9 | Vikki Goncharenko | Rosemount |
| 10 | Jodi Russell | Heritage |



Boys All-Conference Second Team L to R: T. Palm, N. Rupe, M. Bruffey, B. Klopp, P. Trout



Girls All-Conference First Team L to R: S. Carlson, A. Larson, B. Cressman, L. Helder, M. Steien, J. Hodak



2012 MACS Speech and Bible Festival

Results

Competition held Feb 9, 2012
at Woodcrest Baptist Academy



| Category | School | Last Name | First Name | Score | Place | Rating |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------|--------|-----------|
| Dramatic Interpretation | Rosemount | Tejano | Paula | 94 | First | Excellent |
| Dramatic Interpretation | Rosemount | Pierson | Michael | 91.5 | Second | Excellent |
| Dramatic Interpretation | Rosemount | Graves | Jaclyn | 89 | Third | Good |
| | | | | | | |
| Duet Acting | Faith | Carpenter | Andrew | 93.5 | | Excellent |
| Duet Acting | Faith | Juvinall | Titus | 93.5 | | Excellent |
| Duet Acting | Fourth | Hansen | Amanda | 97 | First | Superior |
| Duet Acting | Fourth | Worden | Rebecca | 97 | First | Superior |
| Duet Acting | Lake Region | Cavalier | Elisabeth | 95.5 | Second | Superior |
| Duet Acting | Lake Region | Mestuzzi | Tera | 95.5 | Second | Superior |
| Duet Acting | Rosemount | Goncharenko | Vikki | 95 | Third | Excellent |
| Duet Acting | Rosemount | Graves | Jaclyn | 95 | Third | Excellent |
| Duet Acting | Fourth | McLeish | Kendra | 94 | | Excellent |
| Duet Acting | Fourth | Hodak | JoJo | 94 | | Excellent |
| Duet Acting | Faith | Miller | Stephanie | 94 | | Excellent |
| Duet Acting | Faith | Genova | Celia | 94 | | Excellent |
| Duet Acting | Lake Region | Czeczok | Grace | 94.5 | | Excellent |
| Duet Acting | Lake Region | Moore | Marlee | 94.5 | | Excellent |
| Duet Acting | Faith | Idusogie | Courage | 92.5 | | Excellent |
| Duet Acting | Faith | Books | Mitchell | 92.5 | | Excellent |
| Duet Acting | Fourth | McMonigal | James | 92 | | Excellent |
| Duet Acting | Fourth | Peterson | Zach | 92 | | Excellent |
| | | | | | | |
| Humorous Interpretation | Woodcrest | Meyer | Mackenzie | 98 | First | Superior |
| Humorous Interpretation | Fourth | Murray | Christopher | 97 | Second | Superior |
| Humorous Interpretation | Rosemount | Graves | Ashley | 96 | Third | Superior |
| Humorous Interpretation | Faith | Powell | Shawn | 93 | | Excellent |
| | | | | | | |
| Oral Interpretation of Poetry | Rosemount | Goncharenko | Vikki | 100 | First | Superior |
| Oral Interpretation of Poetry | Faith | Merrill | Justin | 96 | Second | Superior |
| Oral Interpretation of Poetry | Lake Region | Moser | Kendra | 80 | Third | Good |

| Category | School | Last Name | First Name | Score | Place | Rating |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------|--------|-----------|
| Oral Interpretation of Scripture | Woodcrest | Lu | Linda | 97.5 | First | Superior |
| Oral Interpretation of Scripture | Woodcrest | Leaf | Megan | 95 | Second | Excellent |
| Oral Interpretation of Scripture | Faith | Juvinall | Titus | 91 | Third | Excellent |
| | | | | | | |
| Reader's Theater | Fourth | | | 88.5 | Second | Good |
| | | | | | | |
| Religious Reading | Rosemount | Goncharenko | Vikki | 95.5 | First | Superior |
| Religious Reading | Woodcrest | Lu | Linda | 90.5 | Second | Excellent |
| | | | | | | |
| Choric Speaking | Lake Region | | | 93.5 | First | Excellent |
| | | | | | | |
| One Act Play | Heritage | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Bible Teaching | Rosemount | Mueller | Annika | 88 | First | Good |
| Bible Teaching | Rosemount | McKay | Emily | 86.5 | Second | Good |
| | | | | | | |
| Evangelistic Preaching | Rosemount | Rupe | Nathan | 93 | First | Excellent |
| Evangelistic Preaching | Rosemount | Hirsch | David | 88 | Second | Good |
| | | | | | | |
| Expository Preaching | Rosemount | You | Nakwon | 95.5 | First | Superior |
| Expository Preaching | Woodcrest | Bachorik | Joseph | 92.5 | Second | Excellent |
| | | | | | | |
| Topical Preaching | Rosemount | Onchanu | David | 94 | First | Excellent |
| Topical Preaching | Rosemount | Fruetel | Jeff | 92.5 | Second | Excellent |
| Topical Preaching | Rosemount | Foster | Daniel | 86 | Third | Good |
| | | | | | | |
| Puppets | Faith | Kettner | Zach | 98.5 | First | Superior |
| Puppets | Faith | Carpenter | Andrew | 98.5 | First | Superior |
| Puppets | Faith | Powell | Shawn | 98 | Second | Superior |
| Puppets | Faith | Idusogie | Courage | 98 | Second | Superior |
| Puppets | Rosemount | Madden | Colleen | 93 | Third | Excellent |
| Puppets | Rosemount | Graves | Jaclyn | 93 | Third | Excellent |
| Puppets | Rosemount | Johnson | Kendra | 90 | | Excellent |
| Puppets | Rosemount | McKay | Emily | 90 | | Excellent |
| Puppets | Rosemount | Rupe | Nathan | 92 | | Excellent |
| Puppets | Rosemount | You | Nakwon | 92 | | Excellent |
| | | | | | | |
| Spelling | Rosemount | Sadowski | Mikayla | | First | |
| Spelling | Woodcrest | Meyer | Kenzie | | Second | |
| Spelling | Faith | Miller | Stephanie | | Third | |
| Spelling | Rosemount | Warnken | Graham | | | |
| Spelling | Woodcrest | Halsey | Kate | | | |

"Whether, therefore, ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." - I Corinthians 10:31