

# Christian Growth Course Translated into Russian

Христианский Рост - урок 1  
Вы МОЖЕТЕ измениться

Введение: Наши слабости и незрелость доставляют нам много страданий. Мы упускаем много хороших возможностей.

Opening sentences



George and Lyudmila Boring



Some of the first Russian beneficiaries of the translation\*

## Report by "B." Shelburne

In the fall of 2002, George and Lyudmila Boring heard our advertising and turned up on the front row of an SHBI class in SE Houston. Lyudmila was fresh in from Russia and the couple were newlyweds.

George, a widower, had gone to Russia on a short-term mission for Sagemont Church in Houston. Lyudmila, a member of a Russian congregation, became his interpreter. They fell in love with each other and soon married. George then returned to Houston and began the process of bringing her to the U.S.

Lyudmila was once an atheist and taught scientific communism in different universities. She had a young daughter. As the girl grew older there was increasing conflict between mother and daughter. The daughter met some Christian youth who invited her to an event at their church. Later the daughter invited her mother to the church.

Lyudmila had no intention of believing in Christ, although she was by this time disillusioned with Marxism. But she wanted to improve relations with her daughter and so she went. Once she met Christian believers, she saw what they had. God opened her heart to the message and she became a Christian, as did her daughter. Their relationship dramatically improved. It was several years later that Lyudmila met George. From Houston she still encourages and helps her Russian friends through email. She is about to publish a book containing her story.

Lyudmila became aware of our *Christian Growth Course*. She felt it could be helpful to Russian Christians trying to put

off the old life and grow in the new. She spoke of the possibility of translating the material. It would be a large, demanding project. I publicized the need for funding. The principal response was from Ken and Nova Vaughn of Amarillo, TX, who donated \$2,000.

The work was tedious. The verses in the Russian Bible are numbered differently than ours. All the scripture references in the course material had to be converted to the Russian system. And Lyudmila would often email me to find out what I meant by this or that term or expression. There are no Russian equivalents for some of our figures of speech. Sometimes she had to propose some other Russian expression that would get the same message across.

Recently the first draft of the translation was completed. After Lyudmila checked over it carefully herself, we sent it out to be checked by others. Lyudmila shared it with some of her close Christian friends in Russia. I sent it to our Ukrainian missionaries, Grady and Lena Bryan and to Era Thiesen, Ukrainian wife of our missionary Mark Thiesen at Namikango in Malawi (Era is fluent in Russian). As these read it, and as the material begins to be used on a trial basis, we will receive feedback enabling Lyudmila to edit and polish the translation.

The *Christian Growth Course* has been one of the most popular in our curriculum. It has also been used in many congregations and study groups, in counseling and in prison rehab. It was translated into Chichewa, a language in Malawi, Africa, last summer. Topics include: You CAN change; Clearing the Past; Resolving Doubts; Overcoming (*continued inside*)

# SHBI Celebrates 58<sup>th</sup> Year at Closing/Graduation May 14



Faron Davis



Steve Fletcher



Christopher Stellhorn

Hilton Merritt, former missionary to Kenya and an elder at Spring Woodlands in the Houston area, was the featured speaker. Songs were provided by the worship team from New Beginnings and by Janis Parish who sang the Lord's Prayer. Student testimonials came from our three graduates and from Betty Jacobs.

## Graduates

**Faron Davis** has been with us three years preparing for some role in the mission field. He graduated with a GPA of 3.7 and completed 37 courses.

**Stephen Fletcher** is an old friend, having started with us in the fall of 91. He completed 37 courses and graduated with a GPA of 3.2.

**Christopher Stellhorn** studied for three years and graduated with 38 courses and a GPA of 3.7. He is currently youth minister at Memorial Christian in Houston.

## Honor Awards

The **J.T. Corder Award** for outstanding Christian influence was given to Augustine Egwenu and Christopher Stellhorn, who tied in student nominations.

The **Gray-Branum Award** for outstanding service went to **Tom and Teresa Aldridge**, a husband and wife volunteer team who grade papers for us.

Winners of the **N.L. Clark Award** for academic excellence included:

**Sally Alyea**, A's in 8 courses

**Faron Davis**, A's in 8 courses

**Augustine Egwenu**, A's in 10 courses

**Christopher Stellhorn**, A's in 11 courses

## Perfect Attendance

**One course:** Teresa Aldridge, David Blackburn, Leon Clark, Casey Cross, Neil Cross, Ophelia Eady, Ann Elsner, Ronald Foshee, Billie Foshee, Barbara Green, Doug Harris, Mike Harrison, Emmanuel Ike, Harden Killian, Jr., Ralph Landrum, Nell P. Love, Henry Lowery, Sr., Kevin McKee, Howard O'Maley, Stephanie Ross, Ronald Thornton, Jacqueline Thornton, Homero Urbina, Tina Urbina, John Yorsky

**Two Courses:** Tom Aldridge, Frances Bivins, Walter Broussard, Ardella Growe, Nadine Huff, Don McKee, Kyle McKee, Molly McKee, Randy Pine, Gary Prebilsky, Mary Ann Rogers

**Three Courses:** Stephen L. Johnson, Christopher Stellhorn

**Four Courses:** Faron Davis

**Five Courses:** Alfreda Ester

**Eight Courses:** Daniel Alyea, Sally Alyea

**Ten Courses:** Augustine Egwenu

We thank God for another wonderful and successful school year. The dedication of our students has been outstanding and the fellowship has been rich. May glory come to God for all that has been done. May he mightily work through those who are going out from us.

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## Russian Translation

*(Continued)*

Bondage; Crucifying the Old Self; Developing Self-Discipline; Learning to Rule Feelings; Developing Healthy Self-Esteem; Relating Properly to Authority; Decisiveness and Goal Setting; Recognizing True Values; Setting Kingdom Priorities; Keeping Right Relationships; Choosing the Right Mate; Following God's Guidance. In English the course is available from SHBI on CD for \$5.

God willing, the Russian translation will be posted on SHBI's Internet web site where it will be available to Russian-speaking people anywhere in the world. Since many Russians do not have Internet access, we are also planning to publish the course as a booklet in Russia. If you want to help with this Russian outreach, there are three ways. First, we still need another \$1,000 to completely replace what we spent on the original translation cost. Second, we need help paying for the printed version in Russia. We are researching that cost. Third, you can ask God to powerfully use this tool he has made possible in such an interesting providential way.

*[\*The photo includes Vasily (left), Alexey with his bride and her son and another sister from their church.]*

## Alumni Notes

In our congratulations department, **Dennis and Donna Faye Kessler** of Shreveport, LA, will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary Sept. 4. **Richard and Imogene Lewis** of Phoenix recently celebrated their 50th. New arrivals include **Peyton Thomas**, born to **Brook and Anna Reinoehl** of Friendswood, Houston, June 22.; and **Elliot James**, born to **Curtis and Juliette Kessler** Apr. 13. **Andre Byers** of Houston has released a very good new CD of Christian hip-hop music (rightwizenoize.com). **Melanie Wilks** of Rogers, AR, received an Associate of Science degree in May. **Kenneth Hawley** received his Ph.D. from U. of Kentucky shortly before his recent move to Lubbock, TX. **Dan Bouchelle** of Amarillo, TX, has received a

doctorate in ministry from Abilene Christian University.

**Ivan Woodard** of Camp Wood, TX, now has 20/20 vision after cataract surgery. **Jason and Keri Moore** have begun ministry with the Westside congregation in Seminole, TX, working together with **Leo Copeland**. Moores: (2120 N.W. Ave. B, Seminole, TX 79360, [jasonkeri@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jasonkeri@sbcglobal.net), 432-955-0564 or wk 432-758-2706.) **James Jolley** of Hendersonville, TN, is writing Christian stories for Children, and struggles with health problems. **Clay Cothran** has moved to 4600 Canyon Trail #109, Euless, TX 76040, ph 281-389-7267. **Robin and Karen Smith** have moved to Dallas where Robin is now worship minister at Farmers Branch (432 Misty Lane, Lewisville, TX 75067, ph 972-906-9068). **Sean Pullen** is worship leader at Clear Lake, Houston. **Gene Shelburne** has a Saturday morning radio program, *Cross Currents*, on KJRT, Amarillo, TX. **Curtis Shelburne** now writes a weekly on-line column called *Focus on Faith*. Subscribe at [focusonfaith-subscribe@MyInJesus.com](mailto:focusonfaith-subscribe@MyInJesus.com). We regret the sudden passing of **Wally Leavelle** of Irving, TX, Aug. 1. **Bernard Mullins** of Amarillo, TX, has been very ill from complications after surgery. He is now at home but weak.

## News of Workers

**Jeff Christmas** has begun preaching ministry at Greenwood, AR. **Charles Jones** was a summer youth intern at Unionville, IN. **Frank Balch** has resigned as an elder at Burke Rd., Pasadena, TX, due to family illness. **Brent Isbell** is the new pulpit minister at Bering Drive, Houston. **Ian Bradshaw** has moved from Lake Butler, FL, to minister at Pinehurst, ID. **Dean Butler, Marty Adams, Eil Simpson and Roland McGinnes** have been added as elders at Arcadia Christian in Santa Fe, TX. **Jeff Underwood** has become an elder at Unionville, IN, and **Denny Nickless** and **Larry Wall** have become deacons. **Brett Farr, Larry House and Randy Price** are new elders at Quaker Ave., Lubbock, TX. **Bob and Lynne Williams** have moved to Killeen, TX, where Bob is teaching at Central Texas College. Malawian evangelist **Jones Solomon** has retired from mission work in Milanje, Mozambique, replaced by **Amosi Jeketi. Nikki Yocum** is the new administrative secretary at Southwest Central in Houston. **A.J. and Olive Mitchell** have moved from Abilene, TX, to the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

**Pat and Jo Andrews** of Abilene, TX, traveled to Mbale, Uganda, where Pat taught an advanced course in Romans at Messiah Theological Institute. **Caleb McLean** is in Mbale for three months working on the MTI Library. **Chris and Stephan Shelburne and Jamie Duncan** are in Mbale for 9 months to help teach the missionary children. **Ken and Nova Vaughn** recently returned home to Amarillo, TX, after a mission tour at Mbale. **Justin and Michelle Custer** of New Beginnings, Houston, are returning to Budapest, Hungary, for another mission tour. **Mark and Era Thiesen** at Namikango in Malawi are expecting a new addition to their family in January. **Kyle and Bernita Sheets** of Muleshoe, TX, recently did a month of medical

missionary work in Zimbabwe. **Doyle and Louise Gilliam** of Lubbock, TX, made a recent mission trip to Ethiopia and Malawi and taught at Namikango. **Grady and Lena Bryan** are returning to the Ukraine after home leave.

**For Prayer:** **Jerry Rogers** of Roswell, NM, has Hodgkin's lymphoma in several parts of his body and is taking chemo. Doctors are optimistic. **Helen Ribble** of San Angelo, TX, after knee surgery, developed bleeding outside the brain due to blood clots and became critically ill. She is improving. **J.C. Wallace**, long-time leader at Northside in Robert Lee, TX, has lost his speech following a stroke in Aug. **Ruby Nell Loe** of Amarillo, TX, has been critically ill but is some better. **Glen Prossie** of Medford, OR, had knee replacement surgery. **Elvis Fisher** of Lampasas, TX, had a heart artery stent installed. **Shirley Greely** of Brownwood, TX, had serious cancer surgery. **Jimmy Dan Bourland** of Abilene, TX, is taking chemo. **Clarence Eager** of Lewisville, TX, has had shingles. **W.J. Leach** continues in an Alzheimers unit in San Angelo, TX. **Finis Lee** is in a care facility in Lubbock, TX.

**Ralph Gage** of El Dorado, AR, fell and broke an arm. Planned heart valve surgery was canceled because of risk. **Marlin Bynum** of Breckenridge, TX, is cautiously optimistic after radiation therapy for thyroid cancer. **Alberta Miller** of Indianapolis suffered a brain aneurism. She and **Leo** are now somewhat better. **Horace Hutton** of Muleshoe, TX, has been recuperating after surgery. **Margaret Hamilton** of Muleshoe had knee replacement recently, and **Joe Harbin** has been suffering neck pain and was in hospital for a heart rhythm problem. **Jerry Reeves** of Houston has a lot of back pain and faces another knee surgery. **Wendell Kimbrough** of Bacliff, Houston, who preaches for the congregation at Montague, TX, has three blocked heart arteries and may likely need surgery.

**Fred Chitwood** of Bloomington, IN, is in a care facility (Alterra Sterling House #201, 3802 Sare Rd., Bloomington, IN 47401). **Doyle Corder, Sr.**, of Lubbock, TX, and **Tom Williams** of Granbury, TX, have both had eye surgery. **Delos Johnson** of Quitaque, TX, was in hospital. In Abilene, TX, **Jim Dukes** was recently hospitalized for tests, and **Billie McMullen** was hospitalized with a broken leg after a fall. **Vonnie Tucker** of Lometa, TX, is disabled following a stroke. **Sylvia Rogers** of Vista, CA, has had difficulty breathing. **Jewel Copeland** of Phoenix took radiation therapy in the spring. **Herb Mathes** of Harper, KS, had surgery in April. **Alpha Lemley** of Roseburg, OR, and **Jeff Prossie** of Grants Pass, OR, both have multiple health problems and are weak. Jeff had hernia surgery.

**Our sympathy** to the loved ones of these servants who have recently died: **Oscar Nchena**, Bible teacher at Ntonda School in Malawi, June 14; **Annie Philipps** of CA, widow of J.D. Philipps, buried at Eola, TX, June 21; **Jerry Huddleston** of Hurst, TX, May 15; **Bill Love** of Houston, TX (former minister at Bering Drive and former Director of Development at Lifeline Chaplaincies) Apr. 30; **Era Sessions** of

Houston Jan. 7; **Gary Brown** of South Houston, TX, June 4; and **Odilla Hayes** of Corpus Christi, TX, Aug. 8.

## Events

Brothers and sisters at **Stanton, TX**, had a wonderful time Aug. 7,8, celebrating the **100<sup>th</sup> year** of their congregation. Dates for the **Sooner Boom for Christ** have been changed to Oct. 21-24. **Fairview** in **Austin, TX**, will hold a reunion weekend Sept. 17-19. The **California Campout** is Sept. 2-6. **California Lane** in **Arlington, TX**, will host an area women's retreat Oct. 1,2.

## SHBI Finances January-March

Operating Fund Balance 1-1-04.....	\$30,399.25
Income Jan.-Mar.	
Contributions, Regular.....	25,927.87
For Textbooks.....	1,919.50
Total Income.....	27,847.37
Expense Jan.-Mar.	
Advertising.....	3,778.49
Books.....	2,018.21
Conferences & Meetings.....	20.93
Equipment Purchased.....	649.24
Equipment Rental & Maintenance.....	488.37
Medical Insurance.....	31.00
Postage & Shipping.....	533.13
Printing.....	149.71
Salaries Jan.-Mar.:	
President.....	11,094.87
Secretary.....	4,051.80
SSSE Tax Reimbursement.....	1,800.00
Supplies.....	2,109.51
Tapes/Library.....	24.41
Tax, FICA, Med.....	309.93
Telephone.....	786.52
Total Expense.....	27,846.12
Operating Fund Balance 3-31-04.....	\$30,400.50

### MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

**IN MEMORY OF MATTIE GAUTREAUX**  
Bob and Carol Gans

**IN MEMORY OF GARY BROWN**  
John and Meg Gibson

**IN MEMORY OF ODILLA HAYES**  
John and Meg Gibson

**IN MEMORY OF FARIS MUSICK**  
Mary Kathryn Moore

### ENDOWMENT FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

Don and Betty Jo Brown  
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Oletta Muddell Estate  
Curtis and Ruby Humphries Trust

Thank you very much for your support. Contributions to the Permanent Endowment Fund should be made to Main St. Church of Christ HBTW Permanent Endowment Fund. All other contributions should be made to South Houston Bible Institute. All contributions should be sent to SHBI at 14325 Crescent Landing, Houston, TX 77062-2178. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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*SHBI offers tuition-free evening and occasional day courses in Bible and Christian service. Everyone is welcome. SHBI does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex or religious belief.*

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**Tuition-Free Courses Begin Aug. 30**

**Mondays:**

**Into All the World (Acts)** - "B." Shelburne  
The exciting beginning and early years of the church and the spread of the gospel through the Mediterranean world. 5:40 -6:50 PM Aug 30-Dec 13 at SE Houston Extension

**Romans and Galatians** - "B." Shelburne  
Romans is Paul's explanation of the gospel: salvation by grace through faith. "When you get Romans, God gets you" (R.C. Bell). Galatians is Paul's antidote to legalism. 7:00-8:10 PM Aug 30-Dec 13 at SE Houston Extension

**Great Bible Doctrines** - "B." Shelburne  
The principal doctrines of the Christian faith, beginning with the doctrines about God, Christ and the Holy Spirit. 8:20 -9:30 PM Aug 30-Dec 13 at SE Houston Extension

**Tuesdays:**

**Oral Interpretation (Public Reading)** - Harold Key  
(Communications 3) Principles for effective public reading of scripture, plus principles for preparation, outlining and delivery of sermons. 5:40 -6:50 PM Aug 31-Dec 14 at SE Houston Extension

**Later Old Testament History 1 (Joshua-1 Samuel)** - "B." Shelburne  
Israel's history for 400 years from the conquest of Canaan, through the period of judges, through the reign of King Saul. Great stories of the judges, Saul, David. 7:00-8:10 PM Aug 31-Dec 14 at SE Houston Extension

**Old Testament Books of Poetry (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon)** - "B." Shelburne  
These books create a spirit of worship and answer some of life's hardest questions. 8:20-9:30 PM Aug 31-Dec 14 at SE Houston Extension

**The Attributes of God** - Dennis Ritchie  
Jesus said (John 17) that the essence of eternal life is knowing God. Studying God's attributes as revealed in scripture will increase our devotion, reverence and worship. 6:30-7:40 PM Aug 31-Dec 14 at Clear Lake Extension

**The Bible and Modern Science** - Daer Platt  
Compelling evidence that you don't have to abandon your Biblical faith in order to accept scientific facts. 7:50-9:00 PM Aug 31-Dec 14 at Clear Lake Extension

**Thursdays:**

**From the Beginning...God's Plan for Us** - Susan Wright  
Dealing Biblically with tough questions about dinosaurs, fossils, the age of the earth and human origins. 7:00 -8:10 PM Sep 2-Dec 16 at Clear Lake Extension

**\$20 materials fee** in each course (scholarships available if unable to pay). Textbooks in some courses. **Locations:** Clear Lake: 14325 Crescent Landing (Formerly Grace Community Church), SE Houston: 2210 Bronson. You may register at [www.shbi.org](http://www.shbi.org) or call 281-990-8899 for a registration form.

*Students are welcome regardless of race, sex or religion.*