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To: Dr Alexei Eduardovich Bodrov,
Rector
St Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute
Jerusalem St. 3, Moscow,
109316, Russia

Prague, 15 September 2015

Dear Dr Bodrov,
Dear colleagues and students of St Andrew's Institute,

It is always a joy and delight to discover a theological institution that strives to combine a search for truth and freedom with a deep respect for tradition, expanding the horizons without being afraid that one's identity is something that can be lost when we learn from others and befriend them. This is precisely what my colleagues Tim Noble, Kateřina Bauerová, Parush Parushev and myself appreciated in contact with you, both personal, and work-related. As you celebrate your jubilee, we wish you strength to continue in your amazing publishing ministry, conferences, teaching and being the presence of dialogical Christianity in your country and beyond, at times which are not easy.

Being old enough to remember the prohibitions regarding religion before *perestroika*, and having experienced the rise of hope afterwards as well as the realization of how long a journey to freedom we still have to undertake, I want to thank you for your struggle, support, for not giving up even when you have many reasons to. Perhaps, this is the difficult and the beautiful heritage of people like Fr Alexander Men that keeps calling people like you to do things which look like being on the margins of the possible.

May the Holy Spirit that blows more strongly than other winds lead your vision, and many other people benefit from the work that you do.

Ivana Noble

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