

Brother Alois
Prior of Taizé
71250 Taizé
France

St Andrew's Biblical College
Moscow

Taizé, 3 Septembre 2015

Dear Alexei Bodrov, dear friends of the St Andrew's Biblical Theological Institute,

as we in Taizé celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of our founder, Brother Roger, the 10th anniversary of his death and the 75 years foundation of the Community, we would like to congratulate you on your 25 years of existence.

Your foundation was linked intimately with the ministry and also the brutal death of Father Alexander Men. At a time when so many things were becoming possible in Russia, Father Alexander saw the importance of translating the message of the Gospel into a language that could be understood by people of the time, but also of remaining rooted in the tradition of the Church. Almost immediately after his untimely death, your ministry began. You have carried on this work through your academic investigations, your conferences and through your publishing of theology from the Orthodox tradition, but opening up also to the Russian speaking world works by writers from other Christian traditions.

We are grateful for the links that have made us close throughout the years, through the visits of our brothers to Moscow, through your gentle and understanding advice, through the invitations to take part in your conferences and also by the publication of two of our books «Призваны быть душой мира. Избранные тексты христиан первых веков», blessed by Patriarch Alexis II, with a foreword written by Metropolitan Hilarion (Alfeyev) and «Тэзе. От тревоги к доверию» by Olivier Clément, who was also very close to you.

May God continue to bless your ministry, so that you may keep on opening the way to Christ and the Church in today's Russia,

fr. Alois