

PARTNERS IN MISSIONS

Ray and Pam Trantham:
"Training National Leaders for Ministry"
in Odessa, Ukraine for the past 24 years.

Greetings from Ray and Pam,

We arrived in the States a couple of days before Christmas to take advantage of the fact that our Bible college continues to take a longer winter break to save on heating cost. We have been visiting churches and updating about the ministry in Ukraine. We are on our way back to Ukraine and look forward to returning to classes at the Bible college. By coming during the winter, we are only able to visit part of our supporters each year. We look forward to visiting with others who partner with us in this work next year.

We have two granddaughters in Ukraine, and one granddaughter and grandson in Hattiesburg, MS. We celebrated Evelyn's fourth birthday just before leaving Ukraine, and Ashley's first birthday last week in Hattiesburg.

For the past 24 years we have served as full-time missionaries in Ukraine, and we want you to know that we are still committed to what we began in 1995. For many years you have been partners with us in the process of "Training national leaders for ministry" in Ukraine. We are truly thankful for your faithfulness over the years.

During this past year, we have spent much of our time working with a new group of Ukrainian students who are preparing to work outside of their Ukrainian culture as "missionaries." In the past, Ukrainian churches saw themselves as "receivers" of foreign missionaries. They still need foreign missionaries for specialized tasks like teaching in the Bible college, but Ukrainians are beginning to realize that they can send their own people to reach parts of the former Soviet Union which are closed to western missionaries. Just as American missionaries are sometimes able to meet a need that Ukrainians are not yet able to meet, ... Ukrainians are able to work as missionaries in areas that are closed to American missionaries.

During the past four years the mission training program of our Bible college in Ukraine has undergone changes and taken on new urgency as we prepare local people to serve as missionaries to other parts of the former Soviet Union. (We are often sending workers into parts of the world where Christian missionaries are not welcome.)



Mission student speaking in church



Ray and Pam on Ashley's first birthday



Student serving in Tajikistan

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