

PARTNERS IN MISSIONS

Training National Leaders for "Ministry"

Ray and Pam
Trantham

 **Odessa Missions**
Training National Leaders for "Missions"



Pictures: In last month's newsletter, we devoted a lot of time to analyzing the current situation in Ukraine. We do not know the future, but we are committed to future ministry in Ukraine. This month we want to share with you pictures of ministry in Ukraine. Ukraine needs missionaries more than ever. We thank you for being partners with us in this ministry.



As several members of an Odessa family were passing through Germany, they just happened to stay in the home of friends of ours working in Germany as missionaries. To help with communication, our friends called Sasha in Odessa. They learned the refugees had to leave behind a disabled brother and elderly mother. Sasha prepared a grocery list, while Regina worked on a list of needed medications for those left behind. Sasha purchased the groceries pictured below as well as needed medical supplies. He was then able to deliver them to the brother and mother remaining in Odessa. Sasha was able to make a video call and those in Germany were able to talk with their relatives in Odessa.



1941

2022

45% of Ukrainians who have not been displaced say financial support is their most pressing need, followed by 34% who say they are most urgently in need of medicine and health services.

SOURCE: International Organization for Migration (April 1)

Left: Odessa in WWII and today.

Regina and Sasha own a van in Ukraine, and we also own a ministry van being used for humanitarian relief.



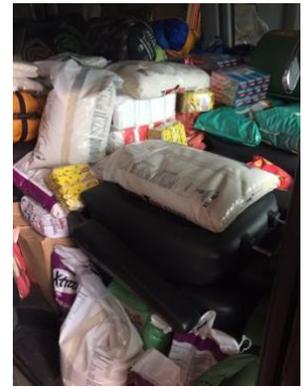
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Regina is able to help Sasha find needed insulin to deliver to a rural location in the Odessa area.



Limited opportunities: The Bible college is closed, and classes are suspended. The college is being used to store and distribute humanitarian aid. We are waiting. But while we wait, there are still opportunities. Regina just returned from the neighboring country of Moldova, which is only an hour away from Odessa. Soon after arriving in America, she began to look for opportunities to minister to refugees. A short-term medical trip to Moldova was suggested. There was a church-based medical ministry operating in Moldova, that was requesting assistance and she realized that she had worked with some of the medical personnel in the past. Churches agreed to provide medical supplies and to cover the cost of transporting it to Moldova. Regina was able to visit with friends and relatives who had crossed into Moldova as refugees. The medical team worked only in Moldova, but Regina sent supplies across the border to Sasha in Odessa. The team provided a free medical clinic for refugees. While seeing patients, Regina met refugees from our church in Odessa, as well as a lady who lived only a few blocks from her in Odessa. As Regina was talking to her about Jesus, the woman said that she had visited the Orthodox Church at Easter, but when she was trying to cross the border, she had met "real Christians." She said these real Christians had invited her to stay in their home and had taken care of her, ... now she was at a free medical clinic run by Christians. She then asked, "tell me where I can find a church with people like that." Regina told her where our church was in Odessa. After they prayed together, the woman responded, "I will see you at church when we both get back to Odessa." Regina was especially moved that every patient they saw wanted "prayer", as well as medical attention.



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