

PARTNERS IN MISSIONS

Training National Leaders for "Ministry"

Ray and Pam
Trantham

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



Something almost normal: Children attending church camp during the summer is normal. But the requirement that your camp have a bomb shelter is not normal. Before Russia invaded Ukraine in February, our son-in-law Sasha, had twelve weeks of church camp planned for the summer. The war put an end to those plans, ... but three camps have been possible at the end of the summer, ... if you have a bomb shelter. It turns out that Sasha was able to conduct three camps at the end of the summer. And yes, the bomb shelters were occasionally used. Several of our graduates have been able to work with children during the summer.



Autumn has arrived in Ukraine, and this is now the time of harvest. International agencies estimate that 20% of Ukrainians have insufficient food due to the Russian invasion. Some of the people who fled Ukraine are now returning because of the approaching winter. Many of the Bible college families are returning to Odessa, not because it is safer, but because it will be easier to get through the winter in their own hometown. International agencies estimate that the Ukrainian economy has fallen by 45% since conflict began. Ukraine is predicted to not have electricity or heat for part of the winter. January and February are the coldest months with temperatures normally below freezing in Odessa.



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Return to Odessa: On October 4th, Ray and Regina will make a two-week trip to Odessa, Ukraine to evaluate the situation first-hand and explore when it may be possible to return on a more permanent basis.

On-Line Class: Even though we are in Mississippi, we continue to work as full-time missionaries. Ray began an on-line class this week with students in Ukraine.



Top: Regina and Ray speak in area church. Propane gas tanks are filled in anticipation of lack of heat during winter.

Middle: Sasha buys coal and supplies for village school and church for winter. Bible college loads humanitarian aid.

Below: Bible college is given a truck for transporting humanitarian aid. Church stockpiles food and supplies for winter.

