

PARTNERS IN MISSIONS

Training National Leaders for "Ministry"

Ray and Pam
Trantham

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



In Matthew 25, the Day of Judgement is described with these words; ... *"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, ... I was hungry, I was thirsty, you invited me in, you cared for me, ... I tell you the truth, **what you did for the least of these, you did for me.**"*

You should expect to hear these words on the Day of Judgement because of your generosity towards the needs in Ukraine. We have been overwhelmed by the way you have stood with us and the people of Ukraine during this past year. Russia continues to target the electricity grid and civilian infrastructure in all parts of Ukraine. Our Bible college and churches continue to face power outages. In our last newsletter I wrote, "The Christians in Ukraine are saying with one voice, **"We need heat."** You have responded, and now they want to say, **"Thank You."**

Aleksander Dimov, the regional church leader writes;

"The churches in the village of Svetlodolinsky and Molodovo, thank you for your help. In these churches, all those who come can feel the warmth and hope that the Lord gives. This was made possible through your help, dear Brother Ray."



"The church in the village of Znamenka, send greetings of warmth and joy at Christmas."



Use the QR code to view the 20 second video from the rural church. It is a small church meeting in a house. The leader says, "We are here to worship, we praise God, and we thank you for your help." The congregation responds, "Thank-You."



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Missionaries in Odessa, Ukraine since 1995.

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Tax-deductible contributions:

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Another church writes, "From Monday till Saturday, an elementary school meets in the church in the village of Nikolaevka. During the evening music classes are conducted in the church. Thanks to your help, we were able to buy a potbelly stove for heating." (wood stove)



Hebrews 13:16, *"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."*

Earlier this month, as I was giving an update about Ukraine in an area church, I was asked about financial needs. I did not know how to answer. On one hand, there is great suffering and a continuing need. On the other hand, American churches and individuals have given with overwhelming generosity. I knew that because Pam and I had asked you to give, ... we had received thousands of dollars in extra contributions this past year. You have been more than gracious, ... and we thank you on behalf of the people we serve in Ukraine.

2022 Financial Report: This past year has been different than any other for us as missionaries. Even though we have spent most of this year in the US, the months of February, March, and April were the busiest times we have experienced during our 27 years as missionaries. We have spent much of the past year working to preserve the Ukrainian men and women, which we previously trained for ministry. This past February, the week before the war began, we sat out to raise \$25,000 to evacuate and secure our college faculty and staff. We expected a conflict lasting less than a month, so this should have been enough to move everyone to western Ukraine for a few weeks, and then return to Odessa. The war was expected to be over in a few days, but soon turned into weeks, and then months. The financial assistance needed by our Ukrainian faculty and students expanded greatly.

Your compassion and generosity have been overwhelming. During this year, we have tried to track regular mission cost, and crisis assistance giving separately. In addition to regular mission funds, an additional \$104,383 was given as crisis support. Approximately half of this was given by regular Partners In Missions supporters. Approximately \$21,000 was raised by others, but given to Partners In Missions, because we had an established method for transferring money. We received a humanitarian grant of \$29,300 to help our Ukrainian mission students who were no longer receiving support from Ukrainian churches. This allowed us to provide these students with \$49,255. The money for the humanitarian crisis results in the large increase in income and expense for this past year.

On a personal note, Pam and I have been blessed with the possibility of continuing to live with my parents in Corinth, Mississippi. I traveled to Ukraine in October. Our home in Odessa has not been damaged, and friends continue to house-sit for us while we are away. We continue to have the same housing, utility, and other expenses in Ukraine, even though we are currently in Mississippi. --- Our daughter, Regina, and two children have been living in Hattiesburg since March, while Sasha remains in Odessa.

I just purchased tickets and will be returning to teach in Odessa from the beginning of March, until the end of the school year. Pam and Regina will remain in Mississippi.

<i>Average Monthly Expenses</i> <i>January 2022 – December 2022</i>	
Salary	2,195
Missionary care (including health)	1,228
Housing	592
Fees, postage, documents	473
Office operations and equipment	981
Travel – internal and external	642
Projects (Crisis fund / mission students)	9,844

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