

PARTNERS IN MISSIONS

Training National Leaders for "Ministry"

Ray and Pam
Trantham

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



Graduation: The Apostle Paul writes to Timothy, during a difficult time and says, *"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others. Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus."* 2 Timothy 2:2-3

This is still God's command to our troubled world. In the middle of an ongoing war, you are helping to carry out God's command to train his servants. There were fewer graduates than usual, and we are expecting a decrease in next year's enrolment, but we continue the task of Training National Leaders for Ministry.

The following is a translation of the Ukrainian text describing this year's graduation ceremony:

These days, Ukraine has become a name for pain and suffering. After Mariupol, Bucha, and Bakhmut, we hoped we had seen the worst. But then Russian forces destroyed the Nova Kakhovka dam, ... Our hearts are breaking when we meet a new wave of people deprived of homes, see videos of people sitting on the roofs of their houses, get messages from people from occupied flooded territories begging for help, hear stories of how people miraculously survived both the flood and the Russian shelling during the rescue operation. The shock from what is happening makes everything else look unimportant and irrelevant. As one of the Bible college workers said the morning after the explosion of the dam: *"It is a strange feeling to continue with our educational routine now that we know that this very minute the catastrophe is under way."*

However, we believe there is a good reason to continue in our "educational routine". This is the task that God has given us to do in the face of the war and destruction. Equipping people to do what is right, teach what is right, and preach what is right, ... is the right thing to do - even now, during the war. The Kingdom of God is what we can do to oppose any other world view, including the so called "Russian world".

Ray and Pam Trantham
Missionaries in Odessa, Ukraine since 1995.
ray@partnersinmissions.org <http://partnersinmissions.org>
Phone: 662-872-0748 662-286-2502

Tax-deductible contributions:
PARTNERS IN MISSIONS
P.O. Box 212
Fulton, MS 38843



This past Friday, we held our graduation ceremony for 61 men and women from different programs. However, because of recent intensive missile attacks over the entire country, and particularly over Odessa, only 30 graduates could attend the ceremony in person. We praise the Lord for all of them, who despite unprecedented challenges, had the courage to study during the war.

We also thank all who prayed for us and supported the Bible college during these difficult months. May the Lord bless you! Please pray for Ukraine, pray for us as we continue our ministry and for our graduates as they continue theirs.



Odessa: This month, Regina and children returned to Odessa to join Sasha. Sasha is traveling inside of Ukraine and Regina is doing ministry in Odessa. Earlier this week, Russia pulled out of an agreement to allow Ukraine to export grain through the Port of Odessa. This has major implications for global hunger because Ukraine is a major supplier of grain. The city of Odessa has previously seen fewer missile and drone attacks than other areas, but the past four nights Russia has purposely targeted the port, grain storage, and shipping facilities in Odessa. This has been the most intense attacks on the city of Odessa during the war and Regina and family have been sleeping in their basement. It is also reported that Russia is laying additional sea mines around Odessa. Pray for ministry, as well as safety.

