

PARTNERS IN MISSIONS

Training National Leaders for "Ministry"

Ray and Pam Trantham

Sep./Oct. 2023



Odessa Missions

Training National Leaders for "Missions"



Horses and dogs: I saw an interesting article about some of the effects of the war in Ukraine.

"Wrestling escaped horses into a truck may not seem like much respite for war-weary soldiers, but troops in Avdiivka were smiling as they tried to calm down the animals. A farm in the town has been abandoned, leaving horses wandering past missile craters in the Donetsk region. Ukrainian fighters and volunteers were tasked with evacuating them, but some were more willing to move than others."

This is not just true for horses but is true for many domestic animals. A large percentage of the Ukrainian population has been forced to relocate throughout the past year. Animals are difficult to deal with during this time. Our Labrador Retriever had puppies in the Spring. The dogs were registered and had all their shots. This is one of the most popular breeds and normally would easily sell for \$200 each. We had difficulty giving them away, and were repeatedly told that because of the uncertainty, no one wants to add the responsibility of owning a dog. (We did find good homes for all of them.)

Ray to return for in-person classes: Ray will be returning for in-person classes in Odessa next month. When I returned from classes at the end of the school year, I said that, **we remain committed to being full-time Ukrainian missionaries.** Because of the continuing conflict it was agreed that several trips devoted to teaching intensive courses, would be the most productive method for accomplishing the "classroom" part of our ministry. It was agreed that I would conduct the "office" part of our ministry outside of Ukraine as much as possible. This year the Bible college has switched from semester long classes, to teaching all classes in week-long formats, which takes into account the changing security situations. Ukrainian teachers have also switched to a similar hybrid work schedule. Because there are no flights into Ukraine, I will be flying into the neighboring country of Moldova, and Regina will meet me and we will drive across the border. I will be staying until the end of the semester and returning just before Christmas. This winter is expected to be difficult in Ukraine, just as it was last year. Russia is reportedly planning to again target the electrical and heating supplies.

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Tax-deductible contributions:

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Lucy: This is taken from an article in our Bible college's newsletter:

Lucy is a graduate of our mission program from 2021. This was during the time when Covid was most severe, and Lucy had Covid during her time as a student. Now our country is experiencing other terrible threats. Many of our students remain active as missionaries.

Lucy is one of those students. During her training, it was obvious that, despite her health difficulties, she had inner strength. Her heart was burning with love for Christ. After completing the study in Odessa, she went to Uganda for her internship. Uganda is always a challenge, with deep poverty, corruption, illiteracy, early mortality, and occultism being just a few challenges facing this central African country. Diseases like malaria and typhoid, mostly forgotten in developed countries, also plague those living in Uganda. Despite these difficulties, Lucy and the team worked hard, and Lucy made the decision to stay on in Uganda. She ministered to children, teenagers, and women. Every day, Lucy walked several miles through the jungle heat, to reach the villages where she taught children in schools, interacted with local families, read the Bible with them, listened to their needs, prayed and helped in any way she could. The local people sometimes called her the Ukrainian Mother Teresa.

The tropical diseases began to take their toll on Lucy over time, ... each time leaving her with less and less strength.

In the end, it was decided that

Lucy should return to Ukraine for

treatment. Shortly after returning, the war began. She spent the first months of the war with her family, helping her neighbors, hiding them in a shelter and preparing food for the people in need. Then she began to help evacuate people from front-line cities. She worked with other volunteers regularly carried humanitarian aid to the frontline and worked to evacuate children and the elderly. She worked with a mission group serving in the Donbass, by taking humanitarian aid regularly to thousands of people in need. She writes, "Today the explosion was 50 meters from us, but God saved us... Today we were able to rescue three more children".

For us, Lucy is an example of how God can turn a small, fragile girl into His warrior, how He can raise a modern day David, to fight against Goliath. Please pray for Lucy. Pray for the students, graduates, and staff of the seminary who are also serving during the war and working as volunteers.



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Lucy speaks four languages: French, English, Russian, and Ukrainian.

Above: she serves in Uganda, where I visited with her and other students.

Below: she serves God in Ukraine.

Your financial contributions helped train Lucy, as well as make her ministry possible.



God's work continues, in spite of the war, because of your faithful prayers and support.



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