

PARTNERS IN MISSIONS

Training National Leaders for "Ministry"

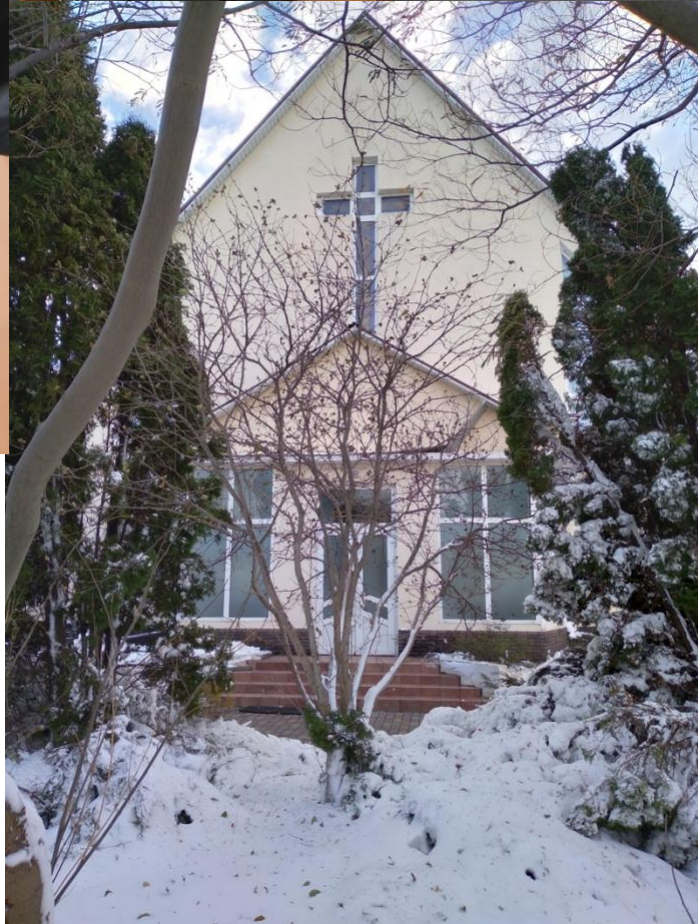
Ray and Pam Trantham

1st Quarter 2024



Odessa Missions

Training National Leaders for "Missions"



Winter comes early to Odessa: The first few days back in Ukraine, the weather was mild, and I did some much-needed yard work. Then it began to rain, then wind, then snow, and finally an early blizzard. The seasons normally change gradually in Ukraine, and in Odessa the sea normally makes our weather milder than much of the rest of the country. After raining all day Saturday and Sunday, by Sunday afternoon there were 50 MPH sustained winds and the power was off. On-campus classes were planned but roads were closed and there were widespread power outages. Only 10 of us managed to gather by 8:00 on Monday morning. Transportation was soon restored but trees and electrical lines remained down for several days.

What is different: How has Ukraine changed over the past few months? The most obvious change is fewer people on the streets, especially men. There are also many more large trucks and fewer cars. We are located at the edge of the city where a major road exits the city and heads towards the boarder. Odessa is the major port city, so because of reduced shipping, many supplies are carried by trucks through the Odessa area and then to other parts of Ukraine. The stores are filled, but supplies of certain items remain unpredictable. Regina advised me, "Buy it if you think you might need it, because it may be gone tomorrow."

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



"Yeah, we know him": I finished my day at the Bible college early. It had rained earlier in the day, and thinking the rain was over, I took the opportunity to walk to the market and pick up some groceries. The rain wasn't over, and as I looked for a place to get out of the weather, I came upon a large crowd. I worked my way to the front and heard someone preaching through a translator and saw many pallets of humanitarian aid. I saw someone who stood out as a foreigner, so I asked him in English, where they were from. He assumed that I was going to speak to him in Russian, so he motioned for a helper to come over and translate. The Ukrainian helper walked up and said in English, "Yeah we know him, he is one of my teachers at the Bible college." He explained that this was one of the locations their church gave out humanitarian aid each week. I was certainly pleased to run into one of my students doing large-scale ministry in our area.



Thanksgiving: From our earliest days in Ukraine, we have invited students and faculty from the Bible college to join us in our celebration of American Thanksgiving. I joined Regina and Sasha at their house as they continued the tradition. A good Ukrainian friend, who is now in America, wrote and told me how much he missed celebrating Thanksgiving with us in Odessa.



Bogdan: The Monday morning prayer service started with the announcement that, one of our students had been killed. Bogdan Tzapko was one of my former students, who in addition to serving in his local church, was also defending his country. Any war and any loss is tragic, but there is a special sadness when you have spent time as a missionary training someone to serve as a church leader, and that service is ended. Your financial support of the ministry in Ukraine helped to train Bogdan to serve his church and to make a difference in the world.

Our Bible college has recently hosted seminars to equip people to minister to those suffering trauma as well as seminars to minister to those who have mobility disabilities.

Check your blood pressure – Regina and I both have problems with our blood pressure. She was wearing a monitor to keep track of her blood pressure over a 24-hour period. As we were driving through town, the air-raid siren sounded, and soon a distant explosion shook the car. Her blood pressure went up. Sometimes it's more than just diet and exercise. 😊

