

# PARTNERS IN MISSIONS

*Training National Leaders for "Ministry"*

*Supporting and Developing National Leaders in "Ministry"*

Ray and Pam Trantham ... missionaries to Ukraine since 1995.



**"What happens when you die?"** Pictured above is Vitaliy. He is my academic dean and a military Chaplain. I work through him to minister to soldiers in the Odessa area. He pulled me into his office to show me the coffee maker that I had helped purchase. He had coffee, candy, and other supplies to take when he visits the soldiers. He has volunteered to serve on the front line with soldiers, because it gives him an open door to share the gospel. (Especially when he takes coffee.) He told me soldiers ask him, "What happens when you die?" They also wanted to know, "What takes place at a funeral?" Vitaliy talked to me about how non-Christians view death and how they become very interested in God in combat situations. Most Ukrainian soldiers are at least 25 years old and have been living in a country that has claimed Christianity for over a thousand years. He went on to tell me that some soldiers remembered attending Sunday School and that children stood in a circle and held hands to pray. He told me that he encountered soldiers who stood in a circle, held hands, and prayed, because they felt such need for God, and all they knew of God was a distant memory from Sunday School. Because of your monthly support, Vitaliy is able to buy coffee, gospel tracts, and share the gospel with people who are eager to know God.

**How do Ukrainians see the war?** I asked Vitaliy his perspective on how things are going. He said, "We say that we are willing to fight for every inch of Ukraine," but we know that is not realistic. We know that we cannot keep our original borders, but we want to have a free country with a free future. We want a "future," not a frozen conflict. We know that our future will not be decided by us, or by Russia, ... but by outside forces.

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Vitaliy wrote me about some of his actives: *There were pleasant moments, good heart-to-heart conversations and fervent prayers, and sad moments (the soldiers I serve were wounded). I visited the wounded in the hospital. I had the opportunity to meet with the commander. I was honored by the military unit where I serve. There are many needs and challenges. Tomorrow I'm going to visit the military in the Kherson direction. My friends in the Kursk, Donetsk, and Kherson areas have some needs. Thank you for your prayers, support and for believing in victory with the Lord. Thank you again!*



Start of school year



Humanitarian aid arriving on our campus

Regina, Sasha, and family

**Will you continue to be "Partners" with us in this ministry in Ukraine.** A week or so ago, we sent out a ministry update, where we gave our perspective on the current situation in Ukraine, as well as some new opportunities that God is opening in Ukraine. We stressed that we are continuing our involvement in the ministry of training and equipping leaders for service in Ukraine. We also stressed that, "Ray and Pam are not retiring, ... just switching to volunteering, which will allow all funds to go towards ministry projects." We said that Partners In Missions continues to receive tax-deductible contributions for the work in Ukraine.

Your monthly contribution helps make possible:

- Yana and Santos working with a new church in Uganda.
- Sino and his family working as missionaries in Tajikistan
- Our house in Ukraine is used for youth and group meetings
- You are helping to develop and publish new youth ministry materials
- Vitaliy serving as a military Chaplin and ministering to solders
- Humanitarian aid ministries to those isolated in rural villages
- Fruit and Nuts – You make possible several continuing social events
- Support to Ukrainian mission students who serve refugees

Average Monthly Expenses January 2024 – December 2024	
Salary	2,225
Missionary care (including health)	674
Housing	684
Fees, postage, documents	421
Office operations and equipment	738
Travel – internal and external	551
Projects (Crisis fund / mission students)	4,488