

PARTNERS IN MISSIONS

Training National Leaders for "Ministry"

Supporting and Developing National Leaders in "Ministry"

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



A Continuing Vision for Ukraine PARTNERS IN MISSIONS and Hearts 4 Ukraine January 2026

A changing world: James 4:14-25 reminds us that we "do not know what will happen tomorrow," and that as we make plans, we should realize that God determines if "we live and do this or that." With this verse in mind, we look back to February 24th of 2022, when Russia invaded Ukraine. We cannot explain "why" Russia invaded Ukraine, ... but we can see how God continues to work for His good, and according to His plan in our lives, and in Ukraine. However, we must say that "God's future" looks different than we had planned.

A continuing commitment: Our goal has always been to continue our work in Ukraine as missionaries and continue to teach at Odessa Theological Seminary. We continue to be involved in, and committed to, our original calling of "Training National Leaders for Ministry". However, the events of the past four years, have forced us to adapt to new ministry situations and opportunities.

Our assessment of the current situation: As the fighting has continued, it has become clear that the situation is not the same as it was when we arrived 30 years ago. God has continued to open new ministry opportunities and the work in Ukraine looks promising, ... but different. We do not know when the war will end, but we do know that it will not be a quick or simple process, and that Ukraine will be a very different country in the future. There is work to be done. There is an open door and pressing need.

The current ministry opportunity: In 1995, our family moved to Ukraine to teach and work in a national Bible college. Today, men age 18-60 are subject to the draft, and recruiting students to study in the college is difficult. Conducting face-to-face classes during air-raids and in a time of war is difficult. (but possible) I have fewer classes than before, but I continue to travel to Ukraine for in-person classes. Although the war has decreased some ministry opportunities, it has created other opportunities to serve God. Many of my students are finding new ways to serve God, in the context of war. The Apostle Paul told Timothy that the things that he had been taught, he should, "*entrust to reliable people, who will also be qualified to teach others.*" (2 Timothy 2:2) We feel this is also our obligation, ... so we are working to transfer ministry to the next generation, while continuing to do our original ministry of training national leaders for ministry.

Bridging the distance: We continue to carry out and be involved with many of the ministry projects that have been a part of our work over the years. But the practical issues of security, health, and how to be most effective, ... often separate Pam and I from the country of Ukraine. We are able to use technology and work on-line to bridge this gap, but during this past year we have found it increasingly effective to rely on a partnership with Regina and Sasha to help bridge the gap. Because Sasha is Ukrainian, he remains unable to leave Ukraine. Our daughter Regina, and their two children, also remain in Ukraine whenever possible. The war has brought our ministry "PARTNERS IN MISSIONS," and their work, referred to as "Hearts 4 Ukraine" closer together. There has always been some degree of overlap and corporation between the two ministries, but that has increased significantly over the past three years. Fifteen years ago, Regina and Sasha set up **Hearts 4 Ukraine**, as a separately registered 501c3 organization committed to ministering to the people of Ukraine.

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Working together: A few weeks before the war began, Pam and I were in the US reporting to churches. As the war clouds began to gather, we gave Regina and Sasha access to our mission bank accounts in Ukraine and directed them to begin preparing for the worst. Over the next several months we worked together with Regina and Sasha to help provide over a hundred thousand dollars in assistance to students, churches, refugees, and for evacuation. From that time forward we have continued to share ministry projects, and this has proven very effective. We continue to rely on this partnership to be able to continue our work in Ukraine.

The future of our ministry in Ukraine: At the end of 2024, Pam and I made the choice to stop receiving a mission salary. This means that we switched from being "paid" missionaries, to doing much of the same work, but doing it as volunteers. We made this choice to provide additional funds for the projects and activities that we wanted to see continue in Ukraine. Our goal is to continue to volunteer and be involved in the same mission work that we have been doing over the past 30 years. But we also hope that Regina and Sasha will continue in the work in Ukraine, long after we are gone.

The present situation: Funds that are received by **PARTNERS IN MISSIONS**, are transferred to Ukraine for special projects and activities through a designated account. Regina and Sasha have access to this account and work with us to carry out projects that are related to our past 30 years of ministry. This is the type of work that we hope to see increase in the future. We hope that the ministry begun by **PARTNERS IN MISSIONS** will be carried on by **Hearts 4 Ukraine** and that you will continue to share in this ministry.



Ray continues to teach classes and this past September traveled to Kenya, where a former student serves as a missionary. Other students serve in neighboring Uganda.

Pam had successful surgery and continues to recover from esophageal cancer.



Hearts 4 Ukraine is a non-profit organization started by Sasha and Regina Kyrlov with the mission of introducing Jesus Christ to the children and families of Ukraine. They serve together with their two daughters, Emily and Evelynina, in Odessa, Ukraine.



Partners In Missions finances for 2025:

<i>Average Monthly Finances January 2025 – December 2025</i>	
Average income:	8,472
Salary	0
Missionary care (including health)	816
Housing	0
Fees, postage, documents	581
Office operations and equipment	794
Travel – internal and external	809
Projects (Crisis fund / mission students)	6,425
Average expenses:	9,425

The purpose of PARTNERS IN MISSIONS is:

"Training National leaders for Ministry, and the production of teaching materials."

The purpose of Hearts 4 Ukraine is:

"Introducing Jesus Christ to the children and families of Ukraine: by ministering to Children through sports, – Adults through Christian education, and – Women through maternity care."

A "project" is a mission activity that aligns with one or both of these ministry purposes, it is able to have a separate budget, and is historically connected to the work and ministry of Ray and Pam Trantham.

Beginning in 2026, PARTNERS IN MISSIONS will report expenses for each mission "project," instead of reporting expenses by general categories. Reports will be made in \$US and based on the "budgeted" amount, with the realization that actual expenses are in UAH with fluctuating exchange rates.

Upcoming Projects: The following is a list of projects planned by PARTNERS IN MISSIONS, which we will work with Hearts 4 Ukraine to achieve in 2026. We continue to be involved in, and committed to, our original calling of "Training National Leaders for Ministry". We urge you to continue to share in this ministry in Ukraine.

A list of Projects for 2026:

- **Office and newsletter:** Even though Ray no longer receives a salary, there are ongoing operational expenses necessary for doing ministry. Ray spends three days a week in an office provided by the church in Corinth, and the Bible college in Odessa continues to provide space for a full office. Computer and other office expenses continue. We continue to produce a regular newsletter and send out monthly receipts.
- **Van and transport in Ukraine:** Because we are in Ukraine for shorter periods of time, the effective use of that time is even more critical. This means public transportation is often not the best option. Humanitarian activity often involves transport of supplies. Transportation costs are necessary for many of our projects. We assist Sasha by helping to cover part of his van and transportation cost.
- **In-person classes and travel:** The need continues for the teaching of in-person classes. This means travel through Moldova and driving into Ukraine. There are occasional needs for travel to other former areas of ministry. Air travel, road transport, housing and accommodations while in Ukraine are also cost.
- **OTS activity projects:** Being a part of the Odessa Theological Seminary faculty, often means we participate in activities associated with the betterment of the Bible college. We continue to participate and assist with general education enhancing activities of our college. These vary throughout the year and are based on need and opportunity.
- **Community building projects:** Our ministry has been carried out in the context of "relationships." Many of these relationships have been cultivated around food and fellowship. Snacks, picnicks, outings and other activities involving college students, faculty, and church members continue to be carried out.
- **Local church ministry projects:** Our local church is located on the college campus and includes many of our faculty and staff. A participation in its ministry with the college remains an important activity. These activities often focus on young people and summer activities, as well as special needs for the elderly.
- **Meeting location and ministry:** Our home across from the Bible college and church has long been a place for youth meetings, student gatherings, and church fellowship and cookouts. Our house has been given over for ministry



Pray for classes as they continue despite a shortage of men.

purposes and a teacher and his family live there rent free. They work with Sasha to use our walled-in yard for summer activities and house for regular youth activities. We have agreed to continue to provide funds for cookouts and church and college gatherings.

- **Youth development:** Because of the war, there has been a decrease in the availability of young adults. This has resulted in a greater reliance on those age 14-17 for doing ministry. Sasha and other former students have been involved in writing and printing material designed to teach and help this age group develop spiritually and become involved in ministry.
- **Humanitarian:** In a broken world there is no limit to the number of needs that can be met. The war brings on many specific needs. The church reaches out in the name of Christ to address many of these needs. We continue to work with the college and local church to meet many humanitarian needs in a way that connects people to the local church.
- **Chaplaincy:** The war has significantly changed the relationship between the church and the military. In the past they were very separated. Churches often have individuals who have recently been drafted into the military, and the church often assist that individual and their family in this difficult time. Non-Christians serving in the military are often open to being ministered to by the church. There has been an explosion of enlisted and volunteer "Christian chaplains" over the past few years. I have personally met with military leaders, as well as chaplains serving in the Odessa area. My academic dean is currently serving as a chaplain, and we continue to assist him in ministering to soldiers.
- **Printing and on-line resource development:** The current situation in Ukraine makes in-person classes more difficult. Over six million people have fled Ukraine, and many others are internally displaced. This makes the need for on-line education especially urgent. Partners In Missions has always had a commitment to the production of educational materials, and we continue this commitment by helping Ukrainians produce and publish these resources.
- **Unplanned projects:** New needs continually arise. Many of these needs are similar to those needs already mentioned. We have set aside some funds for projects and needs that arise unexpectedly.
- **Galya & Stefan:** Galya was one of our first students to move from Ukraine to Uganda. She married a Ugandan and her family continues to live and minister in Bweyale, Uganda. I have visited with her family multiple times in Uganda. Her husband has recently planted a new church in Bweyale.
- **Yana & Santos:** Yana is one of my mission students. Yana was serving in Uganda when the war began and instead of returning to Ukraine, she chose to continue mission work in Uganda. I have visited with Yana multiple times in Uganda. Yana married a Ugandan and is working in a new church plant and ministering to Muslims in her area.
- **Alona:** Alona is one of my mission students who chose to go to Kenya. I have visited with her in Kenya. Alona has worked in an orphanage in Kenya for the past six years.
- **Lena:** Lena is one of my mission students who went to South Korea. She returned to ministry in Ukraine. Lena currently ministers near the front-line of the war. This is her home area.
- **Artom & Natasha:** Artom and Natasha are former mission students. They are now ministering in a difficult area close to the front-line.
- **Nadia:** Nadia is another one of my mission students who was displaced by the war. Nadia now ministers to refugees near the border.
- **Sino:** Sino is a student from Tajikistan that we agreed to admit to our mission program and send back to do ministry in his Muslim country. Sino is now married and continues in ministry in Tajikistan.
- **Lisa:** Lisa is one of my early mission students who went to India and has learned the local language and continue to minister among the poor. Lisa continues to live in India.
- **Other:** There are occasionally times when mission students have special unexpected needs. We set aside some funds for special needs like sickness or travel.

After four years of fighting, the war in Ukraine continues. This has resulted in about six million people fleeing Ukraine, and another four million being displaced as internal refugees.

Although the city of Odessa remains 100 miles from the front line, air raids and drone attacks are a daily occurrence in our area. Power outages last for days, with heat and water also being cut off.

With government resources stretched to the limit, many people are looking to the church to meet basic needs. We are truly thankful for American Christians who are making it possible for Ukrainian churches to meet needs in the name of Christ.



Your generous contributions have opened the door for the local church to help those in need with heating supplies, food, and medicine.





The bridge in the lower right, connects Odessa with the southern part of the country and is a vital supply route in and out of the country. You provided humanitarian supplies for a rural village that was cut off as a result of Russian drone attacks. The picture was taken by Regina as she delivered these supplies to the church for distribution. Some of those supplies are pictured above. Other pictures show voucher cards to the area grocery store for the elderly and needy. We praise God for the open door and opportunity to minister to those in need. Thank you for your support.

