

PARTNERS IN MISSIONS

May 2017

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."

Philippians 1:4-5

Near the end of school, ...

As this school year draws to an end, we are looking towards the summer with plans of church camp and writing class materials for next year.

As the weather warms, spring is a good time for a student trip. It has always been our practice to organize student trips to area churches as a way of exposing students to different church situations and as a chance to give them experience in participating in different services. We recently returned from a seven day trip with twenty people to western Ukraine. It was a seventeen hour bus ride each direction. I have always looked forward to these trips, ... but there is a possibility that I may be getting older. :) When you travel with 20 people, someone is always needing to stop for something.



I remember 21 years ago, when we first arrived in Ukraine being asked to go on a student trip. I asked, "Where will we go, what is the schedule, where will we stay, etc. They said, "Don't worry, be happy." The students meant that they trusted that someone was in charge and had a plan. I now know that is not true. Even after living here for many years, the Ukrainian level of organization and planning is still frustrating. One thing that has changed in twenty years is the number of gas stations. There were no "gas stations" twenty years ago, but instead a few tanker trucks parked along the road and sold fuel when it was available.

Today gas stations are as plentiful in Ukraine as in America and they have all the same conveniences such as coffee, snacks, and restroom facilities. One thing that has not changed is that after the service is over, church members wait around to take a couple of students home for the evening, before we continue on to the next town the next morning. Students preached, sang, and met with the youth group after the services.



Ray and Pam Trantham:

Missionaries in Odessa, Ukraine for the past 22 years

"Training National Leaders for Ministry"



One of our freshmen students preaching

A stop along the side of the road is a good place to buy apples for a snack



May Day, ...

The first day of May is a long awaited holiday in Ukraine because it marks the beginning of Spring. Most of the people living in Odessa, or any large city, live in cramped apartment buildings and have been anxiously awaiting the end of winter. On this day, everyone goes on a picnic and grills out. We invited students over to the house for a cookout and for volleyball.



This was also a time when several of our missionary interns returned from their six months internship in Kirgizstan.



A visit to the emergency clinic and to the vet: Sasha accidentally backed over our dog with the car. When he tried to remove the injured dog from under the car, the injured dog responded by biting him. The bite was rather serious, which meant that as Sasha went to the emergency clinic to have his hand sewed up, we called the vet to attend to the dog's broken leg. The vet said we must first get the dog's leg x-rayed. Where? – At the exact same emergency clinic where Sasha went. When you walk into the emergency clinic carrying a 75 pound dog, --- you do not have to wait in line and the lady on crutches will gladly get out of your way.

(Both Sasha and the dog are recovering nicely.)

Tax-deductible contributions:
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