

PARTNERS IN MISSIONS

November 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

This past Sunday I preached from Matthew 24, where Jesus talks about the end of time and his second coming. Jesus says in Matthew 24:6, "You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come." The conflict on the border with Russia continues, but as Jesus warned; this is not the end. The need and opportunity for ministry continues. When the conflict began three years ago, our Bible college began planning for longer winter breaks to save on heating cost. (Ukraine still buys most of its heating fuel from Russia.) Our college will be doing the same again this year, so we will be spending the winter holidays in the States updating churches about ministry in Ukraine. Our trip to the States is shorter than when we came during the summer, so we will only be able to visit with churches we missed visiting last winter.

Much work remains, ...



We have spent much of our time during the first semester working with our students who are preparing to be Ukrainian missionaries. They have spent the first semester on our campus and will spend the time after Christmas in a six-month internship. In addition to spending each day with these students, I have had regular classes with resident and non-resident students. Even our students, who do not plan to leave Ukraine as foreign missionaries, are required to take an introductory class in World Missions. In this course I stressed the need for the local Ukrainian church to train and support its own national missionaries. In this course, students study how to develop the idea of missions within local churches. I also tell them that I am trying to recruit them to enroll in our mission program and serve as cross-cultural missionaries.

Ray and Pam Trantham:

Missionaries in Odessa, Ukraine for the past 22 years

"Training National Leaders for Ministry"

By the time you receive this newsletter, our mission students will be out raising support from area Ukrainian churches for their internship. Last year the group of students raised a total of \$3,725 from Ukrainian churches for their six-month internship. The internship is part of their education, so all funds raised go towards covering the cost of the group's internship. The internship cost is approximately \$500/month for each student. ... Yes, we do rely on American churches to cover the remainder of the cost for student internships. We want to thank several congregations and individuals who continue to make designated contributions for this vital work.



This is now the last week of class before our mission students spend four weeks raising support and then depart for Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, India, Kirgizstan, and Egypt. One husband and wife team, Vitalii and Olya, will be staying in Ukraine to begin a church planting project in the Odessa area with international students and foreign workers. Olya is seven months pregnant with their first child and we felt it was unwise to send them outside of Ukraine and away from the assistance of her extended family.

Ukrainians celebrate "Harvest Day" with similar ideas to Thanksgiving during the month of October. We invited our young-married-group for an American Thanksgiving meal the Sunday before Thanksgiving and invited the mission students the evening of Thanksgiving. Turkey and sweet potatoes are favorites, but dressing and cranberry sauce are a little strange.



Tax-deductible contributions:
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