

EDITION 2 - SACRIFICE

FAMILIES ON THE EDGE



Take a look at
your map at home.
Can you find
Vinnitsa?

OUR FAMILY IN VINNITSA, UKRAINE

POPULATION 350,000

How it all Began

In 2002, a couple from the Moscow church, Sasha and Jenya Usinskie, gave 18,000 dollars to plant a church in Vinnitsa, Ukraine. They had dreamed about it for a year, because Sasha had relatives there. The church was planted 3 years later in 2005. A week later, the first sister was baptized - Anya. Sasha and Jenya came to her baptism, and cried because they were so happy. That day, Sasha said that if their sacrifice was only for Anya, then it was all worth it! Today, we have 20 faithful disciples in Vinnitsa: 4 married couples, 5 singles, 1 dating couple, and 5 older women. We have 4 children age 1 to 5, and 3 tigers (preteens).

Good News

This year we started a HOPE worldwide project here - We started to take care of socially disabled children from one orphanage located in the countryside, not far from Vinnitsa. Also, thanks to the sacrifice of disciples in their special missions contribution, this year we could hire another couple to work full time in the Ministry. Now, we have 2 full-time couples, and we are grateful and glorify God for that!

Pray for Us!

We are grateful to God that He chose us for His mission. We have a lot of different religious groups in our small city - please pray that we will always hold firm to the teachings of the Bible. We have a dream that the Vinnitsa Church of Christ will become well known here as a church that loves God's Word. Please pray for us!



FUN FACT:

The Ukrainian Air Force is based in Vinnitsa.

MEET YURA AND TANYA

Sacrificing for Western Ukraine

Tanya was a single mom when she became a disciple 14 years ago. Her daughter was 6 years old at the time. Because her daughter had bad health and was often sick, Tanya had to work 3 jobs to have enough money to take care of her child's health. While her daughter was growing up, Tanya was serving the church all the time - they would have Bible talks and rehearsals of the choir in her little 1 room apartment (the room is about 100 square feet). From time to time, some sisters who were in even worse situations would live with them in this very small living space.

Tanya's daughter Lena got baptized in her teens. She is really proud of her mom's courage. Lena, now 20 years old, dreams to be like her mom; she wants to go to other cities to serve and strengthen the churches there.

Six years ago, God blessed Tanya, and she married Yura. Yura and Tanya Shevchenko, both from Kiev, recently decided to devote their lives to bring salvation to the people of Western Ukraine. In 2008, they left their high-paying jobs and sold their house in order to move to Vinnitsa. Their income is now 4 times less than it was in Kiev, but God has made one of their dreams come true - they prayed and fasted for this for 4 years!

Please pray for Yura and Tanya as they start their new life in the city of Vinnitsa!



Yura and
Tanya
Shevchenko

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

"I tell you the truth," Jesus said to them. "no one who has left home of wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life."

LUKE 18: 29-30



Vinnitsa
Church of
Christ

DISCUSSION:

Sacrifice means to give something up for someone else.

What did Yura and Tanya sacrifice? What are you ready to give up for God?

ACTIVITY:

For Younger Children: Look through your old toys and decide on some you are willing to give up for children in need.

For Older Children: Think about someone who has given up something for you. Write them a short note to say thank you.

CHALLENGE:

Decide as a family on something you can give up for one week (or more!) to help support Ukrainian Missions.

Pray for the Church in Vinnitsa.