



An Introduction to Bogdan and Zhenia Zubtsov, Missionaries in Ukraine:

Hello. My name is Bogdan, I am 36 years old, and my wife Zhenia is 32 years old. We have been married for 10 years, and we have 3 children: Stephanie, 7 years old, Thomas, 4 years old and Lionel, 2 years old.

I was born in Ukraine in the small town of Shostka, which is very close to the border with Russia. I was born at 7:00 in the morning, but my lungs were not working. I was pronounced dead. The doctor was distressed.

After 45 minutes God breathed into my body and my lungs began to work. The doctor told my mother he had never seen anything like this happen before. My older sister Lilya gave me the name Bogdan, which means "God gave life."

When I was 19 years old, I studied at the University in Kyiv. I first heard about Jesus Christ when missionaries from Campus Crusade (Sergey, Elina and Ira) came to our dorm room. At first I was not interested. But Sergey came back again and again. After 8 months, I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart. Sergey helped me grow spiritually and join the local church in Kyiv.

After repentance, God gave me healing from cigarettes, alcohol, and from cirrhosis of the liver (Hepatitis C), which had destroyed my liver. The doctors said this was an incurable disease and were shocked when I returned for follow-up visit and the cirrhosis was gone. This is two times that God saved my life.

Some time after my repentance, I came to my parents and shared the Gospel with them and my nephew Dima. Dima believed and followed Jesus. Now Dima is married, and together with his wife Lena, they actively serve students and schoolchildren in my small town where I was born.

When I told my father that I loved him, it was difficult for him to hear because he had never said such a thing to me. I explained to him that Jesus teaches me to love in a new way. When my dad heard about Jesus, he stopped drinking alcohol, living with other women, and he returned to my mother and began a new life.

After graduation from university, I started working at Campus Crusade Ukraine (CRU) with students. The first 3 years I worked in Kyiv, the next 4 years in Donetsk, and then 7 years back in Kyiv. I served with (CRU) for a total of 14 years.

Zhenia and I met when we studied at the same university, we are both mechanical engineers by education, and lived in the same hostel. Zhenia believed in Jesus Christ when she was in her 1st year of study at the university when missionaries from (CRU) came to her room. From the first year of university Zhenia began to follow Jesus. After graduating from university, Zhenia also started serving at (CRU) with students. We dated for 3 years, followed all the (CRU) requirements for dating, and then got married.

Zhenia was born in central Ukraine in the small town of Smila. She has an older sister Lena. Zhenia's dad died at the age of 51, when we were pregnant with our first child, Stephania. He had a stroke and the doctors could not save him. Zhenia's mother works as a teacher at an elementary school.

We have been married for 10 years. We served in (CRU) for 14 years working with students, evangelizing in the dormitories, helping young believers to grow spiritually, to find a local church, to get baptized and actively serve God. We also helped churches develop evangelism and discipleship ministries among students. In addition to our mechanical engineering degrees, we also graduated from the Seminary in Kyiv in 2020. Zhenia and I both have a second education with a Masters in Biblical Counseling.

In our 10 years of marriage Zhenia and I are twice refugees. In 2014, when we worked at (CRU) in Donetsk, Russian troops came to Eastern Ukraine and occupied part of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. We were forced to leave our home in Donetsk, along with our church, our many friends, and many belongings, and move to safety in Kyiv.

Now again in 2022, we and our children left our home when the Russians started bombing the city and Russian tanks arrived in Kyiv. It was very sad and very traumatic for all of us, especially our children, to leave everything familiar, and to leave their grandparents. My parents live with us in the suburbs of Kyiv (the capital of Ukraine), the village of Tarasivka. They are still there now. They are elderly and did not want to leave their home again as refugees.

Now we are learning to build a new life and we don't know when we will be able to return home to Kyiv.

After 14 years at (CRU) God called me to serve with Sergey (who also left CRU). This happened in May 2021.

In 2015, Sergey and Ellina began a new ministry. God gave them a vision and opportunity to buy a plot of land near Kiev, and the opportunity to build the first Christian Academy in all of Europe. The purpose is to use professional sports to reach children with the Gospel and fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ.



Ukraine Christian Sports Academy (UCSA) is being used by God to influence all of Ukraine and its future, to share Jesus with hundreds of teenagers through professional football (soccer to Americans). UCSA also preaches the Gospel to parents and serves orphans in the area.

In 2018, my wife Zhenia (being also a missionary of the CRU, but on maternity leave) started a brand new Education Center at UCSA. Zhenia hired all teachers, ordered all curriculum, and served as Director. The school began with kindergarten students, grew in 2020 to include first grade students, and in fall of 2022 we planned to include second grade students. Right now the school is operating virtually because many of the students are refugees scattered across Europe. All three of our children attend school at the Education Center. The goal of the Education Center is to reach children and families for Christ through quality education, a safe environment and Christian values of raising children.

In 2020, we opened a church on the campus of the Sports Academy. Our pastor Alex is a 4th generation pastor. His father, grandfather, and great-grandfather faithfully served and continue to serve our Lord Jesus Christ. Our church is actively serving the people who live around the Sports Academy. We mentor unchurched families in the area, teaching parents about Jesus and how to raise their children in godly homes. We also organize children's camps, English camps, sports events, and evenings for couples.

My role at UCSA is to run all sports activities connected with the Sports Academy. We currently have over 150 students daily, as well as several hundred students who attend camps weekly all throughout the summer. I work with children, football players, coaches, and parents. My role is to use football to share the Gospel to children and their parents, and educate future professional football players with Christian values. I conduct Bible studies among the trainers, who also then conduct Bible studies with the players. I also meet with parents in the evenings for face-to-face communication.

Now our family is in the USA to share with Americans about the dire situation in Ukraine, about our friends, volunteers, and the many refugees who need your prayers and financial assistance. We believe that the Lord can use you to help Ukraine. Our goal is to raise a significant amount of financial support which can be sent directly into the hands of volunteers we know personally, people who will use those funds to purchase food, medicine, blankets, and resources desperately needed by families who have remained in Ukraine.

Please help us stop the enemy and protect Ukraine, the whole of Europe, and the whole world from fascism and communism, fear and devastation. We are building a strong Ukraine with biblical values, constantly preaching through good deeds and words of salvation through Jesus Christ!

We ask you to think and pray how you can help Ukraine.

Thank you for reading this letter. May Heavenly Father bless you and strengthen your faith.

With love and prayer for you, Bogdan and Zhenia, missionaries in Ukraine

(How can you help? Please read below)