

# JONATHAN & HEATHER POWELL

## MISSIONARIES TO UKRAINE

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*Jonathan and Heather with  
Sasha and Maya*

### GET CONNECTED

Do you receive our monthly email updates? If not, please contact us at [powell@pobox.com](mailto:powell@pobox.com). We would love to be able to share prayer requests and news with you each month.

### ANXIOUSLY AWAITING GIFTS OF TIN

The end of September marks 10 years of our life and ministry in Ukraine, which makes this our “tin anniversary” (25 is silver, 50 is gold). Please, no gifts of spam! Actually, I can’t think of anything made of tin that I want or need, and the 11th anniversary is steel, so maybe we’ll wait until next year to accept gifts (cars are still made of steel, right?).

### A DECADE IN PHOTOS



*The year: 1999. The place: Ukraine. The subjects: Jonathan and Heather. Their status: Completely over their heads with absolutely no idea what they have gotten themselves into.*



*In 2000, we first met Sergey Burkut, pastor of the Berdyansk church. Our partnership with the Berdyansk church has been a blessing through the years.*



*A baptism service in 2001. All baptisms are performed in the Sea of Azov. I love this picture because it is so busy. On the left you see Yulia, a deaf woman, giving the good confession through an interpreter. In the foreground a grandmother returns to shore after being baptized. And in the background, tourists in a paddleboat watch from a “safe” distance.*



When we first arrived in Berdyansk, a small group of young men and women were gathering together weekly for fellowship and prayer. This group grew quickly into a campus ministry. This is a photo from a retreat in 2002.



The deaf ministry has been a blessing, not only in the city of Berdyansk, but in many other cities throughout southeastern Ukraine where we have helped to train interpreters and begin deaf ministries in other churches. In this picture, taken at the Berdyansk city deaf center in 2003, Heather is standing with two deaf members of the Berdyansk church and Maya (the short one in the middle).



A Sunday morning service in Berdyansk in 2004. The word is preached from the pulpit and interpreted for our deaf brothers and sisters.



In 2005 the Berdyansk church purchased tents. Now the annual youth camping trip is one of the highlights of the year. In the years following this picture, three out of the four young ladies in this picture accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Pray for Dasha (on the far right) who has yet to make a decision for Christ.



This picture was taken in 2006 at the church in the village of Dmitrivka. Members from the Berdyansk church work in the villages of Dmitrivka, Lunacharskoye, and Yelisayevka to plant churches.



The campus ministry has produced many leaders. This picture taken in 2007 features two young men, Artyom and Aleg. Artyem is a medical student who is active in the campus ministry. Aleg came through the campus ministry as a student and now he is on the leadership team that runs the campus ministry.

## FAMILY UPDATE

Maya, age 7, is starting second grade and Sasha, age 4, is learning to read. Both girls are taking rhythmic gymnastics this year and Maya continues piano lessons. This month Maya won an award (and one of those oversized huge pencils) in Sunday school. Her teacher said that she was the best at her weekly Bible memory verses and how amazing that is since she is a little American girl and Russian is her second language.

Thank you for your prayers on our behalf. Thank you for supporting our family and the ministry here.

**"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit" — Romans 15:13.**

In closing, here is a poem penned by a friend of ours who has yet to accept Jesus into her life.

*Two little ladies — Sasha and Maya  
Became a part of our hearts imperceptibly.  
They are dear to Ukrainians, Russians  
And obviously to Americans. . .  
The moment they came into our life  
Was it God's work or maybe it happened by chance?  
But every mother and grandmother who know them  
Realizes it's something extraordinary.  
In a strange country  
Despite all this fuss and lack of faith  
There lives a family that does a lot of good  
Forever remaining for most of us  
A great example of humanity and Christianity.*

Your brother in Christ,

Jonathan  
for Heather, Maya, and Sasha



Camps, VBS, Sunday school, picnics, in short — children's ministry. This picture was taken at a week-long camp in the village of Yelisayevka in 2008. Ministry to children is a focus in Berdyansk and in all the villages where we work to plant churches.



Two little ladies, 2009.



Jonathan and Heather Powell

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