

## Connecting People, Nations and Continents for the Great Commission

*“Through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high has visited us. To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” (Luke 1:78-79)*

### MEET THE PEOPLE OF A SOVIET COUNTRY THAT DOESN'T EXIST



Jane Ann and I are blessed to work with some of the most courageous people in all the world. Here are Pastors Yuri and Oksana Semenyuk, with whom we have worked since 2006. They are actually missionaries from Ukraine called to work in Transnistria. TRANSNISTRIA is a thin strip of land wedged between Moldova and Ukraine. It is home to more than 500,000 people and has a parliamentary government, a standing army, and its own currency. But you won't find it on many maps, and not a single member of the United Nations recognizes its existence. But the people of Transnistria do not care. They cling tenaciously to the claim of statehood and their love for all things

Russian. Like many Communist countries, time has stood still there for decades. Being there is like being transported back in time. But Pastor Yuri has a vision to reach this nation for Christ by advancing the Gospel. He and the Christians of Tiraspol are tireless servants who are transforming the country from darkness to light. When Yuri and Oksana first moved to Tiraspol it was a city full of drugs, crime, prostitution and human trafficking. In spite of death threats, beatings and being jailed they made great strides in proclaiming the Gospel. Recently I received an email in which he shared that Vladimir Putin has issued NEW RUSSIAN laws restricting the Church's freedom to preach the Gospel. Of course the Orthodox Church is exempt while the Protestant Church is under severe scrutiny. In September 2018, Gateway Missions will be combining efforts with Water Hose Ministries and Loving People Enough Ministries to return to Tiraspol, Transnistria with a team to minister to the pastors and church leaders there. We are excited about being with our friends again and encouraging them during these difficult times. Please be praying for us and for the people of Transnistria. God ALWAYS shows up where the need is the greatest.



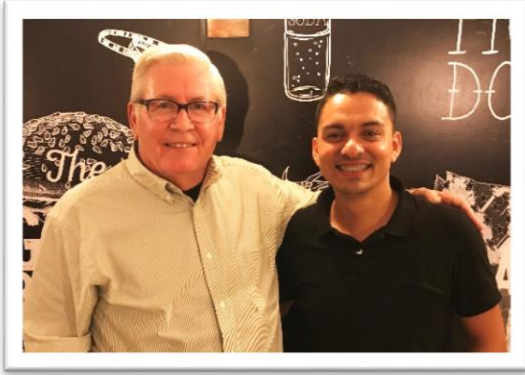
Pictured here (left) is a rendering of the FAMILY CENTER Church in Tiraspol that will be soon be opened to the entire nation. The facility is almost complete (below) and has such a progressive vision for reaching this dark nation. It is enormously fulfilling to be a part of what God is doing in Transnistria with Pastors Yuri and Oksana.



**PS.** Despite the tragic loss of their home earlier this year, due to a suspicious fire, Pastor Yuri and Oksana have faithfully led their family and church in demonstrating courage and faith with the conviction to endure.

If you would like to help with the restoration of their home or the final construction cost of the Family Center you may give a gift to [www.gatewaymissions.org](http://www.gatewaymissions.org) and tag Yuri.

# GOD IS AT WORK IN COLOMBIA



Pictured here with me is Pastor Daniel in Palmira, Colombia. Daniel is a dynamic YOUTH PASTOR and entrepreneur with a big vision for his nation! He currently has two businesses, (one is pictured below), where he intentionally hires non-Christians. His belief is that we are to be salt and light in our communities. His heart is to disciple his employees, with the intention of leading them to Christ and training them to manage his establishments. Secondly, he is a youth pastor with a passion for young people. At the time he was called back into youth ministry, he was pastoring a satellite church established by his home church. The number of youth in his

home church had fallen to only seventy when his pastor contacted him and asked him to return to the main church to build up the youth ministry. Upon his return his pastor told him, "I want you to hold a big concert and draw as many young people as you can." Daniel respectively declined his pastor's request and asked permission to impact the youth ministry through less conventional methods. Instead, Daniel challenged the youth to learn to fast and pray. Their primary focus was to develop a deeply personal relationship with God. Does it work you may ask? The results speak for themselves. Daniel started with seventy young people and less than a year later there are three hundred young disciples!



After spending a day last October with local senior pastors in Palmira, we were asked to return in 2019 to train and equip more pastors and church leaders throughout the city. Surely God is on the move and at work in Colombia!

Thank you for partnering with us to make eternal investments in Christian pastors and leaders who have a strategic mission to make Jesus known in their nations. Your prayers and support are so vital and appreciated as we endeavor to empower these servant-leaders to further the Gospel and see the Great Commission fulfilled.

**TO GIVE A YEAR END GIFT: <https://gatewaymissions.org/donate/>**

In this Advent season Jane Ann and I give thanks for you and for your love and support. Christmas is a time when we take stock of our blessings and reach out to those who have touched our lives. Your friendship and partnership are wonderful gifts to us. May the blessings of Christ be yours now and in the coming year.

Running the race to win,

Gary and Jane Ann Casey

## 2018 Ministry Schedule

- Ecuador
- Cuba
- Transnistria
- Colombia

## Gateway Missions Results

**2006 - 2017**

Pastors Trained.....22, 997  
Salvations.....3,757  
Youth Pastors Trained...1,848

*Your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. All funds are used for designated projects and for the total ministry of Gateway Missions.*