

Missionary profile: Scott and Jenni Rainey

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Scott and Jenni Rainey are missionaries serving in the CIS Field (Commonwealth of Independent States, or the former Soviet Union) since April 2012. They are based out of Kiev, Ukraine. Scott is involved with discipleship, leadership development and pastoral mentoring across the field.

Previously, the Rainey's pastored local churches in the U.S. from 1994-2003. They have two children: Bekah, 9, and Sarah, 5.

Engage: How did you first recognize God's call to be involved in missions?

Scott: My heart has leaned toward missions since I was a teenager. While I had never felt a call to go and serve as a missionary, we always wanted to serve God's Church with missions at the forefront. At the start of 2011, while I was serving as lead pastor in Houston, I began to feel that God was going to bring a change in my life away from pastoring the local church. In October 2011, at a Eurasia mission conference, we were asked to consider coming as missionaries to the CIS to develop and mentor pastors. After a month of fervent prayer, we knew that God was saying, "This is the way of obedience and peace for you." We gladly said "yes" again to our Sovereign Savior and within two months our journey began.

Engage: What is your favorite aspect of what you do in your present assignment?

Scott: I love to "rub shoulders" with the pastors across the field, spending time in their homes and their churches, training through informal conversations, and challenging them to follow God with boldness, integrity, and conviction.

Engage: What are some of the challenges that you face in carrying out your work?

Scott: I face challenges of distance and time. Our field includes 12 countries. The Church of the Nazarene currently ministers in six of them. Our churches exist across four time zones and two thousand miles. The balancing act of raising a family of two small children in Kiev while meeting the demands of visiting our churches and pastors is a constant challenge. Our greatest challenges, however, are fighting the constant attacks of the enemy (the devil) against Christ's Church. These attacks come in many forms: from government limitations and laws from the outside to internal mistrust and dissention from the inside.

Engage: Please share a story of a significant event or moment that has happened in your current assignment.

Scott: In the summer of 2013, I was asked to be the speaker at the Ukrainian district youth camp. One hundred youth from all over the country of Ukraine gathered near the Sea of Azov for a week of camp. On our final night together, I shared the simple gospel message and called the young people to give their hearts to Jesus and repent of their sins. One third of the camp (34 young people) responded and came forward to the altar to seek God's forgiveness and grace.

Engage: How do you maintain a close relationship with God and your family in the midst of the demands of missionary service?

Scott: My first mentor in ministry used to tell me, "You are never stronger in ministry than you are in your alone time with God." I continually develop my relationship with God through daily Bible reading, prayer, private worship, and accountability relationships with close friends. As a newer missionary with



deep relationships still forming on the field, I keep an accountability relationship with a friend from the States via Skype.

I maintain our family relationships by making and taking time for monthly dates with my wife and both daughters. We also take "adventures" together, exploring our city and country as personal and ministry time permit. After traveling alone, I try to always have a

"re-entry" day back into our home where I avoid meetings and work. My oldest daughter attends an international Christian school. We use public transportation to take her to school and return her to our home each day. I take her to school and my wife picks her up, giving us some special time with her each day. Jenni homeschools our youngest daughter.

Engage: What are the rewards of what you do?

Scott: The greatest rewards in our ministry are lost people finding Jesus and a unified church moving forward together to accomplish the mission of the church.

Engage: What are some aspects of the culture where you live that you have come to love or embrace?

Scott: We enjoy the relational aspect of the culture in the CIS. We love the fact that people are outside walking everywhere. There are always people gathered, sitting, standing, and talking in parks and along the streets. We also enjoy the slow pace that is found particularly in restaurants. When you go to a restaurant, it is quite normal to stay and talk for a couple of hours.

Engage: What do you like to do for fun?

Scott: We go to the zoo, take long walks to explore, visit the beautiful sites of our city, play games, watch movies at our apartment and read.

Engage: What is something people would be surprised to learn about you?



Scott: I moved 14 times (seven different states) before I was 18 years old.

Engage: What advice would you have for others exploring a possible call to missions, or embarking on their first missionary assignment?

Scott: There is no greater place to be than in the center of God's will. Be sure of your call so that when the hard times come, you can fall back on what you know God asked you to do. Stay close to God, love the people, and stay on your knees.