

*Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine*  
*Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God,*  
*we do not lose heart.*  
2 Corinthians 4:1

February 2, 2012

Dear Prayer Partners:

Greetings from Odessa! **I arrived in Ukraine January 18.** Thank you for praying for my dad and my brother. Dad's condition stabilized enough for me to leave, having found resources to facilitate Tom's care for Dad at home. **We transferred Dad into a faith-based Hospice in Greenville SC,** which is providing excellent help!

At 6:30 this morning it was **5 degrees below 0F outside and 60 inside!** The government controls the heat and hot water in these Soviet-era apartment buildings. Odessa does not have such a deep freeze too often, but it has lasted about a week. Last Thursday afternoon I was seeing patients in the unheated cement-block auditorium in New Kubanka, with a small space heater trying to stave off the cold. I became mildly **hypothermic**, something that has not happened in several years, and was ill Thursday evening and Friday. I think the various health issues that assailed me in 2011 have made it more difficult for me to tolerate the extreme cold. Thank the Lord that He did not send me to Siberia! It is supposed to warm up to the upper 20's tomorrow. **Please continue to pray for my health.**

**The urgent prayer request is for my visa.** The association of churches that has given me a letter of invitation for a long-term visa the last few years has now been told by the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture that they can invite only pastors! It took my lawyer in Kiev 2 months to find that out. So I am back to square one, to **find an organization that can officially invite me** under the new laws of the country. I can be in Ukraine for 90 days without a visa, but then would have to leave the country for 90 days. **We must resolve this issue by April 16, or I will have to leave Ukraine.**

What a comfort to know that **our great sovereign Almighty God is in control.** The Russian word for "almighty" means "The One Who holds everything". If He wants me to stay in Ukraine, He will make a way. As 2 Cor 4:1 says, it is by His mercy that He has given me this ministry. He loves the poor village patients more than I do! He has a plan for them and for me. **Please pray for His direction!**

There have been many issues demanding my attention since my return. Pray for wisdom and grace as I seek God's will for the various ministries with which I am involved. **Maybe YOUR church would like to help Pastor Anatoliy Cherepinskiy** with his wonderful ministry of outreach from the Philadelphia Church in Odessa to the village of **Limaniy**. Anatoliy is concerned that they may have to disband the village ministry because the city church can no longer afford to support it. Could you provide some financial assistance? **Would your church like to become a sister church to Limaniy?** Write me for more information.

*Leaning on The Rock, Miriam*