

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

Be not afraid; only believe.

Mark 5:36

March 3, 2012

Dear Prayer Partners:

What powerful words Jesus spoke to Jairus, whose daughter had just died! **Faith can drive out fear!** So many situations in our lives can cause fear. But if that fear motivates us to pray in faith, then the Lord gives peace (Phil 4:6-7). *Fear cannot persist in the face of Jesus' all-surpassing peace!*

While waiting so many weeks for a **letter of invitation**, only for it to be rejected by the Ukrainian government, I was tempted to fear. Both a letter from a religious organization and an official letter from the Ukrainian Ministry of Culture are necessary to obtain a religious visa. But God laid it on the heart of a Christian lawyer to make contact with the Baptist Union, which agreed to give me and Holly letters of invitation! **Please pray the next couple of weeks as these new letters must go back to the Ministry of Culture.** In faith, Holly and I have purchased tickets to fly to Budapest March 26 to apply for new **visas**. When we return April 2, we begin the complicated process to get a one-year **temporary residency permit**. There is **still much to pray about!**

My father's condition continues to deteriorate. My brother Tom is still caring for Dad at home, and hopes to do so until God takes Dad to heaven. **Pray for Tom** to have enough strength and enough help, and **peace for Dad** while his health fails. Since I was with Dad for a month around Christmas, I am not planning to return to the US until his home-going. **Pray for God's timing.** It is wonderful to trust a sovereign God who loves us and has a perfect plan that will be best for all concerned.

It is such a joy to be back in village clinics. In **Shamanovka**, Maria was eager to tell me that her daughter **Sveta is now showing interest in the gospel!** Maria and her daughter-in-law Natasha were baptized last fall. Her sons Sasha and Igor are following the Lord. Her other daughter Katya and husband Sasha have professed faith in Christ! Natasha's mom, another Maria, told me she too has prayed for God's forgiveness. It is exciting to see the Lord at work, changing hearts in this tiny village! This reminds me of the message Lonya preached during our visit to North America last fall. He talked about Biblical joy in the midst of persecution and suffering, as well as in salvation. **The angels in heaven rejoice when one sinner repents!** We may not see huge numbers coming to salvation in Ukraine, but our Good Shepherd rejoices on finding just one lost sheep. **Pray for maturity of faith in this group of new believers and for others to repent.**

Thank you for praying for the ministry in **Limaniy**. I received several inquiries about the needs. Continue to pray for their **financial needs** to be met and for a **sister church** relationship with an American church. Pastor Anatoliy is encouraged by the possibilities. He is expanding his ministry into adjoining villages and to a nearby home for the elderly. **Pray for the ministry of Anatoliy and Alla and for patients in clinic to be saved.**

March 15-17, Carolyn Rice will be teaching a seminar for leaders in post-abortion ministry. These ladies will then be able to lead small groups in the Bible study for healing from trauma secondary to abortion: "Forgiven and Set Free". Carolyn will take another small group through "**Forgiven and Set Free**" **March 20-24**. Pray for our **new organization "Choose Life!"** as we prepare documents for registration with the government, launch our post-abortion recovery ministry, recruit volunteers, **identify and train a Ukrainian director (key to success)**, find and furnish a location for our counseling center, and get ready for **opening in Feb/March 2013**. It seems impossible humanly, but **God is able!**

Leaning on The Rock, Miriam