

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

*He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me
has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment,
but has passed from death into life.*

John 5:24

June 12, 2012

Dear Prayer Partners:

Alyona called me Saturday and tearfully exclaimed, “**Oleg is dying!**” This is a horrible phone call for any doctor to receive, but especially here where little can be done in local hospitals in this situation. **Alyona is the leader I am mentoring in the post-abortion Bible study “Forgiven and Set Free” (FSF).** She was supposed to teach the lesson on depression Monday night, but instead she was sitting beside the body of her dead husband. Lonya, Luba and I went to see Oleg and Alyona Saturday and found him the final stage of cirrhosis of the liver, complications from his days of alcohol and drug abuse. Oleg had professed salvation years ago, but had quit coming to church. **Saturday he prayed to repent of his sins and receive Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior!** God mercifully took him home to heaven Monday morning. **Today was his funeral,** where many unsaved relatives heard Lonya proclaim the truth of John 5:24—believers have everlasting life! **Pray especially for the salvation of Alyona’s mother** who has lived with them for years and has heard the gospel many times. Alyona is showing strong faith in the face of her grief.

After talking to Alyona, I called **Nadya**—the other lady I’m mentoring. She agreed to lead the FSF Bible study Monday night. **She called me Monday that her dad fell sick Sunday!** Satan does not want us to teach these ladies the Scriptural truth for how to overcome depression. **I called our students to reschedule the study for Wednesday night. I will lead it, if neither Nadya nor Alyona can come. Please pray for victory!** It has been wonderful to watch these ladies blossom as they assimilate God’s truth to overcome years of anger, guilt, lack of forgiveness and depression related to their abortions. We will be finishing the study in the next 3-4 weeks.

Also Monday, a missionary called me, frantic about her dad being very short of breath on the last day of their visit to Ukraine. Praise the Lord, that I was able to treat him easily so that they could still make their Tuesday flight back to the US. **These visiting parents are not believers, and my compassionate treatment (free of charge!) motivated them to ask many questions about faith. Pray for their salvation.** You never know when the Lord will give an opportunity to share the good news.

It has been that kind of month! After 5 trans-Atlantic trips in the space of 6 months, my dad’s illness and death, and my own health problems, I was exhausted when I returned to Ukraine early May. Recuperating from jet lag was unusually difficult, along with diving back into ministry responsibilities with little reprieve. **Please pray that God will give me a couple of weeks in July for R&R.**

It has been such a blessing to get back into village clinics. **In Limaniy, one lady shared how her husband had trusted Christ as Savior after years of clinic visits and talks with Pastor Anatoliy.** In Sahanskoye, God saved the life of one of our church members who was badly burned when a pot of boiling water fell on her legs. I had to treat her by telephone calls with pastor Styopa, but God took care of her! **In Vasilivka, Maria still grieves for her husband but she is reading God’s Word on her own and told me she is trusting Christ alone.** Pastor Lonya has spent a lot of time with our friends in Shamanovka who are following Jesus. One family meets each evening to pray and read Scripture together! **Sveta, whose husband told her to have nothing to do with it, is determined to trust the Lord but is not coming to services to appease her husband. Pray for victory there!** Sasha and Katya are preparing for baptism this fall.

We had a good meeting May 19 to talk about post-abortion ministry. One pastor's wife was reduced to tears as she grasped the significance of the painful struggle facing even believing women after abortions. **Nila gave public testimony for the first time about how God healed her in the December FSF group.** At age 65 and a long-time Christian, she didn't think she needed such a study. But she shared how much God taught her and how He healed her of the insomnia she had suffered for many years after her abortions! Several ladies shared how God had helped them through FSF. Five more ladies gave me applications to become small group leaders for the FSF Bible study. **Pray for Holly and me as we evaluate their applications, interview them in the next few weeks, and help them plan for new FSF groups this fall.**

Nadya (my FSF "mentoree") asked me to speak to her ladies' group at the "House of Prayer" church May 27. After a typical 2-hour Sunday morning service, 30 ladies stayed for this meeting. I explained to them the problems that can occur following abortion that affect even believers. **One lady told me "I still feel the guilt and burden of my abortion 20 years ago, even after confessing my sin to Christ and receiving salvation".** This is a frequent response here. The pastor's wife was thrilled with the meeting and very supportive of their starting a post-abortion ministry in their church. **Nadya told me later that six ladies have already asked to be in a FSF group this fall!** An unexpected blessing at this church was seeing one of my patients from the **Bocharova clinic.** This man had been traveling a long way to see me each month for treatment for several years. Initially he was not interested in the gospel, but he did accept a pastor's phone number. **Two years ago, he started attending this church and received Christ as his Savior! Praise the Lord!**

Holly and I continue to fight our way through the dense red tape to get a one-year residency permit to stay in Ukraine. Hopefully, we will get our "propiska" in a couple of weeks, a necessary housing document. All other documents are ready. But our special 45-day visa for this purpose has expired! Our contact thinks we will have to leave the country again to get a new visa. **Pray that we might be able to submit our application for the residency permit without another visa trip. That would take God's miraculous intervention!**

Thank you so much for interceding for me before our Father's throne of grace and mercy. He does hear and answer prayer! *Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith* (Hebrews 12:1-2).

*Leaning on The Rock,
Miriam*