

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

"Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed before the king of Assyria, nor before all the multitude that is with him; for there are more with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles."

2Chronicles 32:7-8

August 2, 2012

Dear Prayer Partners:

Greetings from Krakow, Poland! **I am here to get a new visa for Ukraine**, a process which has turned into quite a saga! When I returned in May from Dad's funeral, my previous single-entry visa was cancelled. I entered Ukraine under the rule that Americans can be there up to 90 days without a visa. Those 90 days expired, so **I had to leave Ukraine even though the documents necessary for obtaining a visa were not yet ready**. The Ministry of Culture decided to change the format of the initial letter of invitation from our partnering organization, to require us to get a letter signed by the governor of the Odessa oblast, and to get clearance from the Security Service (the former KGB)! Ira, our Church Ministries Institute secretary, got all this done and shipped the documents from Odessa yesterday, so I should receive them here Friday. Then I will go to the Ukrainian Consulate Monday morning to officially apply for the visa. **Please pray the documents will arrive in time and that the Consulate will grant me a visa**. Some of you knew about some very anxious moments during this saga, when I wondered whether I would get to stay in Ukraine. God continues to help us, fight our battles and give victory! **Our Almighty Creator is greater than any government**.

July is vacation month for my clinic assistants, so I thought I would have some down time. But my washing machine and refrigerator both broke down, so had to replace those. My apartment also had some electrical and plumbing issues requiring repairs. Now while I'm gone a crew is repairing the wall the plumber had to tear into to get to the necessary pipes! I've been in touch with Ukraine every day since coming to Poland Monday to work through all of these issues. Hopefully, I will have a couple of days this weekend to truly relax, once the documents arrive. **Please continue to pray for my health**.

We completed the course "**Forgiven and Set Free**" July 2. Alyona, the leader whose husband died, joined us for the last two sessions. **What a victorious finish!** It was a huge blessing to hear both of our participants testify to God's healing and cleansing through this study of His Word. I did teach the lesson on depression as neither Alyona nor Nadya could be there, and God richly blessed that evening. Alyona, Holly and I went to Tairova (on the south side of Odessa, an hour's drive from where I live), to meet with the ladies who plan to start a FSF group there this fall. **We met with Ira in Builik by Skype, rejoiced together in God's work this summer, and made plans for the three FSF groups that will be meeting this fall**. I interviewed five candidates for group leader in July, all of whom will be involved in the pro-life ministry. **Please pray for us as we meet August 11, to again share the goals of "Choose Life" with representatives from more churches**. This is another reason why it is important I receive my visa Monday! **Pray for the FSF group leaders as they interview potential participants in September**. Thank the Lord for these co-laborers.

Please pray for a medical team who will be with me September 7-22. More details next time. *Thank you for your prayer support and encouragement. You are making a difference!*

*Leaning on The Rock,
Miriam*