

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

*" As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the LORD is proven;
He is a shield to all who trust in Him.*

*For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?
It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect.*

Psalm 18:30-32

August 15, 2012

Dear Prayer Partners:

I am back in Odessa, with my new "type D" visa stamped in my passport! Thank you so much for your prayers. I did receive my documents in Krakow on time. Monday the worker at the consulate of Ukraine looked at my letters of invitation and said that neither included a request for a "long-term" visa. He told me to call the office of the Odessa oblast governor to ask them to fax him an addendum with this information. But the governor's office said they had given me their new standard letter for foreigners and refused to send any more information. The Philadelphia Church was very accommodating in e-mailing me a new letter. Tuesday I returned to the consulate, explained the situation and gave him the new letter. After he consulted with someone, he said they would give me a visa! *All glory to our Sovereign God for His work on my behalf.*

Now the next step is applying for a one-year residency permit. This new visa is only good for 45 days, and there are problems with my apartment's documents. A certain type of housing document is necessary, in addition to a stack of other documents. So pray for God's help to get everything done in a timely fashion. I will probably have to get an extension to the visa, but pray that the Lord will allow me to get the residency permit so that I don't have to go through the visa process yet again! It would be wonderful to have a year to not wonder whether I will be allowed to stay in Ukraine.

Please pray for a medical team who will be serving in Ukraine September 7-21: Dr. James Oakman, ophthalmologist, his son Robert, and nurses Sharon Berbin and Stefanie Powers. My colleague Holly Friesen FNP will be working with us too. Life has been so crazy for me this year, that I do not feel like I have done a good job of orienting this team. Thankfully, Dr. Oakman has been here numerous times, so he knows the system and has been able to share with the others. Something new we are doing is spending a few days in Cherkassy with Victor Sinelnikov, a translator who has been working with my medical teams more than 10 years. Then we will be helping new church plants in Kharkov for a few days to finish the first week. **Pray especially for the pastors at these new clinic sites as they invite patients and prepare for the team's ministry.** The second week we will serve villages where I do regular clinics in the Odessa area. **Pray for us who will be caring for patients to have God's wisdom and grace for long tiring days and for our patients to have receptive hearts to the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.**

I wish you could have been a fly on the wall at an exciting meeting Saturday! All the leaders for small groups who will be studying "**Forgiven and Set Free**" this fall met together. I asked those who led groups this spring to tell the new leaders what they learned about being leaders and how this was different from being a participant. It was such a blessing to hear some things the Lord had taught them, how He was growing them as leaders, and how passionate all these ladies are about this ministry of healing from abortion trauma. **Pray for them as they prepare their own hearts and minds, recruit participants, do interviews with potential participants in September, and start their groups in October.**

*Leaning on The Rock,
Miriam*