

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine
"I press toward the mark
for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus".
Philippians 3:14

March 9, 2013

Dear Prayer Partners:

Pressing on in Odessa! God has called each of us to a ministry personally designed for us, and He has promised the strength necessary to fulfill His purpose. And He promises rewards in heaven in addition to the unmatched privilege of being with Him. That prize is worth all the trouble down here! Thank you for praying for me to have God's wisdom and grace for all the challenges. After being ill with vertigo the most of February, God has given me ten days free of that illness! I re-started a treatment I had taken a few years ago, and it seems to be helping again. Thankfully I have been able to get a lot of computer work done, even while sick.

Upcoming events needing your prayer support:

- ✠ March 23: Carolyn Rice arrives for two weeks of teaching post-abortion ministry.
- ✠ March 26: Seminar on using "Forgiven and Set Free" as a tool for evangelism
- ✠ March 28-30: Training of leaders for FSF small groups
- ✠ April 2-6: Intensive FSF course
- ✠ April 15-19: Clinics in Kharkov area with nurse practitioner Diane Whitcomb
- ✠ April 22-26: Clinics in Odessa area with Diane
- ✠ April 30—May 6: Jim Simmons, associate pastor at my sending church, visiting
- ✠ May 5: Easter in Ukraine
- ✠ May 9-11: conference for Christian health care professionals in Kiev

The group studying "**Forgiven and Set Free**" with which I am working is going well. One lady has done such a great job assimilating the teaching principles, that I have invited her to the leadership training seminar. Another lady had really been struggling with the guilt of her abortions. She said it felt like a "**heavy stone sitting on her heart**". As a medical student, she did not feel she could handle a pregnancy, so she had an abortion nearly every year. She was taught that the first 3 months, the pregnancy was nothing but an inanimate glob of tissue. It was not until many years later, when she became a Christian that she realized she had killed her own children, made in the image of God. The burden of this guilt overwhelmed her, destroyed her marriage and her relationship with her two living children. Just this past Monday, after weeks of studying Biblical principles, she fully grasped the magnitude of God's love and forgiveness for her personally. As she prayed, she recognized that Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross truly removed ALL her guilt and punishment. We watched in awe, as she wept and prayed, then joy swept over her face in a way we had not seen before! **She was truly "set free"!**

Carolyn Rice will be training new leaders for facilitating small groups to study "Forgiven and Set Free" and encouraging current leaders. Now that we have taken 36 ladies through this course in Odessa, we want to use this material to start reaching out to nonbelievers, those floundering in

darkness of sin and despair without the light of Jesus Christ. I am excited about our day March 26 to discuss with current leaders **how to use FSF in evangelism.**

Plans for the dental team in April have totally changed. Three out of four dentists had to withdraw from the team! There is no way one young dentist fresh out of school could handle the heavy load of patients, so I made the difficult decision to **postpone the team** to the fall. My village patients are very sad! **Please pray for them, that this change of plans will not impact their view of the love and faithfulness of our great God.** We can accept such things from His sovereign hands, but it is hard for those who don't have a personal relationship with Him.

Diane Whitcomb, a family nurse practitioner who has been in Ukraine before, will join me in **Kharkov** for a week of evangelistic clinics there with David and Penny Winget. **Pray even now for the Lord to prepare the hearts of our patients to receive His Word.** This will be a sad time for me, because this will be the last medical trip with the Wingets. They are leaving Ukraine this summer to pioneer a new ABWE ministry in Bulgaria.

I was in **Sahanskoye** Feb 19 at our regular clinic. Pastor Lonya drives us there, preaches a short message with the patients waiting for us in the morning, shares the gospel with various patients throughout the day, and mentors the church leaders there. This clinic has gotten really busy the last couple of years, as more people from other villages come. We often care for 60-70 patients in one day. **Vladimir** has been coming in a horse cart over the windy dirt roads through the fields from his village for a few years. When I examined him, I realized his heart failure was worsening and I wondered how much longer this elderly man has remaining on earth. He was very open to the gospel, so I asked Lonya to talk to him. **He prayed to trust Jesus as His personal Savior!** He begged Lonya to come to his village as he knew others who are hungry for the Truth. Lonya talked to Styopa and Misha about planning a time to go there.

Thank you for praying for Pastor Anatoliy and his wife Alla and their ministry in **Limaniy** and neighboring villages. God laid it on the hearts of some to help care for their financial needs for the next few months. Praise the Lord!

Please pray for the village of **Valentinovka**. Patient numbers had been dwindling the past year, as patients did not want to walk to the house were using on the outskirts of the village. **Volodya**, the pastor in nearby Makarovo, has been searching for a house we could buy near the center of the village to use for Bible studies and clinics. Several patients have trusted Christ as Savior and Volodya needs to start a regular teaching ministry there. One man already decided not to sell his house to those cultic Baptists! **Pray for God to make a house available in a good location.**

*You can see that my schedule is really packed in the next couple of months. Pray for God's wisdom and grace to use my time and energy wisely and to fulfill His purpose for me each day. Pray for all the visitors coming to Ukraine to be a blessing and to be open to God's work in their lives. Pray for more patients to come to know the joy and grace of Jesus' salvation. **Thank you for your prayers and financial support that make this ministry possible!***

*Clinging to The Rock,
Miriam*