

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

*"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:
not as the world giveth, give I unto you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*

John 14:27

September 7, 2013

Dear Prayer Partners:

Wednesday evening I shared a devotional with our pro-life steering committee, **"Fear not"**. How often throughout Scripture, God replaces fear with courage and peace. Fear is so common to the human condition that He has to remind us many times! It has taken two years, but "Choose Life!" is now a legally registered humanitarian organization in the Odessa oblast (state). We have had a few scares along the way. Just this week, a reviewing lawyer took issue with some goals listed in our constitution, and threatened to deny us tax-exempt status. But our lawyer and our Ukrainian board successfully argued our case Thursday, and the tax inspector gave us that status. **Praise the Lord!**

Another wonderful answer to prayer is that God has already given us a Ukrainian director for the pregnancy care center. Holly and I were planning to observe volunteers in the first year of the counseling ministry (2014) to see who has leadership potential. Luba Abramova has been a translator for my medical ministry for over 5 years. She has translated post-abortion seminars, and has been on our steering committee since the beginning. Last spring, the Lord touched her heart deeply while translating for the Bible study "Forgiven and Set Free", as she heard the testimonies of women damaged by abortion. About the same time, she agreed to become the legal director of "Choose Life", since that position has to be a Ukrainian. Holly and I talked to her last week, and she agreed to become the director of the PCC! Holly will be mentoring her for the first year. We are thrilled that the Lord has given us such a godly gifted partner in ministry!

Tomorrow, September 8, is our first presentation in a local church to **recruit volunteers for "Choose Life"**. In September and October, we hope to present the ministry in 12 different churches. Talented Ukrainian artists are producing a short video and a beautiful PowerPoint presentation for us. True to the flexibility of Ukrainians' perception of time, it is 10pm Saturday night, and I am still waiting for the final versions of both programs! But I believe we will have an excellent presentation tomorrow morning at Tabernacle Baptist Church. **Please pray for all of us who will be involved in doing the presentations, that our message will be clear. Pray that God will touch many hearts to participate in this ministry.**

September will also find us searching for an office for the counseling center. *Please pray that God will lead us* to a facility big enough, affordable, close to public transportation and easy to find by pedestrians. In October, we will be starting another series of **FSF small groups**. Pray for the Lord to send us ladies who need this help. Those who wish to be PCC counselors and who have had abortions are required to go through FSF.

Please pray for my health, as I have had multiple episodes of vertigo over the past three weeks. God gave me a refreshing vacation in July, so this vicious siege surprised me. It has been challenging to get everything done, lead meetings, do clinics, while fighting illness. God's grace is indeed sufficient, and His peace replaces fear! Thankfully, Holly returned from furlough in August, so she has been a huge help. **Pray for two dentists, a family physician and his friend, who are coming to do village clinics September 23-27.** One dentist broke her foot a month ago, so pray for her stamina especially. **Pray for patients' hearts to be open to the gospel** through this outreach.

Thank you for upholding this ministry and me in prayer!

Clinging to The Rock, Miriam