

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

"God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain."

Revelation 21:4

October 6, 2013

Dear Prayer Partners:

Greetings from a wintry Odessa! The government does not turn on the heat in our apartments until October 15, so right now it is 37° outside and 58° inside my apartment. Thank the Lord for electric space heaters and flannel sheets! I am glad we had good weather while **the dental team was here September 23-27**. We cared for 300 patients in 5 days. God sent us a hard-working experienced couple—Scott a general dentist, and Monica an oral surgeon. It was great to work with family physician Tim Murphy who has been in Odessa numerous times to cover my furloughs. He brought his non-medical friend Craig who fascinated kids with balloon animals and shared the gospel with many patients. Our longest day was in Sahanskoye where we saw 100 patients and spent 5 hours on the road. Pastor Lonya was such a trooper as he drove a van every day, led our morning worship services before clinic, mentored church leaders we visited, made home visits, and spent time talking to patients about their spiritual needs. **Pray for the salvation of patients who came to the clinic for the first time to see a dentist and got to hear about the hope Jesus Christ gives us for eternal life.**

A highlight for me was visiting my paraplegic friend Angela and her family. **Angela said that she is trusting Jesus as her Savior!** She had been dealing with fear and depression, but that is much improved. She recited John 3:16 from memory and requested a large-print New Testament. Her sister called their other sister and friend to come while we were there. Angela asked Lonya if it were true that she would be able to walk in heaven. What a joy to reassure her about the wonders awaiting us in eternity! They all listened attentively as Lonya shared the Gospel. **Pray for her sisters' salvation.**

Another highlight was in the village of Limaniy where two young men came to clinic for the first time. They both were in their late 20's but had already smoked for more than 10 years. Both had medical problems caused or worsened by cigarettes, but didn't see how they could quit. I often send men to the local pastor at clinic to talk about God's strength that can vanquish any bad habit. Unfortunately, few men are interested in spiritual help. But both of these young men talked seriously to Pastor Anatoliy. **Pray for their salvation.**

Please continue to **pray for a house to become available in Valentinovka** that we can buy to use for clinics and Bible studies. It would be nice to have a warm place for clinics this winter! **Pray for Pastor Volodya** from Makarovo that he would be able to start a regular Bible study there. Volodya is responsible for the church in Makarovo and ministries in surrounding villages, as well as running a large farm. Pray for wisdom, grace and physical strength for him.

Berdinovo is another small village near Makarovo, where I have been doing clinics for about 10 years. The past few years we have been transporting patients from there to the church in Makarovo for clinic, since there was no house available in the village. That is not ideal as so many more would like medical help and cannot make the trip. Recently we heard there is now a **house for sale** on the main road. Pray for us Tuesday as we consider this option, and our driver checks out this house. This has been one of our most fruitful villages as many patients have trusted Christ as Savior, but there is no gospel witness in the village. **Pray for God to send someone there to preach the Word!**

This ministry would not be possible without God's grace and your prayers and financial support. Thank you. The Lord has given me four vertigo-free weeks! I will tell you about the pro-life ministry in the next update.

Clinging to The Rock, Miriam