

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath."

James 1:19

November 16, 2013

Dear Prayer Partners:

Anger was the theme for our lesson this morning in our study of "**Forgiven and Set Free**". This Biblical course for women suffering the after-effects of abortion touches upon many important issues for all of us who desire to become like Jesus. Sveta admitted that she often responds in anger to her employees, but she did not know how to stop. What a joy to see her repentant spirit and her eagerness to hear Biblical principles and apply them! I remember a wise Bible teacher who summarized this verse in James as "Listen to understand, not to speak". In teaching this principle to the group today, I was also reminding myself. Listening is such an important way of showing Christ's love for another person. Often we are just waiting for the other person to finish talking, so we can jump in with our ideas. As believers, we should listen patiently so we can truly understand the other person's viewpoint. As we wait to formulate our words and pray for God's help in our response, any budding anger will dissipate. I use this principle every clinic day while seeing difficult patients!

I am mentoring Laryssa while co-leading this small group with her. **Pray for wisdom for me to help her become a better leader, and for our participants to find God's healing for their hurts.** Two women in the beginning were not sure if they needed this course. It is great to see the Lord working in their hearts. Luda read the list of symptoms of "post-abortion stress" and exclaimed, "I had no idea that what I am feeling could be related to my abortions!" Raiy tried to maintain her stoic demeanor, but she crumpled in tears when I showed them a model of a 12-week fetus last week and finally understood in her heart that her abortions truly had killed individual children. We are halfway through the 10-week course. **Fifteen ladies are currently studying FSF in four different small groups.**

Keep praying for the right office to rent for our pregnancy care center. Holly and Luba have looked at many different places, but none have met our criteria. Pray for God to lead us to the right place. We are beginning to discuss ideas for **advertising**, creating a website, preparing flyers, looking at billboards. May the Lord give us the **exact words** that will pique the interest of Ukrainians in need of our counsel. The editor of the magazine for our association of churches asked me to write an article, which is now being translated. We are preparing all the materials needed for the PCC in Russian. I am meeting with our **FSF group leaders** November 18, then with our **steering committee** Nov. 27. Laryssa from **LIFE International** is coming from Kiev for the 11/27 meeting to share resources with us. In December we plan to meet with a group of **pastors** to obtain their advice on several issues. We continue to present the ministry of "Choose Life" in area **churches**, seeking volunteers and prayer support. Our next meeting for volunteers will be December 14, so **pray for the Lord to send many choice servants to assist us in this ministry.** We met in October with the first group and were thrilled with the response of men and women to God's call.

Carolyn Doyle and Bev Zahl are directors of PCC's in Grand Rapids, MI, who will come to Odessa in **February 2014 to train our new volunteers.** Pray for them as they prepare to teach in this cross-cultural setting. **Pray for our volunteers to have open hearts and minds to receive this training for the challenges they will face in ministry.** The official opening of our PCC will be late Feb/early March.

Would you consider giving financially to enable this new pregnancy care center?

NOTE: CHANGE MY E-MAIL ADDRESS TO
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Now I am excited to share with you an **amazing door of opportunity** that God has opened for me in May 2014. You remember that I taught workshops at a conference for Christian doctors in Kiev last spring. There I met a group from a **restricted access country**. They asked me to come **teach them how to start the post-abortion ministry**. After much prayer and further communication with them, Carolyn Rice and I have been led by the Lord to accept their invitation. This will be something totally new to me, and I cannot share a lot with you about the trip. But I need much prayer for **wisdom, strength, creativity, confidence to go to this place** to teach Biblical principles for dealing with the consequences of abortion. God is able!

Please keep praying for the village clinic ministries and the local pastors. Continue to pray for direction for us whether to buy prayer houses in the villages of Valentinovka and Berdinovo.

You will soon be celebrating **Thanksgiving** Day in America. Our ABWE missionary team will get together for a meal. We have so much for which to thank our great God! I am so grateful for all of you who pray for this ministry and for those who give financially to make all of this possible. Your partnership is a gift of our heavenly Father, Who ordained this ministry. *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning”* (James 1:17).

If you would like to see photos and more information, or find out how to give financially, check out our ministry website: <http://www.ukrainemedical.abwe.org>.

*Giving thanks with you and for you, while clinging to The Rock,
Miriam*