

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

"Be still, and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth".

(Psalm 46:10)

August 2, 2014

Dear Prayer Partners:

I am alive and well and still in Princeton, WV! Lord willing, I am planning to depart from WV August 8, arriving in Odessa August 9. You heard about the horror of the airplane shot down in Ukraine, near the Russian border; 298 people perished. Airlines continue to fly into and over Ukraine, just avoiding that eastern area. **The war continues in eastern Ukraine**, though the territory held by the pro-Russian rebels is shrinking. The Ukrainian government is shaky, inundated by huge problems. Refugees have been fleeing the war zone, and thousands have found refuge in Odessa. I am eager to return to Ukraine to **assess the needs of the refugees, and see what I can do to help**. My clinic patients and national partners are anxious for my return as well. I miss my family there and my apartment and long to be at home! There is a lot of talk circulating in Odessa that there may be some kind of provocation around the Ukrainian Independence Day August 24, but there have been many such rumors in the past few months. Our ABWE team has decided that if we have to evacuate Odessa again, we will go to Kiev to serve there temporarily. Please continue to **pray for peace in Ukraine!** Most importantly, **pray that this turmoil will turn many Ukrainians to trust in Jesus Christ.**

Would you like to help with the physical needs of the refugees and churches in Ukraine, resulting from the war? **Give to the Ukraine Crisis Fund:** ABWE account # 0717401. You can give online at abwe.org or send a check to ABWE P.O. Box 8585 Harrisburg, PA 17105-8585.

This summer in the US has zoomed by. I was able to present Ukraine at the ABWE Medical Missions Interface in June and meet with our International Healthcare Ministries committee. A few weeks later, I was back in Harrisburg to rent a mission vehicle and go to more meetings. I spent a week in Greenville SC with family, friends and supporters. Last week was our wonderfully refreshing ABWE Missionary Enrichment conference in the Washington DC area. I was in a large group recognized for 20 years of service with ABWE. This summer actually marked **my 24th year since joining the mission!** I caught up on my financial ministry reports, which is quite unusual. Continuing medical education is a necessity to my board certification as a family physician, and I have been able to complete 25 hours of the 50 hours required each year. While in the DC area, I got to meet with a friend from West Virginians for Life who now works for the National Right to Life Committee. What a great reunion, that was also very educational as I met with others at NRLC, especially one involved in post-abortion ministry. And I have gotten some rest too!

If the Lord allows us to stay in Odessa, Holly and I will be planning the **official opening of the Women's Center** to the public in Aug/Sept. Holly has done a great job of completing the training of the counselors and other volunteers for the pregnancy care center, and they have had two official clients, both of whom decided to keep their babies! I will be meeting with my **post-abortion group leaders** soon to plan the start of a new round of small groups studying "Forgiven and Set Free". Sharon Rahilly hopes to come at the end of September to work with me for 3 weeks. Carolyn Rice and I will be preparing for **leadership training in Central Asia in November**. Please pray for wisdom about the best way to meet the needs of the war refugees in Odessa! That burden is never far from my mind and heart these days. Sunday, August 3, is the celebration of **the 10th anniversary of the church in Sahanskoye!** Praise the Lord for using the clinic there to draw people to Himself to start a church and for enabling our ABWE team to purchase a prayer house in the village.

*Rejoicing to be God's ambassador in war-torn Ukraine while clinging to The Rock,
Miriam*