

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine
"Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you".
(1Peter 5:7)

October 4, 2014

Dear Prayer Partners:

The **war continues** in eastern Ukraine, despite the ceasefire. Soldiers and civilians still suffer injury and death. **People who cannot flee are hiding in basements, often going hungry.** God's Church shines brightly as believers help the hurting in the Name of Jesus. Thank you to so many who have given to the Ukraine Crisis Fund! You are making a difference in many lives. **Please continue to pray for Ukraine, for those trying to survive the fighting, and for the refugees who have fled their homes to safety but often to poverty.** Odessa is still quiet, but the risk of war coming here continues. Pray for wisdom for us to know whom to help, how long to stay, where to go if evacuation becomes necessary. Pray for grace to persevere during much uncertainty.

The role of coordinator of the Ukraine Crisis Fund was an addition to my other responsibilities to the medical ministry and the pro-life ministry. My "*Forgiven and Set Free*" leaders are starting another series of small groups this week. I taught a seminar at the **Women's Center** last Saturday to help the new counselors assess the needs of clients who have previously done abortions. This is the season of "Zhatva" celebrations, when each church chooses a Sunday as their own Day of **Thanksgiving** to God. Last Sunday I enjoyed that service in Krasnosyolka with Pastor **Lonya** and his congregation. Praise the Lord for many visitors, local and from our village ministries in Kubanka and Shamanovka. I hope to go to Zhatva in Makarovo, Limaniy, and Sahanskoye. Last Monday (9/29), **Sharon** Rahilly flew in to Odessa to assist me with clinics and patient education materials for a couple of weeks. She already brightened the lives of several homebound patients in Krasnosyolka!

At the last few clinics, it has been wonderful to see **answers to our prayers** that God would open more hearts to His Word. At **Shamanovka**, Lonya talked to Maria, then brought her back to my desk and called in the clinic assistants. **Maria wanted to pray to trust Jesus as her Savior!** God's peace flowed in to replace her anxiety. Pray for her to grow in spiritual maturity, to learn how to turn her burdens over to the Lord. So many Ukrainians need to understand that principle. In **Kubanka**, **Sveta** had turned away from the Lord more than 10 years ago, watching her husband leave, her mother die of cancer, her livelihood deteriorate. But some health problems have caused her to come back to my clinic, and she has allowed me to share Christ's love with her. She brought her 35-year-old neighbor to see me a couple of months ago, but he had a huge abdominal tumor that I could do nothing about. He died a month later, but he did hear the Gospel. This helped Sveta to examine her own mortality, and she promised to read Scripture again. Pray for her salvation! In Krasnosyolka, **Galina** told me how much she enjoyed Lonya's message in the waiting room and asked how she could hear more. She is very interested in studying "The Story of Hope" with us, but I am going to be out of town most of October and November. Pray that God will protect her spiritual hunger, while Lonya and I figure out a time to meet with her. In **Limaniy**, many more patients have been coming to clinic, and several listened intently to the good news of salvation as a gift of God's grace. Pray for Pastor **Anatoliy** and Alla as they follow up these contacts.

Upcoming Events to Bathe in Prayer

- ✠ Oct. 13-17: Meeting with ABWE colleagues David and Penny Winget re potential for medical and pro-life ministry in Bulgaria! They helped me organize village clinics when they served in Kharkov, Ukraine.
- ✠ Oct. 18-25: Conference in Budapest for ABWE missionaries in Central & Eastern Europe
- ✠ Oct. 26-Nov. 2: a few days back in Odessa full of meetings and clinics
- ✠ Nov. 3-17: Train leaders for post-abortion ministry in restricted access country
- ✠ Nov. 18-21: Back to Budapest to obtain a visa necessary to renew my residency permit for Ukraine

Needing your prayers and God's grace and wisdom, holding fast to the Rock,
Miriam