

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

*"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love...;
not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;
rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer"*

(Romans 12:10-12)

March 16, 2015

Dear Prayer Partners,

Mentoring medical students has been one of my goals for years, and it is wonderful to have some students joining me in clinic, though it does increase the workload. **Please pray for this ministry of mentoring. Nadya is Pastor Lonya's niece**, who graduated from nursing school last summer. Her scholarship requires service in a government facility. They placed her in a village clinic as the sole provider of health care, about one hour away from Odessa! Can you imagine a young nurse fresh out of training being thrust into such a responsibility?! Nadya is functioning more as a P.A. than a nurse, without the necessary education. She has gone to clinic with me a few times and is planning to join me once a month. She is a sponge just soaking up all the information she can. **Pray that my teaching will be clear and practical and enable her to care for her patients professionally and spiritually.** In Limaniy a few weeks ago, a lady rushed in and asked me to go immediately to the home of a neighbor who was "in bad shape". Knowing that this phrase is often used to mean just "feeling bad", not necessarily an emergency, I sent Nadya to evaluate the patient. She walked back a few minutes later with the patient following her! Yes, her blood pressure was high and she was not feeling well, but it was not a critical emergency. It was a blessing to me to have Nadya there to check it out, so I could continue to see all the patients waiting at the prayer house. Nadya learned a lot in the process, and many people heard the Gospel for the first time!

Pastor Anatoliy resigned from his church in the city of Odessa to devote full time to his village ministry in Limaniy and beyond. **Please pray for him and his family as this step of faith is difficult and financial support is needed.** Anatoliy recently led one of my clinic patients to Christ. This older man had been very antagonistic to spiritual things and often argumentative in clinic, but we strived to show Jesus' love to him and to treat his medical problems. His outlook changed and he actually smiles at us in clinic now! What a delight to watch the Lord transform people by His saving grace.

The Crisis in Ukraine continues with the economy falling into shambles, propped up only by huge bailouts by the European Union. BBC reported this week that inflation is at 35%, the Ukrainian currency has lost 2/3 of its value, and the current interest rate is 30%. My friends are very concerned about the long-term effects on the whole country. The guns in eastern Ukraine are mostly silent today; a very shaky ceasefire finally seems to be taking hold. But most people do not think the battle is over. The humanitarian crisis in eastern Ukraine is hard to fathom. The **ABWE-Ukraine Crisis Fund** is still helping refugees and the needy in the Donbass region that has been destroyed by artillery fire. Please read the article in the ABWE magazine, "The Message", that details the crisis and the Church's response at <http://www.abwe.org/news/missions-on-the-frontline#.VPdUkvmUeAU>.

Thank you for "continuing steadfastly in prayer" for this ministry! With our Ukrainian partners, we ABWE missionaries are "not lagging in diligence", but are "serving the Lord" and "rejoicing in hope". In February, my clinic staff cared for 491 patients! One year ago, we were averaging about 300 patients per month. We are grateful for the opportunity to share the message of Jesus' redemption and hope with more people. Your support in prayer and finances makes this possible, to the glory of God.

*Holding fast to The Rock,
Miriam Wheeler, MD*