

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

*"it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,
and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name
to all nations"*

(Luke 24:46-47)

April 13, 2015

Dear Prayer Partners,

I trust you enjoyed as dynamic a **celebration of Jesus' Resurrection** as we did! Following the old Orthodox calendar, Ukraine celebrated Easter April 12. I visited "Hope for People" Church in Odessa Sunday morning then the evangelistic service in Krasnosyolka at 4:00 Sunday afternoon. Wonderful music and preaching! But what still moves me dramatically every year is the pastor's greeting "**Christ is risen!**" followed by the entire congregation standing and shouting "He is risen indeed!" As the words reverberate in the auditorium, tears fill my eyes and joy fills my heart. Despite torture and a horribly painful death by crucifixion to atone for our sin, our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ is alive!

We saw wonderful answers to prayer in **Krasnosyolka** as **two clinic patients trusted Jesus Christ as their Savior**, one on Palm Sunday and one on Easter. These ladies had been antagonistic for years, but the love of Jesus melted the ice in their hearts so they began attending services a few weeks ago. May the Lord continue to touch the lives of patients in clinics to draw them to Himself.

Three new groups of women are studying "**Forgiven and Set Free**", the post-abortion Bible course. In one group, two Orthodox women are involved who started visiting this Baptist church about a year ago. Last week, **one of them asked Jesus to save her!** Our first-ever village group is meeting in Shamanovka. It was such a joy to see several from Shamanovka at the service in Krasnosyolka yesterday. One of these ladies told me she has already been able to share her abortion history with her daughters and others in the village, as God has already removed her shame surrounding this sin. May the Lord continue His work in these women's lives.

I have a **special request for prayer this week**, as I need to make decisions about my schedule for the next couple of months. I was planning to return to Central Asia in May to teach another post-abortion ministry leadership seminar and another 5-day course of "Forgiven and Set Free". However, I have been sick almost continuously the past three months with two bouts of sinusitis, one of bronchitis, and multiple episodes of vertigo. I do not see physically how I can handle another grueling two-week trip in May, though God is able to strengthen me for it! A **pastor in Kharkov called** Saturday to ask when I would be able to come treat the many refugees from the war zone whom he is helping. Our **Ukraine Crisis Fund** gets tons of requests for medicines, both for those still inside the war zone and for those who have fled the conflict to nearby towns. The Kharkov province is on the Russian border, just north of the two provinces involved in the war. We have been praying about such a **medical trip** since December, and have not been able to work it out, but Pastor Sasha says the need is astronomical now. In the next couple of days, I must make the decision about these trips—whether to go to Central Asia or not, and when to go to Kharkov. **Please pray much for me for God's wisdom and guidance and for my health.**

I plan to start furlough mid-September, but that seems very far away right now. I will build in a much-needed month of rest at the beginning of furlough, so do not plan to see me before late October! **Please pray that God will call primary care doctors to cover the village clinics in 2016 while I am gone.** Pray for Dr. Timothy Murphy who will cover the clinics September-December. *Thank you so much for your prayers and support!*

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