

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

*"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD,
The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary.
His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak".*

(Isaiah 40:28-29)

April 26, 2015

Dear Prayer Partners,

Our God is sovereign! What comfort that knowledge gives, when our world seems to be spinning out of control. Ukraine has been hanging onto a fragile ceasefire for a couple of months, though frequent skirmishes have continued. Now it appears that another battle might begin in earnest, this time for the port city of Mariupol on the Sea of Azov, which connects to the Black Sea. Mariupol is a strategic bridge between the Russia-Ukraine border and Russia-occupied Crimea. ***Please continue to pray for peace in Ukraine, for the needs of thousands of refugees fleeing the war zone, and for the hearts of anxious Ukrainians to seek the Prince of Peace.***

Thank you so much for praying for the big decisions that were facing me. God has given me peace that I should **not** go to the restricted-access country, but instead go to **eastern Ukraine** to provide medical care in church-based **refugee centers**. Pastor Lonya German and nurse practitioner Holly Friesen will be accompanying me, and Pastor Sasha Donchenko in Kharkov is organizing our ministry trip May 10-16. ***Please pray for safety in travel, wisdom for treating these needy people, and for seeds of the Gospel we sow to bear fruit for eternity.*** We will be seeking God's direction for planning another trip in June, depending on his this goes. Also continue praying for my health. I am feeling better overall, but frequent bouts of vertigo persist.

Eight women in Odessa are in small groups studying "*Forgiven and Set Free*", the Bible course for women following abortion. Last time I mentioned that one woman had repented during the study. A second woman came to know Christ as her Savior! ***This is so exciting to see FSF for the first time leading women to salvation as well as to healing from post-abortion emotional trauma!*** Marina was challenged by the lesson on anger to acknowledge the offenses she still carried against various people, and to admit that she was powerless to forgive them on her own and needed God's help. She finally understood that she needed to trust Christ alone for her own salvation and forgiveness, not church liturgy. Sveta had been a believer for several years, and at first wasn't sure she needed such a course. As she delved into Scripture, she realized that she was still angry at her brother-in-law who had murdered her sister's daughter 16 years ago. He is in prison, so Sveta just put him out of her mind. FSF helped her to admit that she herself had murdered her own children by abortion, and God forgave her! She too could forgive her brother-in-law through God's grace. ***Please pray that the Lord will help many more women in Odessa to admit their need for this valuable Bible study.***

Pray for Dr. Timothy Murphy as he prepares for his ministry in Ukraine September-December to cover our village clinics while I am on furlough. He is seeking the Lord's direction whether to bring his wife and three young children to Ukraine or to come by himself for a week each month to cover the clinics.

Events in May to bathe in prayer:

- regular village clinics in the Odessa region
- 10-16: clinics in refugee centers in eastern Ukraine
- 23: closing service for FSF groups
- 27: Ukraine Crisis Fund advisory committee meeting to consider funding requests
- 30: "Choose Life" Board of Directors meeting

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