

## *Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine*

*The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.*

Deut. 33:27

March 11, 2016

Dear Prayer Partners:

What a wonderful reminder from our loving heavenly Father, that He is our refuge, our haven, our safe place, and that He is holding us close and dear eternally in His strong arms. Our Ukrainian friends still desperately need that message as they continue to face uncertainty, severe economic problems, governmental instability, and ongoing skirmishes in eastern Ukraine. I have gotten several letters this week from refugees who cannot buy needed medicines, nor clothes and shoes for their children, or are having problems finding housing and jobs. **Our medical clinics in Kuyalnik and Sergeevka, two refugee centers in the Odessa area, are overflowing with patients** and my staff there are having to turn many people away at every clinic. At Sergeevka they have only one shower for over 100 people. Our Crisis Fund has designated money for them to build another bathroom that is handicap-accessible. Despite these horrendous conditions, the Light of Christ is shining brightly! A deacon from a nearby church leads a Bible study every Sunday. He reports that the clinics have brought many new people into that group and have created a much friendlier atmosphere in the facility. At Kuyalnik, Hope for People Church is leading a service every Sunday afternoon and a Bible study for seekers and new believers every Tuesday. At least 15 people have trusted Christ. **This month two of my post-abortion ministry leaders have started a small group with five women there to study "Forgiven and Set Free". Please pray as these ladies who do not yet know Jesus as Savior may come to a personal relationship with Him** that frees them from sin and from the emotional trauma they are suffering secondary to their abortions.

**Dr. and Mrs. Frank Weirman**, retired ABWE missionaries, are now in Odessa until March 16. Frank is a family physician and is covering our regular monthly clinics. Pray for endurance as they finish this tour in very busy clinics. God has given us a possibility of **a doctor to cover the clinics in June**, so please pray for God's will to be accomplished. We are starting to make plans for a dental team in October 2016 and a medical/ophthalmology team in August 2017, each to come for two weeks from the US. This is dependent on the stability of the situation in Ukraine, so pray for God's direction. **Pray for two primary care physicians or nurse practitioners for each team.** Write me if interested!

Our pregnancy care center continues to see new clients, a few of whom are refugees from the war zone. Director Holly Friesen asked prayer for one client whose ultrasound showed significant abnormalities with her first baby. The Ukrainian gynecologist recommended abortion, which this client refused. She has not been receiving kindness or appropriate prenatal care because of her decision to keep her disabled baby. **Pray for this client's faith to be strengthened, for Holly as she encourages her, and for this case to be a radiant beacon of God's unconditional love to Ukrainian medical professionals.** *Every individual life, no matter the disability, is important and beloved to the Creator of Life!*

I was able to visit three of my supporting churches in February and was greatly encouraged by their love and generosity! Two of these churches are praying about sending teams to Ukraine in the future. I did have to cancel a visit to another church last weekend because of vertigo. This coming weekend, I will be traveling to the ABWE home office in Harrisburg PA to report to the ABWE Board and for other meetings. Sometime late March/early April, **our advisory council for the Ukraine Crisis Fund will be meeting**, so please pray for wisdom for us as we consider needs and decide how to disburse funds. This quarterly meeting creates a huge amount of work for me. **March—June are packed with travel**, so pray that God might give me a reprieve from the vertigo if that is His will. This "thorn in the flesh" is a great teaching tool for me and for others! I am excited to share some of the lessons God has taught me at a **ladies' conference in Griffin GA** in April, so pray as I prepare for that. My sending church is bringing Pastor Lonya and Luba to the US for another visit late May/early June. As I look forward to returning to Ukraine in late July, my schedule is very full and I continue to get invitations for other meetings. **Pray for God's endurance for travel, for frequent Skype meetings with Ukrainian partners about ongoing issues there, and for a vacation week before my return.** God is faithful to provide our needs.

Thank you for praying for me and for the ministries in Ukraine!

*Holding fast to The Rock, Miriam*

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