

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine
He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker,
But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.

Proverbs 14:31

May 24, 2016

Dear Prayer Partners:

An article this week reports that there are now **1.9 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine**. How can that be? Where will they find food, housing and support? Pray that God will supply their needs and draw these hurting people to Himself. If you are new to my prayer letter, welcome! I appreciate your willingness to intercede for our ministries in Ukraine. I was disturbed this past week to hear from missionary colleagues on the field that the administration of **Kuyalnik sanitarium is threatening to evict refugees** if they don't start paying \$2 per day for their rooms. They have been turning off the electricity for days at a time. Many of these refugees are disabled and getting a minimal pension less than \$100/month. They can barely feed their families on this, much less pay for housing or medicine. Some of them lost all their documents in the war and are not getting any compensation, despite government promises of help. Please pray for wisdom for our advisory council to the **Ukraine Crisis Fund**, as we consider how we can help this critical situation. We bought blankets for all of them last winter. We are holding a clinic for the refugees there every other month, but cannot see all who need care. Praise the Lord that many of our patients have started attending weekly Bible studies, and **some have already received Christ** as Savior! Hope for People Church in Odessa leads a service there every Sunday afternoon and a Bible study for serious seekers every Tuesday. Four disabled women agreed to attend **"Forgiven and Set Free"**, our post-abortion Bible study. At the recent closing service, **one prayed for salvation!** Two others prayed and repented of their abortions and are very open to the Gospel. Larysa, the group leader, reports they are "very close"! **Pray that God will draw them to the Truth**, the only Hope in their despair.

My colleague **Holly Friesen, nurse practitioner**, is carrying a heavy load. She organized a training seminar for a new group of volunteers for the pregnancy care center May 13-14. At the same time, the doctor who was supposed to cover clinics in May had to cancel out. So last week and this week, she has covered several of the village clinics. She will be doing that in June as well. *Pray for supernatural strength, grace and wisdom for her, as she awaits my return to Ukraine in August.* Pray for Holly and her assistant Luba as they **mentor these new volunteers** in their roles in the PCC.

With the increasing patient load in village clinics and the expanding needs for medical care for refugees, I would love to see God send us some short-term help any time in the next year or so. **If you are a primary care physician, experienced PA or NP, would you give two weeks to serve people in pain in Ukraine?** You will be stretched, blessed and changed!

Continue to pray for the **pastors in the occupied zone in eastern Ukraine**. One wrote that the oppression reminds him of the Soviet Union. But he has also seen more people open to the Gospel than ever before. Recently three former rebels have been coming to Bible studies and seriously seeking the Lord! Many pastors have written that they want to do **children's camps this summer**, despite the difficulties, to give the kids hope and respite from their suffering. You can help sponsor those camps by giving to the Ukraine Crisis Fund.

My ABWE colleagues were pleased with the seminar led by Pastor Zee in eastern Ukraine. His powerful testimony of forgiveness in time of war touched many hearts. We still see a need for practical training for believers to learn how to help refugees of all ages dealing with emotional trauma from battle and great loss. It is so hard to see children and teens with sad empty eyes withdrawing into silence to avoid the pain and nightmares. **Pray for us as we seek to teach Biblical principles for how our Lord can heal these deep wounds.**

My sending church invited my Ukrainian pastor and his wife, **Lonya and Luba**, to visit the US. They are now with relatives in MA, but come to Princeton tomorrow (May 25). Please pray for my health and stamina as I translate for them 24/7 for the next three weeks. **Thank you so much for your loving support!**

Holding fast to The Rock, Miriam Wheeler, MD