

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

*Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid;
for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation.
Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

Isaiah 12:2-3

June 29, 2016

Dear Prayer Partners:

Thank you so much for your prayers the past few weeks. The LORD is my strength! **Pastor Lonya and Luba** had a wonderful visit—2 weeks at Johnston Chapel Baptist Church in Princeton WV, then traveling for a week. The people were so responsive to Lonya's preaching and description of the ravages of war and our response as believers to the refugee crisis. We hope to see a team come in the near future to help deal with refugee needs. We had an amazing time at the Creation Museum with **Dr. Tim & Angela Murphy** and their kids, though it was extremely challenging to translate the exhibits and various conversations all at the same time! Then we spent a night with friends at an incredibly beautiful lake in TN and Lonya was thrilled to catch some fish. Even Luba caught one! We had time with my family in Greenville SC, then a blessed weekend with the First Slavic Baptist Church of Spartanburg. Lonya and I did a joint presentation about the medical ministry in Ukraine and the church decided to take me on for support! That was totally unexpected and such an encouragement. **God has provided all my support needs this furlough.** It was hard to leave Lonya and Luba at the airport in Charlotte, but **I will see them in Odessa August 23, Lord willing.**

God gave us much wisdom for the **Ukraine Crisis Fund** meeting as our pastors' advisory council met with me via Skype June 22 (for 5 hours!) and considered the requests for funding. Churches are doing children's summer camps, and need help to provide for the refugee kids whose families cannot pay their way. **One church asked us for support to bring children of pastors and deacons from the rebel-occupied zone to their camp, "to give them a rest from the artillery strafing and bombing"**. How sad to hear what these children are suffering! Pray that this camp will help them to find their strength and peace in God, and that easing the children's burdens will give their parents peace as well. We have received so many precious letters of thanksgiving from recipients of our Fund. Thank YOU for your generous giving to these desperate needs.

The **Kuyalnik** sanitarium that was threatening to evict refugees has not done that, thank the Lord. The Crisis Fund is helping with financial needs through the "Hope for People" Church in Odessa. They have seen quite a few come to know Christ as Savior and several are **preparing for baptism** this summer. Pray for our clinics there and at the **Sergeevka** refugee center. I look forward to serving there again when I return to Ukraine and to going back to **Donbas** to spend a week this fall seeing refugee patients in local churches. Continue to pray for our regular **village clinics**. We set some limits on patient numbers, which has been a huge help, and lightened Holly's load a bit. **Pray that God would send some primary care physicians, NP's, PA's, to help us in clinics for both refugees and villagers for a couple of weeks at a time over the next year.** Lonya was pleased to report that they are seeing a lot of **new people at the Sunday afternoon services in Kubanka**. Pray that the Lord would use this crisis to draw needy fearful people to the Prince of Peace.

My furlough is drawing to a close! July finds me scrambling to finish necessary mission projects before vacation and an ABWE conference. In August, I will present the medical ministry to the last three of my supporting churches. Then August 20, I will fly to New York to speak to a Russian church there, before flying on to **Ukraine August 23**. I am eager to get "home" to the people and ministry I love!

Holding fast to the Rock, Miriam Wheeler, MD