

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

*You do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life?
It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.
Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."*

James 4:14-15

October 5, 2016

Dear Prayer Partners:

I arrived in Ukraine August 23, and have meant to send out a prayer letter since then! It is so true what James says, we don't know what will happen the next day. We can make plans prayerfully, seeking God's guidance, but we have to hold them loosely, allowing God to change them. As I adapted again to life in Odessa, I jumped back into village clinics my 3rd day on the ground! Things were broken in my apartment that had to be replaced. Numerous questions were posed that needed answers. Meetings with my clinic staff, with my colleague Holly, with Pastor Lonya and Luba, with the editing team for the post-abortion leadership manual, with the Christian medical group! Then I was off to **Slovenia** for our biannual conference of all ABWE missionaries in Central and Eastern Europe. I actually spent my birthday there! This conference was so uplifting with wonderful music, good preaching, great fellowship.

I got to attend **Zhatva (Thanksgiving) celebrations in Krasnosyolka and Makarovo**. Amazing services of praise to the Lord for the harvest, many visitors from other churches at both. Lots of special music, instrumental groups, poetry recitations, all ages participating. I was thrilled to see a number of clinic patients at both services, many new to the churches. **A few have trusted Christ as Savior recently!**

Now I am in Chisinau, **Moldova**, seeking the special **visa** necessary to get a residency permit in Ukraine. **Please pray today** when you get this note, that God would show favor at the Ukraine embassy to get this visa on Wednesday, so I can return to Odessa Thursday. The Lord is in control!

I am also anticipating another trip to the US soon. **My brother Tom's wife Becky** is in hospice with metastatic breast cancer, and not expected to live much longer. Our days are in God's hands, and Becky could live a few more days or a few more weeks. We are waiting on our heavenly Father's timing to take her home to heaven. Please pray for this family in this difficult walk through the valley. I will fly to Greenville SC, when Tom calls me to come.

So I am trying to stay flexible, seeking God's direction about plans that need to be made, but holding them loosely. Our **Ukraine Crisis Fund Council** is scheduled to meet October 19, but even that is uncertain at this point. Holly and I were hoping to make another trip this fall to **eastern Ukraine to do clinics for refugees** there. Pastors have been writing and calling since I returned to ask when we are coming. I turned down requests to speak at a women's conference and at a medical conference. It all seems to have gotten overwhelming very quickly! There is much more to share with you, but that will wait for another letter soon.

Pray for God's direction, strength and grace through it all. Pray that I will fulfill HIS purpose, set HIS priorities. Pray that lives will be changed, Ukrainians trusting Jesus as Savior. **"If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this, or that"** (James 4:15).

Thank you for interceding for me, my family and my ministry partners before the Father's Throne of Grace. I am standing in the need of prayer!

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