

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

For thou art my rock and my fortress;

therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me (Ps 31:3).

Giving thanks always for all things unto God...in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph 5:20).

November 13, 2016

Dear Prayer Partners:

Greetings from Odessa! I returned to Ukraine Friday night, November 4. I ran into a few glitches in the travel plan, and my suitcase did not arrive until Monday. But I am thankful to be here! My brother Tom and his family appreciated your prayers so much as we said a temporary farewell to Becky until that great reunion in Heaven. Her funeral glorified the Lord. I am glad I could support Tom and his children for a couple of weeks.

Urgent Prayer Request: I got the special visa required to apply for a one-year **residency permit** in Ukraine, which is a single-entry visa. Since I left Ukraine for the funeral and returned during the active period of this visa, the Immigration Office considers it nullified. Even at border control when I arrived in Odessa November 4, he first said that I could not enter Ukraine because this visa was voided! But I convinced him to let me in because I had not used all the 90 days allowed Americans without a visa. This past week our secretary took my request to the Immigration Office with a letter from Tom's church and Becky's death certificate to show them the necessity of my leaving Ukraine. **Monday, Nov 14**, they will decide whether to process my application for a residency permit or require me to return to Moldova for another visa. **Pray for mercy!** My 90 days end 12/19.

The advisory council for the **Ukraine Crisis Fund** will meet November 17. Please pray for us as we consider many requests and decide how to allocate the funds God has given us. Our desire is to keep internally displaced persons warm and fed throughout the winter, thanks to local churches who provide the necessities while sharing the Gospel. Pray that hurting people will find solace in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior!

This past Tuesday we decided to cancel the **clinic for refugees** who had been living at the Kuyalnik sanitarium. They have all been evicted and have scattered around Odessa or sadly returned to their homes in the war zone. Praise the Lord for those who were saved through the clinics and the Bible studies led by Hope for People Church. The refugees at the Sergeevka sanitarium have also been evicted. Some of them have settled in the nearby town of Belgorad-Dnistrovskiy, where the church is located who invited us to do clinics. December will be our last clinic there. **Pray for us as we decide where to replace this clinic day.** One pastor told me there are **1000 villages with no Gospel witness** in the Odessa oblast (state)! And Ukraine has 24 oblasts, all of which have destitute villages in need of Jesus' touch.

Holly and I would like to return to **eastern Ukraine** to do a week of clinics in local churches for the internally displaced persons there. Pastors have been contacting me since my return to Ukraine to ask when we are coming! This depends on what happens with my residency permit. The deeper into winter, the riskier travel becomes. God knows their needs, so pray for His direction. *The war with Russia continues in the East, soldiers are still dying, civilians are still fleeing the occupied zone. We still feel safe in Odessa and the rest of Ukraine.*

November 11 was a historic day for our village clinic ministry, as two **Ukrainian Christian dentists** accompanied my clinic team to Kubanka to treat patients. They made 20 people very happy with the free consultations and pain-free extractions. Roma and Dima are willing to go with us to another village in December, probably Sahanskoye, and hope next year to go with us once a month or so. What a blessing to our patients! Many come to see the dentist who don't have medical problems, so we get to share the Gospel with new friends. **Pray that God will use this new endeavor for His glory and to draw others into His Kingdom.**

There are a number of other matters clamoring for my attention, that have been neglected during the hectic days since my August 23 arrival in Ukraine. We need to plan a Board meeting for **“Choose Life!”** in the next couple of months. I will be meeting with the directors of the pregnancy care center and the post-abortion ministry in December. Holly and I need to prepare for a representative of the ABWE Project Office coming in April 2017 to help us with designs and plans for purchasing an office for “Choose Life”. I must finish some editing of medical content in the Russian version of the leadership manual for **“Forgiven and Set Free”**, then meet with the translators to finish up that major revision. I need to meet with pastors partnering in the village clinic ministry to decide on a **new site for a village clinic**. Holly and I want to plan a couple of trips to do clinics for refugees in eastern Ukraine in the next few months. Our ABWE-Ukraine team wants to plan a **conference** to teach pastors and church leaders how to deal with the emotional trauma suffered by refugees from the war, especially those who are not believers. I am eager to get more involved in the **Ukrainian Christian Medical Association**, teaching Bible studies and mentoring students and young doctors in village clinics. They have asked me to speak at their Congress in May 2017. *Life is never boring here!*

If you are a primary care physician, would you pray about coming to Ukraine to help me in clinics for villages and refugees in 2017/2018? Write me for more information.

*As we approach Thanksgiving Day, my heart fills with gratitude for those of you who pray regularly for me and my ministry here and for those who give financially to make these ministries possible. Every dollar makes a difference for eternity! You are valuable partners with me and our Lord in reaching Ukrainians for His Kingdom. You are an encouragement to those suffering emotional and physical wounds from war. You are intercessors in the spiritual battle for people's souls. My patients and partners here join me in saying a **heartfelt THANK YOU!!***

Clinging to The Rock with thanksgiving and joy!
Miriam Wheeler, MD