

## *Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine*

*I declare unto you the gospel...wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved...  
Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;  
And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day.*

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

April 17, 2017

Dear Prayer Partners:

I trust you enjoyed a **glorious Resurrection Sunday!** In Krasnosyolka we celebrated The Lord's Supper Thursday night, then remembered the Crucifixion Friday night. Saturday morning the Sunday School shared a program for parents and new kids. Then Sunday itself we started at 6am with a sunrise service and a musical team from Hope for People Church in Odessa. That afternoon we held an evangelistic service and were delighted that many visitors came. This morning (Monday) several churches gathered together for one victorious worship service. Tomorrow (Tuesday) Pastor Lonya will lead services in both Kubanka and New Kubanka. Wednesday, we will start our regular clinic in Sahanskoye with a preaching service. **Please pray that God would break hearts in these villages** where we have ministered through clinics and preaching for many years. May the miracle of Jesus' Resurrection after His sacrificial death open their eyes to see the Truth of salvation through Christ alone!

April 7-8, we trained **15 new volunteers for the pregnancy care center!** I was privileged to open the training with a review of the history of Choose Life, tracing God's orchestration of people, professions and skills from our first meeting in 2010. As I taught the Biblical basis for the sanctity of life and the scientific evidence for the beginning of life at conception, I saw great emotion, concentration, and agreement in the faces of these new volunteers. Pray for Holly and her colleagues at the Women's Center as they further teach these ladies, and for these volunteers to learn quickly their ministry roles. Ira Lupanova explained the post-abortion ministry, **"Forgiven and Set Free"**. Over 100 women have finished this course and discovered the fullness of God's forgiveness of all their sins. 4 women accepted Christ as their Savior during the study. Pray for us and potential students as we decide whether to teach FSF in a one-week intensive format the week of May 15. **The church with whom we work in Druzhkovka, Donbass, would like to start an FSF ministry**, and may send some participants. Pray for God's direction!

April 11, we opened a **new clinic in the village of Shurino** in the Nikolaev oblast, about a 2-hour drive from Odessa. Pastor Aleksandr Sakhnovskiy desires to reach more people in his village for Christ and reach out to other untouched villages. I saw 28 patients and many more wanted to come. Even the mayor came and was pleased with what he saw. May the Lord bless this new ministry for His glory! We are closing the clinic at Hope for People Church in the city of Odessa, so we could open a new village clinic. The closing clinic was primarily for retirees and invalids of our churches in Odessa, who cannot afford to buy medicines on their monthly pension of \$50. The government is instituting a new policy to provide free medicines for hypertension, diabetes and asthma. This will be a huge help to retirees in the city and allow me to focus on villagers who still do not have access to medical care, even these free meds.

I am in the midst of planning and **orienting three different American teams** who will serve in Odessa in the next 5 months. After a drought of visitors for the first 3 years of the war, the floodgates are open! ☺ John and Michele **Morgan** are old friends from serving in Togo together. John is a missions teacher and Michele is a nurse practitioner. They are bringing two nurses to serve in Odessa village clinics and in Donbass refugee centers May 27—June 12. Then my sending church **Johnston Chapel** is fielding a team of 23 young people and adult leaders to run a children's camp with our Krasnosyolka team July 22-31. Bruce and Carol **Bagley** are retired Ukraine missionaries who are returning September 22-30 with a team anchored by three **optometrists**

to **restore vision** to hundreds of villagers who cannot afford to buy eyeglasses. These wonderful endeavors take a huge amount of time and energy to figure out the logistics and schedule the clinics, translators, transportation, housing, meals, etc etc. *Pray for God's blessings on the plans and team participants, especially that many Ukrainians will trust Jesus as Savior through these ministries.* **I desperately need another primary care provider for the team September 22-30. Please email me if you could help: [mrwheeler@abwe.cc](mailto:mrwheeler@abwe.cc)**

April 28 is the next meeting of the **Ukraine Crisis Fund** advisory council. Pray for me as I read the requests for help, **set a budget** and plan the agenda. Pray for our council to make wise decisions about disbursements to churches planning summer camps for refugee children, and ongoing needs to feed, clothe and house people displaced from their homes by war. **May hungry people receive the Bread of Life!** Pray for peace in Ukraine!

May 6-9, I will be speaking at the **Christian Medical Congress for Eastern Europe** in Belarus. What an awesome opportunity in a plenary session for the entire congress to share the ministry philosophy of village clinic evangelism that God has given me based on Matthew 9:35-38. I will also be doing a pro-life workshop. Pray for clarity of thought and presentation, as I prepare and speak in Russian. Pray for divine appointments with Ukrainian health care professionals to challenge them to serve the Lord by serving their own people.

Yes, my calendar is packed! And no, it does not seem possible to get everything done, in addition to the regular schedule of village clinics and meetings. Pray for me Phil. 1:9-10 and 4: 4&13. **May I know and do God's will with joy!** Today I thought "I do not have time to write a prayer letter", but then I realized how could I not, when I so much need your prayer support to fulfill God's purpose with His strength and wisdom. Some of you have asked about my health. The vertigo flares occasionally for 1-3 days, once or twice a month. Arthritis is slowing me down, but not stopping me! Your prayers and financial support make all of this possible.

**Thank you for blessing me through your gifts!**

## **CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!**

Partnering with you to share Christ's compassion with hurting Ukrainians,

*Holding fast to The Rock,*

*Miriam Wheeler, MD*