

## *Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine*

*Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord,  
The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary.  
His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak,  
And to those who have no might He increases strength.  
Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,  
But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength;  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.*

Isaiah 40: 28-31

July 11, 2017

Dear Prayer Partners:

I am in the Kiev airport waiting for my flight back to Odessa after a week of **vacation** in the Carpathian Mountains in western Ukraine. What a blessing that was! I experienced Isaiah 40:28-31 in a real way, as the everlasting **God renewed my strength, lifting me up on wings like eagles**, albeit in an airplane! 2017 has been exhausting with visitors every month of the year, conferences, speaking, planning and hosting teams from North America plus regular village clinics, overseeing the pro-life ministry and the Ukraine Crisis fund. I cannot even begin to tell you about all the visitors who have come and the blessings they have been to me. Thank you for ministering God's mercy to me!

How have 2 months passed since my last update to you?! Thank you for your prayers that sustained me and unleashed God's power in a wonderful way. Pastors who are partners of the **Ukraine Crisis Fund** are doing wonderful works with refugees from the war zone as well as serving in the occupied zone itself. Yes, the war is ongoing, with hot spots in several locations along the frontlines in Donetsk and Lugansk oblasts (provinces). **We are supporting several children's camp this summer**, so they will be able to host refugee children free of charge. Pray for these camps to touch these kids' hearts, to give them peace in the midst of war, to come to know Jesus as Savior. War hurts everyone, but children especially cannot define or describe their pain. These pastors have written of **lives changed through God's Word**, as these displaced persons came to churches for hot lunches, grocery packets, medical clinic outreaches, holiday celebrations, and children's groups. Please continue to pray for these ongoing ministries, and even **give a donation to continue the work of the Crisis Fund**, if God leads you to do that.

In May I sponsored a group of **4 ladies from Druzhkovka** to come to Odessa for a week to go through "**Forgiven and Set Free**" in a one-week intensive course. Ira and Alyona led the course, and these ladies were amazed at what God did in their hearts in this short time. Bonds of guilt and depression due to abortion were broken, roots of emotional distress were revealed, and the Holy Spirit did a wonderful work of renewal and assurance of complete forgiveness for their abortions. In June, I met with these women in Druzhkovka and **they are eager to begin this ministry in their churches**. They see a great need in their churches and also amongst the refugees. This course deals with Biblical answers to so many issues, that it would be a help to the distress those suffer from displacement by war. Pray for our FSF leadership team in Odessa as we plan **leadership training** this fall for our own area and Donetsk and perhaps some ladies from Central Asia as well. I had to turn down a request to go back there to do another training this year.

John and Michele **Morgan** (former colleagues in Togo) brought two nurses to Ukraine for 2 weeks. John spoke at our association pastors' conference and did a seminar at a church in Odessa, as well as preaching at local churches. The first week Michele and the nurses served in some of my regular **village clinics**, and began to understand how resistant the Ukrainian culture is to the Gospel. But hearts are being touched slowly but surely. We did clinic in Builik where my friends Sasha and Ira Lupanov started a church several years ago. We had to limit the number of patients, so many wanted to come! I had opportunity to pray with two young ladies who had gone to Ira's Sunday School class as kids, but dropped out. Both suffered anguish in their marriages and family life. But **both wept their way to repentance** that day as we prayed together! The team then spent a week with me in northern Donbass the first of June. **Several internally displaced persons prayed for salvation**, as John and Lonya counseled with them.

The **Christian Medical Congress of Eastern Europe** was an amazing experience! Over 300 health care professionals came to Belarus, who were enthusiastic about serving the Lord, at least while they were at the Congress. Pray that will translate into actual service in their local areas. God carried me through my presentation of village clinic ministry in a wonderful way. Lots of positive comments afterward, invitations to come help in various places, or desire to come to Odessa to work with me! An American missionary family doctor with another organization asked me a lot of questions, and came down to visit a village clinic recently. A dentist from western Ukraine is coming to Odessa the first of August to do a clinic with us. I also spoke to a small group in Minsk. **Please pray for me to have wisdom in how to deal with all these invitations to travel, speak, help other ministries.** Holly leaves on furlough at the end of August for a year, so I must not make too many commitments. May the Lord direct my steps for His glory.

**Pray for the team of youth and leaders coming from my sending church Johnston Chapel Baptist in Princeton WV to lead a children's camp July 24-28.** Pastor Dan and Amy Thyng are leading this group. **Seventeen refugee children from Druzhkovka are coming with 3 adult leaders, nearly all from families who are not believers.** Pray for the youth to love the kids to the Lord, both villager and refugee, to overlook the difficulties in the circumstances and differences in the Ukrainian culture, to focus on hurting people in need. Another unique opportunity will be ministering to a **young man from Ivory Coast, Africa**, who is studying in Odessa and has agreed to come to camp. He became acquainted with a missionary colleague through an online counseling ministry in French. She put me in touch with Koffi and he has visited the Krasnosyolka Church a couple of times but knows very little Russian. His first language is French, but he knows a fair amount of English. Pray for Dan and his team as they also reach out to Koffi, to lead him to Jesus as Lord and Savior. The Johnston Chapel team will also minister Sunday, July 23, in the Krasnosyolka worship service and afternoon outreaches in the villages of Kubanka, Shamanovka, and New Kubanka. Pray for the Johnston Chapel and Krasnosyolka teams to be knit together in love for one another and service of the Lord, despite the language barrier.

**Pastor Lonya's church in Krasnosyolka has a fantastic opportunity to purchase property adjacent to the current church building!** Our church is bursting at the seams, and greatly needs parking and space for children's and youth ministry. This lot would more than double our territory. If you would like to donate financially to this project, send your gift to my ABWE support account #011015.

**Thank you** so much for upholding me in prayer! Your intercession enables me to fly on eagles' wings in God's power to accomplish His purpose.

*Clinging to The Rock,  
Miriam Wheeler, MD*