

Wherefore I also,
after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus,
and love unto all the saints,
Cease not to give thanks for you,
making mention of you in my prayers.

Ephesians 1:15-16

Dear Prayer Partners:

Ukraine does not have a national day of thanksgiving, so each church chooses a Sunday in October/November to celebrate “Zhatva”—the

Harvest. I am so thankful for you who faithfully pray for my ministry in Ukraine. *No matter what difficulties we are facing, we can always thank the Lord for His gift of salvation and eternal life and the glories awaiting us in Heaven!* See Ephesians 1 for a long list of God’s gifts to His children.



Krasnosyolka Zhatva Celebration
Thanksgiving for the Harvest
Hitherto hath the LORD helped us.
1 Samuel 7:12



I have some **unexpected news for you**, which is heart-wrenching for me, but is a great opportunity ordained by the Lord. **ABWE has asked me to become the new Medical Director of International Missionary Healthcare** of our mission, which consists of about 1,000 missionaries worldwide. After many hours of prayer and getting counsel and approval from my sending church pastoral staff and several trusted godly advisors, I accepted this challenge. The Medical Director can fulfill the Great Commission globally by enhancing new missionaries’ health status and education to find the field that suits them best and to enable them to stay longer on the field. God has prepared me as a family physician through 5 years of hospital work in Togo, 19 years of village outpatient clinics in Ukraine, and many missionary medical consultations through the years. I still don’t feel smart enough, but the Lord will keep teaching me and growing me! Best of all, ABWE wants the medical director to **stay involved in overseas ministry and remain on missionary support.**

When will this happen? Dr. Tim Hepworth, the current Medical Director, and I have worked out this timetable:

- NOW: Continue ministry in Ukraine as usual.
- **April 2018:** Begin work as Associate Medical Director.
- April/May 2018: Spend a few weeks at our ABWE headquarters in Harrisburg PA for training.
- Return to Ukraine—continue ½-time in medical ministry and work ½-time as Associate Medical Director.
- **April 2019:** Move to Harrisburg and become Medical Director.
- **After that move, I will make trips to Ukraine for 2-3 months each year**, continuing involvement in village clinic ministry and Choose Life.

Please pray for me and my Ukraine ministry partners as we prepare for this transition:

1. God’s wisdom, guidance and strength to learn the ropes of a new job and figure out how to divide my time between these two ministries for the next 1½ years.
2. Keep my Ukrainian partners from anxiety or fear about these changes.
3. Wisdom and grace for Holly as she will assume more responsibility upon return from furlough in Sept. 2018.
4. There are so many more destitute villages in need of the Hope of Jesus and medical care, so many women having abortions, and so many young Ukrainian Christian healthcare professionals in need of mentoring. Pray for God to fulfill these needs. **Send a career missionary doctor to Ukraine!**
5. Continue to pray for our patients to come to know Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior.

Rejoicing to be co-laborers with you in the harvest in Ukraine and soon to be a global ambassador for the King of Kings!
Miriam Wheeler, MD