

## *Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine*

*The LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek;  
He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives...  
to comfort all that mourn...*

*to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning.*

Isaiah 61:1-3

January 21, 2016

Dear Prayer Partners:

What a wonderful message from Isaiah describing the purpose of the Messiah, our Lord Jesus Christ! That touches my heart especially in thinking about the refugees in Ukraine who have fled their homes to escape the turmoil and destruction of war. **Pray for the churches who are sharing the Good News** with them, to comfort the brokenhearted and grieving, to transform their mourning and ashes into joy and beauty. **THANK YOU** to many who generously gave to the Crisis Fund and my medical ministry fund to meet some of their needs! There is a severe strain of flu moving through parts of Ukraine, that is particularly devastating to these refugees who are already marginally nourished and struggling to stay warm this winter. The Crisis Fund is providing medicines for those in contact with our partnering churches. **YOU are making a difference in many lives!** The Crisis really touches all Ukrainians, as our village clinics are burgeoning. The average number of patients per month climbed from 294 in early 2014 to 485 at the end of 2015!

I am enjoying seeing friends and family and sharing with my supporting churches during this furlough, while also spending many hours on Skype in meetings with colleagues in Ukraine. My vertigo has been worse the past few months, so that has been a struggle. **Pray for my health, that God would help me to accomplish HIS purpose:** to complete necessary projects and prepare for speaking engagements. Some R&R would be helpful at some point! February-March, I will be visiting churches in Virginia, South Carolina, and Georgia. **Pray that God will lead me to some visionary individuals who would be willing to go serve Him in Ukraine!**

A church the Crisis Fund supports sent this testimony of one refugee they helped, which is typical of many:

*My name is Tatyana. I have lived my whole life in the Donetsk oblast of Ukraine. In July 2014, I found out what war is and how terrifying it is. One weekend, I decided to go to the lake with my son and his wife, and my grandson. We heard explosions and artillery fire! Fear and panic clinched my heart. We ran for our lives and managed to get home uninjured. Then the bombardment started every day, and we saw dead and injured people in the street, others hiding in basements with children crying for something to eat and drink. On the bus going home from work, I often saw buildings on fire, and people covered with blood. Shrapnel damaged my roof and blew out the windows. For 11 months, we had no power, no gas, no water, no heat. Children could not go to school. I finally fled to Dobropolye, outside the occupied zone, to a place where I could live in peace and receive my pension. I found a small room in a dormitory. A young lady invited me to the church, "Light of the Gospel". They provided free hot lunches and grocery packets. The words of the pastor lifted the veil from my eyes. I began to attend regularly and to seek God.*

*At a service a few months later, I felt like my heart was twisting inside, and I felt insignificant and worthless, a sinner unworthy of forgiveness. I repented, and God forgave me! Then I felt light, as if I had wings. Now I want to do everything in the Name of Jesus Christ. I want my children and grandchildren to believe in Him. I am very sorry, that I came to God so late. So much I lost, so much I did wrong. But I know, that even then God was with me. **And through war and trials, He brought me to Himself.** Now I have many friends, sisters and brothers. Thanks to their help, I am fed and clothed. Now I serve God with joy. I miss my home, but hope to return someday to share Christ with them.*

Pray that God will draw many more to Himself! I am thankful that He has called doctors to cover the clinics in March and May. Pray that He would provide **doctors for April and June.** I plan to return to Odessa in July. I would like to organize a **medical team this fall to work in village and refugee ministry.** Pray that God would raise up dentists and primary care physicians for that endeavor. Drop me a note if you are interested. Thank you for interceding for Ukraine!

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

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Donations to ABWE Ukraine Crisis Fund, account # 0717401