

Emmanuel—God with us!

Matthew 1:23

December 17, 2017

Dear Prayer Partners:

May God bless you in your celebration of the Birth of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord!

I returned from Donbass December 10, after a week of ministry there with two clinic assistants and Pastor Lonya. Our hearts were broken as we saw more villages in

the Lugansk oblast **ravaged by the destruction of war**, mostly a couple of years ago. One elderly lady is still living in the one room of her house left standing after a direct hit by a rocket. Large parts of towns and villages are deserted, with damaged houses, windowless and forlorn. We heard stories of family members and neighbors killed or injured in the attacks. These bereft people were so grateful for our medical help! **We served 154 patients in 4 different villages.** Two Ukrainian missionaries had been sent by a German-based mission to start an outreach in one of these villages just two weeks earlier. They held their first service a few days after the clinic and 25 patients showed up! **Several prayed to receive Christ during the week.** Pray for Pastor Evgeniy and these two as they follow up our contacts.



Peace on Earth

Thank you for your prayers for the **Ukraine Crisis Fund** meeting. It is always difficult to read letters of so many needs and realize that we can give only a drop in the bucket. May God multiply all those droplets! **Many are concerned about getting fuel for heat this winter.** In the occupied zone, the ruling authority turned off the electricity of one church! So they try to run their meetings with minimal use of a generator. Another pastor left the occupied zone to visit family, and he was not allowed back in! This “**pastor in exile**” is living in Ukrainian territory while his wife and two of his children stay behind. Pray that he will be able to return to his ministry. Many churches are planning special **Christmas programs** Jan 7-8 when Ukraine celebrates. They need help to buy even small gifts for the children. This will probably be the only gift these kids get. May this lead them to receive Christ’s greatest gift! Several churches will do special presentations in orphanages and schools. **One ministry, “Peace to Your Home”,** is based in an adjacent oblast in Ukrainian territory and a group **makes weekly trips to villages on the front line where scores of people are trapped in the battle zone**, fleeing to basements at night to escape strafing. They take bread to the needy, and once a month take grocery packets to the most destitute. They bought a village house to turn into a prayer house where they lead weekly services. Praise the Lord for a number of these who have been saved and now have Jesus’ peace and promise of eternal life. Another pastor in the occupied zone wrote of his church being filled with unsaved people hungry for bread who receive the Bread of Life! What a privilege to serve with such dedicated servants, staying in a difficult place to help the needy.

How can YOU help? PRAY for these ministries in war-torn Donbass, for grace and strength for these pastors living in constant stress and oppression, for peace in Ukraine. **Would you give to the Crisis Fund to enable these ministries to continue to feed the hungry, keep them warm and clothed, and share the Gospel?** See instructions below.

God has greatly blessed our **pro-life ministry: “Choose Life!”**. 127 women have finished the small group Bible study “Forgiven and Set Free” since 2011. This fall we accomplished another milestone as a client of our Women’s Center decided to keep her baby, then in follow-up she accepted Christ as Savior, and is now studying FSF! Our Center is busy with new clients and bursting at the seams with activity—prenatal classes, Mom’s Club, Bible studies, as well as consultations and follow-up with counselors. **We need more space!** We need a larger conference room for training, additional counseling rooms, more storage for humanitarian aid, and offices for FSF and new ministries coming soon. This has led us to the decision that **we need to build our own ministry center for Choose Life.** Would you be willing to help us in this great endeavor? **Would you like to be part of saving babies’ lives, teaching their moms, and leading them to salvation?** See brochure and instructions below.

We recently made the difficult decision to close the clinics in Shamanovka and New Kubanka, which we did in one day of traveling, even stopping at a house in a 3rd village! God has drawn several people to Himself in these villages. Pastor Lonya and the group from Krasnosyolka lead a Sunday service in Shamanovka every week and holiday services in New Kubanka, so spiritual follow-up will continue. These villages are tiny and losing people to the city while not gaining any. We believe **God is leading us to open a monthly clinic in a new village with no medical help and no church.** There are so many needs, it was very difficult to choose! God led us to **join Pastor Anatoliy in reaching the village of Victorivka,** just a few miles from Limaniy where our clinic has helped him plant a church. **Pray for God's blessing on this new endeavor starting January 19.**

Thank you so much for your intercession for my ministry in Ukraine! I appreciated the many encouraging letters I received about my transition to Medical Director of ABWE over the next year and a half. Pray that I will fulfill God's purpose in these 18 months I have remaining in Ukraine.

Grace, peace and joy at Christmas!

Miriam Wheeler, MD

Your partner in Ukraine

Instructions for giving

You can give online:

<http://www.abwe.org/work/projects/ukraine-crisis-fund>

<http://myaccount.abwe.org/p-2505-choose-life-ukraine-building-project.aspx>

<http://myaccount.abwe.org/p-1376-wheeler-miriam-r.aspx>

You can mail a check to ABWE, PO Box 8585, Harrisburg PA 17105-8585,
with the account # in the memo.

Ukraine Crisis Fund account # 0717401

Choose Life Building Project account # 0757363.

Village clinic ministry account # 0110153