

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him;

Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way,

Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.

from Psalm 37

February 25, 2018

Dear Prayer Partners:

Thank you so much for your generous gifts to my medical ministry, to Choose Life, and to the Ukraine Crisis Fund at the end of 2017! These will enable us to do another distribution through the Crisis Fund in March. Please pray for wisdom and strength for our advisory council as we meet March 14-15. We are hosting a roundtable for recipients to come together to share in person about their ministries and needs. Continue to pray for the spiritual and physical needs of war survivors and refugees in Donbass.

What do you say to a mom whose 14-year-old daughter committed suicide during an online "game"?? I was floored to learn in **Sahanskoye** that these horrendous internet games had come to the villages of Ukraine. Here the mom was sitting across the table for me, dressed in black, trying to hold the tears back and requesting pills to help her deal with the pain. I explained that pills would just mask her grief, whereas she needed to go through the mourning period to achieve healing. I shared God's love and tenderness with her, but she wasn't ready to hear it. Pray that Styopa and Tanya will be able to follow up with Oksana, to be there for her to comfort, and to share the gospel when she is ready. May our gentle Good Shepherd touch her heart to draw her and her husband to Himself, the only Healer of such pain.

The **good news in Sahanskoye** is that several patients have started attending their Sunday services regularly. This was really encouraging. One lady shared with me how God had drawn her to Himself over many clinic visits. I didn't think she had been listening! But the Holy Spirit was working in her heart to convince of the truth of Jesus' atonement for her sin. She is reading the Scripture and wants to be baptized. We are also seeing many patients attending the Sunday services in **Kubanka** for the first time. Praise the Lord for His work in their lives. Lonya and I have been sharing with Maria for several years. When she first returned to Kubanka to care for her ill mom, she claimed to be an atheist. But as we ministered to her mom, to her sister and to **Maria**, God began breaking down the barriers in her heart and mind, using "The Story of Hope". Just recently she publicly repented and professed Jesus as Savior. **Ludmilla in Krasnosyolka** is warming up to us. Her kids went to camp last summer, and she read "The Lamb", the Bible study from camp. Last clinic, one of her daughters brought a picture she had drawn for me. Pray that **Ludmilla** would keep seeking Christ. To God be the glory, great things He has done!

Thursday 2/22 was our first time hold a clinic in **Viktorivka**. We had planned to initiate the clinic there in January, but a big snowstorm prevented that. Then Thursday I was sick with the flu and unable to go! I sent my clinic assistants, with my senior assistant who is a trained pharmacist, so they could treat some simple problems. Natalya called me to consult on a few patients. They saw 24 patients in this new location, and Pastor Anatoliy was thrilled with opportunities to get acquainted with new people and to share the gospel with many. **Pray for God's blessings on this new endeavor.**

Continue to pray for Dr. Tim Murphy and his family as they prepare for 3 months of ministry in Odessa 4/2—6/28. As I was preparing Tim's clinic schedule, I asked Sasha and Ira, the pastor in Builik, if they would like another clinic there. They agreed immediately! They started the church 15 years ago, and God gave them a good core of believers in the early years. But some of those have moved or gone to heaven, and the church is struggling. People are more antagonistic to spiritual things. They got some great contacts from clinics last year. One boy went to camp last summer, but his dad refused to let him attend Sunday School. Then the **optometrists** came last September, and this dad got glasses. Sasha talked to him during the clinic, and this dad decided his son could come to Sunday School! Now Sasha has an open door. Ira told me she would love to host an English club there, as that would attract a lot of children. **Angela** Murphy has a master's in TESL (teaching English as a Second Language) and agreed to run an English club during the 3 months they are in Odessa. **Pray for the Murphys' ministry in Builik to open many hearts to the Good News!**

Do you believe that God is at work in Ukraine?!

There is more! I shared with you that **“Choose Life!”**, our pro-life ministry, is raising funds for our own ministry center, essential to expand and nationalize our ministry. In January the owner of the office we are renting for the **pregnancy care center** told us they are selling it and we must **evacuate by April 1**. Luba Abramova, director of the Women’s Center, has been frantically searching for other rentals. However, rental prices have gone way up, and for the same price we are currently paying (\$600/month), we could get a place only half the size. She found only a couple of places the same size, and their monthly rent would be about \$1200-1400. As we prayed, God led one realtor to a private clinic that had moved to a larger location and was selling at an incredible price. It is a bit larger than our current rental, which is being sold for \$120,000. This clinic was being offered for just \$55,000! Of course, I immediately asked what is wrong with it. When we looked at it, I found several water spots on the ceiling. As I questioned their realtor, he immediately dropped the asking price to \$53,000. Pastor Lonya is a member of our **Board of Directors** and has a background in construction, so he did a thorough inspection of the building. The only thing he found was the leaking roof. Of course, all the rooms and the exterior wall need to be painted and the flooring replaced. But even with the price of those renovations, this is still a miraculous deal. And God has brought in enough funds already, that we could purchase it. **As chairman of the Board, I agonized in prayer over this decision.** The location is excellent, and the office is sufficient for existing ministries. In a few years, when God gives us the funds for our ministry center, it should be easy to sell and recoup all of our investments. **Our Building Committee has spent many hours in discussion and prayer. And God gave us peace to purchase it!** Please pray much as we scramble to get all the funds to Odessa and to jump through all the legal hoops to finalize the purchase and get the renovations done in time to move in April. It seems impossible, but “with God all things are possible”!

Rejoice with me and pray for me!

*Clinging to The Rock,
Miriam Wheeler, MD*

P.S. You can download a printable version of this prayer letter and others in the archives on our website: <http://ukrainemedical.abwe.org>. There are new photo albums on the website from camp and clinics last year that you should check out. In the ministry blog is information and a downloadable brochure about the Choose Life building project. Plus a link on the home page to a video about village clinic ministry. **God is at work in Ukraine!** Check out the website!