

## *Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine*

*Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.*

*Thy hands have made me and fashioned me:*

*give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.*

Psalm 119:66 & 73

June 2, 2018

Dear Prayer Partners:

Greetings from Odessa from the **new Associate Medical Director for ABWE!** I returned to Odessa a week ago from my training in Harrisburg for my new position. I obtained my Pennsylvania medical license, renewed my DEA registration, applied for malpractice insurance, got approval for electronic prescribing through our electronic medical record, and jumped through the myriad hoops of bureaucracy to re-enter the world of medicine in the USA. It is incredible how many hours I spent on this process. I enjoyed my time at ABWE headquarters, meeting with various administrators there and spending much time with Medical Director Dr. Hepworth to learn my new responsibilities. In mentoring, I often say that **I want to forever be a learner.** God has been putting that to the test! You can see why the Scripture He has impressed on my heart during this time has been about teaching, understanding and learning, confident in His making me and preparing me for this role. I have already dealt with my first medical evacuation of a missionary back to the US for testing and treatment. I am learning all the ABWE policies for missionary healthcare. **Please pray for wisdom for me as I learn to balance these new responsibilities with my ongoing ministry in Ukraine.**

I cannot believe that my last prayer letter was February 25! Life has been a whirlwind the past few months. Our ABWE project manager and his family made a quick trip to Odessa to evaluate the building **Choose Life** had decided to purchase and to assess the renovations that needed to be done. This was a huge help to me, as chairman of the Board trying to **oversee a building project.** Bringing our Board to consensus was challenging, but with much prayer we saw God work in our hearts to make good decisions together. Pastor Lonya is a member of our Board and agreed to oversee the renovations, since his background is construction. He has done much of the work himself, as well as assembling a team of workers along with another Board member's friend who is an interior designer. As is often the case, it has taken more time and money than anticipated, but God has supplied all we need! We are planning a service and open house to **dedicate this new office for Choose Life June 13.** Please pray that God will be glorified in this celebration and in the ministry to come in this new location. This is **Phase 1** of our plan for a ministry center. **Phase 2** will be a new roof in the summer of 2019. **Phase 3** will be in a few years, when we either add on to this building or purchase a new and larger space. **We continue to seek God's guidance and provision** for a ministry center that our Ukrainian partners can utilize and take care of for many years in the future!

Our **Ukraine Crisis Fund** advisory council met in March in Druzhkovka in eastern Ukraine and hosted a **roundtable** for many of our recipients. What a blessing and challenge to hear the stories of **oppression in the rebel-occupied zone** being met with determined evangelistic outreaches and outpouring of humanitarian aid to numerous needy souls. Many continue to **serve refugees and war survivors** in the Ukrainian territory of **Donbass**, as well as in the troubled "grey zone" where conflict still erupts periodically. God has raised up many **heroes of the Faith** in this difficult era of Ukraine's history! Our ABWE team is privileged to partner with them. This was my last meeting as Administrator of the Fund, but my heart will continue to hurt for them and hold them up in prayer. **Our Odessa medical team is planning another trip to that area June 19-27, so please pray** for those plans, for wisdom in treatment, for safety, and for God to touch many souls to turn to Him for salvation and peace.

**Dr. Tim Murphy**, his wife Angela, and 3 children arrived in Odessa April 2 for three months of ministry. They have all adapted incredibly well to life in Ukraine! Tim is pouring himself out in service to our village clinic patients and will be joining us on the trip to Donbass. Angela has been leading an English club in Builik on Saturdays, in which their whole family is participating. She also teaches a few English students and makes her home a center of hospitality. They are all learning Russian too! **Pray for them as they seek God's will** for future service. We would love for God to call them to long-term ministry in Ukraine! We will be sad to see them go back to the US June 28.

**Natalie van Every** is a **nurse** who just graduated from Bible college and is spending **a few weeks with us in Odessa**. She arrives tonight on the train from Kiev and will be working with us in village clinics, learning about the pro-life ministry, serving with us in Donbass, and using her skills as nurse at a camp for orphans for a week. Pray for her adjustment to life in Ukraine and for God to teach her much about missionary life and show her His will for her future ministry. Pray for wisdom for me as I orient her and mentor her in medical ministry.

**Pastor Lonya** took the Krasnosyolka youth group to a conference in western Ukraine a few weeks ago. Six of them made **professions of faith** in Jesus Christ as Savior! Lonya was **overflowing with joy** over God's work in their lives. He is seeing fruit in our **Sunday School**, as several boys the age of his youngest son are seeking extra mentoring beyond SS. Pray for Lonya as he leads the church to unity of vision in reaching more people in Krasnosyolka and beyond with the Good News of salvation through Christ alone. He is carrying a heavy load right now with the church, the **Choose Life** building project and the clinic ministry. He will be going with our medical team to **Donbass** as evangelist.

That is a small capsule of all that has been happening in the past few months! Thank you so much for continuing to pray and give, even when you didn't hear much from me. God is at work in Ukraine! Pray for me as I prepare workshops for the Eastern Europe **Congress of the Christian Medical Association in August**. We are also planning a training for new group leaders for Forgiven and Set Free, perhaps in August. Stay tuned; there is much more to come!

**Rejoicing to be God's ambassador and your co-laborer in the harvest in Ukraine.**

*Clinging to The Rock,  
Miriam Wheeler, MD*