

## *Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine*

*Let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, ...  
with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,  
and not in any way terrified by your adversaries...*

*For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ,  
not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.*

Philippians 1:27-29

July 8, 2018

Dear Prayer Partners:

***Walls riddled with bullet holes, windows blown out, missing roofs, house after house severely damaged and deserted, signs of destruction all around us.*** Where was I? In the "grey zone" of the Donetsk region, between Ukrainian territory and the occupied zone. People who survived the intense battle there a couple of years ago, have stayed behind in the only homes they know. Fighting continues just a few miles away, but they barely notice any more, numbed to the terror. They desperately need medical help and spiritual encouragement. A wonderful ministry team formed 3 years from several churches in nearby cities in Ukraine to take them **fresh bread weekly** and grocery packets monthly. Gradually people started listening to the Gospel. They got permission to turn an abandoned house into a prayer house. Now **Alexander Radin** goes every Sunday to share God's Word. Three people have received Christ as Savior! **Our medical team saw 106 patients in 4 small villages in this needy area.** We expected more in one of the larger villages, but several months ago an international secular organization had done a clinic there without any medicines for chronic diseases. They basically said, "You are old; you just have to live with it". You can imagine the impression that left! Many people did not come, thinking our clinic would just be more of the same. How critical it is to listen to patients, show them the love of Jesus, compassionate care for their maladies! **They are thirsty for love.** I did several home visits and was saddened by the conditions these folks have been reduced to in an area that was previously a thriving industrial region.

On Sunday, our team divided into 2 groups to do a worship service in two places. In one small village this was the first gospel witness of its kind. We met in an old medical clinic with ancient equipment that was deserted when the war began. **14 of the 21 patients we saw there came to the service!** Pastor Lonya preached on the lady desperate for relief from bleeding who touched Jesus in the middle of a crowd. Jesus saw her faith and healed her physically and spiritually. One elderly lady painfully rose, hugged Lonya, and cried, **"I want to touch you and receive that!"** Lonya helped her to pray for personal forgiveness and strength to forgive her neighbor. The Ukrainian people are resilient! Many begged us to return. May the gospel seeds we planted bear fruit.

We spent 1½ days in Druzhkovka, focusing on **refugee patients.** What a blessing to see how the Church has reached out to these hurting people, drawing them into the family of God. **Many have received Jesus as Savior in their brokenness!** I saw many we have served before, glad to see their acceptance of Jesus' peace in the midst of their fears and grief. Altogether in the 4 ½ clinic days, **we cared for 200 patients.** Pastor Fyodor is a dynamic evangelist, involved in the community, touching lives. Pray for him and his church to continue their outreach, for Alexander Radin and his ministry "Peace to Your Home", and others who are sharing Jesus' love during this ongoing war. They are all partners of our **ABWE-Ukraine Crisis Fund**, using our financial help to distribute humanitarian aid with Christ's compassion.

**Please pray urgently for another Crisis Fund partner in the rebel-occupied zone of Donbass. This exceptional evangelist has fed and cared for many hungry hurting people, and scores have come to Christ through his ministry. This has caught the attention of the Communist-style authorities, and they have confiscated the church building, sealed the door, and called him into the prosecutor's office Monday!! Pray that God would rescue him and allow him to continue ministry! Another pastor has not been allowed to go back into the occupied zone and has been living "in exile" for several months. Churches have had their electricity cut off, and outreach curtailed. Others are planning evangelistic camps for children and youth this summer. Many are faithful to our great God, despite the risks. What a privilege to partner with these courageous servants!**

**The Lord gave Choose Life a wonderful day June 13 to celebrate the opening of our new Women's Center!** As Chairman of the Board, I got to lead the service of dedication, honoring Director Luba Abramova and project manager Pastor Lonya German for their countless hours of work to make this new ministry center a reality. About **15 Ukrainian pastors** joined us in the dedicatory service with prayers, Scriptural challenges, and promises of support. What a great launching pad for revitalization of our ministry in this new location! Continue to pray for Luba as she wraps up many details with the overhaul of the electrical system and other structural issues. **Please pray for God to send us more volunteers for the crisis pregnancy center, especially men and women gifted in counseling.** We want to reach husbands and dads as well as moms and teach them to invest in Christian families. **Thank you** for your selfless financial gifts which have made this new center possible!

Our Odessa medical team was saddened to say **good-bye to Dr. Tim Murphy and his family June 28** after 3 months of enthusiastic ministry through clinics, English clubs and hospitality in their home. We look forward to their visiting again in the future! On the other hand, we are eager for **Holly Friesen to return from furlough** in August. Pray for her as she finishes her home ministry assignment, raises additional personal support, as well as support for Choose Life. Missionary life is full of revolving doors of personnel!

**Pray for me as I have had a bad week of vertigo**, and many issues await my attention. I need to prepare two workshops for the **Christian Medical Congress August 6-11**. I am getting more involved in my responsibilities as Associate Medical Director of ABWE and have many documents to review. July is our month off from village clinics, so I have time to catch up with expense reports, prayer letters, pro-life issues, continuing medical education, and much more. Pray the Lord might restore my health to enable me to accomplish His purpose through all these tasks. He is faithful!

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

*Clinging to The Rock,  
Miriam Wheeler, MD*