

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

*Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we do not lose heart.
For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord,
and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake.
For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness,
who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.*

2 Corinthians 4: 1, 5-6

August 31, 2018

Dear Prayer Partners:

God has given me the wonderful ministry of **sharing the Gospel with Ukrainians drowning in despair and tradition** that prevents them from seeing the truth of Jesus' salvation. Listening to their troubles constantly daily can be depressing and exhausting, as many healthcare professionals will tell you. But it is because of **God's mercy** that I have this ministry, and His mercies are renewed every morning! The God Who created Light has shone His glory into our hearts to illuminate those living in darkness. I love 2 Corinthians 4 and frequently return to it for encouragement; coming to it in my daily devotions was very timely this week.

The Lord gave me several opportunities in August to share the Gospel in detail with patients in **village clinics**. **Ira** was getting worn down trying to help her neighbors with no support or remuneration. She grabbed onto the lifeboat of Hope like someone drowning! We prayed together, and she is seeking God. As a child, **Kristina** watched a building next to her house crumble in an explosive fire with several injuries and fatalities. Villages have no fire departments or emergency help. She is still plagued with a **phobia of fire** and has tried a lot of unbiblical ways to deal with it. However, she listened hungrily to the promised peace of salvation and pledged to read a booklet on God's way of dealing with stress that shares the Gospel clearly. **Maria** is housebound, and her devoted husband begged me and Lonya to come see her. After a busy day in Kubanka seeing 52 patients, I was dragging and knew how wearing an **evaluation of a new patient** would be. But the husband's persistence touched my heart, and they and their daughter were so grateful for my coming, explaining medications and giving medical advice. They have exhausted their resources so said they could not take her to the city to get blood work done or for hospital care. They did listen attentively to the hope Jesus gives!

I had **another siege of vertigo** for 5 days, leaving me really weak, but thankfully I did not miss any clinic days in August. 2 Corinthians 4 reminds us of how short our days of suffering are on earth in comparison to an eternity in a perfect paradise with the Prince of Peace! God has used this malady often to help me identify with my patients and to tell them from experience that His peace is real, **He is more secure than an immovable Stone Mountain**, and hope does indeed drive out despair. Thank you for praying for my health and for me to accomplish God's purpose daily, whether sick or healthy.

God greatly blessed the **Christian Medical Association conference**. I did **workshops** on emotional sequelae of abortion and God's prescription for anxiety and stress and participated in a **panel discussion** on caring for homosexual individuals. God's love and salvation is available to ALL sinners! The Lord gave me some excellent conversations with young Christian healthcare professionals seeking advice, guidance, wisdom. Even one **unsaved young lady** from an Orthodox background invited by a friend was moved to tears by the testimonies of post-abortion women who found forgiveness and healing in Jesus. A nurse got excited about village clinic ministry and wants to visit some clinics with us. A doctor talked for an hour about the **stress in her life**, and we talked about concrete ways for how to deal with it. I was able to encourage some of the conference leaders in their spiritual walk and pray with them. It was a great week!

A fire destroyed a house just a couple of weeks ago in Krasnosyolka—the home of Pastor Lonya’s younger brother Tolik and the house in which they grew up. Pray for Tolik and Ruslana and their sons Stas and Sasha to find encouragement in Christ during this difficulty and for God to supply all their needs. Lonya has spent many hours helping Tolik with clean-up.

I am excited about some guests coming in a few days! My **brother Tom** is a PhD of theology and has taught in a Bible college for 20 years then pastored for several years before his retirement. He came to Ukraine to teach pastors in 1992 and 1994 but this will be his first trip since I moved here. We are going to keep him busy preaching, evangelism in village clinics and teaching seminars. **John King** just retired a few weeks ago as senior pastor of my sending church. He became pastor of Johnston Chapel in 1990, the same year I was appointed by ABWE as a career missionary! **Jim Simmons** has been a close friend since I started visiting JCBC in 1989 and we discovered a shared passion for evangelism. He has been the pastor of outreach for many years and has made several trips to Ukraine. These men will have a great opportunity to build into Pastor Lonya’s ministry and the church leaders in Krasnosyolka. They are also going to help me celebrate my 20th anniversary in Ukraine and my 60th birthday with my Ukrainian ministry partners. I am delighted that **Holly Friesen** returned from furlough in time for this special event and is already busy helping with plans. May God be glorified in this **“Day of Thanksgiving” September 8!**

Thank you for partnering with me in prayer and financial support “to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God” to Ukrainians groping their way through spiritual darkness. **Pray for my patients to come to know Jesus as personal Savior** and for Ukrainian Christian healthcare professionals to be burdened to carry on this valuable village clinic ministry. He is able!

*Clinging to The Rock,
Miriam Wheeler, MD*