

*Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine*

*I will praise the name of God with a song,  
And will magnify Him with thanksgiving.*

Psalm 69:30

October 2, 2018

Dear Prayer Partners:

What better way to **magnify our Lord** than to thank Him for Who He is and for all He has done for us! I love the chorus "**Give Thanks**", which in Russian is translated "Praise to You, our Lord". Praise and thanksgiving go hand in hand. Autumn is the season of thanksgiving in Ukraine as each church picks a Sunday in September or October to celebrate "**Zhatva**"— **Harvest**. A group of us from the Krasnosyolka church will be going to **New Kubanka** Sunday afternoon, October 7, to celebrate Zhatva. Then October 14 will be Zhatva in **Krasnosyolka**, where there are usually many visitors. **Pray for the salvation** of those to whom we have witnessed for years through **clinics** and evangelistic services.

Following the "Day of Thanksgiving" September 8, described in my last letter, **Pastors John King and Jim Simmons** from my sending church (Johnston Chapel Baptist in Princeton WV) ministered at Fair Haven Church in Krasnosyolka with Pastor Lonya. *What a blessing!* They both shared in the service Sunday morning, then we enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Lonya and Luba's home with much conversation, laughter and music. That evening Jim met with Lonya's Celebrate Recovery group, and John did a Q&A with the congregation. The people were thrilled to learn more about Johnston Chapel's various ministries and pumped John for advice in our local ministry. We were so sad to see John and Jim fly away Monday morning, but **they packed a lot of love and encouragement into 4 days!**

My brother, **Dr. Tom Wheeler**, PhD in theology, stayed another week to preach in two of my **village clinics**. *A patient at each village prayed with Tom and his translator to receive Jesus as Savior!* Pray for these women to follow through on this spiritual interest. They lead such hard lives in these destitute villages, with no running water, horrible roads, raising their own food, struggling to heat their houses in the harsh winters. Many turn to alcohol for relief. **Pray that more will turn to Jesus, the fountain of living water.**

Tom preached at Odessa Theological Seminary and at Fair Haven Church and taught a seminar at "Hope for People" Church: "**If God is good, why is there evil in the world?**". A timely topic for any culture! The **40 participants** wrote notes feverishly and came away with a new appreciation for God's sovereignty and trustworthiness. It was challenging for me to prepare his notes and PowerPoint presentation in Russian from the translators' notes. Tom also did a Q&A at Fair Haven Church Sunday evening. They asked many **tough questions about God's Word** and got helpful answers. Tom left Monday morning, Sept. 17, and my apartment seemed very quiet after the flurry of activity of the previous 10 days! **Pray for Pastor Lonya** as he follows up on these visitors' ministries.

**Please pray** especially for **Styopa**, the church leader in **Sahanskoye**. His wife Tanya went home to be with the Lord this morning after fighting metastatic breast cancer. The funeral is Wednesday, October 3. Styopa and Tanya are choice servants of our Lord! Many times, I made home visits to patients at their request, and Tanya had already been there to help in some way. She was a shining testimony of God's grace. Pray for those who hear the **Gospel at her funeral** to respond to Jesus' invitation to salvation. Pray for this small church to be a lighthouse of faith.

October 12, I fly to **Malta** for our ABWE Central and Eastern Europe regional **conference**. From there I will fly to the US for a month of ministry at **ABWE HQ**, a **medical missions** conference in Louisville KY, at Johnston Chapel, then **Thanksgiving** with my family in Greenville SC! Pray for safety in travel and effective ministry in all these venues.

**Thanking the Lord for you, faithful partners!** **Inflation in Ukraine due to the smoldering war** means clinic expenses are rising, so I really appreciate your sacrificial giving to provide medicines for patients who would otherwise suffer without relief. May God "supply all your need, according to His riches in glory" (Phil. 4: 19).

*Co-laborers in His Harvest,  
Miriam Wheeler MD*

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