

## *Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine*

*May the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

1 Peter 5:10-11

January 23, 2019

Dear Prayer Partners:

God in His grace and sovereignty calls us all to **suffering** sometimes, but all for the glory of Jesus Christ and maturing our walk with Him. **He will restore, support, and strengthen us**, and He will place us on a firm foundation! Our gracious Father is taking me through some testing right now.

Wednesday evening January 9, **I was rushed by ambulance** to a private hospital in Odessa after passing out at home with severe shortness of breath. While waiting for help to come, I told the Lord I was ready and eager to come and meet Him face to face! But He had another plan. While in the CT scanner, my heart and breathing stopped. After **CPR**, intubation and ventilator, a **huge blood clot** blocking the two main arteries to my lungs was diagnosed and “clot busters” given. God worked through them to bring me back. I was **unconscious** for about 20 hours. Thankfully I was extubated before returning to consciousness! Friday afternoon, I advanced from critical condition to stable, so I was moved to a cardiopulmonary monitored unit. Good progress each day so I was discharged Friday evening, Jan 18. My ministry partner **Holly Friesen has been heroic** in her care for me, her mediating between Ukrainian doctors, hospital accountants, insurance company, and friends seeking information. Many others have helped in various ways. We have seen many miracles!

Dr. Sharon Rahilly, PhD director of the nursing school in Togo, West Africa, is staying with me at home for a week. We have been good friends for many years, and it was a miracle that there was an open window in her hectic schedule to come to Ukraine! I'm **still extremely weak** but slowly starting to do some things on my own. Right now, just dressing, walking around my apartment, and sitting at the computer for an hour is extremely taxing. I am learning how to pace myself, and that is tough for this stubborn individualist! Penny Winget, ABWE missionary in Bulgaria, is braving the task of helping me next week.

It is obvious God wants me down here for a while longer. You may remember that in 2011 I could have died when I was hospitalized in Greenville SC on furlough with a combination of pneumonia, pulmonary emboli, Grave's disease and a thyroid tumor. The Lord knows doctors can learn a lot from being patients!

Thank you SO much for praying for me, as I have **many decisions to make** about recovery—where, when and how. The hospital here was great for this emergency, but substandard in nursing care and follow-up planning. Therefore, I am considering returning to the US for a month.

Pray for my pastor **Lonya** and his family. He and Luba have been an incredible help to me in this emergency. I just learned tonight that his younger brother **Tolik** was rushed to the hospital today!

We were so sad to cancel Ben (medical student) and Holly (nurse) Snyder's trip to Ukraine, but we trust God's sovereign plan for their lives as well. **God is faithful**, He is good, and the Creator of the universe is worthy of our confidence. To Him be all the glory!

***Clinging to The Rock,  
Miriam Wheeler MD***

ABWE Associate Medical Director and ABWE-Ukraine Medical Ministry Director