

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine
Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7

March 3, 2019

Dear Prayer Partners:

Thank you so much for your prayers for me during this period of recuperation! It is such a blessing to see God's family responding in intercession for my health before "the throne of grace" (Heb. 4:15-16). It is hard to be sidelined from ministry, but I trust God's loving plan for me. **Six weeks have sped by since that fateful day** when my heart and breathing stopped due to a large blood clot in the arteries to my lungs. My strength is gradually returning, all the damage done to my heart and other vital organs has healed, and I am engaging in more normal activity. I still have some days of not feeling well and having to rest, but those are few now. Vertigo still strikes occasionally. I'm not 100% yet, but enough to start **packing for my move to the US**. You can imagine what that looks like to sort through 20+ years' worth of stuff! **I fly out of Odessa May 3** to my sending church. Then **mid-May I will move to Harrisburg PA** and start my **new position as ABWE Medical Director June 3**. *Just thinking about leaving my needy Ukrainian patients brings tears to my eyes!* **Keep praying for God to call another family physician to Ukraine to engage and expand this ministry.**

Pray for Holly as she juggles the new responsibility of directing the village clinic ministry along with her presidency of Choose Life. She was thrilled to have 18 new volunteers for pro-life ministry at a training seminar in February. March 16 will be **my last Choose Life Board of Directors meeting** as chairperson of the Board. Pray for the Board as they choose a new chairperson. I will be meeting with Ira Lupanova, the director of "Forgiven and Set Free", the post-abortion ministry, to teach her how to lead the **training of FSF group leaders**. We were hoping to hold the training before my departure, but my illness has precluded that possibility. I had hoped to take some patients in Krasnosyolka through "The Story of Hope" evangelistic Bible study before my departure, but that will not be feasible. I am having to constantly adjust my thinking and planning, **seeking the Lord for His purpose that He wants me to accomplish during my recuperation and preparation for departure**. This is harder for me than being sick!

I won't be able to do any full village clinic days, but I do want to visit each village before my departure and meet with my clinic staff. **Pray for the pastors responsible for each village ministry** to continue the evangelistic outreach and follow-up as Holly goes with our clinic staff and evangelists to see patients in 8 different villages each month. Pray for **Pastor Lonya**—he has made two trips recently to L'vov in western Ukraine to take two alcoholic men from his **Celebrate Recovery** group to a Christian rehabilitation center. Pray that God will heal these men of their addiction, give them strength to fulfill the rehab, and return as strong witnesses of God's grace to **Krasnosyolka**. Several patients have been visiting services recently! **Pray for their salvation**. Lonya and two young men whom he disciplined are continuing weekly Bible studies in **Kubanka** and **Shamanovka**.

Pray for **Pastor Anatoliy** who spends 3 days each week with his wife Alla in the village of **Limaniy**, where our clinic has helped to **plant a church**. They have a wonderful ministry to children and youth, in a nursing home, and in evangelism as they visit people in several villages in the area. We started a clinic in **Viktorivka** last year, but we had to take a break for the winter as it is not possible to heat the building we were using. Pray for Anatoliy as he seeks a way to make that clinic possible and productive of new contacts.

Pray for **Pastor Volodya in Makarovo** who also carries the pastoral responsibility for Sahanskoye. **Styopa** is the church leader in **Sahanskoye**, whose wife died last summer. They have many needs in this area of the Odessa oblast. **Pastor Sasha from Shurino** has been visiting his daughter in the US for several months and plans to return before Easter. His deacon Victor has been carrying on, but it has been tough for him. Pray for this ministry as we have seen a number of **patients express interest in the Gospel**. Our newest village clinic started in **Zarya** January with **Pastor Roma**, a dynamic young seminary graduate from Grace Baptist Church in Odessa. It is nice to have only a 30-minute drive to this village. Holly was pleased to have about 23 patients in both January and February, which is great for a new clinic site!

Clinging to The Rock,

Miriam Wheeler, MD, ABWE-Ukraine Medical Ministry Director and ABWE Associate Medical Director