

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

Giving thanks unto the Father... Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. Colossians 1:12-13

Dear Prayer Partners:

The Book of ***Colossians is overflowing with thanksgiving!*** Paul expressed his gratitude in many ways and exhorted his readers to do the same. How thankful I am to my Heavenly Father for delivering me from the power of darkness, and translating me into Jesus' Kingdom of Light! What a joy to be God's ambassador to the people of Ukraine living in darkness. Praise the Lord for Ukrainians who now walk in the Light. I am thankful for God walking with me through much illness during this furlough. Recuperation from my July 22 surgery has proceeded more slowly than anticipated, so I did have to cancel two church meetings in August. I am much improved, though still struggling with fatigue and hoarseness. I continue to be thankful for freedom from vertigo! **Pray for full strength for me as I will be traveling and speaking for the next 6 weeks.**

Praise the Lord with me that **Lonya and Luba were granted their visas** to Canada! We will meet at the airport in Toronto, Ontario September 27 and start a whirlwind tour of Canada for 1 week then the US for 2 weeks.

Please let me know if you want to spend some time with Lonya and Luba, especially if you have been our guests in Ukraine. Join us at one of these churches:

October 2 Emmanuel Baptist Church, Chatham, Ontario

October 5 Bible Center Church, Charleston, WV

October 9 Kennerly Road Baptist Church, Irmo, SC

October 16 Johnston Chapel Baptist Church, Princeton, WV

Pray for God's blessings on Lonya and Luba as they minister in North America, deal with culture shock, renew friendships and develop new ones.

The government of Ukraine strikes again! Remember all the problems I had with visas 2-3 years ago? The US Embassy in Kiev sent a letter out a few days ago outlining Ukraine's intent to change their visa laws, effective September 10. They are planning to allow more people to obtain permanent residency status, which may be a help to missionaries. All current visas will become invalid as of September 10. The problem is that the details are still being worked out, so we don't know what those changes will be! My visa that is supposed to last until January will be invalid as of Sept 10. Ukraine is keeping their policy allowing Americans to enter the country for up to 90 days without a visa, which is good news for visitors. **Pray that these changes will not prevent**

missionaries from living long-term in Ukraine, or cause problems with my colleagues who are traveling in and out of Ukraine the next few weeks. Pray that the new policies will be clear before my return to Ukraine so that I can obtain a new visa this fall. Lord willing, I plan to go back November 10, if I receive medical clearance.

This past week I had three Skype meetings with colleagues in Ukraine and the republic of Georgia about the medical ministry, an upcoming conference in November to provide training for the Boards of Directors for our Church Ministries Institute and Pregnancy Care Center, and a seminar in December about ministry to women after abortion. **Please continue to pray for the ministries in Ukraine as Holly Friesen and Carol Bagley oversee them in my absence and doctors come in October and November to cover the clinics.** It is challenging for me to keep up with everything going on in Ukraine, plan presentations for my own furlough ministry to churches, and prepare for Lonya and Luba's tour while recuperating from illness and surgery! God's grace is sufficient. I heard wonderful reports about Dr. Naramore's patient care and his daughter Jessica's children's ministry during clinics in August. Holly will be doing all the clinics in September.

Hope you get some good R&R during this Labor Day holiday. I need to finish production of PowerPoint presentations for both my medical ministry and Lonya's ministry next week. My "To Do" list looks much longer than the time remaining before my hoped-for November 10 departure! No matter what phase of life we are in, we still need God's wisdom for setting priorities and using our time wisely, don't we? **Thank you for undergirding me with prayer!**

Leaning on The Rock,
Miriam
