

When I see that quizzical look with the matching questions of "I thought you were..." "When did...?" "Are you..?" - I cringe inside....oh dear another person I've confused. If my own family has trouble keeping up with me, I can only imagine the puzzlement I am to everyone else. And, it is no wonder. On March 1, 2014 I fled Crimea during the Russian invasion and came home to Oregon. A year later, I returned to Crimea for 4 months to do a scout trip in Crimea and also in Ukraine. After that I came back to Oregon for another 4 months and now on Nov. 2nd, I will leave again. Keeping up with my comings and goings is no easy task :)

The days before departure are melting away and inside I feel like microwave popcorn on minute 2 - feelings are flying everywhere!

Stress - so very much yet to do before I go!

Sadness - already missing family, friends, the farm & our dog; a sense of community had just started to jell for me in the past 8 month and now I feel it getting ripped away; the ease of English; my car and the freedom it gave me.

Regret - even in all the time I was in the states, there are still people I didn't get to spend time with.

Gratitude - I arrived back in the states deeply grieving what I had lost but the Lord & His people healed my heart and I am returning to the field a stronger person. I arrived back in the states with a hernia that was causing me problems and the Lord provided a wonderful surgeon who made life so much easier for me. For the past 16 years, I have spent 3 years on the field and then returned to the states for a 8 - 9 month furlough. However, this time I was in the states for about a year and a half which allowed me to participate in the life of my family. I have missed so much in their lives so this was a huge gift. For all of these things I am very thankful.

Nervous - lots of transitions are looking me in the face. New city. New church. New place to live. Not to mention a zillion new relationships. I predict that the learning curve ahead to be steep.

Excited - looking back gives me confidence to look forward. In so many ways, it is as if God has used all my life to prepare me for this next chapter. Really don't know a lot of details right now about how this is all going to work out, but I do know that I am within the center of His will. I am jazzed because I will be spending more time in an area of ministry that has pulled at my heart for already many years - that is the handicapped and their parents in Ukraine. Perhaps you ask why....

A lurching gait, twisted body, drool or strange sounds - our fallen world doesn't make a place for the least of these. It comes down to the selfish mindset of - if someone is not useful then they are useless. But, I say differently - it is we who need them.

As I have served in Ukraine as a nurse, again and again I see that this group of people

have not yet heard the Good News. Unfortunately, the special needs child and their family often have high defensive walls because they been hurt repeatedly from many sides - the medical community, general public, their immediate family and even the church. Having been ridiculed, judged and let down so often, they are commonly angry and lonely. The lack of hope, rest and understanding from others dries up their heart. Few are the people who attempt to understand their world. I was born with many physical problems and, while I did not always, today I count them as gifts. Even though I do not see my self as handicapped in Ukraine I am put in this category. So my 'disadvantages' in God's hands has become an advantage. The road I have walked gives me a platform. A platform from which to listen & understand...and, when the right time comes, a platform from which to speak. I am grateful to God for this privilege.

I personally believe each child of God is given a heart for a specific people group. Perhaps it is a nation, a language group, the young, the elderly, teens, those in the military, singles, the rich, the poor, orphans, the sick or dying. Or perhaps your heart aches for those caught in sex trafficking, inmates, the unwed mother, gang members, pastors wives or collage kids. The list is as huge as God's heart and someone on it is the people group to whom you are called.

What has happened in ministry over the summer: Even though I was here, lots of events were happening over there and I want to say thank you! Because you chose to trust in God's timing and continued to support me, I was able to help when I visited Crimea and Ukraine this spring. I pushed hard to make the schedule give me time with every pastor and church planter I work with. I wanted to know how ministry had been during the past year. And, then I asked about their plans for this summer. With every one who said, in effect, "Lord willing, we plan to have..." I was able to leave 80% of the amount of funding they needed to hold it. Thank you!

With summer over, the reports are in and I'm able to tell you that all 26 Vacation Bible Schools that were planned - were held! That equals over 1,000 children hearing the Gospel this summer! All 3 outreaches to teens were held, meaning 50 teenagers had a Christian camping experience. God, through you, also provided for about 1/3 the funding needed for the week long evangelistic camp in Crimea for 40 handicapped kids & their caregiver. And, our ministry was also involved with helping 2 Christian medical conference that were held for medical, dental and nursing students in Ukraine. That was a huge volume of evangelistic and faith building outreaches going on in 2 countries! In addition God, through you, has already provided & shipped craft supplies for 4 Vacation Bible Schools in Ukraine next summer. Thank you for choosing to be a part of His work.

When I last wrote in mid- July I left you with... My remaining time in the states looks like this -

July & August: Completing 2 First Aid courses, doctor & dentist appts. and shipping humanitarian aid & medical supplies.

I did that + celebrated Dad's 77th birthday with the family, attended a training conference and helped with farm work.

September & October: I hope to visit as many of my supporting churches as possible and attend the regional wound & ostomy conference.

I am still in the process of doing this. There are still 3 churches where I will be sharing during so if you are able to, please join us.

October 18 Twin Oaks Christian Church on 85825 Bailey Hill Rd, Eugene, OR 97405 [\(541\) 344-6819](tel:(541)344-6819) at 10:45am

October 25 Gilham Community Church on 3633 Gilham Rd, Eugene, OR 97408 [\(541\) 686-0537](tel:(541)686-0537) at 10:30am

November 1 Christ Community Lutheran Church on 690 S 10th St, Lebanon, OR 97355 [\(541\) 258-7803](tel:(541)258-7803) at 10:00am

November 2nd - Fly to Indianapolis for some additional training and then from there go on to Kiev, Ukraine, arriving November 14th. **Departure is now only 20 days away.**

Once I arrive in Ukraine my first task is to complete the paper work required for the permit to stay in Ukraine for a year. I only have 45 days to complete jumping all the hurdles and the clock starts ticking the moment I go through passport control. However, it isn't like this is my first time to do this...just the first time doing it in Kiev with this new church. I anticipate this project to require most of my time & attention for at least a month. At the same time, I will be looking for a place to live. I have been generously offered a place to 'land' when I arrive which is extremely helpful. I hope to eventually locate an apartment of my own to rent in the region of the church where I will be working. The Lord knows where I am to be...so it is trust and patience on my part.

As it will already mid-November, I arrive as winter is coming on. Unlike our lingering Oregon fall, Kiev is already experiencing freezing temperatures. Since all of my winter clothing and household items were still in Crimea, several months ago I put out a notice to friends there basically saying, 'If anyone is going north and is willing to bring my things...' God has blessed me with some great friends! Pastor Misha's wife & daughter did the hard work of packing up many of my things. And, thanks to a church planter I work with, several bags of my things arrived in Kiev in September. This past week Pastor Nicholi brought more of my stuff. Besides the 15 hour drive they also had to cross the Crimea/Ukraine border which, from what I hear, still sounds stressful. Who am I to be so blessed??? So at this point my things are now scattered in boxes & bags hither and yon in Kiev BUT at least there are boxes & bags to gather!

And then what? I will begin working with a church that has active evangelistic & faith building outreaches to the mentally & physically challenged and their families. While my living location has changed, my overall ministry will stay basically the same. I am still in

Ukraine with a ministry that is focused in 2 areas - kids & teens and medicine. Within kids & teens I will continue to help facilitate evangelistic & faith building outreaches through local churches in Crimea (Russia) and Ukraine. Within medicine I will continue to work with 2 church clinics that do evangelism through medical care, participate in Christian conferences for medical students and be involved in outreaches to the handicapped & their parents. I will also continue to see patients in their homes, the church clinics and during outreaches as well as multiple myself by teaching other Christian professionals my skills.

Prayer requests:

Wisdom & obedience on my part.

For the needed permit enabling me to stay in Ukraine a year.

A place to live.

That God would continue to prepare my heart, the hearts of my Ukrainian teammates as well as those hearts He wants to reach through us.

P.S. If you have the chance to see the movie 'War Room' - do it!

June