

Not long ago I answered an email with - "Personally I am on alert but not afraid. Trying to be smart but not fearful. I hope & plan to be obedient to God and our team leader...and however that plays out may God get the glory." I meant that with my whole being but I will be honest... that that was a whole lot easier to write when everything that was going on was 16 hours away.

As you have heard in the news, conflict of a similar and yet different kind began here in Crimea over a week ago. I am not going to go into the political details - I don't have the energy or the time. If you Google - Crimea Ukraine news - you will find plenty to read. With the two hot spots of activity 2 hours (Simferopol) and 4 hours (Sevastopol) away, suddenly things felt a lot closer. Then I read that the city of Simferopol was in lock down the other night, gun men had taken over the airport I would have used and tanks had been spotted moving toward Simeropol - this kinda stuff shook me. Then coming upon a demonstration going on across the street from my house yesterday really rattled me. I wrote to my sister - "My human self is nervous and my ears hear lots of different voices so hearing His still small voice is hard. Obedience is what I crave - whatever that looks like."

This past week I have been only going out in the early morning hours for quick trips and then staying home the rest of the day. I had to do something with my extra time and nervous energy so the apartment has been tipped upside down as I sorted through every shelf, cupboard and closet. I do believe I am organized now for the next 25 years!! When I wasn't doing that I was baking & then giving away pies, muffins, cookies....anything to keep busy.

Each day a teeter totter of questions and then the roller coaster of emotions. I get mad at myself for being like this. I'm supposed to be strong and courageous!! Right?? I'm supposed to be solid in my faith! Where is my faith?? Why these 4 ticket rides on fear & guilt? I am reminded that I am made of but dust, He gently picks me up again and reminds me of Who He is.

I woke up this morning at 3 am. (I never do that!). From 3 to 5 I had my alone time with God. I went through Psalm 46 and reminded myself of the truth....

God is our refuge and strength. A very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though earth should change and though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;
Though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God.
The holy dwelling places of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.
The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered;
He raised His voice, the earth melted.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our strong hold.

Come behold the works of the Lord, who has wrought desolations in the earth.
He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth.
He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;
He burns the chariots with fire.
Cease striving and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.
The Lord of host is with us. The God of Jacob is our stronghold.

3 lines came out from the page...

God is our refuge and strength. A very present help in trouble.
God will help her when morning dawns.
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.

When I checked the news online at 5 am this morning I knew inside it was time to move out. How do I know? For myself I know God's word because there is peace. Perhaps a zillion unanswered questions but there in the deep middle place there is peace. Also another way I test that it is not just my emotions screaming - I paint myself the worse case scenario of what could happen and then ask myself again - are you still at peace now? If yes, then 'however it plays out may God get the glory.'

Tonight at 9:30--I, and 2 guys, two men I totally trust, will head to Kiev by train. Lord willing we will arrive at 1 pm on March 2nd. The guys will turn around and head home, but the Lord, and my dear teammate, have already arranged a place for me to spend the night. March 3 at 6 am I will fly out of Kiev . If thing go as planned I will be in Oregon late on March 3rd.

Thank you for all the emails I have received asking about how things were and saying that you were praying for my safety....really can't tell you how much that means. I would ask for your continued prayers for...

- my own travels
- Pastor Misha and his son who are traveling with me - that their own trip would be without incident. They are taking some risk in traveling.
- my teammates- David & Annette Dryden and their 3 little ones- are also left Crimea today. They are driving about 6 hrs today and a long stretch tomorrow as they aim to join up with our teammates in the north west region of Ukraine (which is quiet)
- my teammates in another area of Ukraine (which is still stable at this point) are flying out on March 5th. May their trip back to the states be safe as well.

Thank you for your prayers!

June