

August 2015

After the camp for children with disabilities, I had a wonderful opportunity to go to Carpathian Mountains in the western Ukraine for a four days of vacation with my dear friends. It was such a wonderful time of rest for all of us, time far away from the familiar sights and activities. Those of you who know Carrie and Krista (which probably covers almost all of you) will recognize them on the pictures with me in the mountains. We were so happy to get away from the city and hike, explore nature and admire the beauty of God's creation! Our most loud neighbors were four lovely sheep and two huge almost friendly dogs! I miss waking up to the bleating of the sheep! I thank God for allowing us to have such a great four days of hiking adventures and fun!

Our Active Rehabilitation Center started working again on August 25th and unfortunately we are down one more therapist. Alla, married and is now pregnant and on bed rest due to danger of miscarriage during her first month. We pray for her and the baby's health. The time of her absence is indefinite so it leaves us just with a few people left: Ira, our assistant, me and Vadim who helps part-time. It was getting very stressful for me, because during summer we got even more calls from new patients. Honestly, I was very discouraged and even depressed.

These events were followed by the death of my grandmother with whom I spent last several days of her life. God taught me many lessons during this time. Those of you who know God as your Lord know that He uses difficult times to teach us lessons and to test our faith to make us stronger to fight sin and withstand temptations. Those of you who do not know Jesus personally yet, I wish you to meet Him soon, because I do not know how we can go through challenging times without His help and support. He can give us strength to endure and go on, strength to face our inability to control anything in our lives and humility to recognize that we need Him. I learned that during difficult times we grow and change and even though it is hard, I came to understanding that difficult times are good for us – because God uses them to make us more like Jesus.

Thank you all for praying. Prayer requests:

- male therapists for our center
- nearest future start of Physical Therapy school
- final work at Agape House
- camp for wounded soldiers at war (our church will have this camp on September 8-13th). Please pray these guys will find peace and comfort, safety and freedom in God.

