

## Special Update from Holly March 2014

**I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth. Psalm 34:1**

This morning I found myself sitting in the home of missionary team-mates in Slovokia reading Psalm 34. Our mission leadership decided that it was time for all ABWE missionaries to evacuate Ukraine, based on the growing tensions in the country and threat of Russian invasion, as well as increasing difficulties in obtaining money and carrying out regular ministry. We are praying that within a few weeks things will stabilize and we will be able to return, but the future is uncertain.

It was heartbreaking to leave behind our dear brothers and sisters in Christ and our village clinic patients to face uncertain days. It is disappointing to have to put plans for finishing up the training of our pregnancy care center volunteers and subsequent opening of the center to the public on hold. With all this in mind I was convicted by the words of Psalm 34:1. Am I willing to bless and praise the Lord at ALL times? My flesh wants to protest instead of praise. I was reminded again that my hope and trust is in the Lord who made heaven and earth. He is in control and He is worthy of my praise at ALL times.

I will continue to work from Slovokia on our plans for volunteer training at the center, plans for prenatal classes for our clients, and other organizational projects. Our assistant director Luba will keep an eye on the center for us and will work with us on these projects from a distance. The opening of the center to the public will be delayed until we can return and finish our volunteer training. Please keep Luba in your prayers as she carries out her responsibilities in our absence.

Please pray for Ukraine!

- 1) Pray for a revival - that these difficult days will cause people to turn to God in true repentance and that many people will come to salvation in Christ.
- 2) Pray for unity within the church - there are believers on all sides of the political issues. Pray that they will not allow political differences to bring division in the church.
- 3) Pray for wisdom for the interim government of Ukraine and other political leaders as they make difficult and crucial decisions in the coming days.
- 4) Pray for a peaceful resolution to this crisis.
- 5) Pray for me and for my missionary colleagues from Ukraine as we deal with this sudden change in our plans. Pray that we will be sensitive to the Lords leading as we make decisions in the days ahead. Pray that we will also be sensitive to what God desires to teach us during these days of waiting and uncertainty.

I will plan to send out a note at a later date with a ministry update and pictures from our volunteer training seminar and center open house.

Thank you for your prayers and for the notes of encouragement I have received. I have been blessed by your prayers, love, and concern.

With praise to our good God,  
Holly Friesen

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