

## Update from Holly April 2014

**Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Psalm 34:8**

I have continued to be blessed as I meditate on the words of Psalm 34. The future may be uncertain, but I can be confident that my God never changes. He is good and trust in Him brings blessing that is not dependent on my circumstances.



I am excited to report that I am returning to Ukraine after spending just over two weeks in Slovakia due to the rapidly changing situation in Ukraine. I will be arriving in Odessa on Wednesday afternoon (the 2nd). While the threat of Russian invasion still exists, it seems to have been reduced in the last few days. Our team and mission leadership will continue to monitor the situation closely, but feel that we can safely continue ministry in Odessa for the time being. At this point Dr. Miriam and I are the only ones from our team returning. Elections for a new president are scheduled for May 25th and this could be the cause of more civil unrest or could give Russia reason to make another move on Ukraine. This means we will live with the possibility of another evacuation in the future. Pray that God will give us wisdom in prioritizing our ministry during this time of uncertainty.

We will be working on completing the training for the volunteers who will work in the "Women's Center". Our volunteer training seminar in February went very well. You can find pictures on our website. We began following up the training with some sessions more specific to our work in Ukraine and hope to complete these session during the month of April. We will also be working on some role play with our counselors to prepare them for working with clients. We are excited about the great group of volunteers that God has given us. Please pray for us and for them during this time of preparation. Given the current uncertainty, we are not sure when we will open the center to the public and begin advertising. Pray that we will have wisdom to know the best timing for this.

We will be continuing the clinic ministry in the villages. Devaluation of the Ukrainian currency and rising prices are adding to the already difficult situation many of our village patients live in. There has been a greater openness to discussions about spiritual things as a result of the turmoil in Ukraine. Our prayer is that as we continue this ministry during a time of crisis, hearts will be more open to the message of peace and hope found in the gospel.

I appreciate your prayers and all the notes of encouragement I have received. I believe God is at work in Ukraine and invite you to be a part of that work through your prayers for us and for Ukraine.

Trusting our good God,

Holly Friesen

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