

Update from Holly April 2016

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Heb. 4:12

This week I finish teaching the counseling/discipleship course “Self-Confrontation” for volunteers of the Women’s Center. We began this journey just over a year ago. At times I wondered if it was really worth all the time and effort it took to prepare and teach these lessons. Then one of the volunteers would share how something from a particular lesson helped them respond Biblically to a situation they were facing. Looking back, I see how teaching this material has grown my love for God’s Word and my confidence in applying it to life’s situations. One volunteer shared how she started teaching this material to her small group at church. She was excited to see changes in the lives of the ladies in her group as they apply these basic Biblical principles. How encouraging for a teacher when your students share what they are learning with others! Another volunteer shared that the scripture memory with each lesson has helped her in counseling. Whereas before she could share Biblical principles, she is now better prepared to take them to the scripture passages that teach these principles. To learn more about the course you can visit <http://www.bcfministries.org>. Praise God for the power & sufficiency of His Word!

A few months ago I asked for prayer for a Women’s Center client who was pressured to abort her baby because of severe birth defects seen on the sonogram. This believing couple chose to trust the life of their child to God and refused the abortion. Their little girl was born a few weeks ago, and she did not survive the birth process. While we would not have chosen this outcome, we saw God answer prayers for this couple in many ways. God allowed them to be a beautiful testimony of the value of every human life to the healthcare providers who assisted with the delivery and saw their love for their daughter in spite of obvious physical deformity. Not only has God protected them from bitterness, but He also gave them opportunities to minister to others even while they were still in the hospital. Please continue to pray for them as they mourn this loss, and pray that we will have wisdom as we continue to minister to them.

April 11-12 I will be participating in a conference in eastern Ukraine for those working with people dealing with post-traumatic stress. The Ukraine Crisis Fund has allowed our team to organize this conference to provide support and resources for our partners working with those who are facing the horrors of war. The speaker is from Bosnia, and he will be sharing his testimony in evangelistic outreaches this weekend before the conference. Pray for God to use the outreaches to draw those who are hurting to Christ, and that the conference will be helpful & encouraging to those who are ministering to those impacted by the ongoing war in Ukraine. There will be people attending the conference who work within the separatist controlled zone as well as those who work with refugees. Life is especially difficult for our brothers and sisters in Christ who live in the separatist controlled areas, and they frequently face antagonism. In spite of the personal risk, they continue to faithfully minister to those in need and to share God’s love. You can be a part of this ministry through your gifts to the Ukraine Crisis Fund.



Thank you for continuing to pray for the medical ministry. Patient numbers increase each month due to the economic crisis. I am thankful for the help I had from Dr. Weirman in March and am looking forward to having Dr. Tom Wells here in May. If there are any Christian family practice doctors/nurse practitioners who would be interested in helping with the June clinics, please contact me. I am unable to cover all of the clinics on the months I do not have help. Some days I have to send the clinic staff to just give medication refills. Lord willing, in August Dr. Miriam will be returning to Ukraine from her furlough and together we will be able to handle the regular clinic schedule.

Thank you for continuing to pray for Ukraine and for the ministries here.

With a grateful heart,
Holly Friesen

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