



## Merry Christmas from Holly December 2014

**“To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” Luke 1:79**

Christ came to give light, life, and peace! How desperately our world needs this message. We continue to pray for an end to the conflict in Ukraine that has already taken the lives of so many, and that people will turn to the Lord for heart peace that only He can give. It is amazing to think back to how things were in Ukraine at this time last year and to realize how much has changed. But, our God does not change and has remained faithful! Thank you for keeping Ukraine in your prayers. In spite of the unexpected obstacles and difficulties of this past year, we have seen evidence that God is at work.

Thank you for praying for the pro-life ministry. The “Women’s Center” has been open 28 hours a week since July. It is a joy to watch our volunteers beginning to put their training into practice as we work with the clients God brings our way. We were able to develop a plan for a prenatal class and take our first group of moms through it. We have a second group that will start after the holidays. We now have five clients who have delivered their babies. Pray that we will have wisdom as we continue to work with them. Several weeks ago a woman came to our center after an attempt to cause an abortion with medication. We took her to get a sonogram and it showed no problems with the pregnancy at this point. She lives in a difficult situation, but is now doubting that abortion is the right choice for her. Pray that this baby’s life will be spared, and that this mother will come to faith in Christ.

I continue to help with the medical ministry and appreciate your prayers for that. We have 8 clinic days a month and on average I help with 3-4 of those days. We continue to see record numbers of patients in the village clinics. Last year we averaged 300 patients a month. For the past two months the average has been 408 patients a month. Pray that the hearts of these patients would be open to the message of the gospel. Pray for wisdom and strength for Miriam and I as increased numbers mean longer clinic days.

Rolling black outs have been implemented recently due to energy shortages. As a result, I have finished seeing patients by candle light in my last two clinics. This also means that we can count on the electricity being out at least a few hours every day. This difficulty pales in comparison to what life is like in the conflict zone where money and food are scarce and people still live with the frequent sound of artillery fire. Praise the Lord the Ukraine Crisis Fund has allowed us to send help to churches who are ministering to the needy in these areas. One pastor reports: *“We prepare lunch every day for the poor, the invalids, and the elderly. We buy and distribute bread to the hungry. We visit them at home, and pray that they will see God’s love in us. With our electric saw ‘Friendship’, we cut wood for those who have no heat. All glory to Jesus Christ!”* Pray that this ministry of compassion will draw hearts to salvation.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to travel home for the holidays. I will be arriving in the states Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> and will return to Ukraine Jan 16<sup>th</sup>. I am looking forward to a time of rest and refreshment with my family.

Thank you for your prayers, gifts, and encouragement that make this ministry possible. Wishing you a blessed celebration of our Savior’s birth! Looking forward to all God will do in the New Year.

Holly Friesen

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**Donation Info:** Gifts can be sent to ABWE, PO Box 8585, Harrisburg PA 17105-8585 or online [www.abwe.org](http://www.abwe.org)

- Ukraine Crisis Fund, account #0717401
- Pro-Life in Ukraine, account # 0757353
- Holly’s ministry account # 0139523