

Update from Holly January 2017

“My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.” Psalm 121:2

Whether we are facing the storms of life, rejoicing in the abundance of blessings, or considering a seemingly insurmountable obstacle, how wonderful to know that our help comes from the God who created the universe. There is nothing too hard for Him or outside of His control. As I look back on the difficulties and joys of 2016, I am so grateful for the help that I received from the Maker of heaven & earth. I pray that this New Year will continue to teach me more about looking up to the One who is my help!

I am excited to be able to share with you a wonderful answer to prayer! The end of December I finished teaching through the Story of Hope with *Tanya (*names changed to protect privacy). When we came to the point of making a decision about the truths we had studied, she was ready to pray a prayer of repentance and to accept Christ as her personal Savior! Praise God for His work in her life! Pray for her growth in understanding. I will be starting the companion discipleship study, The Way to Joy, with her this week. Please keep praying for *Masha. She is nearing the end of her study of the Story of Hope with one of our volunteers. Pray that God will give her understanding that will lead to salvation.

I am grateful for the many prayers and notes of encouragement I received when I shared about the sudden home going at the age of 43 of one of the pastors of my church here, Pastor Valentin. Please continue to pray for his wife Lilya and their 4 children. His wife gave a wonderful testimony in our church a few weeks after his death and sang a song that he had written. Thank you as well for your prayers for Victor, who lost his wife Anya (the accountant for our pro-life ministry) and his 5 children in an apartment fire in December. He continues to improve physically and he was able to give a short testimony in his church a few weeks ago. He expressed his thanks for the many prayers offered up for him that have upheld him during these difficult days. He said that he feels this prayer support has kept him from stumbling and doubting God. He said that he knows God does not make mistakes and that if he left Him alive, then God still has work for him to do. He expressed his desire to spend the rest of the days God gives him serving God wholeheartedly. Testimonies like these are only possible with the help that comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth! Thank you for continuing to uphold these families in prayer.



Our ABWE Ukraine team recently had several days of meetings. We were able to spend some time reflecting on all that God has done in our lives and ministries in 2016 and to do some planning and praying for 2017. It was a good time of fellowship. As you can see by the picture the kid missionaries outnumber the adult ones and help keep our times together lively! As we consider together the needs and opportunities in Ukraine, we more acutely feel the need for a few more hands. Would you pray that God would send more laborers to Ukraine? Perhaps God might want to you to consider coming yourself! If you would like to know more about the needs & opportunities here, let me know!

I am very excited to have my parents coming to visit me in February! My Dad will be teaching a discipleship class at the Odessa seminary February 13-17. Pray for me as I work on preparations for their visit. Pray that God will bless their travels and their ministry here. I know that having them here will be a blessing to me personally and am thankful for this gift!

Thank you for your part in the ministry here through your prayers and financial support. May you keep looking up to our Helper, the God who made heaven and earth as you face the challenges and joys of 2017!

Praising God my Helper!

Holly Friesen

Contact Info: Mailing address: Holly Friesen a/ya 117 Odessa, Ukraine 65069

e-mail: esperanza@abwe.cc or hollyfriesen79@gmail.com

Internet phone: 316-243-0602 (dial like U.S. number but rings in Ukraine) [website: www.ukrainemedical.abwe.org](http://www.ukrainemedical.abwe.org)

Donation Info: Gifts can be sent to ABWE, PO Box 8585, Harrisburg PA 17105-8585 or online www.abwe.org

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