

Update from Holly January 2016

“For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name.” Luke 1:49

Happy New Year! May you grow in your knowledge of and love for our great God in this New Year! I trust you enjoyed a blessed Christmas celebration. Since Ukraine celebrates Christmas on January 7th, I have enjoyed being able to extend the celebration of the amazing miracle of the incarnation into the first week of the New Year!

I am blessed as I reflect on all that God did & allowed me to be a part of this past year. I am grateful for all who have faithfully prayed for me, encouraged me, and supported the ministry in Ukraine financially during 2015. The crisis in Ukraine opened new doors for the medical ministry in 2015. In addition to our regular village ministries, I was able to be a part of three trips to minister to refugees near the conflict zone and we have also been able to provide care for some of the refugees in the Odessa oblast. It is heart breaking to hear the stories of loss and fear and to see the miserable conditions that some of them live in. But, it has also been incredible to see how God is at work in hearts and to see people find hope and healing in a personal relationship with Christ. Please continue to pray for peace in Ukraine and for God's blessing on the efforts to assist those most directly impacted by the conflict.

We have seen God's blessing on the ministry of the Women's Center as well. It is encouraging to see our volunteers growing in their confidence and ability to minister to our clients. In 2015 we had 43 new clients. We currently have 9 clients who are regularly involved in a one on one parenting course or an evangelistic Bible study with one of our volunteers and 4-5 more who we are building relationships with and hope to get started on a course in the coming weeks. Our very first client celebrated her daughter's first birthday in September. We have been helping her and seeking to build a relationship with her for over a year. This past fall she finally seemed more open to spiritual things and agreed to start studying the Story of Hope (an evangelistic Bible study) with us. In December, she asked if her husband could come to the lessons too, and he has come with her two times already. Pray that God would give them understanding and bring them to salvation! Another client who is doing the parenting course has been actively implementing the things she is learning with her older children and is excited that she seeing results. She recently gave birth to a little boy who she says she would have aborted if she had not ended up at our center. She has been open to talking about spiritual things. Pray for continued openness and that she would understand her need for a Savior.



We have been visiting Odessa churches to share about the pro-life ministry and to recruit more volunteers. We hope to continue these visits in the coming months. Pray that God will use these visits to challenge more people to get involved in this ministry. Pray that we will have wisdom as we make plans for training new volunteers this year.

In January & February I will not have help with the medical ministry. Pray that I will have wisdom in juggling all my responsibilities. We have adjusted the clinic schedule so that some villages will have 2 months between clinics and some days our clinic assistants will go on their own without me to give med refills. Praise the Lord we have a doctor coming in March to help so that all of the regular clinics will be covered.

Thank you for continuing to pray for the ministry here. Wishing you a blessed & fruitful 2016!

Holly Friesen

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