

Update from Holly July 2014

“Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.” I Samuel 12:22-24

God continues to do great things for us in spite of the turmoil around us. Fear has been a very real factor in the lives of many Ukrainians over the past months -fear of riots and war, fear of losing their home or their life, fear of economic collapse, fear of persecution for religious or political beliefs. The fear of God drives away the panicky fear that we experience when our safety or way of life is threatened. Pray that believers in Ukraine would fear God and not man and would be faithful in sharing the message of eternal hope during this time of turmoil.

Thousands have fled the areas of fighting in eastern Ukraine. Churches in the cities they have fled to are reaching out to the displaced with physical as well as emotional help. The Ukrainian army has recently liberated some eastern cities from rebel control, but the fighting has left a great deal of destruction in its wake. If you would like to assist believers here in ministering to suffering families, you can contribute to the Ukraine crisis fund through ABWE. Gifts can be designated to the Ukraine crisis fund #717401. Please continue to pray for a resolution of the conflict in Ukraine.

Odessa where I live has remained peaceful and we continue to make progress in developing the ministry of the Women's Center. We were able to hang a banner advertising free pregnancy tests and now have regular working hours. People have



been stopping by or calling to ask about what other services we offer. We are working on other avenues of advertising that we hope to implement soon. Pray that we will have wisdom in knowing how and where to advertise in order to reach those who are facing a “crisis pregnancy”. We continue to work with our counselors in training. Pray for them to grow in understanding and confidence. You can also continue to pray for our first client, Natasha (not her real name). Pray for her physical health and strength as she carries twins, and for God to soften her heart to spiritual things. We had a second client, Anya (not her real name) who has physical concerns but also indicated that she wanted to try to keep the baby. You can pray for her physical as well as spiritual needs.

July 21-27 I will be participating in a camp with my church. We will be in tents by the sea. I will be a group leader for a group of 13-14 year olds. In addition to our church kids, we have invited children from an orphanage as well as some refugees from cities in eastern Ukraine. On the same site, in conjunction with the kids camp there will be a group of invalids as well as a program for adults. In addition to our church families, there will be unsaved kids and adults coming to this camp. Pray that God will use this week to bring them to an understanding of their need for a Savior. Pray for strength and wisdom for all our leaders. Pray for me as I prepare for and teach the Bible lesson time with my group each day.

Thank you for your prayers for me as I function without teammates here in Odessa. I am very grateful for the help and support I have received from our Ukrainian partners and other missionaries. Lord willing some of my teammates will have returned by the time of my next update.

Thank you for continuing to pray, and for the notes of encouragement I receive. It is always a blessing to hear from you!
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