

## Update from Holly October 2018

Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. I Chron 16:34

These words are so often repeated in the Bible, God must know we need to be frequently reminded of this truth. Sometimes it is a bit harder to know how to write an update because there were several hard things during the past month that are not as exciting to report. But, even through the hard things, I have seen the goodness and mercy of the Lord and I have much to be thankful for.

Last week we lost another special servant of the Lord to cancer. Tanya was the 45 year old wife of the church leader in one of the villages where we hold a monthly clinic. She was a warm, giving person who was a joy to be around and who faithfully showed God's love to her neighbors in the village where she lived. Her life had been transformed by Jesus Christ and she served Him well. There were probably around 50 villagers who showed up for her funeral and heard a clear gospel message. Pray that God will use her testimony to draw some of them to Christ. Pray especially for the salvation of her son and sister and for God's comfort in the days ahead for her husband Styopa.

This past week a believing friend who I have invested a lot of time and love into, made a very disappointing decision that will impact the rest of her life and has the potential to pull her further away from the Lord. In dealing with my own personal hurt at her lack of honesty with me and disappointment over the decision, I was reminded of God's unfailing love and mercy towards me. How often have I broken His heart and disappointed Him, and yet He continues to offer His forgiveness and grace. Pray that God will give me wisdom and grace as I continue to try to minister to this friend, and that she will be drawn back into close fellowship with the Lord.



I have seen evidences of God's goodness and mercy during these difficult moments as I see His hand at work. He has also been good to bless me with moments gladness as I see Him working in the lives of those around me. This past month I had the joy of witnessing the the baptism of a young lady in the church I attend here. Her joyful testimony of faith and desire to be baptized, even though it was a chilly fall day here, were a blessing to all who were there!

I have enjoyed getting more involved again in the work of the Women's Center. I have been working with the young mom I told you about in my last letter, helping prepare her for the birth of her baby later this month. I have also been able to have some good conversations with volunteers, catching up on the events in their lives and encouraging them in their work with clients. Thank you for your prayers as we try to finish up all the paperwork tied to owning our own building. We are still trying to get the gas set up so we will have heat this winter and to make sure that we have the building safety all up to code. This past week we had a pipe that began leaking. Praise the Lord it did not cause any major damage, and in trying to figure out how best to fix it, we were able to get to the bottom of a few other problems with the plumbing that we had not been able to get resolved during the initial remodel. Pray that God will continue to give Luba wisdom and strength as she works on these projects and that we will soon be able to get them all resolved so that she can focus more of her attention on the functioning of the center again.

Thank you for continuing to uphold the ministry here in your prayers.

Resting in God's goodness & mercy,

Holly Friesen

**Contact Info: \*\*\*\*\*NEW Ukraine address: Holly Friesen a/ya 39, Odessa, Ukraine 65025\*\*\*\*\***

**Letters sent to previous Ukraine address, will not reach me!!!**

e-mail: [esperanza@abwe.cc](mailto:esperanza@abwe.cc) or [hollyfriesen79@gmail.com](mailto:hollyfriesen79@gmail.com)

**Internet phone number that rings in Ukraine: 316-243-0602**

**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](http://www.abwe.org)

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