

## Update from Holly September 2016

**“Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His presence continually!” Psalm 105:4**

I am so thankful for the strength the Lord gives for the challenges of ministry. When we feel the most weak and inadequate we tend to more fervently seek His strength and to be more aware of the ways He is at work in our lives. However, those same pressures can rob us of the time and energy needed to consistently seek His presence. **Pray that I will make seeking the Lord my first priority** even when the pressures of ministry are many. I am thankful that this month will provide some opportunities for rest, refreshment, and seeking the Lord away from the demands of ministry. Sept 10-15 I will be attending our biennial regional conference in Slovenia. It is a good time for learning, refreshment, and fellowship with other missionaries working in our region of Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean. Following the conference, I will be taking a week of vacation and spending some time in nearby Italy with my teammates, the Sukos. Pray that I will also make seeking the Lord a priority during these times of rest and refreshment. Pray for strength and wisdom for Luba as she directs the Women’s Center in my absence.



Thank you for praying for our talk on abstinence with foster teens and their parents in August. There was a good response. One teen told me that she had recently made a commitment to wait until marriage and thanked us for the information we shared. The parents were very grateful that we included a time for them and we pray that it will open up more opportunities for them to talk to their kids about this. We received an invitation from one of the parents, who is also the pastor of a church, to come speak to their youth group. **Pray that we will have wisdom in further developing an abstinence teaching ministry.**

Thank you for continuing to pray for our Women’s Center clients who are studying the Story of Hope. **Masha** continues to find it difficult to make time to finish the study. She has many problems in her life, but does not yet see her need for a personal relationship with God. Please keep praying for her. **Tanya** continues studying with great interest and has been attending a local church. She told me that she recently went forward in a service when they gave an invitation to pray a prayer of repentance. I do not think she fully understands what that was all about, but her heart is soft. Pray that she will grow in her understanding of the truth. We have other clients who are facing some very difficult life issues. **Pray that as we seek to show them the compassion and love of Christ we will have open doors for sharing the gospel.**

It is a joy to have **Dr. Miriam** back in Ukraine and leading the medical ministry. Pray that God will give wisdom as we consider ways to increase the effectiveness of the medical ministry, especially during this time when we are both in country. **Pray that she will have wisdom in planning her schedule and that God will give her good health.**

There has been an increase in the fighting in eastern Ukraine in recent months and at the same time a decrease in help for the refugees in our area. **Pray for peace in Ukraine** and for wisdom & resources for those seeking to help those who have had to flee their homes. Your gifts to the Ukraine Crisis Fund allow us to continue to show God’s love to those in need.

Seeking God’s Strength,  
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)

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