

Update from Holly October 2019

Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. II Cor. 2:14-15

This past week a woman came into the Women's Center thinking that we offered free abortions. She became quite agitated when she found out that not only would we not provide her with an abortion, but that we desired to talk to her about when life begins and about other options. She said that she knew abortion was sin, but was determined to go through with it anyway. After talking only briefly to the counselor, she stormed out of our center. After she left, Luba our center director, gathered the volunteers who were serving that day to pray together for her and for the situation. They all keenly felt the weight of the decision this lady was making and the struggle that often comes as they wonder if they could have said or done something differently. We know that God brought her to our center for a reason, even if it seems like our efforts were unsuccessful. Pray that God would continue to use the things that she heard during her brief visit, to cause her to reconsider her decision to end the life of her baby. Pray for God to strengthen each of our volunteers spiritually and emotionally as we engage in this battle for life and the salvation of lost souls. Our prayer is that each client who comes into our center would sense the fragrance of Christ, even if they do not initially understand what it is that they have encountered.

Thank you for your prayers for Nastya this past month, the young girl from my church who encountered fierce opposition from her family when she decided she wanted to be baptized. We have since found out that while she was taken to a psychologist, she was not admitted to a psychiatric hospital. She was sent out of town for a time. She has now been observed to be back in Odessa, but seems to only leave her apartment in the company of a family member. She has not been allowed to have contact with anyone from our church. Please continue to pray for her faith to remain strong and for God to soften the hearts of her parents.



Thank you for your continued prayers for the 6 villages that we visit each month with our clinic ministry. This month I would like to draw your attention to the village of Shurina. We have been visiting this village for over 2 years. Over the past year, the pastor has been mostly in the United States with his children, and it is possible that he and his wife will decide to move there permanently. He has left the church in the care of a deacon, Vitya. Vitya is a quiet young man, who is very faithful and obviously cares for the people of the church and community, but he also seems to struggle as a leader. Pray that God would give him the confidence that he needs to provide leadership for this small congregation and that the monthly visits of our team would be an encouragement to him and the other believers in this village. There are a number of patients who have expressed spiritual

interest and who recently attended the church's harvest celebration. Pray that they would have the desire to continue seeking and that God would draw them to salvation.

Thank you for your continued prayers and notes of encouragement. You are a vital part of what God is doing here!

With thanks to God,
Holly Friesen



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