

## Update from Holly September 2019

And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. II Cor. 12:9

Nastya, a young lady from my church here in Odessa is in the midst of a severe testing of her faith. She is 18 years old, and began attending our church about 2 years ago. She comes from an unbelieving family, but she became convinced of the truth of the gospel and accepted Christ as her Savior. She was so transformed, she could not keep quiet about her new found faith. Almost all of her posts on social media were evangelistic in nature and she was constantly pushing our youth group to do evangelistic outreaches. She was at our church nearly every time the doors were open. She decided that she wanted to be baptized and was preparing for baptism in August along with several others in our church. However, her parents became very concerned when she decided to take this step. Although they rarely attend any church, they consider themselves to be Orthodox and did not want their daughter to leave Orthodoxy. They forbid her to be baptized and locked her in their house on the day of the baptism to prevent her from going. Things at home continued to worsen for her, to the point that she feared for her physical safety. Even though the leaders in our church were trying to encourage her to work through things with her parents, things got so bad she decided she had to leave home. She lived with a family from our church for about a week, and then failed to come home one evening after work. Eventually they were able to figure out that most likely her family took her by force and admitted her to a psychiatric hospital, because they say the "Baptists brainwashed her". We still do not know exactly what happened to her and where she is. The family she stayed with has received violent threats from her parents because they interfered in the situation and have been told to quit looking for her. Would you pray with us for Nastya? Please pray that wherever she is and whatever is being done to her, that she will not waver in her faith and that she would not be held against her will. Pray for her parent's salvation. Pray that this whole situation will not cause problems with the authorities for our church.

My church did have a baptism in August. Two young ladies and a 92 year old grandmother were baptized. Grandma T has been attending our church for several years and gave joyful testimony of her faith and love for Jesus. She has lived a hard life, but is so grateful that she finally found Christ. She has become a much loved member of our congregation!



Thank you for your prayers for our trip to the prolife ministry leaders Summit in Croatia. It was a profitable time of interacting with and learning from others in our part of the world who are involved in prolife ministry. It was also a good chance for the three of us who attended to discuss some of our ideas and dreams for the future of the ministry here in Odessa. Pray that the Lord will give us wisdom as we consider new ways to advertise in order to reach the abortion minded clients, and ways to better nurture our volunteers. Pray also for those clients we are working with to be open to the gospel.

I am so thankful for the reassurance that God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. Pray with us for God to work in ways that will bring glory to Him and that will demonstrate His strength and goodness to His children.

Resting in His Strength,  
Holly Friesen

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