

## Update from Holly March 2014

**The Lord will give strength to His people; the Lord will bless His people with peace. Psalm 29:11**

In light of the current political turmoil in Ukraine, as well as all of the work necessary to be able to open the "Women's Center" in Odessa as planned, this verse was especially meaningful as I read it yesterday. Things may not turn out exactly as we had hoped or planned, but we can be confident that God will give us the strength we need for each day. He is able to fill our hearts with peace even if the world around us is in turmoil.

Thank you for your prayers for me and for the country of Ukraine during this time of turmoil. For the time being things are still safe and quiet in Odessa where I live. People on the streets are calm and while the situation is foremost on everyone's minds, life is going on as usual. Our mission leadership, local and in the U.S., is keeping a close watch on the situation and we have a plan in place for evacuation if necessary.

In the meantime, we are moving forward with our plans for our "Women's Center" opening on March 8th. Our plan is to have a small service of dedication in the morning with our steering committee and local pastors, followed by an open house. This will be an opportunity for people from our churches to see what we are doing and to learn how they can pray for us. We are still in the process of finishing up the training with our volunteers, so we will not start our advertising to the public until we feel like our counselors are ready. Our goal is to be ready by mid to late April to start our advertising campaign. I will give you more details in a later update. You can see a few pictures from our volunteer training on our [blog](#).

Of course all of these plans could change very quickly if the situation here in Ukraine becomes more critical. Here are some ways you can pray:

- Pray for wisdom for the transitional government in Ukraine (the interim president is a believer)
- Pray for peace & no more bloodshed (especially between Ukraine and Russia but also between people of differing political views within Ukraine)
- Pray for believers to have a vibrant testimony of peace & faith in God during this uncertainty
- Pray we will have wisdom to know how to proceed with ministry plans in light of current events

Thank you for your prayers for Ukraine and for our ministry here. If you want to read more about what is happening in Ukraine, a good source of information in English is the [Kiev Post](#). I will try to keep you updated if there are changes in our plans.

Praising God for His Strength & Peace,

Holly Friesen

### UKRAINE MAILING ADDRESS

Holly Friesen

a/ya 117

Odessa, Ukraine 65069

Internet phone: 316-243-0602 (dial like U.S. number but rings in Ukraine)

e-mail: [esperanza@abwe.cc](mailto:esperanza@abwe.cc)

website: [www.ukrainemedical.abwe.org](http://www.ukrainemedical.abwe.org)