

## Update from Holly August 2020

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. II Cor. 5:17

Just over a week ago our church had the joy of celebrating Zhanna's baptism. It has been a joy to be able to work with her over the past weeks and to see the transformation in her life. Her mother is a believer who has been praying for Zhanna for years. Searching for help for her oldest son who is addicted to drugs, Zhanna ended up at our church early in 2020. Even though her son was not interested in getting help, she continued to attend. When quarantine hit and brought with it a job loss and other difficulties, she started seriously thinking about her relationship with God. She prayed with a friend over the phone to accept Christ as her Savior while we were still in quarantine, and the first Sunday that we were able to meet together again she went forward at the end of the service to make her commitment public. Since her salvation she has quit smoking and recently married the father of her younger son who she had lived with for years. She told him they either had to get married or separate because she was committed to living for the Lord now. She was anxious to follow through with the step of baptism, and even though reading is hard for her she carefully prepared for each of our baptism preparation meetings and was eager to learn. She has been sharing her new faith with her friends and family and the change in her is evident to all who are close to her. What a joy to witness the transformation in her and to get to participate in her discipleship. Tomorrow she will be having a major surgery that she has needed for some time. As you pray for her spiritual growth, would you also pray for a successful surgery and an uneventful recovery, and for the salvation of her husband and sons?



Thank you for your prayers for our abstinence teaching opportunity in the village of Sahanskoye. We had to end up postponing a week due to two of our teachers getting sick, but praise the Lord they recovered quickly and we were able to do the lessons the following two Saturdays. Pray for God to continue to work in the hearts of the kids who heard our message. They listened well, but for most of them, this was their first introduction to the idea of abstinence until marriage. We have invitations to teach at another church outreach and some orphanages. Pray that we will have wisdom as we consider when we can do this in light of current events.

So far we have not had increased government restrictions, but the numbers of COVID cases in Ukraine and Odessa have been steadily rising over the past month. There are quite a few cases among our church contacts, a few of them being quite serious. In light of this, we are encouraging our Women's Center volunteers to do as much counseling as they can by phone to decrease traffic at the center although we are still open. We continue to take precautions in our village clinics as well. Pray that we will have wisdom as we make decisions about the best ways to conduct our ministries. Thank you for praying for our volunteer Natasha and her mother. They have both made a complete recovery and Natasha is back to working with center clients.

Thank you for continuing to pray for the ministry here in Ukraine and for rejoicing with me in what God is doing.

Rejoicing in God's transforming power!  
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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