

## Update from Holly November 2019

Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the people! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! Psalm 105:1-2

I recently sat in an addictions recovery group and listened to numerous testimonies of God's redeeming work in the lives of people who most had written off as hopeless cases. Their stories filled my heart with joy as I was reminded of the greatness of our God who is able to transform lives. It also made me so grateful for God's grace in my life. In some respects, His grace kept me from the type of addictions most of the people in this group had struggled with. But, as they shared about going deeper, past their surface chemical addictions, I was reminded of other sins God has freed me from and of those He continues to work on freeing me from. I realized that the principles this group was working through were very applicable to my life as well and to my own struggles with sin.

Why you might wonder was I sitting in this addictions recovery group? The client I have been working with at the Women's Center is struggling with an alcohol addiction which is resulting in numerous other problems in her life including temporarily not being able to have her one year old son with her. I have been sharing with her about God's desire to help her overcome this problem and she finally agreed to go with me to the recovery group and to Sunday services. Please pray for "A" as the battle for her soul is very intense right now. For the time being, I will be attending the group with her as well as the church that hosts the group. I have enjoyed this opportunity to get to know the body of believers at this new church plant not far from my home. Just last year they ordained their first pastor and deacon and had their first baptism. The pastor and deacon have a background of substance abuse themselves and have a heart for reaching those struggling with addictions. You can pray that God will use me to be an encouragement to those who attend Crossroad's Church for however long He has me there.

This past month included a couple of trips as well as visitors. The Church Ministries Institute, founded by the first ABWE missionaries in Ukraine, celebrated 25 years. It was founded to help provide theological education in local churches or modular classes to make it more accessible for those who are unable to go away to seminary. I enjoyed attending the celebration in Kiev and being able to look back on all that God has done through this ministry, as well as to hear the vision for the future from the Ukrainian staff. It also provided the opportunity to connect with a number of missionaries who are no longer serving in Ukraine who came back for the celebration. I am challenged & encouraged by all that has been accomplished by those missionaries who have gone before me and hope that I can continue to learn from their examples.

This past month I also spent a week in Romania for our regions bi-annual Missions Roundtable. The goal is to bring national partners with us in order to encourage them in their involvement in cross-cultural missions and to help them make connections. I had the joy of bringing my friend Ruth who is a Latvian missionary kid who has spent most of her life in Russia or Ukraine with her family who reaches out to Muslims. She is currently involved in leading a Russian club for international students at my church as an outreach to them. We also brought 3 other pastors from Ukraine who have varying levels of involvement in missions. It was a blessing to see the connections that were made and to hear them express their desire to see Ukraine to become more active and effective in sending missionaries cross-culturally.



I am so grateful for your prayers and support of the ministry here. May you be filled with joy as you remember all of God's wondrous works during this time of Thanksgiving!

Giving thanks to the Lord,  
Holly Friesen

**Contact Info: \*\*\* Ukraine address: Holly Friesen a/ya 39, Odessa, Ukraine 65025\*\*\***

U.S. address: PO Box 52, Moundridge, KS 67107

e-mail: [esperanza@abwe.cc](mailto:esperanza@abwe.cc) or [hollyfriesen79@gmail.com](mailto:hollyfriesen79@gmail.com)

Internet phone number that rings in Ukraine: 316-243-0602 website: [www.ukrainemedical.abwe.org](http://www.ukrainemedical.abwe.org)

**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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