

## Update from Holly September 2020

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

When facing painful or confusing situations, it is comforting to know that our God is unchanging in His goodness and to experience the peace that only He can give. In this world we will have trouble and grief, but we have the sure hope of a future in eternity without sickness, pain, or loss if we have placed our faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. On September 11, my beloved Uncle Gary lost his battle with COVID and stepped into the presence of His Lord and Savior. This was a hard and unexpected loss for our family as he had been active and healthy and enjoying his first year of retirement. He left a legacy of love for others and faithful service in his church. While we grieve the loss of his presence here on earth, we cannot help but rejoice in the blessings he is experiencing in eternity. I would appreciate your prayers for his wife Judy as she adjusts to life without him and continues to gain strength after her own battle with COVID.

Thank you for your prayers for Zhanna. She has recovered well from her surgery and we praise the Lord for a cancer free pathology report! We have resumed our discipleship meetings and it is a blessing to see her continued desire to learn and grow. God has also given me the opportunity to work with Liza, a 16 year old girl in our church who recently accepted Christ as her Savior and desires to be baptized. She was influenced by her father who has a history of struggling with addictions but whose life was transformed when he placed his faith in Jesus Christ. She says that he is a totally different person and God used his transformation to convince her that the Bible was true. She is full of questions and enthusiasm for her newfound faith. She has made some hard choices to turn away from relationships that she knew were not honoring to God and has experienced God's faithfulness in ministering to her emotional needs and in giving her joy as she sees God answer her prayers. Pray that I will have wisdom as I disciple her and seek to give her Biblical answers for her many questions!



God continues to work in the villages where we hold monthly evangelistic clinics. In one of the villages (Sahanskoye), a single mom has started regularly attending the church services and Bible studies. She has had many conversations with the leaders there about what it means to follow Christ, but has not yet made a commitment. Pray for Julia's salvation! We have been encouraged by the return of one of the village pastors to ministry here in Ukraine. Some of his children have immigrated to the states and were



encouraging him and his wife to follow them. They spent some time in the U.S. working and could have stayed, but felt God calling them back to ministry here. In addition to working in the village (Shurino) where they live, they are also looking into the possibility of starting a new church in a neighboring village. Pray for Pastor Sasha and Tanya as they adjust to life back in Ukraine and pray about the opportunities before them. Thank you for faithfully praying!

Rejoicing in hope,  
Holly Friesen

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