

Mission Statement

Develop intentional partnerships with Ukrainian evangelists to plant churches via medical evangelism in villages that are unreached spiritually, destitute economically and underserved medically.

Purpose

To use healthcare to aid the ABWE-Ukraine team's goal of facilitating a national church-planting movement and training leadership.

Needs

Long term – primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, PA's

Short term – Primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, PA's

Specialists including dentists, ophthalmologists and other areas who could provide care in rural area for 1-2 weeks



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Model for Medical Missions

Jesus' ministry of preaching, teaching and healing in Matthew 9:35-36.

How Can Medical Ministry Fulfill This Purpose?

Many people will not admit spiritual need until they are sick and vulnerable. A Christian doctor or nurse has unique openings to share the gospel with their patients. A medical missionary can impact laypeople and professionals through evangelism and discipleship.

Rationale for Medical Missions in Ukraine:

Most villages have little or no medical care. Because of the economic crisis following the collapse of the Soviet Union which has now been compounded by ongoing conflict with Russia in the east, many people cannot afford to seek medical care or buy medicine. Approximately 12 million people live in rural "third-world" villages. The medical system has been so corrupted that the Ukrainian people don't know which doctors they can trust and are afraid to go to hospitals. The system has changed from socialized to fee-for-service, but there is no insurance and minimal assistance. Proper medical care (even in emergencies) is not provided without cash payment. During Communism, the average number of abortions per woman was SEVEN. Currently, there are 49 abortions reported for every 100 births.

Opportunities for Medical Ministry in Ukraine:

Village Evangelism: We currently hold clinics in villages where we are planting churches with Ukrainian partners and where a critical need for healthcare exists. This allows us to assist these growing churches in making contacts with unsaved villagers, and to share Christ with patients who are spiritually hungry. We also make occasional trips to eastern Ukraine to provide medical care in areas that have been impacted by the violent conflict with Russian backed separatists. We desire to involve Christian Ukrainian physicians and P.A.'s, to teach them how to make their medical practice a ministry.

Pro-Life Ministry: We began "Forgiven and Set Free" Bible studies in 2011 to help women ravaged by the pain of abortion to find healing in Jesus. In 2014 the Women's Center was opened in Odessa to support pregnant women in desperate circumstances, encourage them to keep their babies and discover hope in Jesus. A great unfulfilled need is training hospice volunteers to assist families caring for a loved one at the end of life.

Professional Education: We need a physician to join our ministry team to focus on mentoring and evangelizing healthcare students and professionals. We have a great platform with the Ukrainian Christian Medical Association to disciple them, encourage sharing the Gospel with patients, and to mentor them professionally.

