

March 2015

Our mission:

Help people learn to value life from conception to death and receive God's love, forgiveness and gift of eternal life.

Highlights of 2014

- In February, 51 volunteers completed the 3-day seminar on basic pro-life ministry principles.

- 6 additional short training seminars for volunteers

Post-abortion ministry

- 21 women completed the small group Bible study, "Forgiven & Set Free"

- 2 trips by Miriam Wheeler to Central Asia for leadership training

Women's Center

- 31 active volunteers, including 13 counselors

- total of 20 new clients

- 14 pregnancy tests (10 positive)

- 1 abortion-minded client decided to keep her pregnancy

- 48 visits with clients

- 2 clients involved in Bible study

- 1 prenatal class group

- new monthly meeting for new moms

Despite the economic and political crisis in Ukraine, God has done amazing things in developing the various ministries of "Choose Life". May this update bless you and challenge you to pray even more fervently for this vital ministry.

Post-Abortion Ministry

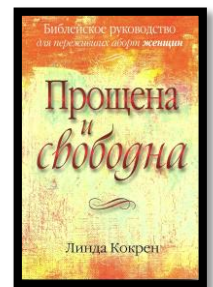
We had our first small group of miscarriage survivors studying "Forgiven and Set Free" in the spring of 2014. Women who have lost babies at any time during their pregnancy cannot fully express their grief or excise their misplaced feelings of guilt. This group was thrilled to share their turmoil with each other and find full healing from their pain in Jesus Christ!

The "Choose Life" Board appointed Ira Lupanova as the assistant director of the post-abortion ministry. Ira has already been invaluable to Dr. Miriam Wheeler in organizing FSF groups. Miriam is mentoring Ira to assume the role of director when she leaves for furlough in September 2015.

Miriam returned to Central Asia in November to train leaders of "Forgiven and Set Free".

Eleven women gathered from four different cities in two countries. Women who have had abortions should go through FSF before they attend this training. However, Donna slipped in and was so touched by the information that she arranged to get off work the following

week to participate in the intensive 5-day Bible study. God did a wonderful work in her life! She was radiant in the last service with understanding Jesus' full forgiveness of her 5 abortions and emotional healing from shame and abuse. Dina is the new director of post-abortion ministry in her city and led her first FSF group in parallel with Miriam's group. Nine women from a wide assortment of backgrounds focused for 5 days on the character of God and Biblical principles for dealing with the pain of their past. What a joy to see all of them change dramatically in this short period! Dina and a colleague are starting a weekly FSF group this month.



Women's Center

We now have a variety of clients whom we are counseling at the center, through both individual meetings and innumerable follow-up phone calls. Several were not abortion minded when they came to us, but were facing difficult situations and heard that they could find help at our center. Four new young moms, who grew up in children's homes in Ukraine, do not have parents involved in their lives. Other new moms are struggling with financial and marriage problems. Some moms are young and single in their first pregnancy, while others already have several children. Sometimes the pregnancy was planned and desired, but most often, it was not. Some of the women have had contact with evangelical churches. Others claim to be Orthodox even if they do not regularly attend church. Each client and her problems are unique, but most importantly, each needs a personal relationship with her Creator. Pray that every counselor will discern the guidance of the Holy Spirit in her interaction with clients, and that clients' hearts will be open to spiritual things.

We held prenatal classes with a group of ladies in the fall, and we are now working with a new group of ladies. In addition to Luba and Holly, four volunteers are regularly involved in different aspects of the course. In an attempt to meet the needs of our new moms, we also started a monthly meeting for them. We cover a topic of interest, such as breastfeeding or colic, and have a time for sharing and fellowship. They seem to enjoy this chance to get together and it has provided a good way for us to continue building relationships with clients who are hesitant about committing to regular sessions with a counselor.

We continue to develop the knowledge base of all "Choose Life" volunteers. We recently hosted training in how to use the Good Soil evangelism and discipleship materials, an ABWE resource translated into Russian. "The Story of Hope" is a chronological Bible study of God's plan for redemption from Genesis to Revelation. "The Way to Joy" is a basic discipleship course for new believers. We have begun using "The Story of Hope" with clients who are willing to study the Bible with us. Holly has begun teaching the Biblical Counseling Foundation's "Self-Confrontation" discipleship course at the center. This course prepares believers to provide Biblical counsel for those who come to them with problems. We feel it will help our counselors grow in their ability to minister to the needs of our clients.



Specific Prayer Needs

Post-Abortion Ministry: Pray that Christian women will admit their need for this Bible study both in Odessa and in Central Asia. Pray for Ira and Dina as Miriam mentors them in directors' roles. Pray for Miriam teaching the next leadership seminar in Central Asia in May.

Women's Center clients: Pray for the salvation of our unsaved clients and for growth in spiritual understanding for those who say they are believers but are struggling due to poor choices. Pray that God will continue to direct women in need to our center and that they will choose life for their babies.

Women's Center volunteers: Pray for God to continue to grow them in their ability to minister to others as they serve and as we study the Biblical counseling course together.

Choose Life Leadership: Pray for God to give our board of directors wisdom in guiding this ministry and that God would provide new board members in His time.

Do you want to know more about "Choose Life"? Check out our website: www.ukrainemedical.abwe.org

Sign up to receive this newsletter by e-mail by writing Holly at esperanza@abwe.cc

To support the ministry of "Choose Life" Send gifts to ABWE account # 0757353 by mail or online at www.abwe.org

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