



Ministry Update

September 2014

Our mission:

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

Highlights

March-May: Our volunteers completed 4 additional 2-hour training sessions taught in small groups by Dr. Wheeler & Holly Friesen.

June: Receptionists completed their training and counselors worked on role play in small groups. We saw our first client.



July: Banner hung advertising free pregnancy tests and regular hours Tuesday-Friday 2pm-8pm and Saturday 11am-3pm.

July 31 & Aug 1: Group of volunteers completed training for teaching prenatal classes.

Praise God for His faithfulness and guidance! The turmoil and uncertainty that Ukraine is currently facing have made us acutely aware of how desperately we need God's wisdom for how to proceed with ministry plans. Thank you for continuing to pray for Ukraine and for the ministry of "Choose Life".

The volunteers who began their training in February have stayed faithful and enthusiastic during further preparation for ministry in the Women's Center. While the current situation in Ukraine has forced us to proceed more slowly with the development of the center, it has by no means stopped us. We are now keeping regular hours five days a week, and we are working with several clients. In spite of struggles with illness, summer travels and involvement in church camps, our volunteers have made room in their schedules to staff the center. Our counselors-in-training have continued their assigned reading and participating in role-play. They are excited and anxious about beginning to see actual clients. It has been encouraging to see them grow in their understanding and ability to communicate as we practice various situations together. Please pray for these counselors in training.

We need wisdom as we think about the best way to move forward with advertising our center. We hope to launch our website soon. God has given us some good contacts in the medical community that we plan to pursue. One pro-life gynecologist has already referred a client to us. We would love to be able to advertise our center in the medical clinics where women go to seek abortions. Pray for God to direct us to the best avenues for advertising our ministry at this time and pray that God would bring clients in need to our center.

We hope to begin offering free prenatal classes soon. We have a great group of volunteers helping us develop the course. We hosted a two-day training for them in August, led



by a Ukrainian obstetrician involved in pro-life ministry in Kiev. It was a blessing to learn from her experience of working with women in Ukraine and to discover more resources available in Russian. Please pray for the continued development of this course and for God’s choice of participants for our first group.

Testimony of God at work:

We recently had a woman come to the center for a pregnancy test. The test result was negative but since she had an abortion in her past, our counselor told her about our groups for post-abortion healing. She was very interested and said to call her when we formed a group. A week later she called the center to make sure that we had not forgotten her! Pray that she will follow through to study “Forgiven and Set Free”.

May 8-21, Dr. Miriam Wheeler was in a restricted access country, marveling at the doors of opportunity God opened. Carolyn Rice, who helped us begin our post-abortion ministry in Odessa in 2011, accompanied Miriam to face the challenge of this new culture. We landed at 4am Friday and taught our first seminar at 3pm! About 25 ladies gathered from ten churches to hear the Biblical perspective on the beginning of life and the emotional trauma wrought by abortion. We stayed more than an hour afterwards answering many questions. Saturday we spoke to a group of Christian health care professionals about these issues. The following week was the intensive 5-day course “Forgiven and Set Free”. Carolyn led a group of 3 post-abortion women. Miriam focused on one woman who had lost 4 babies through miscarriage or pre-term labor. She survived childhood abuse and two abusive husbands, then came to know Christ as Savior at age 45. But now, nearly 20 years after her salvation, she still felt shame about her infertility and guilt over the miscarriages. The Lord did a glorious work in all four of these women to free them from shame, guilt, depression, and broken relationships. They are determined to share with many other women the same healing they received. Miriam plans to go back in November to train FSF leaders.

Specific Prayer Needs

Volunteer development: Pray that God would work in the lives of our counselors-in-training so they can effectively minister to those God will bring to the center.

Ukraine crisis: Pray for a peaceful resolution to the current political crisis in Ukraine that would allow us to continue serving here in Odessa. Pray that we will have wisdom in knowing how to plan in light of current events.

Advertising Plan: Pray for creativity and wisdom in developing a website, flyers, and other avenues of advertising. Pray that God will send us clients who need the message of life.

Prenatal Class: Pray for wisdom as we organize this class and teach it for the first time. Pray that as we develop relationships with the ladies taking the class, we will have opportunities to share the message of salvation with them.

Post-Abortion Ministry: Miriam’s trip to the restricted access country to train leaders in November. New small groups starting in October in Odessa to study “Forgiven and Set Free”. Pray that God would lead us to more women in Odessa in need of this Bible study, and wisdom for how to help those in villages without access to this course.

Do you want to know more about “Choose Life”?

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

Would you like to support the ministry of “Choose Life”? Send gifts to ABWE account # 0757353. They can be mailed or given online at www.abwe.org.

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