

Sharing Christ's Compassion for Ukraine

"How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!

*Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings.
For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light."*

Psalm 36: 7&9

June 12, 2013

Dear Prayer Partners:

Last week I was invited to a meeting with a **Swedish medical team** to help them with plans for village clinic ministry. What a joy to meet vibrant believers from a country we tend to think of as secular and agnostic. Ulrika, also a family physician, was thrilled to learn about our pro-life ministry, as that has been on her heart. She requested information. Wouldn't that be neat if our Odessa ministry developed a satellite in Sweden?! ☺

I have not shared with you yet about the **seminars** we held in March and April. What a blessing for **Carolyn Rice** to return to Odessa to teach more about **post-abortion ministry**. Our current group leaders met for a day of discussion about how to use "Forgiven and Set Free" as a means of **evangelism**. We were all burdened for the potential of using this dynamic tool to lead women to Jesus Christ, who have been suffering under the guilt and despair of their past abortions. **Pray for God to lead us to unsaved women who are seeking help and ready to delve deeply into Scripture for answers.**

March 28-30, Carolyn taught the leadership training course for "Forgiven and Set Free" small groups. All of my current leaders returned for a refresher course! Three women came from other cities, where they are starting pro-life ministries. Seven women from Odessa attended. **Pray for me as I read their applications and interview each one individually to determine what their role might be in the post-abortion ministry.**

April 2-6, Carolyn took a group of 5 ladies through FSF in an intensive 5-day course. One lady had repressed her memories of abortion so much, she had trouble counting them. As God relieved her pain and guilt, He helped her remember 35 abortions. April 6, we had a closing service for this group and our other small groups who had been meeting weekly in Odessa. **Fifteen women did a total of 147 abortions!** A lady who had felt numb for years, resulting from anger and bitterness surrounding her abortions, was able to cry at this service for the first time in 7 years. Ladies experienced God's total freedom from the weight of sin and guilt.

Last Saturday our steering committee for "**Choose Life**" enthusiastically discussed the presentation we will be giving in churches this fall to recruit volunteers for the pregnancy care center, opening in March 2014. Alyona shared that **our ministry has already saved the life of a baby!** Oksanna finished FSF a few months ago and has been eagerly sharing with others how God changed her life. *She had survived abuse from her father and her husband, but abortion damaged her emotionally more than the abuse did.* Her son's girlfriend became pregnant a few weeks ago, and they planned to get an abortion done. Thankfully, they talked to Oksanna before going through with it. She shared what she had learned in FSF, that the unborn baby was already a unique human being created by God. These young people decided to keep the baby! **Now pray for their salvation.**

In April, nurse practitioner Diane Whitcomb joined me for two weeks of ministry in **villages around Kharkov** and Odessa. It was exciting to me to visit several new villages in Kharkov, and to see many unsaved people making first-time contact with Jesus' church. **May the seeds of the gospel we sowed that week sprout into eternal fruit!** We spent one day at a rehabilitation center for alcoholics and addicts, where we were able to encourage some new arrivals to stick it out and to provide safe medicines and counsel to residents. There are so many needs on every side. **Pray for God's direction that I will fulfill His purpose here.**

Clinging to The Rock, Miriam