

Update from Holly June 2016

“Does He not see my ways, and count all my steps?” Job 31:4

At times, the best-laid plans do not work out the way we had hoped, but we can be certain that God is not taken by surprise. He knows what challenges are coming our way and in His goodness will continue to strengthen, guide, and direct our steps if we are willing to submit to His will. My belief in this truth has been put to the test this past month, but God has once again proved Himself faithful.

Shortly after I sent out my last newsletter, I learned that Dr. Wells was not going to be able to come help with the May clinics due to a serious health problem that developed. It was too late to change our clinic schedule, so I had to do my best to cover the clinics we had planned. I had to send our clinic staff on their own a couple of the days, but was able to delegate some of my responsibilities at the Women's Center so that I could be free to cover the rest of the clinics scheduled during the 2 weeks Dr. Wells was planning to be here. I am grateful for the flexibility of our assistant director, Luba, and other volunteers at the Women's Center who helped to make that possible. In His goodness, God did not just give the strength to endure the unexpected change and demands on my schedule, but He also gave me joy during the long days and taught me more about myself and about Him in the process. At times like this, I am especially grateful for those who pray for me and for the ministry here. It makes a difference!



Thank you for praying for our May volunteer training seminar for Choose Life. God blessed the training although it also did not turn out quite as we expected. Of the 13 new volunteers that we were expecting to attend, only 3 were able to make it. There were a variety of reasons why the others did not make it such as illness and last minute scheduling conflicts. While this was disappointing, we were very grateful for the 3 who attended all the sessions. They show great potential and desire to be involved in this ministry. We will be continuing their on the job training and some additional sessions with them over the next several months. Our teaching team did a great job with the seminar. There were five of us who taught and we saw that we can now make the training even more practical using examples from our almost two years of working with women here in Odessa. It was a joy to see each one draw from their experience and teach with confidence. We are praying about possibly doing another volunteer training in the fall so that those who were unable to attend this one will have another opportunity. Pray for our new volunteers as they continue to learn.

June 1st is Protect the Children Day here in Ukraine. For the 2nd year in a row, we have used this opportunity to set up a display of fetal models on a walking boulevard not far from our center. This gives us the chance to advertise our center and to talk about the need to protect unborn children. We handed out balloons and fliers advertising our center's services. A number of people showed interest and a couple of women who received fliers came to our prenatal class this past week. Pray that we will have wisdom in advertising our center and that God will continue to bless our efforts.

We recently had a woman from another city contact our center through our website. She had just discovered she was pregnant and was considering abortion because of her difficult situation. After talking to a counselor over the phone she said she needed to think about it some more. When we called her back, she said she had decided to have the baby but was very fearful about what that was going to mean for her future & her family. We were able to send some help to her through a church in her city, and we will maintain contact with her over the phone. Pray that God will strengthen her desire to give life to this child and that through this situation she will come to understand God's love for her & her family.

Rejoicing in God's goodness,
Holly Friesen

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