

Update from Holly November 2016

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11

“I wish I had understood these things sooner!” Words spoken by one of the clients I am working with at the Women’s Center. We are nearing the end of our study of the Story of Hope and it is evident that God is at work in her heart giving her understanding and faith in God’s plan. In our last lesson, we looked at the crucifixion and she asked: “Why couldn’t God come up with another way?” “Why did Jesus have to suffer so much?” As the verse from Ecclesiastes reminds us, no one can completely understand God’s plan, but His incredible love and mercy are evident when we look at the cross! Tanya & Masha who I have mentioned before are both nearing the end of their study of the Story of Hope. Pray for their salvation! We recently had our 5th unsaved client agree to begin this study with us. Please pray for the counselors leading these studies and for God to give understanding that will lead to salvation to each of these ladies.

We have started bi-monthly meetings with a group of volunteers who want to begin working as counselors or who are already working as counselors and want to improve their skills. I am teaching through the Story of Hope and our assistant director Luba is teaching them how use our parenting course. We are giving counseling tips as we go and allowing those who have already been working with clients to share from their experiences. Pray that these times will help us all grow in our effectiveness in counseling and in being able to share Christ with our clients.

Interest in our prenatal class has continued to grow. This week a group of 12 (minus 2 who delivered before they could finish) will be finishing the 5 week course. In each group, a few of the participants are from area churches, a few are our clients who initially came in with a “crisis” pregnancy, but the majority are women from the community who found out about our free classes. God blessed us with Regina, an OB/GYN who volunteers at the center and organizes the classes. Among our volunteers who help with the classes we also have a midwife who works at the regional hospital, a pediatrician, and breastfeeding experts. Our desire is that these classes would help us to advertise our center, promote the sanctity of life, and bless our community by helping these moms be better prepared for delivery and for the first weeks of their baby’s life. We also hope we can promote friendships between the women from our churches and from the community.



We canceled our medical clinic to refugees in Odessa this week because the center where they were living has closed down. Some have gone home, even if that means going back to separatist occupied territories. Some of them transferred to other facilities and some are just trying to make it on their own in the Odessa area. As the refugee situation changes, pray that we will have wisdom in knowing when and where God would desire for us to be involved with the medical ministry. Now that Dr. Miriam is back in Ukraine, we are hoping to be able to make a trip back to eastern Ukraine to serve the refugees closer to the conflict zone. Pray that if this is God’s will, we would be able to work out the logistics to make it happen.

Praising God for His amazing grace,
Holly Friesen

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Pro-Life in Ukraine account #0757353

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