



# Ministry Update

April 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

December 15, 2013: We signed a one year rental agreement for an office for the Women's Center.



December 21, 2013: Four groups of ladies completed the "Forgiven & Set Free" Bible study

February 13-15 2014: Volunteer training for Choose Life attended by 53 potential volunteers.

March 8 2014: Women's Center open house attended by approximately 100 volunteers in training, their family and friends, and other supporters of the ministry

April 26 2014: Another 4 groups completed "Forgiven and Set Free".

The situation in Ukraine has changed drastically since our last Choose Life update. We are so thankful for the confidence that none of these events have taken our God by surprise! In spite of political turmoil and economic upheaval, we see evidence that God is at work in Ukraine. While we have had to adjust some of our plans, we are excited to share with you how God has been answering your prayers for this ministry.

In December, we signed a one-year rental agreement for an office for the Women's Center. It was not as close to a main road and bus stop as we had hoped to find, but it is in a high foot traffic area near two schools. It was the size we needed, did not require any remodeling, and was within our price range. Praise the Lord for his provision of this place after several months of searching.

*Fifty participants in our first volunteer training seminar – including two men*

God responded to your prayers for volunteers by giving us 53 participants in our February volunteer training seminar. Our partnering organization, Life Matters Worldwide, sent experienced directors Carolyn Doyle and Beverly Zahl to conduct the seminar. They did a great job of jump-starting our volunteer training and gave us much valuable insight for directing this ministry. Miriam and Holly have continued the training process through two-hour lessons on subjects not fully covered in the seminar. This training was interrupted when we had to leave the country for two weeks due to the precarious political situation and threat of Russian invasion. While there is still much uncertainty about the future of Ukraine, we are thankful that the situation stabilized enough for us to return to ministry here.



During the month of May we will set up the volunteer schedule, and start on the job training and role-play with our counselors. Our goal is to open our doors fully in June.

Testimony of God at work:

*A young couple was visiting one of the churches where we did a presentation of the ministry of Choose Life in the fall. She was interested in helping us and contacted us, but she was not yet a Christian. Luba and Holly met with her, and she shared that she and her boyfriend had been reading the Bible together and visiting churches. She demonstrated a clear understanding of the gospel and they encouraged her not to delay her decision to accept Christ. She and her*

*boyfriend began attending Holly's church regularly, and after three Sundays they both went forward to accept Christ as Savior. They have continued to attend church and bring friends with them and are now involved in a weekly Bible study for new believers. She still desires to become involved in the ministry of "Choose Life", when she is spiritually ready.*

As of April 26, sixty-four women have completed the small group Bible study for post-abortion healing, "Forgiven and Set Free" (FSF). Two trainees observed recent groups, and are now ready to become assistant leaders. God has given us a total of 11 leaders. *One trainee shared that, as she studied FSF following miscarriage, the Lord convicted her of bitterness against her husband for wrongly blaming him for their unborn baby's death. She asked her husband to forgive her, and their relationship was restored. Two months later, he received Christ as his Savior!* This spring we led our first group for women who have suffered miscarriages. Though FSF was written for abortion survivors, many of the principles are applicable to miscarriage. This group were very thankful for the opportunity to relieve their hurts and assuage their grief. Two experienced FSF leaders assisted in our volunteer training, sharing their testimonies and explaining the ministry. Another leader, Ira, has agreed to become the assistant director of the post abortion ministry. Miriam will be mentoring her for the position of director. Praise the Lord for His provision!

### Specific Prayer Needs

**Volunteer training:** Pray that we will have wisdom as we complete the training of our volunteers. Pray that God will prepare them to effectively minister to those in need, and that our clients will be open to receive our counsel.

**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 for the right words, and that people would be able to locate our center without difficulty.

**Post-Abortion Ministry:** Pray for Miriam as she goes to a restricted access country in May with Carolyn Rice to lead a group of potential post-abortion ministry leaders through FSF. They plan to return in the fall to conduct a seminar for leadership training. Pray for God to send us needy women for FSF groups in Odessa this fall.

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### Do you want to know more about "Choose Life"?

Check out our website: [www.ukrainemedical.abwe.org](http://www.ukrainemedical.abwe.org)

Sign up to receive this newsletter by e-mail by writing Holly at [esperanza@abwe.cc](mailto:esperanza@abwe.cc)

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