

April 2020

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

2019 Highlights

- ~ 16 new Choose Life volunteers were trained in February
- ~ Our post abortion healing ministry conducted their own group leader training for the first time in May. 7 new group leaders received training.
- ~ We had two opportunities to teach on sexual purity to pre-teen and teen girls and continued to work on developing our team for teaching abstinence.
- ~ One client accepted Christ as her Savior and continues to be discipled

2019 statistics

- ~ 11 women completed the Forgiven & Set Free post abortion healing Bible study
- ~ 221 clients served since the opening of the Women's Center
- ~ 48 new clients in 2019 (over 2x as many as 2018!)
- ~ 39 clients working through courses one on one with counselors – 11 in Bible studies

Our world is currently filled with much fear and uncertainty and many of the things we had planned for these months have been put on hold due to a worldwide pandemic. But our God is still in control and He is still at work in people's lives. I hope your hearts will be encouraged as we share with you some of the ways that God has been at work in the ministry of Choose Life over this past year.

Due to the quarantine restrictions here in Ukraine, we have had to officially close the Women's Center, but that does not mean that we have stopped working. Someone is always there during our regular working hours to answer the phones and to help coordinate the counseling that is being done by phone from home by our volunteers. We have also continued to provide humanitarian aid to clients. This includes diapers and food products which they are finding it even harder to purchase now since many are not working during the quarantine. Some clients stop by the center to receive their aid, and some of it we are sending by mail. We are grateful that God continues to provide for the ministry so that we can help our clients in this way.

This spring, for the first time, a team from Choose Life was able to teach a series of 4 lessons adapted from the Willing to Wait material to a group of teens at a village youth outreach. We were encouraged by the participation & response of the teens and hope to continue developing this aspect of the ministry. We were also able to do a one hour talk on abstinence at an English club that is an outreach of a local church.



Stories of God at Work

"A" grew up in the church but then married an unbeliever and walked away from all that she had been taught. Her first pregnancy brought her to the Women's Center for prenatal class and then she agreed to do our parenting course one on one with a counselor. By the end of that course she had softened to spiritual things and agreed to study the Story of Hope. Her counselor shares that she is showing great interest in the lessons and asking good questions. She has also attended church a few times in recent months. Pray for God's continued work in "A's" life.



"T" came to the Women's Center to find out about being a volunteer. When she heard that we also offer post abortion healing Bible studies, she said that she knew she needed that. Coming from a background of abuse as a child, an abusive marriage, and drug use, she had already experienced God's amazing grace in her life in bringing her to salvation and giving her a restored life and relationship with her children. In working through the Forgiven & Set Free course she was able to deal with residual bitterness towards the men in her life and to come to understand that God's complete forgiveness extended to her history of abortions as well. She then completed the Choose Life volunteer training and the training for leading the Forgiven and Set Free Bible study. God is already using her to help other women find complete freedom and healing. She participated as a leader-in-training for one of the fall post abortion healing groups. She is also assisting clients as a counselor at the Women's Center and desires to help us develop our program for teaching abstinence.

It is beautiful to see how God brought restoration to her life and is now using her to point others to Himself.

Specific Prayer Needs

Post-Abortion Ministry: Ministry Director Ira Lupanova. The spring Forgiven and Set Free groups had to be cancelled due to quarantine. Pray that the ladies who planned to participate would be able to be in groups later this year. Pray that we would know how to encourage our contacts in eastern Ukraine in developing a post abortion healing ministry.

Women's Center: Ministry Director Luba Abramova. Pray for the salvation of clients currently studying the Bible. Pray that we would have wisdom as we seek to minister to those whose situations have become more difficult due to lack of work during quarantine.

Youth Ministry: Ministry Director Holly Friesen. Pray for wisdom as we refine our lessons for youth regarding abstinence and for God to open doors for us to teach the material again later this year.

Choose Life Board: Board chairman Pastor Igor Kuchar. Pray for wisdom as we consider candidates for new board members. Also pray that we will have wisdom as we look at ways that we could add more space to the Women's Center.

Do you want to know more about "Choose Life"? Check out our website: www.ukrainemedical.abwe.org

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

To support the ministry of "Choose Life" Send gifts to ABWE account # 0757353 by mail or online at www.abwe.org

ABWE P.O. Box 8585, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8585

Holly Friesen, President of Choose Life – esperanza@abwe.cc

Miriam Wheeler, MD, founder & advisory board member – mrwheeler@abwe.cc

