

May 2016

*Our mission:*

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

## Highlights

14 presentations of Choose Life in Odessa churches 2015/2016

### Women's Center

27 active volunteers

13 volunteers completed counseling/discipleship course

43 new clients in 2015

17 new clients in 2016

3 prenatal class groups in 2015

2 prenatal class groups in 2016

Monthly Mom's Club for new moms

### currently

9 studying Story of Hope

2 studying Way to Joy

7 in parenting course

1 in marriage course

### Post-Abortion Ministry

12 completed Forgiven & Set Free Bible study in 2015

2 ladies accept Christ as Savior

Ministry handed over to Ukrainian director Ira

10 currently in F&SF Bible study

## Women's Center

We are encouraged by the way God continues to work in the lives of our volunteers as well as our clients. In April a group of volunteers finished the Self-Confrontation course which is an in depth discipleship course designed to help believers grow in Christ and grow in their ability to counsel and help others. Those who completed the course shared how it enhanced their love for God's Word and their confidence to use Scripture to help people deal with their problems. It is a joy to watch our counselors improve their skills. Pray that they will never stop learning and that God will give them wisdom for each encounter with clients.



Three clients with whom we have been working for over a year recently began the Story of Hope Bible study with one of our counselors. These women have no church background, so agreeing to do this study is a huge step for them. Pray with us for their salvation! One of those clients is a lady I asked prayer for in our last newsletter. She is over halfway through her study of the SOH. Pray that as she comes to the end of the study, she will be willing to accept the truth of the gospel for herself. Her husband started coming with her when she was nearing the halfway point and said he wanted to study too. He has now started the SOH separately with one of our male volunteers. He has also started attending a group at a nearby church for help with his alcoholism. God is at work in this family. Thank you for praying for them!



Last year we had a client who found out she was pregnant at our center and we took her to her first sonogram. In spite of our efforts, she was determined to have an abortion. After the sonogram, she did not answer our phone calls. Later, through another client who is her neighbor, we learned that she kept her baby. Recently she returned to our center with her 8-month-old girl. What a wonderful blessing! However, when she returned she was pregnant again and her situation was even more desperate than it was the first time she came to us. This time she chose abortion. However, because she is struggling to care for her 8 month old, she agreed to come back and start the parenting course so that she can earn diapers, clothes, and food items for her family. Pray that as we build our relationship with

her, her heart will be opened to the gospel. While not all of our stories end the way we would choose, we see evidence that God is at work. Thank you for praying!

May 13-14 we will be training new volunteers. We are in the process of screening those interested. Pray that God will send us gifted volunteers and that He will direct our preparation for this seminar.

### Post-Abortion Ministry

In September before furlough, Miriam was thrilled to turn over the leadership of the post-abortion ministry to Ukrainian Ira Lupanova. Ira is an experienced pastor's wife and dynamic leader with a great burden for this ministry. She participated in our very first leadership training. Our missionary goal for all of "Choose Life" is that it would be Ukrainian in character and leadership. She is doing an excellent job of leading our small group facilitators. This spring she is teaching "Forgiven and Set Free" in a new town near Odessa.

Our medical ministry to refugees has intersected with the post-abortion ministry this spring. Several women patients, many disabled, began attending the weekly Bible study led by "Hope for People" Church. They revealed their history of abortion and the emotional pain that still engenders. The pastor asked Miriam to lead FSF there, and another group leader Larysa agreed to do so. There are four unsaved women currently studying FSF. Pray that they will receive Christ as their Savior during this in-depth study of God's Word, and that they will also find healing of emotional trauma resulting both from abortion and from their survival of the ongoing war in eastern Ukraine, which caused them to lose their homes and all their possessions.

### Specific Prayer Needs

**Post-Abortion Ministry:** Salvation for the 4 unsaved ladies currently studying FSF & wisdom for their leaders.

**Women's Center:** Volunteer training May 13-14. Pray for wisdom as we train new volunteers and continue to encourage & develop our current volunteers. Pray for the salvation of clients studying the Story of Hope.

**Ministry to youth:** We are in contact with a local church group that has begun to do outreach in an area school. Pray about the possibility of partnering with them to help with a lesson on abstinence/abortion.

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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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