

Yulia: I Am a Dreamer!

My name is Yulia Ubeivole [YU-be-voik]. I am married to Vladimir, and we have one daughter, Ana. I was born August 28th in Southern Russia but make my home in Kishinev [kish-i-now], Moldova.

I became a believer when I was 17, and from that time I began to realize God's character, and I found that I wanted to live as Jesus did. There are a lot of dreams in my heart, sometimes they look unrealistic, because they are very big and complicated, but I continue to dream. One of my dreams was to serve women who are in need, who are confused by their problems, lost their faith, and alone without God. I feel their pain and I understand that I cannot save them from their pain. I believe that only God can change people's lives, change their characters, heal their wounds. I just want to be an instrument in His hands, to be a tool through which He will do these miracles. The biggest joy in my life is to see the changes in lives of these women ... even if I didn't believe that the changes are possible.

I think out of my desire to help women I studied hard to become a psychologist. I counseled and I taught social work at the Bible College in Moldova. And then my dream took the form of Beginning of Life. It is a unique ministry in Eastern Europe.

Through Beginning of Life I work with victims of human trafficking, victims of domestic violence, women living with HIV/AIDS, and young single mothers. I work with the staff of Beginning of Life as we minister to women who live in our rehabilitation center where with God's love our holistic ministry can help them find hope and meaning in their lives. I work with victims but I also work to educate young women students, parents, teachers, and school administrators so that through prevention we can keep young women from needing rehabilitation.

Living in Moldova is hard sometimes because it is the poorest country in Europe. There are very few jobs. This is one of the reasons young people get tricked and end up being trafficked. I understand why they want to go with someone who offers them a glamorous job making a lot of money. When I learn that someone I have counseled with or led a program for in her school is smart and does not get trapped it is a great source of joy.

Sometimes I get very weary because of the long hours that I work and because it is hard to stay healthy especially in the long, hard winters. Every year I counsel over 500 times. I also work on our hotline. Last year over 300 young girls were helped through our networks and hotline.

Although it is a lot of hard work I look forward to camp each summer. I remember when it was just a dream! But with help from Global Women we take about 30 of the young girls who were trafficked and their children to a camp outside the city. I am glad our friends at Global Women come to help us with activities. And I am humbled that they plan a time of retreat for the staff from Beginning of Life. The first time we had such a retreat it was so special. At the end there was a ceremony and the American women washed our feet like Jesus did for the disciples. I was sitting next to my husband when Cindy Dawson washed our feet. I felt God's presence in that place.

I understand that God knows the things which I don't know and I don't understand now. I have my God, my family, my team at Beginning of Life, and people whom I can serve. I am not alone, and my life is full of meaning.

I am a human being. I am a Christian counselor (psychologist). I am a wife and a mother. As a human being I need health, food, clothing, and house. As psychologist I need wisdom, patience, and strength. As wife and mother I need kindness and tenderness, more time, when we can be together.

Please pray that I will continue to dream and hope and believe that God is at work in Moldova!