



Beginning of Life

A ministry there, where the differences are needed...

September– October

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- Escape 2010
A Step of Faith

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Escape 2010: A Step of Faith

Sometimes it is very difficult to say what is the most exciting thing - to wait for an important event, its implementation or memories after its completion. When "Beginning of Life" team started to prepare for the European conference on trafficking, prostitution and sexual exploitation, they had faced a lot of stressful situations, and sometimes it seemed that it could not be harder any longer; but when the conference began, everyone realized how wrong they were.

It became even more complicated. 153 people from 26 European countries and Northern America made this conference unforgettable in its significance, and in all aspects and impact. ICAP and Scarlet Cord helped to expand the range of participants and speakers, which made it their best.

No less important were the new contacts and relationships established during the conference. People built relationships that were based on common interests, areas of residence, experience or its lack.

In the administration of the business center that hosted the conference, people wondered: "Isn't it enough for you to have 30 or 40 minutes for lunch and dinner? Why do you plan to have a meal for an hour and a half?" It is difficult to convey their astonishment when they saw that it was not enough even this time for these people. People sat and talked and talked; it was a special time for all participants.

We expected that it would be easier when the conference was finished. Everyone would disperse and everything would return to normal. But it was exactly the opposite. How can we easily "breathe" when we have so many new ideas, a lot of information and new experiences? How can I live, pretending that nothing happened? Immediately after the conference, we began to think about our plans for the future, to strengthen our contacts with existing partners and to seek new opportunities.

Friends from ICAP and Scarlet Cord were faithful in their walk with God and they stood alongside us during the conference, and now we have common dreams – to establish trainings centers in Amsterdam and Chisinau. Teams from the Netherlands and Moldova have experience, which could be beneficial for many other organizations, churches and individuals.



Our vision Now we are thinking together, planning together and praying together to expand anti-trafficking networks all over the world and in Europe particularly. Beginning of Life prays for empowering faith based organizations in Eastern Europe, serving victims of sexual and trade exploitation. We have a vision to train 100 social workers and 100 social educators, who will work in different parts of the world, preparing a new generation of ministers and leaders, serving people who suffer from social injustice and sharing with them peace and love. The conference has touched everyone who attended and they will remember it. It changed a lot of people and gave them a new vision. Now, more steps are ahead. For now, it is a step of faith, because the majority of us do not know where this step will lead us and what lies ahead. However, we believe that God expects this step from us, He calls us to do it and He gives strength to its vision.



"I have found people that are doing the same things that we do. Until now, I thought that we're alone."
Attendee from Ukraine.

"When we saw at the conference so many Christian practitioners that are involved in ministry to victims of sexual exploitation, we were very inspired."
Attendee from England

"We are just beginners and at this conference we received a lot of practical skills and knowledge that will help us in women's ministry."
Attendee from Germany

"I was glad to be there every moment. I did not regretted that I stayed here, although I had to be elsewhere. To hold a conference of such magnitude is a miracle and it proofs that God does His work." Attendee from Moldova

"On the way to Moldova, our team was in some doubt and hesitation about whether to start a center for women or not? By the end of the conference, we were confidence. YES! We should do it."
Attendee from Bulgaria

We worked for many years in Hungary. I never thought that the problem of human trafficking was so great there. Things that I learned here astounded me." Attendee from Hungary

"For three days, we exchanged special and valuable experience of serving women from Eastern Europe. At this conference, I received answers to my questions".
Attendee from Sweden

"At this conference we rethought ways of doing our ministry and took a new vision for it." Attendee from Romania

Hard Road to Better Life

Only a petrified heart would allow a mother to leave her child to face his fate alone. Jane knew this very well and, unlike her parents, she chose the other way and did not leave her child. She knew what it means for no one to take an interest in her or notice her sudden disappearance. Through her parents actions, Jane grew up in an orphanage, along with thousands of children in Moldova who have to fight for their lives with all their strength. Jane explains, "When I was five years old I was sent to be cared for by one family. Besides me there were three girls already with them. Well, I thought, now, everything will be better in my life and it will change. I will be loved, and I will have a mom and dad. But I was wrong as usual. During the day we helped the family on the farm, but instead of sleeping at night-time we were forced to go "hunting" - to steal vegetables and fruits from people in the village. We were afraid that we would be caught and beaten, or would be given to the police office. The things that happened to us when we refused to go to stealing were much worse than our fears of being caught stealing though. Therefore, we did it every night. I do not want to recall this."

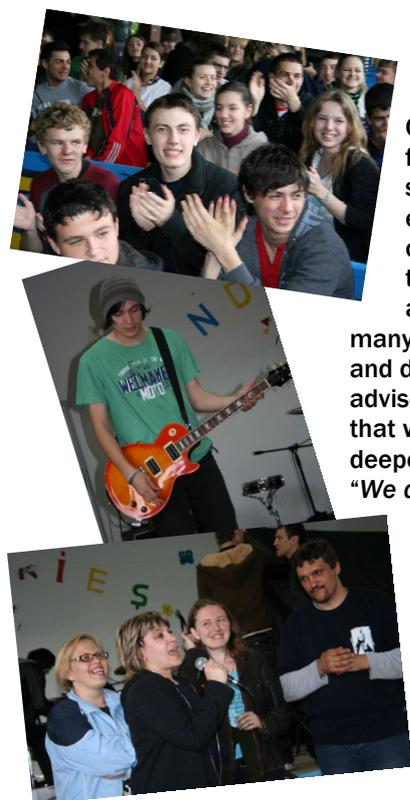
"Because of the brutality and violence in that family, I could not learn normally in elementary school. I could not understand a lot of things and could not remember a lot either. Children laughed at me. By age 11, I was diagnosed with mental retardation in the initial stage. A few years later I was transferred from that family to the orphanage, and then I was sent to a vocational school. There I met a lot of people like me; poor and broken children. I tried to learn well and I mastered not one, but several professions. After school, I dreamed that I would go to the city and I would find a good job and I would start to live like normal people do. But instead I worked on a dirty cold construction base, where I carried heavy bags during the day and at night I guarded warehouses, under strict orders -

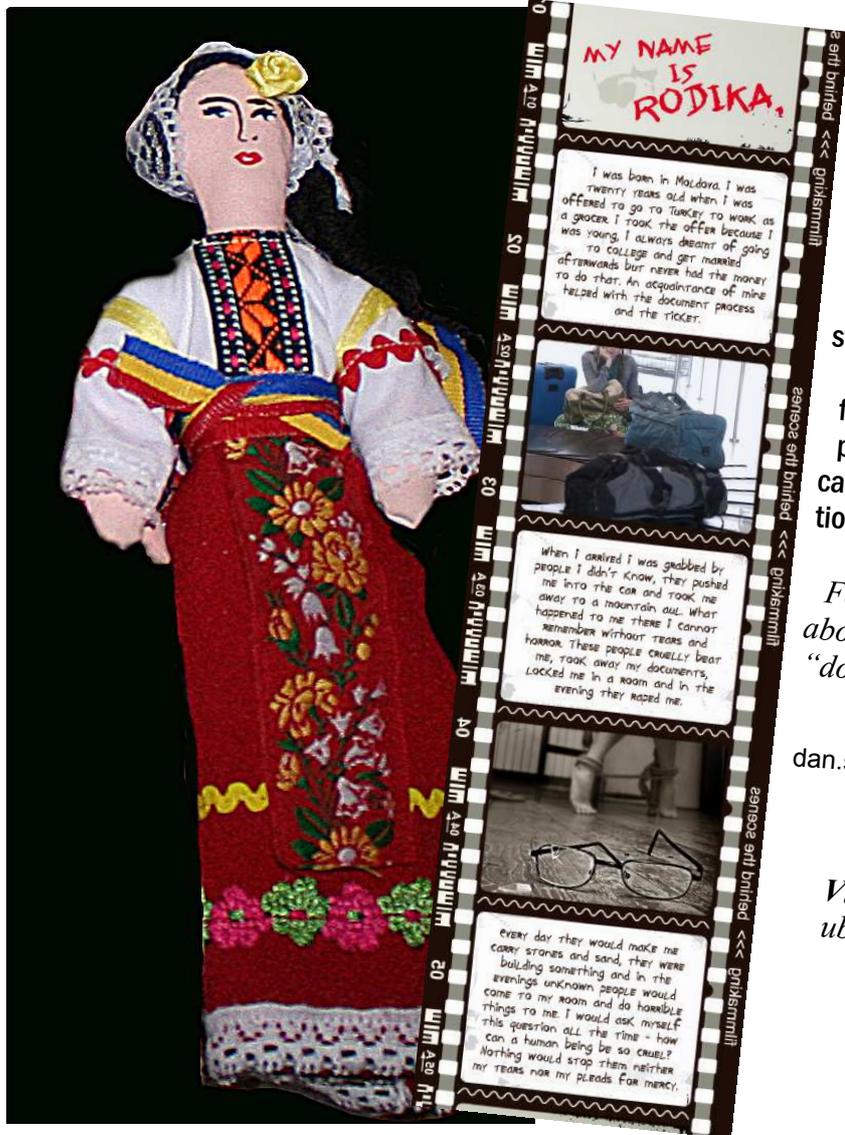
do not sleep! One night, someone approached me from behind and with a blow, knocked me to the ground. As I was being kicked in the face and stomach with their boots, I saw two men, and then I lost consciousness and woke up a few days later in the hospital. I was told that I was severely beaten and raped. Only a few months later I learned that I was pregnant. I felt very mixed feelings first, but I decided to keep the baby and I went to some friends in the village. There it was also hard to live, so I returned to the city. Then began many ordeals from organization to organization; they helped a little, but not for a long time. All the time I was expecting much more help. Then my baby boy was born - Aurelio."

"Next I remember several years of nomadic wandering from house to house, from family to family. We lived in the homeless shelter sometimes. In one house I met a girl that was forced to work for several years in the fields. This fate awaited me too. For the hard work we did all the time and in any weather, the owner did not pay us, and sometimes even beat us when something went wrong. But I was ready to endure all of this for my child. I was lucky to be saved by the employees of one organization, and then I got in the Beginning of Life center. By that time, my baby was in an orphanage and I was very afraid of losing him. Employees from Beginning of Life helped me. My son became a participant of a state program which found a good family for my child that will take care of him until I can take care of him myself. It hurts me because I can see him only once in a week, but it's better than nothing. I then identified that I have problems with my health. But BOL again helped me and found doctors and the correct treatment. Recently I found a good job and I like it. I have hope that soon, me and my boy will live a different life; a happy life."

Relationship do everything

Often people do not stay in Moldova for a long time. Faced with an unusual and even shocking feature of the Moldovan culture, it is very hard to develop a new business without any relationships. To convey this phenomenon better, I will share with you a local proverb: "Relationships do everything." And it does not matter whether it concerns the relation between neighbors or officials of high ranking. I am not saying it is good or bad, just reality. That's why the Beginning of Life team, spreading prevention among school pupils, teachers, principals and parents, pays special attention not only to lectures, but also to developing relationships. Thanks to those relationships, many students and even their parents opened up to us and told us about their problems, experiences and dreams. These relationships allow the members of BOL to help these people and to find a way out, advise them on how to avoid the traps of evil and how to make good choices. Therefore, the meetings that were held with students in September and October were again focused on the development and deepening of relationships. Peter Litnevsky, Director of the Prevention Program from BOL says: "We decided to start this year with two special meetings that would charge boys and girls with energy for the entire school year and allow us to become better acquainted with them and to influence their lives. The first meeting was a long bike ride and a tour of caves. After that event, my profile on social networks was filled with new contacts, issues and openness. The second event was held at the recreation center, where students not only had a creative time, but also talked about the spirituality of the young man. After the meeting I was approached by a group of girls and they asked me to tell them more about The Truth."



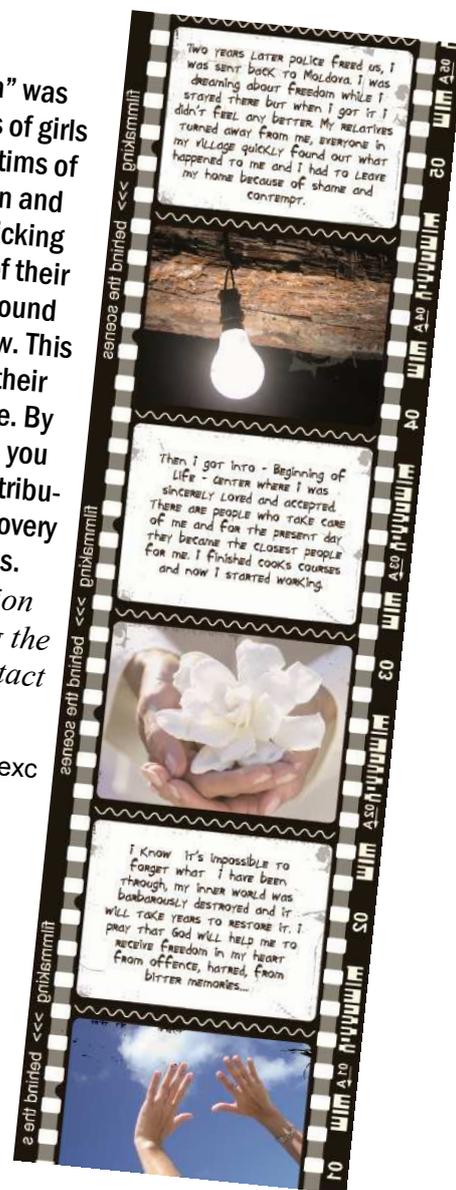


This doll "Rodika" was made by the hands of girls who have been victims of sexual exploitation and rescued from trafficking networks. In spite of their experiences, they found strength to start anew. This doll is a symbol of their freedom and new life. By purchasing this doll, you can make a small contribution to the life and recovery of each of these girls.

For more information about the purchasing the "dolls" you may contact

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Project of reintegration centre "North"

Away from urban hustle and bustle, where the rhythm of life is different, BOL continues developing the project for the reintegration of the trafficked victims into society. The project is called "North." For the past three months, two women with children lives in that center. Both of them passed the first stage of rehabilitation and now they are making the first tentative steps ahead to return to normal life among society. Although it is difficult to even talk about any results, we already see them growing in self-esteem and independence in making decisions.

Natalia found a temporary place to work and self-enrolled her children in kindergarten. Svetlana has closer acquaintances with people that live in the neighborhood, and even found her first friends among the local women. Although there are still household complexities and a need to develop a household so that women could at least partially and independently support themselves with food and things of necessity, it is progressing. There are still a few domestic difficulties. Drinking water must be brought from the nearest well... Also, there remains a need to develop a household, so women could at least partially support themselves with food and essential things. For this purpose, as a small business, live poultry (chickens) will be purchased and as a result, eggs produced. If you are interested in participating in this project through your financial support, please contact us at:

ubeivole@mail.ru

Your desire to become a part of this movement you can confirm by wiring a benevolent payment in lei or dollars for:

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