



*We exist to serve the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of women and children, orphans, and children with special needs and their families in Ukraine with the love of Christ.*

## Me - to Be a Birth Partner?

by Svetlana Korolyova, MTU Crisis Pregnancy Counselor

### Ministry Full of Surprises

Being a partner in childbirth never crossed my mind but God's ways are definitely higher, and so He gave me this opportunity. Marina (names change for confidentiality), one of our LifeSavers mothers, asked me to come by her side as the child's father served in the military in Kosovo and her mother lived in a different area.

### Wonderfully Made in Secret

As I saw the crown of the head emerge, tears of joy filled my eyes and I experienced incredible happiness from being a witness to a new life born. Fearfully and wonderfully made in secret, a baby grew in the womb right under the mother's heart, and then it came out with beautiful hair and delicate manicure – beauty incarnate. Oh how much joy it was to hear her first cry! What a privilege to be with Marina in such an important moment of her life, to encourage her and pray for her, to hold her hand and hold her head. With God's blessing and much prayer from fellow believers from different churches, beautiful baby girl, Lera, arrived into this world on July 28. When her daddy called to hear about the progress, he cried in happiness, celebrating the birth of his first child.

### The Beginning

Eight months ago the story began with a different emotion...

Marina came to MTU for a pregnancy test. Positive results seemed impossible; as she had been

Little  
LERA  
12 days  
old  
in  
Svetlana's  
arms



diagnosed with infertility resulting from an abortion. Divorced with two teenagers, thirty-six years old, she didn't want any more children, neither did her partner.

### Spiritual Warfare

As I expected, the counseling was long and complicated. One thing that helped Marina to choose life was her baby's heartbeat, but the fight for the baby's life didn't stop on that stage. At the OB/GYN office she heard: «Are you crazy? We will do an abortion! You are too old to have a baby. Think of the complications and possible disabilities!» That night she called to let me know that she had changed her mind and would have an abortion.

In the midst of spiritual warfare, we talked for two and a half hours. The only thing she promised was to come see me in the morning, so I prayed and asked the MTU staff to pray for her at morning devotions. She came and left without a firm decision. Some time later I learned

that God had used me to speak special words to her heart: «If you abort the baby you will lose a lot, but if you keep the baby you will have a chance to see God's richest blessings displayed». Another battle was won.

### Happy End?

Marina called her boyfriend to break the news, and... he didn't want the baby. Another struggle began for Lera's life. Somehow she managed to accept the little one and value her more than her relationship with the boyfriend. In the long run, he left it for her to decide. By the end of the term, opened his heart to welcome the baby. And I am happy to announce that there was a happy ending to this story: The father of the little Valeria proposed to Marina.

I praise God for the amazing opportunity to be a part of Mission to Ukraine's crisis pregnancy ministry and to witness God's special work in our women's lives.