



Siberia Training Report

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Siberia Report - Meet One of Our Trainees

The following testimony is graphic in nature and used by permission.

In the group of Siberian women Jewels 4 God trained, Marina instantly stood out with her high cheek bones, porcelain skin, and long black hair. Inside such loveliness lurked the deep scars of a broken young woman.

This is Marina's story. Marina's father left when she was too young to remember him. Her mother was physically and verbally abusive. When Marina was 10 years old she overheard her mother make a deal with her middle aged neighbor who was a cruel man. Marina tried to escape but it was too late. She found herself in her neighbor's home forced to be his sex slave for one night and one day, to pay a 5,000 ruble debt that her mother owed the man.

When Marina was released, her mother beat her, and she ran away. She wandered the streets without food or proper clothing or money. Days later she was found by a social worker, lying unconscious on a park bench. Marina was taken to an orphanage where she stayed until she was 16. At age 16 she enrolled in school and found a place to live in a dorm. One day after school she was waiting at a bus stop when suddenly a car pulled up to where she was standing.

Without warning, the car doors opened. Three men grabbed her and threw her in the car. Inside, there were four other men. She was driven to a place that she did not know, and brought into a dark, dirty room with a bed in the center. Marina was stripped of her clothing and her hands and feet handcuffed to the posts of the bed. For 2 months, Marina was brutally raped every day by up to 15 men.

She was given very little to eat and drink. The only time her handcuffs were unlocked was so she could use the bathroom. Marina's escape came suddenly and miraculously. A stranger in the complex had seen her handcuffed to the bed. When all of her abusers were high and drunk, the compassionate stranger heisted the key and unlocked Marina's handcuffs. He whispered in her ear, "Run."



Marina holding up a necklace she made.



Once out in street, Marina realized that the only thing she was wearing was a thin blouse. It was winter in Siberia . Others came to her aid and clothed her. In a daze, Marina made her way back to her dorm. Her friends had no idea where she had been. She told know one what happened to her. Weeks later, traumatized and unable to function, Marina broke down. Her friends took her to the hospital where she was admitted. The internal injuries from her captivity were severe as doctors removed pieces of glass from inside her, the result of being raped by broken bottles. The men who raped Marina were found, convicted, and imprisoned.

A year later at the age of 17, Marina got married and was pregnant. She gave birth to a beautiful baby boy. She loved her baby boy more than anything. One day her husband was high on drugs and put their baby in boiling hot bath water. The water was so hot that it killed the baby. Marina 's husband was imprisoned.

Heartbroken and alone, Marina was unable to return to school or cope normally. She felt worthless, used, and damaged. She started drinking heavily to numb the pain. To support her habit, she started working as a high end prostitute. She hated what the men did to her so much that eventually she stopped prostituting. It was then that Marina was befriended by an older woman. She finally felt some normality in her life. This older women represented the motherly figure Marina never had and always longed for. A few months after living with the woman, the woman told Marina that she wanted Marina to work for her as a prostitute. Marina panicked. She couldn't bear the pain and thought of being abused again. She grabbed a knife and started stabbing the woman. The woman survived and Marina was imprisoned for a year. She was rescued from prison by Teen Challenge.

We were honored to be able to provide professional counseling for Marina and teach her how to make beautiful handcrafted jewelry.

Marina (left) and another trainee making jewelry.



Marina on the right



Michelle, Marina, and Bonnie

Thanks from Teen Challenge Siberia



"Michelle, you can't believe what a blessing you and Bonnie were here. The women at the center told me they cried when you gave them the Jewelry Training Certificate of Completion.

They never thought anything good would come out of their lives. We have seen with our own eyes how making jewelry is therapeutic for them and the women are so excited to have learned how to make jewelry of such high quality. It is such an incredible encouragement to them!

They feel that they can do work of great value for the kingdom of God . We're selling the jewelry after the services, and people are buying it! We had been praying for ways to help cover the costs of students like Marina to enter the program. Thank you for being an answer to this prayer! It was such a blessing to have you and Bonnie here."

As a result of Bonnie's counseling sessions many people are



Michelle training one of the girls.



being set free from depression as they better understand that they were a victim of bad circumstances and decisions. It was probably the turning point in their Christian walk to go forward in areas of their lives that they never felt free to discuss with anyone.

People are still talking about the new freedom they feel in Christ as they now understand better the psychological effects from trauma. We're sure their lives will be different. We so much appreciate the sacrifices you made in coming here, and we'd love to have you come back!"

Jamaica Teen Challenge Update

Teen Challenge in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, reported that they had their best jewelry sales in the month of December.

Off to Jamaica and Uzbekistan

May 6-13 we will be heading to Jamaica to do some more training for Jamaica Teen Challenge and attend a fundraising banquet for them. On May 15-29 we head to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to train the Teen Challenge ministry there. Your prayers and continued support are greatly appreciated!

Other News

- Upon returning from Uzbekistan we plan to launch our new full color 60 page catalog so women across America can help support our mission by selling jewelry for God. The new website is still being completed.
- Our new 500 sq. foot office/warehouse is almost finished.
- Jewels 4 God will have a booth this August at the 53rd General Council of the Assemblies of God in Orlando, Florida.

Blessings,

Tim and Michelle Zello

Tim and Michelle Zello

President/Vice-President

Jewels 4 God International - "Empowering People in Need"

And they will be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son that serves him (Malachi 3:17).

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