

Dear Friends of The Harbor,

In this update I would like to share with you what the Lord has been doing in the lives of The Harbor residents, accomplishments of the newly opened Professional Training Center (fall of 2007), and some of what is going on in my personal life.

Residents update

One of the common questions we get is whether The Harbor is selective or not when it comes to choosing residents for the program. In a way we say yes because we want young adult orphans who have two qualities: *desire* to become productive citizens and *willingness* to make steps toward it. The Harbor does not require any other qualities or characteristics in order to become part of the ministry. Some may wonder if The Harbor does not take only-easy-to-deal-with “graduate” orphans with no real challenges.

Our new group of residents has been with us since September 1, 2007. Thus, as of March 1, 2008 this is a 6 months update on our residents.

On the sad note: Some of our graduates like to skip classes so Luba gets called into universities or colleges where she has to beg on behalf of our residents so that they will not be thrown out. Our residents at times do not understand how blessed and fortunate they are to study in a university or college, especially when only 4% of Russian “graduate” orphans ever go to college. One of our former graduates has left the program without completing the Next Step phase (post adaptation) due to challenges. Ura lately has been struggling being part of The Harbor because he has become very aggressive toward religion and religious people. However, he still is going to the church and meeting with the pastor. We are trying to help him as a family because he needs our support and guidance.

On the happy note: Nadia, who lives with Luba in the office apartment as part of the Next Step phase, has grown so much spiritually and is now writing her testimony that I will share with you in the coming updates. It is amazing to see the power of God and his mighty hand when it comes to transforming lives one at a time. ***It truly takes a community to save one child.*** We praise the Lord that Igor, Dennis and Sasha are doing well. Sasha loves to cook and thanks to Rich and Sue Gregg, who have written a special cookbook for The Harbor, is now using recipes from that book. Dennis has become kinder to other people and has begun to work on his bad habits, such as cursing.

Basically, our residents present a lot of challenges not only for Luba, but for the rest of the staff as well, yet we are continuing our mission and will not give up. While the successes and the joy continues to outweigh the failures and the challenges, the day to day life on life ministry welcomes your continued prayers.

Professional Training Center update

In the fall of 2007, we opened a Professional Training Center (PTC). We are initially offering training in five professions: Beautician, Carpentry, Sewing & Upholstery, Computer Programming, and Ceramics & Pottery. The goal of this center is to train residents from The Harbor and all surrounding regional orphanages in various professions so that they will be able to secure employment in these given fields. All teachers are professionals in their fields. Our goal is to train 50 young adults in this first year.

Since September of 2007 The Harbor has been training 12 participants, with 1 graduate in the computer class. Within the computer program, two of the girls are becoming familiar with the 1-C accounting program, 1 boy is studying programming, 1 is studying video making, 2 are studying computer design, and 6 are still mastering their general computer skills. The

sewing/beading/knitting class, led by Nastya (a Harbor graduate), has been teaching 15 participants (8 current residents and 6 Harbor graduates). Presently, they are working on sewing their own clothes and things needed for their apartments. The knitting class has one girl who is making hats, scarfs and mittens for the baby orphanage that we work with every Saturday. Our pottery/ceramic class has 8 participants who are making items such as frames, candle and napkin holders, Christmas decorations, posts for the plants and picture frames. In addition, our participants made gifts for The Harbor volunteers and instructor as a thank you. Our plan is to start teaching pottery making vases, plates and other cool items. If you know someone who can teach pottery please let me know because The Harbor can use your expertise and knowledge. We also have art class where participants are learning how to paint on fabrics and paper. Carpentry class is led by Sasha (a Harbor graduate) who received a degree in woodworking from the university. Currently Sasha is teaching our guys how to fix furniture and make some simple items such as stools, tables and shelves. In addition, our participants are learning how to do plumbing and it is all done in real apartments where the real need exists, which provides real practical application of the skills. Our final class is hairdresser and beauty salon and it is lead by Valya. Valya is a graduate from the orphanage #51. She became a believer through interaction with American missionaries and has completed beauty school. Now she is giving back by teaching hairdressing skills to our girls. This class has 4 girls and they have been learning not only hairdressing skills such as cutting, dyeing and styling hair, but also about their own character by becoming more confident and responsible.

It is amazing to see how God has brought to us so many former orphans who have become productive, educated, skilled, and spiritually whole and now they are giving back by serving at the Professional Training Center for The Harbor. God is good and I praise Him for uniquely changing the lives of orphans and raising up new Christian leaders.

Personal Update

I refiled my immigration documents on December 18, 2007. Due to the high volume of documents that are being proceed by Citizenship and Immigration Services the earliest I will hear anything from CIS will be around May or June. I am praying that the Lord will take me to Russia this fall for four months. Please continue to pray for my immigration documents.

While I am waiting I am continuing to serve the Lord by traveling around the country speaking about the Lord and The Harbor. My current schedule is taking me to the following places: MN-March 8-13, NC-March 18-23, WI-April 2-8, IL-April mid (to be confirmed), TN-April 23-30, CA-May 2-12, TX-May 15-? I am hoping and praying to visit many more states. If you would like me to come to speak at your church or home group or friends please let me know.

I thank the Lord for your faithful and committed partnership in helping us to save the lost and forgotten. Thank you for helping us to raise more Christian leaders like Nastya, Sasha, Nadia, Vika, Valya and many others. We could not have done that without you.

Love, The Harbor and Alex



Sergey (mentor) teaching Oleg (resident)



Computer class at PTC



Ceramic/pottery creation at PTC