



Dear Friends of The Harbor,

August, 2008

In 1937, a little boy was born without a father. He was raised by his mother and, eventually, a step-father who abused him. As a young boy he ran away from home and eventually ended up in the capital city, living with an uncle who was one of the only people in his life to show him kindness. Ironically, this “kind” uncle was a brut and the little boy wanted to be just like him. He didn’t finish high school at this time, as he wanted to be in the army. But, the army also rejected him. This was the last straw. After this, he became obsessed with power. He joined a renegade political group that accepted such brutes and losers as him. Here he found the more ruthless he became the higher he would climb. This little boy eventually took over the whole country and terrorized it for twenty-two years. This little boy was Saddam Hussein.

Another little boy was born into poverty in 1879. His peasant father had died and he was raised by a religious single mom. She desperately wanted him to be a priest. He got into seminary and did very well, as he was an extremely bright young man. He grew increasingly disturbed by the discrepancy he saw between the wealthy ruling class, who considered themselves Christians, and their apathy towards the horrendous living conditions of the nation’s majority poor, like his family. He joined a political group that opposed the current government and was kicked out of seminary. Here, his hatred of the church was solidified and he spent the rest of his life trying to destroy it. Maybe you can see why Joseph Stalin preached that God is dead and that the church is a mockery. In his eyes, the world did not need the church, but, rather, someone to care for the poor and little guy. To him this was the Communist Party.

Another young man became an orphan in his late teens. With no education and no money he wandered the streets, slept wherever he could, and just tried to survive. Seeing all the injustices in life and trying to make sense of it all, he got swept up in the politically correct rhetoric of the day that the Jews were to blame for all the world’s problems. He found his meaning in life in trying to rid the world of them and create a new world in his own image. This, of course, was Adolph Hitler.

We were created to love and be loved. What happens to people when they are not loved? We see it over and over again. People cannot survive without some form of connectivity to others. If they are not loved and accepted by “healthy” and “productive” people, they will find or form their own groups of “losers” and “marginalized people.” Here, anger, bitterness, hopelessness, and violence fester until it explodes in our schools, cities, or on the world stage.

We were created with the most basic needs of security and significance. When people are not taken care of, when they see the world as indifferent at best, or brutal at worst, is it any wonder they veer towards violence or power mongering? Deep within all of us is a hunger, a yearning, a desperation for purpose or significance. In the absence of this is utter despair. This is why people will either find it or create it in even absurd ways.

Another young boy was born unwanted. He was abused, abandoned, and neglected. Somehow he survived, taught himself a second language, and has devoted himself to helping those who start life as he

did. Most of you know Alex. Another baby girl was born out of wedlock to a sixteen year old girl who had run away and was living the life of a hobo. She grew up in poverty with her mother. Today she is a full-time missionary in the Czech Republic and the amazing mother of three young children. Yet another girl was born unwanted and given away. Today she has started a program very similar to The Harbor in Kazakhstan and has free reign to do as she pleases because she is the First Lady of Kazakhstan.

What's the difference in who these people become? Only Jesus brings the healing, hope, love, security, and significance for which we were created and so deeply long for. Who might the young adults at The Harbor be? We get them at a crossroads in their lives. The world is a very scary place for them. They are afraid to hope. They don't know whom to trust. Slowly, with consistence, we are winning most of them over. They are receiving God's love and finding hope and purpose for their lives, and they increasingly want to give back.

We are so grateful for your partnership with us and we covet your prayers that together we may be a worthy example of the love of Jesus. May He be pleased to use us to bring these precious ones to their Creator.

Your Partner in the Kingdom and for the Least of These,



Melinda Cathey, Executive Director, The Harbor



Check out our new and improved website at: www.theharborspb.org

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