



Dear Friends of The Harbor

October, 2008

With the subprime debacle, Lehman Brothers bankruptcy, and the Fannie and Freddie bailouts, finances are on all of our minds these days. I've heard lots of panicked voices on the soccer fields and in the grocery store about, "How much of your 401-k did you lose?" What was that verse again, "Seek first your retirement and all these things will be given you?" No, that wasn't it. These days of panic allow us a glimpse into the emotional life of an orphan—helpless, out of control, poor, scared, desperate and alone.

God works in some odd ways. My friend, Carole, is the drama teacher at our kids' school. She called and told me she had an idea for the fall musical, Annie (an orphan story). Carole wanted to make it more meaningful than usual. She wanted to connect it with a real-life orphan and thought of The Harbor. Immediately, I thought of helping some of our graduates. Like our kids when they finally move out and get their first job, the realities of all the financial responsibilities are overwhelming. They can always use some help. So, I called Luba, our director, to ask if any of our graduates had some special needs at this time. Luba replied, "God is amazing!" and went on to tell me that a couple of weeks ago she had to "cut off" one of our recent graduates from any more Harbor funds. This graduate was panicked, as she is entering her last and most difficult year of college. She has to go full-time and, therefore, can't work. How is she going to survive? What was Luba thinking? Luba told me she sensed this graduate was becoming too dependent on The Harbor and that the Lord wanted her to depend solely on Him. He is the Father to the fatherless and He wanted her to know that. Luba sensed from the Lord to let go of this young adult orphan at just the same time Carole's heart was moved to use the school musical, somehow, to more fully help a real "Orphan Annie." God, truly, is amazing!

The drama kids have decided to provide all her needs for this school year so that she can finish her college education. She is studying social work and eventually wants to come back and work for The Harbor. The total cost for her yearly needs is \$1,200. The kids will contribute some proceeds from ticket sales, as well as several other fund-raising ideas they are coming up with. Needless to say, this graduate's trust in her loving Father has been dramatically increased...as has ours!

Our Lord is a faithful Father not only to the fatherless, but to all of us, as well. One of my favorite verses in Scripture is, "Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). Mark and I can attest to God's literal faithfulness to His word in our lives. Dozens of times over the last 20 years in ministry we have been at the end of a paycheck, or without a paycheck, and God has miraculously provided. In earlier years, it was a just a meal when we had none, or a bag of groceries. Other times it was the gift of a car or someone to pay off our mortgage, out of the blue. This is not a testimony to us, but, rather, to God and His faithfulness to His word. It is a promise for any who dare to seek first His kingdom.

I'm wondering these days what the Lord is up to with the financial markets. I'm wondering if He doesn't want to use this to show the church where her heart and trust really is. How appropriate today are Jesus' words, "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth where moth and rust destroy, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven...where thieves do not break in and steal....Do not be anxious for

tomorrow....And which of you by being anxious can add a single cubit to your life?...Your Father in heaven knows you need all these things, oh ye of little faith.”

Truly, these are days of uncertainty in many ways. I am preparing to head to Russia on October 13th and I wonder how many more times I will have the freedom to go there. By many accounts the window of openness is shutting. The good news is that The Harbor is relatively safe. In hindsight, we can see God’s wisdom to us in the development of our infrastructure. The Harbor is registered as a Russian charity and all of our staff are Russian. Thus, from the government’s standpoint, we are not a threatening or subversive foreign entity they are targeting to close.

Additionally, Alex Krutov just received his green card (after four long years of red tape)! For the past four years he has been unable to return to his native Russia, while I have been free to come and go. Now, at a time when I may no longer be able to receive a visa to go there, Alex is given the freedom to come and go as he pleases. Funny how God works!

I covet your prayers for safety and productivity during this trip. Also, please pray for wisdom as I help our leadership think through our next phase of growth in light of the current political (Russian) and economic (American) environment.

In these days of uncertainty let us cling to what we know: The Lord is still on His throne, He is good, and He wins in the end! Let us trust in Him with the heart of an orphan that has nowhere else to turn.

Thank you for your partnership with the least of these! We are so grateful!



Melinda Cathey
Executive Director, The Harbor, CRM

Buy jewelry for the holidays in support of The Harbor at: www.silpada.com/beverly.hughes (30% of proceeds go directly to The Harbor and its beautiful).

Tax Deductible donations for The Harbor should be made out to “CRM” with the account number #9970 in the Memo section and mailed to:

Church Resource Ministries, 1240 N. Lakeview Ave. #120, Anaheim, CA 92807-1831