



Dear Friends of The Harbor:

February, 2009

I was told by another American, commissioned by another mission agency to conduct research in Russia on how best to address the issue of transitioning orphans, that in the process of doing her research one orphanage director told her, “If you want to do it right, you must do it like The Harbor.” Doing it right is what we want, but it’s not always that easy.

As most of you can attest, being a parent is the most exhilarating, humbling, and draining experience in life. This pretty much sums up the last several months with The Harbor. We were amazed that in this last year with the economic crises, we still met and even slightly exceeded our budget. This allowed us to expand and serve more orphans. Our vocational training center is receiving very positive reviews from the orphanage directors that are utilizing it. Alex is in Russia for the first time in four and a half years and is meeting with several of our graduates. We feel on the mountaintop when we see and hear of Vika, who is helping to lead another ministry in Russia; Lena who is continuing her studies in landscaping and growing closer to the Lord; Anya, who is pregnant with her second child and is doing a wonderful job with her first and is continuing to develop a healthy family with her husband. We praise God for this growth and fruitfulness.

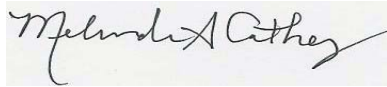
Then, there is the humbling part. Because of the economic crises we received rejections from all but one foundation. Also, our vision and desire to create a professional training center that would train orphans in various fields at a professional level has been tainted by reality. The level of intellectual and emotional functioning of the orphans we are working with is too low to achieve such a goal at this time. Additionally, the time they are free to come to the center is not enough to be trained at a professional level. Thus, we have decided to rename the center The Vocational Training Center and change our goals to more realistic ones. We will use the center to train younger orphans in several different fields at an entry level. It will also allow them to explore all the fields to get a better idea of what they might want to pursue for a career later on. This is very valuable, as none of them have been exposed to any work, previously. Furthermore, it will allow our staff to give input into their lives while they are still in the orphanages and to sow many seeds of the gospel that much sooner. Lastly, it will help us to select the best candidates for our residential program once they turn 17 and have to leave the orphanages. These are significant goals and in hindsight we can see the wisdom of going in this direction. Nevertheless, it is not our original vision and it’s humbling to place a dream on hold. Again and again we see that the Lord provides and guides, but usually not in the way we planned!

Then, there are the inevitable disappointments. It is impossible to minimize the importance of the emotional and spiritual state of our participants. In the end, it is where they stand in these two areas that will determine their long-term success or failure. I long for a simple “how-to” formula that would guarantee a quick fix for their woundedness. Yet, the fix is an infinitely more complicated combination of our work, their individual wills, and the work of the Spirit of God. Each participant comes to us with their own unique baggage, depending on when they were abandoned and how much abuse they have endured. Nevertheless, they all struggle with the same issues of trust, self-worth, anger, and varying

degrees of hopelessness. They all just want to love and be loved. The world around them sends a deadly message that feeds their longing...love is sex. Having a baby will give you purpose. It is definitely an uphill battle to convince them of the virtues of abstinence and to equate love with responsibility, faithfulness, and trust. Please pray for us in this regard, that the Lord would heal their wounds, open their eyes to the deceitfulness of sin and that He would protect them from the enemy who seeks to devour them.

For all of us, this journey of life is filled with constant emotional highs and lows. Let us encourage one another to hold tight to our anchor and to walk with each other on the way. On my journey I am most grateful for your partnership in love and service.

For All at The Harbor,



Melinda Cathey

Executive Director, The Harbor/ CRM

[www.theharborspb.org](http://www.theharborspb.org)

[www.crmleaders.org](http://www.crmleaders.org)

**Check out stories, pictures, and more on our website: [www.theharborspb.org](http://www.theharborspb.org)**



Some residents at our Christmas party



A new group at the Vocational Training Center

**Tax Deductible Donations for The Harbor**

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