



Dear Friends of The Harbor:

May, 2009

Most of us can still remember those bittersweet growing pains that accompanied adolescence. They gave us excited anticipation of growth that was sure to come, but it was really painful. This is exactly the stage The Harbor is currently in.

We were rapidly outgrowing our small three-room **Vocational Training Center**. After months of trying to locate another suitable and affordable facility the Lord has provided not one, but, two very large facilities. One was given to us by the government **for free** with the condition that we have to train 20 non-orphan youths per month from the city in addition to those in our own program! You bet! They will be watching us closely and we have the potential to gain tremendous favor with the government through this. Please pray to this end! The second facility is almost three times larger than our initial center and, yet, we are renting it for less. With these current facilities we are now able to offer 10 vocations and train more than 100 orphans, and we expect to continue the expansion.

Our residents and graduates continue their **journey of emotional and spiritual healing**. It is a messy journey forward with a few steps backwards. One of our dearest graduates is beginning to wrestle at a very deep level with issues of anger and forgiveness towards her biological mother who abandoned her and the Lord who allowed it to happen. This is a necessary, though painful, phase that she must walk through to get to the other side of peace and joy. It is a sign we are really doing the important work that is going to lead to long term change. Please pray for wisdom and strength for our staff as they seek to love her through this time. I am beginning to see how crucial it is for the healing of our participants to receive teaching on the reality of evil. If they have no understanding of this, then everything gets blamed on God and they remain incredibly vulnerable to our covert enemy. With this understanding and after much contemplation, another resident was able to receive the Lord's word and has joyfully received Him as her Savior and Father. One by one in their own time they are coming to Him. Please continue to pray that every participant would accept His great love and forgiveness for their lives.

For the past year I have been communicating with another missionary in **the city of Kaluga, Russia** (2 hours south of Moscow). He is working with a small but very active church there that has a tremendous heart for the poor and orphans in their midst. They desperately want to develop a program like The Harbor, so we have been trying to work out details to help them. On his recent trip to Russia, Alex went to visit this group, and boy did God ever show up! Alex was able to share our vision and program with the church leadership. They were ready to get started and took him immediately to the government official that has jurisdiction over the regional orphans. Alex was able to share not only The Harbor vision but the Gospel with this official. As a result, the official granted this church the legal status to start the program! We will be working closely with them on training. **Please pray for the fruitfulness of our brothers and sisters in Kaluga.**

Also, I have been communicating this past year with another dear brother in **Kazakhstan**. He and his wife converted from Islam to Christianity and it has cost them, dearly. They have had to flee for their lives several times. They also have a tremendous heart for the orphans there and are doing the best they can under the circumstances, housing one orphan, "Masha" (now 20 years old), as she finishes her education. Also from a Muslim background, "Masha" came to Christ several years ago through this family and is being trained in how to help start a Harbor-like program for orphans.

We are planning on bringing all three of them to St. Petersburg this October for training. **If any of you would be interested in supporting “Masha” full time (\$200/mos.) when she returns to Kazakhstan, please e-mail me at <melinda.cathey@crmleaders.org> and I will give you further details.**

Our connections and favor with the orphanages in St. Petersburg is growing, which means we are receiving more requests for our residential program. This requires more facilities, more staff, and more funding. Luba, Alex, and I are, still, the only three running this whole show, but we are all reaching our limits of what we can humanly do. I have some ideas of how to develop more leadership that will relieve both Luba and me of many responsibilities, but Alex needs a clone to help him in his traveling and fund raising. **Please pray that the Lord will raise up the necessary leadership to faithfully accomplish the growth.**

These are exciting and scary days. I am more aware than ever before that I am utterly incapable of accomplishing anything of eternal significance on my own. Yet, I am also aware of the tremendous responsibility and potential that has been given to us. I am tempted by and often give in to the tyranny of the urgent...you know, the phone calls, e-mails, etc. But, more and more these days my desperation is causing me to first sit at the feet of Him who causes all growth. I am longing in a new way to know Him deeper and to do only what He wants done. All else is really futile.

Growing pains...they are good!

With a grateful heart for all you do to make this ministry a reality. May God give you great joy!



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David Ford, missionary in Kaluga, Russia



Boys setting up new VTC facilities

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