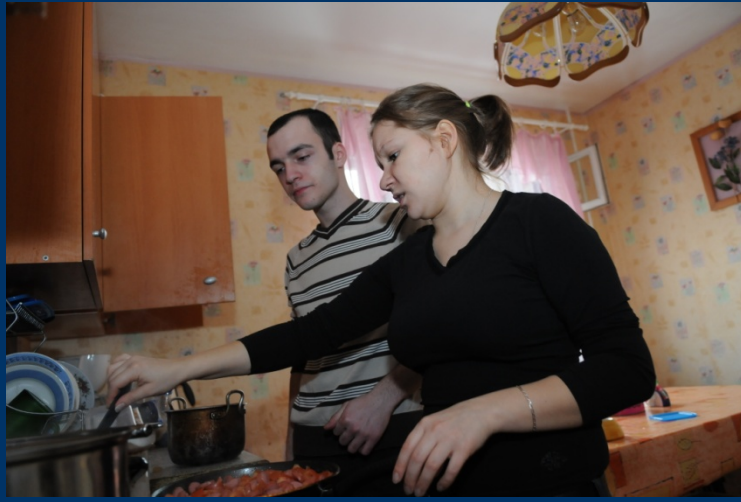


The Harbor Christmas Letter



Nastya preparing a dinner with her friend

Special events in our family's life

- A note from Ecka
- Christmas message
- Financial update and thank you

Merry Christmas from The Harbor family to yours!

As John Eldredge writes, *"Life comes to us in a series of stories, over the course of time. There is something to be learned in every story. And there is something to be learned from seeing it unfold through the seasons-see the repetition of themes, the recurring attacks of the enemy, the hand of God in seemingly unrelated events."* When I reflect on The Harbor and its story, He truly amazes me with all that He has done, whether this year or for the past eight plus years. Stories and testimonies of the Harbor touch my heart and give hope to many of us, just as when we hear the birth of Christ's story. We believe without seeing it and the Word says, *"Then Jesus told them, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."* **John 20:29.**

God has abundantly blessed every single one of us and I pray that He will continue to do so. I pray, I will always

remember to pass on those blessings to others and for those directly influenced by our team at the Harbor to do so as well.



"Then Jesus told them, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."



When we first started with The Harbor, our goal was to have couples who would care and raise our residents. Yet, after interviewing different people we realized that this didn't even seem like an option. The primary reason why it did not work out was due to low salary that we offered to pay.



Six years have passed and today, The Harbor family has couples who are ministering to our residents. How unique and special is it because we have never thought it was possible, but He did and we thank Him for it. About three years ago, the Lord brought a couple Vadim and Ecka. Vadim was from Belorussia and Ecka was from Caucasus and both of them were and are very active at Calvary Chapel church in St. Petersburg. They, along with their children Eva and Arkasha, became our Next Step post adaptation parents. This is where we focus on teaching our graduate residents the concept of marriage, family, commitment and other serious life aspects. Furthermore, we focus on breaking the vicious cycle of orphans giving birth to orphans. They have been a role model to our guys and it has been very powerful and affective. Ecka has a tender caring heart and has become a mother to many of our older guys

that they have never had. It appears many women from the Caucasus area have the same endearing quality and love to mother just about anyone. Vadim is also special to our guys. He is not a cuddly bear and is strict with them at times, representing a good father figure and role model in their lives. He loves his wife and this is very good for the guys to see. Three different groups have come through their apartment and in Ecka own words,

Ecka's note

"The life is always active here. Right now we have three new guys. These precious young adult guys are like our own children. They are very different from previous group of guys that we had living with us. They are in love and have girlfriends. Right now we are able to give them direction and share some wise words. Kostya one of our resident calls me mom and he even begged me to adopt him, but he is a grown up. Lasha accepted the Lord and was baptized this summer as you already know. However, since he has met a girl, he is struggling as any young man would to balance his relationship with the Lord and "love". We do not give up and continue to pray for and with him daily. We pray for every single resident that has gone through this apartment in over three years. Oh my.... graduates. Honestly, I do not even consider them as such because to me they are my children. They are grown up children who do not require living with their parents. The boys visit us frequently: Dima B., Misha and his fiancé Olya, Sasha, Sasha and another Dima S. Surprisingly, they call us on birthdays and even the boys who were apart of the program but not necessarily living with us do as well. That is so touching to me. All of them are working hard. Dima B. is currently working at two different jobs. One of them is called "Our Tomorrow" a social program that helps emancipated orphans with their housing situation. I am so proud of him, especially because some of our graduates have received a place to live thanks to his care and help. Sasha P. received a promotion at IKEA and has been offered a three year contract to work and live in Moscow. Dima S. is continuing his psychology degree and has quite an ambitious goal. He wants to open a counseling center. Kostya, next fall, wants to go into the military. It is a one year service and then he wants to study the law and become an attorney. I can write about them for a long time. I do miss them terribly and always happy to see them when they come or call."

We are blessed to have couples like Vadim and Ecka connected with our ministry. Please pray for them and their "boys".

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A special message from our family

God is changing people's lives one at a time and He uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things. On the ladies side, five of our graduate young ladies have gotten married and have children. One of the most exciting things is that none of them have repeated the mistakes or a destiny as their parents once did, by abandoning their child. They love their child or children with all their heart and that is a joy to see. This often is an example of how our graduates value the life of another human being, just as Christ values ours. With relationship, discipleship and commitment in their lives we see Christ using the Harbor to influence a world.

Christ loves us dearly. He was born into this world because of unconditional love and He died for our sins. He lives forever and wants us to walk with Him so that we would be more like Him. *"¹Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."* (Eph. 5:1-2)

The Harbor is forever grateful to every one of you for your love, kindness, care, support, faithfulness, commitment, and dedication you have shown to all of us in 2009. Because of **you**, yes you personally, lives around the world are being changed. You have shared many blessings with us and we pray that God would multiply your blessings in 2010.

Make a special year end gift

You can still help us to reach our financial goal for this year by making a special year end gift. The Harbor budget is in the red by \$60,000, so if you are looking for a place to make a difference this Christmas season, you can with The Harbor. We do want to express a special thank you to Richard & Sandra and Brookhill Foundation for their generous gifts.

Calendar 2010

We have only forty 2010 special edition The Harbor calendars left. If you are interested in purchasing one please send me an email:

alex.krutov@crmleaders.org



To make financial investments please make a tax deductible gift out to CRM (Acct. #9970) and send to:

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Financial gifts can also be made online by visiting: www.crmleaders.org/support by selecting The Harbor ministry of support.

