



Dear Friends of The Harbor

June, 2010

With the issue of Russian adoptions recently being highlighted in the news, my plate has been very full. As you can imagine, this is a very delicate issue. On one hand many U.S. families and Russian agencies are looking more closely at The Harbor and saying, "Maybe this is a better solution for these kids. Maybe they are better off if they remain in their own culture." On the other hand, The Harbor is being more closely scrutinized than ever before by other Russian agencies and orphanage directors. When they find out US money is supporting this work, they are highly suspect.

What the news has failed to report is the severity of issues many of these kids have. Everyone who adopts expects a period of adjustment. For those who adopt internationally or older children, the period of adjustment is expected to be longer. But what do you do when that period has extended to five years or more? When you have drained your savings on doctor after doctor and therapist after therapist? When your adopted child has attempted to kill you or another family member? When they are mutilating family pets or neighborhood pets? Conventional wisdom/therapies on how to deal with compulsive lying, sexual promiscuity, stealing, lack of conscience development, etc. is falling short. Clearly this is not the majority of adopted kids, but it is the case for such a significant number that everyone involved is missing something! These are all the same issues we see in our kids at The Harbor. Are these issues unique to children from Russia/Eastern Europe or are their similar issues with children adopted from other countries?

This has led me to pursue understanding of all the complicating factors at a much deeper level. My office is piled with books on Reactive Attachment Disorder, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Spiritual Warfare, and new brain research. It is both exciting and overwhelming. I have been/and will be traveling to meet with experts in each field. I am hoping to connect with a neurologist here in the Twin Cities who has an interest in doing significant research in this area.

At this point here is what I know. God loves these children more than I can imagine and has a special place in His heart for them. Jesus came to set the captives free. He does this through both natural and supernatural means. Given what we are up against, we have an impressive success rate at The Harbor, but we think it is possible to have an even better one. We have a lot to learn.

On a tangential note, if you know of any adoptive families please extend encouragement and grace to them. They undoubtedly have sacrificed tremendously in order to attempt to give these children a new life. They need and deserve our respect and support.

**Recent Highlights to celebrate:**

- We officially opened our experimental Bed & Breakfast this month. We will host several groups coming this summer. Our graduates are serving as cooks, maids, tour guides, and hostesses.
- Opportunities to train other cities continue to expand. Most recently we have requests from leaders in two new cities in Russia (Rostov and Vyborg) as well as China. We continue to work with groups in Kursk and Kaluga.

**Please Pray:**

- Wisdom as we select the orphans who will be a part of our new class in the fall
- Truth would win out as one of our participants was falsely accused in a battery case

- Alex would be able to secure a blessing from the St. Petersburg Russian Orthodox patriarch

**My upcoming schedule:**

- Summer travel to meet with various specialists
- July 24-August 1 bring Woodland Hills Church group to The Harbor for short term missions trip



**B&B "White room"**



**B&B Kitchen**

Your continued encouragement and partnership in this work is invigorating. It takes a whole lot of us working together to do what none of us could do alone. On behalf of the least of these, thank you.

May God richly bless you and grant you peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melinda Cathey".

Melinda Cathey, Executive Director/Co-Founder, The Harbor

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Orphans from a street shelter that come to our VTC

**Tax Deductible Gifts for The Harbor**

Please make checks out to "CRM" with Acct. # 9970 in the Memo section and mail to:  
 Church Resource Ministries - 1240 N. Lakeview Ave. Suite # 120 - Anaheim, CA 92807-1831