

# The Harbor Update: January-February 2011



Another update is somewhat overdue. I hope that you had a blessed Christmas season and even though Christmas is over, I pray that we would continue to celebrate the birth of our Savior throughout the year.

## **Financial Update for 2010:**

New opportunities and developments await us as we enter this second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Last year being a tough one for thousands of ministries across the globe, The Harbor was no exception. If we had not met the budget by the end of December, we were considering cutting back on some of our outreaches. While not a pleasant thought, the Lord gave me total peace. I just kept doing the mission trusting Him that He would provide like He always has. I am blessed to report that at the end of December The Harbor not only met the budget, but also received extra funds to apply toward 2011.

David Platt in his new book *“Radical”* writes, *“God delights in using ordinary Christians who come to the end of themselves and choose to trust in his extraordinary provision. He stands ready to allocate his power to all who are radically dependent on him and radically devoted to making much of him.”* On behalf of The Harbor, we are so grateful for your faith and for making a radical difference, which allowed the mission to keep reaching the lives of orphans and saving them for God’s kingdom. Thank you!

**Check out our online shop for products made by our students:**  
[www.theharborspb.org](http://www.theharborspb.org)

### **Introducing Victor:**



From time to time, I like to introduce to you some of our residents because it gives a personal connection. Victor is one of the residents that we have in our residential program. He was born the youngest of six children into a Russian family in Asia. Russia geographically is located in both Europe and Asia. Victor's family moved from Uzbekistan to the Tver region on the European side of Russia. While living at

home, Victor was spoiled because the mother raised him more like a grandson. Yet two years ago, she brought Victor to St. Petersburg, where he was submitted to a shelter because her drug use rendered her unfit to raise him. Victor came to us last summer from the shelter. He is kind, but naïve. It has been a big adjustment for him to be in a big city. Right now, he is studying at a shipbuilding lyceum to become a carpenter. In the evenings, he works at a fast food chain restaurant as a cook. Since coming to The Harbor, we have noticed that the job is having a good influence on him, helping him to develop responsibility. He works with great interest and people are very nice to him. He does get tired at work. Sometimes it is a challenge for him to find the inner strength to get up and make himself go to school and then to work. We see huge potential in him. We ask you to pray for his continuous change and transformation, especially spiritually.

### **Update on Masha and Nastia**

The government has approved the request to terminate the parental rights of the girls' mother, allowing the filing of the paper work necessary to process their citizenship papers. An orphanage representative is helping Masha and an attorney is helping Nastia. Please continue to lift them up in your prayers especially concerning their legal case and future path.

### **New Development:**

As of December 2010, we appointed a new person in Russia to raise funds locally. It is of course a new concept especially in a country where there is almost no existence of philanthropy or social corporate responsibility. Sergey is building a relationship with new churches, individuals and companies so that The Harbor will have more partners. Twice a month I coach him via Skype and it has been exciting to see some early fruit.

The biggest development for us lately is the acceptance of The Harbor into the American Chamber of Commerce in St. Petersburg. The goal is to build a relationship with the business

community that would train our residents and eventually hire them. This will build strong incentive, motivation, smooth transition and employment for our graduates.

### **Prayer Requests:**

- I have kept this update short in order to focus on some special prayer requests. We always greatly covet your prayers for our residents and staff.
- Inna, who was one of our girls' mentors, is no longer with us. Please pray for her and new direction as she seeks God's guidance.
- Sveta, our new girls' mentor, needs prayer for wisdom, patience, and understanding as she works with our girls.
- New residents, Katia and Galia. Galia is a Christian please pray that she would be a powerful influence on the other girls.
- Ira & Lesha, our residents, will be going to a special rehab center for alcohol addiction. Please pray that God would set them free and restore them. Also, pray that they would return to our Harbor family in His time.
- We are anticipating the arrival of new additional residents. Pray that they would quickly build a relationship with our current residents and their lives be transformed for His kingdom.
- Lesha, another resident, needs a special brother in Christ who would disciple him. Please pray that God would send that person.
- Pray for our current 16 residents.
- Pray for our staff.
- Pray concerning the spiritual warfare that The Harbor is facing.
- Pray for our graduates and their continuous spiritual growth.

Thank you for your partnership. We are blessed by your richly and pray for the same blessing in return.

Love & blessings,  
The Harbor & Alex

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