



Dear Friends of The Harbor,

March 2011

Have you ever wondered why the Lord disappeared immediately after the men on the road to Emmaus recognized Him (Luke 24:13-35)? After being convinced that Jesus was who He said He was, the Messiah, He goes and gets Himself killed. *"Hmm, I guess He's not."* But, lo and behold, He rises from the dead and meets with them in the midst of their confusion. They don't recognize Him, but hope is being restored in their souls. *"Maybe He is after all?"* Just when He opens their eyes and allows them to see Him for whom He is, He disappears! *"What is going on? I'm so confused! You create a hunger. You meet it. Then, You leave at apparently the worst of times."* I can't think of a better story to describe my current state of mind.

The Harbor was started with the utmost conviction that the Lord is the Father to the fatherless and that He wants us, His followers, to walk out His heart of caring for them. Miracles began to happen. We received buildings and funding and licenses we never thought possible. *"Following Jesus is amazing!"*

Young adult orphans came to us, first in a trickle, and now in a steady flow. Their stories are unbelievably sad. If we didn't know they were true, they would be hard to believe. One was found as a toddler, alone and crying in his apartment. Apparently, his mother had just left. No one knew how long ago. Another was kicked out by drunken parents at age 9 and lived with a sibling in bushes until the police picked them up a couple of years later. Many ask us what more is a father supposed to do in the family except to donate sperm? Do you really let them hold the babies? One orphan just found out he was conceived in a bathroom stall from a meaningless momentary fling. Another found out she was abandoned to the orphanage because the doctors mistakenly told the mother she was deformed—the reality was that forceps were used, so her head was misshaped for a couple of hours. Recently, one was so tormented by voices inside that she tried to jump from our 10th floor window. After threatening our mentor and displaying supernatural strength while six people tried to hold her down, the police had to come and get her. More and more are coming to us with drug and alcohol addictions. *"Following Jesus is very hard!"*

There are some with organic brain damage from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Many struggle with depression. Many need rehab for their addictions. All have profound trauma wounds and Reactive Attachment Disorder, trusting no one and finding it very hard to develop healthy relationships of any kind. All need healing prayer. Some need deliverance.

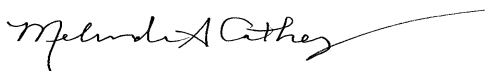
I am as deeply convinced that Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil as I am that He is the Father to the fatherless. He said that his followers would do even greater works than He did because He was going to the Father (John 14:12). This is where I feel like the brothers on the road to Emmaus. They thought Jesus was the Messiah and then they saw Him die. I know Jesus has given us His power, but I am not seeing it evidenced the way I think it should be. He wants to free the captives doesn't He? *"Following Jesus is confusing!"*

Also, like the brothers on the road, He is meeting me in my confusion. I am studying and meeting with mentors to learn all I can about brain disorders, attachment therapy, trauma therapy, healing prayer, and deliverance. Trying to synthesize all of this information into something coherent and transferable to my staff is daunting. I am tempted to get discouraged, yet, I do sense the Lord leading me on and teaching me many deeper things that I presently only half understand. *"Following Jesus is exhausting!"*

The Lord encourages me by reminding me of several of our graduates. Our first Harbor missionary is serving orphans and street kids with YWAM in Ukraine. Another, who has some developmental delays, is finishing Bible college and has the goal to become a pastor. His understanding of the Word and his ability to pray are simply miraculous! *“Following Jesus is all there is! He alone has the words of Life.”*

In addition to my study and administrative duties, my main thrust at this point is organizing a conference in May for all Harbor staff, Harbor residents and graduates, and pastors and leaders throughout Russia with whom Mark and other CRM staff work. This will be a week-long intensive time of study and practice on the related themes of spiritual warfare and healing prayer. An extraordinary CRM couple, Ian and Verlie Hamilton, will be leading this time. They have 30 years of powerful ministry experience in Australia, the UK, and the US. Please, lift it up in prayer.

Together with You on the Journey of Following Jesus,



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Ira and Vika (two new girls)



Some of the residents learn to grill out

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