

All men are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.
The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.
Isa 40:6-7

“Life is short,” said one of the men at our last pastors’ meeting after reading the passage above. He was encouraging the others to keep their eyes focused on what is truly of value rather than the things we think are important today, but tomorrow will simply be gone. He spoke of the brevity of life with great authority because he himself has been close to death several times. He pastored a church here in Kursk for about 10 years until his health no longer allowed him to continue. He’s young and should be in the prime of life. But his medical records make up a stack papers thick enough to shock doctors who see what appears to be a strong young man in front of them. He is an example to many of standing firm in faith in spite of great trials.

Surely the people are grass.
The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God stands forever.
Isa 40:8

I haven't written about our monthly pastors' meetings in some time. Our meetings continue, and the men in the group often remind me that they want to meet. Our gatherings have been an encouragement for them to continue in ministry and to grow in their own faith. I praise God for these men who are slugging it out in the pastorate, caring for souls and faithfully preaching the word of God.

Since life is 100% fatal, let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, risen from the dead, and on people who He is drawing to Himself to live for eternity.



From December 17-20 Bill O’Byrne, a CRM colleague in St. Petersburg, will be leading “Discover” – a seminar on spiritual formation designed to help those who have been in the faith for a long time to grow still deeper in Jesus. Ten to twenty people are expected to attend, including our Harbor staff,

several of the Bible college staff and pastors from Kursk and the region. Most of these are people I have worked closely with over the last 10 years. Please pray especially for this event that many would be able to attend unhindered by schedules, health and other problems. Pray also the seminar would be a great time of refreshment and it would set the stage for further growth.

A word from Tanya, one of our mentors in The Harbor of Kursk:

We now have a girl in our residential program at the Harbor named Alina* and her coming to us was a great joy! At the beginning Alina didn't want to open up much to us. She was hardened, not talkative and didn't want to hear anything about God. She didn't ask anything about our lives or us. All her thoughts were focused on one thing - boys. Nonetheless she understands that it's very important in life to get an education. Alina knows that if she doesn't study she won't be able to work and that this means she won't be able to earn a living.



Alina has now been with us for two-and-a-half months and we've noticed that she has changed. First, she has become much more open in conversations. Second, she is using less bad language. And third, she has already attended a service at church and liked it. She has her own responsibilities in the apartment: preparing meals with the mentors, buying food, taking out the garbage, washing dishes and of course keeping her room in order. We're also helping her make good use of her free time by watching worthwhile movies, having meaningful discussions, and visiting friends among other things.

We are praying for Alina and see that slowly but surely God is influencing her. We are trying to be a good example for her. Among our many conversations was a discussion of family and sexual purity before marriage. She listened very carefully. We are hoping that in time this will bear fruit in her life. Living together we have lots of opportunities to tell Alina about our own lives. She is open to these discussions and does not discount them as some kind of moral lecture.

We so want to see one more life changed, to see this girl drawn to God. Please pray for Alina and this ministry.

Sincerely,

Tanya

*In some cases names are changed to protect the anonymity of participants.

We are tremendously grateful to each of you who support us -- both through prayer and finances. Many have been supporting us consistently for years and are the backbone of our ministry. Others have joined us more recently, allowing The Harbor to take a significant step forward in ministering to the orphans. Thank you all! Without you this ministry would not continue.

There are still opportunities to partner with us. There is so much going against these orphans. Prayers for them are always valued and often have more effect than we ever realize. In addition, we have not yet reached our full budget nor our full potential in reaching out to orphans. Please prayerfully consider making a year-end contribution or increasing your current giving. The Bible assures us that this is a blessing to you, the giver, and it will certainly increase our impact on those God loves here in Kursk. If you would like to make a donation you may print out the card below or give online: [The Harbor of Kursk orphan ministry](#) or [Ken & Heather Bresser ministry fund](#).

Blessings to you, and a Merry Christmas!

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Financial support: Church Resource Ministries, 1240 N. Lakeview Ave. Suite 120, Anaheim, CA 92807 (Fund #7121 Bresser Staff support; Fund 9973 Harbor of Kursk) www.cmlleaders.org CRM Donor Help Line: 800-777-6658;

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