



Dear Friends of The Harbor:

September, 2015

As I write this, the shorter days and cool nip in the air forecast the coming of fall. It causes me to ponder the inevitable change in seasons. Usually, I love the change in seasons and fall is my favorite. This year is different, however. Our baby, Bre, is heading off to college and the season of hands-on parenting is over. As parents we know our kids will grow up and leave. This is, after all, the goal. Nevertheless, it seems to have happened very abruptly, and it is a bittersweet season for Mark and me.

In October, I head to Russia for a month to officially hand over my executive director role of The Harbor to our Russian Board of Directors. The goal of every missionary is to work him/herself out of a job by developing nationals to run the ministry. I have been intentionally working towards this end for the past five years. Nevertheless, the reality of this transition finally coming to pass is also bittersweet.

Let me share what I see going forward. First of all, I will remain with The Harbor, just in a different role. My new title will be International Consultant and Trainer. I will continue to speak and fund-raise for The Harbor as opportunities arise. My daily administrative role as executive director will now be the responsibility of the Russian board of directors. Alex Krutov will be a part of that board. He and I will continue to be under the authority of the Orphanos Board of Directors here in the U.S. and exercise control over the monthly budget of The Harbor. Orphanos oversees the funds that are sent and accounting of expenditures. Nothing will change in that regard.

This season in my life feels like I am entering the fall of my journey. Many have asked me about my retirement plans. I laugh, because the Cathey's retirement account would last us for about six months, which is the state many of you are in. More importantly, I feel that I risk buying into something God never intended. Lord willing, I have several more chapters to contribute. If wisdom is borne out of experience, then I am accumulating a substantial amount! My time is freed up, and the Lord seems to be opening a lot of doors.

I will focus on continued learning and application in the field of trauma informed care; teaching, training, and consulting with other organizations/programs to apply this kind of treatment in their unique settings. My first priority will be to those programs that The Harbor has already helped start throughout Russia. In November, I will visit the city of Kursk to train the staff there. Accompanying me will be Nastya, a Harbor graduate, whom I've been mentoring the past several years. Nastya is in her 4th year of a 5-year degree program in developmental psychology and is currently employed by The Harbor. My hope is that Nastya, eventually, becomes a trainer in trauma informed care. There are several other cities throughout Russia and other organizations in St. Petersburg that I hope to connect with in the coming year.

Also, I am currently consulting with organizations in Guatemala City and Cameroon, as they are starting to develop transitional care models. In addition, I continue to work with adoptive families here in the U.S. and receive more calls every month. Lastly, I will be the Assistant Varsity and JV coach for the girls' basketball team at Hope Academy. This is a private charter school in inner-city Minneapolis that is turning the inner-city educational statistics on its head. There may be a possibility of using my trauma informed care to help families with kids at the school. We will see where this goes.

As The Harbor celebrates its 15th year this September, I am looking at the letterhead logo and tag-line we created all those years ago, namely, The Harbor: Anchoring lives, Launching hope, Restoring nations. Way back then, this was our vision and we felt inspired! However, to be honest, I don't think we ever imagined the Lord doing all of what He has done through this work, or opening the doors to other nations as He appears to be doing. This is our legacy together. It has taken all of us doing our parts. Thank you for your faithful and generous partnership that has made and continues to make this possible.

In whatever life-season you find yourself, may you not lean on your own wisdom, rather, entrust yourself to the “ One who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us” (Eph. 3:20).

With Deep Gratitude,



Melinda Cathey
Executive Director/Co-Founder, The Harbor
651-246-5800 (Mobile)
melinda.cathey@theharborspb.org



The Harbor, St. Petersburg, 2015 Graduates

100% of tax-deductible gifts go directly to The Harbor

Please, make checks out to Orphanos (Account #166 on memo line) and mail to:
Orphanos Foundation
P.O. Box 1057
Cordova, TN 38088-1057

Online Donations: <https://orphanos.sitewrench.com/givetotheharbor>