

"No matter how good life is, most Christians thirst for something more. Although we are people of faith, many of us are not satisfied. We long for lives that are more fulfilling, richer, more meaningful, and more joyful."~John Ed Mathison

As you continue the journey with The Harbor I pray that the Lord will unveil to you the adventure that will unfold freedom, promise and rewards. The Harbor is grateful for your commitment and relationship with God and for your treasures of prayer, presence, gifts and service.

What progress have our residents made since September 2007?

Dennis- Awhile back he told Luba that he had never worked so hard in his life until he came to The Harbor. He turned 20 years old. Luba realized when Dennis first came that he could not communicate without cussing, which was quite a shock for her. The frightening part of Dennis's cussing was that he did not realize how horrible and impolite it was. It has been a tough 9 months of constant correction and guidance. Yet, after a few weeks of living at The Harbor he began to use polite words and his friends noticed a radical change in him. Dennis values The Harbor and what we are doing especially for the guys in the ministry. He has made major progress at the trade school where he is studying to become a carpenter. He also has a talent in drawing and working with the clay. He participated in PTC with Tobias in creating short movie clips. He is very active in counseling and spiritual formation classes. He is asking a lot of questions about religion, but he is still not going to the church. **Please pray for his spiritual growth.**

Sasha M- He is the "weakest" participant in the ministry. His development and understanding is like a 12 year old. He loves animals, loves to cook and dreams to live in the village. He is studying to become a carpenter and is making fairly good progress. Unfortunately, he is struggling to follow the rules and frequently skips counseling and spiritual formation classes. Our mentors do not want to keep him for the next year because Sasha has no desire to change or become a different person. However, Luba understands that without The Harbor he will not survive; thus, we will give him another chance. **Pray for guidance, strength and growth.**

Misha- He is the youngest participant in the program who was studying to become a computer programmer. Due to skipping classes, he failed and was transferred into a different group to become a computer operator. He is really good with learning languages, especially English and Russian, but he is lazy and does not want to study. Periodically he decides to clean his room or take a shower so we are working on that. He is against all Christians and has a huge interest in Buddhism and astrology. The Lord is doing some miracles because we found Christian math tutor for him who used to be a Buddhist. Thus, during their math tutoring sessions she has the opportunity to discuss with Misha that Buddhism and astrology have many problems, and why she has been converted from Buddhist to Christian. **Pray that God would touch Misha's heart through his math tutor and that he will come to know Christ personally and be open to hear His Word.**

Igor- While at The Harbor he has learned how to communicate with people. At first he violated every rule at The Harbor, but a few months later he began to change and grow. He loves to work, but chooses the easiest jobs. His passion is skating. Natasha (Harbor counselor) says that he is making some really good progress and is heading in the right direction. **Pray that he will be open to continuous spiritual life.**

Ura- He has a desire to become good husband and a father. Thus, on August 31st he is being transferred into the Next Step Phase (post adaptation) where he will live with Vadim and Ecka. There he can learn to be as such by helping to raise Vadim and Ecka's children. During nine months at The Harbor, Ura has learned how to cook and clean, and spent a lot of time with Lyle Thomas (CRM missionary in St. Petersburg) learning English. Lyle said that Ura has become part of their family. Ura had much hostility toward God and Christians. We invited his church pastor to pray with us for Ura and now he is doing so much better. He is studying at the university to become a computer programmer and he loves it. This summer he is planning to do cosmetic repair in his communal apartment. The Harbor family will assist him in this project. **Pray for Ura's spiritual growth and understanding about God. Pray that God would send people into his path that will be positive role models for him, such as Lyle has been for him in the past 10 months.**

Sasha Z.-He has received tremendous spiritual and emotional help and support this year. He is studying carpentry and practicing at The Harbor PTC. He has made a lot of shelves and other items for PTC. Currently he is working on making kitchen cabinets. He is ready to graduate from the two year program into Next Step Phase to live with Vadim and Ecka. There he will learn how to take care of a child and prepare for family life. **Pray for his transition and continuous growth especially spiritually and emotionally.**

Sergei- He left our ministry on April 1st. Even though he was with us for only 7 months, he learned a lot. He learned how take care of himself, cook, shop, clean, pay bills; communicate with people and many other skills that he did not have upon coming to The Harbor. Now he has a stable job and he is free of substance abuse. **Pray for his continuous success, emotional restoration and spiritual growth.**

Oleg- He left our ministry on March 1st. During his time at The Harbor he also learned a lot and is very grateful for what The Harbor has given him. He is free of substance abuse and has a good paying job. He frequently calls Luba and says that he has acquired all that he needed for successful integration into independent life. **Pray that he will be open to hear God's Word and receive Christ into his heart in the Lord's timing.**

This year has been a challenging one to work with our guys. Slowly they are learning how to cook, clean, study, receive additional professional qualifications, how to be disciplined, and they are growing faster in these areas than emotionally and spiritually. We will need more time, strength, wisdom, and patience in order for our guys to be restored emotionally and spiritually.

The girls this year have made us smile and be very proud of them.

Nastya- She is studying in college and actively participating at The Harbor. She has learned how to deal with being extremely shy and communication skills with other girls. Her new communication skill has allowed her to be interviewed by the city TV station that showed The Harbor and its work. In addition, she has learned how to forgive and listen to advice from more mature people. This summer she will be working as a nanny. **Pray for her restoration and continuous growth.**

Ulya- She will be graduating from the two year program early because she has learned what she needs for successful integration. Recently she was talking to Luba who asked her, "What did The Harbor give you this year?" Ulya answered, "I have become more positive, acquired more skills, and am ready for independent life." She was very active during her counseling classes, classes that have tremendously helped her to get to this stage of her life. **Pray for her transition into the real world, continuous emotional growth and be open to spirituality.**

Luda- This year she has become a lot calmer and longs to help others who are in need. Ira (Director of PTC) has helped Luda in many ways teaching different skills at PTC. Even though at times Luda had no desire, but she stayed on course. **Pray for continuous character growth, spiritual and emotional formation.**

Zhanna- During the first four months she skipped all classes. We had to tell her it is either The Harbor or something else. Now after serious conversation she has made the decision to stay and has become a different person. She is smiling, making great progress at college, desires to cook, clean and care for orphans at the baby orphanage every Saturday. God has been changing her heart. **Pray for Zhanna's growth and character building.**

Natasha- She is doing really well in the university. She is very grateful to The Harbor, values everything that we give her and teaches other girls how to be grateful for what they have today. She helps The Harbor to save money when she buys groceries by being a good steward of it. She loves The Harbor very much and treats us as her family. She is learning all that she can while she remains with The Harbor. She frequently has deep conversation about Christianity. **Pray for her spiritual growth, acceptance of Christ as her personal Savior, and serving Him by reaching others, especially as she graduates from The Harbor. She holds forth great promise.**

Yana- She has changed a lot while being at The Harbor. She not only has learned how to cook and clean, but sewing and working with clay. She has learned to smile and be happy. The most exciting of all is that she goes to the church time to time, although she is very shy. Her faith has been internal, but she is open and willing to grow and change. **Pray that she will make steps in her spiritual growth and her faith will become external so that she would share the love for God with other residents especially with those who still do not know Him.**

Lena V.- While at The Harbor she has received an amazing level of counseling support, which she needed tremendously. When she first came it was her final year in college. The Harbor was able to help her successfully complete college and begin a new phase in her life. Now she is in the process of going into an institute where she will pursue another degree. She will be graduating from our two year program and go into Next Step Phase on August 31st. **Pray for her studies at the institute and growth spiritually and emotionally.**

Lena L.- She has acquired computer skills that is assisting her with accounting major. We bought her special accounting software that is helping to improve her level of expertise. Mentors have helped her to be better at household skills so now she is able to pay bills, and communicate with others. **Pray for doing well in her studies and spiritual formation.**

Until July 3rd our residents have exams. Please pray for their passing those exams. Then they are going to a specialized Christian camp for 4-5 days where they will live in tents. A Christian counselor (Luba's friend) will do some sport activities with them and lead spiritual classes. Upon returning to St. Petersburg most of our residents will find their first jobs that will acquire work experience. Meanwhile our staff will encourage and support our residents.

This summer we are graduating an early group of 5 residents into the Next Step Phase (post adaptation). Thus, we are in the process of finding 7 new residents that will come in at the end of the summer. **Pray that God would bring a new group of committed residents. Pray for our early graduates.**

I am so grateful for your love, kindness and passion. I pray for you daily. It is always a joy to see you and bring you updates face to face as I travel around this country. I am always grateful for your care and hospitality. Thank you so much for your action and bringing the love of God to those who do not have what we have.

Blessings and love in Christ, Alex & The Harbor