

Dear Friends of Global Children at Risk:

April 2026

*“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have **peace**. In the world you have tribulation, but take **courage**, I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).*

These are sobering days and I find myself meditating on this verse often. The tribulations are very real, but I ask myself how are my **peace** and **courage** meters doing? Some days are better than others.

I just got off a call with a Russian colleague who is in charge of a vast network of foster care families and special needs ministries. She is experiencing an increased sense of urgency in getting all the necessary leaders she works with across Russia trained in TBRI as communication is beginning to shut down. Travel and “normal life” are becoming constrained. Due to the unpredictability of drone strikes, flights are regularly cancelled at the last minute. She must travel 24 hours on a train to reach the same destination that is only a 3-hour flight away.



Melinda with the Group of Russian Leaders

When she does online training, she is never sure how many of the class will show up due to very spotty internet access. Others are beginning to express fear in being present at a Christian training. She and the other participants in our Russian cohort have asked me to lead them through my book, **Deeper Than Belief**. I am doing so with fear and trembling. This is no mere theological exercise for them. Trusting God in these days is absolutely necessary for their mental, spiritual, and physical health. Doing it together gives us all the courage we need to keep pressing on.

We talk about the necessity of the Lord showing up in their everyday realities. Dealing with increased numbers of children-at-risk, whether from results of growing up in a war zone, losing family members, or poverty; mere facts about Jesus won't cut it. They desperately need to experience His comfort, His provision, His protection. They need to experientially know His love and tangible hope in order to “comfort those with the comfort with which they have been comforted” (2 Cor. 1:4). The same is true for the others I serve in nine other countries facing cartel control and political challenges.



Melinda with Central & South American Leaders

Indeed, God has been faithful. I wish I could tell you all the stories, but here is a compilation of several testimonies from among the 10 countries I'm currently engaged in with TBRI training:

Russia & Ukraine

- The Lord gave specific strategies to receive funds despite all ordinary avenues being closed.
- The Lord miraculously provided transportation to leave in the midst of bombing.

Ecuador

- The Lord gave a “vision” and made a way to flee impending physical harm from a cartel godfather.
- After prayer and fasting, the Lord sealed off gang territory and allowed it to be used as a ministry site without any violence or property damage, now going on 3 years. The police cannot understand what happened!

United States

- A single mom with 2 kids wanted to serve other single moms. She did not have sufficient education to do so and was barely able to pay her rent in CA. The Lord told her, “Leave CA and go to Dallas,” without any connections. So, she loaded up her two kids and all her worldly goods in her car and drove to Dallas, waiting for the Lord to tell her what was next. He led her to a church family which provided funds for education and opportunities to serve in a single moms’ ministry.

All 10 Countries

- The Lord has begun to significantly heal deep emotional wounds and reconcile relationships.
- The Lord has redeemed broken pasts, using those to become the very things that allow for meaningful ministry to other children-at-risk.

When I get overwhelmed by the needs and tribulations and ask the Lord, “What can I do?” He leads me back to Psalm 37:3, “*Trust in the Lord and do good; Dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness.*” As I contemplate my brothers and sisters throughout the world who are doing exactly this, and I remember the Lord’s incredible faithfulness to them, it strengthens my courage. My increased courage, in turn, strengthens them. It is the designed feedback loop of the Body of Christ.

And in these days when I need more peace, I am reminded of how the Lord commanded the wind and the waves to “Be still” in the storm, and the wind and waves obeyed. This same Lord commands my soul to “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). I want my soul to obey, also. Thank you for your vital role in the feedback loop of the Body of Christ. And may the Lord cause us all to increase and abound in our love for one another (1 Thes. 3:12).

For Peace & Courage in the Feedback Loop,



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Melinda with Group of US Leaders

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