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Harvest INTERNATIONAL

Harvest International, Inc.
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1st Quarter 2009

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Harvest International, Inc.

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- Pam Barrett, Chief Financial Officer
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- Danny Thomas, Vice President
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- Dick and Barb Johnson, Uganda
- Thomas and Amy Kay, Romania
- Dhan & Dolly Lalsees, Zimbabwe
- Alan and Pam May, Kenya
- Lela Steel, Ukraine
- Cullie and Sandy Woodall, Haiti
- Rod and Debbie Wray, Haiti
- Echo Cuba Staff, Cuba



Tom & Ginger Schmidt Prayer Request for Haiti

*"This is my commandment.
That ye love one another, as I have loved you." ~ John 15: 12*

The older I get the faster time goes by. My dad frequently shares this fact with me and I'm starting to see it myself. Even more valuable to me is how my Dad (Paul Schmidt, who will be 93 this May) and my Mom (who is home with the Lord), taught me from when I was a baby about our Heavenly Father God who loves us so much he sent His only begotten son Jesus Christ to be our Redeemer and Savior and how crucial a personal relationship with Him is.

As I write this article and think about the children in Haiti that we, together through Harvest, have helped this past year, I cannot help but reflect back on my upbringing. I am encouraged because I know that in Haiti, in our schools, orphanages, churches, Sunday School programs, and personal relationships with the people (and especially the children); the Pastors and Missionaries instill God's Biblical principles into their lives. As I consider the trips I have taken to Haiti this past year, evaluating what value and impact Harvest has had in Haiti for Christ, I'm both encouraged because of what we are doing, and disappointed because there's so much more that needs to be done.

As you all know, with the hurricanes that hit Haiti hard last year there was great physical need in most of the country. Together, we have rallied to meet those physical needs through sending containers with water, food, clothing, and medical supplies. We have also sent several evangelical, medical and work teams. Certainly all these physical helps are very important, but the need I would most like to see met in the lives we touch is through living and presenting the Gospel to the children and adults that we are privileged to have one on one contact with. My Dad and Mom lived Jesus before me each day as I was a boy growing up, and at Harvest we continue to work toward this goal. We have seen teams make a difference proclaiming in word and deed with their hearts and hands the Gospel message found in 1 John 3:16-18. We have the opportunity to teach and live God's Biblical Principles before the Haitian people, so they can hear of God's saving Grace for them, in order to effect a lifelong and eternal change in their lives.

We want to thank you for your support of these missionaries, team members and sponsorship programs, that impact the people of Haiti for Christ. Our goal for this year is to be even more diligent in hearing and carrying out God's plan for Haiti. Our prayer is, God will equip us to do what He calls us to do in Haiti for these precious ones, both spiritually and physically.

On a personal note, the Schmidt family requests prayer for God's direction and help in regards to a possible 2-3 months long trip to Haiti for my wife and I and our three youngest children. This would be the first time back in Haiti for JoHannah, Jeremy and Joshua. They are excited about the possibility of seeing the land of their birth and getting to know the people there. Who knows what God will do in their hearts for a people so close to their own. They are already expressing an interest in missions and one even aspires to be President of Haiti one day!

Our purpose for going would be to work with the people, sharing the Gospel, and organizing and helping in Harvest's area of operations to bring encouragement and more accountability with our programs throughout the country.



Joshua, JoHannah, Jeremy



1200 MacArthur Boulevard • Second Floor • Mahwah, New Jersey 07430
phone (201) 818-1288 • fax (201) 818-4694
www.charitynavigator.org

December 16, 2008

Daniel Thomas
Harvest International
P.O. Box 6690
Ocala, FL 34478

Dear Daniel Thomas:

On behalf of Charity Navigator, I wish to congratulate Harvest International on achieving our coveted 4-star rating for sound fiscal management.

As the nonprofit sector continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, savvy donors are demanding more accountability, transparency and quantifiable results from the charities they choose to support with their hard-earned dollars. In this competitive philanthropic marketplace, Charity Navigator, America's premier charity evaluator, highlights the fine work of efficient charities such as your own, and provides donors with essential information needed to give them greater confidence in the charitable choices they make.

Based on the most recent financial information available, we have calculated a new rating for your organization. We are proud to announce Harvest International has earned our third consecutive 4-star rating for its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances. Only 11% of the charities we rate have received at least 3 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Harvest International consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and outperforms most other charities in America. This "exceptional" designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Harvest International from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.

Forbes, *Business Week*, and *Kiplinger's Financial Magazine*, among others, have profiled and celebrated our unique method of applying data-driven analysis to the charitable sector. We evaluate ten times more charities than our nearest competitor and currently attract more visitors to our website than all other charity rating groups combined, thus making us the leading charity evaluator in America. Our irrefutable data shows that users of our site gave more than they planned to before viewing our findings, and in fact, it is estimated that last year Charity Navigator influenced over \$10 billion in charitable gifts.

We believe our service will enhance your organization's fundraising and public relations efforts. Our favorable review of Harvest International's fiscal health will be visible on our website as of December 17th and to help you share this significant accomplishment with your donors, we will be sending you a direct link to Harvest International's rating page and our 4-star logos. We will email these links on December 19th to the following email address, danny@harvestinternational.org. If you would like this forthcoming email sent to an email address other than the one listed above, please contact Matthew Viola at mviola@charitynavigator.org and identify your organization in the subject heading. Should you have further questions, feel free to email or call Matthew at (201)818-1288, extension 107.

Sincerely,

Ken Berger
President & Chief Executive Officer

Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white for harvest! ~John 4:35

A Publication of Harvest International, Inc.



The Kays



Here in Romania, we have good days and bad days...up times and down times. Not surprising for any southerners who have lived in a cold climate, winters are a down time for us! However, it is also a good time for reflection. Our feelings about ministry here in Romania are mixed as we look back on this year. We have had many highlights. Thomas having so many mobile medical clinics, helping sick patients and introducing them to pastors in their villages. When we hear of people coming to know the Lord personally because of mobile clinics - all the effort instantly becomes nothing - and all

praise goes to God. Thomas also made inroads to a pediatric hospital allowing little, 5-year-old Costi to have cleft palate surgery this last week! These joys are never unimportant, but sometimes we have to remind each other of the good things when the challenges seem overwhelming. It is actually the little things that are wearing on the soul: "We can't cut your hair (at the salon with 3 "hairdressers" standing there)" or "We can check to see if your car needs a new battery - but only on Tuesday" or "We don't carry that kind of rice anymore" or "We can't meet at the park to do a picnic, they won't let you sit on the grass" or we can't get the reliable internet company because "your street is not paved", etc, etc, etc!!! So, it is the constant wearing of things that are just so far out of our understanding that makes it difficult to exist in this world. Yesterday, Thomas and I actually had our camera when we saw a wonderful example of this...a non-stop (24-hour) funeral "home" that said - "for emergency" !! You won't see that in America! That one made us laugh, but for every laugh, there is another one that makes us cry - or want to! We have goals that are small - to get through the bleak, cold Romanian winter and goals that are very big - to somehow, break through red-tape and make a difference in the lives of the Romanian people - especially children - medically and spiritually. We trust that God put us here in Romania for His purposes, and we are here to serve Him - however that looks day by day!



The Johnsons



It is always a joy to see students graduating from the University, especially this year as Norah was one of the first students to be placed in our program. Norah graduated with a business degree and had a job waiting for her upon graduation. We have five students, John, Robert, Edwin, Susan and Richard in higher education. There is the possibility of Robert Kalenzi going to Westminster Seminary in 2009. He would be our first pastor

candidate. In 2010 we have Nuuru Manyireki and Tadeo Katuramu, outstanding students always one and two in their classes, who are planning to be doctors. They would be the first students from the Fort Portal area to attend Medical School.

There is always disappointment when the children have to be disciplined and at times released from the program for their behavior. The Board of Advisors in Uganda spends many hours counseling with each student before determining release from the Good Samaritan Sponsorship Project. They are given multiple opportunities to mend their ways and follow the standards that are required to be followed by all of the children. These dismissals break our hearts but we have seen over the years that in many cases God has used this discipline in the children's lives for good - Romans 8:28. This past year we had six of our students released from the project on the grounds of theft, pregnancy, disappearance or just running away from the homes of their guardians.

The most important goal for 2009 is to continue to raise enough support to keep our University students in higher education. We have over the years tightened the academic standards of the project because we have found that only the best will



be able to continue achieving academic success. And that is where we believe the resources that God is giving us should be directed. As in all of life, we believe no matter where the students finally finish their academics the most important is that they have embraced Jesus as their Lord and Savior. He will be their strength their entire life and ensure them eternal life which is most important for all of us.

- Zechariah 4:6.



Norah Kabakeema



The Guerrers



We are praising God for His love that is changing the lives of the Mapou villagers. We have seen lives changed as people come to the knowledge of God's saving grace that once were in darkness. Fourteen people to date have accepted Jesus as their personal Savior. Many couples got married after they received Jesus as Lord of their lives. We are watching expectantly to see how God's mission in Mapou Village, La Gonave is progressing. We believe when God calls you He will equip you for the ministry.

There are so many joys we experienced this past year that we do not have enough room to enumerate them. We have learned to see God through every circumstance and praise Him for every thing. The most joyous events were to have witnessed others come to Christ. It was as if the angels came out and sang the hallelujah chorus, we were so elated. We are humbled that God would use us to further His kingdom.

Jesus Christ was shared during a week long Vacation Bible School session during the family's month mission trip with the villagers' children. Dominique spent one week training a group of young people to be teachers for the VBS. It was the first time many of the children sat in a formal Bible educational setting. The children had fun and learned how much God loves them. Another accomplishment was the completion of placing the four walls on the church/school building. It is quite a major feat since they did everything by hand! The villagers worked hard and diligently with different teams to complete this portion of the building.

A disappointment we feel at times is that people are not aware of the abundant work that needs to be done on the mission field. Another sad part is to see some people call themselves Christian but never share the good news with anyone. We also received some discouragement from people who claim to be servants of God, yet are not interested in missions. However, they have forgotten what Jesus says in Mark 16:15 "He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation; also in Matthew 28:19-20: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Our Mission is to continue to minister to the community of Mapou Village by providing a church, school, a well to produce clean water, and a feeding station.

Our vision is to inspire others to join us in Christ as we work to improve the lives of our impoverished brothers and sisters in Mapou Village, La Gonave through worship, education and health care. Our goal is to plant the seeds that will grow a self-sustaining village. This village, in turn, will have the ability to help other communities prosper.

Our long term goal is to teach the people in Mapou Village and other villages to become self-sufficient through the teachings of Jesus Christ, and through outreach and training programs. We will offer programs to improve community leadership and the social structure necessary for creating a self-sustaining population. We thank all our supporters, family, and friends who have helped us throughout the past two years. We continue to covet prayers, encouragement, and continuing financial support as we continue to spread the good news in Mapou village in La Gonave, Haiti.



Danny's Trip



I have just returned from a very good 10 day visit to Odessa, Ukraine with Babushka (Grandma) Lela Steel. It was a very productive time and we accomplished much in moving forward with House of Hope. It is beautiful on the inside as well as the outside.

I was able to meet with the new house parents, Igor and Arina, who are a wonderful Christian couple and have a calling from the Lord to minister to the boys. We are starting at the beginning of March with two boys coming and spending time at the home before they finish at Inter- not.

Because of God's blessings in Lela's life, House of Hope has attracted much attention from the local authorities and government officials. They are very impressed with how this Babushka, who is 84 years old, has been able to accomplish this task. Lela always points them to the Lord. Praise the Lord for what has been accomplished in Odessa, Ukraine for these boys. There will be more information in the weeks and months to come about House of Hope.



House of Hope
House Parents: Igor & Arina





The Mays in Kenya



Looking back on 2008 brings mixed feelings. On one hand, we experienced so many divine encounters and obvious demonstrations of God's provision and protection. We saw the nation of Kenya sink into a miry pit of violence and chaos. From our home in Eldoret, we could see whole neighborhoods go up in flames. We remember the night it was rumored throughout the town that our own neighborhood, Elgonview, would be torched. The anxiety and confusion were

real, yet God supplied a peace that passes all understanding. The children were hunkered down in their respective homes, Fresh Start and The Haven. The older children understood what was happening, and the younger children were shielded from too much information. Pam and I stayed up through the night because we did not want to be surprised if our home was going to be invaded and torched. That night there was an eerie calm throughout Elgonview, and the next morning we discovered no harm had been brought to the neighborhood. God's mighty hand of protection on all of us was evident. How good to remember the Lord's mercy.

To see God protect us, the children and even the construction of the new home for the kids rouses feelings of wonder. To be loved and supported by so many fellow sojourners of faith in Christ brings to surface another set of emotions...warmth, happiness, appreciation and even community. Contrast that with the feelings of deep disappointment and hurt we experienced in relationship with some...even a church. Civil war in a nation, and what seemed like civil war in a church body...which is worse? Feeling like an outcast, perhaps because we didn't side with the ruling junta. Confusion abounds, but we dare not let bitterness take root, lest we give the devil a foothold. Torn like a tattered school uniform, we have to follow the Lord's leading. Unsure of how people can see things so differently, yet sure of His sovereignty and grace.



More feelings abound as we endeavored to return and resettle in our home town, Memphis, TN. Affirmed that God had led us to Kenya; likewise, that he had led us back home. The work in Kenya has not been abandoned. But rather, the Kenyan partners have been trained, equipped, encouraged and given the opportunity to serve the Lord by serving the children of their own nation, and good feelings flow from that. A sense of doing things in an orderly fashion, as God leads, without claiming ownership of what belongs to God yields feelings of freedom rather than a heavy burden of responsibility. We're privileged to tell of what God is doing in Kenya...allowing others to share in the joy of the ministry.

Other feelings accompanied the transition back to life in the States. Gratitude to God for His loving kindness towards us swells up when we pause to remember. Friends who opened their home when we didn't know where we'd stay, and friends who gave us vehicles to drive so we could get on with life in America, bring more feelings of gratitude.



Beforn & Anitah - House Parents

More feelings to contrast...ringing in 2008 in the midst of the confusion and violence of Kenya's post-election turmoil was nothing like the ringing in of 2009 among the people of Kenya who are hopeful that this year will be a year of peace. Getting to witness our beloved Kenyan pastor, Ben Bahati, preach a message of reconciliation to throngs of people from various tribes in an open air crusade brought about feelings of hope for the future. Seeing the children of The Haven and Fresh Start along with the boys from Kambiri elicited tears of joy at seeing the spiritual, mental and physical growth of children whose life stories make most of ours seem like a walk in a park.

2009 has already started the gamut of emotions. Excitement to be in Kenya as the New Year began has parlayed into anticipation of returning to Kenya again later in the year. Crazy faith, as someone at the Neighborhood School put it, on some days just seems like craziness. Embarking on yet another faith journey of working at The Neighborhood School in our home town, yet having to raise the support to do so, seems a bizarre pursuit in these down economic times, yet our God is able to provide so adequately and abundantly that we cannot even fathom the depth of His pockets. Deciding to trust Christ is a life long process. How many times a day do we choose to trust or not to trust?

Hopeful the building of the second dorm in Kenya can be completed; Hopeful to have support to feed and clothe the kids in Kenya; Hopeful to continue working at the Neighborhood School; Hopeful young hearts will grow and mature in faith in Christ; Hopeful peace will prevail in Kenya in 2009; Hopeful our own country will turn towards Christ; Hopeful; Hopeful; Hopeful. Full of hope!



Cassie's Children's Corner



Team Haiti New Years Trip 2009



The mission team that Harvest most recently commissioned to Gonaives, Haiti was a mixture of folks from three churches, old and new friends, and ages from 17 to 85 years young! We faced challenges such as every flight being late, delayed or missed entirely. A minimum of 3 blowouts on our bus in the course of the week, and searching for gas as we tried to get back to Port au Prince to catch our flight home.

It was the BEST TRIP EVER! For myself, just being able to see the kids at "In His Hands" and "Charlie's Champions" made all else insignificant. For many of us on the team, this was our 5th or greater trip, and we are literally watching these children grow and flourish under the Godly care, guidance and direction of these two humble Pastors. We did a mini bible school for both groups, and were, by the grace of God, provided with an off site location to give the kids a "field trip". Through the generosity of a donor I was able to immunize 66 of the 95 children against typhoid, which several of them had when we were there in March. A few were even asking to get a 2nd shot just to get a tootsie pop!



We were able to be with the Pastors as they fulfilled a personal goal to visit prisoners at the jail and present them with bibles, pray, and dispense some much needed toiletries.

It was our first trip since the flood, and once again they amazed us with their resilience and strength through their faith in "Our" Great and Powerful Lord.
~ Rhonda Combs

In His Hands and Charlie's Champions are still in need of great support. If you have been touched by the children in these orphanages and want to help please fill in this form and send to me ASAP. You can support the whole orphanage(s) or an individual child from In His Hands for just \$25.00 a month. Be a supporter, it changes lives.

YES sign me up

charlie's champions

in his hands

sponsor a child





The Edwins in India



Life of a missionary in India is not a very rosy picture. We do help others and in that journey we feel pain, sufferings, disappointments and sorrow. We ask the Lord not to remove our problems but give us enough strength to endure these troubled moments. Many times during these troubled moments we feel the hands of the Lord so close to us than any other joyful times.

Last year was a very difficult year for us. Looking back, we really felt the power of the Lord displayed so much in our journey. Last year we had a

bomb blasting very close to our house and church. We found tormenting moments in the hands of the new government in power here right now. As soon as they came to power the first thing they did was to damage church buildings, physically beat up several believers and book false cases against our pastors. Due to this one of our churches in Tumkur was closed. We are praying and wanting to open a centre there in the near future.

Our church is under the hit list so often the police are coming everyday to stand guard in our church building. We cannot afford to keep a watchman but, Praise the Lord, those who attack us are giving us the protection in the form of policemen.



When we look back we really feel like praising the Lord more because last year we had more crusades in our church. Many new people have been baptized and more people are attending the church now. The pastor was able to support a church to be built and in North India Branch at Baleshwar, we have installed a hand pump for water. We also conducted three medical camps in very remote villages in different branches, supported students to go to college (mostly girls, who are considered to be a curse here, were the first in their generation to go to college), and immunized slum and rural children.

Our ongoing project is on the health of pregnant women in slums and villages and how to improve this? Depending on the availability of funds, we could process and screen biopsy samples of cancer women. We are collecting samples from rural and tribal places and refer

the cases immediately to the cancer Hospital.

We are completing the project on Diabetes among the slum dwellers and rural India. We presented the Project results in International clinical conference held in Barcelona, Spain.

In spite of all the obstacles the government put forth, we did all within our reach with the help of the Lord to bring more souls to Christ. If pastor baptizes a single non-christian he will be behind bars for 3 years and we can't conduct worship in any of the houses. But this year He baptized many people, Halleluiah and did conduct worship in many of our non-Christian people's houses.

Yes, we did face disappointments. Instead of calling disappointments, we would prefer to call this as a Waiting Phase, waiting up on the Lord for His time. His timing is always the best. For the past 3 years we want to buy a land which is adjacent to church for a school building and a free dispensary. The land owner says there are 3600 square feet and the cost is 3300 rupees per square feet. It is huge money for us and definitely not for the Lord.

The Lord has given these promises to us, we are waiting up on these verses. We want to start the school for these migrant laborer's children. They can't afford to go to school, so they introduce child labor right from the beginning. We also want to build a central Dispensary to process the samples which we collect from different rural and tribal areas. In some of our rural areas, there are no medical facilities and not even a medical shop. We get so discouraged because of this. We want to accomplish this in this New Year so that the name of the Lord will be glorified.

This year we want to buy the land, put up a school building and a Dispensary together, build at least 5 village/tribal churches in very remote place, adopt a church in Orissa where many pastors were burnt alive and their houses and churches were attacked, go out of our boundary to show our love to fellow pastors, dig bore wells in very dry places and educate them to save rain water in the villages and build tuition centers in slums to educate the poor children and show them the Lords love this way to bring them to church. Soon we will be starting one in our church campus.

Our major Needs are a Scorpio Van for sample collection and for the rural and tribal ministry. We have a van which is 11 year old, the government is considering to remove the old cars from the use to reduce the traffic. Please pray that this should not happen immediately. A small bus to bring children and migrant laborers to the church. A land for our School and Dispensary. Computer facilities for the rural and tribal children. Tuition centers in slums.

With Spirit of the Lord leading us, we feel we are in the right direction and the Lord enables us to do more with His Power.



The Lalsees in Zimbabwe



We feel a mixture of emotions concerning our ministry here. The past 6 months were spent building relationships with pastors and other leaders and following up on contacts we had made during our previous visits, especially those we had met in 2007.

Our arrival here on June 25th, just before the presidential run-off, was an encouragement to many who echoed the view that God was about to do something unique in Zimbabwe; that the nation was just where God

wanted it to be; that believers should look beyond the physical, social, and national issues, and concentrate on being part of what He is doing in this world.

We were embraced by many Pastors and Leaders from various congregations – indigenous city and rural churches as well as mixed congregation city churches. The Lord used these dear folks to introduce us to their fellow Pastors and Leaders of other denominations and granted us the opportunity to minister at their assemblies both in the pulpit and in leadership training sessions, study groups, Men's Retreats, etc. The relationships that are being formed with and through these churches have been a great blessing to us and we are looking forward with some degree excitement to what God will accomplish through this ministry in 2009.

On reflection, the cause of our greatest disappointments is really why God sent us here in the first place. In our May 2007 letter we said that although the Church in Zimbabwe was strong in faith, it lacked a missions focus. That was an understatement. Now that we are here, the enormity of the task has been driven home! We have found very few pastors/leaders with a heart for missions at all.

Secondly, the two largest mission agencies known internationally for training and equipping young missionaries for the mission field, and with whom we have worked closely in the past in the Caribbean, now only have skeleton staff here. In fact, it seems to us that they have lost their vision here. Before our arrival, we had hoped that we could rely on them to do the training of those whom the Lord would raise up. Now, it seems that we must look elsewhere – perhaps a new, indigenous organization.

There is an urgent need to continue the sensitization, mobilization, and equipping of the Church for World Missions and so this year we will:

1. Continue meeting with pastors to strengthen relationships;
2. Continue attempts to contact other pastors from our 2007 visit. Encourage them in their ministry and in getting their members to grow food; seek opportunities for missions sensitization.
3. During February, conduct seminar on missions over four weekends at Vineyard church in Chinhoyi. (Some 2 hours drive from Harare).
4. Meet with existing contacts with a view to conducting seminars at their churches - goal is 6 such seminars this year.
5. Attend and participate in Retreat for men of Greystone Park Community Church.
6. Continue ministry with Barket AFM and other Churches.
7. Continue meeting with group of young men at Renewal Centre.
8. Continue Discipleship training with small group at Barket.
9. Continue investigating training programs being offered locally to missionary candidates.

We thank God for faithful financial and prayer supporters through whose efforts the Lord has met our needs so we could devote ourselves to this ministry, for keeping us healthy and meeting all of our needs. Folks, "One day at a time" is not a slogan here, it is a reality for petrol which is more easily available now and that the power cuts are less frequent so far this year.

Please pray for continued safety in travel; better telephone, online and snail mail services for communicating with family, friends and supporters from here; daily provisions (means of transportation, food, medicine, and other essentials) for His people and the people of this nation; although more items are now available in shops, prices are increasing rapidly; the children, the elderly, the chronically ill and the hungry of this nation; for a good harvest of crops this year that would feed the nation; our secular leaders; for Pastors & Leaders; and that God would fill us with His wisdom and discernment and that we would remain focused.



Emergency Home Coming for



Lela Steel



I am saddened to tell you that on April 17th, while working in her office, at her home in Odessa, Ukraine, Lela tripped and fell. She suffered a fractured left hip and was in a hospital as soon as Viktor Migo, her Ukrainian assistant and friend found her. I was in constant contact with all of Lela's staff. She was in need of surgery.

The surgery that was required was available in Odessa but the means to address complications that might have risen from the surgery were not. In 2007, Lela was instrumental in updating five surgical units to provide first class care. The ICU at the hospital, along with the Heart Unit, has not received such an update. The ICU was critical for the first 48 hours and was less than adequate to host her recovery. The Heart unit does not have the technology or the equipment to address any heart issues which might certainly arise due to her age. She is 84 years young. In short, she needed to come back to the U.S. Every doctor that I spoke with, including the doctors that were caring for her in Odessa and Dr. Nikolia Bayazitov, the Chief of Staff in Odessa, agreed that she needed to be returned to the U.S. as soon as possible. The Board of Directors of Harvest International was informed and, after consultation with her sons, the decision to bring her back was made.

Here is what has happened so far First, the agency that we worked with out of London, England found the plane in Montreal,

Quebec, Canada. Next, arrangements had to be made to get Ron Steel, Lela's son, to Montreal so that he could accompany Lela on her return flight. The Lord allowed us to see His hand working out every detail. In my own wisdom and experience I was lost, but "we know that all things work together for good to those who love the Lord, those that are called according to his purpose". Rom 8:28. I am sure all of us agree that Lela Steel has been called to serve the Lord.



As you can imagine, the cost of this was so high that only the Lord can pay this bill. The cost is \$89,000.00. In spite of the cost, the board approved the decision to bring Lela home. We will have 30 days to pay the bill once we get the invoice. Only the Lord would allow a corporation we have no history with to invoice us for \$89,000.00. WOW.

Praise the Lord, Lela had surgery on April 24th and came through successfully. She was in the hospital for five days and then transferred to a rehabilitation center, where she will be for three weeks. As of this newsletter, Lela has received some therapy and is progressing satisfactorily.

Here is how you can help Harvest International and Lela now. Pray about your part in helping to meet this enormous need to pay this bill. Pray for Lela's continued recovery. Pray for children that are missing Babusha Lela.

Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white for harvest! ~ John 4:35

IT'S A **Haiti** Invasion



"Three teams from Ocala recently invaded Haitian Territory"



CENTER POINT CHURCH

The Haitian Invasion consisted of three teams from three different churches in Ocala. Center Point Presbyterian Church, under the leadership of Pastor Mike Austin, took a team of 15 young people and adults to Les Cayes, Haiti. The mission for this team was to plan one GIANT wedding for 11 couples. Everything from wedding dresses, shoes, rings, suits for the men, and food for the reception. The team took care of all the details. This was one of the largest weddings ever in the area. They also helped Rod Wray pour concrete for two basketball courts for the youth of the area. Sports are a very important evangelistic tool that is used to reach young people and their families for the Lord. One of the challenges for the team was preparing food for 800 children at the Renault Feeding Program. Team members got up at 4:30 a.m. to prepare rice and beans. Dr. John Cain and Melissa Busch, RN spent four full days training the Haitian Medical Staff on how to operate the new ultrasound machine that was donated to them by Harvest International.



TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Ten team members from Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church and Trinity Baptist Church traveled to Gonaives, Haiti to put on a camp for orphan children from two Harvest International supported orphanages. Stephen Self was the team leader. The team held a camp for the children and taught them Bible verses, played games, and encouraged them. While there, they were able to witness, first hand, the devastation that the four hurricanes of 2008 did to the area. The children live in constant fear of rain because they remember what it was like to have the flood waters come into their building not once, not twice, but at least three different times. The team was also able to check the general health of all the children and to give medication to those in need.



NCMBC

Eleven team members from New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church of Ocala went to Haiti and split up into two teams. One team went to La Gonaive with our missionary Benis Guerrier. They were able to see many of the projects in Mapou Village and give medical attention to some of the Haitians. The second team went to God's Littlest Angels in Petionville. There, they were able to care for several orphaned infants and toddlers.

NCMBC **R**ock **A** Group



Returns to God's Littlest Angels

Deacon Elmer Smith, Patricia Bolding, Gillian Davis, Rhonda Folks and Dolores Johnson of New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church and Patricia Mack of Wesley Chapel United and Im-machula Saint-Surin of Draw All Men Ministry made up the team of missionaries who ministered to the children at God's Littlest Angels Orphanage in Petionville, Haiti. This is their third trip to GLA and certainly won't be the last as the group is already planning to return.



The team is still glowing with excitement from their heavenly experience of feeding, mobility training, rocking, loving and caring for four infant angels assigned to them at the orphanage. The orphanage provides an opportunity for older members, members with physical limitations and members who just love children to share God's love with His precious little children.



They were so excited, they brought an angel back to America with them. Little Suzelle was brought to her adoptive parents in Ft. Lauderdale. What a blessed trip!

This team of Christians were blessed with this opportunity to share God's love with these little angels.

"Behold, children are a gift from the Lord" - Psalm 127:3

In March we took a team from New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church to La Gonave. Seventeen young ladies from the 10th grade Sunday School at First Baptist Church of Ocala sent special notes, beautiful hair accessories, scarves and their class pictures to share with the teenage girls in Mapou. Fifteen young Haitian ladies were blessed and encouraged that American ladies, across the ocean, would love them so much and make them feel special.

Benis and Dominique Guerrier



Haiti



One Sunday morning while the church was celebrating with a spectacular thanksgiving service, we shared the plan of salvation with the evangecube. One of the young ladies came and gave her life to the Lord. That afternoon the community was fed after the service due to the monetary blessing given by a Sunday school class at First Baptist Church.



The New Covenant team gave de-worming pills, clothes and shoes to the most needy in the village. We did an inventory of the first aid items we had and as soon as the villagers saw us with the medical supplies, they started lining up. Joan Smiley, a nurse, assessed many people. Mothers walked many miles with sick babies just to be seen. Men, women and children all came seeking medical attention. We did not turn anyone away, but served the best we could with limited resources.



The ladies of the community were enlightened when Joan Smiley lead a bible study on Esther. They were reminded how Esther was used to save the Jewish people. After the study, special Avon gifts were shared with 45 women. Then to answer God's calling, six women gave their lives and accepted the Lord as their personal Savior. We praise the Lord for this harvest.



The Woodalls



Haiti

The past few months Cullie has been busy as each day seems to bring some mechanical needs that we tend to with repairs on a variety of machines; the usual cars and trucks along with cement mixers and washing machines. God continues to watch over us as we are up and down the road and doing mechanical repairs in a non-mechanical environment. The rest of our time is focused on three houses we are working on. It is a blessing to see the joy on each face as the houses are nearing the point of completion.



The relationships we have, and continue to develop, with the Haitians is the most rewarding

part of being on the mission field; so many opportunities to share God's love and the Truth of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Cullie had a bicycle crash the beginning of April; it truly is a miracle that he had no major injuries. We continue to be thankful to those who help support our ministry, both financially and through prayer.



Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. ~ Psalm 105:1-4



THE WRAYS



HAITI

The annual MEBSH convention was this week here at Cite Lumiere in the Simon church. It is a large church with seating capacity for about 1,500 people. The thing with Convention is that approximately 15,000 people pack into and around the church for services and worship during the 5 days of convention.



Every exit or entrance and aisle is blocked with people. The MEBSH convention is a very crowded affair both inside and outside the church, but the Haitian people love it and

many Haitian Christians save up money or raise a goat or cow so that they can sell it and pay their way to convention each year.



During convention from Wednesday through to Sunday afternoon we hosted a sports tournament for the youth of Simon. The championships included Basketball, Beach Volleyball, normal Volleyball and a 3 mile running race. Our son Tim participated in all four events and did very well. We are especially proud of the great example of sportsmanship and faithfulness that he has shown to all the Haitian young people.



Please continue to pray with us as we seek the Lord's will about the proposed Christian children's sports camp. We met with Pastor Chavannes Jeune and he showed us 15 acres of land that might be donated for the project. Today I met with the 9 families who are planning to donate the land. We pray for God's clear direction as we consider this huge project.



Children's Corner

A group from New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church in Ocala recently returned from a trip to Haiti where they were able to visit with their sponsored children from Garden of Joy school. Ann Farquharson, Coordinator of GOJ, made a special trip to God's Littlest Angels, where the team was staying, to bring these children for a visit. The team members were so excited to see their children and how much they have grown. Gifts and letters were given out with lots of hugs. The children were so happy to see some of their sponsors and be able to show their love for them.



Love A Child



Be A Sponsor

There are so many lost, lonely and needy children in the world. All children should feel safe and secure, knowing they are loved. If you feel the Lord leading you to support a child or an orphanage, please e-mail me at cassie@harvestinternational.org or visit our website www.harvestinternational.org. I can't wait to set you up with a little boy or girl to start loving. Sponsorship is \$25.00 a month or \$300.00 for the year. This allows the children to be in a caring environment where they receive shelter, food, clothing, education, support, friendship, family and a knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Daniel & Betty Edwin



India

may be able to live a productive life on their own. Classes are held in a small building, but God willing, we will soon be able to extend our church. After much prayer and thought we have decided to rename the school Harvest Community College. It is because of funds received through Harvest International that we are able to achieve these dreams. There is still much to pray on. Please continue to pray for our direction for the college and our ministry. We also ask prayer for a van to be used for ministry.

We have been working with Angel Community College in India for the past two years. Twenty four students are currently enrolled, taking courses in Nursing Assistants, Electricians and Office Assistants. This year a new course is being introduced, Palliative Care for Terminally Ill Patients. We also conduct a course called Compassion Action. We are slowly invading areas with the Gospel. Many of our students are not Christian and this give an excellent opportunity to share the gospel with them. This school gives children from the "Slums" an opportunity to learn a skill so that they





Dick & Barb Johnson



Uganda

Recently we read a report from someone who had gone to Uganda on a mission trip which we feel is very insightful and brought back memories of our trips over the years.

“In many respects, no two mission trips are the same. In Uganda I went back to Nkokonjeru for my fourth visit. The last three times I was there we were there to help plant the church and to do evangelism. This trip was different. I did a little evangelism this time. However, most of my time

was spent teaching Bible studies, doing discipleship with one of the elders of the church, and even going out to take part in some church discipline! It was NOT what I expected to be doing in Africa. Perhaps the biggest difference of all for me was that I was all alone for 8 nights in the village. There were no other Americans with me. I was able to experience the culture in a more intense way than in the past. This was the change that brought the biggest problems with it. I felt suffocated at times by the Ugandans around me and I began to realize the cultural biases that had been hiding in my heart. I was stretched in that it became difficult to love some of the people because of our differences. I had to repent. I needed to remember that I am to love others because God first loved me and not because I like them!”

This experience of Associate Pastor Ryan Fisk of Lakemont Presbyterian Church reminded us so much of some of our experiences in Uganda. During our first trip in 1995, on our very first day in Uganda, we remember vividly Barbara sitting on our bed in our guest house room saying, “I cannot do this, I cannot do this”. The trip proceeded for three weeks and she struggled with many things including sickness. Recently our brother in the Lord and Physician Dr. Picky Pares described Barbara, “Here is a woman who doesn’t like the food, doesn’t like the travel, the roads are so smooooth, but she loves the people.” God will dig out any bitterness that is lurking in our hearts and transform us.

During one of our visits Pastor Sam and Zoe asked where we would like to stay in Kampala. We told him anywhere you want to take us. He responded, “You really trust us that much?” Upon returning to the US at a mission conference we were asked how much we trust Pastor Sam. Our answer was fast and sure, “With our lives”. That’s why we tell people mission trips are very dangerous for they will change your life. For when you turn your heart over to Christ, he will soon start rooting out our sinful baggage making us more like Him because He loves us so much. We will then love Him more and be able to love others more. Good ministry cannot happen without this transformation of the heart. These lessons need to be experienced to be effective ministers of the Word. For it is only Jesus who takes away the sin of the world!



Dhan & Dolly Lalsee



Zimbabwe

The Lord has enabled us to build a good network of ministry friends here. It is such a blessing to see how He is using His church to reach out into communities. We have been privileged to be a part of, or to witness firsthand, some of this work. Churches are involved in feeding programs, cholera prevention programs, distribution of medical supplies, providing care for orphan children, street kids, abandoned children, and care of the elderly. Because of the nation’s respect for Christianity, the authorities have allowed the Board of a Christian school to take over the running of a government school in a community outside Harare. The school is thriving and has the support of the leaders and people of that community. Prayer is

very present in State schools. In fact, we know of a school that uses the Bible as a textbook! Ninety-seven percent literate, this country had an education system that was second to none, and a fantastic infrastructure. We are amazed at the quality and variety of things that used to be manufactured here. We ask for your prayers for this nation as the rebuilding commences. An inclusive government is due to take office mid-month.

Zimbabwean voices raised in worship are a melodious wonder! There is no need for musical instruments. Another wonder is their fluency of speech. The person leading in prayer and worship at the start of the service will fluently switch from songs of worship to prayer and praise punctuated only by their breathing. It is as though a dam has been burst and cannot be contained. How pleased our Father must be to hear His children so vocal in their praise and worship to Him. The little children are certainly learning by example. I have yet to meet a child here who is self-conscious. Last Sunday, in Chinhoyi, we sat amazed as three little ones came up and fluently recited their verses both in Shona and English. We are all at different stages of our growth and our hope is that He finds pleasure in us all.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." -Matthew 19:14

In the context of the aforementioned scripture we know that the disciples were literally trying to keep little children from getting to Jesus. I often ponder the phenomenon of our own society's inclination to give children everything under the sun, and in so doing, hinder them from coming to Jesus.

These things become so evident to me. Not so much when I am caught up in the hustle and bustle of life in America, but when I visit the children of The Haven and Fresh Start homes in Jua Kali. The Kenyan children thrive with few distractions such as toys, food choices, extracurricular activities, video games, cell phones, etc. How is it that many children in Jua Kali seek God in ways few of us can relate to? These children have experienced the hand of God feeding them in their hunger, clothing them in their nakedness, sheltering them when they were cold. They know it is God who provides for them.



I have learned so much about faith from our Kenyan friends...including the children. When they sing praises to God, they're not showcasing voices trained by voice coaches, and when they give testimonies, they're not worried about what others think about them. They have experienced God's presence and provision in their young lives, so their praises and testimonies resonate with His touch. "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!"

We are planning to take a team of students to visit the kids in Kenya July 29th through August 7th. I am looking forward to seeing them again and being encouraged by them! I suspect our young team members don't really know what a blessing is in store for them. We have invited a teacher and a student from The Neighborhood School in inner-city Memphis, TN to join us on this trip. Please pray for us as we prepare to travel and to minister. Pray that God will do a great work in our own hearts and that we will not quickly forget what God is doing in Kenya among the least of the least.

"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!" - I Chronicles 16:24

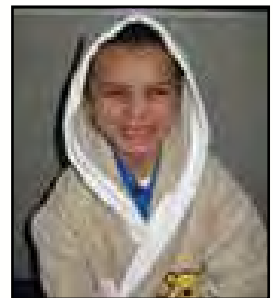


THOMAS & AMY KAY



ROMANIA

This is one of those uplifting stories that few people get to be a part of, because few of us have ever been in contact with a child who could not receive adequate medical care for something as simple as a cleft palate! Here is Costi, a happy five year old boy from a gypsy family in a small village in southeast Romania. When his parents took him to get surgery, they were turned away because the doctors demanded bribes that were beyond what this family could afford.



Thomas received a call from a missionary in that area and got busy finding a hospital and doctors who would take Costi - with no bribes! Costi's problem was a cleft palate, or a hole in the back of his mouth, making speech and eating difficult. On January 8th, Costi entered the hospital here in Bucharest for cleft palate repair. Other than small problems, like no food for several mornings just in case today was surgery day, everything went beautifully. He is at home now recovering. Thomas is busy finding him speech therapists and eye doctors who can take care of his other needs.



Thomas has also had the opportunity to go do some housecalls in the villages. This has been very rewarding all around. The pastors love being able to help the people who really need medical care, the people love being helped and Thomas gets to do "fun" things like stitch up big cuts. Especially fun when he can help children not have scars on their faces for the rest of their lives.

Alan & Pam May



Kenya



JOIN US ON AND

HARVEST INTERNATIONAL IS EXPANDING OUR COMMUNICATION. WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER. BECOME A FAN OF HARVEST BY DOING A FACEBOOK SEARCH FOR HARVEST INTERNATIONAL, INC. AND FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AT HARVESTINT. GET ALL THE LATEST UPDATES RIGHT AS THEY HAPPEN. CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE.

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- Pam Barrett, Chief Financial Officer
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- Daniel & Betty Edwin, India
- Benis & Dominique Guerrier, Haiti
- Dick & Barb Johnson, Uganda
- Thomas & Amy Kay, Romania
- Dhan & Dolly Lalsee, Zimbabwe
- Alan & Pam May, Kenya
- Lela Steel, Ukraine
- Cullie & Sandy Woodall, Haiti
- Rod & Debbie Wray, Haiti
- ECHO Cuba Staff, Cuba



THE SCHMIDTS JOURNEY TO HAITI



Tom, Ginger, JoHannah, Jeremy and Joshua Schmidt just returned from a six week trip to Haiti with Harvest. This was the first time the three Schmidt children had been in Haiti since leaving 10 years ago. This was an extended trip for Tom who makes 4-6 trips to Haiti annually to oversee the ministries of Harvest. The children were at the best age to see and re-acquaint themselves to the country of their birth. We were able to go to all the places that Harvest has works and Tom was also able to arrange for the teams coming during March and April.

Our family was able to go to Mapou Village on La Gonave and evaluate the progress of the work there; we spent eight hours riding the steep roads. Some of the other places we visited included: the hurricane ravaged Gonaives where Pastors Charlie, Sylvestre and Wilson minister. We visited the missionaries in Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes as well as the Central Plateau area of Haiti. We



are thankful to God for His protection on the roads and for health and help as we completed all the tasks we had on our list for Harvest. The children learned to speak some creole and much about life in Haiti. They truly appreciated this opportunity to get to know the sites, sounds and smells of Haiti, but most importantly sharing the love of Christ with the people. They learned about the simple life and even hand washing became a fun activity.

On one of our trips we had to go through 18 rivers and the family had grown used to going through them. This time as we drove into the river we got stuck mid stream so I had to get out of the truck with my shoes off and turn the hubs to lock the truck in 4x4. The lesson for me was to put the truck into 4x4 before entering into the river.

We are thankful for all your prayers on this trip and grateful for those of you that support our ministry here at Harvest.

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." ~ Isaiah 41:10



The Wrays in Haiti



We are thankful for the opportunities that come through supporters and past teams. This week, we had the opportunity to deliver the first 20 goats to the people of Renault. They were thrilled with the thought of raising a goat. The first off-spring is given back and will then be given to someone else. We have appreciated the help of "Etienne", a Haitian friend who has started the project. He has had several training sessions with the locals so that they know how best to care for the animals. The people who received the goats all have children in the Sunday School program. We thought this would be a good start to including the adults and give a little income to each household.



Thanks to a generous donation, we were able to buy sturdy plastic plates that can be used over and over. There are 4 of the mothers that wash the plates each week. We also received close to 1000 metal spoons on a container, so we are thankful. The children of Renault are so grateful for the continued support and eagerly await that special plate of rice and beans each week. We are able to put a vitamin on top of each meal too. The children quickly find that "special treat".



We appreciate each one of you that is making it possible for the program to continue. It is amazing how the Lord is providing through different people, thousands of miles apart, to make each Sunday morning a very special time.



Each day we have many people to the door who request help. This lady has 8 children. Her husband was killed in a bus accident 2 weeks ago. She and her children were asked to leave their home yesterday, as they couldn't pay their rent. They found shelter under a bridge and slept on the dirt. Through funds that have been given to us, we were able to get her back in her home and give her a few supplies that were desperately needed. Wow... We are continually reminded to count our many "blessings".

What a privilege it is to share with those who have so little. Thanks for making that possible. Whether it is things that are sent on the containers or mail that people send to share, it is much appreciated. The people of Renault are very encouraged. It is amazing that you can physically see a difference in them with their red tinted hair and bloated stomachs quickly disappearing.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for being part of the many good things going on in the South of Haiti. Whether it's a note of encouragement, your faithful prayers on our behalf, financial support or joining in on a work team, the Lord is really working. We are excited to be a part of it.

Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white for harvest! ~ John 4:35



Benis and Dominique Guerrier



Haiti

Mapou Village in La Gonave, Haiti is being ministered to every time we go and preach the gospel. We share the truth of Jesus' saving grace, evidenced by his death on the cross and resurrection, so we may have eternal life with Him.

As you know, water is scarce. The island of La Gonave is mostly barren and hilly. Water is brought up in buckets by the children, villagers and donkeys from several towns over. Praise the Lord the time has come to make history! We are raising funds to drill a well. It will serve as an evangelizing tool because *"To him who is thirsty I will give drink without cost from the spring of the water of life."* ~ Rev. 21:6

A well in the area will be instrumental in the livelihood of the children and villagers. Construction work is affected as well because of the hardships of obtaining water. The columns were poured during our last trip in April. Construction continues for the roof to be placed on the church/school building.



History is being made in our lifetime! We are also most humbled to announce Mapou Village will have a school. The first ever school is scheduled to open in September for up to 500 children. This is a leap of faith because we believe the Lord will provide through His people to make it a reality. It has been three years since the commencement of the building project and the kids have had three years of sitting idly. The classes will be under the trees in the unfinished building. It is the Lord's will that the children have the opportunity to read, write and learn in the knowledge of Christ.



If you feel the Lord leading you to help with these projects please send your donations to Harvest International and indicate "Mapou Village - Well Project" and/or "Mapou Village - Children's School".



The Woodalls



Haiti

The journey continues in Haiti. We have been busy this quarter repairing automobiles, trucks, generators, etc. In between mechanical repairs, Cullie fabricates windows and doors for the houses we are helping to build. Due to the heavy/continuous rains the past couple of months the work on our building projects has been delayed.

The weather has just started to break and we will be getting back to work. We use our truck and trailer regularly to transport blocks, cement, sand and lumber. We provide

school tuition, books and uniforms for six young people and they all successfully completed this school year.

On short notice, Cullie hopped the plane to Fort Lauderdale to hand carry in a blood analyzer for a mission hospital. The analyzer was shipped to Cullie's sister's house in Hollywood, FL. He was able to spend two days with his mom and sister's family while purchasing auto parts and other needed items the missionary community had requested.

We are happy to say Haiti seems to be slowly modernizing and making progress. By our judgment the crime rate is the lowest we remember and the tension on the streets is mild. The churches are reaching out with the gospel. We live each day seeking to be obedient to His will, knowing the eyes of the community are on us. We thank God for the call on our lives and His provisions for each day. Thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement.





TOM SCHMIDT HAITI UPDATE



Harvest's heart for the children of Haiti has been our driving force this year. Harvest International's missionaries, the Wray's and the Woodall's, Garden of Joy Coordinator, Ann Farquharson and Pastors Charlie and Sylvestre have seen much need due to storms this past year. They have also seen God's work through each supporter who help meet the Haitians needs. Due to three severe storms that went through Gonaives and Les Cayes, these two areas have the greatest need for attention. We are so thankful to God for the Wray family who always seem to have energy and wisdom as they deal with challenges put in their path. Please remember to pray and support all our missionaries as God leads you.

I would like to again present the need we see in all of Haiti, but especially in the Gonaives area where we try to come along side the pastors with the school and orphanages there. Pastors Charlie, Sylvestre and Wilsonor Jean have been working to proclaim Christ and the need for not just physical help, but the need for sins to be forgiven and lives turned to Christ. We want to thank you all for your prayers and physical and financial help over this past year. Harvest does still see the great need for us to continue to help as God provides through your generosity this year. All these men are trying to place their children in locations that are not subject to the devastating force of the hurricanes and flooding. They all have need to relocate or have started to relocate by finding land to build on.

We are planning to help as we can to send teams and help the projects they have. I have also been checking on the possibility to build fish ponds that would help all these men with the ongoing need for food for these children they care for. One of my personal goals for these men is to see more Bible training for the children and adults, and the fish project started to help with the health/food crisis in Haiti.

Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. ~ 1 John 3:16-18



The Bullocks



Romania

Recently our Clown Ministry traveled to Ukraine to share and teach this unique ministry there. We discussed the purpose for which we clown - to share Jesus with children through a unique set of skills that the Lord has blessed us with. We discussed the importance of developing the character of the clown along with the four different types of clowns. We also taught make-up, balloon tying, juggling, object lessons, face painting and story telling. It was fun to watch them learn these new skills and begin to put together a program for themselves.



Please pray for our upcoming summer camps.

Church of Hope (Ocala, FL) -- July 16 - 26

Richfork Baptist Church (Thomasville, NC) -- July 30 - August 9

Children's Corner

WORLD RECESSION HURTS CHILDREN

Everyone has been impacted by the world wide economic recession that we are in. However, none have been as greatly impacted as our society's most helpless members - the children. Orphanages, schools and feeding programs have suffered a decrease in the funds that are available to help children. At the same time, many of the world's poor have found it impossible to care for their own children and have turned to these places for help. Understandably, some sponsors have been unable to give because of their own circumstances. Some sponsors are still giving but not at levels to match previous years. We feel for these people and their families, as well as our sponsored children. Please consider stepping into the breach in this war on poverty. We need sponsors, but we also need those gifts that are given as you can and as the Spirit leads.



STEPPING INTO THE BREACH

- i want to sponsor a child
- i want to support an orphanage
- i want to give a special gift of \$_____



Alan & Pam May

Kenya



This summer is an exciting time! We are anticipating a visit to Memphis, TN from our Kenyan pastor, Ben Bahati, his wife, Mary, and their youngest daughter Teresa during the month of July. We are also planning to take a team of 17 from Memphis, TN and Ocala, FL to Kenya in late July, so some of our team will have a great opportunity to visit with the Bahatis before traveling to Kenya.



This mission trip will be unlike others. Half of our team members are high school students, and we are planning to partner with our Kenyan children to minister to the children of Jua Kali village and Eldoret town. The children of The Haven/Fresh Start homes are growing in their knowledge and faith in Christ, so it is time for them to join us in ministering to others rather than just being “ministered to” by the mission team. We will be serving food to the street kids of Eldoret and leading them in worship. We’ll hold a Vacation Bible School for the kids of Jua Kali. One of our ladies will be leading the Kenyan ladies in a Bible study. We’ll also pay visits to two of our sister orphanages in Kambiri and Kitale. Please join us in praying for the team as we prepare to travel and pray for the kids of The Haven/Fresh Start as they finish school and begin a school break the first of August.

It is exciting to be able to report that there has been significant progress on the construction of the second dormitory building at the new orphanage site. The project is nearing completion. Once the building is completed, it will be very difficult to let it sit unoccupied with so many orphaned and abandoned children all around. Please begin praying now for God to supply the resources needed to support the additional 64 children that the new dorm building is equipped to house. We will plan to bring in children from the village of Jua Kali to ensure a good standing in the community. The building project has brought employment to local laborers, and by taking in some children of the village, the chief and elders will consider the children’s home a full-fledge member of the community. Pray also that the Lord will help Ben and Mary identify the right parents to join the ministry as caregivers to the new children.



Thank you for your prayers and support of God’s work in Kenya, East Africa. May the name of Jesus be lifted high, and may He draw men, women, boys and girls to Himself!

*“Religion that God our Father accepts pure and faultless is this:
to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”*

- James 1:27 -



Dhan & Dolly Lalsee



Zimbabwe

Today marks the first year of our ministry here. It has been quite an eventful year and an unparalleled education.

God has taught us so much! He has stretched us, He has shown us His love at the times when we needed Him most; He has opened doors beyond our wildest dreams and helped us maintain our focus.

The challenges have been many and some very painful BUT GOD has been soooooo good!

In Mark 1:37, Jesus' disciples exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else – to the nearby villages – so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." And in John 17:4, He says to the Father, "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do." What a testimony! The needs around us are so great that one could easily get absorbed in them and forget why the Lord brought us here.

Talking of needs, we continue to marvel at the Zimbabwean's ability to survive. It is amazing at how quickly they can "make a plan". So the sprinkler goes bad – no sweat - just punch a few holes in an empty plastic bottle attach it to the end of the hose, turn on the tap and your problem is solved!

Bicycles and pick-up trucks are highly treasured here. You just have no idea how much can be carried on a bicycle!

One of our many blessings is the privilege of being able to join in worship at various church denominations. We continue to be simply amazed at the blending of the Zimbabwean voices in song. We are always very disappointed when those voices are drowned out by loud music.



We thank God for the freedom of worship here and the respect which secular authorities have for the Church and her leaders. The Word of God is preached openly on national TV and on radio stations.

The Lord has also blessed us with accommodations on a farm when we are ministering in the Banket and Chinoyhi areas. It is such a joy to watch things grow and to enjoy fresh vegetables, eggs and poultry from the farm.

Like most of our Zim friends, we are rejoicing in the fact that we no longer have long lines outside the banks, at the food stores or at petrol stations. Thank God, since the US dollar and the South African rand have become legal tender here, we are able to buy most basic items, although things are certainly a lot more costly than when we used the Zim dollar. The plus side is that we do not have to deal with the uncertainty of high inflation rates.



When we first came here, we were gun shy about buying anything. We soon learned that we had to spend out all that we had as soon as it reached our hands otherwise it would quickly (in a day or so!) lose most of its buying power. I wish I could say we soon became very fast learners! It is not that easy to unlearn what you have practiced for over 60 years!

The change in currency has its negative side. A number of our young friends who would normally have found it easy to get into university are now at home and unable to raise the \$400 a term they need for fees. This amount does not sound much for a student in other parts of the world but here it is a huge sum of money.

We are happy to report that the Lord continues to keep us well. We still walk as often as we can.

We thank God for your partnership with us and pray for you daily. May we all reflect His light so that glory may be brought to His name.



Dear Friends and Family of Lela,

It has now been almost 3 months since Lela's accident in Odessa, Ukraine. A lot has happened in those 3 months and I will try to bring you up to date as best I can. I'm not sure how much each of you that will be reading this newsletter knows so I'll start in the beginning.

On April 17, 2009 I received a phone call from Viktor Migo in Odessa, Ukraine telling me that Lela had fallen and had fractured her right hip. That phone call was followed by a call from Dr. Nickolia Bayazitov, Chief of Staff, Odessa Regional Hospital. Dr. Bayazitov told me that Lela needed surgery immediately and that the best place for her to have the surgery was in the U.S.

The board of directors unanimously decided that we needed to bring Lela back home. We chartered an Air Ambulance and flew her back to the U.S. She arrived in Ocala, FL on Thursday April 23rd in poor physical condition. She was suffering from dehydration, along with several other little complications. She was taken to the emergency room upon arrival and had x-rays and a consultation with Dr. Joe Locker who recommended doing surgery right away.

Lela was in the hospital for about 10 days recovering and then sent to Life Care Rehabilitation Center where she received physical therapy for a little more than 2 months. During the time at Life Care Lela became friends with many of the Center's staff.

On one of my visits a nurse came in to help Lela do something and she introduced me to the nurse as "this is Danny Thomas, he's my boss". There was a look of surprise from the nurse as she tried to imagine why a lady who is 84 years young would still have a job. It didn't take more than 2 minutes before Lela was telling the nurse all about her work in Odessa, Ukraine and about Jesus.

July 9th was a big day for Lela. That morning they moved her from Life Care Rehabilitation Center to Emeritus of Ocala East. Emeritus is an Assisted Living Community where Lela will reside. Her new address is: Lela Steel, Room 205, 1601 S.E. 24th Rd. Ocala, FL 34471. Her e-mail remains the same lelasteel@hotmail.com. Please take a moment and send her an e-mail or drop her card.

Thank you to all who have contributed in meeting the need to pay for the Air Ambulance. Because of your faithful support and love of Lela there has been a total of \$39,000.00 given. You may or may not know that the cost for bringing her home was \$89,500.00. Please consider making a gift to help meet this debt. God bless you for your generosity.





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- Dhan & Dolly Lalsee, Zimbabwe
- Alan & Pam May, Kenya
- Lela Steel, Ukraine
- Cullie & Sandy Woodall, Haiti
- Rod & Debbie Wray, Haiti
- ECHO Cuba Staff, Cuba



echo Cuba

www.echocuba.org

“The latest funding received from private foundations has been a blessing for the church in Cuba. Because of this funding, Ministry of Aid to the Poor and Lost (an eastern Cuba based ministry) was able to open up a new cafeteria that provides regular meals to the poor in the area, as well as spiritual support and some recreational activities to engage people as part of the ministry. Currently there are 120 people being served through MAPL and 5 full time staff leaders that help in the kitchen, pharmacy, purchasing and coordination of activities as part of the ministry. As a result, many people have begun to lead a different type of life focused on the Lord. We are grateful that private donors have chosen to support the persecuted church in Cuba”

“Lately groups from the local churches and specially the youth have been going out to evangelize in a very strategic and unique way. These groups go out early in the morning or late at night with their musical instruments, such as guitars, bongos, etc, and they sing as well as preach the word of God on the streets. They extend the message of hope to the homeless and drunks that wander the city at night. The power of God's word and this extraordinary effort is giving fruit, and these evangelistic activities have resulted on a growth of the ministry never seen before. This type of activity has been taking place all over the eastern part of the island in the most restricted areas and has been a blessing to the people of Cuba”.



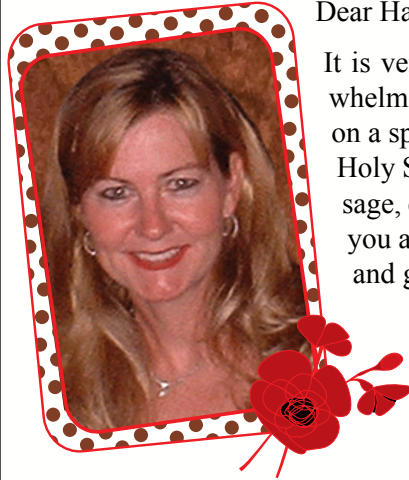
Harvest INTERNATIONAL

Harvest International, Inc.
PO Box 6690 · Ocala, FL 34478-6690

4th Quarter 2009

www.harvestinternational.org
info@harvestinternational.org

Dear Harvest Family and Friends,



It is very difficult to write this email because I feel like it will be inadequate in conveying how overwhelmed I feel by your love and support and prayers. The prayer service at church on Sunday touched me on a spiritual level that I have seldom experienced before. I was overwhelmed by the presence of God's Holy Spirit that I experienced through your actions of love and concern. It seems that every phone message, every email, every phone call, every card, comes at the exact right moment I need to hear whatever you are telling me. God is speaking loudly and clearly to me these days and it is with such a sweetness and gentleness that only He can manage. My ears are so sensitive to Him right now, and I cherish this time. It may sound trite, but I seem to see everything differently. I saw the sun setting last night as we flew home and the colors shone with a magnificence that only God can paint. I wish I could address everyone by name, but know I know about your prayers, I know that only God can give me and my family the peace and strength we have right now. It is definitely supernatural, and I praise God that you love Him enough to petition the gates of Heaven on my behalf. I was so touched on Sunday, when Mike Austin showed a picture of 1200 Haitian children in the city

of Renault, Haiti that were praying for me at the same exact time that our congregation and friends were praying. Later I was sent a picture of the children with their heads bowed and in prayer from Rod and Debbie Wray, our missionaries in Haiti. Can you imagine how God fulfilled His scripture that was written so long ago, "Suffer the little children to come unto me." Don't you know all of heaven was rejoicing to hear those precious voices lifted up to Heaven!

Now to the practical. I was told I will only have to have a lumpectomy and radiation therapy. I prayed for clarity as God has humbled me to the point of finally desiring to be told what to do. (Never had that desire before, I'm always bossing others around). John and I both loved the Dr. and he told us exactly what he thought we should do. I was so relieved to have the decision making process taken out of our hands. So praise God for yet another answer. Please continue to pray that I won't get what I call the "creepy crawlys" where Satan tries to creep in. God has been so good and faithful and we still need your prayer support. There is a dirt road ahead.

I want to leave you with my all time favorite chapter in the Bible, and now I know why it has always been my favorite: **Psalm 121 ~ "I will lift up my eyes unto the hills- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip-He who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you-the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm - He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore!"**

Know that I feel every prayer and all the love you are sending our way as we traverse the dirt road ahead.

Thank you (inadequate words) and God bless you.

In His Everlasting arms,

Carolyn Cain



Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white for harvest! ~ John 4:35

A Publication of Harvest International, Inc.



PAM'S FAMILY JOURNEY TO AFRICA



Bwana Asifawei! Praise God! This is the phrase most often heard during my recent trip to visit the children of The Haven in Eldoret, Kenya. On July 29th, Alan May took a team of 16 people to visit Kenya with the goal of ministering to the orphans and needy of Eldoret and Jua Kali. Thirteen of the team came from Memphis, TN with 12 from his home church, Living Hope, and one member of the Neighborhood School staff. My two teenagers and I joined them at the airport in Minnesota and we were on our way.

We left the States with the idea of ministering to the people of Kenya but instead the country of Kenya ministered to me. The countryside was inspiring as we drove to The Haven. It was rolling hills, green vegetation and luscious cornfields. Nearly every house had a cornfield around, beside or behind it and most had a goat, sheep or cow in evidence. Our arrival at the home was boisterous, enthusiastic and warm. Kenyans, as a people, are very polite and not shy. As a parent, I was immediately impressed with the training and time that had been spent in raising up these young people. Much praise should be given to Lillian and Joseph, along with the other house parents and helpers, for making this such a successful home. Over the course of the week we came to know the children well and the more we knew the more impressed we became.



There are 56 children at the orphanage and ages range from 5 or 6 to 18. All of the children are conversant in English and eager to talk to the muzungu. I don't believe any shyness lasted past 30 seconds of conversation. They performed memory verses, dances and skits that all testified to the saving power of Jesus. Every time someone rose to address the group or present information they would announce "Bwana Sifawei!" We quickly learned that the correct response was an immediate and enthusiastic, "Amen!" This practice is not only uplifting and a great testimony, but it serves as a constant reminder of what The Haven is all about. These young people are being trained daily in the Word and learning to serve others. Since most of them have only escaped the fate of being street children by the grace of God, they are enthusiastic in their participation at the local church where much ministry is aimed at the street children of Eldoret. They are willing workers in the feeding programs and active participants in the presentation of the Gospel. At home, the same spirit is shown in their diligence in doing chores and conscientious school attendance. They have been presented with an opportunity and they are striving to make the most of it. Several testified about what The Haven means to them personally and it brought many a tear to hear that for many it is all the home they know or remember.

I was further impressed that at The Haven the children are being raised by Kenyans to be Kenyans. Many times orphanages are run by foreign missionaries and the children grow up to not quite be a part of the culture around them. The children at The Haven interact well in Kenyan society and are able to assimilate in and thereby influence those they come in contact with for Christ. They are different but it is their faith that makes them so, not their culture.

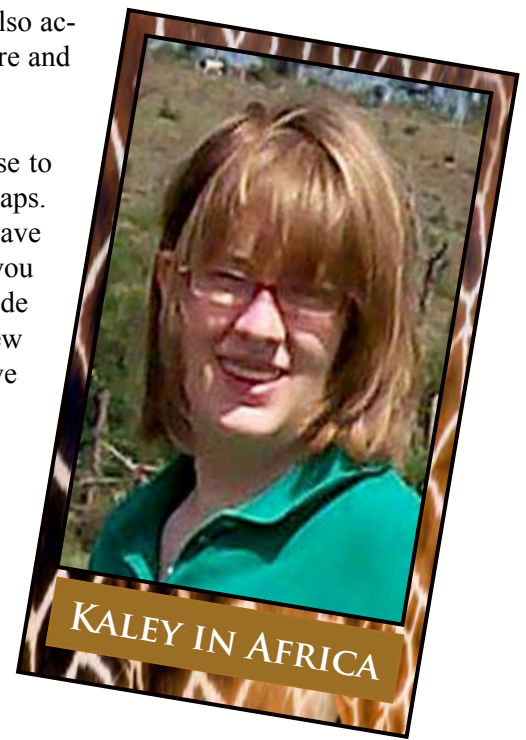
When it was time to leave the tears flowed freely. It was amazing how deeply bonds had formed so quickly. Going to Kenya allowed me to see my God in another setting, another culture, on the other side of the world and showed me that He is indeed big enough hold us all, equally, in His hands. I encourage all of you to consider a mission trip for this reason: When we step outside of our comfort zone and our everyday lives we give Him room to show Himself to us and minister to us so that we in turn can minister to others. When we look at foreign surroundings we are really observing and that allows us to see Him.



In July I took a mission trip to JuaKali, Kenya with a group out of Tennessee. I was also accompanied by my mother and brother. On this trip I learned a lot about Kenyan culture and customs. I also learned about the people and made several great friends.

After arriving at Nairobi Airport from London, the sixteen of us went to a guest house to clean up and get ready for our next flight to Eldoret. We all took showers and took naps. We went back to the airport and let me tell you, driving in Africa is crazy. They do have traffic lights but nobody listens to them. They also have enough roundabouts to make you dizzy, and the way they check speed is a hair dryer. We saw one cop standing on the side of the road using a hair dryer as a radar gun. We finally made it to the airport and flew to Eldoret and drove the rest of the way to JuaKali. It was about a thirty minute drive though beautiful green country.

We saw a couple of slums which are the equivalent of a ghetto here. When we made a stop in town and parked by some of the street boys, they saw the Americans and immediately started begging because all Americans are considered rich. We saw a couple of them with glue bottles and when we asked Pam and Alan May why the boys had them they told us, "They sniff the glue and it takes away the pain of hunger." The glue sniffing over there is a lot like the cocaine use here. It is addictive, they use it then get addicted to it and is extremely hard to for them to stop using it. We saw one boy that was only about six or seven sniffing the glue. This is popular over there.



Once in JuaKali, we did several programs for the kids. On Saturday we participated in a bible class and helped with a feeding program. The kids from the orphanage we stayed at helped with the cleaning and cooking. We showed some of the street kids songs such as "Waves of Mercy" and "Oh! Happy Day!". They showed us several dance moves and a new way of doing "Jesus Loves Me." The kids also showed us how they mopped and let us join right in. While waiting for the program to start, Jenny, one of the girls from Tennessee, and I introduced the Macarania to Kenya! The kids and even the adults had a blast doing it. On Monday and Tuesday we held a vacation bible school for about two hundred of the village kids. They learned memory verses and even some new songs. They also taught us a few more songs.

One thing that amazed me in Africa was the devotion to God most people had. Even the six and seven-year-old kids were more devoted than some adults I know. We need to take a lesson from them and learn how to go full heartedly after God and not just in the bad times. These people know that God will see them though the good and bad and praise him full heartedly during both. One of the phrases you hear quite often there is "Bwana Asifiwe!" which means "Praise God!". I had a blast in Africa and would love to go again.



Kaley serving food to the street children.



Kaley hanging out with the girls.



Playing toss.



My trip to Africa was a life changing adventure. Seeing the people and how hard they work to do stuff that seems so simple to us but is a major event over there. For example, washing clothes here we just chuck them in and wait for the machine to tell us they are done. Then we throw them in the dryer. There they must wash the cloths by hand in buckets and hang them up to dry. They are so much more appreciative too. They thank God for everything and that is something we often forget, to thank Him for what He gives us instead of just asking for more.

The people were awesomely nice, everybody waves and says hi. All they want to do is greet you and say hi and help you in any way possible. They ask you how you are and just want to know all about you, what it is like in America and how the people act different. One of the things I thought was cool was the fact that the police carry around an M16, none of these wimpy pistols, but they don't need to use them often.

The landscape was absolutely breath taking. They had the most beautiful corn crops, (main food crop) and valleys that looked like they never ended. The mountains were equally beautiful with peaks that were so far into the clouds that it looked like they went straight up to heaven. The landscapes would have been a painters dream spot.

This trip was amazing and it will show you just how much we have and how ungrateful we are, and at the same time how little they have and how thankful they are to have that.

It will make you think and thank God for everything you have and that you can live in such a great country.

This was an amazing trip and I will go back first chance I get.



Thomas playing soccer with the children.

Thomas and Alan Oluoch



Hanging out and talking about animals



Help The Haven



This Christmas support The Haven orphanage in Kenya by helping to purchase furniture so that the children can have tables and benches in their dining hall to eat and play games on. Send in a special \$25.00 gift today and indicate that it is for "The Haven - Furniture".

I want to give a special gift of \$25.00 to go towards the purchase of tables and benches for The Haven.

I want to give a special gift of \$ _____ to go towards the purchase of tables and benches for The Haven.

Children's Corner



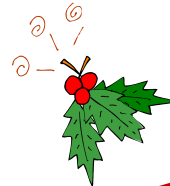
It's Time for Christmas for Kids

It's just about time for the holiday season to begin. Time to start planning meals, shopping for presents, visiting relatives. It's a fun filled time for everyone, but we all know how busy it can keep us. In the midst of all your running around and preparations, stop and remember the children in Haiti. Remember that these children live in poverty, many do not even have parents, and to say a special prayer for them.

This year send a special Christmas gift of \$25.00 to help the children have a Christmas dinner, buy new clothes, or pay for school tuition. Every donation received will go towards helping a child stay off of the streets, give them nutritious meals so that they may grow strong, and allow others the opportunity to witness to them, showing them the Love of Christ.



**Give your help today
Tomorrow may be too late.**



GIVE A GIFT OF LOVE THIS CHRISTMAS

I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A GIFT OF \$25.00 OR \$ _____

TO GO TOWARDS:

- CHARLIE'S CHAMPIONS GARDEN OF JOY IN HIS HANDS
 JERUSALEM SCHOOL NEW LIFE CHILDREN'S HOME



The Schmidts

"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office. So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." ~ Romans 12:4-5

In August we were able to visit two churches that we haven't been able to see in several years; it was an encouragement to all of us to be able to see old friends and meet new ones and share what the Lord has been doing in their lives and ours. After driving two days our first stop was the historical site of Plimoth, Massachusetts. We were able to spend Saturday visiting the place where the Pilgrims first landed and see some of the Godly heritage we have there. Then we spent several hours in fellowship with a sweet family and elder from the church. On Sunday, Tom spoke at the Heritage Christian Church in Taunton, MA. While he was speaking, a fire alarm went off in the building, and we all had to file outside for about 1/2 hour where Tom continued his speaking, and then we were able to go back in. It was an example to all of us, that no matter what happens, we need to be ready for the unexpected and allow the Lord to work in and through the situation.



Massasoit Indian Chief



1620 Plymouth Rock



Grampy Schmidt

From there we drove to NH where we were able to visit with Tom's 93 year old Dad and then on to upper NY where we visited with a missionary family who cared for Jeremy in Haiti when he first came to the orphanage in 1998 and was so very sick. Rick and Sue are Jeremy's godparents; they are the instrument God used to preserve Jeremy's life when he was so near to death, and we praise God for them. It was wonderful to see them; the last time we saw them the children were toddlers!



Jeremy, JoHannah and Joshua with Mayflower Replica



Rick & Sue Schweinsberg with 3 J's

We were in NY to try and pick up a 28 passenger bus that Rod Wray bid on at auction. He plans to use it for the camp ministry he has in Haiti. We felt it was all part of God's providence that the bus would be so near to our dear friends. Rick was very helpful in getting someone to be able to tow the bus from Ft. Drum to his son's car lot where it has been waiting for us to pick it up. As it turned out, again by God's providence, we were not able to get the bus at this time. We lacked a paper that they had told us by phone, we didn't need, but when we arrived at the DMV they insisted we must have. Ginger was thankful not to have to drive our family van all the way from NY to FL, and it gave our friends in NY more time to check out the bus and do some tune-up and maintenance work that will help make the trip go smoothly when the rest of the paperwork is ready in October, Lord willing.



Josiah, Ella and Suzanna with 3 J's

From NY we drove to NJ to an old family friend's home to visit another of our supporting churches; First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell, NJ. Again it was very encouraging to reconnect with old friends and see what the Lord is doing in the lives of many there as well. When we left NJ we were able to visit our oldest son, TJ and his family in WV and meet our newest grandbaby, Makenna Faith, born August 24, 2009, weighing 8lbs 6oz. What a joy to see our 4 WV grandchildren and spend some time with them!

On our way home from WV we had one problem with our van, but again the Lord was faithful in providing help a short walk off the highway and within an hour we were on our way again; refreshed anew with the knowledge that the Lord is always by our side and will take care of us wherever we are! We praise the Lord for safety and a blessed time during our travels up north.



Makenna Faith Schmidt



Lela Steel Ukraine

Since getting saved SEVENTY TWO (72) years ago, Lela Steel has been a devoted follower and servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. She was a devoted wife to her husband Jim as they both served the Lord. She is the mother of three (3), James, Ron and Colleen, Grandmother to thirteen (13), and Great Grandmother to twenty five (25) children. She is a friend, supporter, and encourager to more people than we will ever know this side of Heaven.

She is known as Mom, Mama, Mommy, Mrs. Steel, Lela, Grandma Lela, Grandma Steel, Aunt Mae, Babushka Lela, and Lilchik, just to name a few. Lela has survived the death of a husband, a daughter, two brothers, a sister, a terrible accident to one of her son's, a radical mastectomy (during a time when mastectomies were almost barbaric) and has done it all clinging to Jesus. She has never waivered in her walk with the Lord.

During the last few months there has been a transition taking place in Lela's life. Although her deepest desire is to return to Ukraine and all the children that she loves dearly, her body and mind have slowly deteriorated. We are sad to report that she will not be able to return to Ukraine.



Lela has done a remarkable job of putting people in place to oversee the Lord's ministry as she saw her time in Odessa coming to an end. Although she didn't know the time she would have to leave, she knew it was inevitable. She groomed and trained Viktor Migo for over 5 years to be the person who would oversee the day to day operation of the ministry she started. In the last few years, Viktor Migo has been the person who has cared for all the personal, financial, and legal matters for Lela. He is a trusted servant. Lela has often said of Viktor, "I love him as if I had given birth to him myself."

She trained Alyona to be a loving care giver to the children at the Internot, especially the young girls who needed a role model to emulate. Alyona has been and will continue to be a very productive and needed member of the ministry in Ukraine. She is fluent in English and a tremendous asset.

I am grateful for the dream that the Lord gave Lela years ago to build a home for boys. I am blessed to have seen her dream become a reality in the form of House of Hope. I am hopeful that you will help me to keep Lela's legacy alive by continuing to support her ministry at House of Hope. Harvest International will continue to be the means by which House of Hope can provide "Hope" for the boys that Lela loved so much. Won't you please help us "Keep House of Hope Alive"?

Please pray for Lela as she settles into her new ministry in Ocala instead of Odessa. The Lord is already using Lela to witness to others in her new surroundings. I hope you will be able to honor Lela by supporting the ministry that she sacrificed dearly for.



Lela - Update



Lela was admitted to Ocala Regional Medical Center (ORMC) on Thursday, September 24th for swelling in her legs and feet. The diagnosis was that there was a blockage somewhere in her legs that was cause poor blood circulation. She was treated with some medication over the weekend and was seen by a specialist on Monday, September 28th. The doctor ordered an angiogram be done on Wednesday afternoon to determine if there was a blockage and where it was. The results of the test showed that she has 3 blockages in her legs. They have decided to treat this medical condition with medication for now. The hope is that the medicine will help to dissolve the blockages. Another angiogram is scheduled for Friday, October 2nd to determine the progress. Her prognosis is good and she should recover completely from this condition. The follow-up angiogram was done and one of the blockages was removed. She is now getting blood to her legs.

She has been moved to Oakhurst Rehabilitation Center and will be there for about 6 weeks. I have the latest information available in the form of an e-mail from Karen Warren (Harvest International Board Member and close friend of Lela's). It reads as follows:

Danny,



I visited with Lela this morning at Oakhurst. She looked great and she was in a very good mood. Lela was not the least bit confused or anxious. She stated that she was happy and comfortable at Oakhurst. Lela acknowledged that she would not be returning to Odessa and said that she missed Viktor, Alyona and the children immensely. She is hoping to talk with Viktor again soon. I read a devotion to her from Psalm 31:15 "My times are in your hands." I know God sent the message straight to Lela today (and to me!) Her face beamed with that unique sweet smile of hers as I read that all of our life's circumstances are under God's control. Knowing that God loves us and cares for us in the painful and pleasant moments of our journey should enable us to not be anxious about the path we are headed down. Praise the LORD, we believers are all ultimately headed for heaven. Upon finishing the reading Lela then began to recite, "Fix our eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face. And the things of this world will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace." As this was happening, the physical therapist was standing nearby in the room. See, God continues to use Lela in a powerful way as a witness for Him. How blessed I am to see her in action still!

In His Loving Hands,

Karen

Please continue to pray for her during this time. She is frustrated at times because she cannot control her life anymore and has to depend on others to do things for her. She is disappointed that she is still in the U.S. and not with the children in Ukraine. And she is weary of being in and out of the hospital. Thank you for your love for Lela.

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