



2nd Quarter 2021 Newsletter

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Dear Harvest Supporters,

WOW, it's hard to believe that we are half way through 2021. I can't believe how fast it has gone by. Over the last 3 months there has been so much activity that it is hard for me to put it into words, but I will try.

A container of food with 273,000 meals onboard finally arrived in Gonaives, Haiti. This container will provide food for the children we sponsor for the next 5-6 months. Praise the Lord. This was a long time coming. I have requested two more containers ASAP. The need for food in Haiti is desperate. Please pray that I will receive two more containers of food soon.

Because of Harvest partnership with Crossroads Alliance and Ministry together we have sent a container full of Hand Sanitizer, Alcohol Antiseptic, Hospital Gowns, Face Shields, and Mask to the Dominican Republic. We are working on sending 2 more containers, one to the Bahamas and the other one to Ethiopia. Please pray for these two containers.

All our missionaries are holding their own. Some are having to deal with COVID restrictions. Ray Nelson, our missionary to India, has been in the U.S. for almost a year waiting for permission to return. He has not been able to get permission to enter the country. Please pray for him.

Looking back at the last three months I would have never guessed I would have been so busy. I see the hand of the Lord in everything Harvest is doing and I am grateful that He is using us. Please pray that He continues to be pleased in what we are doing for Him. God bless you for all you have done, are doing, and will continue to do for Harvest International and the missionaries that you pray for and support.

God bless you,

Danny Thomas
Executive Director
Harvest International, Inc.

Physically & Spiritually Touching Lives

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

Lloyd & Elaine Cook

Serving the Lord in Jamaica



The Changing Seasons, of Life

The seasons are changing, both of the New Year and of our lives, whether we are prepared to handle it or not. Life does not stand still: especially facing the Covid-19 lockdowns, and the present focus on getting vaccines to protect us from the pandemic with the vague hope to “return to normal” soon.

Some are likely to ask, with a half-smile, ‘what is “normal”? Is there really such a thing? Life is about constant change. We agree with the request of the old hymn “O Thou that changeth not abide with me.”

Here in the mountains of south-central Jamaica, Mandeville, the seasons are not very different: we seem to have continuous summer/fall conditions. Spring doesn’t show itself by seemingly dry and dead twigs suddenly bursting forth in blossoms. It simply begins by certain trees, like the various colors of the Pouii tree (yellow or pink) losing its leaves and bursting forth into blossoms alone as soon as the first rains bring an end to the three or more months of no rains beginning in December.

The island has never had snow. Except, it was reported many decades ago that there was frost on the ground on the top of our highest mountain, (Blue Mountain Peak – 4804 feet above sea level). Though we do not have a ‘Fall’ season here where there is a burst of golden red leaves which then fall to the earth leaving leafless twigs until the spring, but there are a small number of trees which from time to time produce full coat of yellow flowers, or purple, when showers of rain follow a brief dry period. We also look forward to the magnificent Poinciana trees bursting forth in various shades of red and golden yellow flowers. Those will soon bless us with their presence. In the more eastern Caribbean islands of Dominica and St. Lucia they call them ‘Flambouyaa’ (Flamboyant).

This is also the time when certain tropical fruits tantalize us with their sweetness: fruits such as ‘Star-apples’ ‘naes-berries’, followed by a variety of mangoes. These are now coming into the fullness. Every Jamaican goes crazy at “Mango-time”. Many west Indians at this time “wash out we pot, turn them down, for its mango time.”

Another sign of changing seasons refers to our aging: when our hair turns from its youthful black (or other colors, red, auburn, yellow, etc.) to grey. Lloyd celebrated his seventy-ninth year on May 27th. A friend who called him to celebrate with him reminded him that “next year this time, you will be an Octogenarian.” It almost sounded as a bad word, but it a reality. We thank god for all the years He has graciously given us, We will accept every extra year He gives us, and will use each to serve Him and advance His Kingdom here on earth.

Another season-change we are looking forward to is the reopening of schools after the coming summer holidays. Both Elaine and I are tired of classes, church services, and other meetings that are being held 'virtually'. He wants to meet and see people face-to-face once again. The schools where Elaine often ministers with her "Wait-and-Win" abstinence program; and the children classes he holds in other places have either been on lockdown, or the ministerial Colleges where Lloyd teaches, have all been on lockdown for the past year, and have to be taught 'virtually', mostly by ZOOM. Even our churches have been restricted by the government to limited numbers, though things are beginning to be opened up, and the national curfews are now being lengthened a bit, yet the country wants to get "back to normal." The vaccination program is beginning to have its effect, as the Covid-19 numbers are training down noticeably. We praise God for that!

Elaine and I have gotten the first jab of our Astra-Zenica vaccines, and look forward soon to getting our second dose within the next week. And, Lloyd will be taking a trip to the USA in the next week, to be at the High School graduation of our first granddaughter, Annika.

Elaine has this to say "... we thank God that with the vaccines, there appears to be some hope of seeing an end to this epidemic. She continues to assist a few of the community boys with their reading. Kymani, a nine (9) year old is the only one she is working with now, out of Covid-19 caution, and the fact that he needs 'one-on-one' help. He has not been in school since the onset of Covid. Because of his level of reading, he is not able to use the 'virtual' on-line service for schools, and there is not enough for those at home."

Lloyd will be doing some travelling through much of June. He will be visiting Raleigh-Durham in North Carolina to attend the High School graduation of our grand-daughter. In September she will be going to College, intending to follow her mother – Eleanor Gail – in medical studies. Her brother, Tyler, will have another year to go before his graduation. In the meanwhile he will continue to win wrestling matches in his state. Their seasons are also changing, as the move forward hoping for "normal" living, while learning trust in the Lord as Savior, Advisor and Lord.

As you pray for us, do uphold our siblings and their families. Thank God that no member of our families have had Covid problems, except for a brother of Elaine's who lives in New York. He has successfully overcome infection and hospitalization, but has recovered and is back to running his Air-Conditioning business. God has been gracious to Lloyd's daughter who works in a Raleigh hospital in the critical care unit as a Physician's Assistant. But her husband, a retired Fireman and EMT tech, did test positive for the Virus. He is now fully recovered, thank God.

Pray with us for a nephew of Lloyd who has had recent emotional/psychological problems. The entire family has cooperated to see him getting counsel and moving towards recovery. We pray for him to learn to fully trust the Lord, and lay his burdens at the Lord's feet.

We praise God for your faithful support of us by prayer and financial support. May you know daily fellowship with your Savior and Lord, and His Shepherd-like care. We thank you for being our helpers as we serve the Lord here.

Haitian Center for Inclusive Education with Dr. Don DeVito

Serving the Lord in Haiti



The Haitian Center for Inclusive Education participated in educational collaborations this past month with the Margika program for children with disabilities and the Rawlings Elementary Center for Fine Arts in Gainesville Florida via WhatsApp and Zoom. We are trying to help increase the connectivity and broadband power at the Haitian Center for Inclusive Education. There are currently gas shortages for the generator, rioting that makes it difficult for the children and teachers to get to the school but their love of music education and learning continues. We would appreciate your support in helping to raise the funds need to purchase supplies that allow the school to connect with the outside world for education allowing them to use expand their horizons of learning. Without gas for the generators-now more expensive because of the governmental situation and technology to use more efficient means of communication such as Zoom.



Dhan & Dolly Lalsee

Serving the Lord in Zimbabwe

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Wednesday June 16th, 2021

It is 3.30 on a warm, sunny winter's afternoon. This warmth would likely last for less than another hour and then it becomes increasingly cold as evening sets in. Today, the skies are blue with beautiful patches of cloud here and there. This beautiful and picturesque drive back to Harare takes us through the Dykes, a range of mountains that embraces most of Zimbabwe's fifty-plus mineral deposits. It is not always an easy drive as the road is always dotted with huge trucks travelling to and from neighboring South Africa to countries to our north, as far as the Democratic Republic of Congo. Like most others, we are trying to weave our way past those large trucks to the tollbooth so that we avoid the congestion there. After this, our next challenge will be navigating the rush hour traffic on the way to the City of Harare, which greets one like a frenzied flood.

Zimbabwe is again under lockdown! However, one of the many blessings of this lockdown is that it has not affected our weekly out-of-town trip as we are still within the boundaries set by the authorities for Mashonaland West, of which Harare is a part.

However, our in-person groups as well as preaching ministry on Sunday mornings are affected and our online groups are increasingly challenging because of problematic internet access, even when we have power.

Nevertheless, we know that God is not fazed by any of this. We can see His hand at work in our own lives, and in the outflow of the lives of individuals and families to whom He ministers through us. Jesus Himself said, "Without me you can do nothing." Over the years, we have learnt and continue to learn with each faltering step that self-effort only leads to frustration, and submission is key in our walk with Him. Scriptures like Proverbs 3: 5-6, Rom 6: 6-11 Rom 8: 1-17 are increasingly precious to us in these times. How privileged we are.

Our hearts are also greatly encouraged by what our Heavenly Father is doing among various groups within the body of believers here. These brethren are being used of Him to reach many within our society, in needy communities as well as among the more affluent ones. Indeed, people need God now more than ever.

We are also happy that there is a growing number of folks here who recognize that we must pray for those in authority over us, whether we support them or not. The realization that only God can truly steer the course of our lives is becoming more and more evident in our fallen world and praying to and trusting Him, rather than fretting, is our only way to victory.

Our thanks to God and to all of you who have been journeying with us these past several years. We appreciate your continued prayers for us and for those whom God sends into our lives. These are difficult times for us all, so let us continue to pray for each other.

Indeed, we are fellows in the same ship (fellowship).

Faith Foundations International with Ray B. Nelson Serving the Lord in India



I have been in regular contact with Pastor Sharath the past few weeks and he has been giving me regular updates regarding the COVID-19 outbreak in the areas in which he minister's. The situation continues to be very grim and the outlook is not very encouraging.

There is a significant shortage of oxygen and oxygen cylinders. The partial lockdown remains in place. Churches are no longer conducting services. House bible studies and house visitations have ceased as well.

Additionally there is a new medical threat that is emerging that is affecting many folks who have recovered from the COVID-19 virus, Black Fungus. This is a new development and is raising some serious concerns among the medical professionals. It seems this black fungus enters the body as a result of a weakened immune system from fighting off the COVID-19 virus.

In the middle of these dire circumstances, our brothers and sisters are faithfully sharing the good news of hope that is found in Jesus alone! We are so thankful to the Lord for his continued protection over all the GFI Pastor's and their respective families, everyone has remained healthy!

As you can imagine there are many needs that are emerging through this crisis situation. There are two things that I would highlight here and invite you to respond as the Lord leads you.

1. COVID-19 BEDS

The local government officials have contacted Pastor Sharath and asked him to help provide beds for COVID-19 patients. They are setting up a COVID-19 center to help quarantine people who have the Virus, but they need beds. This is an amazing example of the goodwill that Pastor Sharath has been able to establish with the local government officials. It represents a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate the care and love of the Christian's to those in need.



This will be a incredible testimony to those of other Faith's! Pastor Sharath has already ordered 10 beds, but we would like to supply a total of 25 bed's. These are iron frame beds with mattress and pillow. The cost of each bed is \$125, a total of \$3,125 for all 25 beds.

2. FOOD KITS FOR PASTORS

In light of the Churches no longer meeting, many Pastors are struggling to provide for their families. In the Indian culture the pastor uses some of the offering to provide for his family. Many Pastor's sole income is from these meager offerings. Thankfully, the GFI Pastors that have supporters are doing better than most. Pastor Sharath is looking to put together a one months supply of groceries for 100 pastors and their families. The cost for 100 families for one month is \$7,000 US Dollars.



TOTAL AMOUNT NEEDED FOR BOTH PROJECTS = \$10,125
TOTAL AMOUNT STILL NEEDED TO COMPLETE BOTH PROJECTS = \$5,794

Please continue to pray for are brothers and sisters in Christ that God would continue protecting them from all harm, as they serve as "beacons of hope" to those in their communities.

The Truelove Family

*Austin, Kaelee, Sabashtian, Katianna,
Majolie, Mirette & Ariella*

Serving the Lord in Haiti



Psalm 118:24 "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

With all of this world's negativity piling around us, I keep remembering a little sign that our Nana has in her kitchen which states "Weather Today: The Lord Reigns and Son shines". We must choose each day to rejoice and be glad in it. With this in mind, we are very joyful for the many blessings God has provided in the past couple months.



In April, we were able to finish Iphanise's home in 13 days, 10 days quicker than our first home build. Since the summer of 2018, this is our sixth home build. We choose to give thanks to God for His provision of funding and safety. Iphanise grew up a true orphan. She told us that before we took notice of her, she had no one to help her. Now she has hope and joy! Our prayer is that God's name is praised in each of these adventures.

As for the water filter distribution, our team distributed 200 more filters during three days in April and May. That puts us at 55% of our 1,000-filter goal! Typhoid isn't as predominate as it was several years ago, but we still feel that the filters are an important part of our work.



In April, we learned that Carol Ann, Austin's Mom, contracted Covid. She spent nearly two weeks in the hospital. She has been home for about a month now and continues to regain her strength daily. We care for her half-days, 5 days a week while George (Austin's dad) works. Before knowing any of this, we had decided to come back to the US in May for the summer months. How amazing God worked our plans ahead of time, so we could care for our family.

Our summer plan is: family time; visiting supporters; raising funds for 3 more homes; and more flight hours for Austin. As always, we are encouraged by your faithful support in prayer and finances. We continue to ask for both as we continue to help meet the physical and spiritual needs of the people in Pecry-Mare Rouge, Haiti. Please pray that God will guide our visits; open more doors; and that we will live with intentionality and impact those people who God puts in our path each day.

You can get involved by giving to the Home project - \$8,000 builds a home
You can help us raise support by inviting us to share at your church or small group!

Camp Mahanaim with The Wray Family Rod, Debbie & Katie

Serving the Lord in Haiti



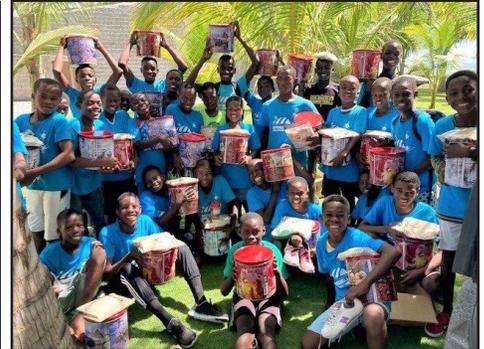
A couple weeks ago was Haitian Mother's Day in Haiti and we were able to share gifts with many, both locally in the village, as well as through the area of the Renault Sunday school.



Deb preparing gifts to give to the Haitian mothers.



Distributing to the volleyball kids.



The kids were happy and thankful to have a gift to share with their moms.



At Sunday school we did the story of David and Goliath and our friend Duane did a great job of playing the part of Goliath against the little Haitian "David" reciting bible verses. Here is a short video - <https://youtu.be/ouFm8hKl7kQ>.

We continue to host Haitian groups here at the camp and Deb has a good group of kitchen workers.



Years ago we built the track around the soccer field using "limestone" or white sand. Now, we are removing all that white sand and using it to make a type of pavement on the roads inside the camp, while at the same time planting more grass and building a larger soccer field.

In just the past few weeks the covid virus has started to strengthen and spread in Haiti. As of yesterday we have reduced activities at Camp Mahanaim and the Sunday school. We appreciate your prayers for us and Haiti during this time.

Here is a link to a youtube video that Katie made of the weddings last month.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61OC3A7vQiw&t=7s>

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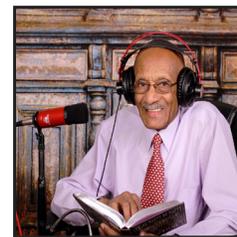
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