



HARVEST TIME

HARVESTING FOR JUSTICE - THAT ALL MAY HAVE ENOUGH

Ministry Highlights

Rosemary Feerick, Co-Director
Don McClanen, Founder / Director, Emeritus
Bryan Sirchio, Co-Director
www.HarvestTime.cc

Harvest Time Update

From Bryan Sirchio - May 2005

DEAR FRIENDS OF HARVEST TIME

Admittedly, the month of May is a rather strange time to be putting together an annual report as such, but for a number of reasons this seems like a good time to share with you an overview of some of the highlights of Harvest Time's ministry during the past year. From this point on, God willing, I will compile a similar piece at the end of each calendar year.

It has been an amazingly joyful, inspiring, hopeful, draining, difficult, challenging, hilarious, and fruitful year at Harvest Time. I just wrote down a list of significant developments in order to guide this report, and I am actually stunned by the scope of the changes and growth that we have experienced. I am going to briefly share this list with you in order to give you a sense of what we have been doing and how we see things developing into the future.

A NEW STAFF STRUCTURE

Perhaps most significantly, after a great deal of soul searching and prayer, Harvest Time's staff and board of directors voted unanimously to embrace a new staff structure at Harvest Time. Don McClanen, Harvest Time's founder and first director, moved into an Emeritus status as of our March 2005 board of director's meeting. The primary purpose of this move was to free Don to give at least 90% of his salaried staff time to the writing of a book about his life and witness, and also to help Harvest Time prepare for a future which is a bit less dependent upon Don's leadership. As you can imagine, it took a good deal of work and processing for Harvest Time's staff and board to reach the point at which this decision was made. Don is still very much with us, both as a full-time staff member and as a member of the board of directors, but Rosemary Feerick and I (Bryan Sirchio) will now be the Co-Directors of Harvest Time. Please pray for us as we continue to grow into new areas of leadership on behalf of this ministry,



Bryan Sirchio, Don McClanen, and Rosemary Feerick.

and please pray for Don as he continues to work on the book and to offer his wisdom and insight to us in this new capacity.

DON'S BOOK

Speaking of Don's book, Harvest Time has contracted with authors Andrea Wells Miller and J. Keith Miller to write the story of Don's life (and of course Don's wife Gloria will be featured prominently in the book as well), and we are absolutely thrilled to be blessed with such talented and inspiring writers. The projected completion date for the initial manuscript of this book is June, 2006. We are excited beyond words that this project is now well under way. We also want to extend our deep gratitude to all those who responded to our request for the funds needed to finish the book. We are quite convinced that this is going to be both an inspiring story of adventure as well as a powerful teaching tool for us and countless others to use in ministry for years to come.

DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAMS

This past year also marked a new level of programmatic development at Harvest Time. In addition to the meetings of the Beloved Community in California (The Beloved Community is a group of about a dozen persons, primarily from the west coast, who meet every six months for a 4 day retreat in which we share our lives, our money journeys, and help each other to keep growing as disciples), a group of Harvest Time friends gathered in the Boston area in May of 2004 with Tom White and Paul Farmer. Another group from the New England area gathered in February of 2005, and will be meeting again in June. Gatherings are also now on our schedule for October, 2005 at Montreat Retreat Center outside Asheville, N.C., and for January, 2006 in the Portland, OR area. We also co-hosted a retreat with Ministry of Money in October, 2004 which featured the leadership of Arthur Simon, the founder of Bread for the World and author most recently of the book, How Much is Enough? Rosemary Feerick also participated at a March, 2005 gathering in Boston for leaders of several organiza-



Harvest Time small group gathering in Boston, Massachusetts, May 2004. Back row from left: Dr. Paul Farmer, Bob Marsh, John Feerick. Front Row: Emalie Feerick, Joan Pittman, Rosemary Feerick, Tom White, Don McClanen.

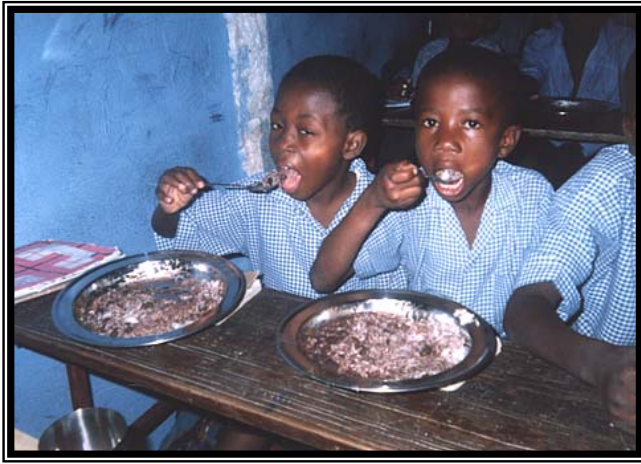
tions which work with persons of exceptional wealth in various capacities (United for a Fair Economy, Class Action, and Responsible Wealth to name a few). Bit by bit, folks are learning about Harvest Time, what we have to offer, and our network is growing and deepening. We are also about to run our first ad in Sojourners Magazine, and are considering other ways of letting folks know who we are and what we are about, such as brief articles in newsletters and publications of other organizations which in one way or another tend to involve persons with access to exceptional wealth.

MINISTRY OF WRITING AND COMMUNICATION

In addition to the gatherings and personal relationships which are very much at the heart of Harvest Time's ministry, this past year in many ways also marked the more formal beginning of Harvest Time's ministry of writing and communication. Thanks in large part to the writing of Rosemary Feerick and the graphic design skills of Bryan's Harvest Time office assistant Greg Rasmussen, we sent out 3 issues of our newsletter in the past year, and also have released interviews with Harvest Time friends Joan Martin, Tom White, Judy Bork, and Jeane Seeley. These interviews are available upon request. There are also several articles written by Harvest Time staff and friends which are accessible on our new web site www.harvesttime.cc. This web site was designed and made available this past year by Greg Rasmussen and Rosemary Feerick. We have recently added links on the site to the ministries in Washington, D.C. which Harvest Time helps to support. God willing, in the near future we will have similar information on our web site regarding the ministries in Haiti and Bosnia with which Harvest Time is intimately related.

MINISTRIES IN HAITI AND WASHINGTON DC

Harvest Time has continued to stand in solidarity with some of the poorest of the poor in Haiti during one of the most difficult years in that country's history. While Harvest Time's deepest call is to accompany wealthy Christians as they embrace the Christ-centered freedom of connecting their resources and lives with God's Dream for the world – *whether or not that means that any money at all is given to either Harvest Time or ministries which Harvest Time supports* – we have felt called as a ministry to make a modest commitment to a few ministries in Haiti with which we have longstanding personal relationship. In other words, we feel it is important for us to practice what we preach and to allow the needs of the poor to lay claim to some of the resources directed our way. Each month during this past year, Harvest Time wired an average of \$10,000 a month to support a number of programs in Haiti. Through this ongoing support, hundreds of the poorest and most vulnerable people in some of Haiti's most volatile neighborhoods were fed. This monthly distribution also supports school scholarships, meal programs, small business development, a child sponsorship program, cleaning of open sewage canals in the shantytown of Cite Soleil, lim-



Haitian school children receiving their meal of rice and beans at St. Thomas School

ited access to medicine and doctors, and employs 32 people with modest jobs. I (Bryan) took 3 trips to Haiti in 2004, and will be in Haiti once again at the end of May, 2005. I am hoping to be able to bring Harvest Time friends with me again in the near future, and to continue to develop our new model of “reverse mission” which features short trips (3-5 days) for one or two persons at a time. Unfortunately I had to postpone one such trip in April 2005 because of the instability and insecurity in Haiti. I am also in the process of developing a reverse mission trip to either Jamaica or Tijuana so that we will be able to continue this prong of our mission if and when Haiti is too dangerous to visit. But what I want you to hear strongly at this point is that Harvest Time is committed to maintaining our relationships with friends and ministries in Haiti, and that our network of relationships with the courageous people of that amazing country remains a key component of the programs Harvest Time has to offer in and through our ministry. We also remain deeply committed to being in relationship with the ministries in Washington, D.C. which Harvest Time has helped to support since its inception. These ministries are all affiliated in one way or another with The Church of the Saviour, and we are proud to be able to invite Harvest Time friends to travel to the D.C. area in order to touch and be touched by these inspiring ministries which serve the poor in our own nation’s capital.

THANKS FOR YOUR PRAYERS

In addition to the growth of Harvest Time’s programs and ministry, I want to simply acknowledge that all of this development has taken place during the midst of a year of personal challenges for those of us on the Harvest Time staff. As you probably know, Don suffered a minor stroke in the Spring of 2004,

and I was also quite ill earlier this year as a result of a reaction to some medication I was given after testing positive for exposure to TB in Haiti. Thank God, Don and I are doing quite well now, but on both of our behalf I want to thank all of you who held us in prayer during these difficult times. And a huge thanks as well to all of you who sustained this ministry during the past year with your encouragement, prayers and financial gifts. We are profoundly grateful.

MOVING FORWARD

So it’s been a great year, and we are excited about the year to come. In many ways we are still at the seed-sowing phase of this young ministry, but many seeds have already taken root and are beginning to bear fruit. We are in the slow-but-steady process of getting the word out about who we are and what we have to offer, but we are also very excited about all that God has already brought to pass in and through this ministry. I don’t want to sound grandiose, but as I look at what God is doing through Harvest Time, I can see that lives are being changed, wounds are being healed, the destitute are finding new hope, captives are being set free, and both rich and poor are hearing and responding to the Good News of God’s Dream for the world. Through Harvest Time, God is building a few small bridges across the gap between the wealthiest of the wealthy and the poorest of the poor. What a privilege it is to be a part of this ministry, and to be in partnership with you.

God’s Grace and Peace to you,

Bryan Sirchio



For additional information regarding Harvest Time programs, partnerships, or written articles, you can visit our web site at; www.harvesttime.cc. Please feel free to contact me to comment or discuss any part of this report. The phone number in Madison, Wisconsin is; 608-251-0869, or you can e-mail me at; bsirch@sirchio.com.