



HARVEST TIME

HARVESTING FOR JUSTICE - THAT ALL MAY HAVE ENOUGH

Ministry Highlights

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Harvest Time Annual Update

May 2006

Dear Friends of Harvest Time

We realize that May is an unusual time to be putting together an "Annual Report." But it has been about a year now since we released last year's annual report, so it seems time to offer this yearly overview once again.

This report is split into two primary sections. The first section was written by Harvest Time Co-Director Rose Feerick shortly after a staff retreat in January, 2006. Rose did such a wonderful job of summing up the heart and soul of Harvest Time (or what we often find ourselves referring to as Harvest Time's "fragrance") in her summary of that visioning retreat that we wanted to share her reflections with you in this annual report. The second section of the report was put together by Harvest Time Co-Director Bryan Sirchio, and it is more informational in terms of some of the things that Harvest Time has been involved with over the past twelve months. Sharing both of these pieces with you winds up making this report rather lengthy, but we think it is worth doing, and hope you will agree. Thanks so much for taking the time to read this!

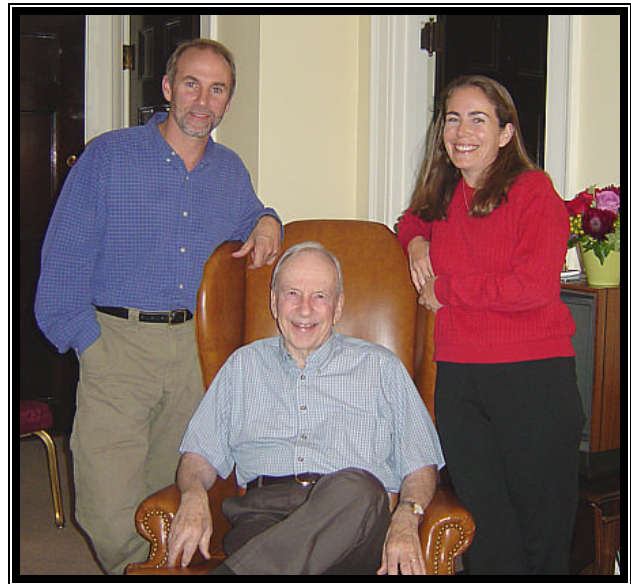
God's Grace and Peace to you,

Bryan Sirchio and Rosemary Feerick



Section 1 **Reflections After Our** **Annual Staff Retreat** By Rose Feerick

Bryan and I met in January near Portland for our annual staff retreat. Nancy and Howard Thurston joined us as we reflected on where we are, the gifts that have been given during this past year, and our hopes and dreams for 2006. It was a very blessed time.



Harvest Time Co-Directors Bryan Sirchio and Rosemary Feerick with founder Don McClanen.

First, imagine the scene: The Collins retreat center is located in the middle of a cedar grove whose trees are covered with moss. Almost the entire forest, in other words, was green. It rained for much of the weekend which meant that inside our silences were filled with the wonderful sound of rain falling on the roof. Outside the forest was cool, fresh, and fecund.

We met in a library surrounded by wisdom from our Christian tradition. The room was filled with the scents of Nancy's essential oils and occasional songs from Johnny Cash. From time to time, we found ourselves randomly lifting books off the shelves to receive "lucky dip" gifts of wisdom. One of my favorites was a line from Walter Wink (which I've heard Bryan paraphrase many times) where he confessed to spending most of his life as an atheist from the neck down, noting the profound irony of that for those of us who confess belief in the incarnation. Yes, yes, we are beginning to get it.

We came with no agenda, trusting our ability to

discern communally what we most needed to do, trusting that what we most needed would be given. We covenanted at the outset to care for our bodies and need for rest and recreation. Our time of “official business” was interspersed with deep processing of personal issues that inevitably held pieces of wisdom for our unfolding mission – or that just needed to be dealt with so that we could be fully present. As unorthodox as this method of “staff meeting” felt to us at times, we trusted it, finding that this very way of working is a core part of our emerging clarity about the particular piece that Harvest Time brings to the conversation about wealth and economic justice.

As we reflected on what exactly that piece is, we wondered at our increasing comfortability stepping into the unknown. We talked about the need to integrate the personal and professional. We talked about partnering what we usually think of as masculine and feminine wisdom in ourselves and in our relationships with each other. We talked about doing our best to align every aspect of our personal and organizational financial lives with our deepest wisdom – while at the same time letting go of our need to do that perfectly. We talked about working sustainably (including our own bodies and hearts in the equation.) We talked about honoring Sabbath and working in a way that flows from resting in the heart of God. We also admitted to ourselves and to each other that we struggle to do this in real life. Our “cultural addictions,” as Sharon Gerred so wisely puts it, are deeply entrenched.

This is why we were willing to share the details – the nitty gritty – with each other because it is in shifting the details that we are learning to embody the poetry that inspires us. As we wrestled with the details together we discovered anew the profound wisdom that is accessible in community. Not that we didn’t already know that on an intellectual level. What felt new this time was the extent to which each of us feels ready and willing to receive input from friends so that we can run Harvest Time in a way that is healthy and life-giving for everyone involved.

In light of the organizational transition we are in, we engaged in several conversations about who to invite to be on the Harvest Time board asking ourselves who are the people who hold key pieces of wisdom that we need. We thought about the people who feel like “home” to us –who deeply understand the Christian path and who “get” the pieces we feel invited to hold when it comes to wealth and justice. We talked about the people for whom Harvest Time’s

mission is deeply aligned with their own personal sense of call. We reflected with gratitude on the community that already holds this ministry. And we imagined how we might invite different people to help us hold different dimensions of Harvest Time’s work – beyond the Board of Directors.

As we step into this next phase of Harvest Time’s unfolding, in other words, we find ourselves embracing a model of ministry that is profoundly collaborative. We also desire to embrace a way of working that is deeply contemplative. Trying to get our work aligned with these two ways of being seems to be a core part of our work for this year.

What We Are Learning

During the past few years, we have learned a lot about what it means to walk with wealthy people as they let God get at their lives and resources. When we began this ministry, I (just speaking for me here) assumed that primarily that would mean “helping” people give money away. While it certainly does mean that, during this past year, we’ve become increasingly clear that giving away money is – as we say – just the tip of the iceberg. In addition, companionship seems to more accurately describe our work than helping.

At core, as Harvest Time founder Don McClanen has long known, working with wealth, is not really about the money. Instead, it is about turning our lives over to God. Since money and the power and security it brings are such powerful ways of keeping God and other people at a distance, we choose to work with them as a way of losing our footing into the heart of love.

This is nothing new. Don’s been saying this for a long time. What feels new to us is what we are seeing in the lives of real people who are willing to walk this journey. Here is some of what we are learning:

1. When wealthy people come together in a Spirit filled circle and tell the truth about their lives, radical transformation happens. This is where the God of love shows up and where hearts get converted. Without this piece, we can give all our money away and not even begin to get at what Jesus was talking about when it came to money. As Paul puts it, “If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast, but do not have love, I have nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:3. Inviting rich people (as rich people)



Beloved Community gathering,
Los Gatos, CA - March, 2006.

to experience Christ's love in community is the primary gift Harvest Time has to offer.

2. There is no formula – even a good Christian one – when it comes to money. Certainly, there are helpful disciplines, but we've actually found the most transformative practice to be simple – love people “in the mess.” When people feel loved for who and where they really are, things shift.
3. If we've got a formula, if we think we've got it “figured out,” chances are we don't. The deeper invitation is always to surrender to mystery and, of course, that is not about “figuring it out” but about stepping into the unknown.
4. The more together we look (on retreat I mean), the more we're in denial. Not as a rule – but almost.
5. While good stewardship – in the sense of making sure that money is used well – is obviously important – economic justice in the Spirit is not primarily about getting the most return for our investment – even when it comes to getting a good charitable return. Actually, we find that that way of thinking has much more in common with market thinking than with the Gospel model of going to extreme – not particularly “efficient” – lengths to find the one lost sheep.
6. Letting God direct our resources is about being willing to engage in radical experiments in economic grace. If we're going to say yes to this, we have to be willing to fail boldly. We have to be willing to break our culture's rules of “financial responsibility” (as if 30,000 children dying a day

and destroying the earth were responsible!) in order to obey the deeper law of love.

7. Sometimes that involves giving money to emerging ministries that might fail. Sometimes that means investing in new ways – ways that are not about getting the most return (defined in narrow financial terms) but about letting our resources be used to support the creation of just structures (a la community investing). Sometimes that means deprivatizing wealth in order to step into communal ownership. Sometimes that means giving money to people who don't “need” it (financially) but need to have an experience of receiving money offered in love. Sometimes that means making radical shifts in our lifestyles, beginning with simple things like honoring Sabbath.
8. While this journey is about joy, adventure and life, liberation from wealth and the oppressive dimensions of the culture of wealth is, at times, difficult. In order to get free, we need to get real about all the ways that systemic injustice (race, class, power, gender) plays itself out – in ourselves, primarily (we've noticed that we can sometimes avoid doing our own work by spending all our time critiquing what is wrong with others), and in the people and organizations we give to – and then choosing a way that resists the temptation to “play a role” so that we can instead tell the truth and form authentic relationships.
9. In order to do that, we have to break through our denial and confess our addictions – especially the ones that are common among us – our workaholicism, our codependency, our need to be the benefactor, our need to be productive, our need to look good, our need to be successful, our need to get the best bang for our buck, our need to be righteous, our need to do it ourselves.
10. No one does this by themselves.
11. We need to play and celebrate to remind ourselves that this journey is ultimately about joy.

Specific Goals For The Year

We spent much time during the retreat reflecting on the big picture. We also got specific. Here are some of our specific goals for the year:

1. **Work sustainably.**
 - a. Resist the urge to overwork.
 - b. Ask for help in figuring out what that looks like.
 - c. Offer clear yes's and no's to invitations that come our way.
 - d. Imagine and develop a board structure that would honor the full realities of everyone's lives.
2. **Invite core Harvest Time friends to step into the ministry more deeply.**
 - a. On the board.
 - b. In calling circles into being.
 - c. In companioning newcomers.
3. **Get our financial house in order.**
 - a. Pension plan into community investing.
 - b. Banking at a credit union.
 - c. Health Insurance – look into alternative models of offering health insurance/ supporting health.
4. **Grow Slowly. Do less more deeply.**
 - a. Continue to nurture new circles in the Southeast and possibly Midwest.
 - b. Deepen relationships with folks already connected to us.
 - c. Welcome newcomers/develop relationships
 - d. Set up a weekly conference call on cultural addiction?
5. **Writing**
 - a. Continue to send out periodic newsletter.
 - b. Share articles/sermons written by others in the HT network.

The Fragrance

In John 12, after Mary anoints Jesus' feet, the text tells us that the fragrance filled the house. What was that fragrance? It was, on a literal level, the fragrance of Spikenard – an essential oil known for bringing light into darkness. It was, as Bryan and I so often put it, the fragrance of extravagant love – the kind of love that is mystical and embodied. It was the love that exists between friends in Christ.

We hope that the work of Harvest Time is filled with this fragrance. We are aware that conversations around money are emotionally laden. Many of us have been wounded by money. Many of us have been seduced by what money can buy. Some of us have been shamed for being wealthy. For others,

wealth has led to profound isolation. Many of us deny (even to ourselves) that we are wealthy. Others choose to “closet” our wealth.

This is exacerbated by the fact that the church has not done a very good job of modeling health and freedom when it comes to money. Instead, we have found that the church tends to mimic the patterns of the mainstream culture. It either ignores the topic altogether or cow-tows to the wealthy. In circles that have been awakened by liberation theologians, Jesus' statements on money are often used to condemn the rich.



Rosemary Feerick with her sons Ian (L) and Roddy (R).

None of this is helpful to wealthy Christians who desire to say yes to Jesus' invitations about money. In fact, many wealthy Christians who desire to live justly have been profoundly wounded by Christians overly eager to condemn the rich or to objectify them as donors.

At Harvest Time, we look to the story of Mary and Jesus at showing another way. As far as we can tell, that way is about resisting the urge to condemn each other in favor of creating contexts in which each of us can “let our hair down” at the feet of Christ and each other so that we can be seen and loved in our raw, imperfect, yet quite beautiful vulnerability. Over and over, people tell us how rare it is to find a circle where they can talk honestly about their issues connected to money and still feel safe and loved. But that is what they find at Harvest Time. That is the particular fragrance that we desire to offer to the conversation about money and wealth.



Section 2 An Overview of the Past Year at Harvest Time By Bryan Sirchio

Staff Transition

April 2005 - April 2006 marks a year of significant transition at Harvest Time, both within the staff structure and the membership of the board of directors. At the end of March, 2005, our Founder and Director Don McClanen moved to the status of director emeritus, and Bryan Sirchio and Rosemary Feerick became the co-directors of Harvest Time. Don was still on the Board of Directors at that point, and on full-time salaried staff, with about 95% of his time and effort devoted to working on the book about his life with authors Andrea Wells Miller and J. Keith Miller. In early 2006, Don discerned that it was time for him to resign altogether from Harvest Time staff and board responsibilities, and to continue his work with wealthy Christians under the umbrella of some other ministry structure. His resignation was accepted and immediately effective as of the February 13, 2006 Harvest Time board of directors meeting. The board voted to continue Don's full-time salary, benefits, office, and support staff through September 30, 2006. At this point all indications are that rather than attempting to form another separate 501(c)3 organization, Don will carry out his ministry within the structure of Friends of Jesus Church in Washington, D.C., where Don has been a member for several years.

It is important to Bryan Sirchio and Rosemary Feerick to communicate that while Don's decision to leave Harvest Time was difficult for all of us at times, the process unfolded in a spirit of deep love, mutual respect, and a desire to see each other be free to work according to God's leading in our individual and corporate lives. We are all moving forward with open hearts and a spirit of collaboration, and will continue to work together on certain projects or ministry goals, especially regarding the completion of Don's book.

One other staff transition at Harvest Time this past year involved Don's part-time secretary. We give thanks for the faithful service of Wilma Shostak, who worked with Don from November 2003 through September 2005. We are also delighted that Jean Mathews was available and willing to take over working with Don in the Germantown, MD office. Jean worked with Don for years when Don was with Ministry of Money, and also in the first years of Harvest Time's existence. Welcome back, Jean!



Co-Director Bryan Sirchio - May 2006.

Board of Directors Transition Grateful for what has been...

There is no way to adequately thank the "dream team" board of directors that has blessed Harvest Time with its leadership since its inception in 1999. According to our by-laws, board members are elected for 3-year terms, and may serve no more than two consecutive terms. So it is now time to give thanks to the following board members, all of whom have served two terms. Some of them were released from service as of the February 2006 board meeting, and others will be released in either July or September, 2006:

Gordon Cosby
Don McClanen
Dot Cresswell
David Erickson
Bryan Sirchio

We have decided also that we will not ask current staff members, including co-directors, to serve as board members. Fortunately our current board president, Kayla McClurg, is still eligible to serve another term. Her leadership will provide important continuity for us as we move into the next stage of Harvest Time's life with a predominantly new board.

Welcoming what is to be...

At our next board meeting on July 5-6, 2006, we will welcome the following new members to our board of directors:

John Engle
Merline Engle
Juanita Mangan-Van Ham
Nancy Thurston
Howard Thurston

We are all very excited about the gifts and energy which these new board members will bring to Harvest Time. We feel extremely blessed to have such excellent and soulful oversight as we move into the next phase of our ministry.



From left; Merline Engle, Merline's Grandmother, and John Engle. John and Merline have accepted an invitation to serve as Harvest Time board members.

Home Office

We are now in the final stages of moving Harvest Time's home office and legal status from Don's original office in Germantown, MD to Bryan's office in Madison, WI. Bryan's office assistant, Greg Rasmussen (who also does all of Harvest Time's web site design and maintenance and all of our desktop publishing), has been training to become Harvest Time's bookkeeper. We give thanks for the excellent work of Meredith Haussler of Haussler & Associates in Woodbine, MD who has been taking care of our books during this time of transition. Greg will work very closely with accountant Mike Skala of Skala & Associates in Madison, WI to make sure that the transfer of our bookkeeping and accounting to Madison goes without a hitch. We will continue to use First & Associates of Rhode Island for our audits, providing us with much valued continuity during this transition of our records and record keeping. Finally, we have also hired Susan Taylor and Andy Loving of Just Money in Louisville, KY to oversee all of Harvest Time's retirement allocations. We can think of no financial advisors who are more committed and

qualified to help us establish retirement funds in ways that embrace and promote biblical justice and accountability.

Program Development

Programmatically, the most important thing to report is that Christian millionaires and Harvest Time are finding each other! One of the more fruitful things we did this past year was to advertise in *America Magazine* and *Sojourners Magazine*. We are happy to say that quite a few folks of exceptional wealth have responded to these ads, and these responses have led to some completely new relationships and to the broadening of our network. We are now in the process of creating some opportunities for these folks to participate in an initial Harvest Time retreat experience. Specifically, in November, we will be offering retreats in the Midwest (probably in the Ann Arbor, Michigan area) and in the Southeast (probably near Atlanta, GA.)

In addition to the new retreat offerings just mentioned, the two communities which Harvest Time has already helped to establish—one on the west coast and one in New England—have been meeting for retreats every six months. Part of our vision for establishing new communities is that members of already existing groups will help begin the new circles. We hope that members of the west coast group (this group refers to itself as "The Beloved Community") and/or the New England area group will be a part of the Midwest and Southeast retreats. We are excited about this model for growing new Harvest Time communities.

Articles & Newsletters

Rosemary Feerick's article on the anointing of Jesus in John 12, "The Anointing At Bethany," was the feature article of *America Magazine's* October 17, 2005 issue. It was well received and led to a few responses from wealthy persons who read the article. Rose has also written articles for and edited our Harvest Time newsletter this past year, and our next newsletter will be in the mail sometime in May of 2006. These past newsletters and other articles and interviews of interest are posted on our Harvest Time web site. In addition to this writing, Rose co-led a retreat on Money and Faith at St. Joseph's parish in Alameda, CA with Kevin Cashman of Ministry of Money. Rose was also invited to give talks on money to a couple of other Catholic parishes in the Bay Area

in February and March. Rose has also worked to broaden Harvest Time's connections with other organizations that are working for economic justice, participating in events sponsored by Yes!, Change-makers, Sabbath Economics Collaborative, and a collaboration of activist and philanthropic organizations called "Transforming the Way the World Works with Money."

Reverse Missions to Haiti & Jamaica

Our experience has been that few things seem to open our hearts and deepen our compassionate and just response to the poor more than a trip to Haiti or to another so-called "third world" country. Unfortunately the political turmoil in Haiti over the past several years has made it very difficult and at times impossible for us to travel there. Bryan's last trip to Haiti was in May of 2005, and that experience underscored the reality that Haiti was too dangerous for us to responsibly bring people there on reverse mission trips. Not knowing how long Haiti would be closed to us, we decided that it would be wise to have a secondary location for reverse missions when Haiti was too dangerous to visit. Bryan and Harvest Time friend Bill Rouse of Lexington, KY traveled to Kingston, Jamaica in November, 2005 in order to establish a network of relationships and ministries for possible future reverse mission trips. This trip was very fruitful, and Bryan and Bill hope to bring a group to Jamaica, in the year to come. At the same time, we are delighted to report that Haiti is now showing signs of opening up to us once again, and we are planning to return to Haiti possibly as soon as the late spring or early summer of 2006. We are now in the process of



St. Thomas School children eating their meal of rice and beans. One of several partnerships Harvest Time helps to support in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

organizing a trip to the Central Plateau region of Haiti in conjunction with our friends at Fonkoze bank, Project Medishare, and Partners In Health. We hope that this trip will take place before the end of 2006. Bryan was also recently asked to visit the shanty town of Cite Soleil, in Port au Prince. Cite Soleil is the focus of a large portion of our monthly wires of financial support to Haiti. It has been a virtual war zone for the past two years, but thank God, the violence has greatly diminished and there is a good deal of enthusiasm among the people who live there to begin rebuilding the community. We are very excited about being a part of this rebuilding in the year to come.

Distributions of Funds to Haiti, Jamaica, Iraq, and Washington, DC

It has been among our greatest blessings this past year to be able to continue monthly support of several ministries in Haiti which serve some of the poorest people in the Western Hemisphere. In total, we sent over \$219,000 to Haiti to help fund ministries among the poorest of the poor from April 2005 to April 2006. We are so deeply grateful for the generous support of Harvest Time friends who make these distributions possible. Please visit our web site if you would like to read more about the ministries in Haiti which receive our financial support. In addition to this support of Haitian ministries, a person in the Harvest Time network also donated \$30,000 to the Missionaries of the Poor in Kingston, Jamaica, and \$20,000 to the Missionaries of Charity in Iraq and Haiti. Another person donated an additional \$5,000 to the Missionaries of Charity in Iraq. Harvest Time distributions to ministries which serve the poor in inner city Washington, D.C., in this past year totaled \$95,000. Detailed descriptions of these amazing ministries in the nation's capital are available on our web site.

The Book About Don McClanen's Life

As most of you know by now, Harvest Time has contracted with authors Andrea Wells Miller and her spouse J. Keith Miller to write a book about Don McClanen's life. Andrea is the primary writer, and Keith is also contributing to the effort. We are delighted to report that the research for this book has been completed, and that Andrea is now writing the first draft of the manuscript. The initial timeline for the project stated that this first draft would be com-



Harvest Time friends & staff attending a Richard Rohr conference on the Spirituality of the Twelve Steps.

pleted by the end of March, 2006. We are a bit behind that schedule, but the amount of research was larger than any of us initially anticipated. We also want the authors to have the time they need to truly write the book that God has in mind, and to do so at a pace that honors their own health and well-being. We are all waiting with great anticipation and excitement, and will certainly let all Harvest Time friends know when the book is available.

Funding Harvest Time's Operations

Given the fact that working with wealthy Christians around the area of money is at the heart of Harvest Time's mission, we are very prayerful and deliberate about the ways in which we go about seeking funds for our own operational expenses. We give thanks to God that we have been able to hold the various different dimensions of Harvest time in a creative tension. That is, our deepest call is help wealthy Christians connect their lives and their resources with God's call, whether or not that means that any gifts are given to Harvest Time or to ministries we help support. At the same time, we need to pay our own expenses, and we also long to pass along as much money as possible to the many different ministries in our network (primarily Haiti and Washington, D.C., and Jamaica, Iraq, and Bosnia to a lesser degree).

In order to be as transparent as possible regarding our own need for funds and as sensitive as possible to the ways in which wealthy Christians are often either manipulated or guilt-tripped in the fundraising appeals of many non-profit organizations, we have separated our fundraising for operations from our fundraising for ministries beyond Harvest Time which serve the poor directly. Of course persons are wel-

come to simply make a donation to Harvest Time and to designate a portion for our operations and/or a portion for a specific ministry we support. But our vision for funding is to establish a group of core supporters who will each underwrite a significant portion of our annual operating expenses, and for these core partners to renew this commitment annually. We have suggested that these core supporters each assume responsibility for a month's worth of operational expenses, and that currently means a commitment of about \$23,500.00. There are 5 such core supporters at this point, and an additional 2 persons whose annual commitment is about half of that. We are so profoundly grateful for this kind of support, and are looking forward to the day when, God willing, we will have 12 such partners. All this being said, the majority of the gifts we receive are much, much smaller, and we are equally grateful for every dollar sent to us. There are a number of persons who send us gifts of \$25 or \$50 as they are able, and we can not adequately express our gratitude for this kind of support from folks who believe in what this ministry is about. If you are interested in supporting Harvest Time's work in any way and would like to take a look at our annual budget, please feel free to request one and we will gladly send you a copy. For now, perhaps the following figures will give you a quick glimpse of our annual expenses and income.

Total Income for the past year: \$710,000.00

Income utilized for operations: \$232,000.00

**Income designated for ministries to the poor:
\$370,000.00**

**Remaining balance on-hand for monthly Haiti distributions and operating capital (about 3 months):
\$108,000.00**



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 us to comment or discuss any part of this report. Bryan's phone number in Madison, WI is; 608-251-0869, or you can e-mail him at; bsirch@sirchio.com. Rose's phone number in San Jose, CA is; 408-264-3039, or e-mail her at; rfeerick2002@yahoo.com