



Harvest Time

Christians of wealth engaging with money as a doorway to spiritual transformation.

Harvest Time Haiti Transition Plan

Key to abbreviations used in this document:

HT = Harvest Time
HT/Hp = Harvest Time's Haiti Partners
BBF and BBF/HP = Beyond Borders Florida now called Haiti Partners
CSCS = Cite Soleil Community School (previously St. Thomas School and Boston Primary School)
BYA = Boston Youth Association
SPARE = Sponsorship Program Aiding Relationship and Education
MCC = Madison Christian Community

Background:

Harvest Time initially entered into relationship with individuals and small grassroots organizations in Haiti through the work of Don McClanen and Bryan Sirchio.

During his tenure at Ministry of Money, Don McClanen took hundreds of people from the United States to Haiti to have our eyes and hearts opened to the painful reality of global poverty and to have a deepened experience of the presence of Christ in our world and our lives. Though those trips were set up as trips of "pilgrimages of reverse mission," that is, they were focused not so much on solving problems in Haiti as converting the hearts of people from the US, years of travelling to Haiti resulted in relationships and friendships between Don and Bryan and people in Haiti.

Don and Bryan eventually decided to honor these relationships by providing financial support, initially to individuals, and then to small groups who were encouraged to organize to respond to needs in Cite Soleil. For several years, Don and Bryan provided encouragement, guidance, and companionship to the individuals who formed what became BYA, SPARE and Cite Soleil Community School to respond to needs in Cite Soleil.

In 2006, John Engle joined Bryan Sirchio (Don had left Harvest Time by that point) in companioning BYA, SPARE, and CSCS, working with the leadership of those organizations as they learned to develop budgets and work together collaboratively to further their respective goals.

One of the greatest gifts of Harvest Time's history of partnership with individuals and grassroots organizations in Haiti is its rootedness in long-term relationship. As one of HT's Haitian partners put it in April 2009, "Harvest Time is our family."

Recent Developments in Harvest Time

Since the Spring of 2007, Harvest Time has been in an extensive discernment process to clarify its core mission and to attempt to realign all aspects of Harvest Time programming with that mission. As a result of that process, Harvest Time's board and staff became clear that Harvest Time's mission is as follows:

Harvest Time invites people of wealth to come together to engage with money as a doorway into spiritual transformation at the personal, communal, and systemic levels. By “people of wealth” we mean people who come from the culture of wealth or who understand themselves to have more than enough money in a world where too many do not have what they need to survive. Harvest Time is rooted in the Christian tradition and welcomes all who feel called to sit in our circles as we walk and grow together along the path of Spirit in the service of love, joy and justice.

Harvest Time’s Discernment about the Haiti Partnership Portion of the Ministry

During the same time period, HT experienced difficulty raising money that was specifically designated for Harvest Time’s Haiti Partnerships. Harvest Time responded to this challenge by calling a Haiti Circle to invite new participation in the Haiti partnership program and to invite people in the HT network to help HT discern the organizational structure that would best support HT’s Haiti partners. That circle looked at the updated Harvest Time mission statement, the funding stream for the HT/Hp portion of the HT budget and the needs of Harvest Time’s Haiti partners and made a recommendation that the HT/Hp program did not fit with the mission of Harvest Time.

In February 2009, the HT Board of Directors accepted this recommendation, discerning that being in long-term indefinite financial partnership and relationship with people and organizations in Haiti does not support Harvest Time’s primary mission, nor does it support long-term sustainability for HT’s partners in Haiti. The Board of Directors also made a commitment to be in the transition honorably rather than suddenly pull out after years of friendship and financial partnership. That process continues. This plan covers the fruit of that discernment.

Overview of the Harvest Time Transition

Harvest Time entered into the transition process hoping to be able to transfer fiscal administration and support of Harvest Time’s Haiti partners to organizations whose primary mission is about being in relationship with people and organizations in Haiti and that can effectively meet the needs of HT/Hp. In addition, Harvest Time hoped to be in this process in a way that would care for all the individuals involved and that would open up new possibilities for how we (Harvest Time, the individuals involved, partner organizations) can transition financial commitments in a way that is rooted in relationship, mutual learning, and that supports long term sustainability.

Specific goals of this transition period are:

- a. to join HT friends and partners in Haiti in developing more stable funding sources, individually or collectively
- b. to listen together for the leading of the Holy Spirit
- c. to continue to develop relationships and support each other even as we work to transition the financial relationship between Harvest Time and its partners in Haiti
- d. to invite individuals in the Harvest Time network and friends from partner organizations to assist us during this transition time
- e. to open up conversations about issues that come up as we transition HT’s partnerships from full dependency on Harvest Time to other organizations as part of our process of learning how to transition financial commitments well and as part of our process of gathering wisdom

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Initially, Harvest Time anticipated that the transition period could take up to three years. After entering into the work of the transition, the facilitating team (John Engle, Greg Rasmussen, Judy Bork, Bryan Sirchio, and Rose Feerick) updated this timeline. The team decided to end monthly financial wires to the BYA in October 2009, to S.P.A.R.E. in December 2009 and to complete the transition period by June 2010.

Specific Steps Planned For June 2009-June 2010

When HT began the process of clarifying this vision, HT did not have funds to make it a reality. Still, the transition team worked to develop the vision for honorable transition knowing that a clear vision was necessary to move forward and to invite others to join in this process.

In early June 2009, Harvest Time received a generous bequest from the estate of one of HT's early supporters who had a lifelong commitment to Christ and to sharing her resources with people in need. The transition team is profoundly grateful for this gift that will allow HT to honor years of relationship by being in this transition in the way that cares for the individuals involved and supports our friends in Haiti as they take their next steps.

Transition Cite Soleil Community School to Haiti Partners in October 2009 (previously referred to as Beyond Borders Florida).

Harvest Time has transitioned fiscal administration of Cite Soleil Community School to Haiti Partners. Harvest Time is excited about Haiti Partners' vision for education in Haiti and hopes that this transition will result in the continued development of leadership at the school and a better quality of education for children who attend the school. In addition, Harvest Time believes that Haiti Partners is well equipped to draw broad financial support to create a sustainable funding base for the school.

To support this transition, Harvest Time will guarantee funding for the school budget for the first year (October 1, 2009-September 30, 2010). Harvest Time will guarantee a quarter of the budget for the second year. In addition, Harvest Time has offered to share photos and video footage of the school and to provide funding for the creation of a 1-3 minute DVD that can be used by Haiti Partners to highlight the work of the Cite Soleil Community School.

During the transition period, John Engle will work with Guy and Wenzy, CSCS leadership, to secure a new building for the school. Wenzy and Moreno are already active participants in Capacity Building3 Training, a rich context for learning, through which they have the opportunity to visit other schools. In addition, Fremy and Abelard of Circles of Change will provide support for the evolution of the educational model at the school

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according to Haiti Partners' vision. One Harvest Time donor has also indicated a desire to support extra training for teachers.

Bryan Sirchio will also highlight the work of the school through his music ministry. Harvest Time will provide funding for the creation of a dvd that he can use to do so (see SPARE section below for more details).

During the transition period, Harvest Time, Haiti Partners, MCC, Circles of Change, and Cite Soleil Community School will create and serve on an international advisory council to support the following goals:

- Provide a quality education to students of Cite Soleil Community School.
- Create a solid partnership between our institutions characterized by respect, transparency, collegiality, and trust.
- Support Cite Soleil Community School's healthy evolution toward greater sustainability so that it can contribute positively to the community for years to come.

HT's hope and prayer is that these efforts will result in CSCS becoming a model school in Cite Soleil.

S.P.A.R.E.

The management and funding of the SPARE sponsorship program have been shared by Harvest Time and Madison Christian Community since the SPARE program began. As Harvest Time seeks to transition out of its role, we are grateful to Madison Christian Community and Bryan Sirchio who are stepping into increased partnership with Guy and Moreno to support SPARE. We are also grateful that Haiti Partners has agreed to serve as fiscal agent for this program.

To support a healthy transition to MCC and Bryan Sirchio, Harvest Time will provide a monthly wire to SPARE for six months to support administrative costs of the program in Haiti. Harvest Time will also provide funding to support the creation of a DVD highlighting the work of SPARE and Cite Soleil Community School. Bryan Sirchio will use this DVD at his concerts to highlight the work of SPARE and the school. We hope that these steps will allow MCC and Bryan time and a tool to secure additional funding for the program before Harvest Time completes its support of SPARE. In addition, in the fall of 2009, Harvest Time staff member Greg Rasmussen will assist Bryan in putting in place SPARE's books and in creating a simple website for the program.

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BYA Closure and Next Steps

Though initially the transition team hoped to transition the BYA program to another organization/organizations working in Cite Soleil, during the course of the transition it became clear that this was not tenable and that next steps for the BYA were better supported through support of income generating activities for individual members of the BYA. We believe that the years of support and companionship with Harvest Time staff members Don McClanen, Bryan Sirchio, and John Engle have prepared members of BYA to take their next step in terms of becoming independent of Harvest Time. That is, we see this moment as one which is ripe for the next stage of stepping into leadership and vision for the members of these organizations. We are pleased and grateful that several members of BYA are already participating in the Capacity Building3 Program through Haiti Partners.

Beginning in July 2009, Harvest Time will provide a monthly wire to BYA for four months. In addition, Harvest Time funding to BYA to transition its programs in Cite Soleil so that the people in Cite Soleil who have been benefitting from these programs (children going to school, people receiving food, people who have been cleaning canals) will have an opportunity to seek other sources of support. At the end of this period, Harvest Time will no longer provide financial support for the BYA.

Support the emergence of income generating activities/next steps for members of BYA who choose to work with HT and BBF/HP in doing so.

During Harvest Time's transition period (June 2009-June 2010), members of BYA will be invited to participate in several meetings with John Engle and members of Circles of Change designed to provide additional support, coaching and encouragement for the continued development of their leadership and visions. The goal of these meetings will be to provide a supported context in which members of BYA can develop visions for income generating activities and/or plan their next steps.

Harvest Time will provide grants to former BYA members to support the visions and business plans that are created during this transition year. Haiti Partners will manage/provide accountability for these grants. John Engle, "It's as though we've been preparing for this for years. We are very excited about this."

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HT Staff and Volunteer Support of Overall Transition

Staff and volunteer support of this process is obviously a key ingredient in moving this transition forward. Three Harvest Time staff members and two Harvest Time volunteers are already working to support this process in the US and will continue to do so through June 2010.

Partnership with Haiti Partners

Harvest Time is grateful to be in close relationship with the emerging ministry, Haiti Partners. We recognize HT's need for the skill, expertise and vision of Haiti Partners to support the kind of transition HT wants to be in with HT/Hp. HT recognizes that its continued support of John Engle's work not only serves HT goals in Haiti but, we hope, will also serve to support Haiti Partners as it becomes an independent organization. We are pleased to be in this kind of mutually supportive partnership with Haiti Partners.

Financial support for this transition

Harvest Time was thrilled and profoundly grateful to receive the bequest from an early Harvest Time friend in June 2009 that allowed us to begin the process of embodying the way of being in honorable transition that Harvest Time board, staff, and volunteers had spent the spring envisioning. In addition, Harvest Time is profoundly grateful to a longtime Harvest Time supporter who has made a pledge to help Harvest Time fund the work of the CSCS.

The Haiti Transition Team is currently seeking other partners to join us in this transition and in supporting the emergence of next steps for HT/Hp.

The budget for the Haiti Transition is available upon request.

After the transition phase

After this year of transition, Harvest Time will no longer make any ongoing commitments to people and organizations in Haiti. Individuals who have been in relationship with HT/Hp may continue to be in relationship with people and organizations in Haiti. Harvest Time will provide support to those individuals in the context of its retreat and companionship programs. In addition, John Engle will continue to be in personal friendship and collaborative relationship with the staff and board of Harvest Time, but will no longer serve as a HT staff member.

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