



## **THE HARVESTER**

Newsletter of HARVEST TIME MINISTRIES  
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Greetings and blessings in the precious Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! SHALOM!

Well, here we are in another year, Wow! Where did 2012 go? Time seems to be going faster and faster, and we realize the Lord's coming is getting closer and closer. As I sit here, reminiscing, I think of all the wonderful blessings He has bestowed the past year, and I know this coming year will bring even more. We are so grateful of the 10+ years of time and love Bill and Darlene Welch have put in as Treasurer and Secretary of Harvest Time Ministries, Inc., and it is a somewhat bittersweet time as we bid them farewell as officers, but we will continue to keep in touch. Please keep Bill in prayer, as he has been in the hospital many times this past year with heart problems. Here's the sweet: We now have a new Secretary, Barbara MacDonald, who has helped me in the office in the past, and has served as a capable administrator in her past endeavors. Our new Treasurer, Elizabeth (Liz) Whitney works in a CPA office in Naples and has an extensive background in financial matters. Both are wonderful practicing Christians, and I know both of them personally and am looking forward to a great year with all our Directors. It would be a huge blessing to find a volunteer to help me in the office, too.

The company whose program I have used for several years (VianSoft) has gone out of business, so I will be looking for a new church-type program. The old program presently is still functional, although I was unable to pull up on the computer the year 2012 in order to send out end-of-year receipts, for which I apologize. However, thanks to Ed and Noemi Gonzalez (my previous church pastors), who helped me set up the original program, we were able to find the lost files, so the receipts are now on their way. We are so grateful for all our wonderful volunteers. HTM is interdenominational, and we have volunteers from various area churches. St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Jesus LaRoca (Latino church) function as HTM "partners", and have helped with food and finances, as well as providing several volunteers. Our prayers go out to one of our St. Mary's volunteers, Robert Ricci, on the recent loss of his wife, Kathryn.

Christmas was an exciting time in the camps, as "Mr. and Mrs. Santa" Leo and Marilyn once again were with us in the camps as names were drawn and they passed out gifts of toys and new clothing to around 140 very excited children. For some, this was the only "Christmas" they had experienced, and all the parents and children heard about the birth of Jesus Christ, the true meaning of Christmas, as our Chaplains, Carlos and Klewer, delivered the message of hope, and Jose provided inspiring music with singing and keyboard. In almost every visit to the camps (every other Saturday during "season") there are many commitments and recommitments to Christ. Sending Jesus' message of LOVE is the best gift we could deliver, at Christmas, and all year!

Christmas cards never did go out from my household, but gifts did get sent to my HUGE family. I need to re-count the number of grandkids, great-grandkids (and one great-great) each year, as the numbers keep growing. I'm hoping to send a family newsletter one of these days soon. Some of the gifts were delayed, as I attended the funeral of my brother, Dick, in Des Moines, IA in October, and then, the funeral of my grandson, Lucas, in Omaha, NE in December. The bright spots in times of sadness were (1) knowing that my loved ones are with Jesus, and (2) greeting, praying and talking with many relatives I hadn't seen for many years. Even though we don't know the exact date, the Bible tells us we will know the "season" of Jesus' coming, and we know, from the Bible, that things are happening in the world that are bringing His arrival closer, so it won't be long until we see Jesus (and our loved ones) face to face. Just be ready!

In 2012 HTM received a check from the Community Thanksgiving Eve program offering; grant checks from St. Mary's Episcopal church, First United Methodist Church, Lighthouse Bay Charity Pentathlon, Hope Lutheran Foundation, Country Creek Community Charities and Women of War & Glenn Martin Ministries (CA). Thanks to above receipts and those of private individuals, HTM was able to provide food, clothing, toiletries, linens, baby items and other necessities to families greatly in need during the year.

*For I was hungry, and ye gave me food; I was thirsty and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger and ye took me in; Naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me...Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me. (Matthew 25:35, 36, 40)*

**FORGIVE THEM????**

Most of us are familiar with the words of Jesus as He was hanging on the cross, giving His very life for us, so that we could have eternal life. He said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34) Colossians 3:12-13 says: "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience, forgiving one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive". And, Ephesians 4:31-32 says: "Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Jesus did no wrong, and therefore had every right to carry unforgiveness and offense against those who were actually in the wrong, yet He was the one who forgave.

Do you have unforgiveness against someone who has offended you? A relative, parent, child, husband or wife, a boss, a friend, maybe even a pastor or church leader? We can say we have forgiven that person, but when satan reminds us of that past hurt, do we rehash or rehearse it again in our mind? Then we have not truly forgiven, and each time we bring the offense (which may be a true offense or a "perceived" one) to mind, we cause it to strengthen. The Word tells us that God, when WE ask forgiveness, places our sin "as far as the east is from the west", which means that He also FORGETS that sin. When we harbor grudges or unforgiveness, we put ourselves above God, since He alone is judge. Romans 12:19 tells us: "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord". James 4:12 reminds us that there is ONE lawgiver and judge, He who is able to save and destroy. And James 5:9 warns us not to judge, lest we be judged. We are reminded in Matthew 6:12, when Jesus taught his disciples to pray, that we ask the Lord to "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us". Essentially, this is saying that God cannot forgive our sins if we harbor unforgiveness or offense against someone. And, again, we have not truly forgiven, in our heart, until we "forget" that offense. The best time to forgive is immediately after the offense takes place, then we won't harbor the bitterness (satan's trap) until it grows to an immense mountain and eats away until we can think of nothing else, which is something satan really enjoys, because it keeps our mind off the Word of God. Hebrews 12:14-15 says: "Strive for peace with all men, and for holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fail to obtain the grace of God, that **no root of bitterness** spring up and cause trouble, and by it the many become defiled". In the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter of Matthew, we see that a king forgave his servant of an enormous amount of debt, and yet that servant wouldn't forgive a fellow servant of a smaller debt, so the enraged king threw the first servant in prison. Jesus forgave our HUGE debt; how can we not forgive others? I worked in doctors' offices for many years and found that emotional problems (which include unforgiveness) can cause physical illness. Plus, it keeps us from seeing our own faults. *"Acquiring an offense keeps you from seeing your own character flaws because blame is deferred to another"*. (John Bevere in "The Bait of Satan")

I remember a series of offenses from someone very close to me. Every time the phone rang, even before I answered it, I somehow knew it was that person, and I got a splitting headache, awaiting more offenses and threats against me. However, the day I actually, truly forgave that person, I had peace in my heart, and no more headaches when I thought of that person. In fact, after that, when the phone rang, I listened, peacefully, to the insults and threats, (which eventually ended as I listened peacefully) and I later was able to minister to the person. Another of satan's attacks foiled! Later, that person did ask my forgiveness. I have purposed in my heart that I will not carry offenses or unforgiveness and, at times I have to remind myself of this, but I know that when I immediately forgive, God has forgiven my sins, as well. My prayer for you is that you will take the time to reflect, in your spirit, whether there is someone you have not TRULY forgiven, and ask the Lord to forgive you for harboring that offense. Then, if it is possible, go to the person who offended you and ask their forgiveness for harboring that offense in your spirit (even if you feel you were "in the right"). Jesus didn't wait until the people asked for forgiveness; He just immediately forgave them! One of the best books available is "THE BAIT OF SATAN" (Living Free From the Deadly Trap of Offense) by John Bevere.. I'm not in the usual habit of recommending books (except the Bible), but I feel this is one that will be VERY beneficial to your life and your emotional health.

The above is a very important message which I share from my heart. If all the governments in every nation would follow these important words from the Bible, there would be no wars, no killing, and if every family would follow the instructions there would be no divorces, and families - children and parents - could live in peace and harmony. Please pray for our nation! *"If we ever forget that we are one nation under God, then we will be a nation gone under."* (Former President Ronald Reagan).

During WWII in France, a young nun was returning to her convent from the market. A soldier on a motorcycle saw her and pulled over. Although she thought he stopped to help her with her heavy basket of food, she soon found out otherwise. As he forced her into the woods, she screamed, but no one heard her. The trauma she occurred that day haunted her with nightmares for years, but gradually she began to heal. Years later, she was chosen to host a meeting of German teachers as a gesture of post-war reconciliation. Among them was her aggressor. It all came back! The bitterness and the thoughts of revenge were unbearable until she spent the night in prayer. Crying out to God, she eventually found the grace to serve them—all of them. She was finally free! Until we forgive, we are the prisoner of the person who has offended us. How many times should we forgive? The Bible says seventy times seven, which, in essence, means every time!

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TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE. SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS. Can you relate to any of the following?

- Your kids are becoming you, but your grandchildren are perfect!
- Going out is good. Coming home is better!
- You forget names...but it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!
- You realize you're never going to be really good at anything...especially golf.
- The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.
- You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".
- You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.
- You tend to use more 4-letter words... "what?" "when?"...?
- Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.
- You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless".
- What used to be freckles are now liver spots.
- Everybody whispers (or mumbles).
- You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet, 2 of which you will never wear.
- But OLD is GOOD in some things: Old songs, Old movies, and, best of all, Old friends! And discounts!

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\*RIDDLE: Can you answer all seven of the following questions with the same word?

- 1) The word has seven letters.....2) Preceded God.....3) Greater than God....4) More evil than the devil..
- 5) Most poor people have it...6) Many wealthy people need it...7) If you eat it, you will die.

Did you figure it out? Did you get it yet? (Answer below) \*

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The minister had given a stirring message about the blessing of forgiving others based on the forgiveness we have so freely received. "Who here is ready to pray with me to forgive all those who have sinned against them?" asked the minister. Everyone but one elderly woman raised their hand. "Miss Lucy, please tell us why it is you feel you don't have anyone to forgive?" Miss Lucy replied, "Because I outlived all those heathen sinners, that's why!"

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FIGHT TRUTH DECAY --- STUDY THE BIBLE DAILY. DUSTY BIBLES LEAD TO DIRTY LIVES.  
 Seen on a bumper sticker: "Drive carefully; it's not only cars that can be recalled by their maker."  
 Sign above church nursery door: "We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed." (1 Cor. 15:51)

HARVEST TIME NEEDS:

- Clothing, shoes, linens
- Nonperishable food
- Diapers, baby items
- Volunteer office help
- Prayers for the ministry
- Finances to purchase above.

HTM is a 501 C(3) interdenominational, not-for-profit organization which depends entirely on private donations "from the heart". You may also pay by credit card by logging on to our web site.

To get your ticket to heaven, just say this prayer:

"Dear Jesus, Thank You for the sacrifice You made for me. Please forgive me for all of my sins. I accept You as my Lord and my Savior. Thank you for leading me with your Holy Spirit to fulfill Gods plan for my life. In Jesus' name, Amen"

Please remember our Newsletter sponsor:

*Without Jesus there is no journey.*

**Godspeed**



NAPLES BONITA SPRINGS

\* Answer to riddle: NOTHING

*Love, blessings & prayers, Jerry*  3 John 2





140 CHILDREN RECEIVED CHRISTMAS GIFTS OF TOYS AND BRAND NEW CLOTHES FROM HARVEST TIME PICTURED ARE A FEW OF THE CHILDREN AS SANTA & MRS. SANTA DISTRIBUTE THE WRAPPED GIFTS. FOOD, CLOTHING & OTHER ITEMS WERE GIVEN ON THIS VISIT AND EVERY OTHER SATURDAY DURING "SEASON".







# Chaplain's Corner

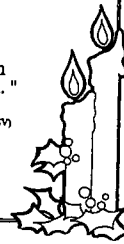
(Chaplain Don Franck)

## JESUS BORN AS WE WERE

It is strange to understand, or to know, that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, when He was born of a woman, conceived by the Holy Spirit, truly was flesh and blood just as you and I. We read in Galatians 4:23: But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by the promise. (This being the promise that was made to Abraham concerning his seed, Jesus Christ.) Philippians 2:7: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men; 8) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. And to further bring this out, we read in Hebrews 2:17: Wherefore, in all things it behooved him (Jesus) to be made like his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18) For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to help them that are tempted. It is hard to realize and understand that we human beings have an advocate with the Father Who, in every way, has been tempted even as we; He knows how it feels; He knows pain; He knows sorrow; He knows gladness; He knows joy. In every way when Jesus came into this world He walked as flesh and blood because he WAS flesh and blood, and therefore He understands your heartaches and mine, and our problems, our sorrows and disappointments. But, above all these things, He is our Savior and our Redeemer, and He is a righteous a righteous One—one Who understands. We must understand this: That Jesus, being born in the flesh, had to learn concerning the flesh. Hebrews 5:8 says: Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered. You may wonder: How did Jesus suffer, and how was He tempted in every way liken unto us? We read, in I John 2:16: For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And so we see that it says "all that is in the world"—otherwise everything that is in the world comes under the classification of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. Now, how was Jesus tempted in this wise? In Matthew 4:3, we see where the devil came and tempted Jesus and besought Him to command the stones to turn to bread, and Jesus, in the 4th verse, said: It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 5) Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, 6) And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down; for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee, and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7) Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not put the Lord, thy God, to the test. 8) Again, the devil taketh him up

into an exceedingly high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them. 9) And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10) Then saith Jesus unto him, Begone, satan; for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord, thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11) Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him. So you see that in these three areas Jesus was tempted. He was tempted with the lust of the flesh, the pride of life, and the lust of the eye. All three of these things He went through; and He came through victoriously. And so He has, in all ways, been tempted as you and I. We read that this Jesus of Nazareth was born to be King of the Jews, Matthew 2:2: Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. This is where the wise men, or the kings from the east, came to pay homage to Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews. And though He was born under circumstances less than ideal, Jesus still was the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. And, again, we need to remember that, without Jesus, this season has no reason. We need to give Him the honor and the glory that He is more than worthy of. He should be sitting on the throne of our hearts this very day. May the Lord Bless you with a "WONDERFUL BIRTH SEASON".

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."  
 Luke 1:35 (RSV)




### My Christmas Prayer

by Evelyn Witter

Bless the shining Christmas stars,  
 Bless the gift-packed modern cars,  
 Bless the churches' candle glow,  
 Bless the softly falling snow.

Bless the favorite Christmas songs,  
 Bless the smiling happy throngs,  
 Bless the Season's worship call,  
 Bless the meaning of it all.

**NO JESUS, NO PEACE  
 KNOW JESUS, KNOW PEACE**



**JESUS IS THE REASON  
 FOR EVERY SEASON**

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN,  
 UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN, AND  
 THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON  
 HIS SHOULDER; AND HIS NAME  
 SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL,  
 COUNSELOR, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE  
 EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE  
 OF PEACE. (Is. 9:6)

### LAUGHING MATTERS

Christmas is a time when everybody wants his past forgotten and his present remembered. #

Always mail your Christmas gifts early... it gives the receivers time to reciprocate. #