



## **THE HARVESTER**

Newsletter of HARVEST TIME MINISTRIES  
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Greetings, Brothers and Sisters in the Lord, and blessings to you and yours!

Summer already! I keep thinking I'll have lots of time during "slow" months when we don't go to the camps, but so far I've managed to keep fairly busy, anyway, with yard work, house work, church work, meetings, etc. And, it's time for another newsletter. Our new treasurer, Liz, has been a blessing in that she not only gives me a monthly accounting after I give her the bank statements and records, but she also does quarterly and comparative statements. With this newsletter, I have included a few pictures of camp children at Easter time, when we distributed 75 filled baskets for the little ones. Of course, the people in the camps heard the Resurrection story from our chaplains, and, again, we have seen many salvations and rededications to the Lord this past "season". They appreciate the food and clothing we distribute, but are always hungry for the Word of God. Most of our volunteers are "up north" now, but I have heard from a couple of them who are anxious to get started again working in the camps this coming November. We were saddened to hear of the death of Philip, the son of St. Mary's Senior Pastor, Fr. Michael Rowe, and our condolences and prayers go to the family.

We were blessed to receive most welcome donations & grants from Lighthouse Bay (in the Brooks Community in Bonita) and Country Creek Community Charities (Estero), which enabled us to purchase back packs and school supplies for 400 needy children and pay the annual rental for our three storage units. And we are grateful for donations/grants from St. Mary's Episcopal Church, St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran and First United Methodist, as well as Glenn Martin Ministries in California, our long-time missionary friends. Of course we always appreciate all donations, large or small, and we do appreciate those of you who are so faithful to pray for us. The annual post office food drive helped to stock our shelves with canned goods, but we still must purchase diapers, cereal, pasta, rice and many other items before we begin our camp visits again. And at Christmas we will be collecting new toys and new clothing for children in the camps. I'm always happy to hear from you, my "partners", and to know what you are doing. Please let me know if you need special prayers. It's a joy to hear that you are reading the newsletters and enjoying them. If you don't need or want the newsletters, I would appreciate knowing that, too; I'm trying to be a good steward of God's time and finances. And please don't feel you have to send a donation in order to receive the newsletters; it's a blessing to send them to you.

I'm still on the praise & worship team at church on Sunday and am leading the Weds. noon prayer service at church twice a month and Life Group in my home once a month and am attending Thurs. night Bible study at church. Monthly clergy meetings and housing meetings are cancelled for a couple of months, so that gives me a bit more time to catch up on things. Yard work gives me some exercise, and I'm going to Silver Sneakers exercise classes at the YMCA twice a week and trying to exercise at home the other days. God has blessed me with good health, for which I am very thankful, and I'm feeling more energetic now that I have lost a few pounds. I hadn't planned on an out-of-town vacation this year; however, granddaughter Cori is getting married July 20<sup>th</sup>, so I will be flying to Grand Island, Nebraska, just for that weekend. I probably will not be visiting the Omaha area any time in the near future; airlines are getting too expensive, plus I really don't like to fly. I'm hoping some of the family will be able to visit me, however. Daughter Terri and her husband Roger (from New Orleans area) had planned to visit again, but have had house problems, reconstruction after storms, rain, etc. Granddaughter Aimee and husband Troy and their two sweet little girls (from Virginia) were the last ones to visit. I recently had a "flood" with a sink leak, but was blessed when a friend replaced the sink flooring and a wonderful man from church hired a contractor (and paid him) to replace the ruined laminate flooring, saving me hundreds of dollars.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Please keep my new great-granddaughter Isabelle (born in April) in prayer. She was found not breathing and was revived; at this writing she is still in a rehab facility in Lincoln, NE. Nation & troops: There has been so much happening in recent months - bombings, shootings, hurricanes, tornadoes, heat waves, floods, in such epic proportions, that we can't help but realize we must surely be close to the coming of Jesus. Please remember to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. We know that only Jesus can bring perfect peace, so when we pray for the peace of Jerusalem we are really praying for the return of Jesus. Jesus, come quickly!

*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)*

### HOW WERE OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS "SAVED" ?

Have you ever wondered how Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and other Godly people in the Old Testament were able to get to heaven? Some might answer, "Well, God (The Father) saw their hearts and knew they were good, so He took them to heaven." Yes, He did know they were good, and that pleased Him, but wait a minute! John 14:6 says: "Jesus said to him (Thomas), *'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'*" And Romans 10:9 tells us "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Whoa! People in the Old Testament didn't know about Jesus, much less confess Him with their mouths and hearts. To find the answer, we need to look at Jesus' crucifixion. The Word says, in Ephesians 4:8-9: "When He (Jesus) ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men. Now this, 'He ascended' - what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?" In Matthew 27:52, we see that graves were opened and people walked the streets. Zombies? Of course not; these were the saints of old. But where were they that Jesus needed to set them free? Now let us make a distinction between HEAVEN and PARADISE, which have been used interchangeably by some, but are definitely different.

HEAVEN (Greek #2032) - epouranos: (Biblical) Above the sky, celestial. Webster dictionary calls it a perfect place of perfect union with God and so of eternal life and happiness, attained by the elect after death; abode of God, His angels and the blessed.

PARADISE (Greek #3857) - paradeisos: (Biblical) A park. Webster also calls it a park, garden, orchard, enclosure, etc. among many other definitions, but also includes "heaven" in non-Biblical terminology.

So where was Paradise? In Luke 16:19-31, Jesus gives the parable of a rich man and Lazarus, a beggar who only wanted the crumbs from the rich man's table. The beggar died and was carried to "Abraham's Bosom" (sometimes also known as "Paradise?"). At that time Sheol-Hades (or "hell") was divided into three parts: There was the lower part, where the "bad guys", including the "rich man" spoken of, went, and Abraham's Bosom, the upper part. But there was a great gulf (verse 26) in between the two, where no one could cross from one part to the other. So no amount of pleading to Abraham from the tormented rich man could be answered (although it is assumed they could hear and speak to each other). Jesus, when He descended, set the "captives" (in Abraham's Bosom) free. It is assumed that first He preached to them and taught them so that John 14:6 would be answered and they would understand Jesus was their Messiah and they could receive Him as their Lord and Savior. Jesus also disarmed principalities and powers (that satan had obtained with the sin of Adam and Eve), restoring power and authority to God's redeemed people.

Remember when Jesus was on the cross, and one of the men, also being crucified, recognized that he, himself, deserved punishment, although he knew Jesus was innocent and didn't deserve to die? The thief asked Jesus to remember him when He (Jesus) came into His kingdom. Luke 23:43: "Jesus said to him: *'Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise'*". So the thief joined the O.T. saints and Jesus, in Paradise, and he, the thief, also was saved. After Jesus set the captives free, they were able to join Him in Heaven. That Paradise is now closed, and the only way we can now be saved is according to Romans 10:9-10 (above) because Jesus came to give us the instructions. He came so that we might have life, and have it more abundantly and that we would have a way to live eternally with Him and with the Father in heaven. Meanwhile, Jesus has given us the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in the way we should go. Our world, as we know it, is quickly drawing to a close, as we see people turning away from God and His ways, and as we see so many catastrophic things happening that we read about in the book of The Revelation. If you have not made that commitment to the Lord, it is not too late. There is a simple prayer for you to follow below so you will know that one day you will go to be with Jesus and live eternally in His presence.

PRAYER OF SALVATION: (Say this out loud): Father God, I come to You as a sinner, knowing I have not followed Your ways, and I ask Your forgiveness, in the Name of Your Son, Jesus. I forgive any who have hurt or harmed me in any way. I believe that you sent Jesus to die on the cross for me, and that He arose from the dead and now sits at Your right hand. I receive you, Jesus, as my Lord and Savior, and ask you to help me live my life in a way that is pleasing to You. Holy Spirit, come into my life and lead and guide me every day. I ask these things in the precious Name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

## Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

**Lord,**

Make me an instrument  
of Your peace;  
Where there is hatred,  
let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;  
Where there is sadness, joy.

**O Divine Master,**

Grant that I may not so much  
seek to be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive.

It is in pardoning that  
we are pardoned.

It is in dying that we  
are born to eternal life.



## If God Should Go on Strike

How good it is that God above has never gone on strike  
Because he was not treated fair in things he didn't like.  
If only once he'd given up and said, "That's it, I'm through,"  
"I've had enough of thee on earth, so this is what I'll do.

"I'll give my orders to the sun, cut off the heat supply,  
And to the moon give no more light and run the oceans dry.  
Then just to make things really tough and put the pressure on,  
Turn off the vital oxygen till every breath is gone."

You know he would be justified, if fairness were the game.  
For no one has been more abused or met with more disdain  
Than God, and yet he carries on, supplying you and me  
With all the favors of his grace, and everything for free.

Men say they want a better deal, and so on strike they go,  
But what a deal we've given God to whom all things we owe.  
We don't care who we hurt to gain the things we like,  
But what a mess we'd all be in if God should go on strike.

—Author unknown

# GOD U

**EXPLANATION OF GOD** by Danny Dutton, 8-year-old Chula Vista, CA boy, for a class assignment to "Explain God." (I assume it's a Christian school) "One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies, I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers. God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off. God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have. Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church. Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K. And God did not let Jesus stay in the grave, but raised him from the dead. His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important. You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time. You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God! Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway. If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know he's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids. But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases. And...that's why I believe in God." \* Note \*(From the internet - I haven't checked it out yet but hope it's true. Anyhow, it's a good lesson, and supposedly it was published.)

### HARVEST TIME NEEDS

- CLOTHING, SHOES, LINENS
- NONPERISHABLE FOOD
- DIAPERS, BABY ITEMS
- FINANCES TO PURCHASE ABOVE
- VOLUNTEERS
- YOUR PRAYERS (IMPORTANT)

Harvest Time Ministries is a 501 C-3 interdenominational not-for-profit organization which depends entirely on "donations from the heart". If you wish to pay by credit card, you may log on to [www.harvesttimebonita.org](http://www.harvesttimebonita.org)

MANY THANKS TO OUR NEWSLETTER SPONSOR:



Have a joyful, healthy, fun-filled summer!  
Love, blessings & prayers, in Jesus,

*Gerry*

Beloved, I wish, above all things, that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. (3 John 2)

