



THE HARVESTER

Newsletter of HARVEST TIME MINISTRIES
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Greetings and blessings, Harvest Time Partners:

I pray that you have had an enjoyable summer and that you have not had problems that have plagued so many states with all the floods, fires, tornadoes, shootings and other disasters. With all that has been happening, you may wonder "WHAT in the world"??? (See some answers in the included teaching.). We in SW FLorida have seen quite a bit of rain this summer; in fact, it is raining as I write this newsletter. My back yard was a "lake" a couple of times, but I'm blessed it only came up to the back of the "house" (I live in a double-wide manufactured home). And, the new air conditioner (which I was able to purchase at a very reasonable price, thanks to connections of church friends) was installed just a couple of days before the water deluge, which would have made it impossible to get under the house for the necessary AC work.

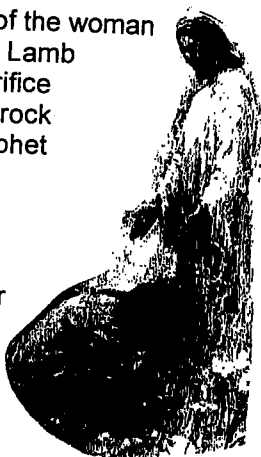
The Lord keeps me in good health, and I am so grateful for His love and for the Holy Spirit, who has been teaching us to know Him even more personally, through our Thursday night church Bible study and John Bever's new book on the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of Jesus resides in our spirit if we ask for His (Holy Spirit's) infilling. Jesus said He needed go to the Father so He could send another comforter (the Holy Spirit) to teach and guide us each day. If you have received Jesus as your Savior, you at that time received the Holy Spirit, but you must ask for the "infilling" or baptism of the Holy Spirit. Ask Him at the beginning of the day to guide your way so you will do what is pleasing to the LORD and be a blessing.

"HE WHO HAS A GENEROUS EYE WILL BE BLESSED, FOR HE GIVES OF HIS BREAD TO THE POOR." (Proverbs 22:9). "He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who honors Him has mercy on the needy." (Proverbs 14:31) There are many more scriptures that tell us we must feed the poor. I believe the best one is in Matthew 25 (see bottom of this page). Since 1987, Harvest Time Ministries has endeavored to feed (physically and spiritually) those less fortunate, especially the hard-working farm worker families. Every other Saturday during "season" (Nov. - Apr.) we deliver 125-150 full bags of groceries, plus clothing, shoes, linens, small household items, diapers and other items to those in need. Our Chaplains deliver a spiritual message and pray for the families, distributing Spanish-language Bibles when requested. There have been hundreds of commitments and commitments to the Lord at these visits. Student nurses from Florida Gulf Coast University have partnered with us to do blood pressure checks and determine if there are other physical needs. Two local churches have partnered with us to help pack and distribute the items. We were saddened to hear that the source of 25-30% of our annual income may dry up this coming year. Lighthouse Bay has been very generous in years past. We have been one of three recipients for their annual grants from their Pentathlon and other events, but we have been told they may go in another direction next year. We very much appreciate the wonderful help they have been, and couldn't thank them enough, as 400 or more needy children each year have received back packs and school supplies with this funding. Whatever charity LHB decides to help, I know it will be a very worthy cause. It is not known whether we will be able to supply the school needs next year, unless the Lord brings in other funding. Country Creek Community Charities has provided partial funding for our rented storage rooms for the food and other items, and it is hoped this funding will continue in the future. With "season" just around the corner, our need this year is great, since, at this writing, very little in the way of donations has come in this summer, so we do not have the funds to purchase the needed food and supplies. Please pray and ask the LORD if He would have you help in the way of a one-time donation or monthly donations. You may also donate by credit card through web site: harvesttimebonita.org. Whatever the Lord leads you to do will be greatly appreciated! Your prayers are especially appreciated! God has provided some great volunteers, and we look forward to working with them again this coming season. If you are in the area and would like to volunteer, we can always use extra hands (and prayers).

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)

HIS NAME IS JESUS

In Genesis - the seed of the woman
 Exodus - the Passover Lamb
 Leviticus - atoning sacrifice
 Numbers - the smitten rock
 Deuteronomy - the prophet
 Joshua - the captain
 Judges - the deliverer
 Ruth - the kinsman
 Kings - the ruler
 Nehemiah - the restorer
 Esther - the advocate
 Job - the redeemer
 Psalms - the shepherd
 Proverbs - wisdom
 Ecclesiastes - the goal
 Song of Solomon - the groom
 Prophets - coming one
 Gospels - the God-man
 Acts - the risen one
 Epistles - head of the Church
 Revelation - the Worthy One



Even though our breakfast table never looks like the picture in magazines and the menu is at times unbalanced, THANK YOU, LORD, for the food we have. There are many who are hungry.

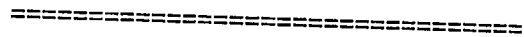
Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm rings, THANK YOU, LORD, that I can hear. There are many who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes closed against the morning light as long as possible, THANK YOU, LORD, that I can see. Many are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off rising, THANK YOU, LORD, that I have the strength to rise. There are many who are bedridden.

Even though the first hour of my day is hectic when socks are lost, toast is burned, tempers are short, and my children are so loud, THANK YOU, LORD, for my family. There are many who are lonely.

Even though the routine of my job often is monotonous, THANK YOU, LORD, for the opportunity to work. There are many who have no job.



HE WHO HAS PITY ON THE POOR LENDS TO THE LORD, AND HE WILL PAY BACK WHAT HE HAS GIVEN. (Proverbs 19:17)

LOOK BACK AND THANK GOD.
 LOOK FORWARD AND TRUST GOD.
 LOOK AROUND AND SERVE GOD.
 LOOK WITHIN AND FIND GOD!



There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

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Your tax-deductible donation to Harvest Time Ministries is much appreciated! We are 501 C-3 not for profit

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Many thanks to our sponsor who makes this newsletter possible. Stop and see them when you are in the area.

How to receive Him *

In any gift exchange, there has to be giver and receiver. God has already given us the gift, His Son; now we must receive Him. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).

We receive Him by faith. "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast" (Ephesians 2:8,9).

We receive Him by personal invitation. (Christ speaking) "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him" (Revelation 3:20). Do you hear His voice?

The following is a suggested prayer:
 "Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God and that you died on the cross for my sins to save me from eternal death. I open the door of my life and receive you as my Savior and Lord. I give you my life. Help me to be what you want me to be. Amen."

Without Jesus there is no journey.

Godspeed

NAPLES BONITA SPRINGS

WHAT IN THE WORLD?!?

First, I would ask that you pray and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts and open your eyes to understanding before reading the following message. Remember that the United States was founded as a Christian nation, and this is substantiated by our earliest settlers and signers of the Declaration of Independence. Do we still have basic Judeo-Christian ideals? Remember the famous quote stating that if we are not a nation under God, we are just one nation gone under. We are called "children of God", having been adopted by Him (1 John 3:1 & 3), so why are so many horrible things happening today? Is it God, or our own foolishness and refusal to follow the "Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth (Bible)"? I will touch on just a few subjects below; please keep an open mind as you study. (And remember, if you are guilty of any of these things, with true repentance God will forgive you.)

1. **WHO ARE WE?** Our government has declared that "we are not a Christian nation". What??? Why have we taken Jesus out of schools, public places and the military? We didn't have the school shootings, child suicides, etc. when the Bible was used as a study guide in schools.
2. **DOUBLE-MINDEDNESS** - adhering to both Biblical and worldly ways. The Bible says a double-minded man cannot receive anything from God (See James 1:6-8). Are we watching movies and TV shows that glorify God? Are we honest in our business and other dealings? Are we helping the poor or storing up riches for ourselves that the Bible says will rust and decay? Do we know our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and take care of them physically and morally?
3. **HOMOSEXUALITY** - Our government has declared that marriage between two men and marriage between two women should be recognized as legal. The Bible says we should abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thessalonians 4:3). In Genesis 19:1-15 we have the account of the reason (homosexuality) that Sodom was destroyed. Romans 1:25-27 says the truth of God was exchanged for a lie, serving the creature and not the Creator, and that women went against nature (lesbianism) and the men burned in lust, committing what is shameful (homosexual acts) and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.
4. **IMMORALITY** - Fornicators, idolaters, adulterers, homosexuals, sodomites will not see the kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 6:9). Adultery is sexual intercourse between a married person and someone who is not his/her mate, Fornication is sex between two unmarried people. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and is not to be abused in this way. The Bible says it's sin, period!
5. **ABORTION** - God fashioned us while we were still in the womb (Psalm 139:13) meaning a living baby, not a "blob of tissue". The use of ultrasound, proving this, has saved many babies who might have been aborted. Babies need a "choice". Children are a gift from God. John the Baptist leapt in his mother's womb at the sound of Mary's (Jesus' mother) voice. Abortion is no different from the sacrifice of babies in the Old Testament (Leviticus 20:2). God is not pleased!
6. **ADDICTIONS** - People have lost homes, income, and family, and even sometimes lives due to alcohol, gambling, pornography, drugs, etc. The Bible is full of scriptures to address these. Countless tragedies are due to these abuses. Today a serious addiction involves especially young people: video games glorifying and rewarding stealing, killing, torturing, murdering and more. Constant texting has led to loss of family time together, accidents, and many recent tragedies.
7. **IDOLATRY** - Whatever is most important in your life. This could be money, a job, video games, sports/TV/music/movie heroes, illicit sex, etc. God is against consulting mediums, familiar spirits, astrology, etc. (Lev. 20:6) Idolatry is putting something else ahead of God. Do we spend more time reading the paper/magazines, watching TV, texting, internet, etc. than we do in time with the Lord and seeking the Holy Spirit, in prayer, in studying the Bible? Attending church?

SO, WHAT IS THE ANSWER? Personally: If we repent of our sins and seek the Lord with all our heart, we will be forgiven. We must forgive others, as well as forgiving ourselves. For our Nation: "IF MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME WILL HUMBLE THEMSELVES, AND PRAY AND SEEK MY FACE, AND TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS, THEN I WILL HEAR FROM HEAVEN, AND WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND HEAL THEIR LAND". (2 Chronicles 7:14). Remember to pray for God's timetable, Israel, for peace. With peace will come their Messiah (and ours). Jesus, come quickly!

The above was written in love and not to condemn. We all need to repent and look forward to a better, more productive life. Seek the Holy Spirit daily! God loves you and only wants the best for you. So do we!



Much love, blessings, and prayers, in Jesus,

Gerry
3 John 2

Harvest Time Ministries is a 501 C-3 nonprofit, interdenominational organization, not funded by governmental or other organizations. We depend entirely on donations "from the heart". Thank you so much for helping Harvest Time in their endeavor to help the less fortunate.

LAYMAN'S TEN COMMANDMENTS

- (1) Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout the journey.
- (2) Why is a car's WINDSHIELD so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE. So, look ahead and move on.
- (3) Friendship is like a book. It takes a few minutes to burn, but it takes years to write.
- (4) All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they won't last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long, either.
- (5) Old friends are GOLD. New friends are DIAMONDS. If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold. Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a base of Gold!
- (6) Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, Sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"
- (7) When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities. When GOD doesn't solve your problems, He has faith in your abilities.
- (8) Helen Keller once was asked, "Can there be anything worse than losing your sight?" She replied, "Yes, losing your vision!"
- (9) When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.
- (10) Worrying does not take away tomorrow's troubles. It takes away today's peace.

NOAH'S ARK

Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark.

ONE: Don't miss the boat.

TWO: Remember that we are all in the same boat!

THREE: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.

FOUR: Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something big.

FIVE: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

SIX: Build your future on high ground.

SEVEN: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

EIGHT: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

NINE: When you're stressed, float awhile.

TEN: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

ELEVEN: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.



A Sunday school teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied, "They couldn't get a baby-sitter."

You may have heard this one, but might enjoy another chuckle. At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she said, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."

You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing!

HARVEST TIME NEEDS

- Clothing, shoes, linens
- Nonperishable food
- Diapers, baby items
- Small household appliances
- Monetary donations to purchase food & diapers
- Your prayers

CHURCH NOTES

WANTED: Volunteer Sunday school teacher, casserole baker, nursery worker, janitor, fund-raiser, receptionist, nurse, and piano player—in other words, pastor's wife.

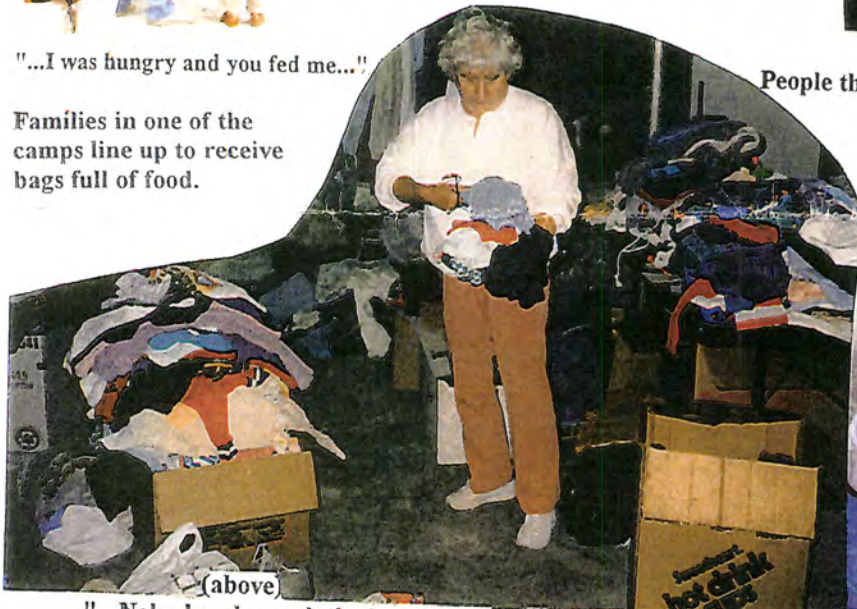
If you're headed in
the wrong direction,
God allows U-turns.



"...I was hungry and you fed me..."

Families in one of the camps line up to receive bags full of food.

"...Thirsty and you gave me to drink..."
People thirsty for the Word of God gather as Pastor Don ministers and volunteer Margarita interprets.



(above)

"...Naked and you clothed me..."
Volunteer Lorraine sorts & packs clothing in her basement to mail to Bonita Springs for the needy.

(below) Gerry shows the (donated) truck packed with donated school backpacks for area needy children.

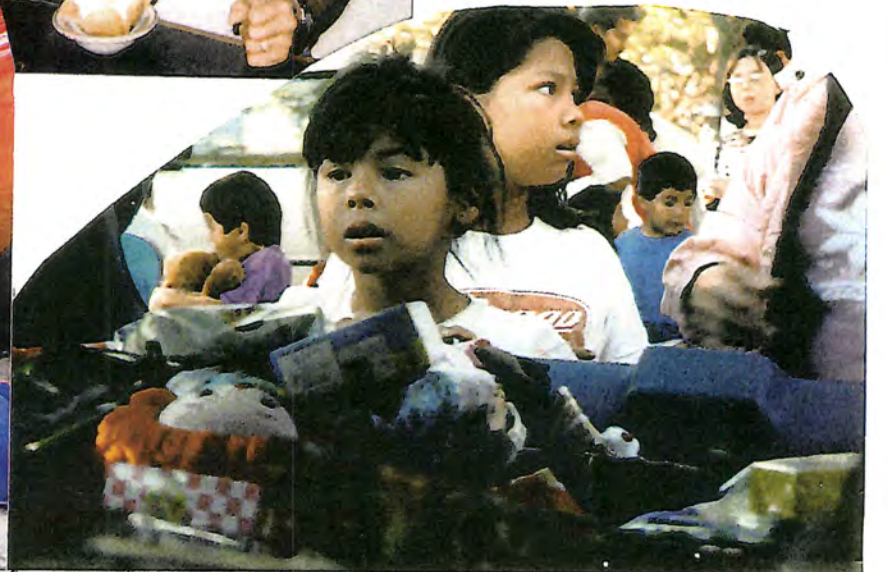


(above)

"...Sick and you visited me..."
Don comforts and prays with Adelina, a disabled widow. *Matthew 25:35-36.*

(left) Don enjoys his 76th birthday with free dinner and dessert at Iguana Mia on September 21, 2000.

(Below) Children anxiously peer at Christmas toys in volunteers' vehicles.



This is a reprint but reveals the mission of Harvest Time. Pastor Don went to be with Jesus in November, 2001.