

HARVEST AND THANKSGIVING

AS I WRITE, the geese are energetically squawking on the pond behind our house as they marshal their flocks to head South. For the young ones, it will be their first trip and I wonder what they are thinking. The trees are dramatically changing in colorful splendor. The farmer is busy harvesting his crops. It all reminds me of the last chapter in Galatians about reaping and sowing. First, let us be reminded of the seven principles or Laws of the Harvest:

Law 1: We reap what has been sown. There are those who have gone before us, and we reap what they have sown in our lives and circumstance.

Law 2: We reap the same kind as has been sown. Whether good or bad we are going to experience what we or others have sown into our circumstances.

Law 3: We reap in a different season than we Sow.

Law 4: We reap more than we sow.

Law 5: We reap in proportion to what we Sow.

Law 6: We reap the full harvest of the good only if we persevere.

Law 7: We cannot do anything about last year's harvest, but we can about this year.



The contrast is whether what we sowed was good or bad. Harvest time is a time of evaluation. Will we rejoice with thanksgiving for the harvest of good that God has enabled us to sow? Or will we hang our head in guilt and shame when we see the bad that we have sown is now apparent. This is where Law 7 applies, and we turn to God and allow him to do a remake for next year's harvest.



Secondly, every farmer knows what is required to produce a good crop (Law 6) with the weeding, watering, and fertilizing that must be done throughout the season and the prayers of dependence upon God for the rain and sun as the crop has many enemies like drought, grasshoppers, blight, etc. Perseverance is required with hope and prayer. Verse 9 tells us, *"Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap, if we do not grow weary."*

Thirdly, there will always be a harvest—if we sow nothing, we will reap nothing (Matt. 25:14-30)

and if we sow sparingly, we will reap sparingly, but if we sow abundantly, we will reap abundantly. We are fighting starvation and death in Cuba for lack of food and medicine and are working hard on sending supplies. Alix tells me several young people accepted Christ at DVBS in Haiti and we were able to build a new Christian elementary school that children now attend. He also mentioned that we secured a new building for schooling Haitian children in the DR and that it is operational. River blindness takes its toll in Togo, Africa and we meet it with cataract surgery and agricultural training. Genocide is impacting thousands and we are helping the young girls raped and the orphaned children who have lost their parents and supplying food for those who lost everything by the attacking militia—and we are not to lose heart or grow weary. We invite you to join in on sowing good where evil is hurting so many. Pray! Give! Thank God for all that we have when so many have so little.



PERU



Yudiel - Hope Hits the Streets: These days have been exciting and challenging serving the Lord. We have had the chance to serve countless Venezuelan refugees on the streets. Every Friday for the past 4 weeks we have been distributing lunch on the streets to those in need. With the support CEO gave, we provided 100 lunches every Friday for 4 weeks. And a big thank you to our supporters in Canada who gave towards providing beds for the Victory Home center for recovering addicts. It's an incredible blessing to have a good night of sleep and these beds make this possible. Thank you so much for investing in people. God bless you.



HAYANA CUBA



Amilkar – Making a Difference: I praise God and thank all of you for everything that you have done, and you are doing helping to the Cuban people and the Cuban churches. All the work we have been doing here, it's been feeding the hungry people, single mothers, elders, and sick people. As you all know, we have developed a strategy working through some pastors, making sure they have the same vision we have which is to help entire communities. We have touched more than 1000 people between poor families, elders, single mothers, and sick people. We have even been attending some people with covid. Please pray for Alex in Holguin as he is still recovering from Covid. He had a very bad case that turned into pneumonia, but he is home now recovering.



SANTA CLARA CUBA

Maykel – What Is Possible and Beyond: Thank you for your prayers. After almost two months my family and I have finally recovered from Covid. We are still quite tired and get short of breath easily, but it has not stopped us from serving. With your help and CEO, we have helped more than 40 families. It has been difficult as the restrictions here are strong. We are only able to work in the mornings as there is a curfew at noon, and there are restrictions on travel as well. No longer can we bring the food to others directly, so the best way to help those in need is by distributing monies so they can purchase what they need themselves. At this point we were only able to get each family \$11 USD. In normal conditions (which is still difficult for us) each person needs around \$80 USD. However, in today's economy, each individual person needs \$200 USD just to buy the essentials. Thank you so much for your blessings and love. Pray for Cuba.



TOGO AFRICA

Lewis Swann – Doubling our Efforts: If you are discouraged by this world, just take a deep breath and soak in the beauty of what God is doing. We are seeing hundreds of people come for eye screening and God is showing His love to each one of them. Previously we had been doing surgeries every eight weeks. But we have recently doubled our output and are now doing surgeries every four weeks, with our campaigns giving



sight to up to two hundred people per campaign, hitting huge amounts of people with the gospel. There are many places where the people used to go to church, but they didn't know about the death and resurrection of Jesus. When they watch the Jesus Film, they want to know more. Most people think they are cursed, and this is a great opportunity to show them they are not cursed but loved. Many people gave their lives to Christ this week! Praise the Lord! Please keep praying for these people. Our prayer is that each person who comes to eye screening knows how wide and deep the father's love for them is. We pray that for you too!



HAITI



Alix Jean Paul - SAM I AM CENTER: VBS was back in two locations this year. We had two-day camps per group for a total of eight sessions at the Sam I Am center. Besides the spiritual food, they also received a big meal before their departure for the two-day camps.

There were 396 meals served. Because of Covid, we limited the camps to seventy participants. A total of 258 girls and 274 boys were present and a total of 1290 meals were served. Some accepted Christ as Savior. We are very grateful to our generous benefactors who provided the funds to feed the children. It is a touching experience to see younger siblings and senior members of the communities come share a meal. The name of the new school in Dilaire: THE EDITH FAST ELEMENTARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL.



For the first-time children and young people in Dilaire have VBS in their own community. It has been made possible because the new school has two rooms to accommodate the camps. Two two-day camps were held there. Children and young people were present to enjoy the games, spiritual songs and the Gospel of Salvation coupled with two meals a day. A total of 390 meals were served for the 2 two-day camps. The first day and at the first camp five young boys have decided to follow Christ. Could you imagine the significance of this event?

Some of the children were in awe to be in a classroom, in a school that was not there three months ago. Most of them have never heard of VBS.

The main structures of the school are built which includes six classrooms. We are in the process of building the water structures which includes the well for clean drinking water and for flushing toilets.

Gertrude and her siblings are raising the funds for that purpose: \$8000 CDN.

We are in the process of manufacturing doors, benches, blackboards, and chairs for the classrooms: 10 benches per class including a desk, a chair for the teacher and a blackboard. It costs about \$2000 CDN to furnish a classroom. We are looking for three more sponsors. A plaque with your name or the name of a dear member of the family will acknowledge your gift.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (DR)

Our new school location is ready in DR for the opening of the school year. We are waiting for the DR government to give direction as to when schools will open. However, one thing we know, our seventy or so students will not meet under a mango tree as it was in the past year and a half.

Our team of four teachers has been working very hard to repair tables and benches. Our students will have a school yard away from the main street and motorcycle rumbling. This is made possible with the support of our three major supporters, the Dominican Vision and CEO Ministries.



Memory lane:

We are building on the vision of a man, Pastor Noelson, who believed that the Haitian children need Christ and an education opportunity as he went around the streets of Sosua to convince them to join him for a couple hours a week. The name of the school is changed to: NOELSON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL. The school survives because his servanthood heart, his humility, his courage, and determination against many obstacles to reach out to the young boys and girls in the Sosua area.



Rwanda/Congo Mission Trip

Joseph Bagaza will lead a Canadian team into Rwanda where they will meet with our Rwanda team. The purpose of the trip is to assess the ministry in Rwanda and Congo and determine ways and means to effectively and efficiently reach out to those impacted by the genocide taking place in the Congo. There will also be some evangelistic outreaches and meeting the physical needs of those who are most vulnerable.

The cost of the trip is kept at a minimum and the resources they take with them will be for food and medicine. We are hoping to raise \$10,000. Joseph and Florence also need to raise their monthly support. We encourage you to pray for them and the Mission Trip team. The evil forces in these areas are made evident by the carcasses of men, women, and children – innocent victims of tyranny. Please pray. Please give.

We are on one of God's Teams...
Empowering Ministries to... Reach the *Lost*,
Revive the *weak*, Rescue the *fallen*, Restore
the *broken*, Reconcile the *offended*, Release
the *disciplined*

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Focus on Prayer & Finances: This report indicates a profound need for intercessory prayer on many fronts. It also reports on many things that cause us to praise God. THANK YOU! We need prayer to open the door for us so that Air Canada will allow us to send large amounts of food and medicine to Cuba. We need prayer and financial support for our missionaries Joseph & Florence and Brian & Sandra. Prayer also for Alix & Gertrude and Ernesto & Marina and Terry & Elizabeth. We are all on God's team and look to Him for all our needs. We need to raise \$300K in these last four months and that is only possible as He moves His people to pray and give. Thank you.