

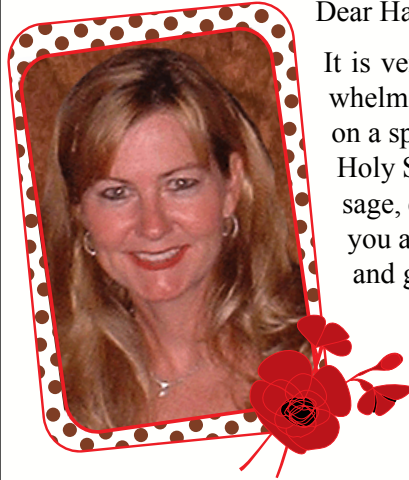
Harvest INTERNATIONAL

Harvest International, Inc.
PO Box 6690 · Ocala, FL 34478-6690

4th Quarter 2009

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Dear Harvest Family and Friends,



It is very difficult to write this email because I feel like it will be inadequate in conveying how overwhelmed I feel by your love and support and prayers. The prayer service at church on Sunday touched me on a spiritual level that I have seldom experienced before. I was overwhelmed by the presence of God's Holy Spirit that I experienced through your actions of love and concern. It seems that every phone message, every email, every phone call, every card, comes at the exact right moment I need to hear whatever you are telling me. God is speaking loudly and clearly to me these days and it is with such a sweetness and gentleness that only He can manage. My ears are so sensitive to Him right now, and I cherish this time. It may sound trite, but I seem to see everything differently. I saw the sun setting last night as we flew home and the colors shone with a magnificence that only God can paint. I wish I could address everyone by name, but know I know about your prayers, I know that only God can give me and my family the peace and strength we have right now. It is definitely supernatural, and I praise God that you love Him enough to petition the gates of Heaven on my behalf. I was so touched on Sunday, when Mike Austin showed a picture of 1200 Haitian children in the city

of Renault, Haiti that were praying for me at the same exact time that our congregation and friends were praying. Later I was sent a picture of the children with their heads bowed and in prayer from Rod and Debbie Wray, our missionaries in Haiti. Can you imagine how God fulfilled His scripture that was written so long ago, "Suffer the little children to come unto me." Don't you know all of heaven was rejoicing to hear those precious voices lifted up to Heaven!

Now to the practical. I was told I will only have to have a lumpectomy and radiation therapy. I prayed for clarity as God has humbled me to the point of finally desiring to be told what to do. (Never had that desire before, I'm always bossing others around). John and I both loved the Dr. and he told us exactly what he thought we should do. I was so relieved to have the decision making process taken out of our hands. So praise God for yet another answer. Please continue to pray that I won't get what I call the "creepy crawlys" where Satan tries to creep in. God has been so good and faithful and we still need your prayer support. There is a dirt road ahead.

I want to leave you with my all time favorite chapter in the Bible, and now I know why it has always been my favorite: **Psalm 121 ~ "I will lift up my eyes unto the hills- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip-He who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you-the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm - He will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore!"**

Know that I feel every prayer and all the love you are sending our way as we traverse the dirt road ahead.

Thank you (inadequate words) and God bless you.

In His Everlasting arms,

Carolyn Cain



Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white for harvest! ~ John 4:35

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PAM'S FAMILY JOURNEY TO AFRICA



Bwana Asifawei! Praise God! This is the phrase most often heard during my recent trip to visit the children of The Haven in Eldoret, Kenya. On July 29th, Alan May took a team of 16 people to visit Kenya with the goal of ministering to the orphans and needy of Eldoret and Jua Kali. Thirteen of the team came from Memphis, TN with 12 from his home church, Living Hope, and one member of the Neighborhood School staff. My two teenagers and I joined them at the airport in Minnesota and we were on our way.

We left the States with the idea of ministering to the people of Kenya but instead the country of Kenya ministered to me. The countryside was inspiring as we drove to The Haven. It was rolling hills, green vegetation and luscious cornfields. Nearly every house had a cornfield around, beside or behind it and most had a goat, sheep or cow in evidence. Our arrival at the home was boisterous, enthusiastic and warm. Kenyans, as a people, are very polite and not shy. As a parent, I was immediately impressed with the training and time that had been spent in raising up these young people. Much praise should be given to Lillian and Joseph, along with the other house parents and helpers, for making this such a successful home. Over the course of the week we came to know the children well and the more we knew the more impressed we became.



There are 56 children at the orphanage and ages range from 5 or 6 to 18. All of the children are conversant in English and eager to talk to the muzungu. I don't believe any shyness lasted past 30 seconds of conversation. They performed memory verses, dances and skits that all testified to the saving power of Jesus. Every time someone rose to address the group or present information they would announce "Bwana Sifawei!" We quickly learned that the correct response was an immediate and enthusiastic, "Amen!" This practice is not only uplifting and a great testimony, but it serves as a constant reminder of what The Haven is all about. These young people are being trained daily in the Word and learning to serve others. Since most of them have only escaped the fate of being street children by the grace of God, they are enthusiastic in their participation at the local church where much ministry is aimed at the street children of Eldoret. They are willing workers in the feeding programs and active participants in the presentation of the Gospel. At home, the same spirit is shown in their diligence in doing chores and conscientious school attendance. They have been presented with an opportunity and they are striving to make the most of it. Several testified about what The Haven means to them personally and it brought many a tear to hear that for many it is all the home they know or remember.

I was further impressed that at The Haven the children are being raised by Kenyans to be Kenyans. Many times orphanages are run by foreign missionaries and the children grow up to not quite be a part of the culture around them. The children at The Haven interact well in Kenyan society and are able to assimilate in and thereby influence those they come in contact with for Christ. They are different but it is their faith that makes them so, not their culture.

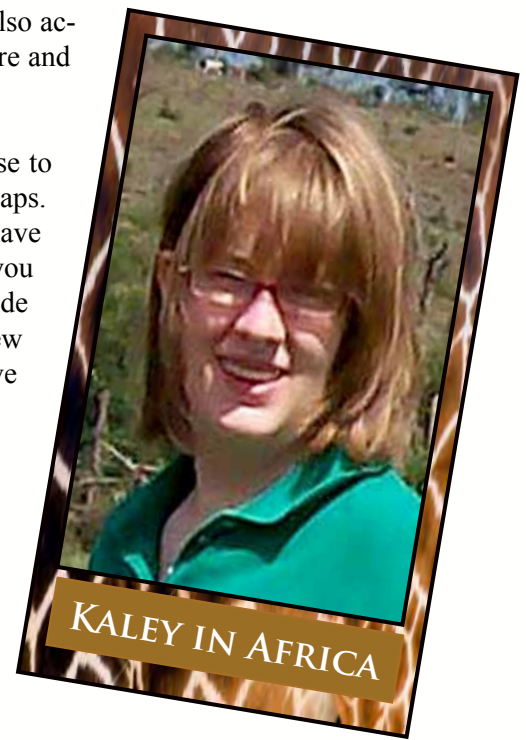
When it was time to leave the tears flowed freely. It was amazing how deeply bonds had formed so quickly. Going to Kenya allowed me to see my God in another setting, another culture, on the other side of the world and showed me that He is indeed big enough hold us all, equally, in His hands. I encourage all of you to consider a mission trip for this reason: When we step outside of our comfort zone and our everyday lives we give Him room to show Himself to us and minister to us so that we in turn can minister to others. When we look at foreign surroundings we are really observing and that allows us to see Him.



In July I took a mission trip to JuaKali, Kenya with a group out of Tennessee. I was also accompanied by my mother and brother. On this trip I learned a lot about Kenyan culture and customs. I also learned about the people and made several great friends.

After arriving at Nairobi Airport from London, the sixteen of us went to a guest house to clean up and get ready for our next flight to Eldoret. We all took showers and took naps. We went back to the airport and let me tell you, driving in Africa is crazy. They do have traffic lights but nobody listens to them. They also have enough roundabouts to make you dizzy, and the way they check speed is a hair dryer. We saw one cop standing on the side of the road using a hair dryer as a radar gun. We finally made it to the airport and flew to Eldoret and drove the rest of the way to JuaKali. It was about a thirty minute drive though beautiful green country.

We saw a couple of slums which are the equivalent of a ghetto here. When we made a stop in town and parked by some of the street boys, they saw the Americans and immediately started begging because all Americans are considered rich. We saw a couple of them with glue bottles and when we asked Pam and Alan May why the boys had them they told us, "They sniff the glue and it takes away the pain of hunger." The glue sniffing over there is a lot like the cocaine use here. It is addictive, they use it then get addicted to it and is extremely hard for them to stop using it. We saw one boy that was only about six or seven sniffing the glue. This is popular over there.



Once in JuaKali, we did several programs for the kids. On Saturday we participated in a bible class and helped with a feeding program. The kids from the orphanage we stayed at helped with the cleaning and cooking. We showed some of the street kids songs such as "Waves of Mercy" and "Oh! Happy Day!". They showed us several dance moves and a new way of doing "Jesus Loves Me." The kids also showed us how they mopped and let us join right in. While waiting for the program to start, Jenny, one of the girls from Tennessee, and I introduced the Macarania to Kenya! The kids and even the adults had a blast doing it. On Monday and Tuesday we held a vacation bible school for about two hundred of the village kids. They learned memory verses and even some new songs. They also taught us a few more songs.

One thing that amazed me in Africa was the devotion to God most people had. Even the six and seven-year-old kids were more devoted than some adults I know. We need to take a lesson from them and learn how to go full heartedly after God and not just in the bad times. These people know that God will see them though the good and bad and praise him full heartedly during both. One of the phrases you hear quite often there is "Bwana Asifiwe!" which means "Praise God!". I had a blast in Africa and would love to go again.



Kaley serving food to the street children.



Kaley hanging out with the girls.



Playing toss.



THOMAS IN AFRICA

My trip to Africa was a life changing adventure. Seeing the people and how hard they work to do stuff that seems so simple to us but is a major event over there. For example, washing clothes here we just chuck them in and wait for the machine to tell us they are done. Then we throw them in the dryer. There they must wash the cloths by hand in buckets and hang them up to dry. They are so much more appreciative too. They thank God for everything and that is something we often forget, to thank Him for what He gives us instead of just asking for more.

The people were awesomely nice, everybody waves and says hi. All they want to do is greet you and say hi and help you in any way possible. They ask you how you are and just want to know all about you, what it is like in America and how the people act different. One of the things I thought was cool was the fact that the police carry around an M16, none of these wimpy pistols, but they don't need to use them often.

The landscape was absolutely breath taking. They had the most beautiful corn crops, (main food crop) and valleys that looked like they never ended. The mountains were equally beautiful with peaks that were so far into the clouds that it looked like they went straight up to heaven. The landscapes would have been a painters dream spot.

This trip was amazing and it will show you just how much we have and how ungrateful we are, and at the same time how little they have and how thankful they are to have that.

It will make you think and thank God for everything you have and that you can live in such a great country.

This was an amazing trip and I will go back first chance I get.



Thomas playing soccer with the children.

Thomas and Alan Oluoch



Hanging out and talking about animals



Help The Haven



This Christmas support The Haven orphanage in Kenya by helping to purchase furniture so that the children can have tables and benches in their dining hall to eat and play games on. Send in a special \$25.00 gift today and indicate that it is for "The Haven - Furniture".

I want to give a special gift of \$25.00 to go towards the purchase of tables and benches for The Haven.

I want to give a special gift of \$ _____ to go towards the purchase of tables and benches for The Haven.

Children's Corner



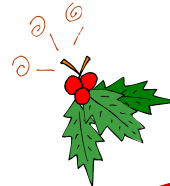
It's Time for Christmas for Kids

It's just about time for the holiday season to begin. Time to start planning meals, shopping for presents, visiting relatives. It's a fun filled time for everyone, but we all know how busy it can keep us. In the midst of all your running around and preparations, stop and remember the children in Haiti. Remember that these children live in poverty, many do not even have parents, and to say a special prayer for them.

This year send a special Christmas gift of \$25.00 to help the children have a Christmas dinner, buy new clothes, or pay for school tuition. Every donation received will go towards helping a child stay off of the streets, give them nutritious meals so that they may grow strong, and allow others the opportunity to witness to them, showing them the Love of Christ.



**Give your help today
Tomorrow may be too late.**



GIVE A GIFT OF LOVE THIS CHRISTMAS

I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A GIFT OF \$25.00 OR \$ _____

TO GO TOWARDS:

- CHARLIE'S CHAMPIONS GARDEN OF JOY IN HIS HANDS
 JERUSALEM SCHOOL NEW LIFE CHILDREN'S HOME



The Schmidts

"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office. So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." ~ Romans 12:4-5

In August we were able to visit two churches that we haven't been able to see in several years; it was an encouragement to all of us to be able to see old friends and meet new ones and share what the Lord has been doing in their lives and ours. After driving two days our first stop was the historical site of Plimoth, Massachusetts. We were able to spend Saturday visiting the place where the Pilgrims first landed and see some of the Godly heritage we have there. Then we spent several hours in fellowship with a sweet family and elder from the church. On Sunday, Tom spoke at the Heritage Christian Church in Taunton, MA. While he was speaking, a fire alarm went off in the building, and we all had to file outside for about 1/2 hour where Tom continued his speaking, and then we were able to go back in. It was an example to all of us, that no matter what happens, we need to be ready for the unexpected and allow the Lord to work in and through the situation.



Massasoit Indian Chief



1620 Plymouth Rock



Grampy Schmidt

From there we drove to NH where we were able to visit with Tom's 93 year old Dad and then on to upper NY where we visited with a missionary family who cared for Jeremy in Haiti when he first came to the orphanage in 1998 and was so very sick. Rick and Sue are Jeremy's godparents; they are the instrument God used to preserve Jeremy's life when he was so near to death, and we praise God for them. It was wonderful to see them; the last time we saw them the children were toddlers!



Jeremy, JoHannah and Joshua with Mayflower Replica



Rick & Sue Schweinsbery with 3 J's

We were in NY to try and pick up a 28 passenger bus that Rod Wray bid on at auction. He plans to use it for the camp ministry he has in Haiti. We felt it was all part of God's providence that the bus would be so near to our dear friends. Rick was very helpful in getting someone to be able to tow the bus from Ft. Drum to his son's car lot where it has been waiting for us to pick it up. As it turned out, again by God's providence, we were not able to get the bus at this time. We lacked a paper that they had told us by phone, we didn't need, but when we arrived at the DMV they insisted we must have. Ginger was thankful not to have to drive our family van all the way from NY to FL, and it gave our friends in NY more time to check out the bus and do some tune-up and maintenance work that will help make the trip go smoothly when the rest of the paperwork is ready in October, Lord willing.



Josiah, Ella and Suzanna with 3 J's

From NY we drove to NJ to an old family friend's home to visit another of our supporting churches; First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell, NJ. Again it was very encouraging to reconnect with old friends and see what the Lord is doing in the lives of many there as well. When we left NJ we were able to visit our oldest son, TJ and his family in WV and meet our newest grandbaby, Makenna Faith, born August 24, 2009, weighing 8lbs 6oz. What a joy to see our 4 WV grandchildren and spend some time with them!

On our way home from WV we had one problem with our van, but again the Lord was faithful in providing help a short walk off the highway and within an hour we were on our way again; refreshed anew with the knowledge that the Lord is always by our side and will take care of us wherever we are! We praise the Lord for safety and a blessed time during our travels up north.



Makenna Faith Schmidt



Lela Steel Ukraine

Since getting saved SEVENTY TWO (72) years ago, Lela Steel has been a devoted follower and servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. She was a devoted wife to her husband Jim as they both served the Lord. She is the mother of three (3), James, Ron and Colleen, Grandmother to thirteen (13), and Great Grandmother to twenty five (25) children. She is a friend, supporter, and encourager to more people than we will ever know this side of Heaven.

She is known as Mom, Mama, Mommy, Mrs. Steel, Lela, Grandma Lela, Grandma Steel, Aunt Mae, Babushka Lela, and Lilchik, just to name a few. Lela has survived the death of a husband, a daughter, two brothers, a sister, a terrible accident to one of her son's, a radical mastectomy (during a time when mastectomies were almost barbaric) and has done it all clinging to Jesus. She has never waivered in her walk with the Lord.

During the last few months there has been a transition taking place in Lela's life. Although her deepest desire is to return to Ukraine and all the children that she loves dearly, her body and mind have slowly deteriorated. We are sad to report that she will not be able to return to Ukraine.



Lela has done a remarkable job of putting people in place to oversee the Lord's ministry as she saw her time in Odessa coming to an end. Although she didn't know the time she would have to leave, she knew it was inevitable. She groomed and trained Viktor Migo for over 5 years to be the person who would oversee the day to day operation of the ministry she started. In the last few years, Viktor Migo has been the person who has cared for all the personal, financial, and legal matters for Lela. He is a trusted servant. Lela has often said of Viktor, "I love him as if I had given birth to him myself."

She trained Alyona to be a loving care giver to the children at the Internot, especially the young girls who needed a role model to emulate. Alyona has been and will continue to be a very productive and needed member of the ministry in Ukraine. She is fluent in English and a tremendous asset.

I am grateful for the dream that the Lord gave Lela years ago to build a home for boys. I am blessed to have seen her dream become a reality in the form of House of Hope. I am hopeful that you will help me to keep Lela's legacy alive by continuing to support her ministry at House of Hope. Harvest International will continue to be the means by which House of Hope can provide "Hope" for the boys that Lela loved so much. Won't you please help us "Keep House of Hope Alive"?

Please pray for Lela as she settles into her new ministry in Ocala instead of Odessa. The Lord is already using Lela to witness to others in her new surroundings. I hope you will be able to honor Lela by supporting the ministry that she sacrificed dearly for.



Lela - Update



Lela was admitted to Ocala Regional Medical Center (ORMC) on Thursday, September 24th for swelling in her legs and feet. The diagnosis was that there was a blockage somewhere in her legs that was cause poor blood circulation. She was treated with some medication over the weekend and was seen by a specialist on Monday, September 28th. The doctor ordered an angiogram be done on Wednesday afternoon to determine if there was a blockage and where it was. The results of the test showed that she has 3 blockages in her legs. They have decided to treat this medical condition with medication for now. The hope is that the medicine will help to dissolve the blockages. Another angiogram is scheduled for Friday, October 2nd to determine the progress. Her prognosis is good and she should recover completely from this condition. The follow-up angiogram was done and one of the blockages was removed. She is now getting blood to her legs.

She has been moved to Oakhurst Rehabilitation Center and will be there for about 6 weeks. I have the latest information available in the form of an e-mail from Karen Warren (Harvest International Board Member and close friend of Lela's). It reads as follows:

Danny,



I visited with Lela this morning at Oakhurst. She looked great and she was in a very good mood. Lela was not the least bit confused or anxious. She stated that she was happy and comfortable at Oakhurst. Lela acknowledged that she would not be returning to Odessa and said that she missed Viktor, Alyona and the children immensely. She is hoping to talk with Viktor again soon. I read a devotion to her from Psalm 31:15 "My times are in your hands." I know God sent the message straight to Lela today (and to me!) Her face beamed with that unique sweet smile of hers as I read that all of our life's circumstances are under God's control. Knowing that God loves us and cares for us in the painful and pleasant moments of our journey should enable us to not be anxious about the path we are headed down. Praise the LORD, we believers are all ultimately headed for heaven. Upon finishing the reading Lela then began to recite, "Fix our eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face. And the things of this world will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace." As this was happening, the physical therapist was standing nearby in the room. See, God continues to use Lela in a powerful way as a witness for Him. How blessed I am to see her in action still!

In His Loving Hands,

Karen

Please continue to pray for her during this time. She is frustrated at times because she cannot control her life anymore and has to depend on others to do things for her. She is disappointed that she is still in the U.S. and not with the children in Ukraine. And she is weary of being in and out of the hospital. Thank you for your love for Lela.

Harvest International, Inc.

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