

Emergency Home Coming for



Lela Steel



I am saddened to tell you that on April 17th, while working in her office, at her home in Odessa, Ukraine, Lela tripped and fell. She suffered a fractured left hip and was in a hospital as soon as Viktor Migo, her Ukrainian assistant and friend found her. I was in constant contact with all of Lela's staff. She was in need of surgery.

The surgery that was required was available in Odessa but the means to address complications that might have risen from the surgery were not. In 2007, Lela was instrumental in updating five surgical units to provide first class care. The ICU at the hospital, along with the Heart Unit, has not received such an update. The ICU was critical for the first 48 hours and was less than adequate to host her recovery. The Heart unit does not have the technology or the equipment to address any heart issues which might certainly arise due to her age. She is 84 years young. In short, she needed to come back to the U.S. Every doctor that I spoke with, including the doctors that were caring for her in Odessa and Dr. Nikolia Bayazitov, the Chief of Staff in Odessa, agreed that she needed to be returned to the U.S. as soon as possible. The Board of Directors of Harvest International was informed and, after consultation with her sons, the decision to bring her back was made.

Here is what has happened so far First, the agency that we worked with out of London, England found the plane in Montreal,

Quebec, Canada. Next, arrangements had to be made to get Ron Steel, Lela's son, to Montreal so that he could accompany Lela on her return flight. The Lord allowed us to see His hand working out every detail. In my own wisdom and experience I was lost, but "we know that all things work together for good to those who love the Lord, those that are called according to his purpose". Rom 8:28. I am sure all of us agree that Lela Steel has been called to serve the Lord.



As you can imagine, the cost of this was so high that only the Lord can pay this bill. The cost is \$89,000.00. In spite of the cost, the board approved the decision to bring Lela home. We will have 30 days to pay the bill once we get the invoice. Only the Lord would allow a corporation we have no history with to invoice us for \$89,000.00. WOW.

Praise the Lord, Lela had surgery on April 24th and came through successfully. She was in the hospital for five days and then transferred to a rehabilitation center, where she will be for three weeks. As of this newsletter, Lela has received some therapy and is progressing satisfactorily.

Here is how you can help Harvest International and Lela now. Pray about your part in helping to meet this enormous need to pay this bill. Pray for Lela's continued recovery. Pray for children that are missing Babusha Lela.

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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IT'S A **Haiti** Invasion



"Three teams from Ocala recently invaded Haitian Territory"



CENTER POINT CHURCH

The Haitian Invasion consisted of three teams from three different churches in Ocala. Center Point Presbyterian Church, under the leadership of Pastor Mike Austin, took a team of 15 young people and adults to Les Cayes, Haiti. The mission for this team was to plan one GIANT wedding for 11 couples. Everything from wedding dresses, shoes, rings, suits for the men, and food for the reception. The team took care of all the details. This was one of the largest weddings ever in the area. They also helped Rod Wray pour concrete for two basketball courts for the youth of the area. Sports are a very important evangelistic tool that is used to reach young people and their families for the Lord. One of the challenges for the team was preparing food for 800 children at the Renault Feeding Program. Team members got up at 4:30 a.m. to prepare rice and beans. Dr. John Cain and Melissa Busch, RN spent four full days training the Haitian Medical Staff on how to operate the new ultrasound machine that was donated to them by Harvest International.



TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Ten team members from Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church and Trinity Baptist Church traveled to Gonaives, Haiti to put on a camp for orphan children from two Harvest International supported orphanages. Stephen Self was the team leader. The team held a camp for the children and taught them Bible verses, played games, and encouraged them. While there, they were able to witness, first hand, the devastation that the four hurricanes of 2008 did to the area. The children live in constant fear of rain because they remember what it was like to have the flood waters come into their building not once, not twice, but at least three different times. The team was also able to check the general health of all the children and to give medication to those in need.



NCMBC

Eleven team members from New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church of Ocala went to Haiti and split up into two teams. One team went to La Gonaive with our missionary Benis Guerrier. They were able to see many of the projects in Mapou Village and give medical attention to some of the Haitians. The second team went to God's Littlest Angels in Petionville. There, they were able to care for several orphaned infants and toddlers.

NCMBC **R**ock **G**roup



Returns to God's Littlest Angels

Deacon Elmer Smith, Patricia Bolding, Gillian Davis, Rhonda Folks and Dolores Johnson of New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church and Patricia Mack of Wesley Chapel United and Im-machula Saint-Surin of Draw All Men Ministry made up the team of missionaries who ministered to the children at God's Littlest Angels Orphanage in Petionville, Haiti. This is their third trip to GLA and certainly won't be the last as the group is already planning to return.



The team is still glowing with excitement from their heavenly experience of feeding, mobility training, rocking, loving and caring for four infant angels assigned to them at the orphanage. The orphanage provides an opportunity for older members, members with physical limitations and members who just love children to share God's love with His precious little children.



They were so excited, they brought an angel back to America with them. Little Suzelle was brought to her adoptive parents in Ft. Lauderdale. What a blessed trip!

This team of Christians were blessed with this opportunity to share God's love with these little angels.

"Behold, children are a gift from the Lord" - Psalm 127:3

In March we took a team from New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church to La Gonave. Seventeen young ladies from the 10th grade Sunday School at First Baptist Church of Ocala sent special notes, beautiful hair accessories, scarves and their class pictures to share with the teenage girls in Mapou. Fifteen young Haitian ladies were blessed and encouraged that American ladies, across the ocean, would love them so much and make them feel special.

Benis and Dominique Guerrier



Haiti



One Sunday morning while the church was celebrating with a spectacular thanksgiving service, we shared the plan of salvation with the evangcube. One of the young ladies came and gave her life to the Lord. That afternoon the community was fed after the service due to the monetary blessing given by a Sunday school class at First Baptist Church.



The New Covenant team gave de-worming pills, clothes and shoes to the most needy in the village. We did an inventory of the first aid items we had and as soon as the villagers saw us with the medical supplies, they started lining up. Joan Smiley, a nurse, assessed many people. Mothers walked many miles with sick babies just to be seen. Men, women and children all came seeking medical attention. We did not turn anyone away, but served the best we could with limited resources.



The ladies of the community were enlightened when Joan Smiley lead a bible study on Esther. They were reminded how Esther was used to save the Jewish people. After the study, special Avon gifts were shared with 45 women. Then to answer God's calling, six women gave their lives and accepted the Lord as their personal Savior. We praise the Lord for this harvest.



The Woodalls



Haiti

The past few months Cullie has been busy as each day seems to bring some mechanical needs that we tend to with repairs on a variety of machines; the usual cars and trucks along with cement mixers and washing machines. God continues to watch over us as we are up and down the road and doing mechanical repairs in a non-mechanical environment. The rest of our time is focused on three houses we are working on. It is a blessing to see the joy on each face as the houses are nearing the point of completion.



The relationships we have, and continue to develop, with the Haitians is the most rewarding

part of being on the mission field; so many opportunities to share God's love and the Truth of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Cullie had a bicycle crash the beginning of April; it truly is a miracle that he had no major injuries. We continue to be thankful to those who help support our ministry, both financially and through prayer.



Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Look to the LORD and his strength; seek his face always. ~ Psalm 105:1-4



THE WRAYS



HAITI

The annual MEBSH convention was this week here at Cite Lumiere in the Simon church. It is a large church with seating capacity for about 1,500 people. The thing with Convention is that approximately 15,000 people pack into and around the church for services and worship during the 5 days of convention.



Every exit or entrance and aisle is blocked with people. The MEBSH convention is a very crowded affair both inside and outside the church, but the Haitian people love it and

many Haitian Christians save up money or raise a goat or cow so that they can sell it and pay their way to convention each year.



During convention from Wednesday through to Sunday afternoon we hosted a sports tournament for the youth of Simon. The championships included Basketball, Beach Volleyball, normal Volleyball and a 3 mile running race. Our son Tim participated in all four events and did very well. We are especially proud of the great example of sportsmanship and faithfulness that he has shown to all the Haitian young people.



Please continue to pray with us as we seek the Lord's will about the proposed Christian children's sports camp. We met with Pastor Chavannes Jeune and he showed us 15 acres of land that might be donated for the project. Today I met with the 9 families who are planning to donate the land. We pray for God's clear direction as we consider this huge project.



Children's Corner

A group from New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church in Ocala recently returned from a trip to Haiti where they were able to visit with their sponsored children from Garden of Joy school. Ann Farquharson, Coordinator of GOJ, made a special trip to God's Littlest Angels, where the team was staying, to bring these children for a visit. The team members were so excited to see their children and how much they have grown. Gifts and letters were given out with lots of hugs. The children were so happy to see some of their sponsors and be able to show their love for them.



Love A Child



Be A Sponsor

There are so many lost, lonely and needy children in the world. All children should feel safe and secure, knowing they are loved. If you feel the Lord leading you to support a child or an orphanage, please e-mail me at cassie@harvestinternational.org or visit our website www.harvestinternational.org. I can't wait to set you up with a little boy or girl to start loving. Sponsorship is \$25.00 a month or \$300.00 for the year. This allows the children to be in a caring environment where they receive shelter, food, clothing, education, support, friendship, family and a knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Daniel & Betty Edwin



India

may be able to live a productive life on their own. Classes are held in a small building, but God willing, we will soon be able to extend our church. After much prayer and thought we have decided to rename the school Harvest Community College. It is because of funds received through Harvest International that we are able to achieve these dreams. There is still much to pray on. Please continue to pray for our direction for the college and our ministry. We also ask prayer for a van to be used for ministry.

We have been working with Angel Community College in India for the past two years. Twenty four students are currently enrolled, taking courses in Nursing Assistants, Electricians and Office Assistants. This year a new course is being introduced, Palliative Care for Terminally Ill Patients. We also conduct a course called Compassion Action. We are slowly invading areas with the Gospel. Many of our students are not Christian and this give an excellent opportunity to share the gospel with them. This school gives children from the "Slums" an opportunity to learn a skill so that they





Dick & Barb Johnson



Uganda

was spent teaching Bible studies, doing discipleship with one of the elders of the church, and even going out to take part in some church discipline! It was NOT what I expected to be doing in Africa. Perhaps the biggest difference of all for me was that I was all alone for 8 nights in the village. There were no other Americans with me. I was able to experience the culture in a more intense way than in the past. This was the change that brought the biggest problems with it. I felt suffocated at times by the Ugandans around me and I began to realize the cultural biases that had been hiding in my heart. I was stretched in that it became difficult to love some of the people because of our differences. I had to repent. I needed to remember that I am to love others because God first loved me and not because I like them!”

This experience of Associate Pastor Ryan Fisk of Lakemont Presbyterian Church reminded us so much of some of our experiences in Uganda. During our first trip in 1995, on our very first day in Uganda, we remember vividly Barbara sitting on our bed in our guest house room saying, “I cannot do this, I cannot do this”. The trip proceeded for three weeks and she struggled with many things including sickness. Recently our brother in the Lord and Physician Dr. Picky Pares described Barbara, “Here is a woman who doesn’t like the food, doesn’t like the travel, the roads are so smooooth, but she loves the people.” God will dig out any bitterness that is lurking in our hearts and transform us.

During one of our visits Pastor Sam and Zoe asked where we would like to stay in Kampala. We told him anywhere you want to take us. He responded, “You really trust us that much?” Upon returning to the US at a mission conference we were asked how much we trust Pastor Sam. Our answer was fast and sure, “With our lives”. That’s why we tell people mission trips are very dangerous for they will change your life. For when you turn your heart over to Christ, he will soon start rooting out our sinful baggage making us more like Him because He loves us so much. We will then love Him more and be able to love others more. Good ministry cannot happen without this transformation of the heart. These lessons need to be experienced to be effective ministers of the Word. For it is only Jesus who takes away the sin of the world!



Dhan & Dolly Lalsee



Zimbabwe

very present in State schools. In fact, we know of a school that uses the Bible as a textbook! Ninety-seven percent literate, this country had an education system that was second to none, and a fantastic infrastructure. We are amazed at the quality and variety of things that used to be manufactured here. We ask for your prayers for this nation as the rebuilding commences. An inclusive government is due to take office mid-month.

Zimbabwean voices raised in worship are a melodious wonder! There is no need for musical instruments. Another wonder is their fluency of speech. The person leading in prayer and worship at the start of the service will fluently switch from songs of worship to prayer and praise punctuated only by their breathing. It is as though a dam has been burst and cannot be contained. How pleased our Father must be to hear His children so vocal in their praise and worship to Him. The little children are certainly learning by example. I have yet to meet a child here who is self-conscious. Last Sunday, in Chinhoyi, we sat amazed as three little ones came up and fluently recited their verses both in Shona and English. We are all at different stages of our growth and our hope is that He finds pleasure in us all.

Recently we read a report from someone who had gone to Uganda on a mission trip which we feel is very insightful and brought back memories of our trips over the years.

“In many respects, no two mission trips are the same. In Uganda I went back to Nkokonjeru for my fourth visit. The last three times I was there we were there to help plant the church and to do evangelism. This trip was different. I did a little evangelism this time. However, most of my time

The Lord has enabled us to build a good network of ministry friends here. It is such a blessing to see how He is using His church to reach out into communities. We have been privileged to be a part of, or to witness firsthand, some of this work. Churches are involved in feeding programs, cholera prevention programs, distribution of medical supplies, providing care for orphan children, street kids, abandoned children, and care of the elderly. Because of the nation’s respect for Christianity, the authorities have allowed the Board of a Christian school to take over the running of a government school in a community outside Harare. The school is thriving and has the support of the leaders and people of that community. Prayer is

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." -Matthew 19:14

In the context of the aforementioned scripture we know that the disciples were literally trying to keep little children from getting to Jesus. I often ponder the phenomenon of our own society's inclination to give children everything under the sun, and in so doing, hinder them from coming to Jesus.

These things become so evident to me. Not so much when I am caught up in the hustle and bustle of life in America, but when I visit the children of The Haven and Fresh Start homes in Jua Kali. The Kenyan children thrive with few distractions such as toys, food choices, extracurricular activities, video games, cell phones, etc. How is it that many children in Jua Kali seek God in ways few of us can relate to? These children have experienced the hand of God feeding them in their hunger, clothing them in their nakedness, sheltering them when they were cold. They know it is God who provides for them.



I have learned so much about faith from our Kenyan friends...including the children. When they sing praises to God, they're not showcasing voices trained by voice coaches, and when they give testimonies, they're not worried about what others think about them. They have experienced God's presence and provision in their young lives, so their praises and testimonies resonate with His touch. "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!"

We are planning to take a team of students to visit the kids in Kenya July 29th through August 7th. I am looking forward to seeing them again and being encouraged by them! I suspect our young team members don't really know what a blessing is in store for them. We have invited a teacher and a student from The Neighborhood School in inner-city Memphis, TN to join us on this trip. Please pray for us as we prepare to travel and to minister. Pray that God will do a great work in our own hearts and that we will not quickly forget what God is doing in Kenya among the least of the least.

"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!" - I Chronicles 16:24

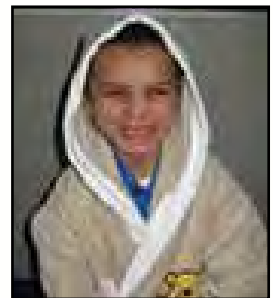


THOMAS & AMY KAY



ROMANIA

This is one of those uplifting stories that few people get to be a part of, because few of us have ever been in contact with a child who could not receive adequate medical care for something as simple as a cleft palate! Here is Costi, a happy five year old boy from a gypsy family in a small village in southeast Romania. When his parents took him to get surgery, they were turned away because the doctors demanded bribes that were beyond what this family could afford.



Thomas received a call from a missionary in that area and got busy finding a hospital and doctors who would take Costi - with no bribes! Costi's problem was a cleft palate, or a hole in the back of his mouth, making speech and eating difficult. On January 8th, Costi entered the hospital here in Bucharest for cleft palate repair. Other than small problems, like no food for several mornings just in case today was surgery day, everything went beautifully. He is at home now recovering. Thomas is busy finding him speech therapists and eye doctors who can take care of his other needs.



Thomas has also had the opportunity to go do some housecalls in the villages. This has been very rewarding all around. The pastors love being able to help the people who really need medical care, the people love being helped and Thomas gets to do "fun" things like stitch up big cuts. Especially fun when he can help children not have scars on their faces for the rest of their lives.

Alan & Pam May



Kenya



JOIN US ON AND

HARVEST INTERNATIONAL IS EXPANDING OUR COMMUNICATION. WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER. BECOME A FAN OF HARVEST BY DOING A FACEBOOK SEARCH FOR HARVEST INTERNATIONAL, INC. AND FOLLOW US ON TWITTER AT HARVESTINT. GET ALL THE LATEST UPDATES RIGHT AS THEY HAPPEN. CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE.

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THE SCHMIDTS JOURNEY TO HAITI



Tom, Ginger, JoHannah, Jeremy and Joshua Schmidt just returned from a six week trip to Haiti with Harvest. This was the first time the three Schmidt children had been in Haiti since leaving 10 years ago. This was an extended trip for Tom who makes 4-6 trips to Haiti annually to oversee the ministries of Harvest. The children were at the best age to see and re-acquaint themselves to the country of their birth. We were able to go to all the places that Harvest has works and Tom was also able to arrange for the teams coming during March and April.

Our family was able to go to Mapou Village on La Gonave and evaluate the progress of the work there; we spent eight hours riding the steep roads. Some of the other places we visited included: the hurricane ravaged Gonaives where Pastors Charlie, Sylvestre and Wilson minister. We visited the missionaries in Port-au-Prince and Les Cayes as well as the Central Plateau area of Haiti. We



are thankful to God for His protection on the roads and for health and help as we completed all the tasks we had on our list for Harvest. The children learned to speak some creole and much about life in Haiti. They truly appreciated this opportunity to get to know the sites, sounds and smells of Haiti, but most importantly sharing the love of Christ with the people. They learned about the simple life and even hand washing became a fun activity.

On one of our trips we had to go through 18 rivers and the family had grown used to going through them. This time as we drove into the river we got stuck mid stream so I had to get out of the truck with my shoes off and turn the hubs to lock the truck in 4x4. The lesson for me was to put the truck into 4x4 before entering into the river.

We are thankful for all your prayers on this trip and grateful for those of you that support our ministry here at Harvest.

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." ~ Isaiah 41:10