



1st Quarter 2025 Newsletter

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As we find ourselves already a quarter of the way through 2025, we reflect on a year of significant change and development—both in the world and in our own lives. At Harvest, we are especially grateful for your continued support and partnership in ministry.

We were truly blessed by those who attended our Have a Heart for Harvest banquet. It was a special evening of encouragement and vision, made even more meaningful as our youngest daughter, Katie, was one of the guest speakers. Her message challenged us all to live as missionaries—sharing the gospel of Jesus wherever we are. If you missed the event, you can watch Katie and the Browns by clicking the link on the Harvest website.

While we're saddened that Jaylen Gibbs has chosen to step away from her role at Harvest to pursue a new career, we are incredibly thankful for the energy, creativity, and heart she brought to our team, especially in organizing the banquet. Please join us in praying for her in this next season.

We're also excited to announce that Cassie has graciously agreed to step into Jaylen's role. We are confident that, by God's grace, the daily operations of Harvest will continue smoothly and effectively.

Another wonderful update is the addition of Yvonne Carriero to the Harvest Board of Directors. Yvonne brings a wealth of experience and a deep connection to the mission of Harvest. We are grateful for each board member who faithfully serves, prays, and provides guidance for the ministry.

Our prayer for 2025 remains the same: that God would use each of us to the fullest—that we would accomplish all He desires for us in sharing His gospel throughout the world.

Thank you for standing with us. Together, we press on in faith.

Physically & Spiritually Touching Lives

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



2025 Have A Heart For Harvest Fundraiser

Hearts For Ministry Banquet

The 2025 Have a Heart for Harvest Fundraiser was a great success! While the event was smaller than in previous years, we were very pleased with the turnout and the generous support we received.

One of the highlights of the evening was hearing from two very special guest speakers. Rod and Debbie's youngest daughter, Katie, gave a heartfelt and inspiring presentation, sharing her memories of growing up in Haiti and her experiences serving on the mission field. Her reflections on spreading the Word of God deeply encouraged everyone in attendance.

We were also excited to welcome back our missionaries serving in Budapest, Hungary—The Brown Family. It was a blessing to have them in town and to hear firsthand about their ministry. They shared how God is leading them to build meaningful relationships and minister to college students, opening doors to share the love and truth of Christ in powerful ways.

If you weren't able to attend, you can still be encouraged! Each presentation from the fundraiser is available to watch on our YouTube channel: @HarvestInternationalInc.



<https://youtu.be/dl1J51z2BdA?si=caxZu6DP2rkdKM-8>



<https://youtu.be/-1FWKNbaKbQ?si=Eck4dXJCAyZ76Pth>

Thank you for your continued support

Scot, Selena & Olie Brown

Serving the Lord in Hungary



Meet Dr. Yousef Dib and His Daughter, Miriann

Dr. Yousef Dib has been a dear friend for many years, originally helping me exchange currency in Budapest. Over time, I learned his story: he came from Syria to study economics in Budapest in the 1970s, earned his PhD, met and married a Hungarian woman, and made Hungary his home. He's a brilliant man with a deep concern for his homeland.

Three years ago, while Miriann was visiting from Southern California, she fell seriously ill. When I stopped by Yousef's office, I found her downstairs in pain. Though I knew Yousef was a Muslim, I felt strongly led to ask if I could pray for her. She wept as I prayed, and I left trusting God had healed her. Two days later, Yousef and his friends greeted me warmly, and Miriann had recovered and flown home.

This past November, I returned with Selena and saw Miriann again. Yousef was on the phone with the hospital—his wife had just suffered a stroke related to Parkinson's. Before they left, I asked if we could pray a Christian prayer. They agreed, and we joined hands. God graciously answered—she was discharged the next day. Miriann then told me her mother had been a Christian and had attended church.

Sadly, just over a month later, Yousef's wife passed away—one of three significant losses he's endured recently, including his mother and oldest friend. He is deeply grieving.

When we return, we plan to gather in his office with his longtime friends, Mordecai and Attila, to read and discuss God's Word. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to soften their hearts, open their eyes and ears, and bring salvation to their families.



Prayer Request for Marianna

Our dear Marianna, pictured here with Selena at the hospital at Semmelweis University, has been suffering from a serious and painful condition for the past six months. The pain has been so severe that she's had to take a semester off from her PhD program. Please join us in praying for her full healing, strength, and comfort during this difficult time.

Ladies Bible Study Group

Selena is part of a vibrant ladies' Bible study group with women from over ten different countries. It's a beautiful picture of unity in Christ across cultures, and a true encouragement each week!



Bible Study Meeting at Coffe Shop

We also regularly join a Bible study with our pastor at a local coffee shop, where believers from many different countries gather. It's a rich time of fellowship, learning, and encouragement as we grow together in God's Word.

European Initiative

We love joining the European Initiative for street evangelization in Budapest. It's an incredible opportunity to share the gospel and connect with people from all walks of life in the heart of the city.



Home Meetings

We truly cherish these ladies in our lives. The first is a mother with her son, Rusha, and Jud—exiles from Syria who were granted a limited work visa in Hungary. We met them at their shop before their business unfortunately failed. Eight months prior, Jud's little brother had passed away suddenly, leaving them grieving and alone. Over time, we began meeting at each other's homes, sharing meals, reading Psalms, and praying together. They've since moved to Germany to start fresh and are now overjoyed with the birth of a new baby girl, bringing them renewed hope.



Behind Rusha is Maryam, a determined woman from Iran. She's completed dental school, passed her boards, learned Dutch, and is now moving to the Netherlands to establish her practice. Maryam is one of our first and closest students. Though she is Muslim by heritage, she is a secular thinker who has voiced her desire for her country to be free from oppression and views "religion" as the source of much of the world's sorrow. We agree with her on many points. Despite this, she reads her Farsi Bible and prays with us. Our conversations are deep and intellectually honest, and we continue to pray that God will reveal Himself to her.

Please join us in praying for Maryam—that the Holy Spirit would soften her heart and open her eyes to the truth of Christ.

Sarah, pictured between Selena and Olison, is a veterinary student from Norway and a passionate believer. We're so grateful for her friendship and the joy she brings to our group.

Then there's Anne, the woman in front of Selena. We met her in an unexpected way—on an elevator at the central subway station. We struck up a conversation and invited her to dinner. A few nights later, she came over, and we learned her story. Anne is from Botswana and had been very isolated since a fellow student left a year ago. When the pandemic hit, she became seriously ill with ovarian cancer, requiring surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy. With her parents unable to come and no classes or students around due to lockdown, she felt deeply lonely.

She has since made incredible strides, working on her medical degree in Budapest while also studying remotely at Johns Hopkins in the U.S. Anne loves Jesus and has developed a profound appreciation for life, despite her hardships. She fits so well with our group, and we are blessed to walk alongside her in this season.

Many nights we have no idea how many are coming so we always set all the places on three tables. And more than a few times we have to reset five or six places for stragglers.



Meet Sibel from Turkey and Marianna from Armenia

Two young women who should never be in a photo together. Sibel's family lost everything in a devastating earthquake that also claimed the lives of her sister and brother-in-law. With no support from Turkey, she came to Budapest on a scholarship, encouraged by her sister to pursue her dreams.

Marianna is from Artsakh, an Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan, and was unable to visit her family due to the blockade. When war broke out, she lost her home and homeland, along with over 120,000 others fleeing to Armenia. Despite the history between their countries, Sibel and Marianna became friends.

Sibel's mother, Anna, visited Budapest, grieving her losses. We met her and, through Sibel's translation, shared a meal, prayed, and read Psalms together. Anna said she experienced peace for the first time since the earthquakes. She stayed longer and even spoke to Marianna's mother about their families' well-being.

This story is a testament to God's grace, healing, and unexpected connections.

Randy & Debbie Bullock

Serving the Lord in Romania



Many Blessings from Romania!

As I type this newsletter, I cannot stop thinking about how blessed we are to continue for another month, for another week, or another day in this ministry. It is not through our strength or abilities but only because of God's grace and goodness. We watch all around us the political, social, cultural, and financial instability that is in the world today. And how God is protecting us from all of this, and He keeps us going, it is truly a miracle.

A lot is going on in Romania, at the end of last year they had elections for a new President and they were cancelled and put on hold because of corruption, and with the war there in the Ukraine which borders Romania, and the outside influences and liberal thinking that is starting to come into the country.



For the last few weeks at the center, we learned with all the age groups about the circle of life and how plants grow. The children planted seeds in cups and are watching the seeds sprout and grow, and produce flowers and vegetables.

We have used this to teach the children as believers in Christ, we are to grow in our faith in God. We are teaching the older boys how to get involved and to help the younger ones, We let them help prepare lunch one day for the children by letting them help cook the food and prepare it for the younger ones.

We have started the project of the fence around the center as we have had problems with people trying to break in and steal things from around the center, and also people walking into the class rooms during the day. We want to thank you all for helping to support this project. We are Thankful for each and every one of you for giving to the Lord and being a part in the growth of these children's lives!

Blessings from Romania
Manu, Adelina,
and our newest family member, Lara



Lloyd & Elaine Cook

Serving the Lord in Jamaica



For you, our US Friends, this is the time of winter, and the news as we watch it is a time of snow, rain, floods, and tornadoes. We wish you were here with us. One day, Earth's day will end, and our Father will take us to be with him in his Father's home. Often these days we long for that time to come. However, as long as the Lord keeps us here, it is to fulfill his purpose that we be his witnesses. And doesn't the world need witnesses for ours!

Our home is full of flowers and fruits at this time: the yellow-flowered Pouii, the red leaves of the poinsettia, and a pink/purple flowering tree that I cannot remember its name of right now. Children are often in our 'yard.' Sometime ago, we asked them why they love our outdoors. Their answer was "because it's so pretty!" We trust that spiritually, we are just as beautiful flowers for Him. Your prayers and gifts for us are seen as beautiful flowers to the Lord.

Certain fruits (star-apples, Naesberries, and Jamaican apples are also a source of satisfaction as well as attraction to our little friends and adult neighbors. Bless God, we often get an opportunity to share the loving call of our heavenly father and his Son with them. Praise the Lord with us for this!

PRAY for:

- The young children that Elaine gets to teach to read and write (better than they now do).
- A neighbor's son who came by one day to ask for our prayers as he went to seek a certain employment. He got it.
- Several young women whom Elaine once met with often: most of them are now mothers, unmarried single mothers.
- Former Bible College students of Lloyd's who often see him somewhere and say Hi. They are active as pastors, Child-evangelism teachers, and Christian spouses. Most are serving their Lord in various places and ways. You have contributed to their knowledge and usefulness in God's service.
- Pray for two nephews of Elaine who are Chefs and have served on International Cruise ships.
- For many of Elaine's nieces who often call her for spiritual advice and guidance. May they each grow strong in their faith and become great witnesses for him in their locations!
- We sincerely thank each of you who keep us serving even in our advanced years;
- For Lloyd as he awaits the result of a wart that his doctor removed and submitted for analysis
- For a recent national police report of a significant reduction in crimes, particularly murders.
- For the upcoming national elections, which are due within the next six months. The 'silly season' has already begun. We trust that it will pass with little crime and violence.
- For several mechanics at a garage for whom Elaine is much in prayer.
- For our continued good health until the Lord calls us home.

May you continue to rejoice in the HOPE you share in God's love!

Daniel & Betty

Serving the Lord in India



Cervical Cancer Prevention

Enhancing awareness among women of India for early detection

Join Us in the Fight Against Cervical Cancer in India

Harvest International invites you to support our missionaries, Daniel and Betty Edwin, as they bring hope and healthcare to slum communities in India. Their mission is to raise awareness about cervical cancer, a disease that claims the lives of thousands of women in lower-income groups due to limited access to screening and treatment.

Why This Matters

Cervical cancer is one of the most common cancers among Indian women aged 15 and older, with HPV causing approximately 83% of invasive cases. Due to a lack of early detection, many cases go undiagnosed until it's too late.

Our Mission

To combat this crisis, Daniel and Betty are working to:

- Educate communities about cervical cancer prevention
- Organize mass screenings and sample collections
- Refer potential cases to local cancer hospitals for treatment



How You Can Help

Harvest International has pledged to raise \$5,000 to support this life-saving initiative. Your generous contribution to this cause can help provide critical education, screenings, and medical referrals for women in need.

Donate today at www.HarvestInternational.org or scan the QR Code.

Together, we can make a difference! Thank you for your support.



A Ministry of Harvest International, Inc.

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“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it” - (Proverbs 4:23)

The dry season here in Zim can be very harsh. This puts a strain on our water resources (most of which are pumped up from the ground), and many of us work hard at keeping our plants alive while we wait and pray for the rain showers. God graciously answered our prayers and the rains did come, even if this year's pattern was a bit different. We rejoice and still do, even as we enjoy our heavenly Father's provision. Since the rains began at the end of last year, we have been so busy that I (Dolly) have spent very little time in the garden, depending solely on the rains to keep my plants alive.



Recently, however, I observed that the leaves of my prized red Amaryllis were torn and yellowing, but did not stop long enough to investigate the cause. Today, I stopped and saw the result of my neglect! On close inspection, I noticed that worms had been attacking the heart of the plants.

As I pondered this, I saw a parallel with the believer's walk with the Lord. In times of need, we spend hours before His throne, making known our requests as He has asked us to. So often, however, after He has showered us with His abundance, we become careless and neglectful. Sin then easily enters our hearts, eating away at us as the worms that are destroying my lilies. May we all therefore “be sober, be vigilant” (1 Peter 5:8-9).

FEBRUARY RETREAT



After many months of study, heart preparation as well as logistical details, we thought we were well prepared and had taken all necessary steps to ensure the smooth running of the Retreat. But never had we faced as many obstacles as we did from the first day of the event. Yet, both during and after, attendees testified that though it was the most difficult, it was also the most soul-searching and meaningful, as it dug into some core issues. Sharing times went on way into the night and, unlike other Retreats, everyone seemed to have forgotten to take a photo! It was such a joy to listen to some of the interactions and to see heads bowed down in prayer in deep communion with our Father.

In a WhatsApp message on our group chat, one of the attendees wrote: “Good evening, fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. I hope you are all well. Here, we are fine. We received some showers this evening after a very hot week. Praise the Lord. How is the valley life experience after the retreat of spiritual enlightenment? I urge you all to be so vigilant enough and not to go slump.” (English is not his first language).

Pray with us that the Lord would daily and progressively continue to work out His purposes in the lives of all of us, members of this group.

Faith Foundations International *with Ray B. Nelson* Serving the Lord in India



In early February, I received an email from Sharath inviting me to help provide new shoes for the orphanage children—something I've traditionally done when I visit in person. Although I was in the U.S. at the time, I was grateful for the opportunity to still take part. I sent \$300, and Sharath was able to purchase shoes for all 50 children. It's always a blessing to know their needs are being met.

Sharath also shared that the government has recently implemented a new requirement: boys and girls in orphanages must now be housed in separate facilities with a certain distance between them. In response to this, he has built a new facility specifically for the boys. We're thankful for his faithfulness and quick action to continue providing a safe and compliant home for the children.



Shiloh Children's Home
with Tom & Ginger Schmidt
Serving the Lord in Haiti



News from Nelson and family.

The gangs have extended their territory to reach into central Plato where Nelson lives near Pigeon. They had an incident with a gang where they were not physically harmed, but they went through their things and burned personal items, including their passports. They are again asking for our blessing to go into the Dominican Republic. They can get new paperwork that will enable them to cross the order and stay for a year with the possibility of extension.

Nelson has a family that has been living in the Dominican Republic for years. Our new mission Directors, Rod and Debbie Wray, who worked in Haiti for many years, are looking for contacts in the Dominican Republic, where Nelson can pastor a church in the large Haitian population living there. Lord willing, this move would afford safety to Nelson and his family, along with Maurice.

Please pray with us, Lord willing, that this move will work soon.

But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, And from thos who persecute me. Make Your face shine upon Your servant; Save me for Your mercies' sake. ~ Psalm 31:14-16

Austin & Kaelee Truelove

Serving the Lord in Haiti



Austin returned safely to Missouri! Typically, Austin has always had success in whatever he has planned for a trip, but the weather completely changed the plans to build a home. The far North-West of Haiti has experienced more rain in the fall/winter season since Austin's childhood. The rain continued off and on during Austin's trip. We acknowledge that God is the one who directs not only our footsteps, but also whether there is sun or rain, wind or still, storms or calm. We submit to His will, trusting that His plans are best and the time, which may seem lost to us, is not.

We operate three vehicles in Haiti, and all of them are in regular use, even in our absence. We believe that what we have in terms of material things ought to be used for the advancement of the grace of God, so all three have been used and need lots of maintenance. Austin took vehicle parts down with him and worked with our mechanic, Wilgens, on and off the whole trip to get them in working order. The rain did interfere, but God graciously gave enough clear days to accomplish the work on the vehicles.

Because of the months of rain, the sand trucks were backlogged with orders from months ago. So, on clear days, the trucks were delivering sand to those people who paid first, rightfully so. We didn't pre-pay, so we were down at the bottom of the list. Since returning home, several loads of sand have been delivered to the home site. That project won't be started until all the sand has been delivered; it's best to start the home build and not stop until it's finished for the sake of expediency.

Austin helped our missionary friends in the village next to ours. He accompanied one of our friends to a local airstrip to catch a flight to the US. He also spent over six hours teaching one of their employees (also a good friend of ours), Makendi, how to drive. All those hours in the vehicle with that young man provided the opportunity for Austin to share God's word and encourage him. Though not part of Austin's plan, this was God's plan.

While Austin was home-bound on rainy days, God brought a young man to the house, desperately seeking wisdom and direction. Austin was greatly burdened with this man's situation and perplexed with the complexity of the problem. He gave him general advice from the Bible, but didn't feel he had provided the answer. At church on a Sunday, the pastor shared the passage that was the answer to the problem. Immediately after returning home, Austin called the young man and told him to come over right away. As Austin began to tell him the truth that God had sent, the young man, who attended church elsewhere, told him that the same passage had been taught in his church that morning! God was working to direct that man! He answered not once, but twice! We praise God for his Holy Spirit who directs, and for his mercy in using us, who are but lowly servants. We thank him for considering those who are seeking Him, and for providing wisdom without partiality!

Rod & Debbie Wray

Serving the Lord in Ocala, Florida



We have had the privilege of keeping in touch with and helping several of our Haitian friends. Ernst was our mechanic at Camp Mahanaim, and he is doing well, and was married last month. Daniela was on our "Angels" girls' volleyball team, but she was also one of our main guesthouse cooks. Daniela and her daughter are living in the Dominican Republic, which is a challenge and a struggle, but they definitely don't want to return to Haiti.



We've enjoyed visiting friends in Florida, who were formerly missionaries in Haiti with us. Deb visiting with Connie Paschak and Linnea Schick.

Agape Flights had their open house and we were able to attend. It was great to see friends and missionaries from Agape flights who served and worked with us when we were in Haiti. They were the ones who evacuated us following the earthquake.



Thank you again for your prayers and support. Please pray with us as we communicate with Joseph, Berlyn and Stanley who are the three young men who helped us lead the Renault Sunday school. We are seeking the Lord's direction to see if He will open the doors for us to resume the Renault ministry from a distance, with the three young men leading it.

The Harvest Family

Staff

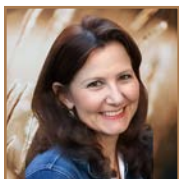


Rod & Debbie Wray
Executive Directors



Cassie Shipley
Executive Secretary

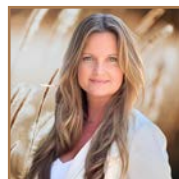
Board Members



Carolyn Cain



John Cain



Yvonne Carreiro



Al Fotino



Kecia Matthews

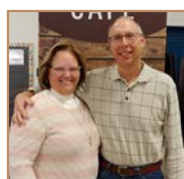


Richard Molinski

Missionaries



Scot, Selena & Olie Brown
Hungary



Randy & Debbie Bullock
Romania



Lloyd & Elaine Cooke
Jamaica



Dr. Donald DeVito
Haiti



Daniet & Betty
India



Dhan & Dolly Lasee
Zimbabwe



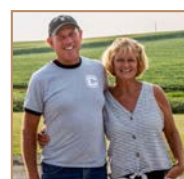
Ray B. Nelson
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