



International, Inc.

4th Quarter 2015 Newsletter

P.O. Box 6690 • Ocala, FL 34478-6690 • www.HarvestInternational.org • (352) 622-1818

2016

Have A Heart For Harvest Fundraiser



Coming Thursday, February 18, 2016

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

Join Harvest International on February 18, 2016 for our annual Have a Heart for Harvest Fundraiser

Guest Speaker Dr. Teo Babun

Dr. Babun is the Chairman of the Board and former Executive Director & CEO of Outreach Aid to the Americas, Inc. (OAA), a non-profit effort that trains Cubans on free market and democracy concepts, and which provides humanitarian aid and services to vulnerable persons in Cuba and throughout the Latin America region. Initiatives include: Americas Relief Team on disaster relief and resiliency, Explore International on mission trips to help the independent churches in Cuba, and EchoCuba, a ministry that since 1994 has been providing capacity for the independent church in Cuba.



Join us on Thursday, February 18, 2016

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church • 2801 S.E. Maricamp Road • Ocala

Have A Heart For Harvest Fundraiser

I would like to Sponsor a Table for:

♡ Faith \$500

♡ Hope \$750

♡ Love \$1,000

☐ I will be attending and filling my table

☐ I would like to purchase Qty: _____ tickets for \$65 each

☐ I will be attending but unable to fill my table

☐ I am unable to attend but would like to give a gift of \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Table Sponsorship includes 1 Reserved Table with Your Name and 8 Reserved Seats at Your Table

Checks payable to "Harvest International" & indicate for "Fundraiser 2016". Harvest is a 501c3 tax exempt charitable non-profit Christian Organization.

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2015 Annual Open House







Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone! 2015 has been a very interesting year. We had a wonderful summer! The teams from Southeastern University in Lakeland Florida did two VBS in two villages, Dumbrava and Ceica. Then we did Hospice Camp in Buteni with the team from Richfork Baptist Church from Thomasville NC. We assisted with a camp for the children from Dumbrava, with Danny and Lavi. They are doing a great job with the children there.

Then we were off to Odessa, Ukraine to the House of Hope. We got to see Viktor and some of the boys. We were able to go to a camp where they take the children from the state orphanages and spend some time with them, as they all love Viktor. Then we spent a day with Alyona and Slavik. They were doing a camp for the displaced children from the Donbas region of Eastern Ukraine.

We returned to Romania to have the Handbell Festival in Bistrita with Ms. Kelly Miller and her daughter Madeline, and Mr. Patrick Figgatt. We had the first Bell Festival in Romania with three Bell choirs from around the country.

I want to thank everyone who had a part in helping us get a new van this summer as the old one died. Thank you! It is a huge part of the ministry as we travel and transport children all over Romania.

I want to say a big "Thank you" to my two summer interns this year, Ruth Anna and Sara Johnson, for all their help and patience. It was a difficult summer with the van breaking down and plans having to be adjusted and walking and taking taxis. Great job...Thank you!! Also for the Romanian team that made everything flow and come together, with translation, discipline, and guidance.....Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of the ministry this year. Your prayers and gifts have had a big impact on the lives of so many children in Romania. This year we have seen so many conflicts around the world, with wars and battles, and it has left a lot of people displaced. This summer and fall we saw firsthand the refugee situation Hungary. As this situation grows we are looking for ways to help and reach out. I'm asking that you will pray with us as we search for ways to best help in this situation as each country tries to help these people. I'm reminded of Matthew 22:37, 39. 37 *Jesus said "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."* 39 *And the second is like it; "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"*.

Then in Luke chapter 2:10 *Then the angel said to them "Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people."* Luke 2:14 *Glory to god in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men.* We need some peace and goodwill in this world, but it begins with Love, the kind of Love that we find in Matthew 22. Let's put Christ first in our hearts and lives this coming year.





First and foremost, we want to give God honor and glory for all He is doing through Harvesting at Home. He has blessed us with an incredible community of love and support. Without your prayers and financial gifts, H.A.H. would not exist.

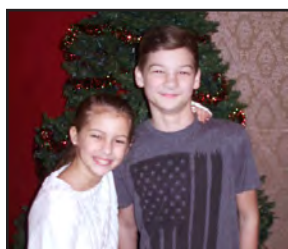
Shortly after our launch this year, we began envisioning a food pantry that we could keep fully stocked to meet individual needs as they came. As we began dipping our feet a little deeper into the community, God began sending certain individuals into our path. Soon we had the avenues, contacts and even the cabinet that was needed. God is good!

The guys began designing the most efficient shelving and slide out system possible for our cabinet. As the week nights and weekends went, the cabinet was soon complete. At a whopping 300+ pounds! I happily say, thank the Lord for muscle and the invention of wheels... haha! We pray that this cabinet always have exactly what is needed when it is needed.



With Thanksgiving approaching quickly and Christmas a breath after... we knew we wanted to continue with our traditional plans of working with families who foster children. God had other plans this year, as that door was closed and new doors opened. We ended up in a street parking lot on Thanksgiving, helping feed the homeless. God continued leading the way from there and sent us 12 families to bless for Christmas. I admit, at this point I had feelings of doubt. Could this task really be completed in such a short amount of time? Lord I believe, help my unbelief.

Within 15-20 minutes of posting the list of needs for these families, over half of the items were being donated. A few more days passed and we had everything we needed. God is good! Some of our local support group gathered together and helped prepare boxes of groceries, gifts and toiletry items. Just as God does, a little icing on the cake (or a little bow on the package) last minute donations were made and two families will have electricity for the next month.

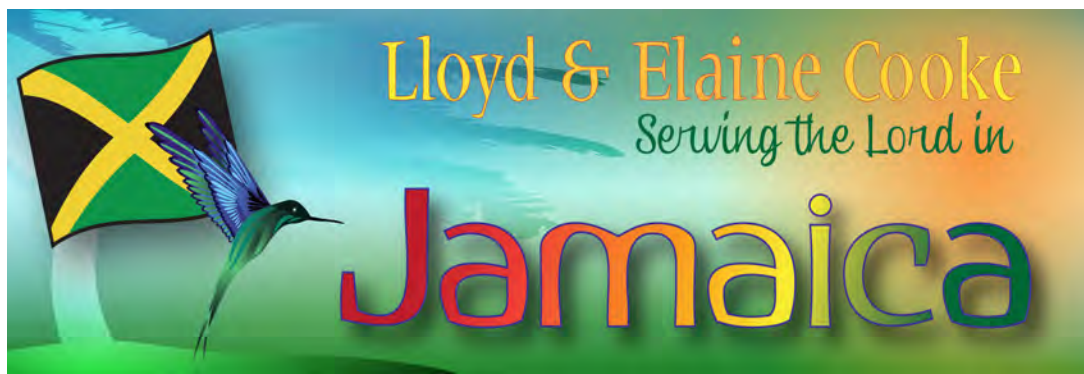


I bring this to a close, as I am sitting in my warm living room, on my cozy couch with all the signs of Christmas around me. I am reminded of why our family celebrates this season and what the birth of Christ means to me. I think of the individuals we have met these last couple months, the heart wrenching stories that we have heard and I pray that just one life will be changed, one story end a little different, one Christmas be a little more special.

We thank you again for helping bring the love of Jesus to our community and covet your continued prayers for the new year.

Blessings to you and a Merry Christmas, The Carreiro Family





The Poinsettia blooms in our garden are ravishing; the 'snow on the mountain' shrubs light up even the nights. Birds are playing in pools of water from recent rain, and are shaking their feathers in delight. There is a chill in the air that make us feel like we are in the U.S. These are signs that Christmas is in the air. But we do miss the Christmas carols. They seem to have disappeared, even from Christian radio and T.V., and seem to reveal the greater commercialism of the season.

The local Baptist church had its first Christmas family gathering event last Friday. It's Families in Crisis focus sought to show the family-friendliness of Christmas. It was a welcome and much appreciated innovative event. Elaine and I are looking forward to the 'Singphony' on Sunday at the United Church in Mandeville. It is a much treasured and looked-forward to musical treat, with much audience participation.

Our local Ministers Association will be having its annual Christmas Social and dinner on Monday, Dec. 14th at the Catholic Retreat Centre. Lloyd just recently stepped down from the Executive. We welcome all of these events that focus on the spiritual aspects of the season. It has been a good year for Elaine and me, and the Lord has blessed us with good health, and also enabled us to contribute in meaningful ways to the work of the Kingdom of the Lord here in Jamaica.

At the College where Lloyd teaches he has been deeply enjoyed his interactions with the students. Thank God that there are still many committed young people ready to step in to replace us who are near the end of our service in the Gospel. Lloyd has been able to see fulfilled a long desire to have the College reintroduce a Children's Ministries Course. This he will help to teach, beginning in January, with two of the others who helped him design the course. We pray that the Lord may bless this course greatly to the salvation of many children to Christ, both inside and outside of our churches. Pray with us that this may be so.

The highlight of the year for Lloyd was the International Missionary Conference, outside Rome, Italy; and the visit on the way home with colleagues and former students in London and Birmingham, England. His visit to Shakespeare's birthplace was a special highlight.

Elaine's various efforts with the children and youth, in the schools to which she got access, were very fruitful in the large numbers responding to both the abstinence message and gospel messages. But a concern is the lack of adequate follow-up. Pray for this. You have been part and parcel of each of these ministry outreaches, by your faithful partnership with us by your prayers and gifts. We thank God for you, and we wish you and your families the greatest experiences of Love and Joy in the Lord during this Christmas season.

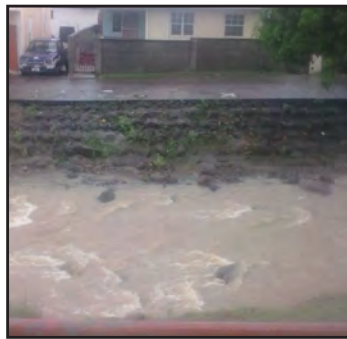






Just three days ago, we returned from our two-month trip to Grenada and Dominica which the Lord graciously made possible through the generous gift of airline tickets from a partnering Church and friends. This came when we least expected it, but at a time when we felt a compelling desire to visit loved ones, particularly in Dominica which had just been struck by a storm that dumped record rainfall. The result was mass destruction of roads, walls, bridges and buildings, and the loss of almost forty lives.

We praise God that He kept our family there safe but they too had anxious moments. Just a mere thirty yards away, they saw a bridge (their footpath from the main road) being washed away by the flood waters. Normally very quiet stream, it had become a fierce and angry torrent. Thankfully, our family did not have to use the escape route they had mapped out had the flood waters risen any higher. We are grateful to the Lord for the good times we shared together, including hearing their stories. Thanks for all of you who prayed for them and us during this time.



The damage to the island was unbelievable but now most roads are now accessible, although some villages are still cut off. Yet, the resilience and determination of the people are exemplary and life is returning to normal although there is still very much to be done. We pray that this experience will drive them to a pure faith in the Lord.

The re-dedication of the Church building in Grenada went very well. We were amazed at the high quality of organization and execution of the program. However, they understand that the real

work is now ahead of them – that of “teaching the Word and reaching the world”; and that this would be accomplished, not by natural ability or human enterprise, but by the Spirit of the Lord empowering and using them.

We are grieved at what we see in so many parts of the Church today. It seems that we work so hard at settling down into a life of ease and comfort that the rigors of the Gospel call are greatly diluted. Perhaps we have created a brand of Christianity with a jealously-guarded space around ourselves, and anything that threatens it is seen incompatible with the faith and therefore offensive. Worse yet, we call upon the very Lord for preservation from such encroachment, and this becomes a cause to which we dedicate ourselves. Christ, therefore, has at best a secondary place in His own Church – perhaps, for some, He is no more than a convenient figure-head.

One of the things that struck us on our recent trip was how warmly we were received wherever we went. Surely, the Lord must have prepared their hearts beforehand. Yes, God is good and we do not exaggerate when we say we feel very, very privileged to be His missionaries. And you, dearest friend, are being used by Him to bless us in so many ways, not least of which is your generosity in friendship and love.

All those who know the Lord understand, in some measure, the prophet's words in Is. 9:6, “*For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.*” Yes, it's unto us, His children, today and throughout the ages.

May this Christmas be your most meaningful yet, as the Lord reveals to you a deeper measure of the fullness of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. May the government of our lives come under His government in ever-increasing measure. Let us truly call Him Lord. To Him be the glory forever and ever.





The children of the Haven and Fresh Start homes are out of school for the month of December, and the government of Kenya urges orphanages to make provision for the children to visit their respective home places at this time. So, Christmas Day will be quiet at the children's home in Jua Kali because most, if not all, of the kids will be visiting their extended family members. We have often wondered about this practice. It is what the government wants, so we comply. In many cases, it is good for the children to maintain connections with their relatives, but we always wonder about the conditions some children are subjected to when they are sent home. Please join us in prayer for the children to travel safely and to be protected from any unsafe environment or unsafe people.

A friend of the ministry has taken the initiative to raise support for the children to have a kuku and chips (fried chicken and french fries) Christmas dinner when they return from their home visits and to provide a small Christmas bonus to the staff. We are grateful for such expressions of love!

I am currently reading LOVE WALKED AMONG US, Learning to Love Like Jesus by Paul E. Miller, and I am learning new things and relearning old lessons, namely that the children of the Haven and Fresh Start are the Lord's children, and it is my privilege to be a part of this ministry. While I often feel the heavy burden of wondering (worrying) how the children will be fed, clothed, and educated, such provision is completely under the jurisdiction of Jehovah Jireh. Each year as the children grow older, more and more of them enter into high school. We are anticipating thirty-six students to be in high school in the new year. That's a full 1/3 of the children of the home! I have no idea how the children are going to be fed in January, much less how \$36,000 will be supplied to pay school fees at \$1,000 per high school student, but I take comfort in knowing their provision will be from God's hand. Will you consider being an instrument in the hand of God to meet the needs of these children? Every gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated. You may earmark your gift for The Haven... Harvest International, P.O. Box 6690, Ocala, FL 34478-6690





Each year, many of us ask the philosophical question; “Where has this year gone?” I am no exception. The statement that frequently follows the question is: “Each year Christmas seems to come more quickly.” I am no exception. I ask the question and I make the statement. But I have learned to measure the year, not by its seemingly increasing speed of appearance and disappearance. If you ask by what measure then do I account for the months and weeks and days? I will tell you by the accomplishments but, more importantly, by the quality of those accomplishments. As I think of accomplishments however, I will assure you that I have no skill or even the right to attempt those measurements. In fact, God Himself reserves the right to make the measurements.

What I want to share with you is the evidences of His gracious dealings with us during the fleeting days of 2014. We are amazed by His condescension to use us and His abounding grace which allowed us a place to work in His garden. Paul tells us “Ye are God’s husbandry (garden plot)”. What a privilege!

One of the first evidences of His kindness to us was that February night when Danny Thomas announced our names, at the annual banquet of Harvest International, as its newest missionaries. That is a minor miracle, because as we looked around the audience, it was safe to conclude that I was the most senior person in the room. Now that did not apply to my Darling wife. She was a better fit in the large group who gathered to hear of the great movements of God in His vast mission field. Beverley and I are continually grateful for the bonds of love that enfold us in the Harvest family. Each member of the entire Harvest family has ministered to us as we have attempted to carry out the Lord’s directive to us. We have felt the hand of God through them. Another expression of God’s kind encouragement has been the responses from listeners who have assured us of God’s blessing on them through the broadcasts. I can hardly express enough thanks to God for the men and women who came alongside me and to my rescue in the broadcast ministry. Particular gratitude to Ed Cromer and Joe Frantz. Ed for getting the broadcast together and Joe for making sure it was o line on the harvest web site. What a blessing. People all over the world now listen to The Bible Speaks and Words of Inspiration.

When at times it seemed like we would not be able to pay for air time, many of you came through and you became the hands of God to us. The board of The Bible Speaks held us up in prayer and financial support and we are immensely grateful for them. This fast, fast year has been also a full, full one. We have shared with you before, our heart’s desire to be part of the team that carries the saving message of Christ to nations in the great Continent of Africa. That desire was encouraged as we had the pleasure of meeting with Brother and sister Dahn and Dolly Lalsee, Harvest missionaries to Zimbabwe, as well as Brother Fabiola, Missionary to Nigeria.

Our desire to broadcast in Africa began to come even closer as I was invited by Trans World Radio (TWR) to be part of their Media Ministries conference, celebrating sixty years of carrying the Gospel to the world. For three days, I heard and saw a glimpse of what God is doing l over the world as TWR carries the good news in 230 languages and growing every year. I heard from 29 different missionaries who are dedicated to the task of touching lives in places where no missionary are unable to go. We were reminded that many, many people groups are not able to read, have no television access, but they can listen. I was moved, challenged and committed all over new.

I sat with brothers and sisters from the countries on which our eyes are focused. What a blessing! To God be the glory!

Well, the TWR connection did not end there. To our delight, Brother Roy Wykoff of TWR agreed to be our keynote speaker for our first annual Radio ministry banquet. That was a blessed event and we expect great things from our great God.

As we continue to go into all the world, we invite you to stand with us. To get into Africa, we really do need your prayers and financial support. Do stand with us. God bless each one of you.





The past few months have been filled with lots of traveling throughout India, spreading the good Word and praying with those in need. I feel very blessed to have the opportunities to be a witness here.



Thank you for your continued support.
I wish you all a very Merry Christmas!



Tom & Ginger Schmidt

with JoHanna, Joshua & Jeremy

Serving the Lord
in Haiti



Christmas is a special time for many in Haiti! Haitian Christians celebrate by rising very early for worship services to celebrate the greatest gift to mankind: our Savior, Jesus Christ! In some cities and rural villages throughout the country one devout believer will leave their little home at 3-4 AM and walk to the home of the next closest parishioner, singing Christmas Carols along the way. They continue on, serenading and adding members until they all reach the church. They then have a 2-3hr worship service (before the work day begins) praising GOD for his Mercy and Grace in their lives! This will go on for several days or more! until Christmas Day. It is very exciting and refreshing to be a part of such sincere 'Christ worship' that is heartfelt and not connected to any sort of holiday materialism.

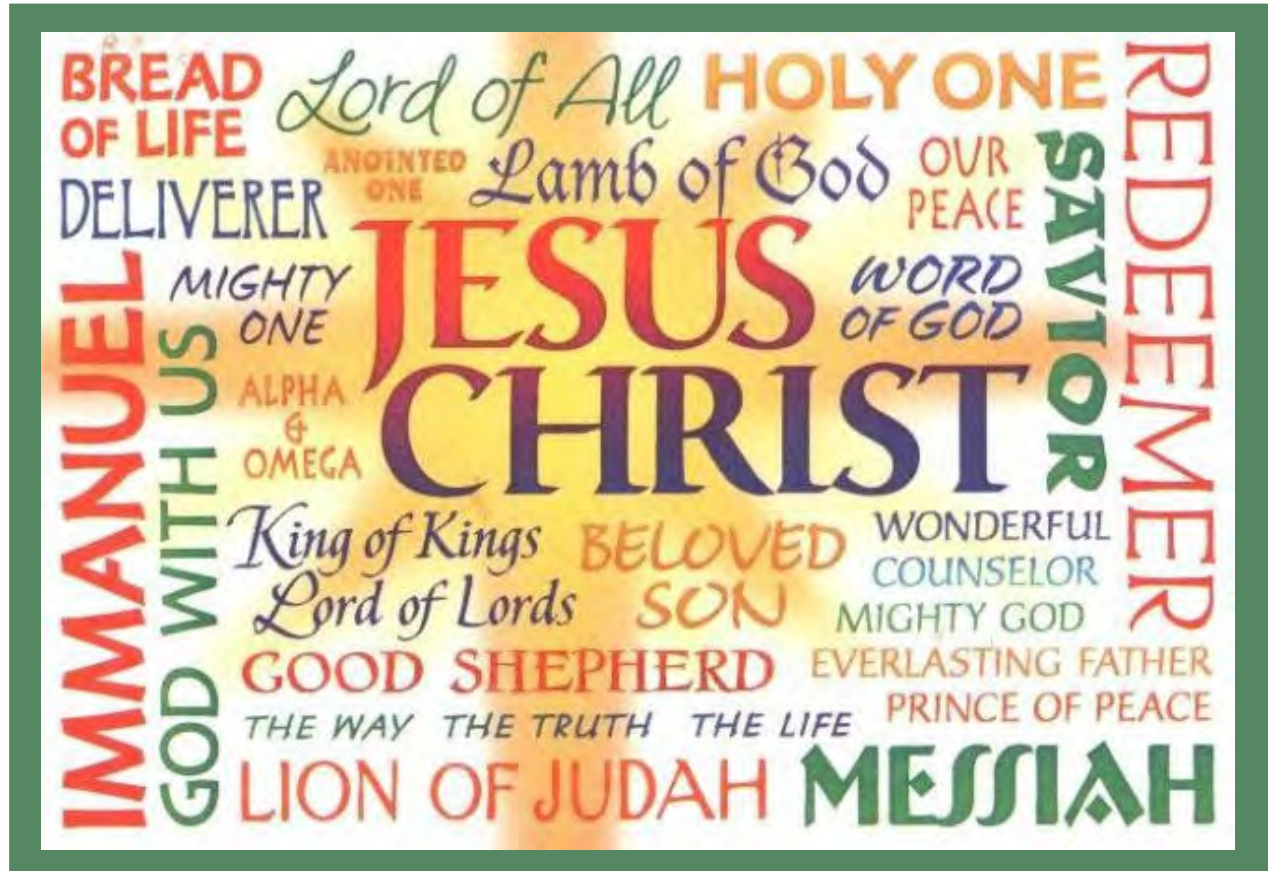
At Shiloh Children's Home the children feel loved and cherished every day! Still they do get a special meal on Christmas Day with extra treats, which they truly enjoy!

Our greatest need continues to be getting water for the Home. Tom will be going down with our son, Joshua, in January for three weeks. We will work on upkeep of the building as well as replacing gutters and adding another cistern. This is necessary since the geological survey showed that drilling a well in our zone would be a wasted effort.

Our goal, Lord willing, in 2016 will include constructing a large cistern to hold enough rain water to meet the needs of SCH during the dry season. If possible we even hope to have extra water, that we can filter, to sell (for a very modest price) to the community. That would not only bless the community, but would provide a little extra money for fresh fruits & vegetables for SCH; a constant need.

May the LORD bless YOU each day as you Live for HIM!





*Thank you for your prayers and support.
A Merry blessed Christmas*



*from the Westbrooks Family on St. Croix
Steve, Cheri, Isabelle, Simon, Salomon, Oliver, Chloe & Theo*



*Rod & Debbie Wray
with Katie*

Serving the Lord in Haiti



We wish you a very special Christmas as we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Carly and Eylar Zielke and their three children, Wyatt, Sawyer and Ellyanna live on a beautiful acreage near Kamloops. Eylar is a carpenter and he works at the local gold mine.

Christie and Dan Folkman live in Langley where Dan is a manager in an accounting firm and Christie continues to work as a R.N.

Tim is 24 and is attending the University of British Columbia in the Physiotherapy program.

Kara is 22 years old and has lived in Kelowna, British Columbia for the past few years. She is now moving to Calgary Alberta, and hopes to begin an apprenticeship.

Katie is 12 and is doing great. This year Katie changed to a new online school (Heritage Christian school) and she works hard each day to accomplish all her assignments.

We (Rod and Debbie) are doing well. We are thankful for the Lord's care and guidance in many ways throughout this past year. We traveled home to British Columbia a few times, including the most recent trip in November for Rod's mom's funeral. In October we enjoyed going to a missions conference in Missouri and visiting many friends. In Haiti, it has been an exciting year, especially regarding the Renault Sunday school program. Being able to have the children come for a week at camp plus seeing their love and respect for God, has been a blessing.

**Merry
Christmas
from the
Wray family.**



The Harvest Family

Our Staff



Danny Thomas
Executive Director



Pamela Barrett
Chief Financial Officer



Cassie Shipley
Secretary / Child Sp.

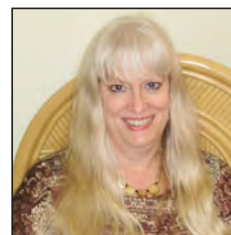


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Receptionist

Our Board Members



Danny Thomas
President



Pam Barrett
Treasurer



Tom Ranew
Secretary



John Cain



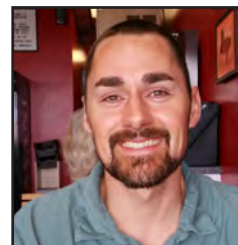
Fenn Folsom



Hope Gillman



Ron O'Steen



Stephen Self



Karen Warren

Our Missionaries



Randy & Debbie Bullock
Eastern Europe



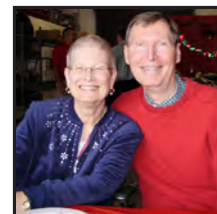
David & Yvonne Carreiro
USA



Lloyd & Elaine Cooke
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Daniel & Betty
India



Dick & Barb Johnson
Uganda



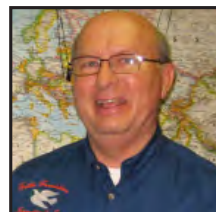
Dhan & Dolly Lalsee
Zimbabwe



Alan & Pam May
Kenya



Audley & Beverley McLean
Radio Ministry



Ray B. Nelson
India



Tom & Ginger Schmidt
Haiti



Steve & Cheri Westbrooks
U.S. Virgin Islands



Rod & Debbie Wray
Haiti

Harvest Contact Info.

Mailing Address	Physical Address
P.O. Box 6690	3711 N.E. 42nd Lane
Ocala, FL 34478	Ocala, FL 34479

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- ☐ I would like to begin monthly donations of \$_____.

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Reaching The Lost
Around The World