



# HARVEST TIME UPDATE

## *Haiti In My Heart*

SUMMER 2008

WWW.HARVESTTIME.CC

*Dear Friends...*



Dear Friends,

In our last update (Winter 2008), we shared a number of personal reflections about what is emerging at Harvest Time as a whole. In this issue, we focus on one of the components mentioned in that article - our relationships and partnerships in Haiti. Friends in the Harvest Time network and in Haiti have risen to the occasion by contributing various writings to offer a glimpse of the spiritual and personal experiences they consider meaningful and revealing.

Partnering in authentic relationships is at the core of Harvest Time's work in Haiti. This includes being conscious of the dynamics our association is having upon our partners in Haiti as well as on ourselves. It also includes sharing in the joy and hope and determination that exists within our hearts and the hearts of Haitian people. God is very much at the center of these relationships and efforts, producing results that have positive, long reaching implications for folks in both Haiti and the U.S.

One question that rises up every now and then is "Why Haiti?" During twenty-five years of traveling to Haiti with the Ministry of Money, Don McClanen and Bryan Sirchio developed relationships with people and organizations in Haiti. When Harvest Time came into being to support people of wealth in aligning the movement of money with the Holy Spirit, Haitian partnerships and grassroots efforts were envisioned and born. Out of these relationships and partnerships, a commitment to standing and working closely with our Haitian friends was realized - on both a personal and corporate level.

Our commitments in Haiti are rooted in a respect for the sacred aspects of self-determination and call. What ultimately sustains these commitments are relationships. On a recent Harvest Time call, Eugene Allen, a friend from Be Present, Inc., made a simple yet profound comment regarding our partnerships in Haiti. He observed, "They're people too." That's what our commitments in Haiti are about - people. When we enter into relationship with people in Haiti, our lives are transformed.

Why Haiti? Haiti is the one place where Harvest Time as an organization has chosen to enter into relationship in a committed way. It is where we are allowing the Holy Spirit and other human beings to touch our lives and hearts.

But Harvest Time is not just about Haiti. We could be sharing stories about relationships in Rwanda, Ghana, Central America, downtown Atlanta, Adams-Morgan neighborhood in Washington, DC, or the northern Mississippi countryside. These are all places where folks in the Harvest Time network are being transformed by grace as we enter into partner-

### **Mission Statement**

*Harvest Time invites people to come together in circles to work and play with money as a doorway into spiritual transformation at the personal, communal, and systemic levels.*

*Harvest Time is rooted in the biblical vision of economic justice which calls us to receive the gifts of God's abundant harvest in such a way that everyone has enough.*



### **Harvest Time Staff**

**Rosemary Feerick**

Director  
650-560-9631  
rfeerick2002@yahoo.com

**John Engle**

Haiti Partnerships  
202-236-6532  
john@johnengle.net

**Greg Rasmussen**

Financial Office  
715-282-6608  
office@harvesttime.cc

*Dear Friends... (continued)*

ship with other people seeking healing and justice.

In Harvest Time circles, we attempt to create a space where the voice of the soul can speak. What follows are voices from a circle that is currently forming to focus on Haiti. We hope you hear these reflections as a revelation of the ways that lives are being transformed by God's love present in our relationship with each other and our partners in Haiti. If you are inspired to join us, please see the last two pages for information about ways to do so.

God's grace and peace to you,

Greg, Rose, and Juanita



*Heart Strings Attached To Haiti by Jane Merritt*

During our Reverse Mission to Haiti, three of us stayed with Amise and her two teenage daughters for three days in Jeddo. The home was primitive by our standards, but considered quite substantial by Haitian standards. The house had a foundation, and there was electricity for part of the day. There was no running water, bathroom or kitchen in the home, but there was a faucet in the yard with cold water from a well, and a latrine at the back of the property.

On the first evening, a three year old girl, Trisli, came to visit. She looked at me from behind her mother's skirt with fear and pointed toward me saying "Mardi Gras." At first I did not understand why she called me that, but then I realized that I was the first white person she had seen. Her only other reference was to an effigy on a pole of a white oppressor at the Mardi Gras festivities. Those words "Mardi Gras" pierced my heart and I felt the burden then of the injustices and the horrors of the afflictions wrought by Whites against Haitians. How could I explain to a little three year old the sorrow I felt, except through love? Trisli discovered that I was a light eater, and so she stood by my side as we ate, and I spoon fed her some of the food from my plate. When she had received her fill, another hungry mouth would take her place from the village. When we departed, she thought she would be allowed to leave with us. She was crying her eyes out. She had become the darling of our group and she had to be pulled from the Tap Tap (our mode of transportation) by her mother.

Being called "Mardi Gras" by Trisli has given me an opportunity to address the "white elephant" in our North Carolina city of New Bern. Last week I was asked to address a group of people from African American Churches at a Restoration and Revival Conference in our Conven-

tion Center. I believe I was the only white person present and I used this opportunity to share the burden I feel about being white and the privileges and advantages that I inherited because of my skin color. After sharing the story of Trisli, I read Psalm 51:



*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offences. Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.*

I then explained that if we were to come together as a community of faith to restore an old elementary school so that it can be used as a re-entry facility for former offenders, we need to come together as one body. We need forgiveness in our hearts.

It is seven months since I was in Haiti, and yet there is not a day that I do not think about the experience and Trisli. My heart strings are still attached.

*Jane Merritt is a volunteer prison minister, preaching in prisons, organizing conferences and taking children of prisoners to summer camp. She heads up the Prison Ministry Commission for the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina and is on the board of Forgiveness Ministry, a ministry of reconciliation for children and their incarcerated parents. Jane also is a participant in the Ministry of Money's Covenant Group. She traveled to Haiti in September 2007. Also on the trip was Joan Pittman, a long time Harvest Time friend. When Joan heard about the focus of this newsletter, she contacted Jane and invited her to share her reflections on her trip to Haiti with the Harvest Time network.*



## *No Longer Missing In Action by Sharon McLearn*

I knew, even as a child, that my destiny was to be of service. Then life happened and I did not think of it much until one evening in 1992. I was in church that evening when our pastor asked a question that would eventually change my life. “Are you doing what you were made to do?” Those words seared into my brain. The tears flowed from my eyes. I knew the answer was a resounding “no” but what to do? And how? And when? I was the typical American climbing the corporate ladder feeling miserable, stressed and empty way too much of the time. But it seemed to be what people did and I followed that well trodden path right to a place where I felt empty, used, abused, stressed out, and ultimately not fulfilled in any way.

During those years, I was happy in the sense that I was married to a wonderful man, I had two beautiful daughters and I had all the trappings we’ve come to expect. The truth, however, is that I was frustrated with myself. I was dogged by depression and a restlessness I could not name. All these things would spill out in great emotion at times and threatened to rock my “perfect little world”.

Eighteen years passed from that night in my church and I did nothing different. Then my daughters grew up and left, and, again, my life felt tenuous, tumultuous and just plain wrong. It was all so hard to understand, never mind explain. Finally one day I realized that I had to act on this old dream and I looked up and asked God to help me. From that moment on, I was guided every step of the way. And one thing led to another as if the ultimate trail was being blazed for me. It led directly to Haiti.

Three months later, a chance encounter connected me with a physician who planned to go to Haiti and was recruiting a team. I talked to him and realized that my administrative skills were the gift I could bring because I

am capable of creating something from nothing and capable of putting together anything we could dream up. And that is what I love to do most.

By August of 2007 I was in Haiti and nothing has been the same since. I have been fortunate to find wonderful friends there who have become an important part of my life. Our organization, which provides health services to the people of Cite Soleil, is still in its infancy, but is coming along nicely.

Each day when I awake, Haiti is on my mind. When I check my emails, I am so happy to see the ones that come from my Haitian partners and friends. My husband and I have a Goddaughter there now as well. We look forward to watching her and her sisters grow and want them to know that the world does care about them. It is just one other way we can give back for all that we have been given.

I am old enough to understand that things are not always fair and that we can’t change everything that is wrong in this world in the time we are given. But we can do something for someone somewhere that will make a big difference for them and an even bigger difference for us. That is the beauty of sharing what we have and sharing in another culture.

Today my life is peaceful and full. I feel finally that I am “doing what I was made to do.” The joy that comes with that is incomparable. I learned what it means to experience real joy and to not need all the things we have come to associate with “success” in our crazy materialistic society. I no longer feel any sense of entitlement.

I am no longer “missing in action.”



## *Connected To Haiti by Kevin McLearn*

Before I visited, the thought of Haiti was so impersonal and abstract that it didn’t connect with the “me inside.” Over many years, I read about the country, the conditions, the poverty, the corruption, the political upheavals, and on and on, but I never felt it in a personal way until I actually visited. It is one thing to read about or see news video of Haiti; it is quite another thing to experience it firsthand.

I thought I knew what poverty looked like until I saw the tiny block and corrugated tin shacks that house a dozen people each in Cite Soleil. There is no electricity, no running water, no sewer system, little food and rampant disease. I tried to put myself in their shoes. What must it feel like to be so hungry and to work so hard just to survive? What must it feel like to have no soft place to lay your head at night? I thought I knew what work was until I saw people carry heavy loads on their heads or their backs for miles through the countryside to get to a market. I thought I knew what love was until I saw the mother who walked miles then slept on the ground in the rain outside of the hospital in Cange, so that her child could see a doctor in the morning.

If the recognition of these realities had been my entire experience it would have been easy to throw up my hands and

*Connected To Haiti (continued)*

I NOW HAVE A CONNECTION TO THIS LITTLE GIRL, TO HER FAMILY, AND TO HAITI THAT GOES WAY BEYOND MY ORIGINAL GOAL OF PROVIDING MEDICAL CARE TO THE PEOPLE OF CITE SOLEIL. NOW THEY ARE FRIENDS, NOW THEY ARE FAMILY, NOW THEY ARE IN MY HEART NOT JUST MY HEAD. HAITI IS NOT ABSTRACT AND IMPERSONAL ANYMORE, IT IS PART OF ME.

say, “God, what can I do? It’s too much to overcome, there’s just no hope of making it better.” But then I met and became friends with some Haitian people. I came to understand that, even though they live in harsh and bitter circumstances, they have hope that it will get better. They have hope that their children will have a future free of violence, with enough food to eat, with schools for every child to attend, with dreams to fulfill. I realized that if they still have hope then I must have hope as well.

I am now Godfather to a beautiful Haitian baby girl named Sharon after my wife. We recently took part in her baptism in Port Au Prince. I am so privileged to have been chosen for this honor. I now have a connection to this little girl, to her family, and to Haiti that goes way beyond my original goal of providing medical care to the people of Cite Soleil. Now they are friends, now they are family, now they are in my heart not just my head. Haiti is not abstract and impersonal anymore, it is part of me.

*Sharon and Kevin McLearn are actively involved with Haiti Clinic. In that role they partner with Haitian colleagues from BYA (Boston Youth Association) and SPARE (Sponsorship Program Aiding Relationship and Education), two of Harvest Time’s Haiti Partners, to deliver medical services in Cite Soleil. They traveled to Haiti four times in the past year and recently attended the baptism of their Goddaughter, Sharon Meliza, in Port au Prince. They are looking forward to their next trip in August.*



*Guy & Greg: A Correspondence*

*Much of the “work” of Harvest Time happens in relationship. In sharing of the realities of our lives, we discover grace. Guy Morelus (pronounced “Gee” with a hard “G”) is a Haitian colleague who coordinates Harvest Time’s relationship with St. Thomas School and SPARE in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Greg Rasmussen is our administrative support person and one of the facilitators of the Haiti Circle. What follows is a recent correspondence they exchanged. We share it here as an example of how people in the Harvest Time network are reaching out across differences to support and encourage each other as we work together to respond to the difficult realities in Haiti.*

Cite Soleil on the other hand is getting more critical in terms of hardship and the increase in misery. I don’t go down there as I used to because my heart and my pocket won’t let me sometimes. I only go there once a week to sense things better at Saint Thomas School. Once I enter the community the pressure is on for me. People ask for food or money but I can’t afford to help like I used to sometimes in the past. This is such a grief - not being able to help empty stomachs or ease problems. I had no choice, but to be a little rare to the community. Dependence and hope to me are basically the same. I am not saying that most people in the community depend on me, or am being forced to that, no! They are just hungry. Most of them are hopeful each time they see me for at least a plate of food or a few dollars. Maybe I shouldn’t have been an easy giver in the past, but it is not my person to not act from my heart - so I think I will do this each time I can.

Hi Greg,

God is good, my family and I are doing okay. Of course things got more complex in Haiti early this month but as always we stay vigilant and we are all safe. The story of the food problem is sad to the world, but I often ask myself where this situation will get planters witnessing so much misery in Haiti and across the earth.

As you know, things are getting harder here. People have so much anguish within and are so hopeful to have a better living. There is so much hope placed on the work of our government officers and the president.

The situation in Haiti especially the ghetto is giving me such hope to see the Haiti Group being formed among members of Harvest Time. I am so glad to hear there is already about ten people interested in working towards ameliorating the living conditions of people who are poor in Haiti. God has a plan set for



## *Guy & Greg: A Correspondence (continued)*

all already. Let's keep faithful and continue our efforts. As you know, the work we do is a blessing to those who benefit it, to those who give, and also to those of us who draw closer to God by listening to his voice in our hearts and following his will and mission for the poor as we are serving them. But our work also involves stress, and positive anguish sometimes especially when we can't do what our heart tells us to or get into disagreement on the work field. I know one thing though; God will not turn his back on any of us as we won't turn our back neglecting the cry of the poor.

My life never had a better sense until God placed me here to work with the people closest to him. I pray to him each day to guide me and my colleagues. Our work is so meaningful to so many yet much more to heaven. Those we reach grow lots of hope and get more faithful in the Lord. Taking a walk around the community, seeing this heartbreaking look on so many faces, imagining the minimum difference we are making despite the difficulties, the huge amount of assistance needed in the community of Cite Soleil is enough to cause constant migraine for those with a sensitive heart. With food prices skyrocketing as it is lately, things get more difficult for citizens of the community.

Know that I always feel okay to share my thoughts with you and your thoughts, push, and advice have been good enough to me. I appreciate your prayers and the efforts you are putting in Haiti Partners.

God bless you Greg,

Guy

---

Dear Guy,

I read your very thoughtful and honest letter, and was deeply touched by it. I especially like the way you can talk about the misery and sadness and the difficulties of your work and still see hope, to have trust and faith in the effort you put forth in trying to respond to it. It is important to me that we are able to face the discomfort of the misery while knowing we can only do so much, which often times does not seem to make a lot of difference in the bigger picture of reality. But that's just it - you and I alone cannot solve the big picture, it is too much, too sad, too big. In fact, if we try to solve the big picture, it may well drive us insane, especially if we sincerely grieve inside, if we have compassion and seek mercy and justice - trying to solve it all will bend our minds and hearts into something that may very well break.

For this reason I am still convinced that God does not bless our efforts based on size. I don't believe God has that kind of reference point. Human beings always think so highly of people who do great things or accomplish big things.

Remember when Jesus pointed out the old widow in the temple to his friends? She was giving a few pennies, a few small coins to the collection, and Jesus was so deeply moved by this. Here his friends were standing around with their mouths wide open admiring the great temple in Jerusalem, and he says something to the effect of "Hey you guys! Look over here! Why are you standing around in awe of this temple, which is only another illusion of grandeur made by man, when the real awe, the real temple is in this woman's heart because this woman has just given everything she has to help her people." To me, this is why I try to accept that my efforts may be small, and my contributions may be small, but my heart and my desire are great. I wish to live simply in a way that is respectful and helpful to all people - this includes my family, to people I meet on the street, to people I know in Haiti and beyond. I believe God honors that intention and He blesses our efforts more by the quality of our desire and mercy in our hearts, rather than the size of the gift in our hands.

So I had tears come to my eyes when I read your words that keep saying you are committed and fulfilled in doing whatever work you can do, even though it is sometimes difficult and the results are often very small. And yet I want to say the results may appear to be small, but they are making huge differences in people's lives - one life at a time. And God blesses that effort. God is deeply moved by that effort. I am convinced God is pleased our hearts ache so deeply, while our spirits look to hope and trust and possibility - and that is enough. It has to be enough. God is in this with us too. I always liked it when Jesus said, "By human effort alone, very little is possible. But with God, all things are possible."

Your message inspires me Guy. I love you as a brother, even though we've never met in person. I feel like I know you better because we've never had the confusion of seeing each other face to face - people of race or culture or class or privilege or poverty. Instead we've been showing each other who we are through our words. These words have been showing more of our soul and spirit to each other, and for that I am grateful to have met you this way. You know I'm not perfect or fixed or without flaws - and I know you to be the same way. But I get to hear your deepest desires and thoughts and hurts and pains and joy and happiness through your words. This has made me very rich. I am rich in spirit when you

## *Guy & Greg: A Correspondence (continued)*

and I have these kinds of talks. The day will come when we will meet in person, and perhaps we will simply be still and quiet for a while, maybe we'll just enjoy each other's company. Maybe we'll find time to pray our thanks together for your life and mine and how they have intersected to bless us both.

Do not underestimate yourself my friend. Your faith and dedication, and the humility and patience you embrace has made you into a powerful instrument of God's will. I respect you deeply and encourage you to draw from your inner strength as you continue the tremendous work you are doing. My best thoughts and prayers are with you.

Respectfully,

Greg



Guy Morelus coordinating food distribution near St. Thomas School in Cite Soleil.

## *How Could I Not Do It? By John Engle*

I've invested over 17 years of my life working for change in Haiti. Anyone paying attention to international news knows that the people of Haiti have suffered tremendously during the past two decades. Given the political instability, continual economic decline and hunger, combined with natural disasters, I shouldn't be surprised when I'm frequently asked, in one form or another, "Doesn't it feel like a lost cause?" Perhaps the version that feels more human and respectful is "Why do you do it?"

Alex Myril is among the many friends who comes to mind during these moments. He's 21 and the oldest of 6 children. While he lives in Port au Prince now so that he can go to school, he grew up in a poor family in the remote countryside. Alex is finishing his last year of high school. Less than 1% of students make it to this point given the innumerable obstacles. There are as many as 150 students in his classes and because there are not enough chairs and benches, he usually has to stand for hours on end. Imagine American high school students being expected to stand for class!

Just thinking about his daily commute tires me: heat, dust, smog, and traffic jams while crammed into subcompact cars or in the back of pick-up trucks. Most are ill repaired and breakdowns are common.

The oldest of 6, the family continues to rely on Alex in a multitude of ways. His schedule also includes doing his own laundry by hand and cooking for himself and his

brother. On weekends, he stuffs himself into one taxi and pickup truck after another to make his way to Mariaman, a rural Port au Prince suburb, for choir practice on Saturdays and Sundays. As Director of a children's choir, in addition to writing songs about social change and teaching them to the children, he also meets with parents and has become involved in many more lives.

I witness the consistent and honorable choices that Alex makes with his time and limited resources. He works tirelessly and his grades are great. Whenever I see Alex, his smile and grace radiates a joy and faith that I can only aspire to.

Having lived in Haiti for nearly 15 years I have countless examples of Haitians who rise above incredible odds to develop their potential, help others, and to improve their country. Any sacrifices that I've made or make pale in comparison.

I am indebted to Alex and so many others for their examples of courage, determination and long-suffering. So when it comes to investing my life toward positive change in Haiti, how could I not do it?

*John Engle is Harvest Time's Haiti Partnership Coordinator.*



## *The Roosters Crow* by Dixie Yarbrough

Whenever I hear a rooster crow, I think of Haiti, and thinking of Haiti reminds me to live in the moment and to be grateful for all of life--the tough and sad as well as the beautiful and wonderful. It is amazing how often I hear roosters. I expected to hear them in the small town of Dilley, TX, but I hear them in San Antonio and in Ormond Beach, FL, and everywhere I travel. I am listening for them. The crow of the rooster brings to my mind all the people I met in Haiti and all the people in the US who have helped me keep my memories and commitments alive. I am truly blessed to the point of embarrassment. When I was in Haiti, I wrote:

*The roosters crow:  
A new day. Praise God,  
we made another day.  
The roosters gossip:  
The Blancs have come.  
The Blancs have gone.  
The roosters fret:  
Life is real and precious.  
Will we make another day?*



*Dixie Yarbrough traveled to Haiti with the Ministry of Money in 1999 and again in 2000, where she met and formed a close friendship with a Haitian family. Dixie remains personally connected to Haiti through this friendship. She and her husband Robert live in San Antonio, Texas.*

## *Haiti Panic* by Judy Bork

*Harvest Time has learned that the process of becoming free involves sharing our fears, panic and anger in community. When we are able to do that – when we are able to get real about the hard places and say “the wrong things” out loud – with trusted spiritual companions who understand this process – miracles become possible. Judy Bork is a longtime friend of Harvest Time. She has been a member of the Beloved Community – a Harvest Time circle on the West Coast – since 2000 and has traveled to Haiti several times. As we were in the midst of putting together this newsletter, we received the following e-mails from Judy. We share these e-mails as well as some of Greg’s responses as an example of the kind of movement that can happen when we share our money questions – and the issues they trigger – in community. We are very grateful to Judy for being willing to share her process openly and honestly in this newsletter. On May 8, Judy wrote:*

Dear Friends,

What started out as me trying to understand what my designated God-part is regarding the world, has uncovered great grief, great fears of expectations and now, this morning, anger.

I felt God was leading me to giving for food. When trying to “know” the places to give for the hunger in the world, I felt that Haiti would be a good place for me

given that I am intimately involved with so many there. I “heard” \$20,000 and began discussions with Greg about distribution. I was feeling very good about it UNTIL...

Yesterday, I found out that the \$20,000 would be good for only 3 months and I was horrified. I went into a meltdown which was really about feeling like giving to Haiti is a bottomless pit. I really could not “feel” the people, but I felt this horrible sense of responsibility for all and the dreaded expectation that \$20,000, if given this time, would be “required” every quarter for the people I know to survive.

The needs seem so great and I am feeling overwhelmed. BUT, how does one offer these things, go into a meltdown and end up needing to give without the joyous heart that it started out with?

I guess adding to my overwhelm are the financial and emotional things going on in the friends in my life. I have been praying but I don’t have peace nor clarity and fear is great within me.

The anger piece came this morning as I was laying in bed hoping that God would correct my heart so that I could go forward. I have never done well with expectations even when it doesn’t have to do with money. I es-

*Haiti Panic (continued)*

I HEARD ONE PHRASE  
IN YOUR LETTER THAT  
STRUCK ME WITH  
DIFFICULTY. THE  
PHRASE ABOUT  
FEELING  
RESPONSIBLE. I  
PERSONALLY DO NOT  
THINK YOU ARE  
RESPONSIBLE FOR  
FEEDING HAITI, FIXING  
HAITI, OR SOLVING  
THE WOES OF HAITI. I  
THINK GOD'S LOVE IS  
THE ONLY THING THAT  
CAN ULTIMATELY  
CHANGE ANYTHING.

pecially have trouble when I feel expectations from folks who don't seem to want to help themselves (my mother is a big one here which is where a lot of this wounding is coming from).

I don't feel that the poorest of the poor can help themselves in Haiti with the food but then I feel anger because I wonder what the rich folks in Haiti are doing to help their own? Why is it my responsibility to help and feed so many people there when there is money in the country? Why don't the Haitians help themselves and stop having so many children who they can't feed nor educate?

Suffice it to say, that I am in need of council, help, support with this situation within me. I feel like I am at a crisis point. I don't want to go back to not being able to give at all as I did a year ago but I just don't know how to deal with the needs ALL AROUND ME. I wish that I were stronger here, but, right now, I am not.

Anyone have the time or feel like being part of a circle to help me with this? I will be continuing to work with God on this for I know He is my ultimate help, but I am reaching out to those in community around money issues.

With love, Judy

---

*Judy's friends and community members responded to her e-mail in a variety of ways. Some prayed for her. Some had phone conversations with her. Greg Rasmussen responded by e-mail.*

Dear Judy,

It's been hard for me to respond to your letter. I've spent the last few hours trying to run from your words. I feel the pain and sadness of knowing that so many people are suffering and dying - mostly for reasons that are impossible to address or correct. I often feel pretty much alone when I allow the sadness inside me to come to the surface.

This winter, I had to face the depths of how painful and alone I felt most of the time, unable to adequately express the things I feel, and unable to find someone to listen at times. What came to me was the recognition of how deep my concern and love for people is, how

deeply I grieve at suffering and injustice. It occurred to me like never before that the reason I feel painful things so deeply is because it corresponds exactly to the depth of my love for God's people and this beautiful world we've been given to live in. I feel hurt and pain deeply because I love so deeply.

For a while, it gave me slight relief. I found some solace in recognizing how authentically sincere my love for God, God's people, and all of creation is - I really do love deeply. I thought about the concept of suffering-love. Someone once said Jesus was the essence of what it meant to have suffering-love for his people. I started to think perhaps I was in good company. There is nothing easy in trying to live a life of faith - it can be lonely, often times we're misunderstood, criticized, we can feel weak, shallow, or helpless. I only try to remember that Jesus and many, many others since him may have struggled with many of the same feelings. I don't relish the idea of suffering-love, but I can accept it in my life. If I ever stop hurting so bad over the suffering and sadness in the world, then perhaps my love is waning too. I have tried to simply understand that I could not feel the depths of my love to the degree I do if I had not had experienced the depths of my grief as well.

I heard one phrase in your letter that struck me with difficulty. The phrase about feeling responsible. I personally do not think you are responsible for feeding Haiti, fixing Haiti, or solving the woes of Haiti. I think God's love is the only thing that can ultimately change anything. I believe in prayer, in petitioning God, I believe this is oftentimes all I really have left. When I feel powerless in a real world way, I feel I am the most useful to His purpose in a spiritual way by praying with great love.

I have come to believe in the value and sacredness of simplicity. God smiles at my small but sincere efforts. I'm neither more worthy nor more saved, I'm just living the best I can and God is okay with that. Of this I am sure. So I try to do my part, pray sincerely with great love, and find the gratitude within me to be thankful instead of guilty, to be willing instead of paralyzed with self-doubt, to be humble instead of full of myself. I sincerely trust God to do the leading and guiding in my life. I respond only the best I can.



## *Haiti Panic (continued)*

Thanks so much for sharing your feelings and including me in the list of receivers. Please be gentle with yourself. You are a beautiful person. Keeping you in thought and prayer as you struggle with this difficulty. Blessings  
Judy...

Greg

---

*On Sunday, May 11th Judy Bork back:*

Hi Greg,

Through the grace of God and the prayers of many including yours, yesterday I received the gift of peace about all this. I am now able to send this money without the expectation of what will happen in 3 months. I believe I am doing what is mine to do now and I know not what I will be called to do in the future.

Thank you so much, Greg, for your listening, praying, sharing of your deep wisdom and your faithfulness.

Love and blessings, Judy

*On May 12, Judy wrote to her larger circle of friends:*

Good Morning All,

I took a look at my account and found that there is a fair amount of cash, so I am uping the amount for food to \$30,000. The best part is that I have no strings/ anxiety/panic attached to it and I AM SO VERY GRATEFUL!!!!

Many blessings, Judy



## *Haiti: Holding out for Partnership by Rose Feerick*

**M**y initial draw to Harvest Time had everything to do with my heart's connection to Haiti. That connection began when I traveled to Haiti in 1995 and 1996 with Ministry of Money. I remember well returning home after my second trip to Haiti, having been blown away by the fact that things had deteriorated in the year since I had been there ( I had not imagined in 1995 that that was possible). I had no idea what was mine to do to respond. In many ways, I simply wanted to run away – though I knew that was no longer an option. Harvest Time, I sensed, had something that could help me continue the journey.

Early on, I conceived of that journey in intellectual terms. In graduate school, I studied liberation theology and attempted to make sense of my experiences in Haiti by writing a paper on Liberation Theology as Good News to the Rich. When I became a part of a Harvest Time circle, I had a spiritual experience that reframed my questions about violence and justice and placed them in the context of God's mystical, extravagant love. Shortly after that, I began making major gifts to Harvest Time – for the benefit of Haiti.

When I started working at Harvest Time, it was not my

job to be specifically connected to our partners in Haiti (my role has always been focused on relationships with folks in this country). Still, I felt very connected through Don and Bryan. I participated to the best of my ability in decision making with them, offering my listening and perspectives. I prayed for Bryan when he traveled to Haiti. And I “got” the powerful witness offered by both Bryan and Don, by simply being willing to hang in there in relationship.

Two years ago, I went through a divorce. In the midst of that process, I noticed my heart shutting down to Haiti. My work efforts did not stop. But emotionally something shifted. In the midst of divorce and the accompanying emotional whirlwind, I needed to focus my emotional energy so that I could do the work that needed to be my focus at that time - caring for my own heart and Spirit – and those of my children.

Among the many gifts of that period, was a profound humbling and a radical reorientation of my life. Mary puts it this way: “He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones...the rich he has sent away empty.” (Luke 1:52-53) Divorce threw me off any pedestals I had imagined were mine to stand upon and left me feeling pro-

*Haiti: Holding Out For Partnership (continued)*

foundly empty. Any beliefs I had of being an “enlightened” or “together” person qualified to “help” others disappeared.

In the midst of that time, I often found myself drawn to tables where people were aware of their vulnerability. A weekly ritual I participated in at a Catholic Worker home in San Jose, CA was particularly healing. Earlier in my life, I had gone to Catholic Worker houses to “help” others. During the years of divorce, I gathered with other women in transition to be fed by Spirit and friends whose pain, like mine, was impossible to hide. Often we were amazed by the love that showed up in the painful and tender places in our hearts.

When we turn our attention to Haiti, it is tempting for me to see myself as “having it together” and being sent to “help.” That’s an illusion. We are all affected by the injustices and oppression of our culture. We have all been wounded by life. And we all have gifts that the world needs. As we work together for “God’s will done on earth,” we need grace, the gift of each other, and the gifts that emerge when we are willing to journey into our vulnerability together.

I no longer believe the noblesse oblige model of philanthropy. I do however believe in sharing – giving and receiving our different gifts – which is why partnerships are what make sense to me now. Partnership is how miracles happen. Partnership in a world which has set us up to fear each other and silence our own wisdom – is its own miracle.

I witnessed such a miracle last fall in Mississippi when people from several organizations including, Harvest Time, Be Present, Common Fire, The Beloved Community, Community Wholeness Ventures, The Young People’s Project and the local community gathered around a table full of fried chicken and cornbread to tell the stories of our ancestors and to listen to the land and to Spirit. Our task – the reason we were together – was to discern how a farm that had been given to Harvest Time might become a center for racial reconciliation and healing. At the table, we discovered holy mystery.

It’s been several months since that gathering.

WHEN WE TURN OUR  
ATTENTION TO HAITI, IT  
IS TEMPTING FOR ME  
TO SEE MYSELF AS  
“HAVING IT TOGETHER”  
AND BEING SENT TO  
“HELP.” THAT’S AN  
ILLUSION...  
...AS WE WORK  
TOGETHER FOR  
“GOD’S WILL DONE ON  
EARTH,” WE NEED  
GRACE, THE GIFT OF  
EACH OTHER, AND THE  
GIFTS THAT EMERGE  
WHEN WE ARE WILLING  
TO JOURNEY INTO OUR  
VULNERABILITY  
TOGETHER.



That circle is still together, still listening, still learning what collective, discerning process in the midst of all the “isms” of our culture looks like in real life. Every time I step in to that circle, I have a deep sense of awe at what is possible.

That’s what I am holding out for in Haiti - that kind of process and those kind of partnerships - collective, mutual, healing, flowing through the open heart – and the miracles that are woven into and flow through them. Not that it will be easy. Not that it won’t stir up all our fears. Not that it won’t require each of us to trust ourselves, each other and God. But Mary believed what the angel said, “Nothing will be impossible for God.” (Luke 1:37) So did Jesus when he encountered the rich man longing for life (Mark 10:27). And so do I.

That’s why we’re calling the Haiti circle.

*Rose Feerick is the Director of Harvest Time.*



## *Journey to Haiti with Harvest Time*

John Engle, Harvest Time's Haiti Partnership Coordinator, will be traveling to Haiti at least two more times this year; **August 6 - 10** and **December 3 - 7, 2008**.

Each trip to Haiti is typically five days in length. John and one other Harvest Time staff or board member will accompany a small group (usually between one and four persons) interested in visiting Haiti and exploring whether or not they are being called to enter into financial relationship with Harvest Time's Haiti Partners. In the past, these trips have included opportunities to visit and interact with Harvest Time's Haiti Partners; time to work with a medical clinic or with the Missionaries of Charity, if desired; and opportunities to become better acquainted with Haitian people, culture, and realities. Time for personal interaction and spiritual support are also a part of these trips. The agenda for each trip is created by Harvest Time staff and trip participants.

If you are interested in opening to the beauty and joy of Haiti as well as to the poverty and heartache, please contact Rose or John.



## *Invitation to Participate in a Haiti Partnership Circle*

You are invited to participate in a new circle that Harvest Time is in the process of calling. This circle will focus on creating authentic partnerships across vast economic and national differences.

Harvest Time's Haiti Partnership Circle will focus on raising money for our partners in Haiti and exploring how giving money can become a bridge to creating authentic partnerships across vast economic and national differences. Unlike other Harvest Time circles, a specific fundraising goal will be an explicit aim of this circle. That is, everyone who participates will be asked to make a gift to support Harvest Time's Haiti Partnerships. As with other Harvest Time circles, we will work with money and the dynamics that come up when we give in order to deepen the spiritual and economic freedom of everyone involved. Our hope is that taking time to explore these issues will lead to greater life for all of us as individuals and a sustainable organizational structure for Harvest Time and its partners in Haiti.

### **Who is this circle for?**

1. People who want to make gifts to Harvest Time's Haiti Partners (or who are already doing so) **AND** who are open to exploring the issues that come up when we give money to Haiti.

2. People who are willing to enter into partnership with Harvest Time around discerning the organizational structure that best supports effective partnerships.

### **Core Values of the Process:**

1. Listening - to Spirit, ourselves and the wisdom of community. To the needs of the people and communities Harvest Time is in relationship with in the US and in Haiti.
2. Hospitality – together we will attempt to create a circle where it is safe for the soul to show up.
3. Humility and Authenticity – We will welcome the hard, uncomfortable emotions/assumptions/projections that may get kicked up in this process with compassion and curiosity – knowing that sometimes what we most need to hear is what we may be tempted to ignore or silence and that sometimes what we most need to hear can only be heard when we are honest about what is going on inside us.
4. Mutuality and Respect – We will welcome with gratitude the gifts and insight of all those called to sit in this circle and our partners in Haiti.
5. Justice – Our hope is serving the God of love who hears the cries of all of us and who invites us to come together to co-create a world where all have enough.

*Invitation to Participate in a Haiti Partnership Circle (continued)*

- 6. Extravagant Love – As with all Harvest Time circles, we hope that extravagant love will be the fragrance in this room. Toward that end, we will treat ourselves and others with compassion and will put love ahead of our need to be or do things right.
- 7. Gratitude and Joy – We will savor and celebrate moments of grace.

The facilitators of this process will be John Engle, Rose Feerick, Juanita Mangan-Van Ham, and Greg Rasmussen. If this invitation sounds like hilarious (or terrifying) good news, please be in touch with us soon!



Humanity -  
 forceful, compassionate,  
 destroying, forgiving, creating,  
 a mutual understanding emerges,  
 - Sacred.

*Drawing and poetry created by Juanita Mangan-Van Ham; Harvest Time friend, board member, and one of the facilitators of the Haiti Circle.*

*Additional credit and thanks to Judy Bork, Guy Morelus, Eugene Allen, and Kent Annan for the photos used in this issue.*

**HARVEST TIME STAFF**

**Rosemary Feerick**

Director  
 207 Washington Boulevard  
 Half Moon Bay, CA 94019  
 rfeerick2002@yahoo.com  
 650-560-9631

**John Engle**

Haiti Partnership Coordinator  
 P.O. Box 337  
 Hershey, PA 17033  
 john@johnengle.net  
 202-236-6532

**Greg Rasmussen**

Financial Office  
 2265 Wolf Lake Road  
 Rhineland, WI 54501-9491  
 office@HarvestTime.cc  
 715-282-6608

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

John Engle  
 Merline Engle  
 Juanita Mangan-Van Ham  
 Randall Mullins  
 Sharon Pavelda  
 Howard Thurston  
 Nancy Thurston

**FOUNDER**

Don McClanen

**WEB SITE**

www.HarvestTime.cc