

July 2023



harvesters

Spreading the Gospel, Serving Others & Building Community



DONORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Most people truly love hearing someone share the story of how God has changed their life. I certainly do. Expressions of thanks to God for answered prayers and how His provision has met a need or redirected their future are always in order!!

In this issue, we are sharing more stories of spiritual changes, needs met, and lives touched. Every one of these are also praises to God and expressions of appreciation for those He used to help make it happen for them. *I can tell you first-hand that the people you are serving in Africa and Asia, by being part of Harvesters, are exceedingly thankful for you.* I hear it repeatedly while traveling and spending time with those who are blessed by your gifts.

I also find great joy in passing along these stories to you. I honestly feel that you would be “missing out” by not hearing or reading at least a few of the countless testimonies from the grateful people I get to meet.

Beyond reading the printed stories in this newsletter, you can use the QR code below to see and hear some others say thank you in their own words and languages!

Doug Radford, Director
doug@harvesters.net
252-230-9742



Harvesters

JOIN OUR SEMINAR!

We can't predict the future, but we can plan for it.

Harvesters has partnered with Financial Planning Ministry (FPM) to provide you with the opportunity to start planning for your future through a Wills and Trusts Educational Seminar.



Don't procrastinate creating or updating your will or trust. To help, we are excited to offer this free webinar on Tuesday, September 19, at 7:00pm EST via Zoom. You will learn more about how to protect your assets for the people and ministries you care about.

Find help for documents such as:

- ➔ Last Will and Testament or a Revocable Living Trust
- ➔ Health Care Directives
- ➔ Financial Power of Attorney
- ➔ Guardian for minor children

After the webinar, you will have the opportunity to schedule a one-on-one meeting, via Zoom or telephone, with an FPM consultant to help prepare your estate plan at no out-of-pocket cost to you. Watch your mailbox and email for more information over the coming months!



www.harvesters.net



Harvesters International Ministries



harvestersinternational

Harvesters Kenya

Pokot Outreach Ministries Partnership

The three children's homes operated by Pokot Outreach Ministries (POM) play a vital role in our ministry to the Pokot people. And now, we've asked our churches and their members to help ensure that children who are at risk have a safe home and an opportunity for education. We call these church members well-wishers. They are deeply involved in their communities and can identify vulnerable children. Well-wishers make the child's needs known, and together with the village chief, recommend the child be placed in one of our children's homes. So far this year, over 200 new children have come to live in our homes. We want to share some of their stories with you.

TECLA CHEPTOO

Born in Sangakai village in Kiwawa, **Tecla Cheptoo is one of nine children** born to Paul and Christine. In 2015, her mother died from malaria. The children became hopeless because their mother was the sole bread winner in the family. They all moved in with their grandmother, but she was old and not able to provide for all nine children. They **lacked basic needs like clothing, food, and shelter**. They were malnourished and on the verge of death.



Tecla's situation was worsened by her father who **demanding his daughters to be taken for female genital mutilation (FGM)**. That way they could be married off, and the family could earn a dowry, redeem themselves from poverty, and acquire wealth.

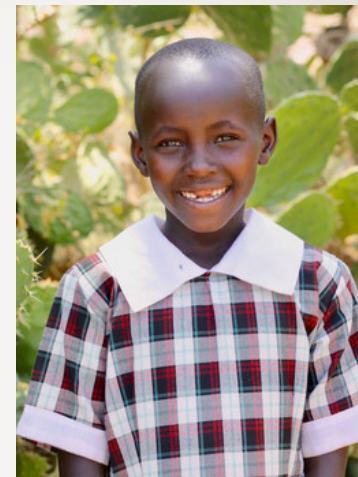
Tecla's uncle learned of the plan to force her into FGM. He decided to **rescue the girl** from her father's place. Along the way, they met with the area chief who directed them to look for help from POM. Tecla was well received by the staff of POM, and upon learning about her story, **they took Tecla to Kodich Rescue Dorm** which has been **established to protect** and care for young girls fleeing from FGM and forced marriages.

Her story changed from that of hopeless girl to a girl with **a much brighter destiny**. At the safe home in Kodich, Tecla now has the opportunity to hear the Gospel and be discipled by a caring community of believers. She is a very **passionate girl who dreams of becoming a doctor**. Tecla can smile and look forward to the future with a renewed hope.

PURITY CHEPCHUMBA

Purity Chepchumba recently began living in the Chemolingot Children's Home. **She is seven years old** and attends Sunrise Primary School, located on the grounds of the children's home.

Purity **lost her both parents** in January 2021. Her father, who was a teacher, was abducted and killed by unknown people. A double tragedy struck her family when Purity's mother died in a motorcycle accident as she was travelling to Maron to facilitate the burial of her husband.



After the death of both parents, Purity stayed with her grandmother along with six other siblings – two boys and four girls. The believers at the church in Maron identified Purity and recommended her for consideration for the children's home. Purity is glad that **her life has taken a new trajectory**. She has never hesitated to share her joy with the staff at Chemolingot. Purity is always jovial and happy since joining the home. She is yearning for a great, hopeful future. She is also praying for God to help her become a person of value who will one day come and **help those who are in need**.



Harvesters

Why Go? Michael Pivrotto

Vice-Chairman, Harvesters' Board of Directors

Why go?

It's easy for me not to.

It's easy to rest in my bubble of comfortable Christianity. It's easy to put the needs of others in that deep place in my mind where I know the needs exist, but I'm not compelled to do anything about it. It's easy to let fear, or apathy, or my busy schedule dictate not going. **It's easy to live without a sense of urgency**, without the calling of the purpose and mission demanded of my faith. Too easy.

But for those called to go, we must go.

When you look into the eyes of someone who hasn't heard the Gospel; who doesn't have access to clean water, sufficient food for their body to function or develop properly or access to basic medical care for the healing or prevention of conditions – all **I take for granted**, I begin to understand why the Apostle Paul was inspired to write in Ephesians 1:18 "I pray that the eyes of your heart be enlightened, so that you may know the hope of His calling..."



"Enlightened eyes of [my] heart" are opened to see suffering, affliction, people with no hope in the way Jesus saw people. **Seeing with the eyes of Jesus** shatters my assumptions, awakens dulled compassion, and changes the way I see the world.

"His calling" becomes my calling.

Opened eyes see people like Rose, a 94-year-old Ugandan widow I met recently who was homeless, forced to scavenge for food, surely **fearful to close her eyes at night** as she slept under a torn awning in the back of a run-down building. Now safe in a small, modest brick home, provided by the generosity of donors, her face was **filled with thankfulness and joy**. The smile in her eyes as she praised our Lord for provision, and welcomed me into her home made my eyes well-up. She smiled in delight as she showed me the bountiful vegetable garden that she planted around her home that would provide for her and her neighbors.



Opened eyes saw an 8-year-old boy in Kobwine, Uganda, dragging his polio-stricken, useless legs in the dirt to greet me, with a **smile filled with the joy of the hope in our Lord**. It brought tears to my eyes in thankfulness to know that one day he will walk upright with the same smile for all of eternity.

Opened eyes that witnessed lives transformed by the Gospel, orphans cared for and loved--for perhaps the first time in their lives, people lifted out of poverty by education, has also **opened my eyes** to the needs of my own community with far greater acuity. When I seek to serve, rather than be served, to see and do hard things, to not be silent in the face of pain and suffering, **I understand far more profoundly the love our Savior has for me**.

If called, **I invite you to come and join us**. Go with us to open your eyes to the work our Lord is doing through Harvesters. You only need a passport and the willingness to be shaken and transformed by the eyes of your heart. Like me, you will not return unchanged.

Harvesters Rwanda

Seira Community Church Partnership

Before the Seira Community Church came to Rukumberi, Dronsela Mukabuzizi led a troubled life. She was hostile to those around her, keeping to herself. As she said, she was blinded by ignorance and **didn't know how to love others**. Once the church was established, she began

attending. She learned the Word and accepted Christ. She now **sings in the choir** each week and has become part of the women's ministry.



Dronsela was the recipient of a goat through Harvesters' **Gifts That Matter** campaign. She has goat milk for herself and to sell to others. She hopes to breed her goat so that she can sell the babies and help provide for her family.

She is grateful to Harvesters' donors and SCC for **helping her to live a new life** both spiritually and physically.



Harvesters India

GSSK Partnership

Besides serving the over 300 students in our schools, **ministering to the senior citizens** in our area has proven to be a wonderful way to disciple and encourage others. Mrs. Savitri Vimalkant is 80 years old and one of the oldest in our senior citizen's fellowship. We are so grateful for her testimony and want to share it with you.

Savitri was orphaned as a baby and lived in a Christian orphanage in Neemuch City. She was eventually adopted by a Canadian missionary nurse.

Savitri went to **Bible College** and then on to nursing school. She eventually married a wonderful Christian man and was **mother to four children**. To help support the family, Savitri began working with GSSK founder, Dr. Jacob Devasagayam. With him, she helped **provide medical care** to the community for 17 years.



Her children all started families of their own, and **Savitri found herself living alone** after her husband died. She began attending our senior citizen's fellowship meetings and has been used by God to bless and encourage many. She made many new friends, but felt the Lord was **asking her to do something more**. She's back to work as a nurse giving her services to the older, needy people in her community. We are very grateful that Savitri is using her gifts to continue to serve! Her **faithful devotion to God** and people is an example to all who know her.

Thanks to our donors for making this outreach to seniors possible! We are grateful to provide this often neglected group the opportunity for Bible study, a meal, and connection with others.

Harvesters India

Sion Assembly Church Partnership

The orphan home is an integral part of our ministry at Sion Assembly Church (SAC). We currently provide care for 41 children with space to accommodate 59 more. We are **so thankful to all of the donors** who have helped us to build new dorms for our children. Those that once lived without hope are experiencing the love of Christ and thriving as they are now living in a **safe and loving environment**.



Pavaan Kumar, age 14, son of Ravi Kumar and Deva Mani **lived in the slums** of Vijayawada. Due to a financial crisis, there was no food for the family. Pavaan's father was an auto driver and used the money he earned to drink alcohol and smoke cigarettes, not giving any of it to the family. The family was **starved for food**. His mother turned to prostitution to feed her family.

Pavaan was not taken care of and **didn't receive any love** from his parents. At age seven, he made bad friends and became

addicted to alcohol, drugs, and cigarettes. He would **rob people with his friends** to get money to drink. His mother realized that she needed help to keep her son safe and brought him to the SAC Orphanage. Many times, **he ran away** from the home because he was used to the drugs and alcohol. But thank God, when one of his friends was arrested and sent to the children's prison, **he decided to not to leave** the orphanage again.

Pavaan has been living here for the past seven years. He says, "I am now growing up in the loving atmosphere at SAC Orphanage and going to school and studying 6th grade. I heard the Gospel and **gave my life to the Lord Jesus** last year. I am serving the Lord by playing drums at church service. I truly thank God for changing my life!"

Harvesters D.R. Congo

Union of Baptist Churches Partnership

Maska Mupenda's road to salvation was a difficult one, but thanks to the **continued outreach** from the women of one of our churches, she found hope. Here is her story:

*"My name is Maska Mupenda. I am 54 and the mother of eight children. I was born in a Christian family, but because of the bad companions I kept, I **did not follow the path** of my parents. I spent all my youth in prostitution. Every child I have has a different father. I didn't worry about anything in my life. Sadly, I even trained my eldest daughter in prostitution and she died of HIV/AIDS at the age of 24.*



*It was while the women of UBC were doing their **door-to-door evangelism** program that they dropped into my house one morning. They started talking to me about Jesus Christ. I found that I was interested and asked them to come back. Mama Rachel, wife of Pastor Athanase who led the team, **kept coming to talk to me about Jesus**. It was after a month of visiting that one night I had a dream where I saw someone going to hell because he did not accept Jesus in his life. That night, I was scared. The next morning, I spoke to Mama Rachel about the dream I had. She prayed with me and a week later **I was baptized**. I thank the Lord because since I received Jesus Christ in my life, I no longer take alcohol and have distanced myself from bad relationships. I am so proud to know **the Jesus Christ who saved me**. I'm so thirsty to serve my God!"*

We are so grateful for donors who continue to support this ministry as they work tirelessly to bring people to Christ!

Harvesters Uganda

Kerith Ministry Partnership

Harvesters has partnered with Pastor Sam and Kerith Ministries since 2007. We are thankful for the supporters who make stories like this one possible.

Meet Mpiima Mubarak – the eldest son born in a humble Muslim family of six children.

“My father suffered from a chronic illness, and he died when I was four years old. My mother, who is not educated, was left to care for us all. She had **a difficult time** finding employment and ended up going from house to house offering to wash clothes so that we would have food to eat.



Most nights my mum would just cry wondering how she is going to care for us. Fortunately, one of our neighbors was active in River of God Church and invited her one Sunday. It was there that **she gave her life to Jesus** and then introduced us to church. When my Muslim uncles learned of it, they started mistreating us and took the small piece of land my dad had owned. Pastor Sam encouraged my mother, and **the church provided us with shelter** for three years. Kerith Ministry provided my mother with a small business loan so that she could start selling charcoal.

At a young age, I got involved in Sunday School, and that is how **God opened up a door** for me to be sponsored by Kerith Ministry. The ministry took on the responsibility of caring for me, paying my school fees, feeding me and making sure I got medical care. It is through Kerith that **I received Jesus** as my Lord and Savior and became active in church ministry.

I am now running the church media department, and I am very happy that I can serve the Lord with this skill. I also love working on the Kerith farm during

my school holidays. **God did a miracle** three years ago. One of my uncles, who used to mistreat us, also gave his life to Jesus after hearing how God was taking care of us! He is now an active member of River of God Church.

I will be sitting for my senior four national examination this year, and I am grateful to God for this opportunity. I am currently studying hard because **I want to become a medical doctor** so that I can share the same love and help to others that I was shown when I needed it. I thank Pastor Samuel and Mercy for showing us love and taking care of many of us. **I thank God** for Kerith Ministry and for making me the man I am.”



Through generous sponsors like you, our child sponsorship program, Project Hope 127, provides a **safe living environment, nourishing food, an education**, and the opportunity to hear the Gospel and experience God’s love. There are currently children in Uganda and D. R. Congo that are awaiting sponsorship. Some, like Ariette in D. R. Congo, need an educational sponsor.

Ariette shares: “My parents were both killed in a car accident. **My dream is to become a teacher** in secondary school. I have started to learn teaching methodologies and to practice teaching in primary school but, to realize my dream, university education is needed.”

Educational sponsorships of **\$85 a month** follow a child from their last year of high school through trade school or university and last three to four years. Visit www.projecthope127.org to learn more.



Harvesters Russia

Hope For Life Homes Partnership

The ministry of Hope For Life Homes (HFL) to equip families to care for foster children is only possible with help from our donors. We are grateful for those that support parents like Alexey and Lena who have cared for Lera, now age 17, since she was 18 months old.

She shares her testimony here:

“I was **born in prison**, and my mother didn’t want anything to do with me. She also abandoned my older sister and brother who were taken in by Alexey and Lena. I am grateful to have been raised with my biological siblings.



Lera - Then and Now

It is only thanks to my foster parents that I have grown up well taught and content. Everything I know **I learned from them**. They taught me to work and cook, to be myself and never hide behind a mask, and, most importantly, they taught me to love God, have a deeper knowledge of Him, and obey Him.

Every summer we went to **Camp Transformation**. I can’t even begin to describe how God touched my heart in the first camp! I fell in love with Him.

I loved, and still love, **singing praise to Him**, especially at night under the stars. Every year, God would send special people from different churches to the camp, and they are a part of my life even now.

My sister tells me that my birth mom wants to meet me. I have started to pray about that and the **words God would have me say** when we meet. I am not angry at my birth mom, probably because I’ve never seen her. When I think of meeting her, I think of speaking no words to her, but just **giving her a big hug** because this home introduced me to God.

The hand of God is very real in my life now. I have a great job, school is fine, and **I see God work** in my life daily. I am always grateful for Him. I will be graduating from school this year, and I pray God would help me through the exams as I know nothing is impossible with Him. After that, I want to go to college to learn baking. **I believe God has a plan for my life** as long as I trust Him. He has led me through life since my birth, and He continues to do so now.”

Harvesters Pakistan

Omega Ministry Partnership

Pastor Christopher Shakeel shares this story of how an ordinary encounter is the beginning of a salvation story.

“One day, my mother was riding in a taxi when the driver asked, “Isn’t your son a pastor?” She replied affirmatively. He began to tell her about his **daughter that had become sick at school** and fainted. The teacher took her to the hospital where she received treatment. She was still very ill, and they weren’t sure if she would recover. My mother told him that they should pray to God because **He can do anything**.

A few weeks later, the driver saw my mother again and asked her to bring me to his home to **pray over his daughter**. We did, and now she is completely healed! Because of this **testimony of God’s faithfulness**, five of the girl’s uncles have become part of our church in Gujranwala!”



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Help us stay in touch by sending your updated address.

We welcome your comments or address changes.

Contact us:

Harvesters International Ministries
P.O. Box 22549
Hilton Head Island, SC 29925

E: info@harvesters.net
P: (844) 689-6213

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