



Gimli's Report

The bold print headings explain options for you to help continue the ministry at Harvest. Scan through them and see what sparks your interest. >>>Gimli is our pet pig, so once you read about his summer, imagine how much fun he had with all the children!

Answering the Call, Making a Difference

Harvest and Columbia Strong Partnered to bring a heart healing ministry of Christ to the Marion County Foster Care crisis. Harvest opened its campus, hired outstanding counselors, and hosted 8 weeks of summer camps free of charge to foster families. The day camps ran Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm during the months of June and July. Swimming, fishing, skiing, pottery, painting and a bible study that inter-twined with each activity throughout the day. The Mississippi Child Protection Services sent brochure invitations to every foster family in the surrounding 5 counties. What incredible relationships and stories of mercy ministry we were able to build while serving these families.

Thanks to the co-operation of CPS, we were able to help restore 7 children back into their loving biological families by providing beds, stoves, and plumbing restoration for running water while the children attended camp. Our "cup of cold water" in the name of Jesus made a difference. Harvest received \$22,000 in special donations to make this difference in the lives of these children and plant eternal seeds in their families. WOW! It was an amazing ministry, thank you to everyone who sacrificed to make it happen. Will you consider helping us do it again in 2019?

Chalet offered to families who opened their homes to displaced children.



Through help from our “Friends of Harvest” ministry group, foster families are enjoying a weekend of Christ centered family fun at the lake. The sacrifices foster parents make often deplete their own resources, so we just thought it would be great to let them have a little get-a-way on us. Ministry is all about relationships, and little acts of kindness like this have created great opportunities for us to make Kingdom building moments come to fruit. If you would like to be a part of this ministry make an end of the year donation to Harvest and specify “Foster Family Get-a-way” as the designation.

Kids Hub organization is a blessing, help us bless them. Kids Hub is doing incredible work in the local youth courts. We wanted to be a blessing for this organization and its employees who work endless hours to make children safer. Do you think creating solutions for children who are dealing with issues like abuse, addictions, and neglect require high levels of creative thinking? If you answered yes, then

you know why we want Kids Hub to bring their problem solvers to our campus for their think-tank sessions. We have created areas on our campus that are perfect to stimulate the creative mind. Greater than this, we want to pray over these men and women to encourage their faith and believe with them that the Holy Spirit is working to draw these families to Jesus. A gift to Harvest in any amount will help us to continue being an encouraging ministry to this and other organizations who are “Making a Difference.”

Harvest partnered with YouthWorks. We prayed and God faithfully sent workers. YouthWorks mission camp brought high school students from all over our country to stay at Harvest and do missions in Columbia, Ms. Thanks again to Harvest supporters we were able to accomplish our ministry goals over the summer months. The YouthWorks counselors: Donte, Ryan, Jessica, and Bethany lived the summer of 2018 on our campus with us helping Harvest to run Camp. Each week 50-60 students and adults brought in by YouthWorks formed teams and



nships in these areas of our community: **1)** They traveled to West Marion High School to paint the school and help set up the classrooms for the teachers. **2)** They organized and hosted a “Kids-club day camp” on the playground of the Columbia Elementary School. Neighborhood children were invited to eat lunch and a snack and participate in the camp as well as a community cookout each Thursday. **3)** A third team stayed on campus at Harvest to spend time with the foster children attending the camp you read about at the beginning of this letter. **4)** A fourth team helped us get projects under construction on campus like the new prayer walk and they helped us to move closer to completing the Chapel. Harvest will partner with YouthWorks again in the summer of 2019. YouthWorks will have their student campers staying in local High School gymnasiums this summer, we were not able offer our campus to them for housing. However, they will be sending us ministry teams to help run the Foster Family Camp! We are grateful for this new relationship in ministry, please pray for our adventures in Ministry with this organization in 2019!

Harvest is a strong supporter of the Columbia Strong Child Advocate Program (C.A.P.) If it lifts up the name of Jesus and it helps the community to know Him better, we want in! God is opening an opportunity for His church to reach into the most desperate homes and give hope through acts of love and compassion, and the Columbia Strong C.A.P. Volunteers are the front line messengers going through those doors. We have opened our doors to facilitate seminars and retreats designed to help these volunteers deal with the trauma they are encountering. 2018 saw the first swearing in of Columbia Strong C.A.P. Volunteers at the Marion county courthouse and we are praying this ministry changes the lives of Judges, lawyers, CPS workers, and the families most affected by the hurt of this broken world. Join us in this ministry to change the world, starting with our neighbors.



X-Change Mission

Camp. Our biggest mission camp keeps growing. This year 112 students, led by 37 college counselors descended upon Harvest campus the week of July 4th for this 5 day annual event. Students and churches come together for Worship, Small group bible study, Preaching, playing, and 6 hours a day of mission work in the name of Jesus. X-change has completely changed the way the youth in our churches work together with-in our community, and they love it! We are expanding X-change this year with a second week of camp opportunity because we can't fit one more person on the campus:-) I can't talk about X-Change without saying thank you to all the people who help provide scholarships for students and to Cain's Fish house who comes every year and caters all our meals all week, just because they love Jesus and students! If you would like to offer a scholarship to one of our local youth who needs help paying for camp, we want to help you connect with them. Please indicate your wishes on the check when you send in your end of the year contribution. Tuition is \$220 per student.

God Is So Good! The Lord cleared an area for an outdoor teaching

terrace. We know He loves our ministry but sometimes He still surprises us with how much! We have been talking about building an outdoor teaching area for years! The problem was during the day groups would have to dry off and change clothes to have a mid-day bible study inside the lodge. Not any more. Thanks to the work of some very determined pine beetles, 17 of our largest pine trees right outside the Lodge had to come down. Look at the trees



But God was just creating a space for us to build back better facilities for us to be able to worship Him outside. He knew we had our friend Brett Jones who would come again with the equipment



Brett hauled the timber to the saw mill and came back with more than enough gorgeous pine boards to finish the inside of the chapel and begin some much needed renovations on the bunkhouses.



Thank you to everyone who supported Harvest in 2017-18. This project was unexpected, but through your donations you can see by the image at the top of this page that we were able to get Harvest back in shape for the busy season. A little dirt work, several pallets of sod, 30,000 tons of stone, a couple of trips to the back doctor:-) and we have an amazing area where students and adults re-committed themselves to the love of Jesus all summer long... And they are still circling up by the fire now!



The Chapel is 90% finished! Thanks to several groups of high school students and a couple of contractors, our chapel continues to progress closer to completion. Our hope is it will be finished and landscaped mid 2019 with the exception of the stained glass windows. With such ministry opportunity ahead, our desire is to have the rest of the campus in great shape and ready to be used by the Lord. Please notice the light fixtures. They are absolutely beautiful hand crafted copper lights. Another tremendous donation from Jim Ragan and St. James Lighting.





A new prayer walk is under construction around our campus. Our most treasured addition! The prayer walk is just over a half mile long; it winds its way around the perimeter of our property. Twelve prayer stations are planned with hand crafted benches and Holy Scriptures engraved in stone for each station. The prayer stations will have guided prayers available concerning the active ministries of Harvest. We believe God is going to change the spiritual landscape of our community for the namesake of the name, Jesus. And it will be the prayer ministry that lays the foundation for this movement.

Many of our guests will bring their own burdens to this path. On their walk, as the path comes to an end, our garden of the cross appears. Stones will be available for students and counselors to write on, symbolically leaving their burdens and request there with the Lord at the cross. We believe, as a board and staff that through our praying over the ever-growing pile of stones, God will do great and powerful work through the individ-

uals represented. Harvest has experienced the miraculous work of God, one after another, year after year. The work of the Holy Spirit in salvation, breaking strong holds, and opening new doors for love through our ministry all had a part to inspire the creation of this prayer walk. These are the miracles we want to see spread across the country as we pray for those who left a stone while visiting our campus. If you would like to have a part in this ministry, a prayer bench and the scripture engraved stone cost \$565.

Upgrades To Our Beautiful Cagle Lodge.

New windows, flooring, over 40 new Tempur-Pedic mattresses, new entry lights, a new 6ft chandelier, and a 400lb Ice-O-Matic Ice Maker for the kitchen. These are just some of the things changing at Harvest. The old light fixtures were refinished and rewired to match the beautiful new copper lighting... all donated by St. James Lighting. In fact, everything was donated by local business owners who are excited about what God has done in Columbia through the ministries at Harvest!



Thank you for your faithful support through the years! In 2018 Harvest Ministries served 48 churches and more than 1,500 people. Please remember to pray for us in 2019. A stone will be added to our prayer garden, in your honor, for the love you have shown Harvest in the past. Please consider sending an end of the year contribution to help us meet our goals in ministry for the the New Year.





I hope you enjoyed our news letter. I really hope it blessed your heart to see all that God is doing through your support. I have not had the opportunity to meet many of you, but Gidget and I thank God for you and for all you allow us to accomplish. We have dreams and visions bigger than ourselves, but we believe they are too small when considered next to the heart of God. We try and do as much of the labor as we can or have it donated in order to stretch every dollar you give as far as we can. If you would like more information about what we are doing, or if you want to help us dream bigger about what God is doing, please contact us. We want to know you more.

Shannon & Gidget Willis
Sadie Willis
Mary Michael Willis
Shannon Willis

