



NEWS UPDATE

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work. Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are all white for harvest. I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." John 4: 34-38.



Okpuma Village – William Edward Bratrud kneels to the level of his new friend to present a gift of a toy to her.



Ibii Village – Steven Arciaga, center back, and William Bratrud reached out with loving hands to pray for LIGHT children individually.

Dear Friends of Bountiful Harvest:

Warmest greetings to you. What a privilege we have in our Lord to be sent to work in His harvest. How blessed I am to be called to work in partnership with you in His service. Thank you for your gifts of prayers, generous financial support and volunteered precious time. I thank you especially for your prayers during our recent trip to Africa. We felt the presence of God and the guiding of His Holy Spirit from the beginning to the end of our trip.

There is so much good news to share with you. Therefore this News Update is expanded to make room for the missionaries you sent to Africa last July, to share their experiences with you in photos and in their own words. Also included on pages 6 and 7 are a few of the many recent feedback letters we received from individuals who live in the villages, where you are making a great impact.



IITA, Ibadan – Dr. Richard Markham (left) and Eddie Neumann on a tour of IITA's demonstration farm.



Oziza Village (above) – Lilia Arciaga's speaking session to both women and men.



Ibii Village (left) – at the end of her teaching, Lilia posed for a photograph with WASED members.

OUR PIONEER MISSIONARIES

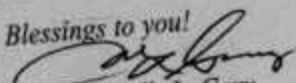
"Welcome Home and Thank You for a Job well Done." Please join me to welcome back Lilia Arciaga, Eddie Neumann, William Edward Bratrud and Steven Arciaga. This team deserve a big "Thank You" for a job well done. Their commitment to serve the Lord in His harvest was practically demonstrated in the villages in Afikpo, southeastern Nigeria.

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Erica Carlson as our newest Bountiful Harvest board member. Dr. Carlson holds a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of California (Los Angeles) and is currently employed with Boston University as a scientist.

Erica, we are deeply grateful for the many hours of volunteer work you have faithfully done and are still doing for Bountiful Harvest to assist impoverished people in Africa. And, Erica we are especially grateful for your tremendous efforts to establish an internet website for this ministry, i.e. www.bountifulharvest.org. People are responding positively to your excellent work.

Welcome, Erica! We look forward to the additional value you will add to this ministry as a board member.

Blessings to you!


William "Bill" L. Gary
Board Chair

PLEASE JOIN US TO WELCOME OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER, DR. ERICA CARLSON



Four years ago, I embarked on an incredible journey. God invited me into His work in Afikpo, Nigeria, through His servant, Grace Akpu, whom I met at Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena. The needs in Africa cannot be overstated. Traditional farming techniques are failing as the population increases, and people are going hungry. Bountiful Harvest's aim is simple: to help village families become self-sufficient, and thereby bring God's light. I am confident that by God's grace, Bountiful Harvest will succeed, because the organization sets achievable goals, collaborating with universities in the US and in Nigeria, and because the founder and executive director is from Afikpo, and can accomplish things impossible for the most well-intentioned outsider. I am thrilled with the opportunity to join in this work.

— Erica Carlson, Ph.D.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

THE POWER OF COLLABORATION

Bountiful Harvest has been greatly blessed by the collaborative partnership we have with California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan, and the Federal University of Agriculture, Umudike. We express our thanks to these institutes who provide training and the technical support necessary to implement our programs at the village level. We are in the process of establishing another collaborative link with the University of Reading, U.K. The interest these institutes show in the work of Bountiful Harvest and the expert knowledge they bring into the development of our programs are the basis of our success.

Eddie Neumann has taken giant steps to work with these institutes and enhance our progress in Afikpo. In addition to increased level of training, we are now beginning to obtain improved, high yielding crops which are badly needed by the village farmers. We need financial support to obtain and put these crops into the hands of our primary target families.

As most of us know, the common problem with development programs in Africa is that they crumble when external support ends. *One of Bountiful Harvest's goals is to overcome this problem.* Our key strategy for achieving this goal is education, which enables the people to develop the management competence necessary to sustain their programs. For our agricultural development, we select from each village two trustworthy individuals, who we train as **village extension workers**. Our progress in Afikpo shows that with proper training, these individuals will manage human and material resources effectively, and sustain their programs into the future.



Amuro/Mgbom Villages - Eddie teaches the farmers slash and mulch - a better alternative to slash and burn farming method.

Read Eddie's letter on insert.



IITA - Eddie made the most use of his three days at IITA, where he learned from specialists about tropical agriculture, and prepared for his work with the village farmers. (just above) - IITA demonstration farm shows an example of disease resistant, high yielding, and drought tolerant cassava plant.

(top) - Eddie tried his hands on operating one of IITA designed, improved cassava processing equipment.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in darkness." John 8:12

JOIN THE TORCHBEARERS TEAM FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*Adopt a Village — Illuminate the **LIGHT** and Lead Village Children to **CHRIST***



Ibii Village (above) - after a class session of LIGHT, Steven Arciaga and a village extension worker, Francis Ukpai reward the children with candies. William Bratrud watches and waits for his turn.

(below) a class session.



Bountiful Harvest currently serves in 16 villages of about 94,000 people. A large percentage of this population are children, who are the primary target of our ministry. I believe that the impact we make in the lives of young children contributes largely to the choices they make in their adult lives. Bountiful Harvest is committed to impact the lives of these deprived children through our youth program called LIGHT - "Learning, Inspiring, and Giving Hope Together".

LIGHT is our channel for reaching the children and helping them to experience the love of God. We provide basic health care, clothing, food, and lead them to Christ in the ways they can relate to and understand. There is no doubt about the abundance of souls we will win for the kingdom of heaven by reaching these children, but due to lack of resources our progress is constrained.

Dear Family of Friends of Bountiful Harvest, I feel it in my heart to challenge you with the need of reaching these children for Christ! Bountiful Harvest presents the opportunity for you to adopt a village and join the Torchbearers Team. Your torch will illuminate LIGHT for children in your village. The forerunner torchbearers (Steven, William, Lilia and Eddie

together with Jesus Film), have opened the doors to the hearts of these children to receive Christ. We need your support to train and equip local, God fearing individuals to lead and sustain LIGHT in each village. At the present time, we have only one leader for all the villages.

These are the ways you can adopt a village and keep the LIGHT burning bright in Afikpo:

- A monthly donation of \$50.00 or more (we ask for a commitment of at least 6 months).
- You can join the Torchbearers Team as individuals, families, Sunday School classes or churches.
- You can also donate children's Bible literature, writing materials and teaching aids.
- You will receive photos of LIGHT children and reports on how you impact their lives.



Nkpogoro Village - LIGHT children sat quietly and listened attentively to the missionaries' teaching.



Amambala/Ngodo Villages (above) - LIGHT class session. Stephen Arciaga and William Bratrud teaching, while a WASED member, Mrs Ogeri Alu interprets.

(below) William, Steven and Eddie in group photograph with the children.



Oziza Village - LIGHT children responded with hands lifted up that they want to receive Jesus into their hearts. Front row, a girl teaches the missionaries the song: CHIM DI NMA, CHIM DI NMA, "My God is good, My God is good." The missionaries taught the children the song, "Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary."



HEALTH CARE MINISTRY

Help the Poor, Heal the Sick and Preach The Good News



(above) Mothers wait in line to receive medicines for their babies. BH's village trained nurse, Mary Urom explains the use of children's aspirin to a mother.



(right) She instructs a young male patient on how to take the medicines he receives.

Until recently, we have not focused much attention to the medical needs in the villages in Afikpo. Now it has become clear to us that helping those who suffer physical pain is a critical part of our calling. We express our appreciation with hearts full of thanks to **World Opportunities International (WOI), Hollywood, California**. Since 1998, WOI has freely and generously donated helpful medicines and nutritional supplies to help Bountiful Harvest address this health care need.

Since we still lack the needed medical supplies and professionals, to handle serious cases, we surrender whatever God provides back to Him. We trust Him to use even simple aspirin to perform His miracle healing. The people have faith that God blesses and uses Bountiful Harvest medicines to cure all kinds of diseases. It has been amazing to hear and see what God can do when we surrender all things to His care. We give Him all the glory.

LIFE TRANSFORMING MINISTRY

Since November 1999, many of you have prayed and some have given financial support, and other resources for Ngozi (Blessing) Okorie to come to the US and receive medical treatment.

Last April your prayers were answered. God cleared every obstacle that stood in the way. Ngozi arrived Bremerton, Washington State, where Dr. Frederick Leist and his medical team performed two stages of successful operations and alleviated her suffering. On May 28, Ngozi and her travelling companion, Florence Egwu returned to their village in Afikpo, southeastern Nigeria.



(above) Ngozi before surgery



(right) recent photo

Many of you have not seen even a photograph of Ngozi. It was my decision to wait until now to share her photos on the News Update. Now you can see how God has used all of you as instruments to transform Ngozi's life. May all the glory be given to Him, and thanks to all of you, who responded to this need. By your deed, you demonstrated the true love of God, and ministered to the entire community in Afikpo and beyond. *Please continue to pray for Ngozi. There is still a need for some more work to improve her condition.*



(left) Everyone thanks World Opportunities International.



(below) Lilia Arciaga prays for a baby with heart problem and comforts his mother.

WOMEN HELPING WOMEN

Women In Agricultural Social and Economic Development (WASED)

Ladies, you can only imagine the condition of life for village women in Africa. Lilia Arciaga can no longer just imagine a typical day for village women. During her recent trip to Nigeria, she had firsthand experience with Afikpo women - *how they live, how they toil and how they support their children*. Lilia experienced getting up early every morning (rain or shine), and walking some miles up the hills and low lands, on the muddy and rugged pathways that lead to the farms. Village women constitute 60-80% of the labor force in household food production, and also contribute to cash crop labor. Yet they have no access to training to develop and improve their job skills.

These women may be used to their condition of life, but what options do they have?

Bountiful Harvest is taking innovative steps to support village women to develop their God-given potential in all areas of agricultural and economic development. The goal is for them to have more than one source of livelihood. Currently we are sponsoring 16 Afikpo WASED members to receive training at Ibadan in western Nigeria. They are learning painting, carving, embroidery and other areas of art work. At the end of their training, this group will return to train others in their villages.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Ladies, this is where you and I as women can step in, and help in whatever way the Lord enables us to support Afikpo women in their endeavors. With a donation of \$30.00 or more, you can purchase the following training materials for one student: drawing books and pads, pencils, rulers, paint brushes, rolls of rice paper, threads and needles and other items. A generous donation of \$100.00 or more will pay for a student's housing and food for two months. These students also need help to set up a workshop for this business in their villages. From here we can help them to market and sell their products at the local, national and international markets. This venture will become not only a source of employment for the women, it will also enable them to express their artistic skills and abilities, and use them to honor and glorify God.



THE PRESENT

(above & right) Afikpo women process oil palm fruits to produce palm oil and other side products.



(below) The middle stage of processing cassava into food product - garri.



THE FUTURE



(right) Afikpo - WASED literacy education classroom session

(left) Ibadan Training Center - Four WASED students are taught how to sketch designs using chalk.



TARGET FAMILIES SPONSORSHIP

You Can Adopt And Assist A Family To Achieve Sustainable Self-Reliance

Remember that Bountiful Harvest is not a *charity*, but a *developmental organization*. The purpose of Bountiful Harvest's Family Sponsorship Program (FSP), is to empower the primary target families to achieve and sustain self-reliance. The goal is for the families to be able to support themselves into the future, and also extend a helping hand to other people.

We are asking individuals or groups, whom the Lord leads, to consider sponsoring a family for at least twelve months, a full agricultural year. Your monthly donations will provide regular training, agricultural tools, improved high yielding crops, and a little financial support to the family. We thank all of you who are already supporting this program.



AMAMGBALA VILLAGE - (left) Here Eddie Neumann shows off with a target family (Alice Oke, a widow and her children). They are proud to introduce their new born goat to us. Last year, this family received a gift of a female goat donated to them by Mr. & Mrs. Peacock of Cincinnati, Ohio. Now the Peacock's gift has multiplied, and hopefully by next year the goat will have another baby, and Alice Chukwu will extend a gift to another family.

ENOHIA VILLAGE - A target family - a mother with her four children.



AMAURO VILLAGE - A widower tries his best as a farmer to raise his three girls, but poor yield makes it tough to support his family. He hopes and prays that he and his girls will be helped by the agricultural training and support that Bountiful Harvest provides.



UKPA VILLAGE - Lilia Arciaga is seen here with a family. The mother is the bread winner in this family. Her husband became blind recently. At the village level there is no welfare nor training to rehabilitate disabled persons to become productive, and farming is not an easy job for a blind person.



FEEDBACK LETTERS FROM AFIKPO



The following are a few of the many recent letters sent to Bountiful Harvest from Afikpo. They are written by some literate individuals who observe the impact of the work of Bountiful Harvest in

their community. Letter 4, on page 7, is written by a woman who wants to be trained by Bountiful Harvest to serve her village as an extension worker.

Please Note: Except for spell check, Bountiful Harvest office in US typed the original (handwritten) letters unedited.

Bountiful Harvest
Afikpo

①

From Elder S. A. Ewa
% P. C. N., Box 266
Afikpo

5/8/2000

The Director
Bountiful Harvest
Afikpo

Madam,

I, Elder S. A. Ewa, husband of Mrs. Joy Ewa of Amuro - Afikpo, humbly appreciate and approve the training of my wife at Ibadan by your organization the Bountiful Harvest.

Thank you, for your concern and love and kindness toward the women.

God bless you and your ministry.

Yours faithfully

Elder S.A. Ewa

BOUNTIFUL HARVEST

21st July, 2000.

The mission of the Bountiful Harvest in Afikpo to me is very recommendable. They really did what the Lord Commanded - Preach the word, heal the sick and clothe the naked.

29th July, 2000

BOUNTIFUL HARVEST

The mission of the Bountiful Harvest in Afikpo to me is very recommendable. They really did what the Lord commanded - Preach the word, heal the sick and clothe the naked.

With their activities, in-fact many people turned up happily both young and old in many centers they visited.

From people's comment they really harvested souls for Christ in Afikpo Local Government area of Ebonyi State. They really need more encouragement and support to continue their mission in Nigeria.

Stella U. Uwa (Mrs.)

Stella U. Uwa

14D P.W.D.

Ngodo - Afikpo

Reasons Why I wanted to be an extensionist

There are many reasons why I wanted to be an extensionist. They are thus -

1. I wanted to work with the Bountiful Harvest

Amachara Agbo Village
Afikpo North L.G.A., Nigeria

5th August, 2000

Reasons Why I want to be an Extensionist

There are many reasons why I wanted to be an extensionist. They are thus -

1. I want to work with the Bountiful Harvest in order to see about the smooth running of the program.
2. I would like my village to benefit from the program.
3. To let people know about the Bountiful Harvest vision and goal.
4. As a farmer I would like to know more about farm work
5. As it also involves the word of God and as a Christian it is another way to spread the word of God to the people
6. To teach others after acquiring the knowledge.

Thanks

From Felicia U. Ewa Udu (female)

Dear Bountiful Harvest,

It is a thing of joy to see white people coming to our country.

Amuro/Mgbom Primary School
Afikpo, Ebonyi State

③

31st July, 2000

Dear Bountiful Harvest,

It is a thing of joy to see the white people coming from all the way from their country to Nigeria especially to our own part Afikpo. To sympathize with us on our unbelief on the side of Jesus Christ. We are glad. Personally I am happy because it has been long we are praying about such a great privilege in our country.

It has made a new change in the life of our people entirely both their life spiritually, economically, educationally, socially and otherwise. I wish that such a visit be repeated anytime.

The problem I want to lay down to you people is as follows:

- (1) Our people don't know God
- (2) Poverty
- (3) No means of being educated.

I wish you repeat such visit.

Thank you

Yours faithfully,

Oti Osinachi (male)

Dear Bountiful Harvest,

I am very grateful to see the Bountiful Harvest

Okpuma, Amangwu Ede
Ebonyi State

⑤

27th July 2000

Dear Bountiful Harvest,

I am very grateful to see the Bountiful Harvest men and women visit our village Okpuma in Amangwu community, Afikpo South L.G.A. Ebonyi State.

I say hello to you. Your men taught us on how to farm and on how to serve our Lord Jesus Christ. We were very happy with them for coming a long way from the United States of America to visit us in our remote village Okpuma.

But one of the problems of the village is **drinking water**. We don't have good water, we will be very grateful if the Bountiful Harvest will do that for us.

Thank you and God bless you.

Yours

Mgbo Daniel Nwachi (female)

JESUS FILM

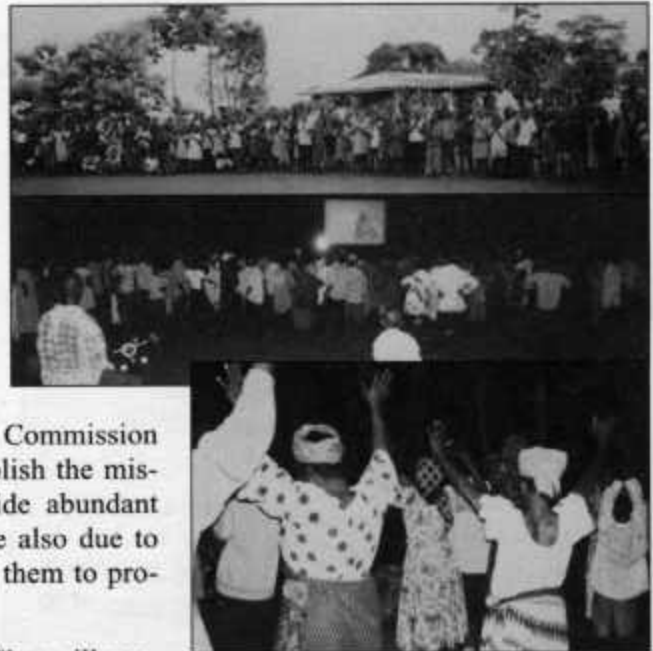
I will make you a light of the nations, So that My salvation will reach to the ends of the earth. Isaiah 49:6

WE SAW JESUS! HE SPOKE IN IBO LANGUAGE!

Dear friends of Bountiful Harvest, God used the ministry you support as a channel to take the light of CHRIST to the villages in Afikpo. From July 22 -30, 2000, the screen of JESUS FILM shed heavenly light in the darkness of remote villages in Afikpo. Men, women and children watched the reality of our Christian faith in awe, wonder and with tears.

We give all the glory to our Almighty Father who makes all things possible in His time. We express our heartfelt thanks to the **Ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ International, San Clemente, California**, who responded willingly to our request. We are most grateful to their Film Project Team, "the Great Commission Movement of Nigeria, who God used in a mighty way to accomplish the mission. May our Lord continue to bless their ministry and provide abundant resources for the work He has called them to do. Our thanks are also due to Bountiful Harvest local staff/volunteers, who allowed God to use them to promote, plan, coordinate and host this event.

The seeds have been planted, the fields are all white for harvest in Afikpo villages. Jesus sends us to enter into the fields and reap that for which others have labored. Afikpo is a community where faith in the ancestral gods has a stronghold. Bountiful Harvest is committed to follow-up with the good work that God has begun. We need resources to support genuine local Christian churches, and God fearing individuals to teach the real Word of God to especially the young people.



At different locations, the crowd gathered ahead of time to watch the setting up of the screen. Then they watched and heard the voice of Jesus in IBO language. In tears they lifted up their hands and surrendered their lives to Him.

HOW WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS & SUPPORT AS THE LORD LEADS YOU

Please pray and support us to:

- Train 16 leaders and provide the needed resources for LIGHT Youth Program in 16 villages (within the next six months).
- Provide improved crops to give our primary target families a good start during this coming planting season - February - March, 2001.
- Help 16 WASED students to complete their training at Ibadan and have the needed resources to establish village workshops and train other women.
- Make connection with other organizations and medical professionals, to help us in meeting the health care needs of the sick and the poor.

We also request your prayers and volunteered time (if you can), to support Bountiful Harvest's participation at the Christian Ministries Training Association Annual Convention. This convention will be held on November 3 & 4, 2000, at Pasadena Convention Center.



Thank you for your continued prayer and support of Bountiful Harvest ministry. May the blessings of our Lord abound to you, may He provide sufficiently for you to meet your personal needs, that you may have an abundance for every good work.

Grace E. Akpu, Executive Director