

# HARVEST MISSION INTERNATIONAL, INC.

*Our Mission: To equip and mobilize God's people to spread the Gospel across all cultures.*

*Harvest Mission  
International, Inc.*



Equipping you for the mission field  
in your own backyard

## STORIES FROM THE MISSION FIELD



**'For a year-end newsletter, we want to highlight a few of our Harvest Mission missionaries. These folks have discovered their place in God's mission, allowing that burning desire in their hearts to lead them into mission work. Read their stories—they are a living example of the Lord's promise 'delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.'" (Ps. 37:5) - Dr. Larry Merino, Exec. Dir.**

"When I first met my friend from Somalia in January of 2004, she had just arrived in America. She had lived in a refugee camp for 12 of her 22 years. She had three children of her own, had lost one baby in the camp when she was two, had lost two husbands to war, and was raising her current husband's two sisters.

She didn't have any experience with electricity, running water, cooking on a stove, toilets, turning on heat or lights, disposable diapers, or any of the many things I take for granted. The floors of her house had always been dirt, so of course, she didn't know anything about a vacuum. Oh yeah, she didn't speak any English and was Muslim.



Susan Kanning & her Somali friend

### **Prayer Lines Newsletters**

Prayer Lines newsletters are posted on our website at [www.harvest-mission.org](http://www.harvest-mission.org). If you prefer to have a copy mailed to you or would like to be a part of the HMI Prayer Group, call us at 260-471-5129 or email [info@harvest-mission.org](mailto:info@harvest-mission.org).

So how do I, a middle-class mother and wife who grew up in the Lutheran church in Fort Wayne, Indiana, make friends with such a person? Gratefully, I had the help of many friends from Harvest Mission (HMI) to help me and support me when I felt so lost and just plain dumb.

We talked about playing charades as I tried to explain the many things she needed to learn to survive. HMI helped me to understand that it would be rude to say no to the gift of tea or soft drink, even when I felt guilty taking from the very little they had. They helped me to work through the challenges of transitioning from being a provider of things, to just being a friend who can be there when needed. HMI helped me to understand the importance of give and take in a relationship. I watch my friend's children, but she also watches mine.

Probably one of the biggest things I've learned is the difference in the way people view time and events. Being an American I, of course, think I have to keep a schedule and allow only so much time for this or that. Well, I learned very quickly that a shopping trip was an event and you didn't put a time limit on it! How does that work in our society? Not very well. My children still needed to be picked upon on time, etc. This created a very tense time for me until I really understood why we had this differing view. As my friend spent more time here (at least a year), she too began to realize that we have a different way of handling time and began to adapt.

I am so grateful to say that our friendship continues. As her English improves, we have opportunities to talk about our beliefs and I pray that Holy Spirit will work through this friendship to show her how much God loves her—that He brought her to American to find her Savior!" - Susan Kanning, Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana





Gary Penner in Thailand

"Harvest Mission International is a gift from God for the untrained layman, preparing the novice missionary's heart, mind and soul for work in the fields. HMI's Short-Term Mission Team Training is spiritually focused, Biblically based, emotionally supportive, and just plain practical. The course first clearly points the new missionary to God's will that mission work be done—it is GOD's work. And because of this, each soul willing to stand and say "Here am I Lord, send me" is equipped by the Holy Spirit to "be" a missionary.

Next, the HMI team pulls out the best in each student by encouraging recognition of skills and knowledge with which each unique individual has already been blessed. Practical skills taught by HMI to help the missionary in the field include an understanding of self-focused thoughts that keep each of us from learning about and understanding those to whom God has called us to witness.

And finally, a summary of the four culture shocks that missionaries can experience help team members deal with the challenges that will arise.

In my personal experience in 2005 training for a short-term mission trip to Thailand, we learned quickly that the experience was not at all about building fishing boats for victims of the 2004 tsunami. The trip was all about being with God's children — our heaven mates — learning their stories, sharing their laughter and tears, and sharing God's love. As a writer and business communicator, HMI's training enabled me to more clearly think through God's purpose for me on the trip. Now, slightly more than one year later, God is constantly putting opportunities in my daily walk to share God's love. The entire short-term mission experience has heightened my awareness of the Holy Spirit nudging me to be a witness."

- Gary Penner, Concordia Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana



Make your tax deductible gift payable to:

**Harvest Mission International, Inc.**

Remember **Thrivent GivingPlus** matching funds!

It's a great way to expand your mission dollars. If you need a form, use the link on our website or ask us to mail one.

**Contact Info:**

Harvest Mission International, Inc.  
1145 S. Barr St., Ft. Wayne, IN 46802  
Tel: (260) 471-5129  
[www.harvest-mission.org](http://www.harvest-mission.org)  
email: [info@harvest-mission.org](mailto:info@harvest-mission.org)

**How many more Sue's and Gary's are out there with a burning desire to seek and to save the lost?**

**Will YOU help us to awaken, empower, equip, and mobilize THEM for missionary action?**

*Partnering in His mission,  
Larry Merino*



*"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest therefore to send out workers into His harvest field." Matthew 9:37-38*

**New Tax-Free IRA Gift Opportunity**

On Aug. 17, 2006, President Bush signed the Pension Protection Act of 2006. This act allows owners of individual retirement accounts (IRAs) who are 70 ½ or older to make tax-free rollovers up to \$100,000 per year from their plans to qualified nonprofits, including HMI. This tax-free IRA gift opportunity is especially important because your generous IRA gift now will help us put our 2007 mission plans into action.

You can find important guidelines and additional information on our website or, if you prefer, we will mail the information to you. Contact us at 260-471-5129 or email [info@harvest-mission.org](mailto:info@harvest-mission.org).