

# WAYSIDE HARVESTERS

He that winneth souls is wise. Proverbs 11:30

Autumn 2011

## Getting out of our COMFORT ZONE

by Mel Gerrard

During her entire life, Queen Esther had never been more nervous. She approached the powerful king of 127 provinces stretching from India to Ethiopia. She had not been summoned by her husband, the king, for 30 days. She knew that if he were in a bad mood, and decided not to hold out the golden scepter when she approached uninvited, that she would be killed instantly!

The words of Mordecai, Esther's uncle, burned in her heart, "Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" Esther knew her life was on the line. She was taking an awesome chance to save the lives of all of the Jewish people living in the 127 provinces. The enemy of the Jews, a wicked, hateful, self-promoting man named Haman had masterminded the killing of all the Jews by tricking the king into giving him permission to carry out this plan.

The Jews were doomed. The people who killed them could take all of the Jews' property to be their own! Who could stop this horrible plan from being carried out? Uncle Mordecai convinced Esther that if she

didn't get the king to stop this plan, God would raise up someone else to do it, and she and her family would perish!

Esther and Mordecai's plan worked! All the Jews were given permission to defend themselves and 75,820 of the Jew's enemies were killed. Wicked Haman was hanged on a gallows that he had had built for Mordecai! By stepping out of her comfort zone, Esther fulfilled her purpose in life and became an outstanding winner! (Read the short book of Esther in the Bible.)

Then there was Moses. He was a favorite in the luxurious palace of Egypt. Although he was Jewish, he had become the son of Pharaoh's daughter when she adopted him

after finding him floating in a basket in the Nile River. Moses had everything anyone could desire—riches, position, prestige, luxurious surroundings!

Moses stepped out of his comfort zone! He "refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward" (Hebrews 11:24-26). He gave up earthly riches and pleasures for an eternal reward and position that he could enjoy forever. The Bible calls it an imperishable crown or reward, or one that lasts forever (1 Corinthians 9:25). He

has been enjoying his reward for about 3,500 years, now—so I think he made the right choice, don't you?

Sometimes, God tests us to see if we will pass the obedience test, which may require courage. God told Abraham to slay his only natural born son as a sacrifice—after Abraham and Sarah had waited until they were very old before God finally gave them a son. Abraham passed the obedience test—God



Brian and Mel in front of our fair trailer (Balloon & Wine Festival)

stopped him short of plunging the knife into his son's chest, and Abraham instead used a ram caught in the thicket for his sacrifice. Abraham came out of his comfort zone in order to obey God, and God made him the father of many nations. He was a winner!

King Saul failed the obedience test. God told him to kill all the Amalekites because they had persecuted the Jews leaving Egypt. God told Saul to also kill all the livestock. Saul capitulated to the complaints of his subjects and spared the best of the livestock, as well as Agag, their king. This caused God to remove Saul from being king, let him be killed, and then God made David king over all Israel. This disobedience cost Saul his kingdom and his life (1 Samuel 15) King Saul could not bear to come out of his comfort zone. He was a loser in life.

We, here in Wayside Harvesters, are presently doing about 20 soul-

winning events yearly now. Some of these events are major fairs and some are smaller events in small towns. We have more than 200 volunteers who work with us in these events. When they begin, many of these volunteers have a struggle coming out of their comfort zones to work in these outreaches. Sharing the gospel and telling people how to be saved scares them.

You may remember Shanna, whom we featured in one of our newsletters a couple of years ago. Shanna was 30 years old, attended church regularly, and had never ever led anyone else to Christ. Jeff Matuzak made the announcement in Shanna's church one Sunday morning that anyone could come and work a 4-hour shift with us to win souls in the Balloon and Wine Festival in Temecula Valley. Shanna felt God leading her to sign up for a 4-hour shift so she signed up.

After signing up, Shanna felt

qualms of remorse. "I can't do this!" she told herself. "What was I thinking when I signed up?" went through her mind continually.

Nevertheless, she came to the Festival, forcing herself to walk toward our soul-winning booths. She felt as though she was moving in slow motion—probably because she was as she forced herself toward our booth. She started sharing with people—and it was a struggle. Jeff noticed her and prayed with her. She again began sharing with people, and would you believe this? Before Shanna's 4-hour shift was complete, she had led nine souls to pray with her to receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord! She had broken out of her comfort zone! Now, she is bold as a lion in sharing her faith!

Has your comfort zone got you snared? Break out! Remember your reward! People are going to hell without Jesus! You and I have the answer to bring them to eternal life!

## Letters...

### From Grants Pass, Oregon:

Hi Mel,

We enjoy reading your newsletters. You have a great ministry. I know it keeps you busy and that there are many expenses. We know you will be rewarded by the Lord. We enclose a check to help out. May God bless.

With love, Bob and Marge Reddy

### From Ghana, West Africa:

We were leaders of all the idol shrines and idol worshipers. One day we were in our idol shrine. We saw some people on the roadside preaching and praising the Name of Jesus Christ. We started to run away, but the preacher told us not to run. We stopped and the pastor gave us some booklets entitled, *Know Your Future* and *Treasures In Heaven*.

After we read the booklets, we decided to destroy all of our idol shrines! We followed the pastor and the members to their church. They prayed and worshipped with us. We accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and promised to serve Him all of our lives.

We then established our own church. We go to villages for soul winning, but we don't have gospel materials. Please send Holy Bibles and booklets so we can go to villages for soul winning.

Joseph and Christian Deemaah

## In Memoriam



**Billy Cook**  
(Photo from the 1990s)

Billy Cook, our faithful brother, co-laborer, and Board Member of Wayside Harvesters has passed into the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. Sadly, he suffered from lung cancer for two years. He was 86 years old. High-ranking naval officers conducted a memorial service on July 26, 2011 at Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, California. Billy is survived by his wife, Dolores (48 years married), 3 daughters, 2 sons, 9 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren.

Billy and Dolores were Christian missionaries in Mexico for 10 years prior to coming to be with us for the past 7 years. In addition to working with us in fair outreaches, they have been mailing Bibles and Gospel booklets throughout the world. As a Board member, Billy helped in writing our gospel booklets and in keeping the organization financially sound. He loved to win souls to Jesus. He will be greatly missed.

Billy and Dolores' daughter, Susanna Sisco, has come to Wayside Harvesters to help her mother, Dolores, continue her father's work. We thank God for sending her to us.

Wayside Harvesters Board of Directors



Dear Soul Winning Partners in Jesus Christ,

During 2010, we spent \$116,310 printing gospel booklets, buying Bibles, renting space in fairs and festivals, paying postage to ship tracts and Bibles (mostly to Africa), utility bills, fuel, supplies, signs, charity work, buying beaded gospel bracelets for children, etc. This year may run a little higher because we printed 300,000 *Know Your Future* booklets in Spanish.

Postage alone to ship tracts and Bibles was \$28,302. We usually make four trips to the post office weekly where we spend between \$100 and \$400 each time we go for postage alone. We spent \$35,256 printing gospel booklets.

Over 90% of the cost to ship Bibles and tracts is provided free to Christians in poorer countries who cannot afford to pay for them, mostly in Africa.

We are doing 20 events a year now (fairs, festivals, carnivals, parades, universities, Rose Parade, and Grand Canyon evangelism, where we have a special permit to pass out booklets). We also do street evangelism every Thursday and Saturday night here in Palm Springs, a tourist city. We also do prison church services every Saturday afternoon when we are in town. During the National Date Festival this year, we shared the gospel with 1,256 people and 807 of these prayed the salvation prayer with us to receive Jesus into their hearts.

We again have distributed tens of thousands of Gospel tracts. *Know Your Future* is our most widely used tract and has been printed in six languages. We spent over \$11,000 buying Bibles and New Testaments last year. Without the generous support of our partners, we simply could not do this, so we are deeply grateful to those of you who support us financially. We also know that we could not do this without the power of God enabling us, so please don't stop praying for us and these soul-winning outreaches. Thanks also go to the approximate 200 volunteers who work with us in the power of the Holy Spirit in these outreaches.

We continually need your donations to help us pay our many bills. Our soul winning work never stops. Please don't feel pressured into sending help, but only after you pray and ask God to lead you, and only if you would like to hear Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant;... Enter into the JOY of your Lord!" (Matthew 25:21).

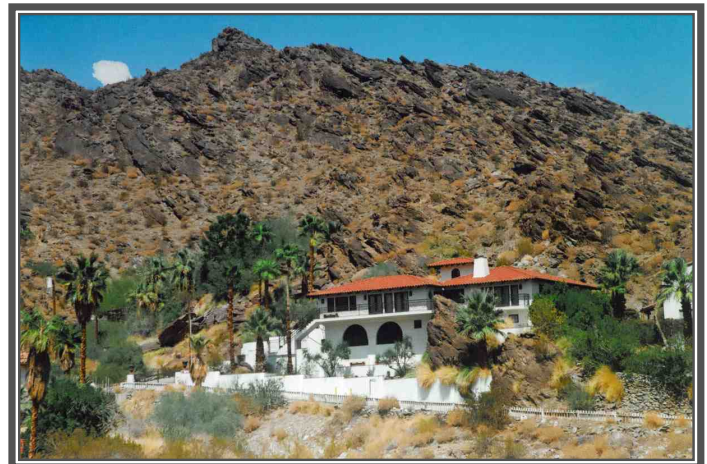
God bless you all! We love and APPRECIATE you!  
Robert (Bob) Ricciardi, President  
Wayside Harvesters, Inc.



**Jeff shares the gospel with 11 people inside the children's tent.**



**We even share the gospel in the midway outside our tent.  
(Note people holding wine glasses.)**



**This million dollar home is temporary and can be enjoyed for only a few years. Jesus said we should instead "Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven..." (Matthew 6:19-21)**

**Upcoming events:**

- Southern California Fair at Lake Perris. Last year 53 trained volunteers shared the gospel with 887 people and 505 of these prayed the salvation prayer to invite Jesus into their hearts. Fair dates are October 8-16, 2011.
- 29 Palms is a smaller fair, running October 13-16, 2011. Many Marines receive the Lord in this fair. Last year, we shared the gospel with 67 and 59 of these received the Lord!
- During the 2010 International Tamale Festival in Indio, California we shared the gospel with 337 and 179 prayed to invite Jesus into their hearts. Festival dates are December 3-4 this year.



**Know Your Future**  
Soul winning—  
teenagers and adults



**A Gold Street**  
Soul winning—  
for children



**Your Appointment**  
How to share  
your faith



**Treasures in Heaven**  
Challenges Christians  
to do God's will



*Sue Sisco and her mom, Dolores, fill orders to mail out tracts and Bibles worldwide. Most of these go to Africa.*

----- CUT OR TEAR -----

## YOUR RESPONSE OR ORDER FORM

(Go to website to view and for description of six color items: [www.waysideharvesters.org](http://www.waysideharvesters.org))

**I want to partner with you in reaching the lost! I enclose this donation to help pay for tens of thousands of Bibles, New Testaments, and gospel tracts that are given free to reach people for Christ: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**PLEASE SEND ME THE FOLLOWING:**

	QUANTITY	AMOUNT (\$)
Treasures in Heaven – English (\$14 per 100; or \$12 per 100 if over 1000)	_____	_____
Know Your Future – English (\$10 per 100; or \$9 per 100 if over 1000)	_____	_____
Know Your Future – Spanish “	_____	_____
Know Your Future – French “	_____	_____
Your Appointment – English (\$14 per 100; or \$12 per 100 if over 1000)	_____	_____
Your Appointment – Spanish “	_____	_____
A Gold Street – English “	_____	_____
A Gold Street – Spanish “	_____	_____
6 Bead Color Gospel Bracelets (33 cents each; or \$15 per 50)	_____	_____
6 Color Tract for Gospel Bracelets – English (\$6 per 50; or \$10 per 100)	_____	_____
6 Color Tract for Gospel Bracelets – Spanish “	_____	_____
6 Color Bookmarks explaining each color - English (\$3 per 50)	_____	_____
6 Color Bookmarks explaining each color - Spanish “	_____	_____
6 Color Gospel Story Bag used with Bracelets (\$20 per each)	_____	_____
Your Parade Guide for handing out at parades (\$4 per 100)	_____	_____
<b><i>Evangelism Training DVD (\$10 each, includes shipping and handling)</i></b>	_____	_____

**For Shipping and Handling, please add \$5.00 min. or \$10.00 if over 1000 items:**

**Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Mail to:**  
WAYSIDE HARVESTERS, INC.  
P.O. Box 4307  
PALM SPRINGS, CA 92263 USA

**Or email your order to:**  
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and we will send your order and  
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If you cannot afford to pay for part or all of your order, we'll send them free.

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