



## *Givan's at Goli*

These were his (Jesus) instructions to them: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest, ask him to send more workers into his fields." (Luke 10:2, NLT)

"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." (Jer 8:20, NIV)

### **Harvest Blessings**

Harvest time has always been special for people from a farming background. It is a feverishly busy time as crops ripen and then are safely gathered in. I can't recall anything special about 2006 but the Met Office claim that the summer of 2013 has been the best since then. There is a stark contrast in the quietness in nature, as if in contemplative mood – the birds don't sing like they do to usher in springtime.

For me this quiet hiatus is a time for meditation and worship of the Creator God who is so bounteous in his care for his people. Soon the stillness of early autumn will be interrupted by windy wet autumnal weather, which in turn will evidently give way to the cold blast which signifies that winter has arrived!

As a wee boy I (Raymond) attended many Harvest Services around the countryside where I was brought up in County Tyrone. The churches were always beautifully adorned with fruit, nuts, vegetables, corn, wheat and barley sheaves. I was tempted by those shiny red and green apples to take a bite! I have listened to many sermons on the topic of Harvest. I suppose the two verses which stand out are those quoted in this letter pointing to the ongoing spiritual harvest being reaped in the world.

### **Missing Workers**

In Africa there isn't the same dramatic change in the seasons as in the West. Nature still takes its course. I used to attend a very raucous Sunday evening celebration when I worked at Kijabe Hospital in the Rift Valley in Kenya. The students were from all over Kenya from many tribal groupings and even there it seemed necessary to remind them about the link made by Jesus regarding Harvest and the need to harvest people in a dying world. One evening on the blackboard was a shortened form of Luke 10:2. It read, "**The**



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**October 2013**

**harvest is plentiful - but where are the reapers?"** For some reason this struck me in a new way and tears began to run down my face. Here I was in the middle of Africa and the message was still the same, there was a famine of reapers and workers for the Kingdom and the Church was still not fulfilling Christ's great commission (Matt. 28: 18-20).

### **Busy Workers**

Like the farmers we as a family have been busy. We have visited over 20 churches, excluding a number of prayer groups. We have chatted over coffee with many friends about our plans. The result is one of thanks and encouragement as churches and individuals have rallied to our support, both prayerfully and financially. We can only praise Almighty God, to him be the glory! The result is that we are now in a position to embark on our mission to Uganda. Raymond will leave in early October, while Jackie remains until after our second daughter has given birth – the baby is due on Boxing Day!

Raymond plans to spend a few months at Kiwoko Hospital in Luweero, where he will work alongside other medical colleagues and get some clinical orientation into African Medicine again! He then plans to go to Goli, where Jackie will join him in January. This will be an important time of preparation clinically as he will be the only physician at Goli Hospital. We are hopeful that the Ugandan Government will subsidise the placement of a Ugandan doctor and that the Lord will open the way for a missionary surgeon to give his time and skills to join us in the near future.



*Harvest fields beside where we live*

Thank you for your prayerful and financial support. We are now proud grandparents to little Ellie Rose Hamilton, who weighed in at 7lb 5oz on 30 July. Mum, baby and dad are all well – busy, but grateful to God for his blessings for their new baby daughter.

We look forward to meeting some of you at our Commissioning Service at 6.30PM on 22 September at Ballymena Baptist Church, 18 Mount Street. If you look up the website ([www.ballymenabaptist.org](http://www.ballymenabaptist.org)), you'll find a map and directions.

You can contact us directly through our e-mail address, [raymondgivan@aol.com](mailto:raymondgivan@aol.com) or through Crosslinks Belfast Office via Secretary Val Ellis, [vellis@crosslinks.org](mailto:vellis@crosslinks.org). Or alternatively you can go through Crosslinks website address: <http://www.crosslinks.org/mission-partners/raymond-and-jackie-givan>

Partners in Christ,  
Raymond & Jackie Givan

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