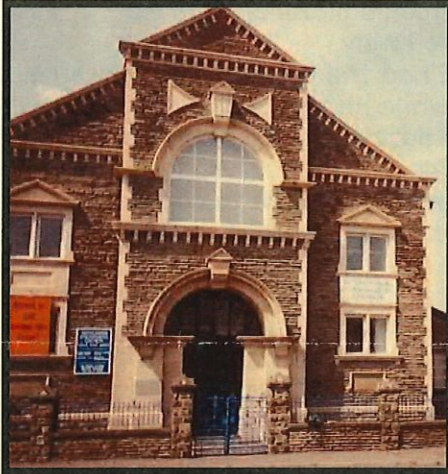


“Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?” Psalm 85:6 NKJV



Friends: May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you and yours in this month of April 2023! This month, as God wills, I (Jim) will travel to Wales, the land of revivals, and to Rwanda, also known as the land associated with the Great East African Revival, which started in the 1920's and continued for at least 50 years according to some sources. I first visited Wales in 1993 and then Kappy and I visited in 2007 at the invitation of pastor and writer Peter Jeffery. Wales last experienced God's work of revival in 1904 but had seen many true revivals in the centuries prior to that time. God worked through several means then to put into our hearts a desire for our own personal revival and a deep desire for corporate revival, so to visit the land and people who had experienced the Lord in this remarkable way was indeed a blessing. We appreciate your prayers for this leg of the trip, for the Lord's blessing, grace and times of refreshing. Then I go to Rwanda, East Africa, to visit old friends that worked with us in Church Planting there. Since 2012 the Lord has brought about the planting of 76 churches in N. Rwanda, a rural area, with about 2800 people attending and about 2670 people baptized. Please ask God to use this visit as an encouragement to believers in Rwanda and as a means of renewal for all.



Rwanda has seen God's great power in revival too. A commentator has written: "Widely called the Balokole ("saved ones") Revival in East Africa, this evangelical revival was arguably the most famous and influential African spiritual renewal movement of the twentieth century." The initial revival continued for decades and it was followed by a movement that stressed holiness throughout the East African region. We were blessed to learn of this work of God and see the effects of it during our time in East Africa. Many say that today there is yet an ongoing work of God that is resulting directly from the Great East African Revival. This may very well be true.

Place For Truth, an internet source, comments about this revival: "The East African revival differed from its European and American counterparts in that it was not based on large-scale preaching by famous personalities. While there were some large open-air meetings (the first being in Kabale, Uganda, in 1935) and some personal one-on-one evangelizations, most of the work of revival was done by ordinary African Christians to extended families, where participants would make a commitment together. These Christians often traveled from place to place on foot, by bicycles, motorcycles, cars, busses, and trains. By the early 1940's the revival had reached Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, and parts of Congo, Sudan, and Tanganyika. The Luganda hymn *Tukutendereza Yesu* ("We Praise You Jesus"), with its emphasis on what Christ has done for sinners, became particularly popular. Unlike many European and American revivalists, most East African evangelists (known as *baloloke*, or "saved ones" in Luganda) encouraged new converts to join a local church with themselves as part of the one unified kingdom of Christ. At the same time, the local preachers, also influenced by the revival, began to stress repentance of sins and Christ's work of salvation."

One of our constant prayer requests is for personal and corporate revival. How we need the Lord to kindle the flame of our first love and how the church and all people need God's fire and love to move us close to Him in worship. Please join us in this prayer today: "Will you not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?" and "Set me as a seal upon your heart, As a seal upon your arm; For love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave, a most vehement flame (the fire of Jah). Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it." Song 8:6,7 Our love and thanks to you dear friend, we ask the Lord for you to sense the blessing of His love today.

KAPPY'S CORNER—PUZZLING

The pandemic had just begun when we arrived in America from Uganda; as a result, we were asked to self-quarantine for two weeks. We will always be grateful to the generous folks of two of our supporting churches for stocking our temporary apartment with everything we'd need. In addition, we were provided with fun treats: an Easter basket, a beautiful woven afghan, and a box of four new jigsaw puzzles.

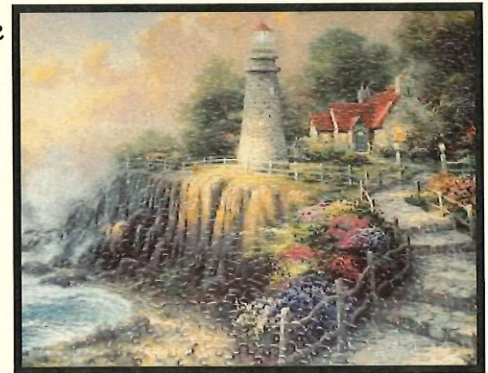
Jim and I had never before given puzzles much thought, but we worked the first one because it was a gift. We worked the second one because we had fun together doing the first. We completed all four in the six months we stayed in that apartment.

Jim had the idea to take a picture of each completed puzzle, but somehow we missed one. Two years after we moved to Florida, we re-worked that puzzle and took a picture. Then we thought it would be nice to give the box of puzzles to someone else to enjoy.

A few weeks later, as Jim was getting ready to go overseas, I had the thought that working puzzles would keep my mind occupied with something other than TV while he was away. As I was pondering buying a new one, Jim discovered a treasure trove of used puzzles in the video library here in our little Village and brought one home. That day I began my second four.

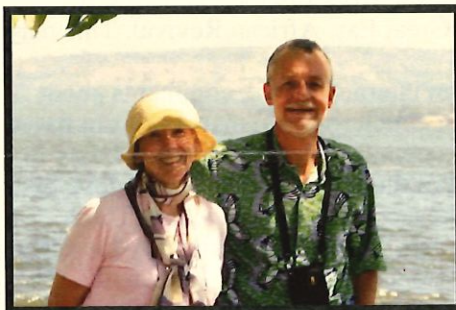
Some people find working puzzles relaxing; I, on the other hand, was driven to complete them. I could be found late at night bent over the table, until I couldn't see straight, looking for that one elusive piece. Two of the four used puzzles were missing pieces. As a result, more than once, I wondered if the piece I couldn't find simply didn't exist. There isn't much satisfaction in completing a puzzle that isn't complete. However, I enjoyed it very much when I knew a puzzle had all of the pieces, and pieces fell easily into place. As I held the last piece of a complete puzzle in my hand and dropped it into place, I felt triumphant. It was good. I looked at the big picture for a few minutes; then I tore it all apart and put it back in the box. That was the fun part.

Isn't life a little bit like a jigsaw puzzle? We all experience puzzling circumstances in our lives. At times our lives may appear to be in pieces. We may try on our own to put things back together. We try to fit a piece in the wrong place, sometimes repeatedly. Or we may fret over what looks like an impossible piece to find. But our compassionate, Almighty God holds all of the pieces in His more than capable hands. There are no missing pieces; He fits each one into just the right place at exactly the right time. He makes no mistakes. He sees the end from the beginning, the big picture of each life, long before we're born. He is a God to be trusted with the smallest details of our lives.



May our Lord bless you in His kindness, love and thanks,

Jim and Kappy



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