

“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

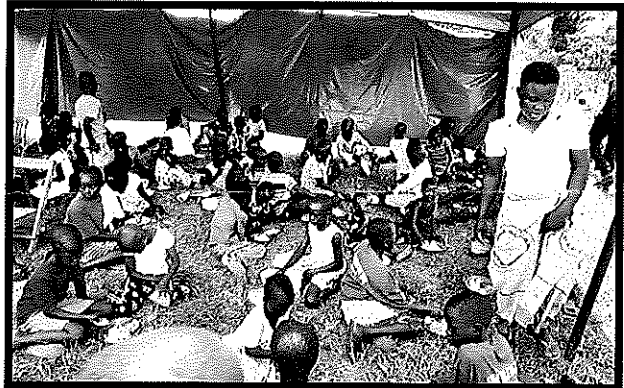
Philippians 1:21 NKJV



Friends: May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you and yours in this month of February! In our verse above Paul teaches us the truths that for a believer Christ has become his very life and his very reason for living and that to be with the Lord in glory is his great gain; these are truths we ponder often these unusual days. Philippians 1:21 demonstrates the Lord’s work in Pastor Clem Walchshouser’s life and his present gain. Clem passed on to the Lord recently. In the picture at left he is seated with his wife Anne, Kappy and me and other friends from Three Rivers Church of Plainfield, Il taken in 2015. We always felt that Clem was on our side; he encouraged us to serve Christ in Africa and constantly affirmed our ministry since the day we met him and the church in 2003. He was like a coach to us in that. He will be greatly missed by his family and many other friends. Please ask the Lord for His mercies and comforts for Anne, Clem’s family, for his son-in-law Eric who pastors the church, and the church family. Pastor Clem is now enjoying the greatest possible gain!!! Jesus is his life!!! Amen!!!

For our mutual encouragement we share some thoughts sent to us from friends in Uganda (slightly edited for readability):

“Dear Brother James: I bring you greetings in Christ Jesus. It is my belief that you and family are fine in the Lord. I share with you good news that three (3) churches started in December 2020 by the pastors we trained in Church Planting in places of Kaberamaido, Abim and Moroto districts. In Kaberamaido, the team was led by Rev Okadi George William who received a motorcycle that was given to him. They traveled about 180 kilometers to and fro to open a church. In Abim, the team was led by Rev Ebulu Johnson who also received a motorcycle. He traveled about 120 kilometers to and fro to open a church. In Moroto, a pastor from Teso (Engeu) who is now based in Moroto and other Moroto pastors opened a church in Nataparakwany. Pastor Enyeu was trained by you in church planting. We appreciate the gift of motorcycles that the 3 pastors received from you. These motorcycles are helping in church planting and other ministry activities. We are forever thankful to God for using you to enhance His ministry through us. May God bless you, Sam Eibu” Sam is a Baptist Church Regional Overseer in Eastern Uganda.



And Caro whose brother Boniface was helped with a serious kidney ailment wrote:

“Amen, Amen, Amen. Boniface is good and he is on medication and he is an evangelist now preaching in streets. His treatment is still going on. I will inform you in case of more updates. Blessed 2021 too.”

At right are photos from the Christmas Outreach in Kayunga.

We thank the Lord for His truth and mercy that always affects lives and saves His people from our sins! And thank you friend for your part in Mission Africa! Our God bless you!



KAPPY'S CORNER— Four Months in the Village

Reading in Matthew 25 one morning I saw clearly that I must live as though Jesus is returning at any moment.

The parable of the wise and foolish virgins, the parable of the talents, and the return of the Son of Man, all pointed me to the truth that waiting for the Lord's return isn't a passive thing. I've been watching Jim as we've set up our living space. He has been working in the ministry the whole time we've been gathering furniture, utensils, appliances, etc. and pulling our home together. He's given me a good picture of what it means to be ready for the Lord's return. This morning he said he finally feels as though we were settling in. He's spent numerous hours in his office working on getting our medical care in place while he writes ministry updates, makes phone calls, and takes care of the finances—all the nuts and bolts of the ministry, plus starting over in a new field. Yes, we're in our home country, but it is a new mission field for us and the logistics are the same.

The last ten months have looked very much like our first few months in Uganda. We're doing the same time-consuming things we did then. Jim is by no means retired and, even though I am officially retired, my ministry hasn't changed. Actually, I should qualify that—the pandemic has changed the way I'm able to have interchanges with other women. I'm not free to have others in our home, visit in the homes of others, sit in prayer with others, and have in-person Bible studies with others. I look forward to the time when I can do that again. In the meantime, I'm able to meet other women as I social-distance during my morning walks. One of these new friends is Sandra. She gave me the gift of a 31-day devotional she wrote entitled God's Promises in the Psalms. The last entry is based on Psalm 126:5&6— "Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." (NKJV)

In order to reap we have to sow. And what we sow is what we will reap. "If [we] sow to the Spirit [we] will reap spiritual fruit." "The Word of God is only effective if it is disseminated." If we sow the Word of God in abundance "it will prosper and accomplish just what God wants it to accomplish." God will give the increase.

This is all part of waiting actively for the Lord's return. *Lord, give us grace and discipline to accomplish what You have for us to do each day. Amen.*

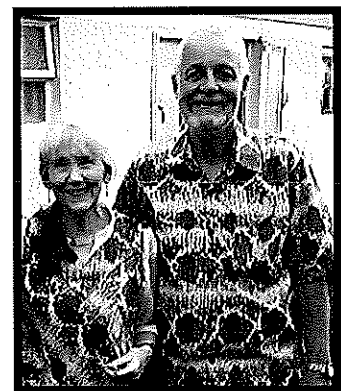
May our Lord bless you in His sufficient grace,

Jim and Kappy

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