



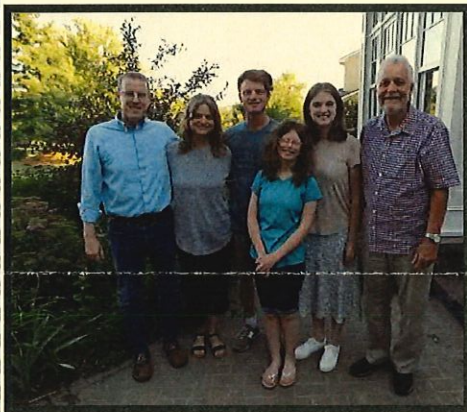
“Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:11 NKJV

Friends: May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you and yours in this month of July 2023!

Blessed Visit and Ministry

I, Jim, was greatly blessed by the hospitality, warmth, and encouragement of longtime friends, mentors, and spiritual fathers Jim Elliff and Steve Burchett, their families and ministries, Christian Communicators Worldwide, and Christ Fellowship Church of Kansas City, MO, just this week. Jim Elliff first blessed Kappy and me and our church about 1990 in Visalia, CA. Since then, we have enjoyed fellowship and ministry mostly from a distance, but it was great to visit together in person. Jim is pictured

at left with his wife Pam and Pam’s 95-year-old mother Doris (who is very sharp, clear, and lively!). Steve Burchett blessed us in Kampala, UG, in 2012 with his fruitful teaching and preaching ministry; it was very enjoyable to meet Steve’s wife, Patty, his son Luke and daughters Katie and Lilly this week. I enjoyed the church Steve leads as I ministered there last Lord’s Day. Steve and his family are pictured at left, and Jim, Steve, and I are in the middle photo. CCW blessed us with good literature that I will take to Africa, some to Uganda in August, as the Lord wills. The ministry of CCW has been such a blessing to us over 3+ decades. To learn more about this work online, type Christian Communicators Worldwide into your search engine. I was personally very much helped, encouraged, and edified in the Lord’s grace in these visits with our friends who are godly Christians and leaders. Please ask the Lord for His grace for these dear saints and their insightful and blessed work today.



Children’s Outreach in Uganda

Also...last Friday and Saturday, Pastor Alex and Pastor Simon Peter led an evangelistic Children’s Outreach in Kapchesombe Village in E. Uganda. About 400 children and adults were served the gospel, a good meal, and had a fun day together. Children professed faith in the Lord. Alex also worked with children’s workers to encourage the start-up of 20 ministry groups for children, which will meet in local churches to further the work of evangelism and discipleship for those who attended the Gospel Day. Teaching materials are also being provided for the children. Photos of the outreach are seen at the right. Please pray for conversions and good discipleship for the children.



August Ministry Trip To Uganda

As the Lord wills, I’m scheduled to visit Uganda in mid-August for about 2 weeks of ministry. Please pray as I seek to strengthen relationships and bring encouragement to those who serve with us in the day-to-day ministry in Uganda. It will be a blessing to visit friends there also! Please pray for our ministry leader Pastor Alex, the Street Kid Outreach teams, the Children’s Ministry teams, for those who distribute literature and Bibles and who teach and preach in the Pastoral Development and Church Planting components of our work there. Pray for those who serve the ex-prostitutes. Our love and thanks to you, dear reader!



KAPPY'S CORNER.—In the Beginning

On the first of June, for the past thirty years or so, Jim and I have read Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1. The first three words of both verses are: "In the beginning."

In the beginning, God created something out of nothing. This astounding truth shorts out all of my circuits. Everything we know, everything we are, was once nothing. Everything had a beginning except God. God in His three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—always was. He never began to be, and He will never cease to be. Not only that but what He created, He created through Himself. In other words, God did not create the heavens and the earth and then step away from all of it. He was, and is, intimately involved in the creation—in us. Not only did He create, He sustains what He created. He will never let go.

There are mornings I wake up feeling more like the mud I'm made of than the temple of the Holy Spirit. But that doesn't change the fact, or truth, that God resides in me. There are mundane things—everyday routines, if you will—that sometimes jolt the presence of the Lord into the forefront of my thoughts.

I was half awake one morning, standing at the kitchen sink, about to bite into a banana when it occurred to me that I held in my hand something special. In the beginning, when God created that original banana plant, did He know I would be standing in this spot, at this time in history, with this particular banana in my hand? Yes. Did He have that banana in mind for me even before it began to grow in Ecuador? Yes. As I looked out the window at the trees and the grass, the entire universe came into perspective. He created all of this to perfectly support and sustain human life, and then He created us. The intricate, complex, but simple and orderly, perfectly balanced details of God's creation humble me before Him.

Yes, there is destruction, disease, decay, and death. We experience these things because sin entered the world, but there is also renewal. Every moment of every day, God is quietly renewing His creation around us and inside of us. And until the end of the world, He will continue. His mercy is everlasting.

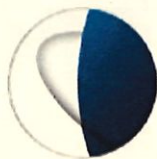
May our Lord bless you in His kindness; with love and thanks,

Jim and Kappy



Email: jkrobinmissionafricajk@gmail.com

Website: www.missionafricajk.net



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