

**“But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 19:14**



Friends: May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you and yours in His mercy and grace this month of June!

Kappy continues to do well, and she is feeling ok—thanks much for your heartfelt prayers for her!

Last month we wrote about a collaboration with Ugandan friends and Mission To Children, a USA-based ministry, in which we reached children/youth and some adults during the last Christmas season with the Gospel and the resulting Discipleship meetings that are taking place in Uganda. This month we want to highlight Jane’s story (her name has been changed

to protect her and her family’s identity) as she attended a Christmas Gospel Outreach, professed faith in Christ, and has been attending church services and discipleship meetings at a local church in Kampala. Jane is 8 years old, and she and her Mum and Dad have lived in the slum for some years where the local church is located. Jane’s parents also heard the Gospel recently and professed faith in Christ, and have been attending the church; her parents are both HIV positive. A church member writes about her: “Her commitment to the faith despite the challenges and the environment she lives in reminds me of how much God loves even young children like Jane.” Dangers and obstacles she faces in her community are: The influences of drunkenness, drugs (opium smoking), and immorality. She and her parents struggle with food scarcity and stable housing accommodations. When asked about what she hears, smells, and sees in her community, she responded: Violence in homes, hunger, sickness, inability to go to school, and the abandonment of children by parents.

But Jane has hope because she said that: She came to the Lord through the Gospel Outreach and that she is convinced that God will never abandon her even in times of hardship; the church feels that God has touched Jane and that she is a believer now and the church’s hope for her is that she will learn to trust God more. Jane said that her favorite verses are found in Genesis Chapter 1. And when asked what she is thankful for, she said: She is thankful to God for saving her father, who used to drink a lot. She said that she does worry about her parents’ welfare and their health issues, and she worries about her future and her ability to go to school because of their health concerns and their poverty.

The church wrote that prayer for Jane should include:

- That she will grow in salvation
- That God will provide for her education
- That the family will always have food
- That God will protect her from evil influences

When asked, by God’s grace, what could this child grow up to become for the future of Uganda and global missions, the church responded: Jane desires to become a medical doctor so that she can help provide medical help to the most vulnerable in the community and the nation entirely.

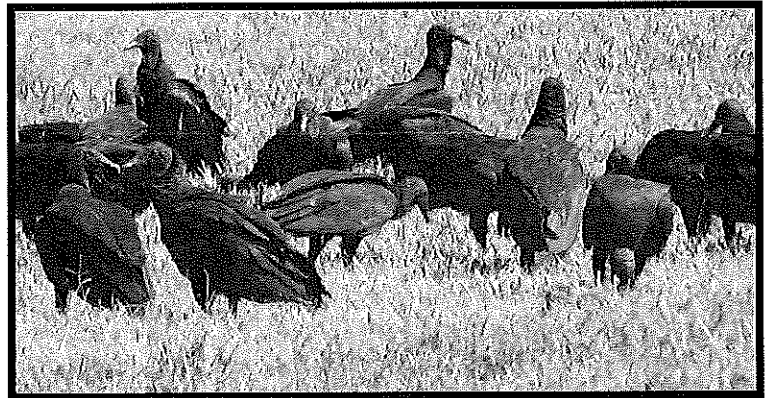
Friends, please pray for dear little Jane and her family that by God’s amazing grace wonderful and gracious change will come to them and those they touch. Pray too for the local church, her pastor, leaders, members, and for the Mission To Children. We are thankful for all our friends, for you, dear reader, and we ask the Lord to use us all more fully for His Kingdom’s sake.

**“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,” Matthew 28:19**

## KAPPY'S CORNER—Of Fire Ants and Vultures

One morning I got up-close and personal with some of Florida's wildlife. I'd been out for my morning walk and was about to head for home when I decided to take the "scenic route" through the trees. Just a few feet from the paved road, there's an uncultivated patch that looks intriguing, sort of like a small Florida nature preserve on the near end and a yard waste dump on the far end. I had almost passed when I spotted a discarded aloe plant lying on a heap of dead leaves, and the thought came: *Maybe we could plant that in one of our empty flower pots.* Looking for snakes, I stepped into the leaf litter. The plant was out of reach, so I took one more step in. The aloe was obviously a lost cause. I had just backed out and taken a few steps away when I felt sharp, burning stabs around my right ankle. I bent down for a closer look; my shoe was swarming with tiny red fire ants. They were running around like crazy and too many to count. I ripped off my shoe and dropped it on the ground.

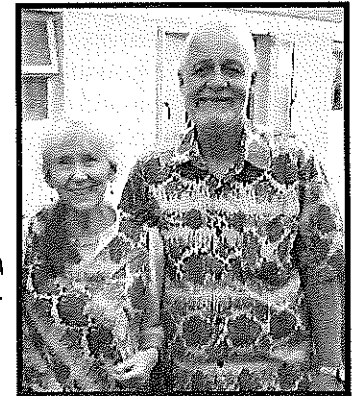
After batting the ants off my sock and the leg of my jeans, I gingerly picked up my shoe by one tip of the shoelace and began clomp-squishing through the boggy grass. It wasn't long before I heard a rustling in the thicket to my left. A dozen huge Black Vultures looked back at me from under the bushes. With the beating of large wings, half of them took off in front of me for a nearby dead tree. I kept going, watching the vultures that watched me from above and the others as they eyed me from the ground.



When I got home, I left my soggy shoes and socks in the carport, brushed the few remaining ants off my jeans, and walked barefoot through the front door. Jim, in devotions in his office, called out, "How was your walk?" Oh, how I enjoyed telling him about my little adventure.

It took a few burning, intensely itchy weeks to heal from the fire ant stings, but there were only ten of them. People have been known to die from the venom. By God's grace, I was kept from something worse. Later, I would learn Black Vultures aren't aggressive by nature. When they feel threatened, their main means of defense is projectile vomiting. It could have been worse. By God's grace, it wasn't.

"Without the rescue of God's grace, we are all wise fools heading for danger we simply don't see."—Paul David Tripp



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May our living Lord Jesus bless you friend,

*Jim and Kappy*

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