

“Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were.” Psalm 39:12 KJV



Friends: May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you and yours this month of May! We arrived home in FL on April 9 after a 55-day and 10,078-mile driving trip to visit family, friends, and churches mostly out west (wow, it makes me tired to think of the journey, driving), but the faithful Lord helped us, and we enjoyed really wonderful visits! More about that in just a bit. I tested positive for COVID-19 on April 11; thankfully, Kappy didn't test positive at all during the next 2 weeks. I had my second negative test for COVID-19 on April 23; I'm a bit fatigued, but we are both glad the virus is over now. In this, too, the Lord helped us; it could have been much worse than it was. How gracious He is—hope I get my taste back soon!

It was a true blessing to visit Anthony Bautista (top left photo) in Visalia, CA, after 28 years. Anthony came to Christ before me, and the Lord used him to help me to salvation many years ago. Next to Tony is Carol Carnell, a friend of Kappy's since junior high school days.



Carol loves the Lord, and we had a very enjoyable time together in Santa Maria, CA. At right are Shelley and John Carpenter, and Pat and Ron Weethee of Lodi, CA;

we shared a good time of encouragement in the Lord together. Jeanette McGarry (bottom right photo) and her son Kevin blessed us at her home. At right are Judy, Linda, and Denise with Kappy; these three sisters are widows, Judy's husband Frank went to be with the Lord shortly after

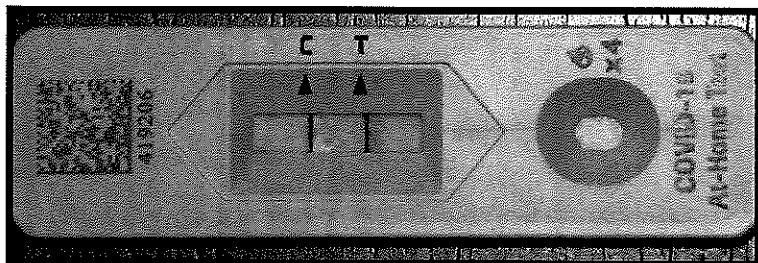


our visit with Calvary Community Church in Knightsen, CA. Pastor Frank always greatly encouraged us in the Lord's work. He is a blessing! At mid-left are Pastor Darryl and Karen Savage, their church Sovereign Grace Baptist Church in Mission, BC, greatly blessed us; pray for Pastor Darryl as he recovers from surgery. It was our blessing to see dear Betty Noah there. In New Leipzig, North Dakota, our good friends Pastor Paul and Miller Ferrie (second photo from the bottom at left) and their delightful church, Grace Reformed Church of the Lord Jesus, touched us deeply with their love for the Lord and for us. Please pray for these dear saints! There are many dear friends that we couldn't visit on our trip. There are many dear friends



that we couldn't visit on our trip. For you: we love you, thank you, and ask the Lord for His mercy and grace for you!

Praise the Lord Jesus!



KAPPY'S CORNER—Trains in the Desert

Our recent big journey westward through the States was on the most southerly route. Some of it wasn't desert, but most of it was. After miles of dusty brown landscape, short, scattered, scrubby bushes, and dryness, I looked for anything to stay awake and break up the monotony outside the windows. Actually, I'd be lying if I said I never saw beauty in the desert, but the trains captured my attention the most.

I hadn't noticed the train tracks running parallel to the highway until I spotted an isolated freight train sitting still. We passed train after idle train, each with cars stretching for what seemed a mile. Each had an engine; one had three. While I was wondering why they weren't moving, Jim was a step ahead, wondering what it would take to get them moving again. The answer came a little while later when we finally saw a train in motion. This train not only had an engine pulling in front, but it also had an engine pushing from behind.

When our friends in Uganda have a need, they say they need a 'push'. When things are going well, they say they're 'pushing on'. Ugandans are social; they have a strong sense of community. I was reflecting on this in relation to the isolated trains this morning. Not only Ugandans but all of us human beings were created by God to be gregarious, in other words, to be in community. These last two years of the pandemic have been a test of endurance for all of us worldwide.

The purpose of this trip westward, northward, and back again wasn't sightseeing; it was friend-seeing. Something inside me woke up more with each visit. During the relative isolation of COVID, out of necessity, I had quieted a longing in my heart for fellowship and community; that was how I learned to be content in the state we were in. But the love all of you poured out on us refreshed our souls like a flash flood filling up the dry places. And that is what we will always carry within us. We thank you, including those we weren't able to visit, for giving us a 'push' and helping us keep 'pushing on.' And we sincerely hope and pray the Lord will give each of you a push in return. Keep pushing on! We love you!

May our Lord bless you in His sufficient grace.

Thank you,

Jim and Kappy

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