

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13 NKJV

Friends: May our Lord bless you this November and at Thanksgiving in His grace, love, and peace!

TV screen. The time at home did provide ample time for prayer and study and we felt an urgency to pray about the pandemic, the violence, and the welfare of family,

As is probably true for everyone reading this, we think

often these days to ourselves and say to one another, "What a year this has been!" We expected a great deal of change in coming back to the USA after 5 years since our last visit in 2015. We also expected to find America a different place than it was when we left for Africa in 2004, but we did not at all expect that the changes and challenges in America and worldwide this year would be as great as they are. In late March, when we flew from Kampala to Chicago, as planned some years ago, the Covid 19



pandemic was just beginning to result in travel restrictions. We changed our flight reservations three times and were then able to fly just before the airport in Uganda was closed to international travel—not via Europe but Doha, Qatar. We found O'Hare Airport to be practically deserted, it seemed, and that it was necessary to quarantine for two weeks at the Mission House. Through friends (we felt like Elijah at the Brook Cherith in 1 Kings 17) who brought us food, we hid away and carefully listened to and saw the state and federal government TV updates about 'slowing the spread' and 'saving lives by staying home'. This seemed all too real and near to us as the church, we are members of in the Chicago area, suffered the loss of several of her people due to the virus. For us the time at home went along fairly well, we accepted the necessity of the guidelines. We saw the sense in the government recommendations (including wearing masks and we chose to wear gloves when out) and a book that I (Jim) read in Mali last year came to mind; it was about a deadly infectious outbreak of yellow fever which claimed many lives in the USA in the 1800s. Moreover, we both had seen the effects of Ebola and HIV in East Africa; and knew that infectious diseases were not to be trifled with. Then, as you remember, the violence and riots in US cities started and this heightened the distress that we were already feeling. Probably like you, we were stunned that this was happening in America and right before our eyes on the

world. As summer came this year we geared up for our move to Florida and into settling into a new place and culture; we made the move, and are still in the midst of the change that we knew we would go through in our adjustment time. The Lord has guided us and provided for us faithfully in these months of change and distress and probably like you, we are adjusting to what is the present 'new normal'. And like many missionaries who are side-lined in many ways, now

we are seeking the Lord about these great issues that confront us, and what the future and future ministry will look like. One lesson we have learned repeatedly this year is flexibility, and that we must wait on the Lord for His timetable and plan to be made clear. For instance, we didn't visit, when there, in the Chicago suburbs, because of the virus restrictions. We had planned and hoped to visit friends in the Chicago area in November. Some friends and churches shared with us that their churches are not sure how their meetings will be done now and that it would be best to wait to visit when things are more stable. The fear that the infection rates, hospitalizations, and deaths in the colder weather would increase seems so far to be well-based. So we continue to wait on the Lord as we ask Him for wisdom about His will for us in these trying times. "A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps." This verse, Proverbs 16:9, seems so fitting for many reasons this year.

Yet, our verse above speaks of the glorious truth that the Lord, the God of hope who doesn't change, fills His people with joy and peace in believing so that we abound in hope as the Spirit works powerfully to give us hope. And like you, we have undoubtedly seen the Lord's goodness, mercy, and grace in this time of trial. He gives us hope, and we have great hope for the future because He does that. He has answered many prayers during this time, and He sustains us daily. He works to give us a

Continued

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certain expectation that His goodness and grace will not fail us/ though the times are dangerous and uncertain our hope in Christ is certain. The Lord has promised us good and He cannot lie. As I look back at the last 7 months I see that we have experienced many hardships and anxieties, we're sure like you have, but as David wrote in Psalm 94:19 "In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul." We have also experienced a sure and unfailing hope in Christ and our distress is abated by God's comforts, presence and grace. Psalm 31:24 says, "Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the Lord." And because our hope is in Jesus not in circumstances, relationships or conditions in this world, we overcome through Him—He is our sure hope and strength, our unfailing and certain expectation.

I desire to encourage you dear friend that as the Lord has written (verse citations are from the NKJV):

"But I will hope continually, And will praise You yet more and more." Psalm 71:14

"You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word." Psalm 119:14

"It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the Lord." Lamentations 3:26

"To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Colossians 1:27

"But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation." 1 Thessalonians 5:8

"[Love]...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." 1 Corinthians 13:7,8

"...we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." Hebrews 6:18,19

His promise to His people is that the God of all hope will fill us with all joy and peace as we trust Him and that we will abound in hope by the powerful workings of the Spirit of God! In that precious promise we take encouragement!

"Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in ev'ry change he faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heav'nly Friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end."
Kathrina von Schlegel 1697-1797

Not retiring but re-firing, in God's plan!

A brief summary of ministry activities in 2020 follows:

Until March the ministry was carried out in our ministry components while we were in Africa: Evangelism and discipleship in the context of: Pastoral Development, Church Planting, Street Kid Outreach, Children's Ministry, HIV+ Outreach, Prison Ministry and Itinerant Preaching/Teaching (including Radio Sermons), Bible and Literature Distribution, as God led.

Since March ministry has been carried out in Street Kid Outreach through a food supplement and Gospel meeting in Namawongo slum with Choice Baptist Church in which hundreds of slum children have been helped with food and God's truth, in Bible and Literature Distributions in Uganda and Mali, in weekly Radio Sermons which air on African Bible College Radio in Kampala 99.3 FM, in Church Planting, and in Pastoral Development. Food relief for needy pastors and individuals and their families has been given since March and we hope to continue to help our needy friends in this way as needed in the future. A committed ministry focus on prayer now also continues.

Churches have very recently opened up to any meetings in Uganda and throughout Africa, and as in the USA, things are far from as before the pandemic, which of course greatly affects ministry.

Literature from Chapel Library continues to be distributed by 2 ministers in Uganda and Pastor Evariste in the Democratic Republic of Congo continues to teach monthly studies in the Mt. Zion Bible Institute as he has for many years; since April he has taught 150 students in the Institute (Old Testament Surveys) studies during the pandemic; over the years 226,755 Bible studies have been done in various teaching formats.

172 Bibles have been distributed this year, while over the years 21,620 Bibles have been distributed, mostly in East Africa.

KAPPY'S CORNER—Still Sorting

During my nearly sixteen years of sorting beans in Uganda the thought crossed my mind more than once—*We don't have to sort beans in America.* Our first bag of beans back in America last March looked familiarly like the beans I'd been sorting in Uganda. I found stones, crushed beans, broken beans, and shriveled beans—thankfully there were no bugs. I checked the printing on the bag and read "sort and rinse the beans before cooking." What else have I forgotten?

There may be plenty of things I've forgotten about America—at this point I don't remember what I've forgotten. And in this season of pandemic there are things I remember that simply aren't anymore. I know many people are saying "when we get back to normal...", but honestly, I have doubts that the world will ever be the same. So then I hear people tweaking the idea of "normal" to the thought of "the new normal". I wonder if one "new normal" won't evolve into another and another, ad infinitum.

Anyway, back to the subject of sorting—what I'm getting at is the fact that this season of stay-at-home has been good for sorting ourselves out. Although there are occasions of frustration, I am learning more patience regarding the limits in which I now find myself. I'm not calling it a loss of freedom; I'm finding I have more freedom in certain ways than I had before this confinement dropped into our lives. With the two of us in this relatively small space in Florida day after day ("A few steps and you've covered the whole house," says Jim.) I'm finding more opportunities to put into practice Biblical principles regarding loving my neighbor. I have a deeper sense of gratitude than ever before for what the Lord has given us.

Honestly, Jim laid it out so beautifully in the first three pages that I have very little to add. The one thing I would say is that we are settling in nicely in this cozy nest. God has been answering our prayers and guiding our choices for furniture within our budget. I'm amazed at how perfectly everything fills our needs. As we head into this season of Thanksgiving, I join Jim in thanking the Lord for you. We couldn't do this without you. We pray for your well-being and the well-being of your family members and friends. The holidays are a difficult time for those of us who have lost loved ones. We pray for you that the God of all comfort will comfort your hearts and give you His peace. Amen.

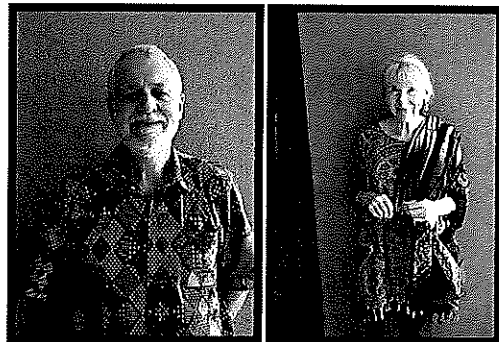
Thanks and love to you all in our Jesus,

Jim and Kappy

Email:
jkrubinmissionafricajk@gmail.com

Website:
www.missionafricajk.net

Secure online donations:
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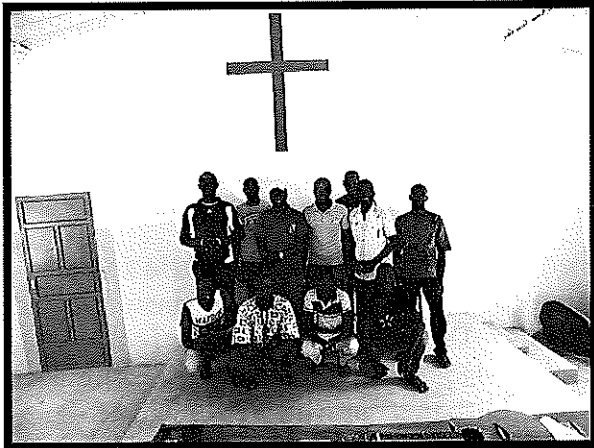


Enhancing Trust

Kappy continues to enjoy writing and sharing her Kappy's Corner and we both seek to reach out with truth via our e-communications.

In Church Planting to date the Lord has led us to assist in planting over 1,217 churches/fellowships in Malawi, Zambia, Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Congo, South Sudan, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Guinea, Senegal and Mali with African pastors and churches. We estimate that to date about 36,130 people are attending these churches and fellowships and over 11,363 baptisms have taken place. Some churches have been planted during the pandemic. In this work we seek to train church planters, encourage their work, then assist the new church plants in leadership development, evangelism, discipleship and counsel with the goal of self-sustainability. There is a continuing need for churches, especially in the rural areas, as the longest distance people can usually walk to a church is about 6 miles round trip.

Last year we were blessed to serve 5,560 children and adults in our Evangelistic Christmas Outreaches and this year we hope to reach 2,000 children in socially-distanced meetings in Christmas Outreaches.

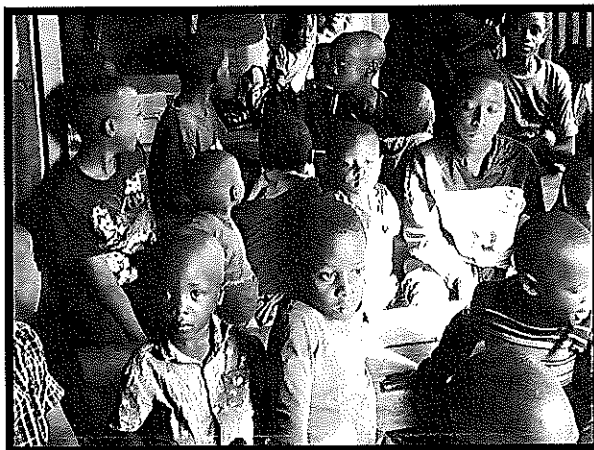


Photos here are from late 2019 (top to bottom) are of:

1. Pastoral Development and Church Planting
2. Street Kid Outreach
3. Children's Christmas Outreaches.

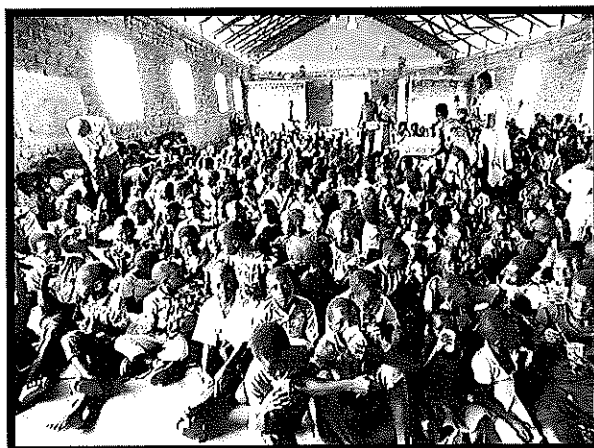
"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."
1 Corinthians 15:58 NKJV

"For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."
Ephesians 2:10 NKJV



We recently received this encouragement from Pastor Alex Minge of Choice Baptist Church in Kampala: "Thank you so much my good friend for loving us so much. May God bless you so much. Am beginning to plan for Church Planting trainings. Bukasa Church is going on well. We have had one other Church opened in Mutungo, Pastor Martin will be pastoring it. Bugolobi Church opening soon, small fellowship and Evangelism on-going. I was supposed to participate in opening 6 Baptist Churches in Kibuku. Walusimbi Everest was able to participate. So far four are opened already and two more to be opened. Hope to share with you plan for Children Christmas celebration soon. May God bless you more and more. Give our appreciation to Mama too."

Alex and his wife Beatrice recently were blessed by the birth of their second daughter. Please pray for this godly family.



As we rejoice in hope in our Lord Jesus Christ we thank Him for His love and kindness so fully shown us—glory to the Lord! And we thank the Lord for you, friend. Thank you for your interest and participation in our ministry and thank you for continuing with us in our time of trial and transition. Please know that we ask the Lord for His grace, blessing, joy and peace for you today.

Happy Thanksgiving! "Infinite and eternal good awaits us."
William Jay 1769-1853