

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." Romans 1:16 NKJV



Greetings to all in the gospel this month of September dear friends! This month I want to share with you short ministry updates from our co-workers in Africa.

East Africa

A friend and pastor shared with us recently a video about a Muslim sheikh in a country in the Horn of Africa (names are not mentioned here for security reasons) in which he complains that many people are leaving Islam and becoming Christians in his region. The sheikh (photo at left) then says that this is unacceptable, that this people group must not convert and that this shameful and embarrassing trend must stop. The sheikh states that about 170,000 people have become Christians...other sources state that there are perhaps 1000 Christians in that country but a report by the Bible Society (of that country) states that in its 2023 census that 171,277 Christians were found in the country. We are greatly encouraged by

these reports because since 2010 when Kampala, Uganda suffered terrorist suicide bombings by people from the country noted above we have been praying for the conversions of the people of that nation! Please join us in prayer that God will save many there! Pray for the pastor, our friend, who brings the gospel to the people of that country.

Uganda

We were recently updated that 402 prisoners in Luzira Prison (the main high security prison) in Kampala have completed another block of Mount Zion Bible Institute Studies. The studies completed are: Foundations of the Faith, Guide to Bible Study, Life of Jesus Christ Parts 1 and 2, and Anger. Our good friends at Chapel Library are sending the next study block which includes: The Deity of Christ, The Cross, and The Attributes of God (pictured at left). Please pray that God's gospel will powerfully bring much grace to the prisoners; pray for our ministry leader in the prison, Pastor Sunday Kafeero.

Rwanda

In August about 8,000 churches were closed in Rwanda by the government. A news agency reports: "The churches were closed down following a two-week nationwide operation that was conducted by the Rwanda Governance



Board (RGB). The operation was aimed at enforcing regulations against churches that lacked proper infrastructure and hygiene standards, as well as those operating illegally." About 28 churches we work with there were affected (we are still working out how and for what reason, though the churches were not illegal) and 2 pastors were imprisoned for refusing to stop meeting with their churches (pictured at right with our co-worker). We were able to help get their release from jail. Please pray as we seek to understand the parameters of all this and to know how we can help the churches which were closed; 4 of those churches should open soon after having met the government's requirements. One of the requirements is that pastors have a required level of education; we were glad to read that most of the pastors have the required credentials in place. There's fear this stems from persecution.

MOUNT ZION BIBLE INSTITUTE

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD



Arthur W. Pink (1886-1952)

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KAPPY'S CORNER—Safety in the Storm

We prayed, "Lord, do we stay or do we go?"

On August 4th, Tropical Storm Debby was moving slowly north off of our west coast. The wind was blasting the south side of the house with torrents of rain. At 7:38 that night, my phone let out a high pitched shriek; we had an extreme tornado warning. Jim was resting, still in the throes of jetlag from his trip to Manila. I took a chair into our very small hallway, closed the doors, and sat for one uneventful hour. The phone shrieked again at 9:23 with a serious three-hour flash flood warning. Six minutes later, we had another tornado warning. I was tired—I stayed in bed (with my clothes on in case we had to leave in a hurry). Nine minutes after midnight on August 5th, the National Weather Service loudly issued another flash flood warning, to be in place until five in the morning. A fitful sleep finally came.

We woke up after sunrise, in something of a surreal jetlag brain fog, to a watery world. We'd received 12-14" of rain within hours. The street in the front of our place was flooded; the water level was creeping up the driveway toward our front door. We live in a kind of barracks situation. There are units lining both sides of the street. The units on the opposite side of the street from us have one of the four small lakes in the backyard. On our side of the street, our shared backyard is a long, grassy meadow with drains at either end. The storm drains in the street and those in the backyard were overwhelmed; the lakes were climbing the banks. Our backyard had become a pond. It stopped within fifteen feet of our back door. The water had nowhere to go...and with the street flooded, neither did we!

We were prepared to settle in and wait, when another alert came at 7:31am from Manatee County Emergency Management, notifying us of flooding from Hurricane Debby. The clincher came at 10:29am—"EXTREME flood danger/dam release...leave area now." We called the number provided. There was puzzlement on the other end. Emergency Management had not been notified of the dam release. We were asked if we could get to higher ground. Jim answered that we were on higher ground. I looked up toward the hatch in the ceiling that opens to the impossible crawl space under the roof...nope. We watched to see if our neighbors were leaving. Jim waded across the street to ask a longtime resident what he thought of the situation. In the meantime, I called another longer-time resident to ask if she would be evacuating. No one seemed concerned. That was reassuring. Then, at 12:31 in the afternoon, the phone screamed again—"FLOOD IMMINENT from Lake Manatee dam release." All we could do was watch, pray and wait.

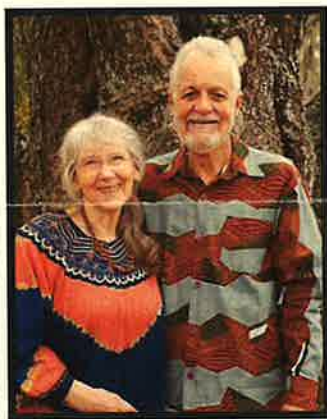
By the next day, when the water level hadn't risen, we relaxed and enjoyed our new pond-front living. Our impromptu pond was teeming with silvery 4" fish that flashed in the sunlight. How did they get there? The best guess would be—through the lake drain, storm drain, across the flooded street, through the drain on our side of the street, and up through the drain in the backyard. However they got there, they attracted the attention of two glistening, great white egrets; one great heron; our family of four Sandhill Cranes; and several smaller

shore birds. Oh yes, and the fish swimming in the streets drew our resident alligator out of one of our lakes. He was seen swimming in our street and subsequently taken away to an undisclosed location.

Folks in some other parts of Florida didn't have it as easy as we did. There were six lives lost in the state and some extensive flood damage. All in all, the Lord blessed us once again with safety in the storm. Psalm 18:2a NKJV—"The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer."

May our crucified and risen Lord bless you in His wonderful grace,

Jim and Kappy



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