



# MISSION AFRICA

JIM & KAPPY ROBINETTE

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**“Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You?” Psalm 85:6 NKJV**

Friends: May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you and yours in this month of May 2023! I, Jim, will be overseas when this Prayer Letter is printed. I will share with you about the ministry during this trip at a future time as the Lord wills. Please pray with us this “Prayer To The God Of My Life”:

A Prayer To The God Of My Life

“Turn us back to You, O Lord, and we will be restored;  
Renew our days as of old.  
Unless You have utterly rejected us,  
And are very angry with us.” Lamentations 5:21

O God the Lord, I rejoice in Your declared promise that You will never forsake nor leave me, though I continue to sin and am a continual transgressor. I believe that You foresaw my sin and that before the foundation of the world, You were crucified for all of my sins, in God’s heart, as Your word declares; my gross and black sin before my conversion and my sins in the light, that is, my sin since my regeneration. You were given to me as Lord and Savior before I was created, and You have conquered and defeated my awful sin in Your timeless power; like an army which has routed it’s enemy, You have completely put away my sin-so that all of the sins of my life has been atoned for. O Lord, I rejoice that You will not utterly reject us, all who are Yours by faith because we have truly been given Your wonderful grace. I rejoice, too, in Your power and strength of will to save Your people, and I know that I, we, must confess our sins to You and repent of it all to walk truly in the light with You. And we can only receive Your wonderful grace, O Lord, so as You turn us back to Yourself over and over and over again. Always turn us back to you, Lord! And in this, You gift us with grace, and by Your turning us back to You, we are restored! O God, my Lord, restore us, renew us, stir us, fill us. Holy Spirit, come and reform us, make us to be repentant, and revive us, Lord.

You have led us in blessed paths of fellowship with Yourself, and we have enjoyed Your glory and goodness in remarkable ways-yet; we must cry out afresh, Lord, revive us and ignite the fire and zeal of our first love for You! Cause us to love You supremely, O God; revive, renew, strengthen, and reform Your true church throughout this great world that You have created. Move us forward and keep us from turning our backs to You because we are more than conquerors through Christ, who has loved us! Conquer through us in increasingly wonderful and powerful ways, O Lord! And have Your glory in this! O God, Your people have grieved Your Spirit and have experienced His distance from us; we have seen rejection and anger-Your righteous anger. O God, keep us from grieving and quenching Your Spirit! May we receive Him in and by His grace, and may He fill us more fully with Christ. And then we shall personally and corporately love You deeply and truly, O Lord, and You shall be glorified, and we shall rejoice in God and be continually turned to God, renewed as in days of old, and walk in the blessed ways You intend for Your children! Glory to you, O Lord, forever, Father, Son, and Spirit-forever! You are Lord! Amen.



## KAPPY'S CORNER—The Tree

I couldn't help but see it. It dominated the view from the dining room window. The trunk was scabby with gray-green lichen. Dark holes gouged its massive bulk. I walked around it, studying it from every angle. I could see a rotten, broken branch rising from its heart. Heavy limbs overhung our carport. It was losing leaves. Gray rags of moss hung from its branches. I thought the first high wind could bring the whole tree down. It worried me.

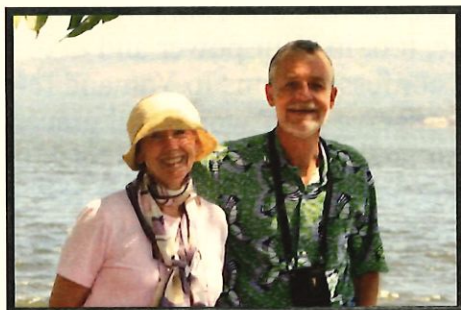
That was my first September in Florida. As the months went by, I grew to enjoy the rough textured bark with its shades of red, brown, gray, and green. When Spring arrived, the tender green leaves unfurling all over that old tree gave proof that it was very much alive and thriving. Acorns appeared and ripened on every branch. A squirrel nibbling frantically on an acorn watched me from a knothole; we ate breakfast together that morning and many mornings after.

Over time, I've wondered about the age of the oak tree. These oak trees are indigenous to Florida. It looks as though this area was covered with them at one time. Years ago, Jim worked for a landscaper; he told me that certain trees are selected by the contractor and preserved while the rest are removed to make way for construction. There are forty-six of these oak trees in our little corner of the Village alone. The records show this missionary village was built in the late 1970s. There was an unbroken line of tall pine-like trees between the homes and the state road. In 2017, Hurricane Irma took out some of those weak-rooted trees, and in 2022, Hurricane Ian took more. In all that time, and through many years before that, the massive root systems of these oak trees sustained them through more than I know.

I'm reminded of the Scriptures in Ephesians 3:17 and Colossians 2:6-7 that speak of being rooted and grounded in Christ and His love, built up in Him and established in faith. We have strength and endurance as we daily walk in Him, meditating on His word, speaking with Him, and following His guidance. Our roots are anchored deep and wide to weather all of the storms of life, as Christ dwells in our hearts.

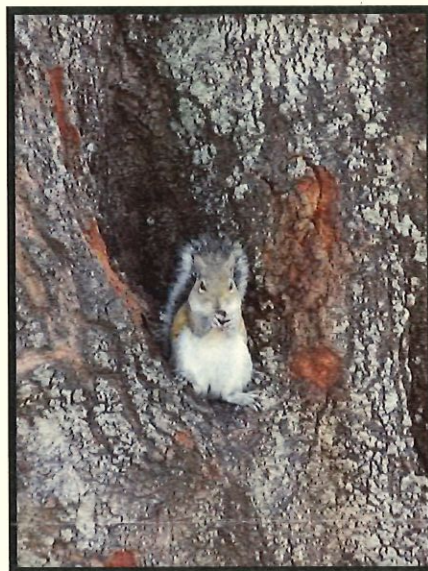
May our Lord bless you in His kindness; with love and thanks,

*Jim and Kappy*



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