



Media Musings

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Africa Inland Mission Retirement Center

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We are excited to bring you the next newsletter of the AIM Retirement Center, "Media". The reason for the newsletter is to keep you informed on what is happening at Media as well as give information about the missionaries who live here. The 80+ residents and staff represent more than 2,200 years of ministry. We hope this newsletter will help you get to know some of them and what they do at Media. You can also find this at www.retirementcenter.aimsites.org. The Editors

Christmas Offering – "Now I Am Clean/Holy!" By R. Baker

Time for Christmas conference. Beings that it was a very rainy season, it took me almost 4 hours to drive the 35 miles to the out-church location but that was now behind me. Water! Mud! Mired vehicles! What was that to my 4-wheel drive Land Rover? I "plowed" through the cotton-soil swamps – but was now well cleaned up and fed. Christmas day was to be the big meeting and everyone was looking forward to it. Morning comes early in an African village. The roosters make the pre-announcement while it is yet dark, the lowing of the cattle indicates milking time and the soon-herding to take them to pasture, the drum sounds just as the sun comes up. Meal time – chai (sweet tea) and maandazi (African "doughnuts") Soon we hear a clanging "bell" (actually a vehicle tire rim struck with a short iron bar!) and we find our way to the church. People have gathered; the evangelist leads the singing; church choirs sing. Time now for the offering. As custom was in that church area, the people filed forward and bring their gifts to the front. Coins; farm produce; eggs; even chickens with their legs tied together. Quite an ingathering!



Suddenly there was a commotion outside. Loud speaking and shuffling of many feet. One man, evidently well known to the church members, came down the aisle. His wobbling from side to side gave evidence that he was from the "tipsy" crowd outside. He made his way up front and with a flourish produced a currency bill. He said, "Nelaga lulu. ["Now I am clean/holy"]". Me, in my early "missionary zeal" got up from my chair, retrieved that currency note and gave it back to that tipsy man. I said, "Here is your money. The Lord wants you and not your money"! I had no idea that the man was the district chief judge. The others outside were his "bashindikiji" – those who accompanied him as he moved around whenever he left the district court. He took the money from my hand, tried to stare me down and then turned around, muttered and walked out. The whole group of men outside moved away. After the service, I was ushered back to the evangelists home. The noon meal was served and I learned the man's identity and that the church leadership was concerned that I had alienated him and this might lead to difficulty for them.

Fast forward several years. I was in another church area visiting one of the church leaders and in walked that same man. The church leader introduced me to him. He recognized me just about the same time I recognized him. With a huge smile he came forward and grabbed my hand and shook it warmly. "I know you" he said. "You are the man who refused my church offering. You said that God wanted me and it made me think. Now, Christ is my Savior. I have given up all drinking and sinful things I did and now am glad to be able to serve the Lord in my church". He was now one of the elders. He was still an influential government judge but now his actions and reputation showed the Life of Christ in him. PRAISE GOD for the power of His Word.

Two events stand out. We honored our staff with a luncheon and gifts and acknowledged the big role our media volunteers have as well. Then we gathered together for our Thanksgiving dinner



Other activities include :Tea with Anne Baker on Monday morning and with Susan Carpenter on Thursday ; Chair exercise group; painting pumpkins and leaves and 1st Sunday of the month hymn sings.



Elsie Amstutz grew up in Portsmouth, Va and attended Fort Wayne Bible College. She and her husband Harold , who was a pilot, began ministry with the Methodist Mission flying in Zambia and later in Congo. They had met at a Youth for Christ rally when Harold was in the Marines and were married in the 50's. After being rescued by Belgian paratroopers during the Congo crisis they returned to the States and, since there was no other flying ministry needed with the Methodist Mission, sought the Lord about another Mission. God led them, through Chuck and Bobbi Kinzer, to AIM and they served with AIMAir for two years in Nairobi after which they served with International Aid and Relief Transport Services for 18 more years. Some of Elsie's responsibilities included Bible and tract distribution, guardianship of RVA children and Bible studies. They retired in 1997 and moved to Media in 2011. Harold moved to heaven in 2012. They have four children. Elsie gets around in her motorized scooter and you can see her handiwork on many cars in the form of a red white and blue yarn "car locator".



TRANSITIONS



Roy Entwistle retired as chaplain and Les Harris took his place. We are thankful for Roy & Judy and their help and care of us for many years. Our thanks to Les & Mary Anne for stepping into this important position .



Bob & Debbie moved into their new home at Media
Bev Tuttle moved into Scott Manor



59 Christmas boxes filled . Susan had some curious visitors watching as she delivered hers.



Hurricane Irma came and we hunkered down for the night amidst tornado warnings. The next morning this is what we found. Lots of water, some tree tops gone and other trees down.. In every case the trees missed homes and electric lines. We never lost power. We know many were praying.



Then came the cleanup. Everyone pitched in and we are grateful for those who came from The Church of South Lake to help. It was a massive job.



We are grateful too for groups that came to do remodeling of some older homes and just helped in general.

Kids from Real Life Men's group from Davisville Church, PA.



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL