



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 letter at www.retirementcenter.aimsites.org The Editors

NATURE-ly SPEAKING

Spiritual lessons that can be learned from Animals, Birds, Bugs, Plants and critters large and small.

Secretary Bird, The Snake Killer by Dave Hornberger

The Secretary Bird, standing four feet tall and with a fierce hawk-like head, owes its existence to the creepy world of snakes. Methodically criss-crossing the vast African plains, it approaches a venomous snake with caution, using its wings to ward off the snake's attempt to bite. One swift peck breaks the snake's neck. The bird then eats the body, but not the head. A strong flyer, the Secretary Bird nevertheless prefers to walk or run on the ground. But this preference brings a certain woe to this feathered snake-hunter. Often, immediately after a kill, other birds swoop down in an attempt to steal the snake. On such occasions, the Secretary Bird, rather than easily flying away from the predator tries to run away. he loses his dinner! NATURE-ly SPEAKING a spiritual lesson can be learned from the Secretary Bird's preference to run rather than fly. The Christian also has wings — wings of prayer. At any time he can mount up upon those wings. But often he doesn't use them. He'd rather run. Rather than, "taking his problems to the Lord in prayer" he often tries to figure out a solution on his own. As a result, his troubles swiftly overcome him. In the Old Testament of the Bible, King Jehoshaphat was surrounded by his enemy. He frantically looked for a way of escape. There was none. Doomed! But then he remembered he had the "wings of prayer." So he used them by crying to God in prayer. The Bible tells us what happened as a result. II Chronicles 18:31 says, "...the Lord helped him; and God moved them (his enemies) to depart from him." Simple! Jesus said, "But if you stay in Me and obey My commands, you may ask any request you like, and it will be granted! (John 15:7, Living Bible.) Quit running; instead, use your "wings of prayer."



Former Media staff and e-plus student now in Uganda

Kathy Keller from Tanzania The Media ladies have been praying for her for many years. It was great to hear what God is doing.



CHRISTMAS



Three for Him

DUTCH NIGHT

Dale and
Carla
Walker



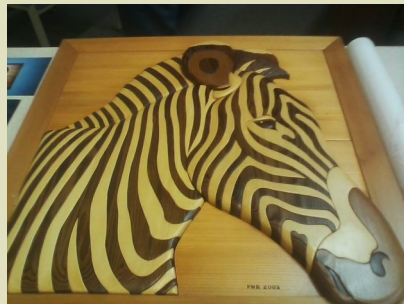
**METHODIST CHURCH
LADIES TEA**



Chuck Fraley got the Door Prize



TALENT NIGHT



Paul Barnett's woodwork

**CELEBRATING GOD'S
LOVE**



Ladies Singing Group



HYMNBOOK DEDICATION



**Jonathan & Dottie
Hildebrandt**

**MEET SOME OF THE
MISSIONARIES**



Jonathan grew up in a Christian home in a northern suburb of Chicago. He was saved at the age of eight and dedicated his life to missions at twelve. After teaching secondary school in Kenya in a project sponsored by Columbia University (NYC), he joined AIM in 1968. He was a high school principal in Kenya when he met Dottie. Dottie was born in Kenya of missionary parents and grandparents. She was saved while at RVA and then dedicated her life to the Lord at twelve at a Billy Graham Crusade while on furlough.

She attended RVA, Business College and Columbia Bible College. She returned to Kenya with AIM in 1968 where she served as secretary to the Field Secretary and the President of the national church. She and Jonathan were married in 1973. Within a year of their wedding they were re-assigned to Mombasa to establish the English section of Pwani Bible Institute. Their first son Jon was born in Mombasa and two years later Paul was born in the States during home assignment. In 1978 the Field Secretary and Africa Inland Church Bishop wanted Jonathan in Nairobi during the last phase of Mission turn over to the Church. In 1982 the new Bishop asked Jonathan and Dottie to go to Eldoret and establish the first missionary training college in East Africa. Within ten years a flourishing college was established and then the Hildebrandts were asked to go to the Kenya Branch Office. Dottie operated the radio connection with locations where there was no telephone service while Jonathan served as Branch Executive Officer. In 2003 AIM sent them to Australia to rescue that sending unit. Dottie did the bookkeeping while Jonathan got the office up and running smoothly again. The Hildebrandts returned for home assignment in 2007 and in May, 2008 they moved to Media after 40 years of ministry. At Media Dottie leads the women's exercise program and water aerobics class while Jonathan leads the Thursday afternoon fellowship meetings and researches and writes books. They have two sons, two daughters-in-love, and five grandchildren (4 boys and 1 girl)!! Jon, Ginny, Josiah & Micah are living and working on one of the Indian Ocean Islands. Paul, Sib, Samuel, Matayo & Amani living in Bridgewater VA.

Nancy Laberdy



Nancy was born and raised on a fruit farm near the small rural town of Eu Clair, Michigan. She attended Taylor University and Moody Bible Institute. She arrived in Kenya in 1968. She taught sewing, practical home economics, Bible, African and World History and several other things in Kenyan Girls High Schools for 34 years. Sometimes she also served in various administrative positions. Retirement came in April 2002, when she returned to her home in Michigan for five years. Nancy joined the AIM family at Media in 2008. She volunteers in AWANA and ESL

at a local church.

CHAI & MAANDAZIS AT THE FLACKS



**MINISTERING AT
SUPERIOR HOME**



WHAT DO THE SOWER & VOLUNTEER LADIES DO?



Cleaning Windows
Sewing
Repairing Quilts
Thursday Afternoon
Meetings and a Picnic
at the Gazebo



SEEN AROUND MEDIA

Making a Quad into a Duplex

