

Media Musings

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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



MEET THE STAFF

GLORIA SMETHERS

Gloria Smethers has been a missionary with AIM since 1985. She was born and raised in Kenya and graduated from RVA. She attended Bible College and

then Nurses Training and in 1985 went to Zaire.

After ten years, due to the political situation which required evacuation, she served at Media as caretaker of Scott Home and then Kenya.

Gloria's ministries involved: supervisor in the operating room, an extra hand in the maternity, accountant in the nursing school and taught S.S. at the Rethy Academy to 1st and 2nd graders in Zaire. At Kalacha she was involved in Community Health among the Gaabra and made weekly health trips to the community; kept a dispensary working and taught Jr. Church. It was a challenging but perhaps most rewarding experience for the next 10 years.

The next three years she was a nurse at RVA and is presently on Media staff as one of two nurses.

"The Lord has been good to me. I am grateful to the experiences He has brought to me to learn to depend on Him, trust Him, and serve Him!"

An African Story

Once upon a time there was a nice fat ant called Andy. He loved to eat but was very lazy and just wanted to lay in the hot, African sun and dream about food.



One day his friend, Gerry Grasshopper came hopping by in a great hurry to the village of This Way. When he saw Andy, he stopped to greet. After finding out about each others family and how they were, Gerry invited Andy to the village. "We're having a big feast in a little while."

Andy licked his lips and said, "Yes but, I have an idea. Tie this rope around my waist and take the other end to the village. When the food is ready, pull on the rope and I'll know it's time to come." Gerry thought that a great idea. Andy settled down to wait, with visions of the wonderful chicken he was soon to have.

Soon another friend, Katy Caterpillar came squirming along as fast as she could on her way to the village of That Way. She came with news of a big feast in the village and invited Andy to come. Andy was excited to hear this and said, "Yes, is the food ready?" Katy did not know so Andy told her to put a rope around his waist, take the end to the village and when the food was ready to pull on it and he would know to come. Katy did just that. Andy settled down with visions of two wonderful meals he was going to have - all with no effort on his part.



Before long, Andy felt a tug on the rope. He jumped up and headed toward Gerry's village of This Way. All of a sudden there was a tug on the rope from Katy's village of That Way. Gerry thought Andy was asleep and pulled harder, but Katy thought the same and pulled harder on her rope. They pulled and pulled and poor Andy was squashed in the middle. And that is how the ant got such a small waist - or so we are told. Andy did not get any food that day and found he could not go in two directions at once.

The Bible tells us that we cannot go in two directions either. We must choose who we will follow.

Australia Night



Darwin giving history



Jonathan's Didjeridoo



Music with Jean

Memorial Day



Jack wearing the colors



Yummy Dessert



Berards



Barney's

Easter



Craig and Jean leading music



Birthday Bash



Judy & Gloria made cake



White elephant gifts



Opening the treasures

Don was born in Tanzania to AIM missionaries, Russell and Helen Baker. He attended school first with his mom and later at a Mennonite Boarding school, RVA and finished high school in the USA when his parents retired from Tanzania. After graduating from Philadelphia College of Bible the Lord led him back to ministry in Tanzania. Anne had her start in Hamilton, Canada and grew up in Burlington with her parents Dr. Lenard & Helen Bailey. After attending Ontario Bible College, she applied to AIM for a two year short term at Kola Ndoto, Tanzania. In 1970 Don returned to Tanzania and was involved in youth work in the Mwanza area. Anne arrived in 1971 and was secretary to the Kola Ndoto doctor. Don and Anne met, got engaged and were married at Kola Ndoto in January, 1972. Over the next 30 years they served in Mwanza, Bwiru, Musoma, Katungulu and Nzega. Their ministries involved: Don: teaching Bible in Secondary Schools, helping an AIC pastor open a church, mission administration, liaison to the AIC. Anne: secretary to the Kola Ndoto doctor, the press manager, and the AIC leadership, Mom, wife, hostess. The missionary training college in the Nzega area was the highlight of their missionary career, but it was also very disappointing as things fell apart in the last several years of service for the Lord in Tanzania. In the providence of the Lord, in 2002, He allowed Anne to come down with schistosomiasis which made her paraplegic. They were medically transported from Tanzania to Nairobi and then to the States. Because of very slow recovery it was decided they should take medical retirement and they have resided at Media since. God has brought remarkable recovery to Anne and she and Don are much involved in their church and the Media community. They have three children: Ruthann, Jim, Julia, and five grandchildren.



Betty Pontier

Betty Pontier was born in River Grove, IL. Her Dad was a church planter and after River Grove they went to South Dakota when she was in her teens. She attended Moody Bible Institute and John Brown University. Betty and husband Ray went to Africa in 1955 and served in Sudan, Central African Republic and Congo over a period of 45 years. She was involved in various ministries which included: mother, women's & children's work, Bible School teacher, bookkeeping and flight following. Ray went to be with the Lord in 2004 and Betty moved to Media in 2005. They had five children; Ray, Jim, Carol and Jeanne. Martha went to be with the Lord last year while serving in Kenya. Betty is currently residing at the Clermont Rehab Facility in Clermont.



VISITORS

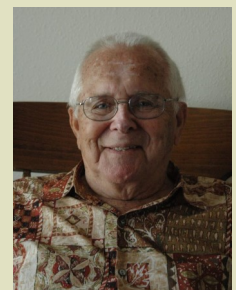
Our Congo and CAR folks hosted special visitors and enjoyed fellowship with Dr. Bagudekia & Suzanne Alobeyo (Philadelphia) and Bibiana (Atlanta) They were able to bring folks up to date on what is happening in Zandeland. Bagudekia is the Africa Rep for the American Bible Society. They sang from Zande hymnbook and enjoyed a Zande meal.



Stephen Manyama and Sosthenes Byemero visited and enjoyed time with the Tanzania folks.



Promoted to Heaven
Memorial Service will
be August 9th

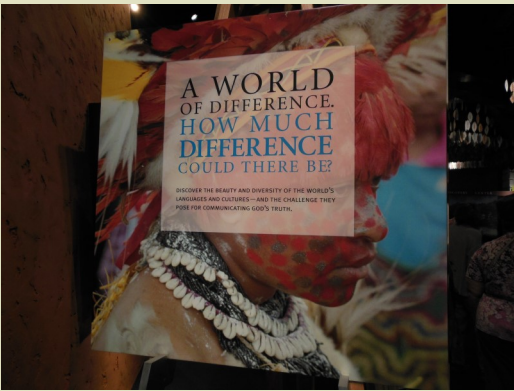


Chuck Kinzer

Safari to Wycliffe and CRU (formerly Campus Crusade)



Language Tree



Dick Gehman learning how the *Jesus Film* was dubbed from English to another language

Les and MaryAnn



Caretaker Needed

Volunteers have been filling in as the caretakers for Scott Home and we are grateful for all their help. Most recently these have been Les & MaryAnn Harris and Deb Ort. We are still in need of a fulltime - long term caretaker.