



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 2,500 years of ministry. We hope this newsletter will help you get to know some of them and what they do at Media. It can also be seen at <https://aimint.org/retirementcenter/newsletters/> The Editors

VIRGINIA'S VISION "YOU'LL HAVE TO GET IT DONE!"

God is granting 90 year old Virginia Jones Andersen the thrill of seeing her vision to establish a women's program called "Women of the Good News" in Africa (WGN) continue. This started in 1964 when she & Lyman went to the Central African Republic. She saw women using the program of WGN developed by the Grace Brethren Mission. She told Rebeka Aliya of the CECA/AIC church in Banda DR Congo (who came during the Simba rebellion) "You should start a women's program like this in Banda." Rebeka never forgot this and when the Jones' came to serve at Banda in 1969 she told the ladies that Virginia had come to establish the WGN program. Virginia said she didn't speak Pazande well enough! Rebeka said, "Well, you'll have to get it done." Virginia used the ideas from the Brethren handbook (with permission) but enlarged it to include a weekly meeting, a work program (5 ministry areas to be carried out by 4 or 5 teams) and memorization. It started with two typewritten pages which she typed over and over and sent to the churches in the Banda district. It caught on like wild fire! When they were assigned to Niangara, a mostly Bangala area, Taade Estere came to visit. "When are you going to give us the WGN in Bangala?" she asked. Virginia said she didn't know Bangala very well. Estere's reply, "Well you'll have to get it done." Virginia's friends, Betty Pontier and Finasa Babili, put the program into Bangala and the WGN spread quickly with Jean Robinson's help. By now the book contained 22 pages. In 1975 Virginia was at Bogoro recovering from chronic malaria. A lady from the Adi church came to visit her and said, "When are you going to bring the WGN here to the Kingwana speaking ladies?" Virginia replied: "I don't know any Kingwana." The woman replied, "You'll just have to get it done!" Translators in Bunia were able to translate it and the program spread throughout the area and by 1986 there were 30,000 members.

After Lyman was called home, Virginia came to Media and met Howard Andersen whose wife had passed away. The Lord led them together and back to No. Kenya. Howard told the people at Gatab that Virginia was going to bring them a new women's ministry. He translated the booklet into Swahili and now his daughter in law, Rachel, is translating it into the Gabra language. We hear that someone is working on getting it translated into one of the languages of South Sudan! The WGN is still thriving in CAR in spite of the war, and in DR Congo and continues to spread. "We are now scanning the Bangala and Pazande handbooks to have them reprinted in Uganda and sent to women in northeastern DR Congo." Both Mary Anne Harris and Virginia are working hard to give the AIM/AIC women help and encouragement at this time. Reprinting handbooks and lesson books is greatly needed. Pray that God will bless and strengthen the churches in central Africa.

Praise God for Virginia's vision and that—SHE GOT IT DONE!

MEDIA EVENTS

With the easing of restrictions our Activities Committee got to work with planning some fun and interesting times together—all with Social Distancing . Thanks Jim & Joan Jill & Ray , Elaine Anne , Sally,, Jan & Mark for the 4th of July Picnic, and Variety Fun Night, with Peggy, Judy, Carol & Rusty, Jun & Joan, Ray & Marv, Grace, Jill, Elaine,



And we now have a Safari Park in the NFD area. Here are just a few of the animals that we can enjoy. Thanks Bob Ehmann.



Meet some of the Missionaries

MARK AND JAN OLANDER

Jan was born and raised in northern Wisconsin. She earned her teaching degree at the University of Wisconsin in River Falls. After graduation, she taught for three years as an elementary teacher. Jan and Mark met through the Navigators while they were students at the university. Mark grew up in Iowa and went to college in Colorado and Nebraska. He taught for a



short time at a Berean Mission School for Navajos in New Mexico before he got drafted and served for two years as a chaplain's assistant in the US Army. He then went to Sudan as an AIM missionary with a Christian relief organization called ACROSS. He taught for two years at a senior secondary school in Juba. After returning to the States, he attended Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Illinois.

Mark and Jan got married in the summer of 1977 and the following year they moved to Clinton, Iowa where they served in church ministry for the next six years. In 1984, they set off for Kenya with their two year old son and taught for ten years at Scott Theological College. Then they moved up to Kijabe to teach at Moffat Bible College for the next 11 years. Jan also taught part-time in Titchie Swot at RVA.

In 2005, they returned to the US and went to Columbia, SC where Mark served as Missionary in Residence at Columbia International University. While there they became involved with AIM's US African Ministries. Their focus was upon evangelism and discipleship with African students at three universities in Columbia. They periodically returned to Kenya to teach at Africa International University. They moved to Media in 2018 and have been enjoying it ever since! God has blessed them with two children. Jared is married to Anna and they have three children. They are AIM missionaries in Kenya. Lisa is a graduate of CIU and the Univ. of So. Carolina. She currently lives in Minneola and works as a part-time librarian at the Leesburg Public Library.

MEDIA NEWS

Promoted to heaven: Betty Steinbacher

New residents: Kevin & Linda Paszalek are with us for a few months. They are part of the Diaspora Florida Team



We are happy to report that the Woodworking Shop and Ceramic Center are up and running.

And thanks to Anne and Peggy for the wonderful new Media pictorial directory.



meals for the sick and bereaved as well as hosting each of our volunteers and SOWERS for a meal and sometimes providing overnight hospitality if needed. Thank you MaryAnne Harris, Joan Harding, Jan Smith, Jill Davis, Jan Olander, Sandy Morad and Carol Baker. Anyone needing assistance or wanting to join the team please contact MaryAnne



Did you know that we have some really wonderful places near Media? Gloria Smethers writes:

“On a Saturday morning Andrea Propst, and I decided we would like to do something to get off the property. We left at 7:30 am for Venetian Gardens in Leesburg, 30 minutes’ drive north of us. We stopped at McDonalds for our breakfast sandwich and coffee to eat at the park. Finding a picnic table right next to the water was ideal! No sooner did we sit down, but a mother duck came with her 5 ducklings came looking for crumbs. I threw a few piece of my biscuit to her and before we knew it other birds were swooping in around us - white egrets, immature gallinule, to name a few. It was obvious we were not the first ones to do the same. Nearby on the lake shore a drake was getting his morning “ablution”. After breakfast we walked round a portion of the park looking at beautiful flowers, other birds and lake! Folks were taking their walks, riding the boats and fishing. Everyone enjoying the fresh air, breeze and sunshine before it got too hot. About 9:30 am we returned home having enjoyed it ourselves. Peggy Bragg told us how wonderful it is and it was true!”



Did you know that the First United Methodist Church of Clermont has many projects that help the community and one is the making of small teddy bears? These are given to police departments and the hospital to be given to children who come to those places for various reasons to help comfort them. Phyllis Barnett has been making these and has enough for us to put into Christmas boxes.

