

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 2,500 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/>

CHRISTMAS STORIES/MEMORIES FROM AFRICA

Christmas was a wonderful time in the various countries where AIM worked. Special church conferences were held—sometimes three days long. God's Word was preached, baptism's held, new believers added to the Kingdom and many meals eaten while fellowshiping together - along with many memories made. Here are just a few shared by folks here at Media.



We arrived at Oicha, Congo in Nov. of 1962. It seemed sort of sad to not have anything like a tree, music, gifts for the children. On Christmas Eve we were awakened many times by groups of people standing outside our bedroom and singing Christmas Carols in a different language. The next morning Mrs. Carl Becker arrived at our door with a little plastic tractor saying she knew that we probably didn't have any gifts for our boys and her grandsons had several and she would like to share with us. That was the only toy that we had for a very long time and it was a prized possession for a very long time. **Carla Walker**



During our second Christmas in Africa (1967) Flo was homesick and did not want to remain at home. So we pitched our tent in Tsavo Game Park without any facilities, only a cleared space surrounded by bush.

Needing wood for fire at night to keep the animals away we went searching for kindling, only to meet a mother rhino and her baby walking our way. We hastened back to the tent only to find that the rhino's path went straight through the campsite. Christmas eve in the dusk of Africa's grasslands we sat by the fire and sang Christmas carols. This was one of Flo's favorite memories of Christmas. **Dick Gehman**



I remember one national portrayal of the Christmas story, the angels running down the church aisles with sheets blowing in the breeze as they arrived to announce the birth to the Shepherds and later king Herod sitting on his throne with a Kimbo can for his crown! It was so hard not to laugh as the play was so "serious!" But what a wonderful memory with JOY of Christ's birth African style! **Elaine Barnett**



We opened a new mission station in Salawe, TZ and one Christmas Rusty was called to shoot a cow because it had started attacking people. As a reward we were promised a piece of the meat that we planned to have for Christmas dinner. This would be a special treat as meat was hard to come by at that time and I had visions of a wonderful roast beef dinner. However, when it arrived it turned out to be the liver. Oh my, a far cry from my vision for sure. Disappointed, yes, but this is what was given and this we would have for dinner. In the end I ground it up and mixed it with a little bit of ground meat I found in the back of our kerosene run frig/freezer. It actually turned out to be a pretty good meatloaf and even the kids ate it. Later I was humbled by the generosity of our Tanzanian friends when I realized that this was a prized and greatly desired piece of meat. They had actually given us their best and we have never forgotten that. **Carol Baker**

MEDIA EVENTS

Once again we enjoyed a number of special events - most planned by our Social Committee. There was a special dinner to show appreciation to our wonderful Staff ; A Progressive Supper, ending with pie for all; The AIM Member Care Staff visited for a Meet & Greet time. (Patty Arensen pictured), Dave & Martha Boynton (VOL) won the Bocce Ball tournament and Dave & Lucille came in 1st in the Marriage Game. Then there was a wonderful Feast of Thanksgiving, - Judy (MC) ; Olanders & Wayne (Music); Great food; Bob taking a snooze after all that great food! Thanks to all who planned, organized and made these events possible.



DEB ORT

I was born & raised in the Buffalo, NY area until my parents moved to the country when I went off to Briercrest Bible Institute (now College). I committed my life to missions due to a missionary family that came to our church, and was introduced to the need of staff at MK schools. My parents, church and many at Briercrest were catalysts for me continuing to pursue following the Lord's call on my life. I was introduced to AIM as a student at BBC and again as a staff member. I am grateful for the connections I, we all, had as missionaries came to chapels, conferences and opened my eyes to MK schools. While at Briercrest I began searching for MK schools in Africa and God opened up the door with AIM at RVA.



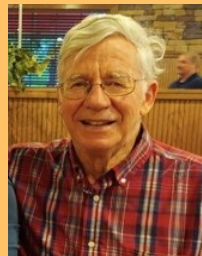
I began at RVA in Aug. 1981-through July 1994; then again from July 2006 to July 2013. My years at RVA were mostly spent in dorms while teaching Bible, Home Ec and in the later years in Administration. Sept 1995 to Feb. 2002 I served in AIM's home office in Pearl River as the MK Coordinator...this allowed me to be in touch with many of the girls I had had in the dorms along with all our MKs in colleges or taking gap years.

As I had a good friend, a mentor living at Media, I visited here often. God moved my heart to help in the Old Scott as the caregiver from April 2002 through July 2005...so moving to Media when I retired was like coming home!

I knew it was time to turn over the responsibility of Dean of Women at RVA to the younger generation, and after a Home Assignment in 2013 God opened the way for me to work at the new AIM office in Peachtree City as the Member Care Director which I did from Sept. 2014 to March 2021. Those on staff and living at Media were part of those responsibilities so many visits took place in those years. When it was time to retire I knew where I would go and knew so many and was grateful to become a part of this community. I enjoy helping out in the Manor as I can, am finding a footing in a local church and thoroughly love being among the folks here.

MEDIA NEWS

New Residents: Ted & Coleen Sugimoto; Malcolm Collins moved to Superior Assisted Living; Dan Olsen celebrated a 95th birthday; Carol & Rusty moved to Scott Manor; Rusty Baker celebrated a 90th birthday; Steve & Sharon joined the Media Staff on a part time basis. Janice returned after a year in Clermont Rehab.



THIS AND THAT AND HERE AND THERE

DID YOU KNOW?

Sandy helps with the finances at Media; Bobbi & Randy did most of the cleanup after Hurricane Ian.



Ted received the Humanitarian Surgical award of the American College of Surgeons ; Jim picks up our trash every week; Randy & Susan provide Sunday night supper at the Manor. Ray & Jill had a special trip to Africa.; Jack has many opportunities to present the Word through his pottery skills.



Peggy continues to bless us with new books for the library; we packed 65 Christmas boxes for Operation Christmas Child.



The Alcance (Brazilian) Orlando Church and Real Life students blessed us with their help.

