



Media Musings Published by Africa Inland Mission Retirement Center

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/>

MEDIAITES HONORED



And it is not everyday that one of our resident's reaches a 100th birthday but In September Lib Marsh did just that and what a celebration it was as family- 15 of them - and friends came to honor a life well lived. There was a wonderful meal provided by our Kitchen staff and gifts and sharing of what and how Lib has blessed many lives. Congratulations Lib!



And it isn't every day that one of our residents is part of an Honor Flight ...but in October that is just what happened to Mark Olander. Scott accompanied Mark as Honor Flight Guardian as they travelled to D.C. on Honor Flight 2023. "Our 35 veterans, mostly Vietnam era, were truly honored by crowds of people, beginning with TSA in Orlando airport." Participation in an Honor Flight trip gives veterans the opportunity to share this momentous occasion with other comrades, remember the fallen, and share their stories and experiences with other veterans . Congratulations Mark!



MEDIA EVENTS

Once again we have had some wonderful get togethers: Local African friends brought us a sumptuous meal and program led by Liz; Media talent/hobbies were on display with Paul (Woodworking) Phyllis (dolls and cross stitch); Carolyn (photography); Janice (Scrapbooking); Jan (cardmaking); Linda (Mother/daughter duet); Dick (piano); Wayne (bicycling); Joyce (art); not pictured Dave (kayaking/filming); Carol (quilts). We enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving feast provided by the residents and a program led by Sam, Mark & Jan and Jim— complete with our new big screen TV. Thanks to all who participated in providing such fun times for us.



Meet some of the Missionaries

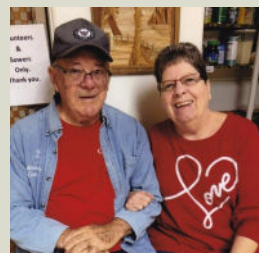
SAM & BONNIE THOMAS

Sam and Bonnie met during their first year at Trinity College of Florida. Bonnie had grown up as a missionary kid in a number of French speaking countries. She was very fluent in French when she came to Trinity College. Sam grew up on the west coast of Florida. Sam and Bonnie determined missions would be their pursuit, while on a Short-Term internship trip to Haiti, in the summer of their Freshman year. They were married after their sophomore year of college in 1973. They were accepted as missionary appointees with Africa Inland Mission after graduation. They left for one year of French study in France with a one-year-old son and another baby due three months after their arrival in France. Sam and Bonnie are both fluent in French, Pazande, and English. They have lived in both remote rural and urban settings of Africa beginning in 1978. Sam and Bonnie have discipled, trained, mentored and coached missionaries and church leaders in the Central Africa Republic, D.R. Congo (Zaire), Kenya, Canada and the U.S. They served as AIM's International Short-Term Coordinators, while based in Kenya from 1997-2004. Sam has served as the Personnel Director for AIM Canada, while Bonnie was the Short Term Program Coordinator until 2010. Sam and Bonnie have been Mission Mobilizers for the Southeastern U.S. Sam was also Mobilization Coordinator for AIM U.S. for his last ten years. Sam has served as President of Trinity College of Florida Alumni Association since 2014. They retired from full-time service January 2022. They have 4 adult children, Sammy, David, Ryan, Heather (Pierson) and 6 grandchildren and one great grand child.



MEDIA NEWS & CELEBRATIONS

Marcelo & Evelyn Costa and family, from Brazil/Mozambique, came for a visit; Long-term Volunteers Steve & Beth Pugh; Bob & Judy Griffiths; Daniel & Christie Greene arrived as well as some SOWERS.



Staff Appreciation week meant festive balloons and full mailboxes for our dedicated Staff.



Ray & Jill Davis celebrated **50 years** of marriage with their family in California.



The Zimmerman family came to celebrate Paul & Julie's **60th** Anniversary.

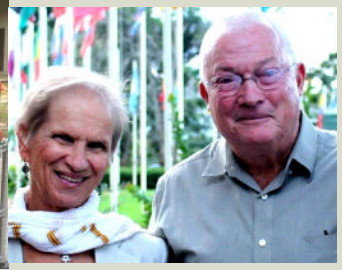


Linda finally was eligible for Medicare!

We celebrated the lives of Sally Olsen (who was living near her son), Malcolm Collins & Dan Olsen who graduated to heaven.



So what do people do at Media besides enjoying retirement: Well.....a very vital part of our continuing ministry is prayer and keeping up with various ministries through our Thursday afternoon meetings arranged by Randy Carpenter. Most residents are also very much involved in their local churches through being Deacons/Deaconess; Mission's Committee involvement; kid's ministry; music ministry; Bible Studies. Besides all this : Dr. Ted is working toward being part of the Samaritan's Purse Rapid Response Team. We filled Christmas Boxes (58) and they are on their way to bless children. Art & MaryEllen are in Kenya preaching and helping other ways.



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Joi Ehmann recently led a "Leader's Cohort Training" for World Team in Cambodia and Italy. Leader Cohort's objectives focus on growing in greater leadership capacity in three broad areas of competence: (1) Demonstrating spiritual growth and gospel-awareness, (2) Ability to Lead, and (3) Leading an effective team;



Jan, Esther, Carol and Beth are involved in a Bible Club at a local Public School;

Elaine spends many hours in ministry at the local Rehab Centers visiting and encouraging many. Peggy loves teaching ESL, volunteering at a local library and using her photographic skills.



And, oh yes, we also get to do this!

MEANWHILE—Kids & Teachers from Real Life Academy. (Russ spoke with this group) and a new school, Way cademy. (Jack shared his pottery skills with them) gave many volunteer hours helping around Media.



AND—after a loud **BANG** during the night it was discovered that the water holding tank for the well for our outside irrigation had "blown it's top" Never a dull moment!

And next is CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR. What will it bring— definitely more adventures and changes - but most of all a continuing of **GOD'S FAITHFULNESS.**

