



Media Musings

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Africa Inland Mission Retirement Center
1000 Media Rd, Minneola, FL 34715

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/>



LOOKING BACK AT CHRISTMAS

December was a busy and blessed month. Folks from local churches came to sing Carols and our Christmas Gala was a truly special event. Marv Smith hosted; Jill handled the "behind the scene" tech stuff; the "From the Heart" group gave a wonderful musical presentation; our residents brought unique centerpieces; Marv provided a "fireplace" for photo ops; RVA Alumni Singers, Barb, Dottie, Paul, Cindy, Ray, Tami, Beth, Janice (accompanied by Sally) sang a lively "Santa's Using Zebras This Year" The staff had their annual dinner; Gretchen created a beautiful naivity from pinecones.



MEDIA EVENTS

The Shackelfords provided a meal for the Manor Residents, Caregivers and Media Staff as a thank you for blessing them. They and the group who came and served blessed us with a special musical number. Our Annual Precious Memories night, when we honor those “who have gone before” during the year, was led by Wayne. Jim and Steve (the Amazon Delivery Man) brought many laughs as they “walked” through events of 2025. Various family members/friends remembered Arnie Newman (Marian and Cindy); Geri Coon (Tami Brown) and Evelyn Schulz (Donna Schulz and Elaine) by reading a memory and lighting a candle. A singing group (Jim, Les, Deb, Joan, Carolyn, MaryAnne and Linda) provided special music between each. Our wonderful Volunteers put on a Western Carnival night with photo ops, songs/skit & games.



CAROLYN CUMMINGS

Carolyn was born in 1956 in Binghamton, NY. After graduation from college with a teaching degree, she relocated to Boulder, CO, where, despite the hippy-dippy culture, she encountered Jesus in a Bible-believing Presbyterian church. After 3 years of teaching kindergarten, she took off for Boston to pursue a master's degree in education. She joined Park Street Church and volunteered with their Missions program, hosting Earl and Esther Andersen for a conference. The Andersens were good ambassadors for AIM and after doing a summer short-term trip to Africa in 1985, Carolyn enrolled at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in the MDiv program and applied to AIM.



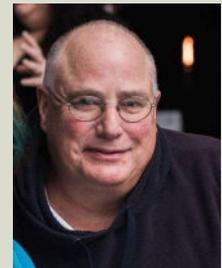
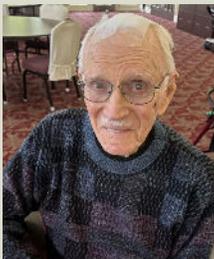
She left for Kenya in February, 1989 and was assigned to teach at Ukamba Bible College in Machakos where she also taught at Scott Theological College. After two years, she moved to Lokori in Turkana to teach in a girls' secondary school with Lesley Bates and Sophia Porter. This short assignment gave her great insight into how Kenyans are used to learning and made a big difference to her teaching when she joined the staff of Pwani Bible Institute in Mombasa.

Ten years later, Fred Beam brought Carolyn into the International Office as the Children's Ministry Facilitator, which allowed her to visit many AIM fields to promote children's ministry and encourage those working with children. With Regionalization in 2008, Carolyn's consultant role was delegated to the regions and Marv Smith allowed her to promote good children's ministry practices in Eastern Region. During this time, she got involved in a soccer ministry and Bible teaching in Kibera slum, Nairobi, with short-term volunteers. She also was running the children's program at Africa Based Orientation 3 times a year.

When the Framework was introduced in 2014, no short-termers were assigned to teach in Christian schools in Nairobi, so Carolyn decided to volunteer with the Eastern Region office in administration. For her final 10 years she helped in the Short-Term Office, transitioned to being Assistant Regional Administrative Officer and eventually took over the RAO role, which forced her to hand over the ABO children's program after 32 orientations. Besides being RAO, she was also Unit Leader for Eastern Kenya for 8 years, and Central Kenya for 1 year. She left Kenya at the end of 2024 to return to Boston for her final Home Assignment and retirement to Media.

MEDIA NEWS

Nancy Crawford, our newest resident, arrived; Chuck moved to heaven. He had been with his daughter in Tennessee; Gretchen finished her time with the Scott Manor residents. Rich made a very sudden move to heaven. Dick celebrated his 90th birthday. An incredible group joined us. The solar panels began working.



SCENES AROUND MEDIA!!

Visits by grandchildren are always welcome—Ben and Ginny. Volunteers putting mulch at the pickleball court and washing windows. It got pretty cold this year!!! Glad Beth had some warm clothes. A Cornhole Tournament—AND THE WINNERS WERE Blake Isbell and Walt Watts!. What would you do for a Klondike Bar? Make a complete outfit out of the wrappers. Yep, And a Pickleball Challenge. THE WINNERS—John Rittersbacher, Glen Hershberger & Mark Olander The First in Command kneeling down to the “Second in Command” (actually, he was fixing her walker) LOL



And a number of our folks made trips overseas: Tami Brown to Guatemala for Christmas with kids and grandkids, who work to bring medical/health education there for parents and caregivers of disabled children, Esther to New Zealand for extended time with kids and grandkids; Paul & MaryAnn to Europe (Paris, Germany, Rome) for time with individual kids and grandkids and Christmas with the “entire European group”. Mark & Jan to Kenya where they led workshops for university faculty members. Daniel & Joi Ehmann were in France and Spain coaching missionaries in various ministry responsibilities .

