

**"To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven:" Ecclesiastes 3:1 NKJV**

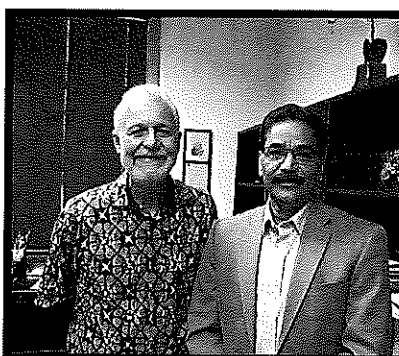


Friends: May the Lord Jesus Christ bless you and yours in His mercy and grace this month of October!

Kappy continues to do well medically, and she is feeling fairly well! We once again appreciate your heartfelt prayers for her!

I will have completed a 25-day ministry trip to MD and IL during September when you receive this. I was thoroughly blessed in my visits with churches and friends. Each visit was marked by God's grace in very special ways.

In early September, Pastor and Chaplain Beitzel and First Christian Church of Friendsville, MD blessed us wonderfully (top photo). Then, I was blessed to meet with my good friend James Lukose, Director of Wayside Cross Ministries in Aurora, IL (second from the top photo). We enjoyed God's grace in a good visit with friend Pastor David Sunday of New Covenant Bible Church of Saint Charles, IL. Also, First Presbyterian Church of Aurora welcomed me warmly. Former Wayside Director Wayne Greenawalt, a friend, and advocate for our work encouraged us (though Kappy wasn't physically there—I shared with her about each visit by phone for her encouragement!). Tim and his wife still volunteer at the Wayside Center in Elgin, IL, after about 20 years of our first meeting there, received me warmly (next two photos down).



A special time was enjoyed in a Saturday evening service and two services on Sunday with Pastor Eric Fornelli and Three Rivers Church of Plainfield, IL. Al-

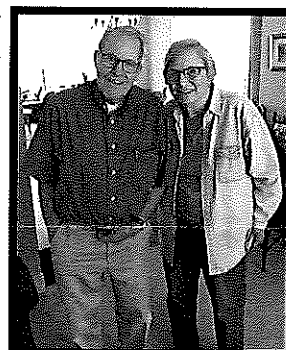


so pictured at the right are missionaries Bill and Ruth Stough, who were friends in Kampala, Uganda and now live in Wheaton, IL. Bill and Ruth served in Africa until six years ago. Currently about 90 years of age, Bill and Ruth blessed us with a good visit! And a very encouraging visit was enjoyed in Ashton, IL, with Pastor Farrel and Sherrie Stauffer at their church, Ashton Bible Church. Living Hope Bible Church received me lovingly and graciously during a ministry visit on my last Sunday in the Chicago area.



The Lord opened doors for preaching and sharing about our ministries in the churches and the personal time with friends was enjoyable and edifying. We feel that we were blessed, and our ministries affirmed during these timely visits! It's just amazing how the Lord connects us to fellow believers in Christ in so many remarkable ways through the Gospel. An example of this is that a friend, a missionary in the Wheaton area, shared with us about Cornerstone Guest House, where I stayed in the Chicago area through most of my time. Cornerstone is a quiet, beautiful, and comfortable place for missionaries to reside for short-time visits in the area; it's nestled in the woods, and my housemates, also missionaries, were kind and helpful. I preached from Psalm 46 during these visits and am encouraged that the Lord is our refuge (protection), strength, and help in

very present troubles; how faithful and unfailing in love, power, and mercy He is! In the refuge, we enjoy God's love that has no beginning or end, so we are helped not to be afraid. We are truly safe in Christ. Though the storms of life rage outside, inside the refuge, there is peace, love, and grace that surpasses our understanding. Glory to the Lord Jesus! Please pray for our friends, mentioned and unmentioned here, who bless us in Christ. *Thank you!*



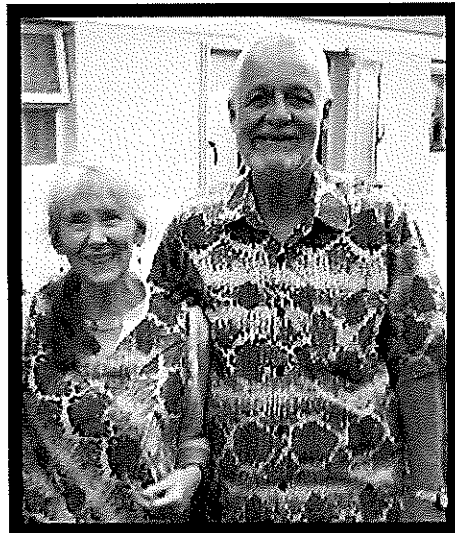
## KAPPY'S CORNER—Of Sunshine and Shadow

As the sunbeams filter through the tall trees at the end of the meadow, one patch of garden and then another springs up from the shadows, glowing green and sparkling with rain that fell during the night. Light plays up and down strands of web as they waft in the breeze. Crystalline drops in the oak tree refract rainbow colors like tiny lighthouse beacons. Flashes of jewel-like colors spring from droplets in the grass. Ferns lift their heads in the morning breeze to receive the random showers that fall from oak leaves overhead. The sun shines through the leaves like thousands of green lanterns and the Spanish moss glows in a soft misty sort of way. Brown squirrels scamper up and down the gnarled old trunk, sometimes jumping the chasms left by old injuries and sometimes stopping to look inside them as if looking for some hidden treasure.

I see beauty through the dining room window as I sit at the table many mornings. But it's not always like this. One morning I was marveling over a large, perfectly circular spider web suspended between boughs of the oak tree. Moments later high winds and heavy rain collapsed and destroyed it. Another morning I was surprised by the pink blossoms of an orchid hidden in the ferns at the base of the oak. Not many mornings later they had faded, withered and were gone. Some mornings are like that. Storm, darkness and rain may obscure the view. Lord, I wonder, what do we do with this darkness?

I think of those who grieve the loss of a loved one. We know many. And I pray for them, for you, for us. I pray as we go through this bewildering pain, the pain that comes in waves that we can't predict, the pain that may cause us to wonder how we can hurt so badly and still be alive, the pain that never seems to end. Then we wake up one morning and we realize we've gone one whole day without that searing pain and we start to hope.

The truth is no two people grieve the same way. And it's been my experience that each time of grief in my life has been different. There's no formula, no clinical control, no way to predict, and that in itself leads us to throw ourselves into the Lord's sovereign hands where we're safe and secure. He is, and He is the rewarder of all who seek Him. And sometimes we are visited by a hint of God's glory and power in the sunlight or even thunder and lightning or that warmth that fills our hearts as we worship Him. He's here. He's not a far off GOD. He will never leave us nor forsake us. He is love. He is good. He is God. And He has prepared a place for us, a place where beauty and life are not fragile but glorious and everlasting.



May our living Lord Jesus bless you friend,

*Jim and Kappy*

Email: [jkrobinmissionafricajk@gmail.com](mailto:jkrobinmissionafricajk@gmail.com)

Website: [www.missionafricajk.net](http://www.missionafricajk.net)

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