



Expanding Christ's Kingdom in Kenya ... and beyond

28 March 2022

Dear Friends,

One of my (Joshua's) favorite quotes is from Scots poet Robert Burns, "*The best laid plans of mice and men gang aft agley.*" That last phrase is often modernized as "often goes astray." It appeals to me because so often what happens in our lives is different from what we had carefully planned. March Madness upsets destroy your bracket and Spring weather is crazy. Other changes are more impactful. Tuesday of last week, for example, I was quite pleased to have received my visa for Ethiopia: I was scheduled to spend the first week of April with the Ethiopia Graduate School of Theology in Addis Ababa. On Thursday of last week, however, I learned that we need to make an immediate and previously unplanned trip back to the States.

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN AFRICA

At the beginning of March, I was able to attend the annual meeting and conference of the Africa Society of Evangelical Theology; this year's theme was *Salvation in African Christianity*. I thought I was only going to be attending, but at the last minute I found out that I was going to serve as the moderator for five of the workshops. During one of the sessions when I was not a moderator, the scheduled presenter was not able to come and so I ended up giving an extemporaneous presentation on the scheduled topic. While I didn't have any time to prepare for that specific presentation, I have been preparing for decades.

An important part our work has always been working with African church leaders in the equipping of the Church in Africa for ministry and growth. We are passionate about this work. Some of my favorite memories over the past 15 years are times of going deep into Scripture with groups of Maasai or Turkana believers to find answers to the questions being asked in local contexts. Theological education does not mean (or at least should not mean) learning fancy words to make one sound important. Rather, theological education is deliberate discipleship which helps people to speak well about the God whom they know through Jesus and to find biblical answers to local cultural questions.

In my new role with ACTEA (Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa), I am moving from doing that at the grassroots level to helping Bible colleges and seminaries do that well. Last week I spent Monday–Friday in all day meetings with theological and ministry educators from around the continent, making concrete plans to better fulfill ACTEA's mission: to strengthen theological education through accreditation, scholarship, and support services, in order to serve the church and society by equipping God's people for holistic mission. One result of those conversations is an



invitation from Africa Inland Church Missionary College in Eldoret (a day's drive north) for Ruth to come and teach a seminar later this year. But on Thursday, we learned that April was going to be far different than we had expected — among other things, I won't be eating amazing Ethiopian food next week.

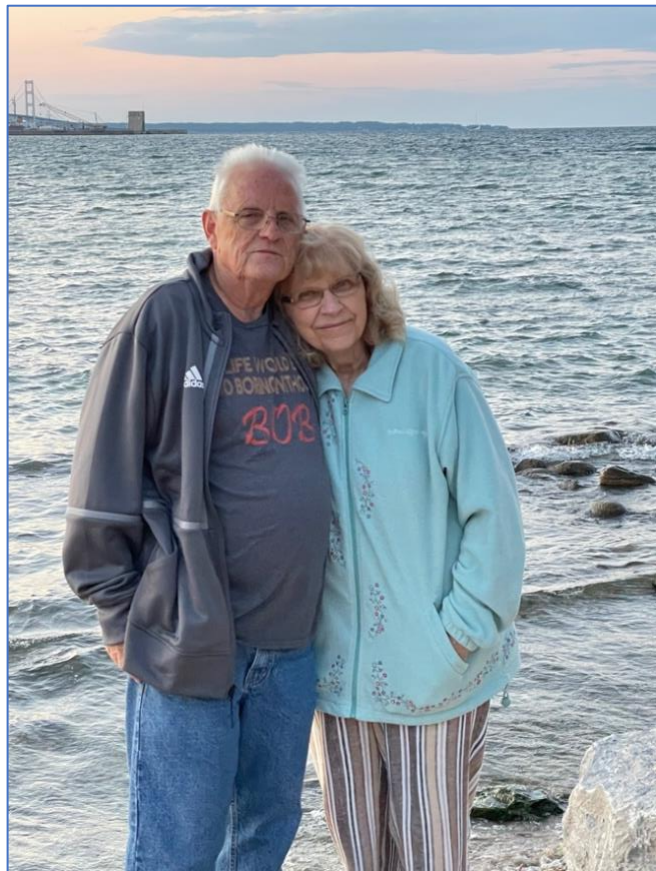


WE MOURN, BUT NOT AS THOSE WITHOUT HOPE

On Thursday 24 March, we received news that my Dad had completed his race at the age of 79. Given the longevity of his older siblings, we had rather hoped to have had him with us for at least another decade! Since then, we have been in a flurry making arrangements to return to the States on short notice — finding airfare for all eight of us, making housing arrangements for a month-long stay, looking for a vehicle for our use, wondering how to pay for these unexpected expenses, and tying up loose-ends here in Kenya. It is too soon for me to eulogize Dad, and so I will just say *a mighty Baobab has fallen* and share a recent picture of my parents that shows Dad as I remember him. Those interested can find a short obituary [here](#).

We have 48 hours before we have to arrive at the Nairobi airport to depart, so other news will have to wait. We will be in the States for all of April, and look forward to seeing those of you whom we can.

Bob and Shari Barron
56th Anniversary, 1 August 2021



(photo credit: Michelle Barron)

PRAY

- That God through God's people will provide for our financial needs, including related to our emergency family travel;
- For safety while traveling;
- For a smooth transition to America and then back again to Kenya in May.

CONSIDER

- Whether you can partner with us financially (scroll down to see how) either as monthly support partners or with a one-time contribution to help offset our current deficit and provide for our unexpected expenditures.

Thank you!

Mainosa ilomon! ... neaku taa lelo.

(Let's chew the news! ... And that's the way things are.)

grace and peace and thanks to you in our Lord Jesus,

Joshua & Ruth

joshua & ruth

with alitzah, hannahgail, eliana, zerachiah, ahaviah, & shalviah

MissionStream-Kenya



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