



VOLUME 22 NUMBER 1 2005

# Hillcrest School



*Hillcrest School logo*

*Submitted by Dan Elyea  
(fsiyfr@okeechobee.com)*

The Church of the Brethren Mission (CBM) made its entrance into Nigeria with the arrival of Albert Helser and Stover Kulp in December of 1922 (Mrs. Helser stayed back in the USA, and Mrs. Kulp in England, until October of 1923). They established their

initial base amongst the Bura people at Garkida (from “Gar Kidda”—“bamboo hill”) in Northeastern Nigeria.

As the mission developed further, the CBM saw the need to provide schooling for their MKs. Like many other schools for missionary children in the tropics, for reasons of health and other advantages of a more temperate climate, they chose to locate the school at a substantial elevation. In this case it was at the CBM compound in Jos, Nigeria (the Jos Plateau averages about 4000 feet above sea level). The CBM compound in Jos (close to SIM’s “Jos House” guesthouse) served as the rest home (vacation housing) for CBM missionaries, and as the residence of the CBM Treasurer for Nigeria.

The school opened in July 1942 with twelve students, only two of them (Marilyn Studebaker and Myrna Faw) children of CBM missionaries. Mary Dadisman, with

background both in education and nursing, left Garkida hospital to be the first teacher at the CBM school. Hillcrest has always been open to children other than CBM MKs on a space-available and qualifying basis. SIM MKs have been part of the student body since the school’s inception. (Don Rough of SIM was one of the charter students.) Several other missions were represented, as well as children of business and government service expatriates. They named the new venture “School For European Children.” This was indicative of the type of educational system to be used, not an ethnic restriction. Informally, the name used was “the Jos School.” In Marilyn (Studebaker) Johnson’s words, “Jos was chosen for its central location, its milder climate (on a plateau) and its more cosmopolitan setting (as opposed to being ‘out in the bush’). Students included missionary children and children of British government officials, tin miners, traders and others working in the area. It was open to indigenous people as well, but a fee was required, and it was not until later that any Nigerians attended.” Though books had been ordered many months earlier, none were on hand for the beginning of school. Two orders were lost—casualties of WWII, including one lot that sank down to Davy Jones’s locker along with the ship transporting it. Mary called on mothers of the children to help, copying from a number of books to have materials from which to teach the children to read (no copy machines back then!). Marilyn recalls, “When they [the books] did arrive, there was much rejoicing and the students helped with the unpacking.”



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The school used two buildings on the CBM compound: the “Big House” which housed the houseparents (Clarence and Lucile Heckman) and the boarding students—one large bedroom for the girls and one large bedroom for the boys; and a duplex with the teacher living in one end, and with the single classroom at the other end. Most of the students were boarders, but a few were day students. Some of the boarding students were able to go home on weekends. Myrna (Faw) Stinnette remembers that pigeons and rabbits were raised on the CBM compound for food, and that it was tough going for the kids to eat them since they felt somewhat personal about them. Myrna also recalled a weekend when she and Marilyn were the only girls staying there on the compound. The houseparents kept track of the kids’ growth with marks on the wall. Myrna and Marilyn got carried away with making marks for their dolls and their imaginary growth. They were rewarded with a spanking at the Sunday vespers. Marilyn’s mother wrote in a letter from that period, “Marilyn earned an extra sweet [British parlance for candy] by eating her spinach without making a face! (She would never eat it here under any circumstances.) Hurrah for Jos School!”

Mary was the only teacher during the period



*The original primary building.*



*Lucile & Clarence Heckman  
(first houseparents at Hillcrest)*



*Mary Dadisman, first teacher  
at Hillcrest.*

1942-1946 at the CBM compound site, though the mother of one of the students taught French one day a week. Mary went on furlough in 1946 and returned to teach at the new campus during

1947-1948. At the end of the 1946 school year, the student body numbered 15. Mary recalls a poignant incident from the early days: They had a pet duiker there at the CBM compound. It broke its leg and had to be put away. Some time later, Marilyn Studebaker fell and broke her arm and was very afraid that she would suffer the same fate as the duiker. As Marilyn tells it, “After I fell, I cried out of pain,

but then the adults in charge realized after a while that my crying didn’t seem to be related just to the pain. Finally they were able to get me to verbalize my real fear—that I would be shot because of my broken arm.”

In the middle 1940s there was a considerable influx into Nigeria of missionaries with school-age children. The CBM saw the need for a larger facility for schooling MKs. They engaged in some discussions with the Sudan Interior Mission regarding the possibility of a cooperative venture, hoping that it would be spearheaded by the SIM, which had a significantly larger presence in Nigeria. The SIM administration also was very aware of the need to provide for MK schooling there in Nigeria. Theological differences and certain organizational affiliations made it difficult for these two groups to form close ties at that time. So the SIM began construction on its own school (Kent Academy) at Miango in late 1945 (KA classes began in 1946), and in 1945 the CBM began construction of a new facility at the present location of Hillcrest. Because of various changes, in later years close cooperation became a reality, and SIM (“Serving In Mission” these days) became a very integral part of the Hillcrest organization.

By July of 1946, construction of the new CBM facility had proceeded sufficiently that classes could be moved there. The school took on a name suggested by the terrain at the new location: “Hillcrest School.” When classes began at the new campus, the former schoolroom on the CBM compound became the boys’ residence, with just the girls staying in the Big House with the house parents. Once there was provision for boarding at the new campus, the CBM compound reverted fully back to its original function as vacation housing for CBM missionaries.



*Original classroom 1942*

Published twice a year, *Simroots* is a non-profit publication, produced by SIM MKs, for SIM MK high school graduates (includes AEF, AEM, ICF merged missions) and their caregivers.

Tax-exempt donations (cash, check, money order, or credit cards accepted) should be made out to SIM USA and designated for *Simroots*.

Donations of \$10 or more (U.S.) will be receipted.

Payment for ads (to help cover *Simroots*’ expenses but are not tax-exempt) should be designated as such and sent to SIM.

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Please log on to <http://Simroots.sim.org>, Vol 20, #2, to view our Distribution of Information Policy.

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**First class at Jos School 1942**

**Back:** Clarence & Lucile Heckman

**Middle:** Allister and Iain McNab, Jean Robson, Myrna Faw

**Front:** Marilyn Studebaker, Dan Gottschalk, Hazel Burrough, Donald Rough



*Jos School 1943*



*The first school bus (car)*



*Aerial view from 1945*

## Some Significant Hillcrest Events

(as recorded in "Hillcrest School: Fiftieth Anniversary")

- **1946** Clara Meyer, the new teacher, taught all eight grades at the start of the school year, with nine nationalities represented in the student body. Later that year, Claude Rupel arrived to teach the upper grades and with Marie, his wife, to be houseparents.
- **1947** The first two high school students did their schooling by correspondence courses.
- **1950** Gordon Notley (of the British branch of the Sudan United Mission) became the first non-CBM Hillcrest staff member. The "Hillcrest" publication mentioned snipe hunting, soap in toothbrushes, and salt in beds.
- **1951** Enrollment was up to 74. The facility needed more buildings and more staff.
- **1952** Representatives of the missions which had made either money or staff contributions to Hillcrest met in the first official meeting to consider cooperation. Represented were the British Sudan United Mission, United Missionary Society, Assemblies of God Mission, and the Church of the Brethren Mission.
- **1954** First Field Day with Kent Academy.
- **1955** First meeting of the Hillcrest Board of Governors (SUM, AGM, UMS, CBM), following a great deal of background work and organization, including the writing of a constitution for the cooperative venture. The strain on the facilities resulted in installing some triple-decker beds and holding two lunch periods.
- **1956** A new dining hall was completed, and a new residence hall in 1957.
- **1959** First full-time high school teacher.
- **1960** Three SIM girls joined the high school group.
- **1962** Thirteen acres added to the Hillcrest campus.
- **1963** Missouri Synod Lutheran Mission became a cooperating member of Hillcrest.
- **1964** Decision made that all high school students would live off campus in hostels (Boulder Hill, Mountain View, Nassarawa, Rock Haven, and Niger Creek). Enrollment reached 280, including 59 in high school. Ended using correspondence for regular college prep high school courses. American Lutheran Mission joined the Hillcrest group.
- **1965** The Nigerian Baptist Mission joined in cooperation at Hillcrest.
- **1966** There were 139 students living in the 7 hostels on the Hillcrest compound.
- **1968** First Date Night held on February 16.
- **1969** First Science Fair held.
- **1972** Hillcrest became a day school, no longer involved with the administration of boarding aspects.
- **1973** Girls took shop for the first time at Hillcrest.

Hillcrest (now occupying 25 acres of property) includes the Elementary School (Grades 1-5), the Middle School (Grades 6-8), and the High School (Grades 9-12). Each school has its own principal; each principal reports to the Hillcrest Superintendent.

The Hillcrest Board of Governors, comprised of representatives from various cooperating bodies, sets policies, and the school administration oversees the day-to-day operation of the school. They use an American curriculum designed to academically equip students to successfully fit into American and European colleges and universities. See the Hillcrest Web site at [www.hillcrestschool.net](http://www.hillcrestschool.net).

*Thanks to Dick Seinen, Superintendent at Hillcrest, for providing us with this information about the present:* We have 260 students this semester; 29 staff, with a number of part-timers teaching. Around 25 countries are represented, as well as many major religious groups. Cooperating Bodies include: Baptist Mission (Southern Baptist), SIM, Christian Reformed Church/SUM, EYN/Church of the Brethren, Great Commission Movement / Campus Crusade in the U.S., Church of Christ in Nigeria, Lutheran Church of Nigeria, Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria/Danish (dropping out this year), Assemblies of



*2nd and 3rd grade class during 1953*

God, United Methodist Church in Nigeria. Staff needs are: Industrial Arts, Librarian, Recruitment / Development Director, Spanish, Chaplain, and P.E. We are accredited by Middle States Association and presently working on re-accreditation later in the year. Once this is completed, we will work towards accreditation with the Association of Christian Schools International.

*Turn to the "Remember When" section in Simroots for our readers' memories of Hillcrest.*

Sources used in researching this piece: Paul Craig, Mary Dadisman, Ian Hay, Marilyn (Studebaker) Johnson, Roberta (Kitch) McMeens, Dick Seinen, Myrna (Faw) Stinnette, "Hillcrest



*Merry-go-round at Hillcrest*



*Hillcrest junior high building 1966*



*Hillcrest building 1966*



*This former dorm is now a guesthouse known as Baptist Centre and is run by Hillcrest Jam Abader.*



*Hillcrest building 1966*



*Hillcrest crosswalk. A monstrosity built to help folks over the constantly streaming traffic on Old Bukuru Road*



*Hillcrest courtyard. Taken from the direction of the basketball courts to the north of the high school buildings. Cars are no longer allowed on that circle but are diverted to a parking lot near the basketball courts.*

School: Fiftieth Anniversary” (Becky Dennison, Mary Eikenberry, Linda Horlings), Hillcrest Web site, Church of the Brethren Web site, Bura Web site, Brethren-L archives, “In Sunny Nigeria” (Albert D. Helser), *Messenger* (Church of the Brethren magazine, May 2004).

Archive photos submitted by Marilyn (Studebaker) Johnson, Bob Murray, and Phyllis Wagner.



*Hillcrest driveway. Taken from the courtyard in front of the high school buildings. The driveway is the one leading from the school out towards Old Bukuru Road and the main entrance to Hillcrest.*

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Karen,

I notice on the last page of the most recent *Simroots*, Volume 21 # 2, 2004, that you have two photos that say “Does anyone recognize these BA kids?” Well, seeing these are my photos, I recognize “these kids.”

Left to right on the swings is John Zabel, Kim Forsberg, and Charles (Chuck) Haspells. (The Haspells were from the Presbyterian Mission that sent their kids to Bingham.)

In the photo with the flannelgraph lesson being taught is my favorite buddy Daniel (Dan) Perkins whom I have lost track of completely. These photos were all taken either in 1956 or '57.

Bob Ratzliff

Dec. 17, 2004

Hey—nice work! Your layout is greatly improved. Now the publication looks like a magazine, instead of a computer letter printout. (That’s an oversimplification!) The content is also excellent. I only wish it had a wider readership, because here are lessons in life, relationships, personal identity and affirmation, that apply to many children and adults in every sphere of life. I feel that *Simroots* provides a ready-made tool to give candidate groups and orientation groups insights into what their



young people may face one day, and what has gone into the personality mix of adult missionaries. I don’t know who would pay for this, but I feel it would help in understanding oneself and others, and in preventing some of the battlefield casualties all missions experience.

Harold and Lorna Fuller

Hi Karen,

OK, I’ve never put it in writing, but I have often thought how very much I appreciate the treasure that *Simroots* is to all of us. Thank you, Karen, and others who have and do put many hours into this valuable continuing chronology of our lives.

Jim Knowlton

Karen,

Just wanted to say I really like what you’ve done with the Web version of *Simroots*. I went to my 25th RVA reunion and a couple of us Ethiopian SIMers were there: Dan Coleman and I and Karen Brooks. It got me thinking. A bunch of us lost our ties to Bingham (and Good Shepherd) when Good Shepherd was closed and we had to leave the high school hostel at Bingham. We didn’t get to graduate with each other in the place we were accustomed to. As a result, most of the other SIMers do not come to these RVA reunions. I’d like to track down the ones from our class and see if something might emerge as a mini-reunion.

Also, I have had two chapters of a longer memoir published recently. “A Vocabulary for My Senses” appeared in the spring issue of *The Missouri Review* (Volume 27: Number 1, 2004). It won the 2003 *Missouri Review* Editor’s Prize in Essay, and it is about my earliest experience as a missionary child at Soddo station in Ethiopia. This coming month, *The Florida Review* will feature “And I’ll Fly

Away,” which is about a boy who escapes from Bingham on a motorcycle. It, too, won a prize: *The Florida Review* Editor’s Prize in Nonfiction. Hopefully, eventually the entire book will get published. Still working on that.

In March I’m going to be meeting with another Bingham Academy MK and two other former missionary children who have written about their childhood experiences. Dan Coleman (author of *Scent of Eucalyptus*) and I will read from our memoirs at

a conference in Victoria, British Columbia. Then we will join Judy Copeland (raised in Japan and author of several award-winning essays) and Elaine Neill Orr (raised in Nigeria and author of *The Gods of Noonday*) to read from our collective memoirs at the Associated Writing Programs Conference in Vancouver. There’s a movement happening, with more MKs beginning to process their life stories, and I’m enjoying being part of that development.

Tim Bascom ([tbascom@netins.net](mailto:tbascom@netins.net))



**Jim Knowlton, 1976.**  
*We’re sorry we missed featuring you and Connie in the KA staff photo lineup. Will this do?!*

# STAFF TRIBUTES

*SIM Hillcrest and  
Niger Creek Hostel staff*

**SIM HC Staff  
previously pictured:**

Dick & Margaret Ackley  
Steve & Beaj Beacham  
Wally & Vi Braband  
Char & Ed Brigfield  
Paul & Barbara Entz  
Dean & Peggy Hall  
Sue (Long) Hammack  
Esther & Wilf Husband  
Boyd & Janette Latchaw  
Judy Randolph  
Freda Riddle  
Joan Wragg



*Otto Ray Aamodt*



*Bob Allen*



*Doris Allen*



*Muriel Anderson*



*Roger Anderson*



*Valla Vee Benedict*



*Erma Bower*



*Richard Bower*



*Ruth Burrows*



*Carol Calenberg*



*Richard Calenberg*



*Eugene Coppola*



*Evelyn Coppola*



*Warren Daniels*



*Larry Dick*



*Sandi Dick*



*Lorraine Foute*



*Betty Frame*



*Charles Frame*



*Frank Goodwin*



*Sandra Goodwin*



*Dick Gordon*



*Rose Gordon*



*Les Greer*



*Norma Greer*



*Don Harling*



*Pearl Hershelman*



*Doreen Hodges*



*Roy Hodges*



*Lavina Jackson*



*Thadd Jackson*



*Linda Kasper*



*Cora (Zobrist) Klay*



*Rhoda Lindman*



*Ken Lloyd*



*Phyllis Lloyd*

*SIM Hillcrest  
and Niger  
Creek Hostel  
staff  
continues  
next issue.*



## Photos from Russ Schmidt (GH, BA '61)

The SIM Conference on the west coast was begun by the AEF and continued by SIM after amalgamation. The SIM retreat (first held in 1976 at Two Jack Lake in Banff) has been held in many different locations over the years. It is an opportunity for any of the SIM family, supporters, and friends to get together and share what God is doing in different areas of the world. In 2004, the SIM retreat and conference were held together in one weekend in October. The place chosen was Camp Charis just 28 mi / 45 km east of Abbotsford, BC. It was an idyllic place nestled at the foot of the mountains with lots of fast rushing streams through the property. The Canadian Director, Gregg Bryce, shared in the devotional time each day. For 2005, the SIM Retreat will be held at Camp Caroline in Caroline, AB (140 mi / 225 km SSW of Edmonton or 100 mi / 160 km NNW of Calgary, AB) 7-10 June, 2005. The SIM Conference will be held at the lovely Stillwood Camp overlooking Cultus Lake (same distances as Camp Charis) being held 14-16 Oct., 2005. All are welcome at both.

On another occasion, Mom and I went into Vancouver and picked up enough Ethiopian food for 28 people. Don, Marilyn and Crystal Ibsen opened up their house. What a great time we had. Then at an SIM Prayer Meeting we celebrated the engagement of Art Redekop and Evie Rorison. Here are some photos from these occasions.

Write to Russ Schmidt if you're interested in viewing all the photos on-line.

([russel\\_schmidt@hotmail.com](mailto:russel_schmidt@hotmail.com))



*Russ and Helen Schmidt*



*Bob & Jean Hong*



*Della Watson*



*Lucille Jacobson*



*Esther & Wilf  
Husband*



*Anne Lou Oursland*



*Mary Amalia*



*Gregg Bryce, Char (Brigfield) & Jack Driediger*



*Vi (Swanson) Doerksen*



*Audrey Martin, Lydia Peters, Hugh Martin, Al Peters*



*Lois, Joyce & Stan Kayser*



*Don Ibsen*





## SIM Niger 80th anniversary celebrations

Gordon & Judy (Lees) Evans  
(KA, HC '69)  
([gjevans2002@yahoo.ca](mailto:gjevans2002@yahoo.ca))

God answered prayer in amazing ways, above and beyond what we had hoped. We celebrated with churches all across the country—Guesheme, Dogon Dutse, Galmi, Madaoua, Maradi, Soura, Tsbiri, Maza Tsaye, Danja, Dogon Gao, Aguié, Goure, Zinder. We saw the churches respond overwhelmingly enthusiastic and positive in many special ways. Many groups turned out in full uniform (SIM anniversary cloth). The presence of the 15 pioneer missionaries really helped make the 80th celebrations the blessing and success that they were. Praise and thanks to the Lord for bringing each one safely and for giving strength and endurance all along the way.

Our joint church celebration Sunday morning Dec. 5 in Niamey turned out to be a heart-warming experience—about 750-800 present. The communion time was awesome. There was a sense of joy to be celebrating all together again as SIM-related churches after so many years apart.

As the official conference continued Friday night and all day Saturday, Dec. 10 - 11, the spirit got warmer and more and more exuberant. Many were very touched by the recounting of the history of sacrifice and perseverance that brought them the Gospel as depicted by pioneer missionaries and nationals alike as well as in the Memories PowerPoint of old missionary photos. National believers expressed a heightened awareness of how it is up to them, the churches, now to carry the Gospel to the rest of the unreached. The churches were very touched by the fact that all these elderly missionaries would make the trip back to Niger to encourage and visit them. All the prayer, planning, and work that was poured into this endeavor has been more than worth it, and we are really thanking the Lord.

Between the retirees and us, we ended up with 100s of great pictures. We are planning to put this report along with other pictures and the PowerPoint CD on the SIM Web site [www.sim.org](http://www.sim.org). For more information regarding the Web site, please contact Tabitha at [Tabitha.Plueddemann@sim.org](mailto:Tabitha.Plueddemann@sim.org).

Terry & Sue Hammack  
(KA, HC '72, Staff)  
([terry.hammack@sim.org](mailto:terry.hammack@sim.org))

We were last at Galmi Hospital, where Sue grew up, in 1989. The physical plant is twice the size it was then, an artesian well provides constant water without the aid of pumps, and electricity is on virtually 24 hours a day. (The electricity comes from Nigeria; I wonder why we can't get the same service in Nigeria?) Sue's dad, Dr. Burt Long, was in surgery every morning to relieve the skeletal staff presently there. Not bad for an 86-year-old, who was the first mission doctor at Galmi in 1950. Townspeople came in droves when they heard the "old doctor" had returned. He received the moniker when he was only 37 because the second doctor arrived in 1955, and he became the "new doctor." The young boys that Sue's mom, Ruth, taught Bible verses in Awana club are now in their fifties and grandfathers themselves, or they have died. They can still recite the Bible verses, but few are practicing Christians as the societal pressures of Islam seem too much to bear. It was a treat to visit those who have kept their testimonies strong over the years. There are some divisions between the two SIM-related churches that worship literally side by side on the same plot, so pray for their spiritual growth and testimony in the community.

There were nine family units of retirees who came for the 80th year celebrations. It was thrilling to hear the stories of the mission stations they helped to establish in the 50s and 60s. There are 120, mostly small, SIM-related churches in Niger today, many as a result of these retirees' faithful witness in those harsh, barren days. We had the privilege of visiting several of the newer mission endeavors in the capital, Niamey, during our three days there. We could negotiate most situations in the market and town by using "Nigerian" Hausa but would definitely have to learn French to communicate with most city people.

We also got to spend a night in our old house in Kano. We visited some "friends of long acquaintance" and encouraged our two single SIM ladies there, but the time passed all too quickly. The university lecturer to whom I handed over my Christian Religious Knowledge classes told me that the Head of Department we worked under was killed in the Kano religious crisis in May. He had lived in Kano and taught at the university more than 25 years. Rioters killed Mr. Aina and his son and then burned down his home and car. He had taught education and religion classes to Muslim and Christian students alike. It was a great shock to hear this news.

## Gowans Home Reunion

September 30 - October 2, 2005  
Blue Mountain Resort, RR #3,  
Collingwood, Ontario L9Y 3Z2, Canada

### Coordinators:

Peggy Pieper  
(*For information about lodging and meals*)  
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805-965-8047, [budpeg@cox.net](mailto:budpeg@cox.net)

Ruth Whitehead (*For other information*)  
8550 Eames Street, San Diego, CA 92123-2120  
858-571-0130, [whitehead@san.rr.com](mailto:whitehead@san.rr.com)

### Cost per Person:

**American:** Double Room (\$195.00 each)=\$390.00  
Single Room \$286.00

**Canadian:** Double Room (\$234.00 each)=\$468.00  
Single Room \$344.00

*The cost includes lodging for two nights, breakfast for two days, meeting room, costs for mailing, etc., and banquet.*

### Deposit Per Person

**American:** Double (\$50.00 each)=\$100.00  
Single \$72.00

**Canadian:** Double (\$60.00 each)=\$120.00  
Single \$86.00

## Good Shepherd Reunion

August 9-13, 2006  
YMCA in Estes Park, Colorado

If you are interested in attending this reunion, receiving information about the reunion when it becomes available, or just sort of interested but don't want to commit at this point, please contact me. Right now I am just gathering names. No money down until August 2005.

Judy Peterson, Registrar  
[japeterson@apu.edu](mailto:japeterson@apu.edu)  
626-815-5027 • 818-957-5198

## KA/HC Reunion 2006

Plans are under way for the 2006 Reunion in Dallas from Friday June 30, 2006, to Monday July 3, 2006. We are meeting at the same location as the last Dallas reunion—The Resort Marriott Solana in Westlake, TX (Dallas) near the airport and away from the city (but close to shopping!). This was an excellent location for those using the reunion as their summer vacation, the amenities were superb, cost reasonable, seeing old friends—priceless.

Steve Ackley  
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[sackley@dnsdallas.com](mailto:sackley@dnsdallas.com)

# REENTRY STORIES

## Steve Snyder (EL '78)

(SSnyder651@aol.com)

My friend, Dan, who had grown up as an MK in West and Central Africa, played soccer for the University of South Carolina when they came up against arch rival Clemson University, which boasted two star players from Nigeria. During the first half of the game, the Nigerians spoke to each other in Hausa to set up their plays. Time after time, Dan was able to thwart their efforts and then enjoy listening to their comments in Hausa expressing surprise at how well this defender anticipated their moves. Finally, late in the game, when they were making a run on the goal and yelling instructions to each other in Hausa, Dan suddenly interrupted their private conversation by replying in Hausa. The play virtually stopped as the stunned Nigerian athletes heard their own distant language spring forth from the mouth of their American opponent. The Nigerian soccer players then broke into laughter and exclaimed that they had been wondering how Dan had been able to anticipate their plays. Dan laughed and replied that he already knew about their puzzlement. He had been listening all along.

#####

Through my ministry, *Global Adapt*, I lead retreats and speak at conferences for MKs and other TCKs. At a retreat in France, I asked a group of mostly American kids who lived as MKs all over Europe, what are some of the craziest comments and questions they've heard while on furlough in the States. These are a few of their answers to my question.

- "So, do they speak German there (in Germany)?"
- "Do you have a dirt floor?"
- "Do you live in grass huts (in Germany)?"
- "Missionaries are way more spiritual than anyone else."
- Astonished, "You have electricity?"
- "You don't have a French accent."
- "MKs are perfect Christians."
- "Do homes in France have electricity and plumbing?"
- "Do they speak English or what?"

Anyone have other amusing questions to add to this list?



*I was up near Mount Kenya and stayed at a camp called Sweetwaters Tented Camp. There was a place nearby that had this somewhat tame rhino. They would put greens of some sort on the ground and it would eat them. So long as you stayed behind his eyes and mouth and so long as he kept eating, you could walk up next to him. There was a man with a gun just out of view of the camera. It's a tourist deal, but I thought my kids might be impressed by their dad's bravery when they saw the photo. I don't think they were fazed.*

#####

The parents of an MK friend of mine loved to have their children "perform" in churches and at missions conferences while on deputation. They particularly enjoyed demonstrating the work of interpreters on the mission field by asking one of their children to speak in Hausa and another to interpret a Bible verse or some other spiritual thought in English. On occasion, the Hausa speaker had all the fun. Instead of edifying thoughts and uplifting passages of scripture, he would tell jokes. The interpreter was left with the task of developing some impromptu, spiritually appropriate comments and sharing them piously with the congregation without succumbing to laughter. In Hausa, "That lady on the front row thinks your zipper is down." In English, "The Bible tells us that God so loved the world."

#####

While home on furlough from Liberia, a supporter gave us a gift of bed mattresses to take with us back to Africa. When my four-year-old brother asked why this man had given the mattresses, my parents explained that it was because he loved Jesus. A few days later we were in a department store to purchase a small appliance when my brother asked the sales clerk, "Are you going to give it to us for free?"

The amused clerk kindly responded, "No." Astounded, my little brother asked, "Why not? Don't you love Jesus?"

#####

I was six years old, and my family was wrapping up our furlough when I at last snapped after hearing one time too many the offensive question: "Can you speak African?" There is no such language, I knew. *There are hundreds and even thousands of languages in Africa*, I thought. *There are dozens of languages in my own country, Liberia, and I know bits and pieces of several of them.* But I was tired of explaining. So, this time I said, "Sure," and turned to my brother and instructed, "Let's speak African." I then began to rapidly

string together a series of consonant sounds to which he immediately replied with the same sort of gibberish which, as if on cue, led us to laugh out loud as if one of us had told a very good joke. The little old lady at the church we were visiting was so pleased and thanked us kindly. And furlough ended in the nick of time.

## Minna Kayser (BA '75)

(imajak@msn.com)

I got tired of hearing some of the questions from the kids in Sunday School on furlough. I was asked more than once: "Did you get eaten by a snake?" Finally, with a straight face, I answered, "Yes!" Once this question was asked at the same time: "If you're from Africa, why aren't you black?" And I replied, "Don't you know that when a snake swallows you, it bleaches you? That's why I'm white!"

And to the classic: "Do you know Tarzan?" I replied, "Yeah, I know his son!"

I was working at a psychology lab at the university, and one of the students asked me where I was from. I said, "I'm from Africa." He said, "You're not black!" And I replied, "Nah, I've been in this country too long. I've lost my tan." He believed me!

# Open Dialogue

This article came out in August 2004 in the *National Liberty Journal (NLJ)*, a publication of Jerry Falwell's ministries about Steve Snyder (EL '78).

Steve Snyder (LU '82) has just returned from Bourg d'Oisans, France, where he conducted his most recent conference for missionary kids (MKs). As founder of Global Adapt, a nonprofit ministry, he provides training and insight on the unique cross-cultural issues impacting the lives of MKs and other Third Culture Kids (TCKs).

## Alumnus Finds Global Adapt

"MKs experience first-hand an exciting variety of cultures, places, and languages in a way that truly enriches their lives," says Snyder. "Yet they often return to their 'home' country to discover that they don't fit in, don't feel a sense of belonging, and wind up thinking they don't really have a home."

According to Snyder, who was himself an MK raised in Africa and the Caribbean, "This is particularly true when they return to the American or 'home' church. This difficult adjustment often creates a spiritual crisis that can last for a lifetime." Global Adapt conducts conferences and retreats around the world for MKs and other TCKs. In the past year and a half, Snyder has taught and worked

with hundreds of these kids in Europe, Africa, and Asia.

"We talk about the concept of 'home,' what it means to be a third culture kid, how mobility impacts their lives, and how all of these factors impact relationships and relational patterns," says Snyder. "We focus on training these young people to grasp the blessings that go along with the challenges in their lives and to successfully adapt, emotionally and spiritually, as they grow up and transition between cultures."

Ministering to other TCKs is not an end unto itself. "Few factors will more quickly pull a missionary family off the field and interrupt or conclude a missionary career than difficulties with children," says Snyder. "As a result, when we work with MKs, we also seek to minister to their parents which, in turn, enhances the health and effectiveness of the ministry to which they are called."

In fact, Global Adapt also provides training and teaching to missionary parents, those who work with MKs and TCKs and even American churches



Steve Snyder speaking at the Hillcrest middle and high school chapel during spiritual emphasis week.

seeking to better understand how to meet the needs of their missionaries.

Snyder is often accompanied by ministry teams that provide special music and lead in praise and worship. These teams usually include his wife, Patty Glenn Snyder (LU '85) and members of the Christian bluegrass band she has founded, Blue Grace.

Steve and Patty Snyder live in Greenville, SC, with their three children, Taylor (11), Titus (9) and Judson (7). Steve practices law, having graduated from the School of Law at the University of Virginia. Patty is a teacher.

(GlobalAdapt@aol.com) or  
(SSnyder651@aol.com)

## MK-CART/CORE Research

By Dave Wickstrom (KA, HC '67),  
Psychologist and researcher  
on MK issues  
(dwick328@bellsouth.net)

There is a considerable amount of research on some of the reasons why MKs have shut the door on their experiences. Recently published is a 15-year study by MK-CART/CORE called *The Family in Mission: Understanding and Caring for Those Who Serve*. (See *Simroots'* Books section for details.) Just by way of summary, there was one factor that we consistently found in our studies, and this has proven to be true over and over again. It is the role of the parents. Kids were able to endure a great deal of pain, abuse, suffering, and trauma as long as the relationships between the parents and between the parents and MK were solid. If the parents were actively involved in the MK's life; if there was open communication between them; if there was consistent, firm, and loving discipline administered by the parents—discipline which was not punitive and which was explained clear-

ly to the MK; and if the parents let the MKs know how valuable they (the MKs) were to them with the clear message that the MK was a valued and significant part of and included in the parents' work—then the MK more often than not was well adjusted as an adult. If, however, the parents had a poor relationship themselves; and if discipline, love, and communication with the MK were poor; and if the MK did not feel like a valued part of the family and the work because "God called my parents and not me" or "the work was more important than I was" (or similar perceptions on the part of the MK), then the MK was not likely to be well adjusted in many aspects and approaches to life.

I often tell missionary parents that they need to demonstrate the "five P's of parenting" if their MK is to be healthy. I won't take the time to describe each of them in great detail, but they do need to be kept in balance. They are Potency with the child knowing that the parents are in charge and have some power which is neither excessive nor nonexistent; Permission with the parents allowing the child to explore and try new things in age-appropriate ways; Protection with the par-

ents keeping the child from doing things which would be destructive or where the parents would step in for the child when needed; Provision with the parents providing adequately for the child's physical, emotional and spiritual needs; and Presence with the parents being available for the child but not overly intrusive or controlling. Even if the child went to boarding school, the above traits have been demonstrated by many parents—including mine, which might to a great extent explain why I was able to succeed as much as I have—and undergirding all these traits is the assumption that the parents and children had open and honest and loving communication. I realize that there have been times where MKs were abused and forsaken, and there have been times when communication was discouraged between child and parents—such as when letters home were censored or when a child who was being abused was warned "do not say anything to your parents or worse things will happen to you or to them." However, as a general rule, if the five P's of parenting were followed, there was much greater likelihood of the child growing up well adjusted and happy and successful.

# Contacts

For snail mail addresses and phone numbers, please contact the editor.

To subscribe to a listserv (a chat group) for KA, Hillcrest, Nigeria, and MK issues, log on to <http://lists.mknet.org/mailman/listinfo>.

To subscribe to the BA group, go to: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BA\\_alumni](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BA_alumni)

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## Sakeji

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## KA History CD/DVD

January 23, 2005

Dear Grace,

The **KA CD & DVD** arrived a couple days ago, and needless to say, have already taken up much of my spare time. What great memories and many tears I have shed while reading it. I can't wait to share it with my sisters, Jane and Mary. You certainly have done a great job of compiling all the information. How can we help you—does a donation need to go through the Mission, or can we send it directly to you?

Gratefully, Jeanne (Legg) Marr

March 14, 2005

Dear Grace,

Our African meal at Mary's home in Corona was wonderful. Mary found an African shop in Riverside and made several visits there to purchase exactly what we needed for the authentic meal. She made *kosai* and fried plantains and palm oil chop with chicken and beef. She also made beef *tsire* [beef strips threaded on skewers], marinated in spicy peanut sauce, and grilled on the barbeque grill. She served them as appetizers—a real hit with everyone. I made groundnut chop with chicken, and Jane brought all the fresh fruit and condiments. She even used fresh coconut—toasted and grated it by hand. We made *tuwo* with farina from the African market. Everything was delicious, and the best thing was that our husbands and kids loved it—much to their surprise. Of course, only Mary and Jane and I tried eating African-style, with our hands.

Mary had printed up several Hausa sayings and proverbs, taken from the *South of the Sahara* cookbook, and placed them throughout her house. It was fun to see how many words we still recognized.

It was a memorable day for us, and we were thrilled to see KA history and memories, ending with movies from Nigeria narrated by our Dad. Very emotion-packed, wonderful day. Thank you again for all your efforts and work to put this history together.

Jeanne (Legg) Marr



**Back:** Legg twins, Jean and Jane. **Front:** Barbara Wiebe and Ruth Eitzen. 1948. Dad (Mr. Eitzen) took us 500 miles to school. Photo from Ruth Eitzen and also from Jean (Legg) Marr

*Simroots* readers,

For the **KA History CD** and the **Craig movies on DVD**, please send a donation to *Simroots* via Deb Turner. Make your donation check out to SIM USA, marked for *Simroots* and send it to Deb Turner, PO Box 273, Greenbank, WA 98253.

Grace Anne (Seeger) Swanson, [swanson121@cox.net](mailto:swanson121@cox.net)

# BULLETIN BOARD

## BINGHAM URGENT NEEDS

We have a number of urgent needs for Bingham Academy and also for a family physician for our missionaries. Bingham serves 235 students from 29 countries, over half from diplomatic or business families living in Addis Ababa. Many are from mission families who depend on the school to be able to live and serve in Ethiopia.

We are in urgent need of 23 new teachers/staff for next year! Please pray with us and put the word out to your friends, churches, missions pastors and committees, and Christian schools of our need for teachers for kindergarten, elementary school, athletic director, P.E., art, music, French, math, science, social studies, English, computer, as well as school director, high school principal, elementary principal, home school coordinator and boarding parents.

If you get a chance to talk with someone about these possibilities, here are some of what our current teachers appreciate about serving at Bingham Academy: truly international opportunity to influence potential future leaders from different countries, well motivated student body, smaller class size (20:1), on-campus living and camaraderie, excellent teaching resources, other cross-cultural ministries off campus, and freedom to teach the Gospel and pray with kids.

Contact [principal@binghamacademy.net](mailto:principal@binghamacademy.net) for information on the school and how to apply to SIM.

## WEB SITES

<http://www.mkplanet.com/>

**mkPLANET** is a growing community designed and run by current MKs and adult MKs as an active community providing information, interaction, and support.

## Simroots Financial Summary

Balance as of 2/28/2005	\$4960
Expected expense this issue	\$3800
Anticipated expense next issue	\$3500

## OLD SCHOOL JOKES / SAYINGS

**Jim Knowlton (KA, HC '73)** has put out a challenge for us to send in our favorite old school jokes. To get us started, do you remember these?

Q: What's big and red and eats rocks?

A: A big, red rock eater!

Three old hard-of-hearing ladies were walking along on a hot, windy day. One commented, "It's windy today." The next retorted, "No, it's Thursday." And the third exclaimed, "So am I! Let's go out and get a Coke!"

Also I remember one that got you either way. Someone would ask you, "Are you a PLP?" If you said, "Yes," they would reply, "Ha ha! You're a Public Leaning Post." And if you said, "No," they would say, "Ha ha! You're not a Proper Living Person."

And another no-winner:

Q: Pete and Repeat went down to the river to swim. Pete fell in, and who was left?

The answer of course is "Repeat," and the initiator would then repeat the question until one of you got tired of the round.

Remember this one?

Order in the courtroom, the Monkey wants to speak.

Order in the courtroom, speak, Monkey, speak.

## THANK YOU . . .

. . . to **Dr. and Mrs. David John** who gave \$100 to *Simroots* in honor of Dan Elyea, our Assistant Editor.

**Jim Rendel (KA '69)**

would like to challenge readers to send in more "Remember When" SIMAIR stories.

# Books & Media

## Night Studies— Stories of life in a West African Village

By *Benjamin Madison*

Madison, an American volunteer, penned this collection of delightful, easy-to-read accounts of his experiences teaching (and learning) in West Africa. Set in Southeastern Nigeria in a small town near the Cameroon border, these stories touch on both the lighter and the darker sides of the local culture. Each of the sixteen chapters relates an experience that works as a stand-alone episode, though all the stories are interconnected, and to some degree, each one serves as useful background for the other stories that follow in the set. Those who've been in Nigeria, in particular, will picture vividly the scenes he paints—sparingly, yet effectively. Much of human interest lies waiting in these 161 pages.

Published on-demand in cooperation with *Trafford Publishing*  
[www.trafford.com](http://www.trafford.com)

## The Family in Mission: Understanding and Caring for Those Who Serve

*Leslie A. Andrews, Ph.D.,  
General Editor*

This 390-page manual contains a compilation of articles by numerous authors, including our own SIM MKs David Wickstrom and Ruth Van Reken, and an In Memorium page to MK Advocates David Pollock (Interaction International) and Carol Lee Blaschke (SIM). You'll find the extensive 15-year research by MK CART/CORE to be a fascinating study of the MK mind, family dynamics, and boarding school staff issues. Larry Fehl states, "Its research provides solid data that helps us carefully interpret and change past mission policy, deal graciously with families in the present, and optimistically set a wise course for the future." (See "Open Dialogue" for a discussion by Dave Wickstrom.)

Published by *Mission Training International*, this book is available at [www.MTI.org](http://www.MTI.org) under Books/Family.



## Dick Morrow (GH, HC '57)

([dmorrow@antiochsb.edu](mailto:dmorrow@antiochsb.edu))

I was at Hillcrest from 1945-'47 at the campus that was in the city next to the SIM print shop. I remember a storm that blew the roof off the print shop. The "new" campus was built during those years. I remember being in a class in a seemingly unfinished building surrounded by dirt on the new campus and leaving to go to the bathroom. In order to extend my time out of the classroom, I walked heel-to-toe, toe-to-heel, the entire length of what seemed to me then to be an endlessly long corridor. On the old campus I remember a mango tree in the center of the compound where you could hide during hide-and-seek and eat mangoes at the same time. I remember trying to learn to ride a bike, but I didn't know how to stop, so I simply ran it into the fence that surrounded the tennis court. I remember Mr. Heckman showing us how many finishing nails you could put in a full glass of water before it would overflow. I remember the paddle on the wall that was said to begin to sway if you had your elbows on the table or didn't wipe your mouth. I was six years old. I had a crush on Naomi Cain.

## Grace Anne (Seeger) Swanson

(KA, HC '67)

([Swanson121@cox.net](mailto:Swanson121@cox.net))

I remember that there was kind of a teen center room. A new kid had just come from the States, and he had (to us) a wonderful, elaborate hi-fi system with speakers and all, that he set up in that room. We could go there and just hang out. He also had all the latest records (hit songs). We figured that we were at least a year or more behind the U.S. so what a treat that was to consider us "up to date." There was one hit song "Breaking Up Is Hard to Do." At that time some of the high school kids at Hillcrest had the habit of sneaking off at night, usually under a tree, to escape the sharp eyes of the staff—so they could make out. The staff caught on and started patrolling the grounds with flashlights. That led us to change the words of the song to "Making Out Is Hard to Do."

I remember having to do a report. I chose the "Ladies of the White House." I carefully looked up every scrap of information that I could find in the very meager school library. The comment at the top of my paper was something like: "Not very comprehensive, choppy." I remember wondering what in the world they thought we could do about it, not having proper resources at our disposal.

I remember that we had to walk quite a way to school, across a board that spanned a rather large ditch and past those wicked-looking Fulani cows that we prayed would never decide to turn and attack us. We passed a sign every day advertising a

place for rent. The sign said "TO LET." Someone had carefully added an "I" so that the sign now read: "TOILET."

## Dave Wickstrom (KA, HC '67)

([dwick328@bellsouth.net](mailto:dwick328@bellsouth.net))

I don't know how many of you remember the good old days at the Niger Creek Hostel, but back in 1963-'64, there were around 21 of us there. Though most of our parents didn't know it, almost all the guys—David Hodges, Dick Swanson, Lance Long, Bobby Bogema, Jerry Hicklin, Ralph Todd, John Birch and I—had a hobby of catching snakes ALIVE! Well, one day a bunch of us guys were taking a hike along Niger Creek when, looking up on the bank above us, we saw what looked like an enormous snake making its way upstream. Dick Swanson, the chief snake catcher, took the stick he almost always carried and immediately ran up the bank. He chased the snake down to the rest of us, and we proceeded to throw stones at it. This caused the snake to head back up the bank where Dick was waiting for it, and he used his stick to shoo the snake down our way again. This happened several times, but on more than one occasion when the snake was in front of Dick, it rose up like it was about to strike, and that was when we all realized what it was—a very large cobra. One particular time, I remember Dick swung at the coiled and ready-to-strike cobra—but missed. We were all sure that Dick was a goner, but as my Dad so often says, "The Lord protects even the ignorant." The snake simply dropped down and continued to try to make its escape. Finally, we wore it out, and when it came down to the stream bed, we were able to corner it and hold its head under water until it stopped wriggling. Then one of the guys took off his belt, made a noose, and slipped it over the snake's head. One of the other guys picked up the tail, and we carried it back to the hostel. There we coiled it up in a large candy jar filled with formaldehyde, posed it as if it was about to strike, and had a very handsome specimen of what turned out to be a Black Forest Cobra—all 6 feet, 6 inches of it.

Two sequels to the story are as follows: One day when I was living in the Washington, DC, area I picked up the *Washington Times* to see a front-page story with the headline: "Man killed by Cobra!" Apparently the man had the snake in a cage, but it got out one day, cornered the man, struck and killed him. You guessed it—it was a Black Forest Cobra! The rest of the story is that this last year I returned to Nigeria to do some work with missionaries there

and got to stay at Niger Creek compound. One night we were invited for dinner at the hostel, and the houseparents brought some old yearbooks of the hostel. Wouldn't you know, one of them was of the hostel during 1963-'64, and there was a picture of the cobra coiled up in a large candy jar, ready to strike. Brought back good memories—and scary ones too.

## Sylvia (Bergman) Eikenberry

(KA, HC '69)

([bugs\\_eik@hotmail.com](mailto:bugs_eik@hotmail.com))

When I arrived at Hillcrest in 1966 during the Biafran War, I had just come from our furlough in Denver. My 9th grade in the USA was miserable, and I was 20 pounds overweight. Well, Miss T started to take care of that. PE class with her was challenging and usually fun. The scariest part was having to run "the 600" every quarter. Gradually,



Sylvia (Bergman) and Terril Eikenberry

my time improved, and I shed my "furlough fat." School activities kept all of us fit!

I lived in Niger Creek Hostel, and the boys who were there were like my brothers. I remember playing the piano for Fred Zobrist to sing and giving my desserts to Bill Bishop. Marjie Campion was my roommate one year, and Pearl Abernethy, another. We were healthy and fit and usually walked the mile to

school. Mrs. Strayer taught us English and Bible, and I'll always remember that she introduced me to Queen Vashti in the story of Esther. She made us write themes every week. Well, most people can't escape writing, and I've written lots of letters to family and 20 years of prayer letters to supporters.

Then in 10th grade, I liked this boy! One day he asked me out to a basketball game. We ate lunch together, walked home from school, were in the school play *She Stoops to Conquer*, broke up, and got back together again. Terril Eikenberry asked me to marry him under some mango tree in Jos. I was too young to say "Yes" or "No," but we eventually married in 1972. We had 25 wonderful years together, which included 6 years of teaching in Nigeria. Our first son, Ivan, was born in 1978 in Wusasa, Nigeria. Terril died of schleroderma in 1998. Today I'm living in Springfield studying Theology. A teacher at Hillcrest when I was there, Miss Wagner, lives here, as does Hillcrest's former principal, Miss Underwood.



## Mrs. Strayer (Lucile Brandt) (HC English teacher)

From her book of poetry entitled *The Flame Tree*, published by *The Brethren Press*, 1973. Reprinted with permission.

### A Teacher Remembers

Students of mine, whom I have loved to teach,  
Who shared my rare delight in words that sing,  
Who loved the storytellers that can bring  
Enchantment from all lands, where, out of reach  
Of my warm, curious gaze do you now stray?  
Which of the dreams you dreamed have been achieved?  
Which of your plans accomplished? Who believed  
In those high purposes you had one day?

Scattered about in hamlets here and there  
Or lost in cities, do you always see  
Beauty as once? Or do you grieve, apart,  
Remembering your youth, keenly aware  
Of time and change? Be comforted! For me  
You do not change. I hold you in my heart.

## Phyllis Wagner (Jr Hi Teacher, HS Art Teacher, 1959-'81)

(*phwagner01@juno.com*)

### From her Reflections

Things sort of went along as normally as they can go in a boarding school so near the end of the term—until Thursday when there was a big explosion. And a big explosion it was! Two freshman boys were in the science lab working on a smoke bomb for the Senior Spirit. That is, they were compounding it themselves. They were sensible kids, though kids indeed. However, people who know about these things say that the boys were doing everything properly when by some freak accident the powder exploded, sending the boys to the hospital. One of the fellows, Terril Eikenberry, is back in school again. He is OK. The other, Roger Grant, is getting along just swell, but he has a damaged hand. Both boys had ruptured eardrums, and it remains to be seen if Roger needs to have an operation on them. Both got stuff in their eyes, but that has all been cleaned out and there is no permanent damage. Roger's hand, the worst off, may need therapy. His father is a doctor in Jos, and he worked on that boy's hand for three hours sewing the tendons back together.

Rock hounding provided an excellent escape from work tensions. Just over the hill behind our house within minutes' walking distance lie quartz, amethyst and topaz along a gently moving stream bed. More extensive hunts took us to other areas of the plateau where the tin miners left their tailings. We could find garnet, beryl, or aquamarine in a multitude of shapes and colors. What a grand way to celebrate a holiday, walking out in nature looking for those delightful little jewels!

## Roger Anderson (HC Staff, 1968-'77) (*anderoak@juno.com*)

Roger was the first missionary seconded to Hillcrest from the Sudan Interior Mission. He served as the Industrial Arts Instructor. He is currently working on his 70th year, still working full-time, doing marriage and family seminar work for Oak Hills Christian College in Bemidji, MN, and some marriage counseling for his local church.

When I arrived, Jim Peterson (Assemblies of God) worked with me for weeks to furnish the shop with worktables and make cupboards for hand tools. Elvis Cayford (Evangelical United Brethren), houseparents for the high school kids, helped with the electrical hookups, and we were ready to roll. I have many great memories. I remember working with Mr. Fritz (Evangelical Lutheran Church) making the sets for the two plays each year we were there. Roger Williams (one of our SIM students) was making a cassette tape of one show above the stage, and dropped a flashlight right in front of the nose of the lead player just as he raised his arm to the sky and said, "May the gods strike me . . ." (The audience erupted with laughter. Mr. Fritz was not amused!)

God's Drummers was the Gospel Team that traveled on Sundays during the school year to minister the Good News through music, drama, and testimony. Muriel and I will never forget the times of prayer, study, practice, and ministry that came working with those groups. The provision of the God's Drummers bus by Back to the Bible Youth Ministry was very special. The opportunity to coach the basketball team was a special privilege. The backboards that we designed (and that Harry Faber, one of the Hillcrest houseparents, welded up for us) provided opportunity for better play in our games and brought a lot of satisfaction to me personally. We even had people from Lagos come and

look at those backboards to get the design. Those were fun times. Working with the guys to build teamwork and good sportsmanship was all very worthwhile. Muriel and I look back on our time at Hillcrest with a great deal of joy and are very thankful to the Lord for letting us be part of a wonderful staff and student body.

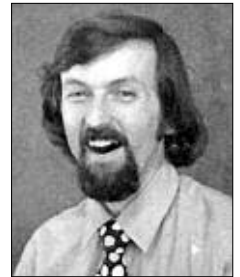
## Judith (Pollen) Frazier (KA, HC '71) (*Frazier106@aol.com*)

I lived at Niger Creek '70 to '72, and met my husband of 30-plus years, Steve Frazier, who lived at Baptist Hostel. We have a couple of memories of Hillcrest at that time—eating lunch outside at the picnic tables; walking to and from school on the "trail"; Miss T's scary swimming classes; the biology teacher pressure-cooking a python (or some nasty snake) for biology class; Hill Station with its lush green vegetation and flower gardens; the beautiful blue sky with cumulus clouds and amazing weather on the plateau; having 2 choices of sandwiches for school lunch at Niger Creek—either peanut butter or mackerel; Rayfield where Steve would race motorcycles; date night one night a month at a faculty member's house.

*Hillcrest memories to be continued next issue. We received more contributions than we could print this time!*



Miss T



Mr. Fritz



God's Drummers, Roger Anderson

# *From The Editors*

This issue is dedicated to all the SIM Hillcrest teachers, hostel staff, and students. There are 400 of us in the *Simroots* database who attended Hillcrest at some point in our education, and about 60 SIM staff. Thank you to all who contributed memories and photos. We received far more material than we could publish this time around, so watch the next issue for more Hillcrest stories! We hope you enjoy this issue even if you never attended Hillcrest. Perhaps you'll find some universal themes that resonate with your own experience where you grew up.

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