

Coping with Trauma

By Becky Lynn (Lapsley) Black (BA 71)

rauma. Anyone who has lived any amount of time has had it. It is part of Life. Those bursts of danger that stretch us to the limit... the car accident, the moment a spouse walks out, the season when a parent walks through the horrors of drug addiction with a child, getting caught in the midst of a gun battle, hearing the thief enter the house in the dead of night, the rape, identity fraud, discovering a spouse is caught in pornography, getting a cancer diagnosis.

In my own life, there is scarcely a trip to Ethiopia that doesn't have its moments of extreme stress. In our November-December '08 trip, it was landing at RDU airport in a severe thunderstorm. I thought the plane was breaking apart with the wind gusts. An aborted landing (they call it "touch and go") confirmed my suspicions about the seriousness of the situation. Now every time I board a plane, I "re-live" that stress.

In the June '07 trip, it was coming down the Burji mountain on muddy roads after 15 hours of constant rain, with steep inclines and sharp turns, sheer precipices on either side, and no guard rails (of course!). In the May '09 trip, we had a similar situation, but far less dangerous.

In the past two years, especially, we have had times of extreme danger that have left the soul seared with pain and stress, forever stamped with the event.

Walking through a cancer situation in a public way, we are getting testimonies of other journeys. The testimonies speak of the trauma inflicted by the journey, so I thought this would be a good time to put in writing how the Lord has impressed me in the past months regarding dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder.

I am not writing as a professional psychologist. I am writing as a simple person who lives with both feet on the ground and who firmly believes that the Lord Jesus is DIRECTLY connected to all that enters our lives.

Simply put, there are 3 "hooks" on which to hang these traumatic times.

The first hook is this: remember ALL of reality.

The tendency is to remember only the danger, the horror, the shock. Our minds are so seared with the pain that we cannot look beyond that to see the other aspects of reality in the situation. Specifically, we fail to see the ACTIVE presence of the Lord Jesus.

Let me say that again . . . we fail to see the ACTIVE presence of the Lord Jesus in the dangerous situation. It is as if the pain short-circuits our perception of anything except the danger. Fear blots out all other realities. We cannot talk about anything except the horror of the situation.

But we must sit ourselves down and purposefully, methodically, systematically look for the actions of the Lord Jesus on our behalf. We must name His arrangement of the timing of events, His strength and mental clarity in our actions, His protection from further harm. We must look for His gifts of aid through other people and His supernatural intervention in the chain of events.

Trauma leaves us feeling very vulnerable. Our underbelly is exposed. Our physical/emotional/spiritual viability is in question. We are about to come apart completely.

And it happens often in a split second, or perhaps a few minutes. The body's adrenaline rises to meet the challenge briefly . . . and

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then we collapse in a heap of fear. Each of us has his/her own points of vulnerability, depending upon our personalities and our past history.

The danger is real. The risks are genuine. The situation cannot be escaped. This is no game. But the danger, the risks, the vulnerability are only part of the reality.

The Lord Jesus (and His faithfulness) is the other part of the reality! It is by the power of the Lord Jesus that we His children are kept intact. It is His strong arm that blocks the danger from utterly destroying us. It is His knowledge, His "intelligence service" that intercepts wickedness that would overwhelm us completely. It is His covering of our minds that protects us mentally, keeping us from losing our sanity.

In my own life, I have to purposefully vocalize His active presence in these dangerous situations. It is easy to focus on the danger of the situation; it is not so easy to focus on the protection of the Lord Jesus. Writing a list of His actions helps. Telling the story only from the view of His actions is good. Perhaps writing a song (or poem) of praise works for you . . . it worked for the Israelites after the trauma of fleeing Pharaoh through the Red Sea, and it worked for King David in his many traumatic situations.

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.

Please send donations to:

SIMPOOTS **SIMROOTS** c/o SIM USA c/o SIM Canada P.O. Box 7900 10 Huntingdale Blvd. Charlotte, NC 28241 Scarborough, ON Canada M1W 2S5 USA 704-588-4300 416-497-2424 info@sim.org postmast@sim.ca

Tax-exempt donations should be made to Simroots Project # US 720000-90-0000-501087 and and sent to SIM USA or SIM Canada.

To donate online, go to www.sim.org, choose "Give Support" and then "Donate." Or call 800-521-6449 ext. 1445

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

The point of this "hook" is . . . remember ALL of reality . . . His active presence as well as the danger.

The second hook is this: get back to normal activities.

The tendency is to put Life on hold while we process the trauma and recoup some sense of normalcy. But we need to return to the normal activities of eating, cooking, shopping, traveling, working. Yes, we will be in a daze; it will feel surreal. The activities are done with numbed mind and body.

But there is something about the actions of normal life that help us to reconnect with Life, so that we are not "stuck" in the trauma. There is a soothing reminder in the activities that Life is still intact; Life is stronger than this episode of extreme danger. Life goes on, and we will go on.

Sometimes I think about the Apostle Paul in this regard. How many, many traumas he suffered . . . shipwreck, beatings, stoning, imprisonments, betrayals, cold/hunger/poverty. After an episode of trauma, what did he do? Did he sit out the ministry? Did he go to a seaside resort

to pamper himself as he processed the trauma? Not that I can see in the Scriptures. The story of Paul's life is largely written by a medical doctor, and if Paul dealt with his traumas in such a way, I would think that Dr. Luke would have recorded it. No, Paul got up, brushed himself off, praised God for His active presence, and then went to the next town for continued ministry! He carried on with Life.

So, as we cope with a child's drug addiction, or the horrors of

a traffic accident, or the trauma of a rape . . . it is important that we embrace the activities of normal life. Life does not consist wholly of the traumatic episode; it is much bigger than this incident of danger. We must continue in school. show up for work, care for the children. We must discipline our minds to focus on the work at hand. We must busy our hands and mind with the needs of the day. We must be active about Life.

For myself, I have found that if I ignore Hook #1, I have great difficulty in doing Hook #2. Somehow in the exercise of remembering ALL of reality, I am strengthened to continue on with Life.

Hook number 3 is this: take care of yourself.

This is simple logistics. It is the "balancer" of Hook #2. As human beings, we are limited. We have limited emotional, spiritual, physical capabilities. The expenditure of those limited resources ebbs and flows with the variations of Life.

And when we pass through a time of great expenditure, we must adjust so that we can "compensate" and "renovate" our resources.

This is perfectly exemplified in my body right now. Major surgery is a great depleter of human resources. At every level there is strain. Common sense will recognize this depletion



Becky Lynn (Lapsley) & David Black with her parents Brad & Betty



Becky Lynn at Bingham Academy

and adjust to compensate for the depletion. So everyone's word to me in these days is: rest!

So even as I resume normal Life activities, I am kind to my body through good nutrition, listening to messages of fatigue, watching body mechanics for lifting, etc.

The same principle is true in recuperating from trauma. We must continue with normal Life activities, but simultaneously, we must pay attention to our depleted resources and seek to rebuild them. This means more time with the Lord and His Word for spiritual replenishment. More time with godly, mature brothers and sisters (who will help us to remember all of reality) for emotional replenishment. (Beware of those who only want us to relive/vocalize the danger component of our trauma!) More rest and good nutrition and walks in nature for physical replenishment.

Life is full of trauma. It is the Lord Himself who keeps us from being destroyed by the trauma. The beginning of healing is to purposefully, consciously, methodically remember His active presence in the midst of the trauma. From this exercise will come the calm and peace that always flows from Him; His healing oil runs over the wound. The pain does not leave, but now it is mingled with calm as we see His strong arm acting on our behalf.

And from that calm, we have the ability to take up the normal activities of Life again, while simultaneously working to replenish our human resources of emotional, spiritual, and physical strength.

And in the end, we are enabled to see Him in His glory, in His utter faithfulness, in His constant love, and in His absolute sufficiency. He is the One who sustains, who protects, who loves in the midst of trauma.

And so, our trauma opens the door to praise . . . joyful song to the Lord Jesus, our Guardian and Protector!

Reprinted by permission from www.daveblackonline.com/ August 29, 2009

For the past 3 years Becky Lynn and her husband (Dr. David Black, a Greek professor at Southeastern Baptist Seminary) have been linking American churches with Ethiopian congregations in Gondar, Burji, and Alaba. They are self-funded missionaries who work full time in the USA and take all vacation time for ministry, spending approximately 2-3 months each year in Ethiopia. (dblack@sebts.edu)

Open Dialogue



Grappling with the Past

Anonymous

Thave some things I would like to say. However I am not so bold as to be identified. It seems that for some time now I have felt the need to speak out. After so many years in a missionary boarding school in Africa where I had no voice, I am finally taking steps to understand the whole confusing history that I have

Many of my peers do not read *Simroots*, nor indeed have any interest in the things of God. Estrangement from family is common, and dysfunction is also commonplace. Why is this so? How do we indeed come to see the Bigger Picture which, for so many of us, is a far cry from the happy-camper experience which others seem to have had. The deep feeling of abandonment for the sake of others' souls is something that I still wrestle with.

Somehow the very fact that there are now many churches planted and believers in the area my parents worked is testimony to the effectiveness of my parents' obedience to their call. My speaking out in this is a risk I take, for I risk being judged for daring to challenge the decisions of many who had power over a child's deepest wish-to remain in a family (which is a normal, healthy thing to wish for). When the parents' call and the mission's directive demands the separation of parents from their children, then it is no wonder there is family dysfunction later down the years. The results of young children's feeling of abandonment, possibly anger, dislocation, and so many other issues are too lengthy to go into in this letter.

The acute reality of that dislocation and dysfunction continues in my family. I have tried to speak to my parents about the pain I felt then, and in a way find it hard to be free from. Their answer is for me to look at the many saved in that area now. Also, that I must forgive and that I must understand that they had no choice. The Mission dictated to them that the policy

(of separating children from their families in mission-run boarding schools) was to be obeyed. No questions and no exceptions. The results of this are evident all these years later. My mother often says, "I don't know why our family is not close." Unfortunately, the reality of this is probably hidden from my parents, the Mission to whom they are still connected, and the wider world of the Christian church in my home country. I doubt that there statistics on the families who are dislocated, fractured, and distant as a result of mission experiences.

The very real fact of ongoing issues from our family history (complicated by separation and the associated sense of loss and abandonment) is a constant in our family relating. I suspect that my family is not unique in this. I wish, hope, pray, long for better relationships in my family of origin. Unfortunately, this is not something that is shared by all other members of my family. The denial or refusal to learn from the past is not at all helpful. For each person, the path toward healing is his/her own. Letting go of the past and moving forward with healed eyes, ears, hearts, and hands is not a denial of a past that was painful. It is not forgetting. We live in a broken world, and life is messy. Families are supposed to stay together—as beautifully put by Kelly Warkentin in the last Simroots issue. Maybe there are others who struggle and admit to dealing with our history, which is a life-long

I think that I am not the only one who still grapples with these issues. My perspective is to speak the truth, in order to come to a place of healing, forgiveness, and reconciliation. If I long for anything, it's to have the realness of this come to my family. No rose-colored glasses. No justifying words or talk. Just real steps toward better communication, and acknowledgment of the past.

History of Kent Academy on CD and DVD

Over 3500 photographs, countless memories, personal diaries, KA School Board Minutes, book excerpts and more. KA movies on DVD. Will send to you when you send a donation to *Simroots*, c/o Deb Turner, PO Box 273, Greenbank, WA 98253.

Send YOUR photos and stories to Grace Swanson, 1565 Gascony Road, Encinitas CA 92024. (swanson121@cox.net)

Waterwalk: A **Passage of Ghosts**

By Steven Faulkner (BA 69)

In 1996 Steven Faulkner and his sixteen-year-Lold son Justin left the fast world of cars, jobs, schools, radios, televisions, and computers and set out on a thousand-mile voyage in their sixteen-foot canoe, Natty Bumpo. They took nothing but a few supplies and a couple books to read together: Homer's Odyssey and Twain's Huckleberry Finn.

Tired, hungry, lost, lonely, fogbound, shipwrecked, unable to make their way in the darkness, father and son experienced life as never before. Theirs was an epic journey, retracing the historic 1673 route of French explorers Joliet and Marquette: 300 miles along the shores of Lake Michigan to Green Bay, 300 miles up the stormy Fox River and down the Wisconsin River, then 400 miles down the mighty Mississippi to St. Louis.

Waterwalk is a triple journey: a journey into the heart of this continent 300 years ago—as depicted in Marquette's own journal; a modern exploration of quiet waterways that weave their way through busy, rush-around America; and a voyage through the heart of a father-son relationship.

Steve teaches Creative Writing at Longwood University in southern Virginia. You can order this memoir through www.rdrbooks.com. (faulknersp@longwood.edu)

Woman to Woman, Sharing Jesus with a **Muslim Friend**

By Joy (Modricker) Loewen (BA, RV 70)

ike many women in the ∠Church, Joy Loewen didn't fully understand Muslim women or their roles in the Muslim culture and religion. In fact, she was afraid of them and not particularly interested in befriending them. But with prayer, wisdom, and a lot of love, Joy overcame these obstacles.

found that she actually liked them, and that many of these women are irresistibly attracted to the love of Jesus. For the last thirty years she has used this knowledge to build authentic connections with Muslim women, reaching out to them in a sensitive, effective way.

In this practical and very personal book, Joy shares not only her insights into befriending Muslim women, but many helpful stories from her own expe-

riences. Her goal is to help readers "move from fear to love and compassion" so that they, too, can love as Christ does. Woman to Woman is essential reading for Christian leaders, ministers, and any layperson who wants to grow in love for and understanding of Muslims.

The book will be released on January 1, 2010, but is available now to preorder at: www.chosenbooks.com or your local bookstore or phone 866-241-6733. The price is \$14.99 (US). The royalties from my book will go towards Voice of New Life radio broadcasts for the Somali people that SIM runs. (ejloewen@mts.net)

Third Culture Kids (revised): Growing **Up Among Worlds**

By Dave C. Pollock and Ruth Van Reken (KA 63)

This book has become the "bible" of the TCK world. It is a must read for all MKs, TCKs, CCKs (Cross-Cultural Kids) and their parents. The revised edition of TCK is now available. Ruth's home page:

http://www.crossculturalkid.org/

Flying High: The Amazing Story of Betty Greene and the Early Years of Mission **Aviation Fellowship**

By Betty Greene with Dietrich Buss

Betty Greene was the first to fly across the Andes, the first female mission pilot and first of either gender in Mexico, Peru, and Nigeria. Chapter 9 recounts her service as an MAF pilot on loan to the SIM starting in 1951, and familiar names pop up, including Soderbergs, Johns, and Helsers. Some of her time was spent shuttling Kent Academy kids back and forth to school. Greene navigated gracefully and graciously in a man's world.

She was a visionary with a passion for using her skills to further the Gospel. A legend in her time, she passed away in 1997.

Christian Publications, Inc., 2002

Child of the Outback

By Marilyn Stewart

"This gripping story of an MK who grew up I in the Outback of Australia will appeal to anyone who has ever struggled with loss, abuse, fitting in, or longings to return 'home.' As a shy child, Stewart became immersed in the Aborigines culture, speaking mainly their language and learning their values. When she was left in Canada at the age of 13 her world was shattered forever. Fear, loneliness, and further abuse only increased her determination to return to her roots. The story, however, is not all negative. Threaded throughout, she recounts the way God's hand was upon her, helping her to turn to Him for comfort and strength."

Infinity Publishing, 2000

THIRD

CULTURE

The Experience of

All God's Children (documentary)

Through the eyes of three families, All God's Children tells the personal story of the first boarding school for children of Christian missionaries to be investigated for abuse at the hands of the parents' missionary colleagues. In this documentary film,

DAVID C. POLLOGK and RUTH E. VAN REVEN the survivors and parents share their journey of seeking justice, redemption and healing.

"While the parents were stationed in remote outposts throughout West Africa as Christian missionaries, the children—starting at the age of 6—were required to attend a missionary boarding school in Mamou, Guinea, run by the Christian and Missionary Alliance. Cut off from their parents and without any reliable means of communication, the children suffered extensive abuse at the hands of the all-missionarv staff.

"It took the children decades to acknowledge the effects the abuses had on their lives. When they finally dared to speak out, their Church denied all allegations and refused to help. But the survivors continued their efforts for years until the Church finally held an investigation and conceded that child abuse had occurred at the Mamou Alliance Academy. At last, the deep healing could begin."

You can download this film for \$9.99 U.S. at: www.filmbaby.com

BOOKS

Faith Like Potatoes (movie)

Based on a true story, this inspiring drama centers on white farmer Angus Buchan who—weary of the conflict in Zambia—moves his family to South Africa, where they try to transform a bare plot of land into a working farm. Buchan faces a string of challenges, but as he overcomes each hurdle, he gradually realizes that his hunger for material wealth has been replaced with a growing sense of spirituality."

I HIGHLY recommend this PG movie. It started out a bit slow and I almost stopped watching, but I stayed with it and am very glad I did.—Nancy Callister

Sun Like Thunder following Jesus on Asia's Spice Road

By Harold Fuller

How's your knowledge of Asia?

- Which apostle became a missionary to the Indian sub-continent?
- How far had the Gospel travelled across Asia in the first century?
- How did Jewish travellers help prepare the way for the Gospel right across Asia?
- Why did early missionaries arrive in China on "gun boats"?
- Did you know that there were thousands of Christian believers in East Asia long before Western missionaries arrived (but by then Christianity had all but disappeared)? That Mohammad's uncle was a "Christian"? That SIM (CIGM) actually started working in Sri Lanka before moving into India? That SIM made it possible for the OMF to enter Japan?

Our forthcoming book, Sun Like Thunder—following Jesus on Asia's Spice Road, documents these and other surprising facts from mission history—and also brings us right up to date, even on the current economic downturn.

Although we served in Africa for some 25 years before joining the International Staff, we are delighted to see the way in which our mission family is embracing the people of Asia in prayer and concern. The three-month residence in Korea by our International Director and his wife has helped to emphasize the importance that SIM is giving to this strategic continent—while not neglecting our other continents of service.

We trust that Sun Like Thunder will stir up

prayerful interest among our constituencies. The book is an extensive volume because it covers the major part of the world's largest continent. It really is a rechinetry meet, but is written as a travel.

research instrument, but is written as a travelogue for the sake of the casual reader.

A printer in India is publishing it. He is a member of the Asia Theological Commission

and would like to place a copy in every theological school in Asia. This Asia edition will be published in memory of Harold's sister, Olive, who served with Amy Carmichael in Dohnavur Fellowship. Olive's friends are delighted to know this and are contributing to the publishing and distribution costs.

(harold.fuller@sympatico.ca)



KA 1963. Collin King driving the go-cart. Jim Poole in back.



1969. The Cails at Bembereke: Carolyn, Jim, Grant, George, Sharon, Hal with 13-foot rock python.

KA/HC Reunion Chicago 2009

Reunion Recap

Submitted by Karen (Seger) Keegan (KA, HC 72)

Why can't we get all the people together in the world that we really like and then just stay together? I guess that wouldn't work. Someone would leave. Someone always leaves. Then we would have to say good-bye. I hate good-byes. I know what I need. I need more hellos. - Charles M. Schulz

Ludos to Steve Ackley and his team for pulling off yet another amazing reunion event in the Chicago area. Highlights included the traditional body-bruising soccer game, a mouthwatering catered Nigerian meal, thought-provoking challenge by speaker Steve Snyder on TCK issues, and of course the hilarious and nostalgic skit night (including a lion hunt, songs, simulated rain*, and Nigerian Airways skit) emceed by Joyce (Ward) Eden in Pidgin English. Over 150 attended the event, some coming in just for the "Big Day" on Saturday. If you didn't make it this year, we're sorry we missed you. See you in three years!

*For a professional rendition, go to <u>Youtube.com</u>, turn up your volume, and search for "Perpetuum Jazzile" and "African Thunderstorm." You'll be glad you did!

Want to see all the reunion photos? Go to www.hillcrest.myevent.com

Business Meeting

Moderator: Joyce (Ward) Eden, President Simroots update: Karen (Seger) Keegan,

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Minutes from July 3, 2006: Paul Paternoster, Secretary

Hillcrest School update: Jay Tolar

Some alumni have invested in Hillcrest by coming back to teach. Jay talked about getting more financial aid from alumni. This past year, Hillcrest received a tax exempt ID number here in the U.S. Jay's first goal is to raise \$1,000,000 for a roof over the tennis courts, improvements to the soccer field, a new track, and a swimming pool. The second goal is to create and build an endowment for scholarships. Saralynn (Blyth) Nege (Class of 2000) was introduced as the new (and first) alumni development staff for Hillcrest here in the U.S. Dick Ackley added that prior fundraising, such as at the last reunion for the Steve Beacham Memorial Fund, has raised \$16,000 which counts toward the \$1m goal.

Reunion 2012 Planning

Purpose

The purpose for the reunion needs to expand beyond merely getting interested people together for reconnecting. 1) We need to reach out to the many from the 1980s and 1990s who maintain their own reunion schedule on the basis that they need us and we need them. It was emphasized that getting key personalities from a class to start with is key for drawing in others. 2) We need to get more involved in giving back to Hillcrest.

Location

There have been enough prior discussions on this. Using conferencing hotels works well for reduced expense over a holiday weekend. Rotating between Dallas and Chicago works well

Communication

Hillcrest now has a website with an alumni page, so we can funnel what we are doing to that site.

Financial

Communication is ongoing with the Reifels and others to consolidate the prior northern and southern committees and to formalize a workable charitable entity.

Leadership

A request was made for volunteers to be mentored in the areas of communication, financials, and reunion logistics.

Election results:

President: Brandon Zylstra

Vice President: Saralynn (Blyth) Nege Treasurer: Connie (Reifel) Gary Secretary: Paul Paternoster

Communication and Logistics: Steve Ackley



Front: Doug Swank, Grace (Seger) Swanson, Phyllis (Jacobson) Mithen, Sylvia (Bergman) Eikenberry, Joanne (Soderberg) Megahey, Janet McDougall, Janet (Soderberg) Maynard, Kathy (Braband) Wilder

Middle: Ruth (Smith) Johnson, Marian (Smith) Fahs, Peter Cox, Sherrill (McElheran) Bayne, Dave Megahey, Lance Long, Bev Ostien, Mary Ann (Coen) Walter, Ruth Ellen (Frame) VanReken

Back: Bill Bishop, Al McElheran, John Rhine, John Bishop, Dave Draper, Gordon Helser, Kay (Kastner) Breid



Front: Nancy (Ackley) Ruth, Judy (Thompson) Koci, Marjorie (Campion) Ketola, Ellen (Bulthius) Burton Back: Tom Kraakevik, Jim Kastner, Dick Ackley Not in photo: Tim Kraakevik, Dave Porter, Jack Long, Terry Wesley



Front: Ruth Maxwell, Nancy (Craig) Lagerfeldt, Karen (Seger) Keegan Middle: Meg (Todd) Ackley, Beth (Lohrenz) Cunningham Back: Bob Braband, Don Campion, Naomi (Kastner) Sherf



Alice (Frame) Sexton, Karen (Braband) Mertes, Esther (Lilly) Burnside, Collin King, Jane (Jackson) Hopkins, Holly (Bowers) Welborn, Nancy (Hutchins) Libbey, Barb (Campion) Lichty

Restoring the Years

By Debbie (Jones) Warren (KA, HC 77)

Psalm 71:20, 21 Though you have made me see troubles, many and bitter, you will restore my life again; from the depths of the earth you will again bring me up. You will increase my honor and comfort me once again. (NIV)

Why go to my school reunion? Do I have enough energy to sustain those long ago friendships?" My finger hovered over the button to purchase plane tickets to our weekend in Chicago. "Do I have the money? Do I really have time?" I lead a full life with friends from church and in the neighborhood; with a husband who treats me like a queen, and with children who keep life exciting. My parents and siblings live nearby, and the days speed quickly past, filled with the busyness of raising teens. Sometimes my years spent in Nigeria seem like they were in another lifetime because the memories creep up so seldom. My life as a child on the mission field in Africa has been replaced with the lifestyle of American suburbia.

As I clicked the key for "buy ticket now," I reasoned that relationships with companions from childhood are always precious. Even with the passing of several decades, many names on the list of attendees seemed more like brothers and sisters than merely comrades. Friendships are even more poignant when you've lived through events of monumental proportion, whether positive or challenging. Growing up in Africa definitely met the qualification for giant-sized memories. Could God restore the joys of those memories in spite of the pain that was a familiar presence? Or should I just content myself with the life that has now replaced my childhood in Nigeria?

Once in Chicago at the reunion, I was enveloped by the feeling of being back home. I relived familiar stories of my childhood: scenic hikes along the paths around Miango and Egbe; savory meals with the Hausa and Yoruba people our parents came to serve. Several tales surfaced of the boys sneaking out of their dorm after lights out and trekking as far away as the Volcanoes! One friend told of a teacher who encouraged her budding artistic talents. But many memories culminated around the challenges we MKs faced: separation from family and friends, and the harsh, often unfair discipline. I'd picked up an emphasis on doing good works rather than on listening for God's still voice. As I catalogued these memories, healing washed over me, and I recognized that my life stories fundamentally shaped me into who I am today. Both the highs and the lows were equally vital because they fashioned the essence of my faith and my character.

During the weekend I discovered that when God promises to restore the years from my past, He doesn't



Front: Paul Paternoster, Nathan Balzer, Laura (Gilbertson) Bertsche, Stan Steely, Joyce (Ward) Eden, Becky (Jackson)

Seaman, Ruth Ellen (Hewitt) Howdyshell

Back: Mari (Frame) Lewis Sally (Thompson) Moore, John Mark Kraekevik, Jim Goyld, Peter Hancy Mark Maxwell

Back: Marj (Frame) Lewis, Sally (Thompson) Moore, John Mark Kraakevik, Jim Gould, Peter Haney, Mark Maxwell, Daniel Paternoster



Front: Julie (Bowers) Lassiter, Carol (Pollen) Humphreys, Betsie (Campion) Smith, Debbie (Jones)
Warren, Joy (Gould) Graves, Eileen (Porter) Allen
Back: Steve Ackley, Stephen Kraakevik, Becki (Anderson) Nelson, Kathy (Fluth) Petersen,
Debb Forster



Mark Jones, Cynthia (Adams) Carlin, Ahmed Elwy



1980s to present

Front: Heidi (Gibbs) Tolar with Jake and Julie, Martha (Hewitt) Murphy, Beth (Gould) Nolson, Scott Sheppard, Brenda (Adams) Sheppard, Katherine Riebe, Saralynn (Blyth) Nege
Back: Jay Tolar, Jonathan Hewitt, Andreas Radlingmayr, Brandon Zylstra



George & Esther (Helser) Campion, Mildred Hewitt, Mary Ellen Adams, Betty Frame. Many other staff and parents attended who did not make it to the photo shoot.

KA/HC Reunion

Date: July 6-8, 2012 Place: Dallas, TX Contact: Steve Ackley (steve@ackleys.us)

GSS Reunion 2010

Celebrating 50 years since Good Shepherd School began

Date: July 14-17, 2010

Place: YMCA of the Rockies, Estes

Park, CO

Contact: Betty Froisland

719-634-1435

(froislandgss@peoplepc.com)

ELWA Kids Reunion 2010

This reunion will be at the BEACH! We are so looking forward to great times enjoying the memories that we all have growing up on the Atlantic Ocean. We will have time to play at the beach, swim, talk, and renew old friendships.

Date: July 11-13, 2010

Place: Best Western Cocoa Beach, Florida www.bestwesterncocoabeach.com

Contact for registration: Karen (Ackley) Kern (elwakid@yahoo.com)

214-228-0648

- All rates are per night and subject to local taxes and occupancy taxes
- If you would like to come for a longer period of time before
 or after the reunion days, the resort will let you use the rates
 of the reunion.
- Registration details will be out in mid-fall

2 beds, non-ocean (can house 5) \$115.00 2 beds suite with a sofa, non-ocean (can house 6) \$160.00 2 beds ocean-view room (can house 5) \$178.00 just replace them with my present. Connecting with the friends I knew in childhood helps me to understand who I am as an adult. God alone controls both the ease and the affliction that touches my life. I am loved by a Savior who was personally afflicted, and He knows just how to turn my trials into His tools of change. God used every part of my history to shape within me specific aspects of His character. Once I reach heaven, my life will be perfectly restored to Christ-likeness, but God also desires to restore me here on earth. Rekindling those friendships in Chicago was part of the process of God restoring to fullness the years I thought had been replaced. (debbiencj@ai.com)

ELWAKIDS: A Spouse Shares

By Beth Reed

Thave been married to Jim Reed (EL 70) for 27 years and have loved hearing his stories of growing up in Liberia. The freedom of growing up on the mission radio station ELWA sounds very much like growing up in a small town, as I did in middle Georgia. His tales of wandering on the grounds finding adventures at every turn, including snakes, snorkeling and spear-fishing are the things that make up a storybook childhood.

I love picturing the Reed home facing the beach of the Atlantic Ocean, eating dinner and watching the sun go down. Riding the "stream" made as the lagoon emptied into the ocean sounds better than any water ride at a theme park!

Throughout these stories were the names of his childhood friends, those who shared in these marvelous adventures. But until last summer at the 2008 reunion I had never met any of those friends. I had so much fun meeting his friends and putting faces with names that I've heard for so many years. And the most wonderful part was that I was welcomed so readily into the ELWAKIDS Family! Adopted on the spot and made to feel as if I'd been in the family forever!

One of the most special times of the weekend for me was singing the songs of my youth that had made their way across the ocean to Liberia. Jim's sister, Jan, was surprised at how many of the songs I knew by heart as well. Those songs bonded all our hearts together as we worshipped the Lord and sang His praises.

I highly recommend that all ELWAKIDS spouses attend the next reunion! The time together gives a broader picture of what our spouses experienced growing up on the other side of the Atlantic. And the ELWAKIDS family is ready and willing to adopt new spouses!

Dinner in Phoenix

On September 11, A group of us "oldies" held an impromptu gathering in Phoenix for dinner and great lighthearted conversation. Mary Jo (Beckett) Meyer and Dave Megahey (Arizona) planned to meet for dinner while on vacation, and others from the Phoenix area decided to join them. Janet (Soderberg) Maynard and Mary Jo are from California. Carol (who is a traveling nurse) said grace in Hausa. We really had fun—Lance Long is hysterical, as is Dave Megahey! — Mary Jo

Forty-five Years Later . . .

Submitted by Karen (Seger) Keegan (KA, HC 72)

The last time I saw Aunt Maxine Deakins, I was in Grade 3! This single missionary worked in Niger for six years before she became a girls' dorm parent at Kent Academy. I must admit I thought she was ancient at the time—probably in her 70s.

For 17 years, we lived just a few miles from each other in the Chattanooga, Tennessee, area and never knew it—until I found her name in our *Simroots* database—but by then I'd moved on to



Maxine Deakins

Michigan. When we moved back to middle Tennessee, I knew I wanted to look her up someday. This summer I called her, and I was delighted that she was open to my coming for a visit.

What did I expect to experience? I wasn't sure. I just know that when I arrived, I was greeted like a long-lost friend. She told me she kept all her old *Simroots*, that she

remembered with great fondness all the girls in her dorm and could point them out by name in the latest magazine. That those two years were the happiest years of her life. That she was (and still is) a gardener and had loved to provide fresh flowers for Kirk Memorial Chapel. That when her health failed, she returned to the USA to work in the SIM home office and eventually moved back to her childhood home to care for her aging father. There she worked for 25 years as a librarian. The biggest surprise was the dozen or more bowling trophies that lined her old piano! Somehow the images of her today do not match my Grade 3 memories, but then . . . she was only 33 years old at the time!



David Megahey, Joanne (Soderberg) Megahey, Lance Long, Carol (Langdon) Cobbley Gravlin, Mary Jo (Beckett) Meyer, Janet (Soderberg) Maynard, Doug Swank



P.E. 1966-67. Grace Ann Bell, Shirley Guenter, Carmen Learned, Rachel Quarles, Gayle Osbourne, Esther Joy Coleman, Carole Lucas, Betsy Allen



Ruth (Glerum) Wick (from IN), Carmen (Learned) North (from MI), and Karen (Seger) Keegan (from TN) converged unexpectedly in Port Huron!



Service with a Dash of Adventure

By Stephen Donald (BA 68)

Picture this: a 120cc motorcycle carrying two people. The one driving is calm and collected, while the *actuary on the back is hanging on for dear life as he anxiously takes turns watching other motorcycles and cars race by and his suitcase perched precariously up front on the handlebars. That's considered normal transportation in the West African country of Benin where Normand and I travelled in April to teach actuarial courses to university students, followed by a week to explore the country.

How did all this come about? An actuary from Benin who practices in Germany sent out a request for lecturers through the Canadian Institute of Actuaries. We were among the five Canadians who responded. It gave us a chance to give back to our profession, it gave us a chance to help students much less well off than Canadian students, and it promised a bit of adventure. And that is exactly what we got.

Benin is a former French colony that now has a stable democracy, is quite safe, and is progressing relatively well. Mainly a farming economy, they are trying to promote tourism, and it has one of the best game parks in Western Africa. The climate was hot—33° C each day of our stay, feeling like 45° with the humidity.

We taught 16 students for 7 hours each day, Monday to Friday, in the air-conditioned comfort of the Institute of Superior Management Adonai in Cotonou, the major city in Benin. The students were eager, bright, and polite—as soon as we entered the school each day one would carry our bag to the classroom. Their English was quite poor—and my French is from high school 40 years ago! I had to slow down, write out more on the blackboard, and refer frequently to the French/English dictionary.

Cotonou is a bustling port with thousands of two-cycle motorcycles darting in and out. Everything is carried on motorcycles. To see three people on a motorcycle was common, and we could even occasionally see four adults on them. Other things we saw carried were a mattress, an office chair, two goats, a pig and a refrigerator! The people of Benin are very friendly and all look happy—there is a great diversity of tribes and religions and the traditional clothing is very colorful. You can wan-



Normand, Stephen (with python) and Suzanne

der through the many markets in the city and feel completely at ease.

Teaching was split up, with me taking the first week and Normand the second. When my week was done, I set out to explore the country and headed north, by local bus, to the Pendjari game park. This park is a wonderful national treasure for Benin with elephants, African buffalo, baboons, wart hogs, hippos and crocs, and five types of antelopes—and it also is a birdwatcher's paradise!

As soon as I knew I was going to Benin, I contacted **Dodi Forsberg** (BA 69), a former classmate of mine from Bingham days. She offered the use of the guesthouse at their station and asked if I could transport out a new laptop for her to use in her translation work, which I happily agreed to. About eight hours by bus on my way to the Pendjari game park, I stopped off at Djougou, the town where Dodi works. She picked me up and took me to the market to buy a few items for supper that night. Imagine—we had not seen each other for 46 years! She has devoted her life to Bible translation into the local dialect there. I was relieved to hand over the computer which I had carried from Toronto. On Sunday we went to the church service which is run by the nationals, and Dodi introduced me to her friends. In the afternoon she drove me an hour further down country where one picks up the 4x4 and guide to enter the Pendjari game park and was a great help with the arrangements as she speaks French very well. It was great to see her again, and I have great admiration for the faithful work she has done there.

On my final Friday, I met up with Normand and his wife Suzanne, and our hosts took us to visit Ouidah, the "Port of No Return." This was one of the major slave exporting ports during the slave trade era and those slaves never returned; in fact, a high percentage would have died on the trans-Atlantic voyage. The beach is just as it was back in those days, and so it was not difficult to imagine the tragedies, suffering, and family separations that unfolded in that exact spot. We then headed up to Ganvie, which is a lake village built on stilts. The original popula-

tion went into the lake to protect themselves from warriors who could not enter it as it was forbidden by their religion.

Credit is a foreign concept to Benin. Not once in all our travels, including in Cotonou, were we able to pay for a purchase with a credit card. Everything had to be in cash, and getting cash was not easy. At one point down-country, I went to the only cash machine in town only to find it was out of service-for two days! I ended up travelling in the back country of Africa for a whole day without a cent (franc) of cash. On my return from the game park, I tried the cash machine again and to my immense relief it was operating-but only for Visa cards. However, my daily limit was low, so I could obtain only enough cash to pay for my 4x4 and driver. I spent that night in a hotel afraid to tell them I had no money and was not sure I could get more. The next day I returned at 6:30 a.m. to the cash machine and was able to get enough cash to pay the hotel and my bus ticket back to Cotonou (a nine-hour drive) and reached the bus with five minutes to spare. Talk about a stressful night!

It's not often that as actuaries we can help out those in other countries and live a one-of-a-kind experience. If this appeals to you and you want something different than a week on the beach, then let us know and we will connect you with a certain German actuary we know. (stevedonald@rogers.com)

*Actuaries work in insurance or pensions and combine probabilities with the present value of money to determine premiums, etc.

NEW SIM USA DIRECTOR

Bruce Johnson has been named the new USA director. He has over 30 years of leadership experience in Christian ministry. His wife Mary's parents, Olin and Mary

Helmly, served with SIM in Ethiopia in the early 70s. Her father, a master mechanic, maintained aircraft and provided repair services at several SIM locations, including Bingham Academy. Her mother assisted John Cumbers, SIM Ethiopia Director.



IQC



TRAVELING TO NIGERIA?

When applying for a tourist visa to Nigeria, allow 4 weeks for processing. You will need a letter of invitation from someone in Nigeria along with a copy of their resident permit or information page of their passport.

For visa service in Washington: www.world-visa.com www.world-visa.com/Countries/N-P/nigeria.htm For recommended shots/vaccinations: wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/nigeria.aspx For anti-malaria information, check with SIM medical office: Judith.pfurr@sim.org



SIM INTERNATIONAL QUIZ

*Can you name in order all 7 of SIM's International/General Directors? (See below.)

NEED A PHOTOGRAPHER?

I have started my own business in photography. My daddy, Ray de la Haye, an international professional photographer, was my teacher from as long as I can remember. Please visit my website and let me know what you think of it. www.annettecooperphotography.com Annette (de la Haye) Cooper (KA 64)

DONATION IN **HONOR OF**

Helen (Owings) Bortels donated \$30 to Simroots in honor of H. Duane and Mary Owings.

Ruth (Smith) Johnson donated \$50 in honor of my Aunt Doris & Uncle Paul's 50th Anniversary.

> *SIM Directors Roland Bingham Guy Playfair

Albert Helser Ray Davis Ian Hay Jim Plueddemann Malcolm McGregor

SEEKING SUBMISSIONS FOR BOOK ON O'DONOVANS

I am writing a book about Bill O'Donovan, and his wife Esther. Bill and Esther have been missionaries to Africa since 1965 (starting at KA), and have two girls Darilyn and Doretha, who are now married and serving with SIM in Africa with their families. Perhaps one of them impacted your life in a specific way. Please contribute (in first person) a few paragraphs or a short story—from mundane to miraculous—to illustrate how this family has encouraged you or your family, or taught you a lesson.

The stories or memories you send will be woven into the chapters in a thematic way as they surface (how God calls a person to himself or to missions, God redirecting a person from one field of training to another one without wasting anything, the importance of ministering together as a family, miraculous intervention by the Holy Spirit, fasting or prayer as a spiritual discipline, the ministry of Bill's book to African Christians, ministry to potentially difficult cultures such as Islam, spiritual warfare, high regard for the Scripture, family discipleship, or others). Bill and Esther have told me their story over the last two years, but I know that many other stories (and pictures?) are still out there.

Bill and Esther would not think to discuss themselves. The book is intended 1) to give God the glory, 2) to encourage very ordinary people reading the book to let God work in bigger ways in their own lives through spiritual discipline, 3) to teach the relevance of missions, and 4) to move people to become personally involved in the Great Commission in big or small ways. The book will be useful for a quarterly Sunday School study on missions, and hopefully interesting for a less serious reader picking up a Christian biography, of sorts. Any and all money that will be realized from sales of the book will directly support missionaries. I am accountable to the Missions Board at Talbot Bible Church in Easton, Maryland.

Heather Crow 28203 Oaklands Road Easton, MD 21601 410-310-5615 heather.crow@goeaston.net

BULLETIN BOARD

ARCHIVE ISSUES OF SIMROOTS

Want to own the entire set of Simroots issues from its inception to the present? Now available on CD in pdf format. Just send your order and donation of any amount for Simroots to:

Deb Turner PO Box 273 Greenbank, WA 98253 ethiopia@greenbank.net

ARTICLES OF INTEREST



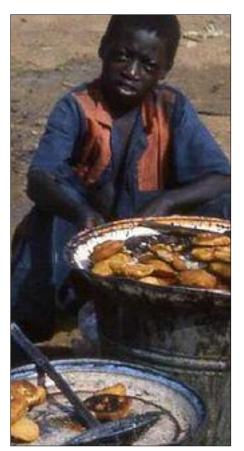
Jos Violence

Submitted by Bev Ostien Philip Ostien (KA, P 61) has written about the outbreak of communal violence in Jos last November: "Jonah Jang and the Jasawa: Ethno-Religious Conflict in Jos, Nigeria." Philip taught at the U. of Iowa for some years, and then moved to Des Moines, IA, where he practised law. In 1991 he went to teach in the Faculty of Law of the U. of Jos; he finally retired from there in late 2007, so he spent a lot of time there and is quite familiar with the situation. I hope you will find his article interesting and informative.

www.sharia-in-africa.net/media/publications/ ethno-religious-conflict-in-Jos-Nigeria/Ostien Jos.pdf

Mk College Football Star Tim Tebow Go to www.christianpost.com/ and search for his name.

As an atheist, I truly believe Africa needs God Missionaries, not aid money, are the solution to Africa's biggest problem <u>www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/</u> columnists/matthew_parris/article5400568.ece Submitted by Beth (Ockers) Esdale



Kose - yummmmm



Standing: Jack Rendel, Doug Swank, Harold Brown, Murray Cox, John Rhine Seated: Mary Ann Nielsen, Mary Jo Beckett, Carol Hursh, Sharon Goertz, Lillian Jacobson (behind Sharon)

OPPORTUNITIES

Kent Academy Needs

Submitted by Martin A. Muoto (KA, HC 89)

My wife (Erica) and I just got back from visiting Kent Academy during a trip to Nigeria. KA is at a real crossroads with Jim Crouch's passing away. Mrs. Crouch is the only SIM missionary there, apart from Lura Bodwell who is back for one year to teach first grade. We spent some time with the staff, dorm

parents, principal, and the kids, and it was very apparent to us that the KA Alumni need to be re-engaged in KA's future. We spent a fair amount of time with the acting principal and vice-principal discussing KA's needs. Many of the buildings are beginning to deteriorate due to their age. KA has some of the same text and reference books in the library and the dorms that were there when I was a student 25 years ago—this is no exaggeration! The students and staff are still on fire for the Lord but really need encouragement, prayer, and financial support. I will be working on ideas about what we can do-in addition to prayer. In the meantime, see my pictures on Facebook.

(martin@muoto.com)

Hillcrest School Projects

 \bullet Construction of wall bordering AG (\$24,000)

This portion of the wall would effectively finish the work of walling the entire compound and would increase security. This has become necessary with the increasing possibility of politically-charged mobs making their way onto the school campus.

• Improving electrical supply and distribution (\$65,000)

The school has reached the upper end of its capacity as far as regular supply and generator supply. Surveys done by an electrical engineer recommend significant infrastructure to provide for present and future power supply and distribution needs.



Erica & Martin Muoto



Linda Crouch, Martin Muoto, Lura Bodwell

- Copy machine for administration (\$26,000)
- Scholarships for needy students (\$20,000)
- Roof over the basketball courts

The current gym is too small for the current PE classes and athletic events. In addition, the roof leaks. The project would be a single-span aluminum roof to cover the existing two multipurpose courts, first elementary school soccer field, and bleacher areas.

- Indoor gym
- Tartan track
- Swimming pool
- Artificial turf on the elementary dirt soccer field

Contact for more information: hillcrestschool@yahoo.com To donate, contact: Brian Huff (bhuff@kualumni.org)

ELWA Ministries Association/USA

EMA was incorporated in March 2008 as a non-profit to benefit ELWA and its community of workers and staff. EMA is approved as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization by the IRS. The EMA board has established 7 categories for funding. At ELWA, these include the ELWA Academy, ELWA hospital, ELWA radio, and the ELWA services division, which is charged with the maintenance of the ELWA property. The funding categories external to ELWA are: scholarships for needy students, community development, and church planting.

Contact for more information:

Bill Slater (billslater@comcast.net) (847) 566-2456

Clip Kniffin (kniffin 1 @ sbcglobal.net) (630) 215-5166

SIMAIR Calendars

S IMAIR has released a calendar for 2010 that features airplanes used in mission aviation around the world from the 1930s to the present day. Each month features a detailed drawing done by long-time SIMAIR pilot (and SIM MK) Jim Rendel. SIMAIR, AIMAIR, MAF, JAARS, New Tribes and others

are all represented with airplanes they have used.

Avgas has reached \$20 a gallon in Niger. A couple years ago SIM purchased a four-place Cessna 182 outfitted with one of the new SMA Diesel engines that runs on jet fuel. Jet fuel costs only \$5 a gallon. This has reduced the fuel costs per hour from \$300 to \$50 and makes it possible to keep a flying program going that the missionaries can afford to use. SIMAIR is currently raising funds to replace their other avgas plane with a second Cessna 182 that will run on jet fuel.

All the funds from the sale of calendars will go to help with this project. Many of you, along with your parents, appreciated the ministry of mission aviation. With the purchase of one of these calendars, you can help keep that same service going for those using it today. The calendars begin with December 2009 and go through January 2011.

Special thanks to Don Campion and Banyan Air for sponsoring this calendar project.

MINISTRY

The calendars are available through www.simusa.org online bookstore and can be purchased for \$10 plus shipping and handling.



importance and cost of education for the children of their missionaries. They forget that in a foreign country the educational system will be different, and even the language of education may

OPPORTUNITIES

well be different too. When supporters don't have a clear picture of the importance of education, they may not provide the money for the children to get the educational opportunities they need. As many of you are aware, SIM used to be able to subsidize MK education costs, but today we cannot do that. Why? About two-thirds of the subsidy came from "Area Missionary Care," the money that everyone contributed through the support pool. Now that we have changed the financial system

and no longer have that component of the support system, the remaining third of the money is invested—and we all know what has happened to the interest rate. We have been forced to stop providing tuition subsidies for our families and are working on some new outlets (still to help with MK education and care, but not tuition) for the money we do have available. Tuition is still a big need, however, and is the responsibility of the families and their supporters.

You can help! You can invest in the children of these missionaries, as other people invested in you! If you would like to become a supporter of one of these families, and even give specifically to their children's education, we can help you with information and contacts.

For answers and information, contact: Dorothy Haile (Dorothy.haile@sim.org) Cherry Sabathne (cherry.sabathne@sim.org)

TCK Website Help

IAMA MISSION AVIATION

2010 CALENDAR

Submitted by Paul Trigg

CIAMA

Tam involved in helping with a website that ▲ helps support and give a sense of community to Third Culture Kids. However, along with many government and charity sites, the database software called Wordpress has been hacked and has meant that a lot of the info and the blogs on the website have been lost, and the site is currently out of action. I would like to ask if anyone could help in donating some money or time to help get the website up and running again. You can read about the problems at http://news.tckid.com/urgent/

(greeneaglz@googlemail.com)

People invested in you . . . Is it your turn?

When you were growing up as an MK, far away from your passport country, people gave money to the Lord-and to your familyso that you could go to school.

Now, SIM has an increasing number of missionary families from countries that are in the early stages of sending missionaries to countries that are far away. We have Latin American missionaries in China and India; Ethiopians in Sudan, India, and Pakistan; Nigerians in Sudan; Indians in Thailand . . . the list goes on and on. This is exciting! However, in those early stages of the mission enterprise it is often hard for churches and supporters to appreciate the



Bishoftu dizzy roundabout



Weekend campouts on Bingham compound. Can anyone I.D. these girls?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Photo IDs and Corrections, Simroots Vol. 26#1



P. 14 The kid getting his toenail clipped is Grant Cail. Grant is now a missionary nurse in Manaus, Brazil. He married a wonderful Brazilian lady in 2006. Sharon (Cail) Miller and Carolyn (Cail) Estep



Correction, p. 22
Karen (not Nancy) is standing beside Dick Ackley

P. 30, BA Archives



Anyone else want to weigh in on this one?

Miss Willey's Grade 4 class, 1956-57 (or Grade 5 class the next year?)

Boys: Jimmy Faulkner, Mark Perkins (or his brother?), Harold Jongeward, Bruce Fellows? (hidden), Norman Coppola Girls: Glory (Gloria) Stokes (?), Elizabeth Major, Becky Mecces (?), Margaret Wenger, Gail Swart, Marguerite MacMillan Harold Jongeward

P. 30, BA Archives

SIM HQ in Addis Ababa circa 1953. Russ Schmidt and Mamo



P. 30 Sahel Archives

1986-87. Grade 1. Teacher is Miss Jennifer Hicks

Left, front to back:

Simon Williams, Elisabeth Bergquam, Ruth Ann Cowie, ? (either Keith Campbell or Donnie Longworth)

Right, front to back:

Warwick Short, Timothy Jarrett, Baruch Zobrist

Priscilla (Enns) Wiebe and Pat Irwin

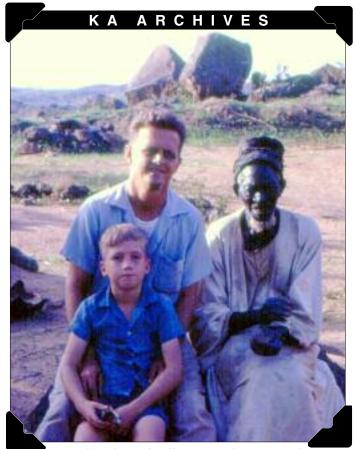
Back Page, Camel Rock (HC 99 students)

Ken Pelletier, Keith Hammack, Scott Cunningham, Beau Davis (Southern Baptist MK)

Sue (Long) Hammack







Uncle Nolon and Collin King with Mr. Peacock (who hung out next to the tree with the siren in front of the dining room every day at lunch time).

SIMROOTS ARCHIVE ISSUES

Want to own the entire set? Every issue of *Simroots* from the first typewriter-written, mimeographed copy to the present issue has been scanned onto one DVD. For a donation of any amount to *Simroots*, you can order your copy. (See Bulletin Board, p. 13)

SIMROOTS DONATIONS

Thanks to some very generous donors, we are able to continue producing *Simroots*. But don't let just a few individuals carry the weight for everyone. Let's all pitch in (as we're able) to keep the presses rolling.



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