

# SIMROOTS

From the Past, Through the Present, For the Future

FALL 2001

VOLUME 18 NUMBER 2

Produced by SIM (AEF, AEM, ICF and SIM) MKs, for SIM adult MKs and their caregivers

## Sahel Academy

**Sahel**—a geographical term designating the area between the Sahara Desert and the savannah.

In the mid-eighties there were more and more difficulties crossing the border from the French-speaking countries into Nigeria. Of course, parents with children at Kent Academy were concerned about this. Consequently a committee was formed in Niamey to search for property and form a school for children of missionaries from Niger, Burkina Faso, and Benin.

In 1985-'86 SIM purchased a tile factory and an eight-and-one-half-acre property on the banks of the Niger River. The buildings were renovated, others built, and school was started. The first year Pat Irwin, educational coordinator for the French-speaking countries, was the

principal. Eighteen students from Benin and Niger formed the first student body.

When Jean Campbell came from KA to be principal in 1987, she brought a truckload of school materials and supplies, some of which are still in use! (I recently shelved a library book originally stamped "Kent Academy." And I recognized some of the names of KA students who had read that book.)

Jean was principal until 1991 when Mary Marbaugh, formerly a KA and ELWA teacher, came to take her place. Mary has been principal from 1991 to the present except for a couple furlough years.

Several teachers and staff members from KA have also served at Sahel over the years, including Nancy (Hall) DeValve, Dale and Darlene Blomquist, Doris Hill,

*continued on page 2*

<http://simroots.sim.org>  
[simroots@sim.org](mailto:simroots@sim.org)

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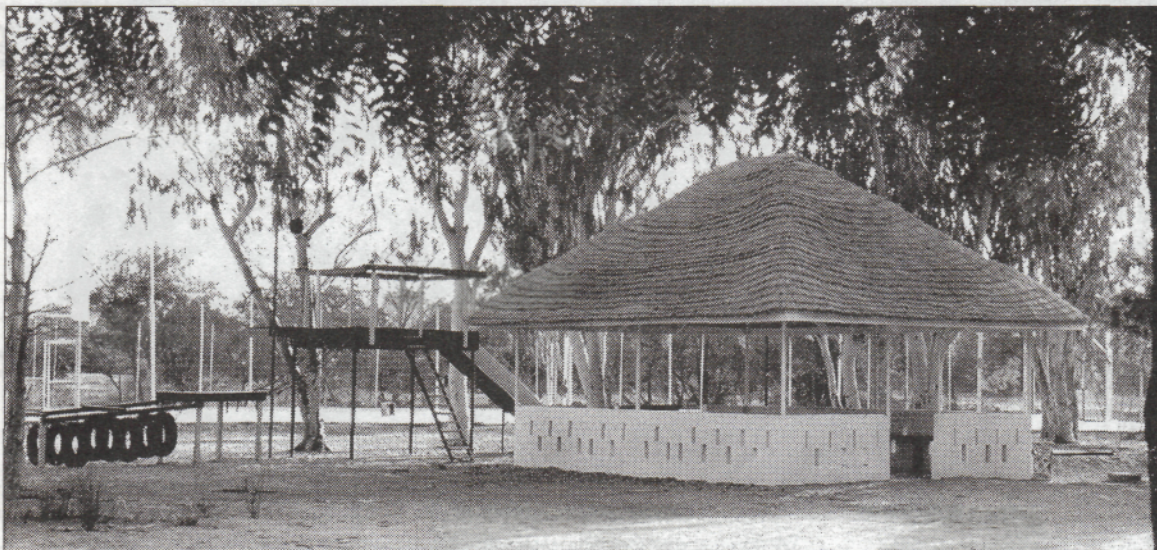
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SA playground and court. Photos submitted by Fred Zobrist and Doris Hill

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**SIMROOTS**  
c/o SIM USA  
P.O. Box 7900  
Charlotte, NC 28241  
USA  
704-588-4300  
postmast@simusa.sim.org

**SIMROOTS**  
c/o SIM Canada  
10 Huntingdale Blvd.  
Scarborough, ON  
Canada M1W 2S5  
416-497-2424  
postmast@sim.ca

**Please send correspondence to:**

**EDITOR**

Karen Keegan  
222 Hyle Avenue  
Murfreesboro, TN 37128  
(615) 895-9011  
simroots@sim.org

**LAYOUT**

Grace Swanson  
1565 Gascony Road  
Encinitas, CA 92024  
(619) 942-6109  
swanson121@home.com

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Dan Elyea  
fsyfr@okeechobee.com

**WEB PAGE**

Elizabeth Quinn  
lizard@inr.net

**Remember to put year of high school graduation and school(s) on all correspondence to *Simroots*.**

*Sahel* continued from page 1

Shannon (Dent) Maxwell (She met Phil in Niamey!), and Nancy Carriger. Jean Campbell came back as a third/fourth grade teacher in '94.

Over the years several adult MKs have ministered to Sahel students. Some of the staff members included Lucia (Isch) Eberle, Kendra (Dyck) Parlane, Lillian (Powers) Raymer, Helene (Warkentin) Zoolkowski, Priscilla Enns, and Caleb Klay. Anisa Blomquist spent two years at Sahel as an STA and is planning on coming back as a career teacher after French study. Kevin Cowie was a first grader at KA. Later on, he was a student at Sahel. This year he teaches math and other subjects at the school.

Fourteen years have brought great changes to Sahel. The student body, currently numbering 64 in grades K-12, represents 11 home countries. Families from nine different missions and parachurch organizations are served by the school. In June 2001 we will have our third graduation ceremony with graduates from the U.S. and Canada. God has greatly blessed our school.

Not only has the student population changed, the physical site has developed as well. The two tile factory buildings have multiplied over the years to include a dorm which can house 18 students, elementary classroom block, a secondary building, a library, a large dining room, 2 staff houses, and a sports house. (A larger secondary



*Future rocket scientists (2000)*

*K. Germaine, J. Rendel, T. Borody, D. Wong, E. Kanaval, C. Friesen, K. Cail*



*First & Second Grades ('88-'89) Clockwise from top: Lucia Isch (teacher), Evelyn Radlingmayr, Ben Rinaudo, Keren Burt, Yoram Zobrist, Jeffrey Owens*



*SA students and teachers (including Mr. B and Miss Hill) learn about fishing on the Niger River*



*Pat Irwin (first SA principal) and Mary Marbaugh, (present SA principal)*

classroom block is presently being constructed.) Within the past few years a sports court was built, and a large area smoothed out for a soccer field. Recently plans have been finalized to purchase the neighboring property of four acres, which will give us enough room for a large sports field, and/or a new dorm.

Sahel Academy's goal is to establish an international curriculum throughout the school. As part of the program, we have adopted a curriculum for ninth and tenth grades from Cambridge University for which the students take external exams in seven subjects.

Each year two special events are planned to encourage international awareness in the student body. Every other year we have Niger Day, focusing on people groups (Fulani, Hausa, Gourma, Djarma, etc.) and local activities such as fishing, leatherwork, and pottery.

This year's Oriental Odyssey took the student body from Russia to India, Malaysia, Korea, and Vietnam. The Odyssey included history, customs, games, religions, climate, and, best of all, food from each country. The students loved the firecrackers celebrating Chinese New Year!

Because Niamey is the capital of Niger, the

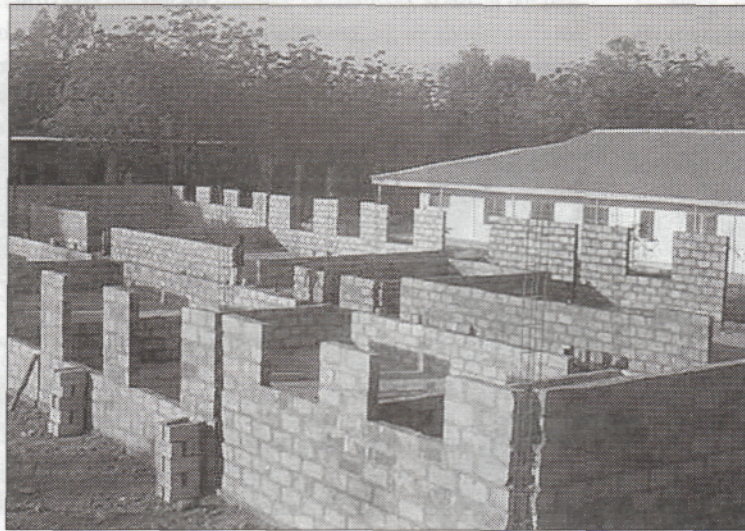
American embassy is here and has a recreational center which the students can use. The two favorite activities are swimming (a priority in such a hot spot!) and playing on softball teams. Two or three softball tournament trophies grace the dorm lounge.

Much more could be told about our great students and their many activities, but we'll save that for another time. Keep up-to-date on Sahel news (including the upcoming reunion) by looking at [www.sim.ne/sahel](http://www.sim.ne/sahel).

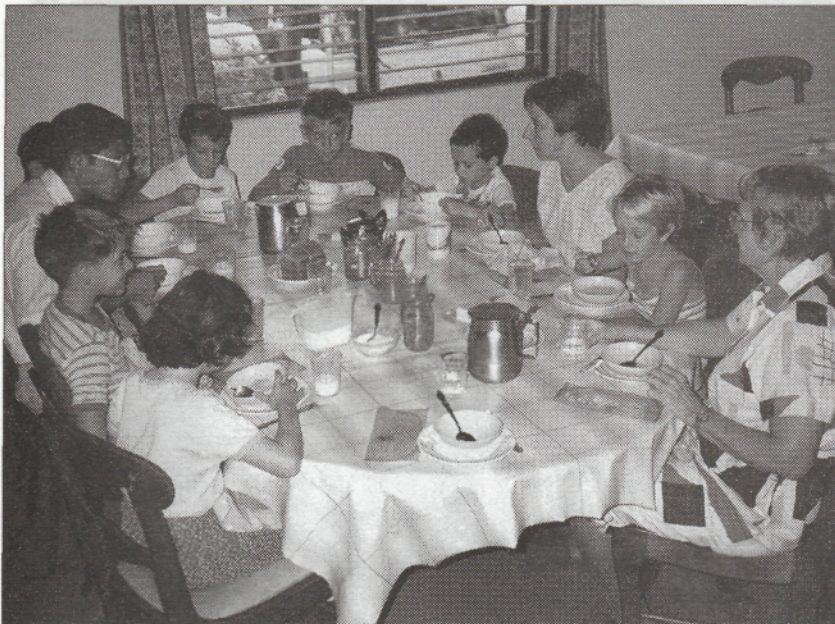
*Submitted by Doris Hill  
([dhill@sahel.sim.ne](mailto:dhill@sahel.sim.ne))*



*Oriental Odyssey (2001) Christy Friesen and Karissa Cail wearing Korean and Malaysian dresses*



*Sahel Academy being built This building under construction is our new secondary building. It has 6 rooms which includes a science lab and a computer lab. It is scheduled to be finished the end of the year, but we hope to be able to use a couple of rooms by the time school re-opens in August.*



*Eagles' Nest ('86-'87) Clockwise from bottom left: Raewyn Boyd, Kevin Cowie, Kingsley Jew (dorm uncle), Richard Boyd, Paul Jarrett, Peter Cowie, Timothy Jarrett, Sarah Hill (dorm auntie), Ruth Ann Cowie, Irene Zobrist (dorm mother) Not pictured: Oswald Zobrist (dorm father)*



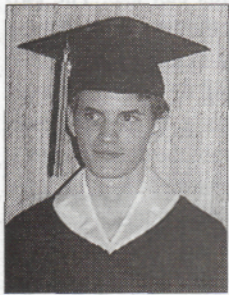
*Third & Fourth Grade ('88-'89) Warwick Short, Timothy Owens, Donald Longworth, Nicholas Freeman, Joey Freeman, Joy Brown (teacher), Baruch Zobist, Priscilla Enns*



*Christmas Play (1989) "Arch the Angel"*



*First & Second Grade Skit ('88-'89) Ben Rinaudo, Evelyn Radlingmayr, Yoram Zobrist, Keren Burt, Jeffrey Owens*



*Brent Cail (2000)*



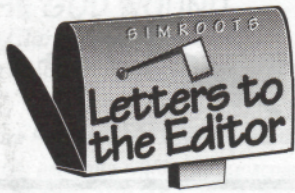
*('87-'88) Dorothy & Jack Phillips, Fred Zobrist*



*Faculty Meeting Fall Semester ('89-'90) Clockwise from bottom left: Kim Vanden Hengel, Jennie Findlay, Helene Warkentin, Browyn Bennett, Pansy Scambia, Fred Zobrist, Mary McPherson, Phil Carew, Jean Campbell, John Hoess Not pictured: Waltraud Ziegler*

**Below:**  
SA ('87-'88)





Dear Karen,

I get *Simroots* and read through it each time. I have to admit, though, since Dad was in SIM leadership from the time I was born and we returned to the States before my first birthday, I've always felt somewhat like an outsider at SIM MK gatherings. In all the American churches we traveled to and visited in during my growing up years, I was most definitely considered an MK by the people in those places, but among SIM MKs, well, I was considered an OK (Ordinary Kid) because I didn't have the MK school stories to tell. Perhaps it was worse yet because I was an LK (Leadership Kid)! I guess the fact that I don't know where I fit clearly describes me as an MK!

You're doing a good job with *Simroots*—MKs need the connection point. My connection point as a SIM MK is that I recognize most of the family names of the SIMers until 1982 because we prayed through the prayer guides each day while I was growing up. My job as a kid was to pray for the kids.

As an adult MK serving as a missionary in Japan (and having two MKs of my own), I have done a lot of research, both formal and informal, on MK issues. One of the conclusions I've come to is that I wouldn't trade my upbringing for anything, nor would I want my sons to grow up any other way! The benefits of being an MK far outweigh the costs, right!?

Keep up the good work. I'll continue reading *Simroots* and praying as the Lord leads for the needs of those mentioned. I still don't know where I fit in, but that's okay. I'm used to it.

Lord bless,

Bob Hay ([SENBobHay@aol.com](mailto:SENBobHay@aol.com))

Hi,

In Volume 17#1, page 10, there's a photo sent in by Rex & Heather Vinicombe of 3 kids at ELWA sitting at their desks, who were identified as Sally Thompson, me, and Peter Coddington. It's actually Nancy Thompson and David Coddington. The photo was taken when we were in second grade.

Violet (Bliss) Dietz

([mdietz1@new.rr.com](mailto:mdietz1@new.rr.com))

## WHO'S READING *SIMROOTS*?

Dear Readers,

As I sit down to determine what articles and news notes to include in each issue of *Simroots*, I keep coming back to the question "Who's my audience?" How can *Simroots* meet the desires and needs of every reader? Consider our database: Of the 2,568 names in our database, 491 have bad addresses, 67 are known deceased, several are new graduates without a permanent address yet, and 76 have asked to be removed from the *Simroots* mailing list for various reasons (indifference, anger, duplicate copies to a home). That leaves 1,892 people, including staff and a few parents who receive *Simroots*, and our numbers are growing. Consider our diversity: We represent students from the graduating class of 1941 (Congratulations, Gordon Beacham, for the distinctive honor of being our oldest student) to 2001—a span of 60 years. According to our database, we represent more than 17 overseas schools, and we presently live in 63 countries.

We have some students who were left on a separate continent from their parents before they entered grade school (e.g. Gowans Home); others attended boarding schools such as Kent Academy and Bingham; some attended local national schools, and many of today's graduates are home schooled. Some readers are contented and others are hurting. Some live a mainstream lifestyle; others are less traditional. Some have rejected their Christian heritage, and others have embraced it.

So what brings us all together under the name of *Simroots*? Our common bond is our shared experience as MKs and (for those who attended a boarding school) our relationships with those who were responsible for our education and well being, such as dorm parents, cooks, administrators, or school teachers. We are also linked together by our roots in a common mission board. We include alumni from 5 or more mission organizations that have merged to form the board called SIM (which today stands for "Serving In Mission").

I'm presently wrestling with how far our boundaries should reach. Who should receive *Simroots*? For example, should we go back and try to locate all the MKs whose parents served under AEF (Africa Evangelical Fellowship), ICA (International Christian Fellowship), or AEM (Andes Evangelical Mission) before those missions merged with SIM? My feeling is "no," unless they ask to be added to the list. Those kids have no emotional ties to SIM as we knew it then or as it stands now. If we include those who joined SIM after the merger, there are other differences to consider, such as various continents represented. If we only talk about Africa, we leave out the homeland of Carachipampa MKs.

Are we responsible for keeping up with alumni and staff from every school our MKs have attended? That

would be an impossible task. We have SIM students, for example, who attended Rift Valley Academy, but it is not a SIM-run school. Are their emotional ties with SIM or with their classmates? Others feel little connection with *Simroots* because they were home schooled or they attended local schools (either at home or abroad), and we spend much of our time talking about our boarding school experiences. They don't identify with the issues in Open Dialogue, and they don't recognize any of the names in News Updates. So I try to include articles on the TCK experience, but is that enough to keep their interest?

Who should be included in our list? I maintain SIM is the source of our birth, and therefore the criterion for belonging. Though *Simroots* is not controlled by the parent organization, they are supportive of our endeavors. (Whether or not our readers choose to maintain a relationship with the parent organization is, of course, up to them as adults.) Our policy is to continue to search for new names and update addresses and keep everyone on our list until they request to be removed for whatever reason. Yes, *Simroots* is costly to produce and mail, but we don't want to lose our connections! I've had readers comment that they are thankful we kept sending them the newsletter all these years, because they're just now renewing an interest in their roots. And had we taken them off the list, we would have lost their address.

When it comes to content, how do we maintain a balance of representation between the schools represented or the needs identified? Do we cater to the majority, or strive to include the minority? Can we be all things to all readers? Here's a quick tally of who's in our database:

School	Number of names listed
Kent Academy	1027
Bingham Academy	511
Staff (SIM-run schools)	420
Hillcrest	345
Gowans Home	177
ELWA	161
AEF	158
Sahel	103
Rift Valley Academy	88
Unknown school	72
Misc. schools, home schooled	68
International Christian Academy	49
Parents	46
Carachipampa Christian	37
Good Shepherd	15

Kent Academy obviously dominates our numbers. Should they, therefore, receive the most mention and representation in *Simroots*? What of the recent graduates who were home schooled? How can they possibly identify with someone who attended Gowans Home? I don't have an answer. All I know is, we all belong to the same tribe, the same family, and somehow we're all connected through our SIM roots. So keep writing, keep talking, and we'll keep printing! It's our newsletter!

Sai an jima (until a little while)

Karen (Sege) Keegan



# Open Dialogue



## RESPONSE TO "FROM THE EDITOR"

by Dean Hall (KA, HC '72)  
(dwhontheroad@hotmail.com)

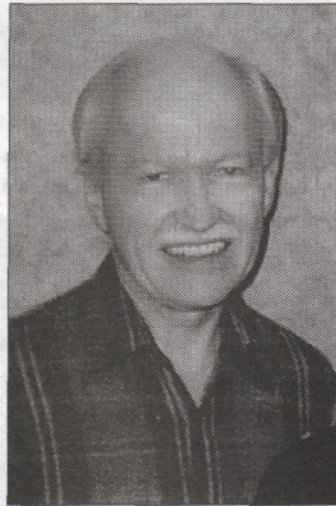
In response to my sister's question about why there are fewer 90s kids who write to *Simroots*. . . . Having been a dorm/hostel parent of the ever-elusive 90s kids, I have just a couple of observations.

We of the '60s, '70s, and '80s lived in a cocoon called HC, KA, etc. We gather in mind and spirit to relive that small world we knew. Our 10 years of work with MKs through the 90s saw the caterpillar crawl from the cocoon and develop a very strong community life—one that involved kids in camp ministries, with street kids, etc.—many more opportunities than we had outside of our cocoon. Our kids of the 90s never seemed as interested in the school clubs and groups as they were in outside groups and activities.

I believe that our '90s butterflies have a broader base than we did as we left Africa. Many more HC/KA friends wind up studying here in the States than we ever saw. I think they know more people locally than we could ever hope to.

Secondly, they are all in and/or finishing college and professional training. I've had the privilege of seeing a lot of our kids around the world, and they are busy in the college cocoon. Give them a few more years. Once they settle in, they'll be back. Right now, they just don't have time. Remember?

And third, even though they view the world somewhat differently than we, they still have that indefinable, elusive ache in their heart that leaves them seeking the rest of their life for that part that was left somewhere behind and never returned. As with us, sometimes the loss is too great, the inability to fit completely into home passport land too overwhelming, and we see strong young men cry, young college students just drop everything for awhile and just go back home.



Wally Morris

## AT HOME IN 100 PLACES

by Wally Morris (KA, GH '57)

Since attending the Gowans Home reunion in September 2000, I have often reflected on how much my life has been enriched by the MK experience. Selective memory perhaps? Oh, no! I can readily recall the pain of separation and periods of intense loneliness. But I've lived long enough to realize that any disadvantages of being an MK were far outweighed by the benefits and privileges I have enjoyed.

Some of those benefits are, of course, shared by anyone raised in a Christian home. To be surrounded by truth and love from infancy is a gift of inestimable value. How many griefs have I been spared in life because I was directed along the right path in early childhood?

Beyond this though, there were many other advantages in being an MK. By the age of 12, I had crossed the Atlantic 5 times and visited exotic places that many people never see in a lifetime. Living in another culture freed me from the bondage of racial prejudice, a problem which I was dismayed to discover even within the Christian church. Having moved many times during my early school years, I developed a sensitivity to the needs of "outsiders" and often found my life intersected by interesting people who taught me new perspectives.

As an MK I was forced to develop a measure of independence which served me well in

my early adult years. I learned to take the initiative in dealing with my own problems.

As an adult I find myself more aware of global concerns than many of my peers who have lived their entire lives in one country. I don't consider this a reason for pride, but I value this perspective for the many ways in which it enriches my life.

Several years ago I began to realize that some of the things I had regarded as liabilities resulting from the MK experience, had by the grace of God become assets. Take loneliness, for instance. Over the years the experience of loneliness gradually nurtured within me an appreciation for solitude. (Loneliness is being alone with one's self; solitude is being alone with God.) How I love to withdraw to quiet places to hear the whisperings of the Spirit in my soul.

The recurring experience of being an outsider, or "not belonging," helped me to better understand the biblical concept of being a stranger and pilgrim here. This world is not my home. Accepting this truth has encouraged me to hold my possessions loosely and to focus on matters of lasting value.

Beyond all this I have been enjoying the rich rewards promised by Jesus to His followers, as recorded in Matthew 19:29. "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, shall receive many times as much and shall inherit eternal life."

I am deeply grateful for the older men I have known who served as mentors or spiritual fathers to me. Many a godly woman has mothered me in one way or another. I was touched recently when an elderly woman told me she prays for me daily as if I were her own son. Brothers and sisters abound wherever I travel. And I am enjoying the ongoing adventure of discovering my "100 homes." I have been warmly welcomed and made to feel at home in places as diverse as Cyprus, Costa Rica, or a convent in North Toronto. "Home" is any place where I am welcomed in the name of Jesus.

The ultimate fulfillment of Christ's promise is yet to come. In God's perfect time I shall cross the threshold of my true eternal home and revel in the love of the complete family of God.

## THE GOD WOUND

by Clara (Grant) Brower (GH, KA, HC '58)  
(gracechurchlkpt@pcom.net)

Clara E. Brower is a spiritual director-companion to clergy and laity within the Episcopal Church. She received her doctoral degree in Spiritual Direction from Donaldson Theological Seminary. Her name is in the cornerstone of the first building constructed at Hillcrest in 1945.

In a previous issue Dr. William Zimmerman asked, "What does Christ require of a missionary? To sacrifice his family? Is there a better way?" I want to respond with a more pertinent question. "What does God require of the 'sacrificed' missionary child?"

I had the opportunity of participating in the reunions of Gowans Home (1995) and Kent Academy (2000). Along with meeting friends I had not seen for over 30 years, I had the privilege of hearing and assessing the painful stories of those who were still struggling with the abandonment they suffered in their childhood. The picture they portrayed was of adult lost children crying . . . raging . . . denying . . . defending . . . searching for meaning . . . and shocked into isolating themselves from the pain of being left behind in their parents' homeland for the work of God. The spirit of this communal child cries, "Why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34)

Once as an abandoned child and now as a Spiritual Companion/Director I ask the question, "Where is God in all this pain?" This question led me to follow the pain to the source of the wound, through the wound, and out the other side. I will share briefly what I am finding.

This missionary child syndrome revolves around the complex issue of God. But what aspect of God is this? Is it the God of the religious institution, i.e., SIM? Is it the God of the parents of the missionary child? or Is it the God of the missionary child? Which God demanded the decision to leave the child behind?

From this particular child's perspective, she was abandoned at Gowans Home for the sake of God's work. She bravely told her parents it was all right for them to return to Nigeria without her. She managed to stuff the pain down into the basement of her soul. Her sister, however, accused her of being mean. In an attempt to control the buried pain, she would pray to Jesus for help, then she would seek to put more controls on her negative side. This cycle of repentance and control continued until one day the whole basement of her soul exploded in the presence of her family who loved her. They sent her to a skilled Presbyterian Minister who helped her disentangle her parents from God.

When those doing the wounding are per-

ceived as dedicated servants of God and of God's Holy Mission/Church, the pain is intensified into a breach of faith. We run the risk of never getting beyond the hurt. We tend to cover over the wound and become entrenched into a cyclical pattern of re-action. We become fixated into self-absorption. We can take vengeance on all religious institutions and or parents. We can ignore the pain and act as if the hurt never happened, only to experience physical and emotional breakdowns. We can blame God.

We can also choose to get healed. All of us MKs have had enough psychology to know that as a child, wounded or not, we are required to grow beyond the container of our biological and cultural parents. Some of us have chosen to do this arduous work. All of us also have been reared with the Gospel story that says we are to leave our mother and father and follow the Son of God (Luke 14:25-27). Some of us have chosen to do this. One of the requirements in following Jesus is to return to the God Wound and diagnose what is taking place. The child of God is on the cross along with God the Father. Jon Sobrino states it well:

On the cross of Jesus God himself is crucified. The Father suffers the death of the Son and takes upon himself all the pain and suffering of history. In this ultimate solidarity with humanity he reveals himself as the God of love who opens up a hope and a future through the most negative side of history.<sup>1</sup>

Both parent and child are being crucified, surrounded by the religious institution which placed them on the cross.

To the best of my discernment the "spirituality" of this syndrome revolves around the Paschal Mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ for, "We preach Christ Crucified." (I Cor. 1:23) As an abandoned missionary child, who has and is standing at the foot of the cross, I identified with the child of God. Jesus went into abandonment with me. Later on in sorting out God from my father and my mother, I found out they, like God the Father, were also wounded by my sacrifice. I could forgive them for leaving me. I then looked around at the religious institution that set up this scenario and realized a similarity between the Jewish religious leaders of Jesus's day and the Mission's belief system that would sacrifice a child for the continuation of the work of God.

Jesus did not accuse His crucifiers; He forgave them because they did not know what they were doing. According to Dr. Wink, in his Trilogy on the Powers, every institution is run by an inner spiritual reality which is portrayed through its outer forms. He demonstrates that institutions are made by God and therefore are

good (Col. 1:16-17). But they also are capable of falling when "they encourage submission of personal desires to the general good of everyone"<sup>2</sup> at the cost of the sacrificed few. In the ongoing life of an institution decisions are made out of the logic of the institution's living practices that outlast the individual. They tend to develop and impose a set of traditions, beliefs, and values on all who enter. What constrains the behavior of the participants is not so much found in the written rules but in the invisible, unknown, and unacknowledged ideology. In time, a member or a group of individuals will become conscious that a "certain unexamined belief factor" is causing the unempowered within the institution to suffer. They will present this awakening to the leaders of the institution who in turn may choose to do something about it and so redeem the situation. Dr. Zimmerman is calling for a spiritual/social awakening. Ray G. de la Haye acknowledges that the leaders of the SIM need to address this issue. The Christ that brings the godly institution to account is the same Being who requires the victim to embrace the God Wound and resurrect.

How does one resurrect? The story of Jacob is a help. He wrestled with God. He hung on and would not let the Angel of the Lord go even when wounded. His goal was to come out the other side blessed. He prevailed and was blessed with a new identity (name). He integrated the experience and made meaning out of it.

I gave up being a victim of abandonment. It took me years of sitting with God and railing against the injustice of lacking loving parent models when I needed them, of dealing with the American culture when I had no clue of how to cope, and of grieving over losing my African homeland. I looked for love in all the wrong places, not knowing how to fill the abyss within. Finally I had to deal with a God concept/image/experience that was too small and too cruel. I am redeemed. The suffering has been transformed to joy. To suffer comes from the Latin words *sub* and *ferre*, meaning to carry under or under carriage like the frame of a car. We who have been sacrificed with Jesus and resurrected can become the foundational blocks in the body of Christ.

In conclusion, "What is God asking of Clara?" To follow Jesus to the wounding, name it, claim it, incorporate it, make meaning out of it, and then move on beyond it into the work of the Holy Spirit. I am Jesus's little sister who co-creates with the Godhead by picking up godly institutionally wounded people and creating a home here on earth for them so that they may be able to take the journey through the cross and out into resurrection.

<sup>1,2</sup> Request sources from author



Esther O'Donovan, Karen (Seeger) Keegan, Bill O'Donovan

## OPEN LETTER FROM O'DONOVANS

Dear KA "Kids,"

We find it so interesting to hear of where you have gone and what you have been doing with your adult lives! We have read with great interest and sometimes sadness of your reflections and struggles concerning your years at KA. We would love to hear from you if you would like to write to us.

We hope you have each come to the realization to which every mature Christian must eventually come—that whether the experience has been enjoyable or painful, easy or hard, God permitted it, and God is able to use it for growth and spiritual maturity in our lives if we respond to it in the right way. Paul says, "God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Cor. 9:8)

Among the many lessons that you can learn as an adult from your childhood experiences, one of the most important is this: What I am today in large measure is the cumulative result of the experiences I had as a child—most especially the experiences I had in my own home and family. There is no way to overestimate the importance of the effect of parents on their children whether for good or for bad. That influence far outweighs all others, even the cumulative experience of many years in a boarding school like KA.

In our 36 years as missionaries with SIM we have known many missionary families. A few have been A+ situations with wise, godly, proactive, intelligent parenting. A number have been above average "B" families. Surprising to us, a great many have just been average "C" families with parents who didn't seem to understand the impact of their parenting, and who

didn't seem to put that much thoughtful effort into that part of their ministry. They just sort of let it all happen. Sadly, a good many have been barely passable "D" families, and a surprising number have been thoroughly dysfunctional failures ("F" for the course in parenting).

So what is the lesson in all of this? Simply this: That whatever your own childhood experience has been, the most important thing you can learn from it is that your greatest responsibility in life is to proactively seek to give the children God gives you an A+ home with A+ parent-

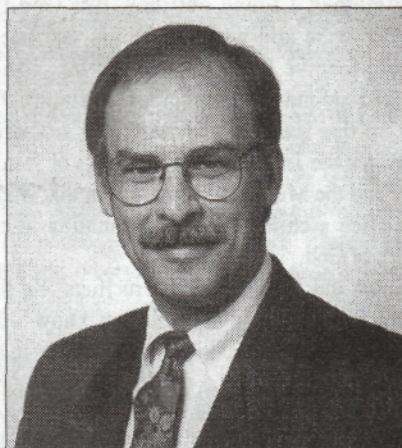
ing—from birth right into adulthood. There is no one in all the world more important for you to love, train and disciple for the Lord than your own children. No work or ministry in which you may be involved can be compared to this responsibility. We pray the Lord will help you as you seek to do this with your own children.

With our love to each one of you,  
Bill and Esther (Crouch) O'Donovan  
(doretha@juno.com)

## RAW DEAL

by Paul Seeger (KA, HC '69)  
(pseeger@biblicalministries.org)

He was a TCK that got a raw deal! He was separated from his parents for most of his life. He did the second language thing. He never saw his parents during school vacations. His siblings hated him; in fact they sold him as a slave. He grew up in a pagan culture. He never got letters or a visit from his parents. His adopted country put him in prison.



Paul Seeger

No question about it . . . this was a raw deal! But that can happen to a TCK. We all grew up in situations that were less than desirable. Maybe there was mistreatment. Some went through abuse. But few of us had it as bad as Joseph. Jealous brothers faked his death and pocketed the money they got from selling him to slave traders on their way to Egypt. He cried himself to sleep every night, knowing his parents assumed he was dead. Homesickness never got a reprieve. The strange food in Egypt gave him heartburn and made him long for mom's home cooking. This new language left him lonely in a crowd. His days were spent cleaning toilets and mopping floors. The Egyptians did not know about child labor laws. Joseph had every reason to be bitter. We would have been sympathetic if he had committed suicide. He should have had major psychological problems. But the interesting part of the story is that Joseph rose above his circumstances and succeeded with all the odds against him. It did not make sense that a foreigner could be vice-president of Egypt. Yet Joseph turned his raw deal into a big deal.

Being an MK is one of the greatest privileges and advantages a person can have. But some MKs think it is a raw deal. And some of them did get a raw deal. The great news is that we don't have to live in defeat because of our past. With the odds stacked against us, we can emerge successful, happy, well adjusted adults. It really is possible. It may not be an easy path . . . but we can get there.

Thanks Joseph, for your example. You turned a raw deal into a sweet deal.

## WHINERS OR WOUNDED?

Submitted by Karen Keegan

As an editor, I've received several comments from readers who say they're tired of the on-going discussion in "Open Dialogue" about the negative aspects of MK experiences. Their comments include "When are they going to get on with life?" "They need to quit whining and blaming others," and "It's not as bad as they claim; they've blown it all out of proportion."

Why do we keep talking about our stories? Why continue to include articles and submissions about these struggles? In an effort to help me answer these questions, I appealed to the AMK Task Force for their thoughts. Here are some excerpts from their responses.

### Comment:

Personally, I'm one of those who is delighted with my upbringing, and had little sympathy for those who insisted on holding onto their past. But having heard the stories first-hand, I have



begun to have a little more compassion for their struggle to find healing. Some just take more time to find their way I guess. And, of course, we're talking here of a huge difference in degrees of negative experiences. We're not just talking about undeserved spankings but abusive situations even by today's standards. One MK was told, "Forget the past and get on with life," and her response was, "I wish I could forget. I don't know how. Please help me."

**Comment:**

Healing is a process for those who have been wounded and it takes time. Woundings come in many legitimate forms and need to be voiced because healing almost never comes in a vacuum. Community is required in the process. To shut off the process is to double the pain. Not all personalities can process things the same way as those who seem to be able to "get on with life," and that is not a fault. It is the way God made us. When there has been deep wounding, only God knows the timing needed for healing.

**Comment:**

When I hear this type of criticism, what makes me hurt is that I can't tell the depth of all the stories I've heard which lead to this need for healing without betraying those most wounded. As for telling their story publicly, no one who has been in the depth of the situations that some have experienced should make themselves vulnerable to potential backlash until/unless they can stand rested in this as a request from God to do so. Some, I feel, will never understand for one simple reason—they would have to look at aspects of their own story they simply don't want to see. And thus, no matter what story of abuse or neglect or whatever they hear, they will still continue to blame the one who experienced it rather than the person or situation which caused it all, and no one should throw themselves in front of that type of firing squad. Through the years I've learned there are many who have very positive feelings towards their own backgrounds but can still have much empathy for those who have a longer process of healing to go through. They are confident enough in their own solid memories that what others experience doesn't shake them.

**Comment:**

There are some people who really do not know what the "fuss is about" and would respond positively when they realize there is reason to be concerned and reason for some to "complain" about their experiences.

**Comment:**

I think we need to address this widely held and often expressed opinion with love and respect for differences, including both sides of the story. There are those who live good,

healthy, well-adjusted lives who have little residual pain, who are quite resilient and relatively unaffected. Of course they have pain in their lives and probably much of it could be traced back to some painful experiences in childhood, but they chose for it not to dominate their lives (and I think that number is quite significant based on the comments I receive). This is not to imply that those with pain are not living "good, healthy, well-adjusted lives." I merely say there is the whole gamut living the whole gamut. I think if we shut down this "side," we are indeed putting ourselves in a box and excluding a huge part of "us." Are we going to make pain a qualifier for dialogue? I certainly hope not. I see one of our ultimate goals is to help lift out of the pain, some through long or short processes, while applauding and embracing those who are already out.

**Comment:**

I would only add that we are not interested in blaming or self-pity, but rather truth and love. Our desire is to face the truth of what happened, to rid ourselves of denial, to expose lies and replace them with God's truth; to ask God to show us how past experiences and pain can linger in the present, preventing us from loving as He loves. If we wallow in self-pity, we must be confronted. If we seek only to blame, our condemnation falls on us. Blaming is destructive. Owning truth and bringing it to our Redeemer is healing.

**Comment:**

A significant number of AMKs are still dealing with serious issues related to their MK background. They are not whining so much as they are attempting to find understanding, resolution, healing, and reconciliation. *Simroots* plays a part in this process; the AMK Task Force and SIM play a part. What seems like a whine may in reality be a cry for help.

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

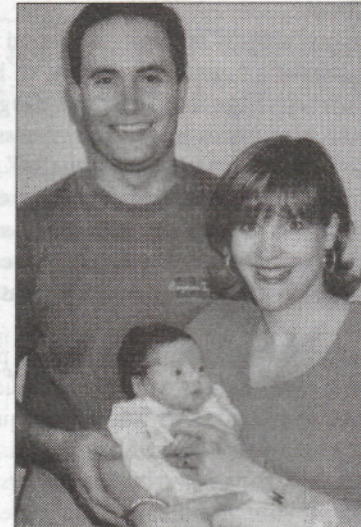
**Births**

On December 26, 2000, Anna Jamila (Belle) was born to **Stefan & Christina Brandle (AEF)**.



*Charis Joy Miller*

**Elizabeth (Ricker) (BA, RV '84) & Jamie Kabernick** had a baby girl, Elisa Joy, on April 6, 2001.



Charis Joy was born May 15, 2001, to **Rodney & Annette (Steele) Miller (CC '91)**.

For photos of the Steele family:  
[www.picturetrail.com/ahsteele](http://www.picturetrail.com/ahsteele)

Kaleigh Brooke was born August 12, 2001, to **Debbie (Fawley) (KA, HC '88) & Hal Clemmer**.

*Kaleigh Brooke Clemmer, Debbie (Fawley) & Hal*

**Weddings**

**Faith (Jongeward) (BA, RV '92) & Rodney Unruh (EL)** were married April 14, 2001.



**Michelle Steele & Tim O'Brien** were married on December 30, 2000.

*Michelle Steele & Tim O'Brien*

## RESPONSE TO DR. ZIMMERMAN

by Priscilla Weese

(parent of three SIM MKs)

(WWeese@aol.com)

Dear Dr. Zimmerman,

Your compassionate letter was of more than passing interest to me. You mirror a lot of questions being asked in the MK community.

I do not feel I am intellectually or psychologically prepared to give a full treatment to your questions, but I do bring a lifetime of living in mission work. I was born in China in 1932 to China Inland missionaries. I went to the Chefoo Schools at age six. Transportation was difficult, which made it impossible to return at Christmas or summer vacation. I lost contact with parents and younger siblings. My parents went on furlough in late 1941 and, against Mission policy, took me home with them. I barely escaped four years in a Japanese concentration camp, which all my C. I. M. classmates suffered.

As an adult my husband and I served with SIM, sending our three children to Kent Academy at age six. Later our daughter returned to Burkina Faso as an SIM missionary. Thus I intimately know the MK, the missionary, and the missionary mother experience. I am also a Registered Nurse and a Nurse Anesthetist, so I appreciate the severity of the physical and mental problems you mention.

Let me address separately several problems you cite—the two tiny girls that died of cerebral malaria. Our baby girl acquired malaria in utero and had her first crisis at three days. Even as I write this, the tears fall, remembering the dread of her expected death. It took us 18 months to bring her malaria under control. God spared her life. However, not all children survive. God did allow the death of Job's ten children. Though Job did not know it, Scripture tells us that the battle was between God and Satan. No battle is without casualties. Our part is to weep with those who weep, pour in the oil of comfort, and personally pay in time and money for their recovery as the Good Samaritan did.

You raise the problem of heart problems, cancer, and renal failure. Dr. Zimmerman, as you know, heart disease and cancer are the two leading causes of death in the U.S. In addition, some cancers (Burkett's lymphoma) are unique to the tropics. A certain

number would have succumbed in the U.S. or overseas. God does not always see "premature" death as tragic. His Son died at 33.

Now for the more difficult problem of mental illness. I believe the rate of mental illness is far lower than in the U. S., where one in ten of the population will need mental health care during their lifetime. With over 40,000 North American missionaries overseas and often under physical and mental stress, I am amazed we don't see more. We both know that much (not all) mental illness is triggered by chemical imbalance and exacerbated by stress. Treatment with anti-anxiety and anti-psychotic drugs with psychiatric support has emptied out many of our mental institutions. I pray that even better drugs and stress reduction will soon be available. Again, all battles have casualties, and it is our Christian privilege and duty to love and care for our wounded in tangible ways.

As for the heart-rending problem of children—and yes, even missionaries—who become bitter and turn their backs on their childhood Christian faith. Some excellent books address this in depth. The Canadian psychiatrist, Dr. John White's *Parents in Pain* speaks from the psychiatric, personal, and Christian viewpoint. However, Jesus' story of the Prodigal Son has many helpful insights, some of which are: The father is in no way blamed for the son's rebellion. God brought circumstances into the son's life that brought sanity, repentance, and return. The father never stopped longing and believing the son would return. "He saw him from afar." He welcomed him home. I firmly believe the prodigal occurs in every generation since the first prodigals in the perfect Garden of Eden. Even perfect surroundings do not always produce perfect children. But God is faithful and will bring to completion what He began. The prodigal does come home.

Ultimately, the bitterness must be dealt with individually. I don't believe bitterness is unique to MKs. Nor do I believe it is normative, although I get the impression that some of those working with MKs are suggesting to them: "If you do not admit that you need psychological counseling, since you were an MK, you are in denial." That some kids are damaged and do need help, I do not deny. But to expect emotional problems to be the norm is unacceptable and harmful. Some psychologists, following something other than the Good Samaritan's pattern, are leaving their patients poorer, charging mission societies as much as \$100 per hour for coun-

seling. They live in luxury, while the parents of their patients have to struggle for rent allowance on furlough. I see some offering unscriptural solutions, such as divorce when no scriptural grounds exist, or using filthy language for shock effect. I see MKs suing mission societies and extracting thousands of dollars to keep the cases out of court. That tragic child abuse to small children occurred and some schools needed to be closed is not in dispute. But in the light of 1 Corinthians 6, I don't understand going to court to sue. I see self-appointed MK specialists, who have never known long periods of loneliness and separation, or at best a year or so, lecturing MKs that their parents, mission society leaders and older MKs don't understand them. I have had MKs, fresh from these sessions with their counselors, tell me, "You are a pre-World War Two missionary kid—you couldn't possibly understand what we have been through." I heard less bitterness from my classmates who went through four years of Japanese concentration camps than I hear from some MKs today. Who is promoting this "pity me" attitude? For the past 60 years more children of missionaries have appeared in *Who's Who in America* than any other group. We have excelled and made tremendous contributions in every generation, including this one. Who is telling this side of the story? I am pleading that the truth, the whole truth, be told.

I laud the home schooling of children that I saw when we visited our daughter. I praise every effort to keep children with parents as long as possible. I do not wish MKs to not see parents for years and years, as happened to me. I do not wish children to leave home at age six, as happened to our children. The gospel has gone through the nations at tremendous cost and suffering. Yet, overarching it all we learned not to confuse life with God. Life is hard and seldom fair, but God is good. Joseph, Job, Paul, and saints in every age learned this and we can too.

I dream that in heaven that all missionaries and all missionaries' kids, all of whom have suffered, will form a special chorus. We will sing:

*It will be worth it all when we see  
Jesus.*

*Life's trials will seem so small when  
we see Christ.*

*One glimpse of His dear face, all  
sorrow will erase,*

*So bravely run the race till we see  
Christ.*

### BA SOUNDS AVAILABLE

I have reel-to-reel sounds of Bingham: orchestra, various music recital pieces, some of the sound track of *Pirates of Penzance*, and even snatches of a basketball game (which Bingham won over Good Shepherd, 50-46, or some close score like that).

My borrowed reel-to-reel works quite well. I'm not sure of my own technology, but would be willing to try "a snatch of the past" on cassette of course, for those who want to take "potluck."

Roy Wallace ([rwallace@westpark.on.ca](mailto:rwallace@westpark.on.ca))

### CARACHIPAMPA

Carachipampa Christian School celebrates 75 years next year. Check out CCS on the Web:

[www.carachipampa.org](http://www.carachipampa.org) Under the alumni link, you can view updated pictures of alumni, former staff and future alumni in the various picture albums. If you have pictures or an update about yourself, please send it to Helen Steele ([steele@bo.net](mailto:steele@bo.net)) so that we can add your update to the CCS picture albums.

### LIVING WATER CD

By Myrna (Kietzman) Holmes (KA, HC '79)

A collection of original Christian contemporary songs on CD

For those interested in obtaining a copy, please send a check for \$18 (includes p&h) made payable to: SMH Music, PO Box 5934, Rochester, MN 55903.

All profits from sales will go towards the SIM Medical Care Fund.



Myrna Holmes

### DID YOU KNOW?

107 AMKs are currently serving with SIM.

### WHAT IS A LISTSERVE?

If you have email access, besides person-to-person messages, you may wish to benefit from a broader-based option: mailing lists. These lists each have some common interest that brings a particular group of people together. Each message that is sent to the list gets distributed to everyone who has subscribed to that particular list.

A *list administrator* or *list owner* moderates mailing lists. This person monitors the list activity to subscribe new members, unsubscribe those who want to get off the list, and to keep the list traffic on-track. To take much of the tedium out of the process for *list administrators*, specialized programs called *listserves* automatically manage most of the functions of a mailing list.

To subscribe to a *listserv* that interests you, send an email to the appropriate address with nothing in the *subject line*, and only the essential words in the body. Anything extra you add may confuse the automated system. For example, if you want to join the KA *listserv*, you would send a message to: [hub@mknet.org](mailto:hub@mknet.org) that says only "subscribe Kent-Academy" in the body of the message. You will receive a message back in a day or so telling you that you are subscribed to the list, and giving you some useful information for your reference. And as long as you remain subscribed, you'll receive a copy of every message that gets sent in to that *listserv*.

Send the appropriate message to [hub@mknet.org](mailto:hub@mknet.org) to join any of these three lists:

- MK-Nigeria
- Hillcrest-L
- Kent-Academy

To join the CCS list, send to [hub@carachipampa.mknet.org](mailto:hub@carachipampa.mknet.org) and place the words "subscribe alumni" in the body of the message.

### PERSONAL WEB SITE FOR LIBERIA

[www.geocities.com/randy1315/Liberia.html](http://www.geocities.com/randy1315/Liberia.html)

### SIM USA NEEDS:

Do you have a family member or friend that is near retirement age that is interested in following God into a new calling or ministry opportunity? There are several key positions in SIM USA that a "finisher" or retiree could fill for a year or more. If you have a family member or friend that would be interested in volunteering to fill one of these important positions, please have them send a resume to: SIM USA, PO Box 7900, Charlotte, NC 28241-7900 and/or contact Ken Lloyd or Grace Ely at 704-587-1410 ([grace\\_e@simusa.sim.org](mailto:grace_e@simusa.sim.org)) for further information.

#### Open Positions:

- Carlsbad Retirement Village nurse (housing provided)
- Sebring Retirement Village Medical Supervisor (housing provided)
- Sebring Retirement Village LPN or nurse (housing provided)
- Cook/helper for Sebring Retirement Village Lodge (housing provided)
- Charlotte SIM USA office Health Manager
- Charlotte SIM USA office nurse

### SIM NEEDS

SIM is looking for an AMK Coordinator couple to work with young adult MKs (college and career age) on an on-going basis.



# Book Reviews

## The Adventures of Mighty Mom

Here She Comes to Save the Day . . . If Only She Can Find the Keys!

by Gwendolyn (or Gay) Mitchell Diaz  
(KA '68)  
(ZMBJ@aol.com)

Welcome another SIM MK's contribution to the literary world!

"This book is loaded with insightful reflections to inspire mothers everywhere," claims the promo, and it's true! Thanks, Gwen, for a fun read, full of humor, that packs a punch with each entry. Each short vignette and anecdote from her child-rearing experiences ends with a prayer.

Her second paperback book, *Mighty Mom's Secrets to Raising Super Kids*, contains more than just humorous stories. It's basically the philosophies and principles of mothering that she's discovered while raising four sons—a kind of a "how to" book for raising children God's way.

She is now under contract with NavPress to write three books for teenagers about understanding and living our faith. The first one will be out next spring. It is titled *Sticking Up for What Is True—Answers to the Spiritual Questions Teenagers Are Asking*. Check your local bookstore for availability.

## Among Worlds

MKs will be excited to see this newly formatted 12-page magazine published four times a year by Interaction International. They state, "The mission of *Among Worlds* is to excel as the premier publication to encourage adult TCKs and to fill a need that is real among TCKs by addressing issues that are relevant." The spring 2001 issue, for example, explores love, dating, and relationships among TCKs.

Insightful articles and testimonies make this publication a fun read.

You can order your subscription for \$16 U.S., checks made out to Interaction.

All other countries please add \$2 US per subscription (sent in U.S. funds only).

Among Worlds  
PO Box 26643  
Colorado Springs, CO 80936-6643  
USA  
(Amongworlds@tckinteract.net)  
[www.tckinteract.net/amongworlds](http://www.tckinteract.net/amongworlds)

## Hold Fast Your Ground

by Violet L. Bergen (Mom of AMKs  
Bernie, Dan, Lou Ann, and Doug)  
(jjbergen@att.net)  
Bervine Publishers, 1992

"Violet Bergen is well qualified to gather together the interesting details of the work of African Challenge and Maranatha Bible College in Ghana, for she and her husband John helped to initiate and develop these strategic SIM ministries in the West African nation . . . The record of God at work in the lives of men and women will be a blessing to all who read this volume." — Dr. W. Harold Fuller

Order from SIM USA [see p.2]  
Cost: \$10.00

## Worth It All A Saga of a Family's Life in East Africa

by LaVerna Ediger  
(Mom of AMKs Duane, Jo, and Merle)

This 270-page book with 26 pictures sells for \$15 (plus \$1.50 for P&H in the U.S.) There are four parts to the book:

- The early years and the Lord's call
- New beginnings (building work)

- To the ends of the earth (work with Satan worshippers and the "killer" tribe)
- Healing body and soul (leprosy work)

In 1940 LaVerna Schroeder was a young Kansas farm girl who had never seen a black person. Fifteen years later she was living in East Africa. Her story of raising a family under primitive conditions in the bush country of Ethiopia is dramatic and moving.

## No Turning Back

This is the story of Jack and Vera Nicholson, missionaries at Gelengu, Nigeria, and SIM's first missionaries from New Zealand.

Cost: NZ \$10.00 (US \$4.50), postage NZ \$9.50 (US \$4.20)

(They can convert US checks.)

SIM New Zealand  
PO Box 38-588 Howick  
Auckland, New Zealand  
Anne Power ([powers@clear.net.nz](mailto:powers@clear.net.nz))

## Marching with Joy

by Sue Hungerford

This is the story of Joy Crombie, who worked in Ethiopia and Liberia.

Cost: NZ \$12.00 (US \$5.25),

postage NZ \$10.75 (US \$4.00)

Order through SIM New Zealand (above)

## Dreams Dawn in Africa

This book contains the writings of women missionaries who served in the Lutheran Church in Nigeria over the years. Authors include Katie Lautenschlager Fine, Bobbie Lautenschlager, Mary Ottemoeller, and others.

Cost: \$6.00

Call: 1-800-252-5965

(The order number is 23050.)

You can also order online at [www.ilwml.org](http://www.ilwml.org).

## I Have to Be Perfect (and other Parsonage Heresies)

The Preacher's Kid's Manual of the Holy Heresies You May Have Grown Up With and How to Find Your Way Back to the Truth  
by Timothy L. Sanford, M.A.  
foreword by Chonda Pierce

Was your father (or mother) a pastor, evangelist, rabbi, denominational superintendent, worship minister, missionary or key leader of a parachurch organization? If so, then this book is for you . . . not about you . . . for you!

Tim Sanford is a missionary kid, an ordained minister and is in private practice as a licensed professional counselor. He has seen it all, heard it all, and now touches it all with candor, honesty, sarcasm and power. Tim opens up the PK/MK mind and helps you take an honest, deep look at the conclusions you may have drawn from your PK/MK experiences.

"When Tim presented this material at the First Annual Adult PK Conference . . . the room felt like it had been charged with electricity as the 'A-Ha!' moments of recognition began . . . Tim's work is not only unique, but revolutionary among PK/MKs." — Ruth Van Reken

This 150-page book is available through direct mail only.

Make checks payable to:

Timothy L. Sanford, M.A.

Send your name and address to:

5526 N. Academy Blvd. Suite 206  
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Cost: \$9.95 (plus S&H)

US Priority mail fees:

1-2 books = \$5.00

3-4 books = \$7.50

## This House Has Fallen: Midnight in Nigeria

by Karl Maier  
Public Affairs Press, 2000 (327 pages)

If you want to stay current on the depressing situation that is Nigeria today, then you can't do better than reading Karl Maier's new book *This House Has Fallen*. Maier, a journalist who has lived in Nigeria for the last ten years, reports on the perilous economic, political and religious condition of the country. Maier worries that Nigeria is headed for another civil war. There is pressure from Yorubas to break up

Nigeria, restructuring the current 36 states into a confederation of regions each with their own ethnic sovereignty, religious autonomy and separate economy.

Maier introduces us to Nigeria's series of recent army dictators such as Sani Abacha and Ibrahim Babangida as well as the current civilian president Olusegun Obasanjo. He takes us through customs at Lagos' Murtala Mohammed Airport, on a hair-raising taxi ride through the city and to a polling place during the 1999 elections. Maier leads us to the oil-rich Niger delta where youths from the Ijaw tribe are fighting a small guerrilla war to gain a larger share of the region's great wealth. We learn about the struggle of the Ogoni people against the destruction of the environment by multinational oil companies like Shell and Texaco that resulted in the 1995 hanging of Ken Saro-Wiwa. The author then takes us to Kano and Kaduna in the north, where there has been serious violence between Christians and Muslims who have attempted to impose strict Islamic law.

Maier writes in a fair, balanced way. His evaluations of political activist Saro-Wiwa and of President Obasanjo touch on both their strengths and weaknesses. Maier is a seasoned writer, who offers the insights of a political analyst, the historical and religious understanding of a scholar, the detailed first-hand observations of an onsite observer and the captivating narration of a novelist. *This House Has Fallen* is an excellent history of modern Nigeria. It is an honest and well-written book, but not an optimistic one. For those of us who still have a deep heart-love for Nigeria and her many peoples, this book will give a good understanding of the current situation and will prompt you to pray to God for peace and justice in the country.

Submitted by Jim Gould  
(JGOULD@mchenry.cc.il.us)

## Third Culture Kids The Experience of Growing Up Among Worlds

Same book, new publisher. In case you were looking and couldn't find it in the bookstores, David Pollock and Ruth Van Reken's book *The TCK Experience: Growing Up among Worlds* is being republished under a new title, company and ISBN.

Nicholas Brealey Publishing  
[www.nbrealey-books.com](http://www.nbrealey-books.com)  
ISBN 1-85788-295-4

## SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES WHOSE LOVED ONES HAVE DIED

Kerry Lovering (parent) March 18, 2001

Fred Zabel (BA staff) March 22, 2001



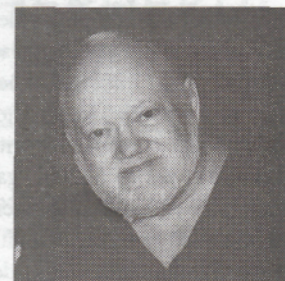
Thais Good Renfer

Thais Good Renfer (BA staff) July 17, 2001

Yola Hicklin (parent) July 26, 2001

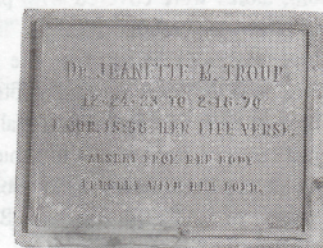
Sadie Ackley (parent) July 28, 2001

Michael Warburton (parent) August 7, 2001



Dr. Roger Troup

Dr. Roger Troup August 9, 2001. He and his sister, Dr. Jeanette, were both medical doctors at Bingham Memorial Nursing Home in Jos.



Dr. Jeanette Troup's grave  
Dr. Jeanette M. Troup  
12-24-23 to 2-18-70  
I COR. 15:58 Her life verse  
Absent from her body  
Present with her Lord.

## SEBRING RECONNECT

Following a staff and parents' meeting at SIM's Sebring Retirement Center on June 16, 2001, AMKs from the area gathered for an informal time of food and fellowship. Pizza, salad, and kosai (African bean cakes) made up the menu. We exchanged news updates and pored over picture albums and year books. We reconnected with some friends and acquaintances from 30 or more years ago and also made some new friends. Some left early, and others stayed to talk long into the night. Thank you to all who made the effort to come!

*Submitted by Karen Keegan*

## TORONTO RECONNECT

It began with an email from Nancy Ruth in Dallas, Texas. She had been involved in several regional reunions of adult SIM MKs in the U.S., she was planning a trip to Toronto, and she was willing to help in any way to make a reunion of SIM MKs in southern Ontario possible during that visit. She found a group of people in the Toronto office who had already been discussing Canadian Adult MK concerns. They saw Nancy's offer as a potential catalyst to allow adult Canadian MKs to reconnect with each other. The result was a May 5, 2001, gathering of approximately 70 AMKs and spouses at the SIM Canada office and guesthouse facilities.

Tables in the reception area were laden with goodies selected to bring back memories of overseas childhoods—fruit platters featured mangoes, papayas and guavas; snack foods included bean cakes, *chin chin*, banana chips, roasted chick peas, and Indian mix. There was even old-fashioned bottled Coca Cola. In the dining room, tables were covered with photo albums and other memorabilia from the "home land." Especially exciting for the old "Binghamites" was a display of recent photos of Bingham brought back by "Uncle" Roy Wallace, who had just returned from a visit to Ethiopia. Another big hit was Brian Isaacs' laptop, loaded with old photos of LAC, the Bingham Band, recitals, Halloween costume parties, and Christmas plays.

A good number of the MKs were from Gowans Home, and they brought along albums that featured GH, including photographs of recent GH reunions. Many KA alumni were there, too, and they rallied around former KA principal Jack Phillips. All shared memories



**Back:** Tom Geysbeek (EL, HC), Vicki (Stuart) Cole (KA, HC), Bill Strong (GH), Don Price (KA, HC), Minna Kayser (BA), David Wickstrom (KA, HC), George Beacham (GH), Joy (Vanderschie) Miller (Westervelt, GH), Ann Beacham (Westervelt), Don Ter Meer (GH, KA)  
**Front:** Dan Elyea (KA, HC), Nancy (Ackley) Ruth (EL, BA, HC), Miriam (Veenker) Samuels (KA, HC), Norman Hall (GH), Margaret Hall (GH), Marjorie (Campion) Key (KA, HC)  
**Foreground:** Karen (Seger) Keegan (KA, HC)



**Left to right:** the Great Hostesses of the Mini-Reunion: Ruth Maxwell (KA, HC), Lorna Jacobson (MK Coordinator/Canada) and Rosalee Hodges (wife of Dave Hodges KA)



**Left to right:** Tim Jacobson (BA), "Sir" Roy Wallace (BA) and Glen Coleman (KA)



**Left to right:** Bingham the '60s: Tim Jacobson, Stephen Donald, Carol Wallace, Brian Isaacs, Nancy (Ackley) Ruth, Mark Middleton

and caught up on what had happened in each other's lives.

There was a low-key program. MKs were challenged in an icebreaker game to recall trivia from their growing up years. (Do you remember the names of the Miango Rest Home cottages or the pre-independence names of African countries?) Pep Philpott, SIM Canada director, brought greetings. There was also opportunity to present the work of SIM Canada's MK Care department with our current MKs.

It had been decades since such a reunion had been attempted in southern Ontario, but now that we've begun, we want to maintain the momentum. This past week, one group was able to spontaneously organize an Ethiopian restaurant outing. We'd like to encourage others to organize similar get-togethers. If you'd like to get "plugged in" and involved with other AMKs, please feel free to contact us.

*Submitted by Lorna and Tim Jacobson  
 416-497-2424  
 lornatim@attcanada.ca*



**Kneeling:** John Modricker, Steve Swingle  
**Standing:** Sheila Modricker, Stefan Brandle, Christina Brandle holding daughter Anna, Wille Brandle, Angela Brandle, Ruth Van Reken

## INDY RECONNECT

I'd looked forward to the planned Indianapolis area mini-reunion on September 15, 2001, with a jumble of thoughts. Who all would be there? Would I be a total stranger? SIM has changed so much since my BA days—what should I expect? I just knew that I was going to feel awkward. But, was I going to pass up a chance to interact with others that had experience in a different culture? Not hardly!

Willie & Angela Brandle hosted the event. We first rendezvoused at a Hunan Restaurant. Anticipating some confusion with IDs, I wore my BA 50th Anniversary T-shirt. Surely that would target me by anybody wondering who I might be. Yep, Angela made the connection immediately, and in her vivacious manner welcomed Sheila and me to the get together. Besides the previously mentioned names, Stefan and Christina Brandle, as well as Steve Swingle were in attendance.

We milled around the entrance of the restaurant for a brief period of time, waiting for a couple of other MKs that had planned to attend but for unknown reasons were unable to follow through. Once seated at our table, topics of conversation were very fluid. Introductions and brief bios were given by each of us. Any prior concern that I'd had about awkwardness dissipated immediately. After chowing down, we took off to Willie and Angela's residence to continue our dialog. Quite naturally with the events of September 11 weighing on our minds, that topic received a lot of attention. I'd brought my Ethie stamp collection for viewing

and ended up wishing I'd brought all of Africa, as the South was represented by Stefan Brandle, and the West was represented by Steve Swingle.

My feelings about holding another Midwest reunion? Absolutely! Any of you out there in the Midwest that would be interested in checking out another reunion—speak right up. It's a very gratifying experience after years of "isolation" within your own culture.

*Submitted by John Modricker (BA '70)  
 aka Mugera (rosebug@skynet.net)*

## SAHEL ACADEMY REUNION

**When:** December 28, 2001 -  
 January 1, 2002

**Where:** Toccoa, Georgia, USA

**Contact:** Gary and Joy Freeman  
 (SA staff)

PO Box 800833

Toccoa Falls, GA 30598

[www.sim.ne/sahel](http://www.sim.ne/sahel)

([gfreeman@makalondi.sim.ne](mailto:gfreeman@makalondi.sim.ne))

## ADULT TCK CONFERENCE

**Theme:** Telling TCK Stories (Building relationships with other TCKs through telling our stories)

**When:** November 2-4, 2001

**Where:** Heritage Valley Centre,  
 near Abbotsford, BC  
 Canada

**Guest speaker:** Matt Neigh, a TCK from Austria, who travels extensively around the globe in his work with and care for TCKs

**Contact for more info:**

Linda Hassell  
 7185 Millcreek Dr  
 Mississauga, ON  
 Canada L5N 5R4  
 (416) 251-8500  
 ([h4@total.net](mailto:h4@total.net))

## GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL REUNION

**When:** July 31-August 3, 2002

**Where:** Estes Park Center,  
 YMCA of the Rockies

If you're thinking about coming, please send Nancy Hauger \$15 for your family to indicate your interest. This money is going into a bank account to pay for deposits to the Y and for reunion preparation. If you cannot attend, your money will be refunded. Otherwise, it will be applied toward your final bill.

For details and registration:  
[www.hauger.com](http://www.hauger.com)

Send your check to:  
 PO Box 280  
 Cannon Beach, OR 97110

Send correspondence to:  
 37555 Hauger Mt. Lane  
 Seaside, OR 97138  
 ([nancy@hauger.com](mailto:nancy@hauger.com))

# Task Force Meets with Parents and Staff

About two years ago, SIM USA Director Larry Fehl selected a team to work with him in ministering to adult SIM MKs. This AMK Task Force initially focused on researching and addressing the needs of AMKs for healing, reconciliation, and reconnection. However, the AMKTF also perceived a responsibility to reach out to parents and MK boarding school staff. This latter concern came to fruition in meetings held this year at the SIM retirement centers at Carlsbad, California, and Sebring, Florida.

The Carlsbad meetings took place February 16 - 17, 2001, with 25 of the retired SIM folk attending; the Sebring ones on June 15 -16, 2001, with 44 in attendance. Under Larry's leadership, Dave Wickstrom moderated the sessions, with supplementary presentations by several of the AMK Task Force members.

Though somewhat apprehensive at first (or at least quizzical), the retirees soon sensed the spirit of the visiting team and warmed up to the discussions and interactions.

The purposes of the USA SIM Administration and AMK Task Force team in visiting the retirement centers were as follows:

- ❖ To affirm the missionaries and thank them for their ministry with SIM

- ❖ To listen to their ministry experiences and learn how the missionaries handled separations and other MK issues

- ❖ To solicit advice that the missionaries could give Mission administration regarding how to prepare and equip new families for overseas missionary service

- ❖ To acquaint the missionaries with the functions and activities of the Task Force; to communicate some of the things SIM has done/is doing to address MK issues; and to share with them what God is doing in the AMK segment of the SIM family.

- ❖ To reconnect with the missionary parents and staff and to facilitate reconciliation where needed.

In a previous issue of *Simroots*, we printed some statements of beliefs that MKs have held. These beliefs are often "myths" (not necessarily correct) which drove perceptions, responses, and behaviors in many cases. When we met with the parents, we found they also held to various "beliefs." For example:



Bev & Jerry Fawley



Chuck & Joy Miller, KA staff



Boarding School Staff

Back: Mary Ellen Adams, Evi Lohnes, Arabelle Enyart, Burness (Kampen) Goertz, Ruth Jacobson, Ken Fowler, George Beacham, Earl Day  
Front: Char Kraay, Lee Buchanan, Jackie Fowler, Jean Day

- ❖ "If you love your kids, don't cry—they will not get as upset at the separation." (If you show your children grief at parting, you'll hurt them.)

- ❖ "If my kids mess up, I'm missing God's will."

- ❖ "The word of the Board is the word of the Lord. It's not OK to say 'no.' To say 'no' is rebellion."

- ❖ "If you don't spend 30 years on the field, you haven't fulfilled your mandate fully."

- ❖ "If you're walking with the Lord, you shouldn't have problems; don't complain or grieve."

Furthermore, here are some general comments from the parents' perspective that came out of our weekend discussions:

- ❖ Many dads (in particular) tended to be so driven by work/ministry that family/children came as secondary—"The Lord's work comes first"—they gave all to the ministry to the neglect of the family.

- ❖ One of the hardest things for some parents in remote locations was no in-between visits, long delays in receiving letters, and not much news in some of the letters from kids.

- ❖ Parents were very grateful for the staff who served at boarding schools. It was God's answer to their need at the time.

- ❖ Parents found leaving their children in the home country for good even harder than leaving them at boarding school on the field.

- ❖ The call to return to the home country (for family's sake) can be as valid as the call to the field—either way comes with a cost.

- ❖ Some personal/familial problems are "human" problems and have nothing to do with the mission field—they would have occurred no matter where the family was. BUT there is

an added dimension to the MK situation (repeated separation, loss of community, lack of preparation for transition, unresolved grief and losses)—these are directly related to the mission field experience.

- ❖ An aid to perspective for MKs: Seeds were planted—a price was paid—some were hurt—ECWA churches are located all over Nigeria today—4 million worship each Sunday—the harvest has been great. Quoted remark from a national on the field: "Thank you for giving your parents to us."

- ❖ A perspective point for parents and caregivers: Many MKs are doing very well.

Most of the staff found their experiences at boarding school to be positive ones, but we also discussed various challenges and frustrations that they faced. Here is a sampling from that list:

- ❖ "Feelings of inadequacy overwhelmed me as a dorm parent—I felt like a failure when I left."

- ❖ "It was very challenging to have our own kids there with us at boarding school."

- ❖ "We did the best we could, with the resources we had, and sometimes without encouragement."

- ❖ "Pressure, produce, produce, produce—



labor intensive job as a caregiver left little time for relationships. We were just surviving ourselves sometimes."

❖ "Hard work, long days, understaffed. I didn't want to be there, but I had no choice, so I learned to love it."

❖ The physical aspects of meeting daily needs (such as water provision) were a challenge.

❖ Another challenge was to try to keep the children well.

❖ School staff sometimes found it hard to show the love needed to "difficult" children.

❖ One difficulty encountered by boarding school staff was trying to communicate with parents in remote locations in a timely manner when there was a serious problem.

When the weekend sessions were over, we received many positive responses from the staff and parents. Many found that they shared some of the same problems, struggles, frustrations, and experiences as other missionary parents and staff. Others appreciated being heard and affirmed. Many gave very useful suggestions, telling us "things they did right," sharing the benefits of enlightened hindsight. They appreciated that the SIM is seeking to be sensitive to the struggles and hurts that occur in missionary families, and that the administration is looking for practical ways to bring healing in God's way. We were privileged to hear testimonies of God's faithfulness in their lives, and excited to see the beginning of some emotional healing from past wounds.

We learned that involvement of children in their parents' work is very crucial to perspective—in the children feeling valued and a part of the ministry, and in avoiding resentment and such feelings. Children who didn't feel valued and important by parents as compared to the "work" may have grown away from their parents. Part of the AMK reconnect process is to bring these adult MKs and their parents back together. Many parents are eager to restore broken relationships with their kids. They wanted suggestions for how to begin that process. We would like to encourage AMKs to open the lines of communication with them. Please let us know how we as a Task Force can help facilitate that for you.

*The Task Force*

# AMK Questionnaire Responses

*In mid-2000, the SIM Adult MK Task Force distributed questionnaires to hundreds of U.S. adult SIM MKs. As I sorted and read through ten pages of responses each for questions 18 and 19, I found several themes. Space would not permit us to print every answer, but following is a compilation of some of the recurrent ones.*

*- Editor*

## **Question #18: What do you wish you had known before leaving the mission field?**

### **Leaving the old behind**

I wish I'd known to recognize and appreciate what I had before I lost it / how wonderful being an MK was and taken time to visit more of the country / more about the culture I was leaving, and had learned to read and write the local language / that I would regret not going on more outreach ministries.

I wish I'd known that I might never get back—I should have said better good-byes / that I would be able to return for a visit—I wasn't leaving forever / that when I returned, there'd be so much change / how much I would miss Africa.

I wish I'd known the importance of attending re-entry seminars.

I wish I'd known the difficulty, but importance, of maintaining my life-long friendships.

### **Adjusting to the new**

*By far, the biggest response to question #18 dealt with practical knowledge of reentry issues in the home culture.*

I wish I'd known about bank accounts, currency, checkbooks / driver's ed. / jobs / when and whom to tip and how much / about dress styles / social skills / local jargon / conducting a courtship / values of the teen culture / how important sports skills are to American youth / who's Elvis? / the history and politics of my passport country / busing and desegregation.

*Besides practical issues, many expressed culture shock over the difference in value systems.*

I wish I'd known about sheltered mission life vs. the secular, self-centered, materialistic American environment / how secularized some "Christian" young people and institutions were / that there are different standards of decency among Christians / how to avoid being judgmental toward the affluent, oblivious U.S. society in the light of world-wide need.

*Understanding ourselves was also important.*

I wish I'd known what it means to be a TCK / why I didn't fit in / how to handle those feelings / how to give myself "permission" to adapt / that being different is difficult, but not a reflection of my value / that I really wasn't as different as I thought / that I could have been proud of my MK

roots instead of embarrassed.

I wish I had known that the adjustment was going to be so difficult and how hard it really is to adjust to living here indefinitely.

I wish I'd understood myself and possessed more self-confidence.

I wish I'd known to seek a little counseling on what to expect living with relatives and going to a huge school.

I wish I'd known that there are many resources for help and guidance, but that I have to ask.

### **Education and career**

I wish I'd known to seek more direction and guidance when it came to choosing a college and a career / about career choices besides full-time Christian work / how to work for a living.

### **Handling emotions / Seeking the truth**

I wish I'd known more of the love of God, instead of His wrath / my position in Christ as a believer / a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ rather than an outward, judgmental, Pharisaical attitude / how to deal with my anger and judgmental attitude toward rich Christians.

I wish I had known how to live without constant fears of abandonment and loneliness and unjust punishment / that the heartache does not end—it grows—and you learn to live with it / how to cope with the anger / that it's ok to feel anger / that it's ok to grieve.

I wish I'd known that I mattered to the mission / that my family loved me and would miss me.

I wish I'd known that other people were hurting as much as I was / that others struggled with the same things I did.

## **Question #19: From your own experience, what suggestions would you make to SIM to help MKs maximize the benefits of their backgrounds? What suggestions do you have for SIM which would help AMKs deal more effectively with the challenges they face because of their experience?**

*You'll note that some of the responses were directed to SIM, and some were directed to MKs.*

### **Reentry / College Years / Career**

*Advice in this area received by far the most attention.*

Begin to prepare for reentry while still on the field. Provide a transition video or books. Have seminars for kids about college options, job fairs, careers, writing resumes, anger management, culture shock, grief and loss.

MKs need a mentor when they return to their parents' homeland. They need help in learning to function in the practical areas: phones, car tags, job assistance. Some parents may need to stay

home with college kids for a season.

Seek out other AMKs and talk—a lot—with others who have faced the same issues and have dealt with them. But balance your time spent with AMKs with time spent with kids from the home culture.

Become involved in ministry to international people on college campuses. Get involved with a great church right away. Don't just attend.

Keep in touch with your past through MK chat rooms on the Internet, *Simroots*, or email.

### **Boarding school**

Each family should be encouraged to do what they believe is best for their own children's education. Consider home schooling—take pressure off moms to be involved outside the home.

Hire caregivers and teachers who feel called to work with MKs. Provide close supervision of schools and staff. Dorm parents need accountability. Train and screen house parents very carefully.

Listen to the abused. Children should be seen and heard and believed.

Build smaller dorms with fewer children per adult caregiver.

Provide an initial orientation and periodic checkup sessions with staff. Conduct discussion groups both on the field and in the home country.

Be more flexible in rules—all kids are not the same and don't fit a standard mold. Punish only the guilty, not whole rooms or classes.

Lighten up on the controls. Avoid legalism.

Have trained counselors on staff at all boarding schools.

Make communication with parents a top priority.

### **On the field**

Learn the local language and history of the land. Value and appreciate the host culture. Explore the country you're in. (*This first entry was the number one advice to MKs on the field.*)

Learn more information about your parents' home country. Study the history and politics before you get there.

Recognize that living overseas is a privilege, not a trial; many others experienced it too (military kids, businessmen).

Participate in ministry with your parents or other missionaries.

### **Training**

Teach parents how to talk with their kids about changes / cultural differences / emotions and how to minimize the pain of separation.

Help kids identify their own gifts and abilities.

MKs need to understand that God is not a judgmental God waiting for them to make a mistake so He can punish them, but that He is loving and caring and accepts them in spite of their mistakes. / They need to be reassured that the staff at the schools do care for them. / Stop telling MKs that if they were good Christians, the experiences would not have been negative.

### **Closure (A major theme)**

Plan in the budget for the AMK to go back home to the mission field for a visit once out of high school.

(Note that SIM kids are able to do that now.)

### **Counseling**

Need forum to discuss reconciliation with the parents, teachers, staff.

Provide therapy or referrals for the traumatized.

Require counseling for all missionaries and MKs.

### **Parent-Child relationships**

Kids' attitudes will be shaped by their parents. Do the parents view their service as a sacrifice or a privilege?

MKs want to know they are more important to their parents than the ministry. They fear revealing they are struggling because they feel guilty that they will be hindering their parents' work.

A good relationship between parent and child makes a huge difference.

### **Personal advice to the AMK**

Your experiences do not make you "special." MKs are not martyrs. MKs are different. Don't let differences scare you.

Use your background, not as a way to segregate yourself from others, but rather to make you a more interesting person to be around. Just because you're an MK, don't think Americans have not had interesting lives too. Ask them about their lives.

Once you become an adult, it's time to stop blaming the past and start taking responsibility for your own life and depend on God to bring healing, growth, and maturity. Talk, weep, allow yourself to grieve. Learn to forgive wrongs; accept the past as allowed by God for a reason. God can use it for good as with Joseph in the Bible. Like any trauma, you need to forgive (Matt 18) and move on. Unforgiveness is not an option. Face self-pity, anger, and bitterness as sin. Acknowledge God's wise, loving, sovereign character. Realize the truth of Rom. 8:28-29. Don't let your "suffering" be wasted.

Use your gifts—possibly in missions; possibly with MKs. Thank the Lord for your parents' desire to serve the Lord.

Maintain a close walk with the Lord.

Read *Changed Into His Image* by Jim Berg or *The TCK Experience* by Dave Pollock and Ruth Van Reken.

Find a good, understanding spouse!

Recognize the privileges and positives of developing an expanded world view—a real benefit to a young person in this global age. Celebrate experiential differences, and *carpe diem*. Enjoy all the experiences you have.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



*Hillcrest senior outing* This is the morning after the junior girls had spent the night at Berken Ladi because of winning the speed-away tournament.

**Back:** Miss Tovson, Karen Braband, Nancy Hutchins (?), Carol Cooley, Alice Frame, Sonja Eastwold

**Front:** Barb Campion, ?, Judy Brower  
Submitted by Karen (Braband) Mertes

# Real Missionaries

Submitted by Dan Elyea

In 1998, Peter Gilliland, an MK from Nigeria, went back to West Africa on a short-term mission trip. The missionary family with whom he was staying took him after church to eat at a pizza place. He jokingly told them, "Real missionaries don't go out for pizza after church."

In 1999, while attending memorial services for "Uncle" John McGee, a former missionary to Nigeria, Peter and some other MKs started swapping "Real Missionary" one-liners. Peter then started a thread with this theme on the Nigeria MK Listserv, which brought quite a few more contributors out of the woodwork. Take these in the spirit of fun and fond memories with which they are given. And please do send in any others that come to your mind. If some of these didn't apply in your time, they probably did in earlier days.

*Participants to the collection, as best we can determine, are Mark Bowers, Kay (Bond) Bundrick, Betsy (Palmer) Cherry, Charlotte (Whirley) Cramer, Dan Elyea, J. Baker Hill, Julie (Bowers) Lassiter, John David McGee, Lee (Brothers) Norvell, Ray Sullivan, Michael Taylor, John Whirley, Philip Whirley, and Diana (Gilliland)Wright.*

- ★ Real Missionaries take a pan of water to the market and test the eggs to see if they float or sink.
- ★ RMs strain the dirt out of diesel fuel with an old sock so they can keep the generator running.
- ★ RMs don't tear the wrapping paper off packages (it has to last all tour).
- ★ RMs don't make more than one trip a year to the stores (if they can't find it, or make it, they don't need it!). The only acceptable exception to this is if an official Mission function requires that one go to the BIG CITY, in which case a short detour through Kingsway or UTC is justified.
- ★ RMs know what to do with leftovers. Recycle until finished.
- ★ RMs don't have a VCR; they probably don't have a TV; and they may not even have electricity, at least not after 6 PM.
- ★ RMs were already prepared for Y2K—they always have a kerosene lantern.
- ★ RMs are electricians, plumbers, and auto mechanics.
- ★ RMs always ask: "How much less if I take a case?"
- ★ RMs never offer bribes at the Jeba Bridge; they just get out of their car and act like they need the time to work on things under the hood.
- ★ RMs walk up to African Americans and say, "Sannu" (just in case they might be from Nigeria).
- ★ As a variation of political correctness, RMs never discuss politics. Just religion. And, if you

don't discuss religion, you are not a Real Missionary.

- ★ RMs are the ones you occasionally hear in American churches singing really loud in Hausa (or Yoruba or Swahili or . . .).
- ★ RMs only use 3 squares of toilet paper at a sitting.
- ★ RMs never go home between furloughs, for anything!
- ★ RMs mortify their children by speaking loudly in Nigerian English to Europeans who don't speak English or who have an unusual accent.
- ★ RMs don't make short prayers. Especially prior to eating.
- ★ RMs don't leave the lights on.
- ★ Hey, REAL missionaries don't have lights to leave on!
- ★ RMs turn on the water and wait to see if it's running. And, after they have established that the water is running, RMs bathe the whole family in the same tub of water, and then use that water to flush the toilet. Toilet flushing, of course, is only when absolutely necessary for RMs.
- ★ For RMs, a "drive-by shooting" means something one might do to an *aparo* (bush quail) while traveling.
- ★ RMs don't count on electricity. Never did. Never will!
- ★ RMs haul water in 55-gallon drums from pools in a river, after their cistern has sprung a leak and run dry before the end of dry season. Then they pump the water by hand into a stand tank and ration it out like it was gold.
- ★ RMs only take pictures during their first term. These are good for at least the next thirty

years. They rarely load the camera with other than slides.

- ★ RMs strain the red ants out of the chocolate syrup instead of throwing it away.
- ★ RMs know how to cycle and recycle. They were the original bikers.
- ★ For an RM, a "bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" is never more true than when hunting.
- ★ RMs listen to short wave radios.
- ★ For an RM, "going out for dinner" usually involves reaching for a gun.
- ★ RMs stay awake during Prayer Meeting.
- ★ When back in the homeland, RMs correct their children and discuss other private matters in public by reverting to a lingo from the field. Meantime, Real MKs cringe and can't help but wonder whether anyone in listening range also speaks that language.
- ★ RMs wear pith helmets.
- ★ RMs must have a garden that produces at least twice as much as their family could ever eat. They never go anywhere without a trunk full of vegetables to share on the way.
- ★ RMs use 55-gallon steel drums to ship 4 years' worth of supplies from the homeland to the field. Tucked into the gaps here and there are hundreds of rolls of bandages made from old bed sheets by the ladies of the home churches. These come in very handy at the dispensary and when "on trek." On the field, the drums serve as termite-proof storage and as water barrels.
- ★ RMs sing loudly in church!
- ★ RMs don't drink public tap water. If it's not bottled or from the "tank," forget it.
- ★ RMs start and end the day with medication and meditation.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



*KA 7th Grade Girls (1962-'63)*

*Back: Susan Tucker, Mary Winterflood, Pearl Abernethy, Carol Nichol, Susan Lucas  
Front: Cheryl Welch, Bonnie Kleinsasser, Cheryl King, Judy Swank, Beth Driesbach*

*Submitted by Arabelle Enyart*

# Remember When . . .

## Soderberg Memories

by Janet (Soderberg) Maynard  
(maynardsjb@home.com)

I remember beating colored soap suds—my favorite thing to do (when I made some to show my kids, they thought I was nuts!); jacks and spool knitting in the lobby; standing on one foot in the lobby for discipline; hiding under the stinky dirty clothes in the clothes bins when we played hide-and-peek or when the staff was trying to find us; putting a hanky through the hole of the penny for church offering and tying it and then making little babies in a blanket with the hanky during church; watching the pee run down to the front of the church for all the kids that couldn't hold it because we had no bathroom at the church. We would write tiny notes and stick them in a beetle pincher crack and send the beetle two feet down to our friend to retrieve the note. We made mango seed dolls, combed the hair, and put a face on it and a little bed for it. We'd put a sheet around the bottom bunk tucked under the top bunk to make a tent.

Once I put a glass of water on top of the half-opened door at rest hour, so it fell on Aunt Lee Buchanan's head when she opened the door to check us, and I pretended I was sleeping. I got spanked with a coathanger, but I spun her around in circles as she held my hand. It was fun, but I'm glad I have not had to be on the adult end of such behavior in my life. I feel sorry today for all the pranks the staff had to put up with from all us bored children who had to amuse ourselves by thinking up humorous things to do, that may not have seemed so humorous to the adults.

Miss Brown was my favorite teacher because she was so loving and was such a wonderful artist. She did so much wonderful artwork for the school plays. We also had a harmonica band in a Western play and played "Home on the Range," and a flutophone band for second graders in the chapel during spring performance. I was never in the plays, but my sister and brother were.

Remember the hard rain on the pan roofs and the electricity going out? Those fast rain showers that would flood in a matter of minutes were great. We loved the smell of the

dirt when we went outside and the sound of the thunder crashing. Heavy rain on those pan roofs is a memory I still long for. I remember asking for the cow's eye during butchering day and taking it to the dorm to dissect it to see what was inside. Flying ants would pile up by the front door, and we would take them to Aunt Linda to fry up for us to eat—tasted like fried crispy chicken! How about *tuu da miya*—HOT! I loved it.

I miss Africa—the one I knew as a child. It is still my home. I have never adjusted to this country and still have trouble making friends with self-centered Americans, even some Christians in the churches. We grew up sharing everything and taking care of each other—so opposite from the American culture of self-sufficiency and independence and "me first" mentality. I love my childhood memories. I keep praying for some Christian friends that will replace my childhood ones for my life today—not to replace their memories. We still keep in touch and write today, but they are too far away to see on a daily basis. I just want a friend like I grew up with. Does anyone else long for that too? That's why I like *Simroots*—it feels like we connect still.

## Teaching at Sahel Academy

by Nancy (Hall) DeValve  
(KA, SA staff '77)  
(Mksrus1@cs.com)

The year I taught at Sahel (1977-'78), I was the American teacher with only one American student! We learned a lot from each other that year. For example, one of the Manson girls wrote in an essay about her favorite food, that she liked "doughnuts with hundreds and thousands" on them. I wrote in the margin, "Hundreds and thousands of what?" She came up to my desk and said, "You know! Hundreds and Thousands! I don't understand what's wrong about this." I told her it was an incomplete sentence; and she, getting obviously frustrated, insisted that it wasn't. Finally I told her to describe these doughnuts to me. After she explained that Hundreds and Thousands was the name of little colored candy sprinkles, I finally understood, and assured her that she was right and I

was wrong! The other fun thing about that year was that I had taught most of the sixth graders when they had been fourth graders at KA. Quite a few of the fourth and fifth graders had been at KA, too, so they had a hard time not calling me "Miss Hall." I finally got them trained by December to say "Mrs. DeValve," and then Jason Smith came late and I had to start all over in breaking the "Miss Hall" habit!

## Weese Memories

by Dan Weese  
(moebius@super-highway.net)

KA meant a great deal to me. After the Jos Plateau, most landscapes are boring. My favorite memories of KA were running out in the early morning fog to find the emperor moths resting by the lights. We'd bring them to the nurse, who would help us inject them with formaldehyde and mount them properly. The ants would get at our bug collections. I think Dennis Teichroew had the best collection of all of us; he was devoid of fear.

Remember the beautiful killifish in the little creeks? We'd bring them back for the aquariums. They are detailed here:

[travelnutz.com/Killifish/database/fp\\_gardneri\\_josplateau.htm](http://travelnutz.com/Killifish/database/fp_gardneri_josplateau.htm)

My first crush, the very first girl I ever felt anything for, was Lynn Hovey. She was much older than me, but she was kind to me, and I adored her for it. I understand she's gone to be with the Lord.

I was deeply affected by the death of Clive Carson and his family. That tragedy stands out among the many sad memories of KA.

A story:

Larry Jones, Peter VerLee, Ron Foster and I were in Room 22. I woke up to find Peter and Larry looking at something on the step leading up to the hallway. In the dark, it looked like a scorpion. Peter said his father had told him the combination of soap, water and toothpaste would make a poison deadly enough to kill anything. So there we were, in the bathroom, mixing this concoction up in a cup. We poured it onto the beast, and it swirled in circles. When it stopped, we picked it up. It was a toffee wrapper! It had been twisted up, and in the dark, it looked like a scorpion's tail. Humph!

# Bingham Academy Memories

Excerpts from *The Shaping of a Saint*  
by Roy Wallace

([rwallace@westpark.on.ca](mailto:rwallace@westpark.on.ca))

## May 10, 1956

Every morning, rain or shine, we can see the mountains of Entoto, 10,000'. Often before a storm there are huge white thunder heads rolling over the escarpment. They really are beautiful if the sun is in the right direction.

## May 31, 1956

Today is Field Day. Things started off with a bang. The first races were over. Carol Lynn did her best but as usual her best was not good enough. She was so excited. She didn't sleep during the rest hour. The sun was so hot I took out the hat that goes with my rain coat for Roy to wear.

Nevertheless, true to this Ethiopian weather, no sooner had the races begun than from nowhere the rain began to fall. Poor kids. Now they are all back in the classrooms again.

Only two children had birthdays this month, so that means there were only two presents to wrap. Mrs. Hay made ice-cream and two of the outside workers are turning the freezer just now. The ice cream matches the icing on the cake. . . . In April Mrs. Hay prepared the custard we used for ice cream, but then Mr. Hay couldn't get any ice. We made a quick change. Made Jell-O that incidentally didn't jell, and used the custard for topping. The rest of the custard we used on cake for pudding the next day.

Tomorrow night is something extra-special. The Grade Eight class and six members of the staff are going to the Ghion Hotel for supper. [Ghion Hotel was hot springs, quality food, big occasion for the prize winners for having recited verses regularly through the year. Younger classes looked forward to this occasion as older classes participated] Actually I could cheerfully stay here and eat "beans" with the undergraduates, but—it is the custom—and who am I to upset custom?

I hear an awful roaring. The rain has cleared, though not the clouds, and the kids are all out at it again!

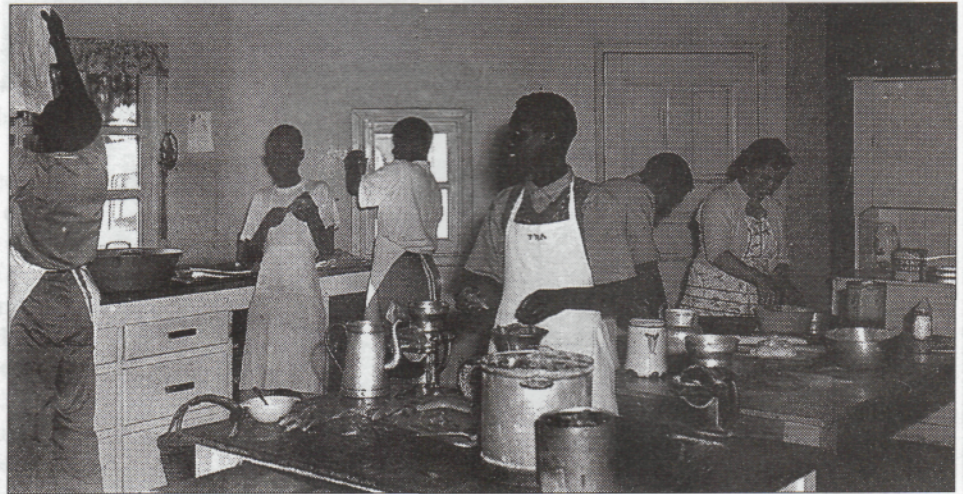
## September 4, 1956

Our initial real holiday break as a family came at our first Christmas in Ethiopia, Western Christmas that is. The Orthodox celebration fell usually January 6.



*BA Staff*

*Left: Chas & Marion Bonk, Bill & Edith Cole, Mary Wollman  
Center: Roy & Frances Wallace, Edith Willey, Mary MacDonald  
Right: Lorna & Arthur Rashleigh*



*Frances Wallace with Girma, Moshay and other staff*



*Frances Wallace with BA kitchen staff*



*BA Staff*

*Back: Edith Willey, Mary Wollman, Frances Wallace  
Middle: Art Rashleigh, Vickey & Ellwyn Healy  
Front: Lorna Rashleigh, Ora Jane Brixey (R.N.)*

We were taken to Bishoftu Rest Home. The Pitman children were in school, and filled us in on details as to what we could expect. Lower altitude. Heat. Citrus fruit fresh from the hand to table. It was a heavenly haven for our weary lives. Others were there as well, having come to enjoy a respite with their little ones. In a sense we couldn't escape Bingham influence. But we could all swim in the crater lake that beckoned.

**June 24, 1957**

Recently the whole country was shocked to learn of the death of the son of the Emperor, a man of renown, and well loved.

**November 6, 1957**

We took 16 first and second graders out to the Krugers, who teach for the government at Haile Selassie the First Secondary School. They have two children. . . . All the kids had a wonderful time. Ice cream and lots of toys to play with. Then the Krugers showed their movies they took this summer in the Congo. Wild animals in the park: elephants, giraffe, buffalo . . . real AFRICA.

**September 8, 1959**

Billy Graham team is planning two meetings in Ethiopia. We have city power twenty-four hours a day. We have installed

fluorescent lights in the main living room where Frances is taking story hour, and in the dining room where we have study hall.

Yesterday was Coronation Day.

**February 27, 1960**

Outdoor supper, campfire, and sing-song led by Mr. Freeman.

**March 2, 1960**

No school today! We remember with our Ethiopian friends the Battle of Adoua.

**Bingham Teachers' Christmas Report, 1963**

We have four full-time teachers. Miss Wollman with 28 beginners in Grade One; Miss Martin with 32 in grades 2 and 3; Miss Willey with 25 in Grades 4 and 5; and Mr. Wallace with 35 in grades 6 through 9. Mr. Freeman has been teaching science and Mrs. Wallace the Art programme grades 6-9.

Miss Douglas has made an excellent beginning as Music teacher and supervisor throughout the grades and as teacher of piano and other instruments. Mrs. Spittle has continued to teach a full day piano each week. Mr. Metro and Mr. Black have several pupils each in other instruments. There are students on the waiting list for music instruction.

## Of Flight Schedules and Stocking Nights: An Advent Meditation

by Jim Gould

(JGOULD@mchenry.cc.il.us)

Waiting. And waiting. And still more waiting. That's what late November and early December were like at KA. At least as I remember them, that's how they were. It began with anticipation. Everyone knew the flight schedule would be posted outside Uncle Jack's office on December 1 or thereabouts. And so we waited—expectantly. We *knew* it would happen, we *were confident* it would happen—but the waiting was hard. And then finally the day came. We crowded around the bulletin board—pushing, shoving, edging our way in—to see if we were flying with Uncle Rich or Uncle Dave. But the waiting had to come first.

Soon after the flight-schedule posting came the hanging of the stockings. It seemed to happen secretly on a Friday night, because come Saturday morning dozens of bulging stockings would be hung layer upon layer in the dining room lounge. We would stand at the window and gaze in longingly, hardly able to wait for Stocking Night when the socks would be distributed and opened. Talk about excitement. We were ready—more than ready—for the fulfillment of the promise that the hung stockings represented. We *knew* they would be opened, we *were confident* there was one for us, but the waiting had to come first.

And all through December there was the seemingly endless waiting—not for the flight schedule, not for stocking night—but for that special day when school would be over at last and we would fly home. Can you still remember it? Setting out your Sunday-second-best clothes. Packing your suitcase. Getting up early, while it was still dark. Dressing quickly. Eating—or maybe picking at your breakfast because of excitement—with a few other kids in a corner of the dining room. Taking—or maybe finding other ways to dispose of—the Dramamine (or whatever it was) that Aunt Betty urged on us so we wouldn't barf in flight. Then into the truck, under the blankets and off to the airstrip, or in earlier days, Jos. Once the flight schedule was up, we were ready—more than ready—for the fulfillment of the promise which it represented. Oh, we

knew, we were confident the day would come. But the waiting had to come first.

This was advent at KA. Our English word "advent" comes from two Latin words that mean "to come." And that's what KA Decembers were about. Waiting for the flight schedule to come. Waiting for Stocking Night to come. Waiting for go-home day to come. And you know, they always did—finally—come. Sometimes it seemed like they would never happen. But they always did.

Advent is the time in the church year when we prepare and when we wait. As at KA, the promise is given. And as at KA, the people of God have waited, first for the advent of servant Messiah and now for the advent of king Messiah. We are ready—more than ready—for the fulfillment of these promises. We try to be patient, but our hearts cry out "maranatha"—come Lord Jesus. We know that God will fulfill His promises. We are confident because we have seen in Jesus the sign and promise of what is to come. But the waiting is hard.

Advent reminds us that we are waiting people. Advent helps us live with a sense of expectancy. We wait and watch for the birth of the Christ Child. And we wait and watch for that same Christ to sweep away our old world and establish His kingdom. We live between the times, between the "already" and the "not yet." With flight schedules and stocking nights the waiting was hard between the already and the not yet. We're still waiting, somewhere between promise and fulfillment. And so, as advent people, we wait—patiently, faithfully.

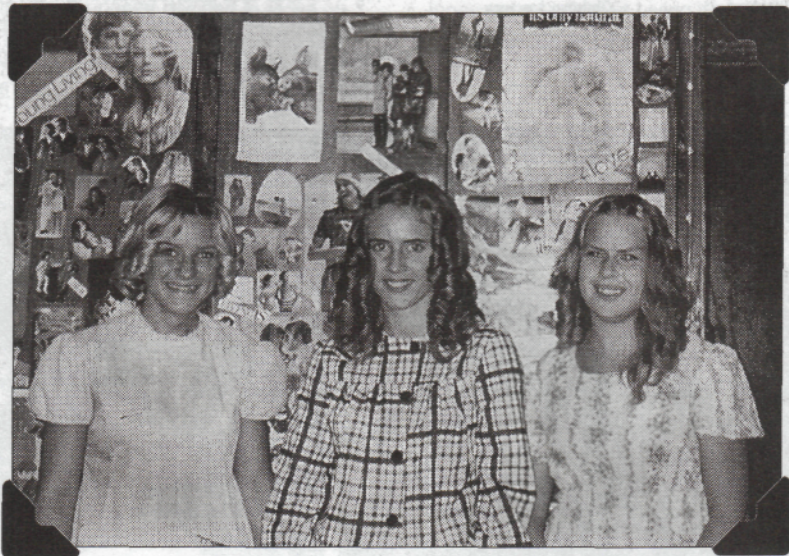
*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.*

*Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart.*

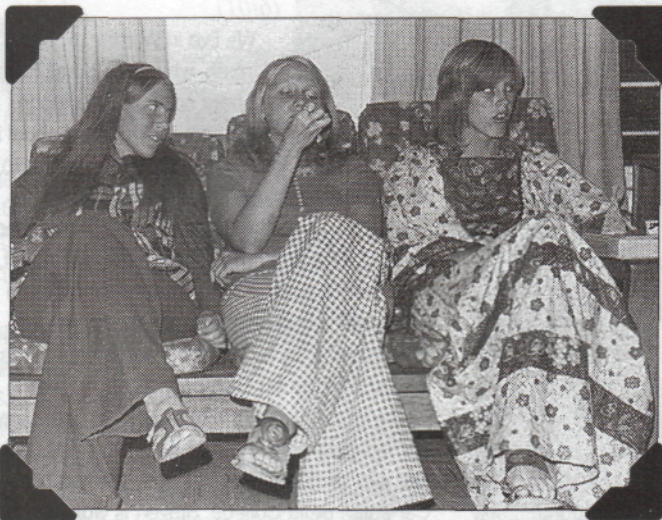


1974 HC Prom

*Karen Braband, Jane Jackson, Jill Sonius, Alice Frame, Cindy Rutt, Barb Campion  
Submitted by Karen (Braband) Mertes*



*(1973-74) Jill Sonius, Karen Braband, Jeannie Quarles  
Submitted by Karen (Braband) Mertes*



*(1974) Karen Braband, Jane Jackson, Sally Thompson  
Submitted by Karen (Braband) Mertes*



KA 7th Grade Boys (1962-'63)  
*Carlton Smith, Bruce Campbell, Graham Porter, Paul Shell, Orville Thamer, Gene Coleman, Bill Bishop  
Submitted by Arabelle Enyart*

# NEWS UPDATES

Catch up on the latest news of adult SIM MKs, teachers, and caregivers. Remember to send your letters to your class rep. or to **Karen Keegan, Simroots Editor, 222 Hyle Avenue, Murfreesboro, TN 37128**; call (615) 895-9011; or email: [simroots@sim.org](mailto:simroots@sim.org). Please include the name(s) of your school(s), your high school graduation year, and your maiden name.

Thanks to Mary Janish for news from Ethiopia and Esther Campion for Canada.

## CODE SCHOOL

AC	Asuncion Christian Academy	HC	Hillcrest School
BA	Bingham Academy	IC	International Christian Academy
CC	Carachipampa Christian	KA	Kent Academy
EL	ELWA Academy	RV	Rift Valley Academy
GH	Gowans Home	SA	Sahel Academy
GS	Good Shepherd	WA	West African Christian Academy

## 70s

### Chuck Anderson (BA, GS '70)

(GSS Update 2/01)

After graduation, my plan was to attend college, but a change in plans later in that year caused me to join the Army before the draft forced me in anyway. I ended up making the Army my career, with my first 10 years spent as a Chaplain Assistant. In 1980 I was accepted to flight school, and after completing that, I spent the second half of my career as a helicopter pilot. I did not make it to Vietnam, but finally did participate in Desert Shield/Storm before I

### Dick (BA, EL, HC '71) & Meg (Todd) Ackley (KA, HC '72)

(5/01)

We continue to be blessed by the number of candidates for mission service that God is bringing our way. [Dick is the regional director for AR, LA, NM, OK, TX for SIM.] Meg and/or I meet almost weekly with keen young people (some not so young!) who want to know more about what it takes to get from here to there and many other questions. In many ways this really is a ministry of discipleship/mentoring. This spring was also filled with conferences and mission gatherings. Jeff (7th grade) has a mission opportunity with his youth group at church. He

will be helping out with the children's program at a Christian family camp in Colorado for about 8 days. We're excited for him to have this opportunity to stretch his faith and put into action what he has been taught. The mountain climbing and fun with friends is icing on the cake! Kristen looks forward to cheer-leading camp right after school is out. As she enters 7th grade next year, we realize how important these years are for our kids. ([Dick.Ackley@sim.org](mailto:Dick.Ackley@sim.org))

### Graham & Diana Day (KA '72)

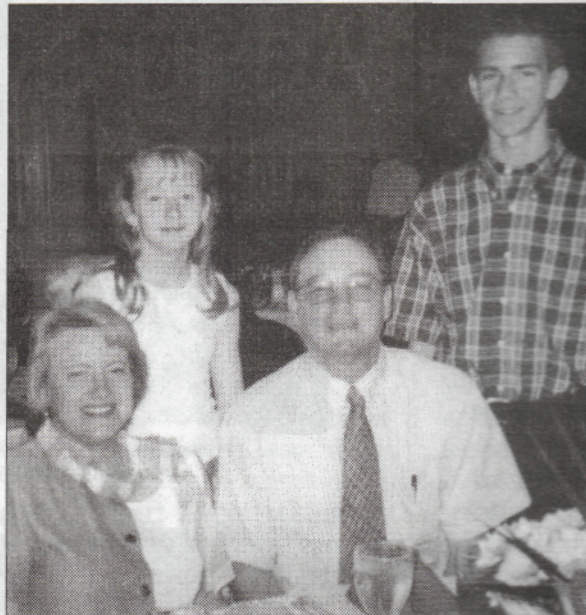
(6/01)

We live in Waldheim, SK, Canada, which is a small town 1/2 hour north of Saskatoon. Upon completing high school in the U.S., I came to Canada to

attend Briercrest Bible College for 4 years. During that time, I met and married Diana. God blessed us with 3 great kids. Shelly, our oldest, is married (I can't believe we are that old) to a wonderful young man who is a pastor in Edmonton. They are working with a church plant in the Christian & Missionary Alliance there in preparation to go to the mission field some day. Shelly spent a year in Portugal with GEM before she was married. They are both graduates of Canadian Bible College. Steven is working and living at home but heading to a tech school this fall. Scott, our youngest, just completed his first year at Briercrest College and is returning in fall.



Left to right: Kim, K.J, Ken & Judy (Williams) Copeland, Brook



Meg (Todd) & Dick Ackley, Kristen, Jeff

## 60s

### Judy (Williams) Copeland (KA '62)

(8/01)

I went to KA from 1949 to 1951. My husband, Ken, is a general surgeon. I am a housewife and musician and play the harp and piano. My son K.J. and his wife, Kim, live in Atlanta. Kim works for Turner Broadcast and K.J. works for IBM. My son Brook lives in Denver.

retired in 1994. My wife, Iretta, and I live in Las Cruces, NM, where I see my old classmate from '70, John Schadler, as often as I can. I work for Petroleum Helicopters Inc. on the southwest Louisiana coast, in support of the oil and gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico. I work 14 days, then get 14 off, so I enjoy quite a bit of time at home. I have 2 daughters, Dawn and Danielle, from my first marriage, and I inherited a son and daughter when I married Iretta. Billy and his wife are about to give us our third granddaughter, and Shawna is the proud mother of our grandson. They all live in Texas.

([chuckatphi@yahoo.com](mailto:chuckatphi@yahoo.com))





**Graham Day Family:**

**Back:** Sons Steven & Scott

**Front:** Graham, Ryan Tuck (groom), Shelly (bride), & Diana (Graham's wife)

(GSS Update 2/01)

I have accepted the position of Manager of eBusiness with Cessna Airplane Company in Wichita, KS. (nomadz@starband.net)

**Pamela (Long) Daroff (KA, HC '77)**

(4/01)

The last time I remember writing to *Simroots* we were still in Maryland where Pamela was working for a defense contractor that specialized in Army Chemical Weapons issues. In 1998 David accepted an associate pastorate in Belfair, WA, which is located on the Kitsap Peninsula, west of the Puget Sound and in good viewing distance of the Olympic Mountains on the Olympic Peninsula. Shortly after we arrived in

Belfair, the senior pastor decided to move on. After 6 months of holding the church together while another search committee was formed, the search committee and the congregation decided to call David as the senior pastor. Since that time he has been serving as the senior pastor, and the church has called another youth/associate pastor. The church body is growing and involved in many church and community ministries.

On the personal level, our son David II (known as James) will be starting high school in fall of 2001 (when did I get old?) and our daughter Katrina (known as Katie) will be doing 6th grade at home. We sold our home in Vallejo, CA, during the year 2000 and bought a nice home here in Belfair that comes with a share in a community beach and "to die for" view of the Hood Canal and the Olympic Mountains. Early in 2001 Pamela was diagnosed with Sjogrens Syndrome which results in a great deal of pain and tiredness. We are fortunate that the diagnosis came early in the disease as, like so many of the autoimmune disorders, Sjogrens can be very difficult to diagnose, and the longer it takes,

the more damage is done. (pmdaroff@hctc.com)

**Myrna (Keitzman) Holmes (KA, HC '79)**

(4/01)

My parents are doing well. Dad is still working at the Wheaton Eye Clinic but is gradually winding down to retirement. My husband, Jonathan, and I live in Rochester, MN, where Jonathan is Chairman of the Dept. of Ophthalmology at the Mayo Clinic. He is heavily involved in research, teaching, and clinical medicine, and travels frequently to speaking engagements and meetings. We have 2 sons—David (8) and Philip (5), who are a joy to us and keep their mother very busy! I'm quite involved in the music program at our church where I sing and conduct the Middle School/High School Choir. I also conduct an independent high school girls' choir which sings professionally in the area. I have recently released a CD of my original Christian contemporary songs entitled Living Water. [See Bulletin Board for details.] (Lafialo@aol.com)

## 80s

**Esther (Schult) Smith (EL, IC '86)**

(Dave Shult email 6/11)

Esther graduated from ELWA Academy in 1982, and from ICA in 1986. She served as a teacher's aide at ELWA Academy during the '86-'87 school year on an STA basis. She graduated from Toccoa Falls College with a Bachelors degree in Music Education in 1991. She and her husband Steve have 2 children, Andy (6) and Terry (2) and are expecting another in August. (steve.smith@sim.org)

## 90s

**Kevin & Robin (Shea) McGee**

**(EL, IC, WA '90)**

(3/01)

Kevin is about a year away from finishing his 60-hour Master's program at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary (after which we are looking at the possibility of missions. Our burden / interest right now is being campus pastor at a boarding school or something like that. We'll see where God leads us.) While Kevin is working on his Master's, he is working full time in one of the AG Foreign Missions offices (the Center for Ministry to Muslims), and he is also pastoring part-time at a Cumberland Presbyterian church. We have been helping at that church for several years now, and the experience has been wonderful. Robin is teaching college French and



Jim Knowlton, 5U7JK

**Dean Hall (KA, HC '72)**

(4/01)

I have just recently returned from San Antonio, TX, with a 6-hour turn around at home, then off to Tromso, Norway, 300 km north of the Arctic Circle. While in Norway, I went to the most northern Protestant church in the world. I have added some of the Norway winter pictures to my web site.

<http://communities.msn.com/whereintheworldisdeano>

(dwhontheroad@hotmail.com)

**Jim Knowlton (KA, HC '73)**

Check out his web site!

<http://digilander.iol.it/i2ysb/jim/5u7.htm>

(notlwonK@compuserve.com)

**Keith & Jeannette (Entz) Shubert**

**(BA, GS '73)**

(GSS Update 2/01)

Keith completed his doctorate, and Jeannette is teaching as an adjunct in the Christian Ed dept. at Dallas Seminary. She is also working on her dissertation. They hope to move to either Jordan or the Philippines. (jkshubert@juno.com)

**David Entz (BA, GS '76)**



Sue (Long) & Terry Hammack, Keith, Stephen



Joel & Alice (Price) Pifer, Anna Naomi, Justin, Josh, Andrea



Ken & Cora (Zobrist) Klay



Cox family (Dec. '00) Brian, Aaron, Sheila & Steve, Julie

Public Speaking on a part-time basis. Mary is 3 now, and Christina is 9 months, and they are both great kids. Mary is a burst of energy and fun, and Christina is thoughtful and serious, but they both have their daddy's lungs (and most say they look just like him!). (Kevnrobn@juno.com)

**Jonathan & Monica Steele (CC '93)**

For pictures of our family and ministries, check out our family albums on the web: [www.picturetrail.com/ahsteele](http://www.picturetrail.com/ahsteele) (jonmoni@bo.net)

## Unknown school or grad year

**Mel & Sharon Middleton (BA) (5/01)**

Mel is with Freedom Quest Mission and does a lot of speaking and writing and lobbying the Canadian government on behalf of persecuted Christians in the Sudan. Sharon works as an RN.



KA Staff

# FAMILY ALBUM

## DAVIDSON

(2/01)

**Debbie (BA '83)** is now married to Geoff Cowie. They have a son, 18 months, named David. Deb is Staff Development Coordinator at Holy Spirit Hospital (largely nursing education). ([dcowie@holyspirit.org.au](mailto:dcowie@holyspirit.org.au))

**Tim (BA '84)** is now married to Dayle, and they had their first child on Jan. 12, 2001. Tim is a social worker with abused children and their families at Royal Brisbane Hospital. ([DavidsonT@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:DavidsonT@health.qld.gov.au))

## EDIGER

(5/01)

**Duane (BA '70)** and Carla live in Nashville, TN. He inspects banks all over TN for the FDIC.

**Jo (BA '73)** is in law school now as a result of where she worked. At the hospital she was asked to consider being an attorney for disabled people. They felt she had the qualifications and at first she refused, but now she loves it. She and her husband Gary Klaassen live in Olathe, KS.

**Merle (BA, RV '75)**, Carol, and family will be moving to Tahlequah, OK, the end of June to work with Spanish American people. With 4 teenagers and an 11-year-old, they feel they need to remain in the U.S. for a longer time. They will be on loan from UFM to AMF to work in a church planting ministry.

## HARRIS

(4/01)

**Richard (GH)** I lived at Gowans Home back in the '30s with 2 of my sisters, **Joy** and **Lois**. My 2 younger sisters, **Charlotte** and **Rachel**, were born while Mom and Dad and my 2 oldest sisters and I were with them in The Belgian Congo under the old AIM for 5 years. When Mom and Dad changed to the SIM, my 2 older sisters and I went to live at Gowans Home, while my 2 youngest sisters went back to Africa with our parents until they retired around 1955. Three of my sisters, Joy, Lois, and Charlotte are still living. Rachel, our youngest, succumbed to Parkinson's disease on her 64th birthday. I am the oldest and just turned 76 last November. All of us are keeping active: Joy, the oldest of the 3 girls, is actually retired but is active in women's Bible study groups on the



*Price family (June '00) John Sr., Doris, John, Lila, Donald, Jean, Philip, Alice*

eastern shore of Maryland. Her husband is retired and loves to putter around the house; Lois is next youngest and just retired from a private counseling practice in Pasadena, CA. Her husband is still active as a professor of Missions at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena; Charlotte, the next youngest, is still keeping busy in a doctor's office while her husband keeps his hand in counseling and may be looking for a church to pastor again. That leaves me, still active in radio broadcasting, although very much laid back in what might be called semi-retirement. (My wife would say, "Yeah, right!") I still travel the country for our corporate engineering staff but have left the high pressure stuff for the younger men. In fact, I leave May 22 for 2 weeks of volunteer work at Trans World Radio in Swaziland, South Africa. It's like, when it's in your blood, you can't quit! ([DickH@salem.cc](mailto:DickH@salem.cc))

## HERSHELMAN

(4/01)

**Lynn (KA, HC '72)** I retired from the Navy after 20 years. I have a new job now working with Washington Mutual Bank since the 5th of January. I know this is where the Lord wants me because the way I got the job there is no way that it was not! Too many things came together just at the right time to be coincidence! Jim and I will probably stay right here in the Northwest, as we really like the Port Orchard area. It is right across Puget Sound from Seattle. I commute by ferry every day into Seattle to work.

I just got the most recent issue of *Simroots* and have read a few of the articles. I like reading it because it brings back many, many good memories. You know, I still have the little "fox" pin I got in my stocking in 9th grade. Every time I wear it, I think of KA and the many "stocking nights" that I had there. I also remember the candy villages Aunt Linda used to make at

Christmas. One time I remember, the Hershels were some of the last kids to leave because we lived at Egbe, and we got to eat part of the village! I can remember going back into the kitchen and watching Aunt Linda cook, and going down behind the kitchen and watching as they

bought eggs and other things. I used to enjoy doing that. I also remember going on walks every Sunday afternoon. I remember our 8th or 9th grade field trip down the escarpment and staying overnight at the old British rest station right on the edge of the escarpment. We slept out under the stars and could hear the baboons barking and screaming. Do you remember going to Yankari Game Reserve and almost getting charged by an elephant? I think that was on our senior trip! ([hmcswaw@angelfire.com](mailto:hmcswaw@angelfire.com))

**Lois and Kevin Casiano (KA, HC '77)** have 2 kids, Kaitlyn and Kyle, and live in Florida.

**Laura (KA, HC '79)** is single and lives in Fort Mill, SC, with Mom and Dad. Laura teaches school and is very involved with her students. Mom and Dad still travel around the different fields in Africa. Dad does a lot of audits for the Mission.

## JONGEWARD

(7/01)

**Rachel** and Giovanni Pineda (**BA, RV '90**) were married in 1992. They have 2 children, Alexandria (7) and Miguel (3). They are working with SIM in Guatemala and are raising support to go to Asia in 2002.

**Faith (BA, RV '92)**, who works in the SIM candidate department, recently married Rodney Unruh (EL), a construction worker.

**Harold** attended BA and was also a teacher there from 1972 to 1992.

## LANGDON

(4/01)

**David (KA '62)** and his wife live in Winter Haven, FL. David works for a motor coach company, and his wife works for the city attorney in Bartow. They have 3 children and 8 grandchildren.

**Joy (KA '69)** was married 2 years ago to

Gregg Hillesheim. They live in a brand new home in Bolingbrook, IL.

(jghillesheim@juno.com)

**Philip (KA '71)** The Lord took him home to heaven March 12, 1995, at the age of 39 with melanoma. His wife died 2 years later with cancer also.

#### **MAXWELL**

(5/01)

**Ruth (KA, HC '73)** After 10 years in Kenya with SIM, I am now transferring to the SIM Canada office for 1-2 years to help in the personnel department. I'm looking forward to creating a home base here from which to travel to other SIM offices.

**Mark (KA, HC '76)** and Elaine and their 3 daughters, Jocelyn (9), Deborah (8) and Charlotte (5) live in the suburbs just west of Toronto, Ontario. We attend a church in Oakville called Oakridge Bible Chapel, where Mark serves on the missionary committee, and everyone in the family is involved in different ways.

Weekends are especially important for us as a family, although a far cry from either of our childhoods. (Elaine has similar roots as a PK.) We escape to our cottage, "Deer Path," north of Toronto in apple country where we enjoy boating and water sports in the summer and skiing in the winter. Our lives are filled with friends from all over the world and all walks of life. On the drive north, we often find our van filled with "borrowed" kids and other families who are coming up to get away also.

On the career side, Mark has been a Canadian bank and financial services analyst, for most of the past twelve years, working with 2 of Canada's large institutional brokerage firms, Gordon Capital (as a partner) and CIBC World Markets (as a managing director). This has given him the privilege of working with global institutional investors as they plan their portfolio strategies.

About 2 years ago, he and Jonathan Wellum, formerly president of AIC Mutual Funds, founded Georgian Capital Partners, a money management firm, offering mutual funds for retail investors as well as pooled funds and segregated accounts for institutional investors. At this point, the firm manages and advises C\$4.6 billion with a team of 12 professionals. We would love to have you visit us at [georgiancapital.com](http://georgiancapital.com). We need every hit we can get!  
(maxdom@ica.net)

#### **RICKER**

(5/01)

**Ruth (RV '83)** and Marty Fisher have 3 adopted children, 2 foster who are almost adopted (four 9 year-olds and one 8 year-old), and had their own natural baby last July—Victoria Patience. Marty is a journalist for the Altavista Journal—a weekly newspaper.

(elfstone3@peoplepc.com)

**Elizabeth (BA, RV '84)** and Jamie Kabernick are teaching at Carachipampa Christian School. Their son Jadon is almost 18 months old. April 6, they had a baby girl, Elisa Joy.

(EandJKaber@hotmail.com)

**Jonathan (BA, RV '88)** is working at Virginia Tech. He and his wife Lidia have a little girl, Tsega (Grace) Jerusalem who is almost 20 months old, and they had a baby girl in January—Shalome Faith. (JonnLidia@aol.com)

**Timothy (BA, RV '93)** is majoring in wildlife at Virginia Tech. His wife Debby is starting to work on a Masters in Education. They have a little boy, Abijah Tegegnwork who was born last July. They plan to go back to Ethiopia to live. (tricker@vt.edu)

**Melody (RV '95)** is getting married June 7 to Levelle Windsor. (Ethimel@aol.com)

#### **TER MEER**

(6/01)

**Jeffrey (KA '86)** is a canine officer with Bradenton police dept. His partner is Titan, a German shepherd. Jeffrey and Heidi reside in Bradenton, FL. On March 6 God sent Jada Emily and Lane Jeffrey into their lives. It was a difficult pregnancy for Heidi, and the babies arrived 7 weeks early. They spent 3 1/2 weeks in the neonatal unit and went home on a Friday evening. The following Sunday, Lane became

unexpectedly ill and was rushed back to the hospital where he was treated for an aggressive infection. But on Tuesday afternoon, Jesus took their little angel home to be with him.



Jeffrey & Heidi Ter Meer, Jada and Lane

**Christi (KA '89)** is married to Steve Hagen, a pastor at Sylvania Alliance Church in Sylvania, OH. Christie did some substitute teaching this year. They have a daughter Jennai. (snchagen@juno.com)

**Don & Jean (GH, KA '56 and staff at HC)** are Jeffrey and Christi's parents. They are currently working at SIM Sebring Retirement

Center. (tdj26946151@juno.com)

#### **WEESE**

(3/01)

After many years, I **Dan (KA '77)**, finally decided to look around the Net for Kent Academy. What a surprise to find the listserve.

After leaving Nigeria, the Weese family moved a fair bit. My father taught at Houghton College after getting his Master's at Syracuse University. I think the Haneys were also from that area. Here and there, we finally ended up in Wheaton about 1976.

I went to Wheaton College for several years, had some personal problems, and ended up in the U.S. Army, in Germany, as a field artillery forward observer. I pretty much rejected the things of the Lord and wanted to get as far away from them as possible. In a way, I suppose, we all go through this phase; mine was a little more extreme. I lived in the downtown Chicago area, met a girl from Guatemala, we went to Moody Church, and got married in College Church, Wheaton, 17 December 1983.

I began writing software when I came back from Germany, and I've been consulting ever since. I live in Elgin, IL, but I've consulted all over the place: Atlanta, Louisville, Baltimore. We come and go to Guatemala, Martha's home, where we run a Spanish language school.

I've got 3 kids now. Barb, my oldest, is now working in Turku, Finland. Rachel, 14, is a very social child, always throwing parties in the basement. Joseph, 12, is horribly intelligent, in advanced math, reads a lot, and plays on the basketball team. (moebius@super-highway.net) [www.super-highway.net/users/moebius](http://www.super-highway.net/users/moebius)

My brother **David (KA '78)** went back to college and graduated summa cum laude in journalism with an additional Honors Scholar credential. He's now working in the newspaper industry. He was a reporter for some time but has moved on to other aspects of the business. My sister **Ruth (KA '79)** went to Moody, served in Burkina for two years, then married a wonderful guy named Dave Fisher and settled down in Wheaton, a stone's throw from my parents.

Dad and Mom (Wightman and Priscilla) are still deeply committed to missions work and the SIM. Dad's been doing solar power projects all over the world, and Mom has been down to Ecuador doing anesthesia at Shell Mera hospital. One side of their refrigerator is covered with missionary cards, and the prayer list is long. Dad's also part of the Billy Graham Crusade effort, helping manage the phone banks. Retirement is treating them well.

# ATTENTION INTERNATIONAL READERS

*Simroots* has no way of discovering or confirming address changes for our overseas readers unless you tell us. Therefore,

\* IF you live outside of Canada or the United States,

\* AND if your name is on this list

\* AND if we do not hear from you in the next six months,

Then we will assume this issue of *Simroots* has not reached you, or you are not interested in receiving it, and we will discontinue sending you the newsletter.

BUT

\* IF you did receive this issue,

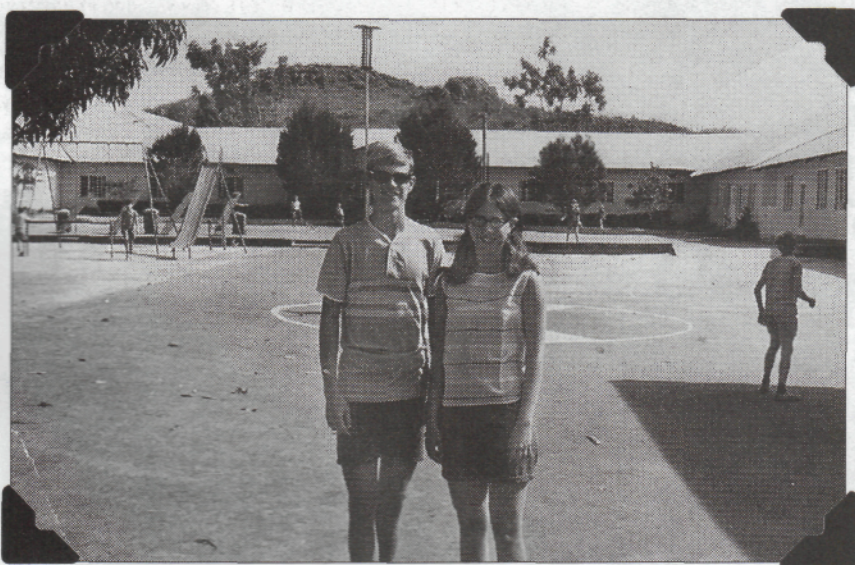
\* AND if your name is listed,

\* AND if you want to continue receiving *Simroots*,

Then please contact us via our web site, editor's email, or by postal mail to confirm your current address. If any siblings can give us updates, that would be great.

First Name	Maiden Name	Last Name	Country	First Name	Maiden Name	Last Name	Country
Ibrahim (Gaby)		Abed	Nigeria	Gavin		McQuaid	N. Ireland
Lauretta		Abulu	Nigeria	Stephen		McQuaid	N. Ireland
David H		Adolph	Kenya	Wojtek		Milej	Poland
James		Aldis	Niger	Pat		Mitchell	N. Ireland
Christine		Anderson	New Zealand	Joe		Mooney	N. Ireland
Ian		Anderson	New Zealand	Eileen		Mooney	N. Ireland
Demet & Carol	Black	Apokremiotis	Ethiopia	Dennis		Moore	New Zealand
Rachel		Appleby	New Zealand	Helen		Muffett	England
Rick & Elizabeth	Godbold	Arnold	Senegal	Lindsay		Nicholls	Australia
Inger or Knut		Bakke	Norway	Larry & Ruth	Cumbers	Nicholson	New Guinea
Merete or John		Bakke	Norway	Priscilla		Ofarn	England
Kathy		Beck	Kenya	Anne	Cotterel	Ostrowicz	England
Mike & Rita		Bergen	Philippines	Tim		Page	England
Christine	Emmett	Berning	W. Germany	Robert & Valerie	Nunn	Palmer	UK
Willy & Sue	Crane	Berryman	New Zealand	Naomi	Cain	Pettifer	Australia
David & Lois		Bond	New Zealand	Anrew & Kerrin	Stanley	Pink	Australia
Stephen		Bond	New Zealand	Darrell & Ruth	Dye	Racey	Cyprus
Robert & Tina		Bower	Australia	Rob & Sylvia		Reimer	Ethiopia
Richard		Boyd	New Zealand	Crawford & Fiona		Revie	Scotland
Heather	Mason	Brown-Peterside	England	Mike & Pat	Chase	Ring	Ethiopia
Janet		Cotterell	England	Pat		Robertson	Ghana
Delwynne	Elliott	Crawford	New Zealand	David		Smith	Australia
Peter		Derrington	Australia	Victor & Marilyn	Hilker	Smith	Ethiopia
Kylie		Dipple	Australia	Kent		Stanley	England
Alasdair & Leanne		Dipple	Australia	Glenys	Welch	Sweetman	Kenya
Jeremy & Narelle	Dipple	( ? )	Australia	Steve		Teachout	Romania
Bruce		Elliott	New Zealand	Fiona	Anderson	Thomson	New Zealand
Phillip		Flynn	N. Ireland	Brian		Tracey	New Zealand
John		Flynn	N. Ireland	June		Trevor	N. Wales
Reuben		Flynn	N. Ireland	Emily		Tucker	New Zealand
Kevan		Frost	England	Heather		Twidale	Australia
Becky	Bond	Gardyne	New Zealand	John & Ewa		Van Lierop	UK
Steve & Tosha		Godbold	Chad	Bernie & Margaret		Van Lierop	UK
Dr & Mrs Peter		Jackson	England	Hugo & Elizabeth	Blaschke	Vargas	Bolivia
Ross & Elva		Jardine	Australia	Judy	Isaacs	Waddell	Israel
Matthew		Jones	Australia	Colin & Leigh Ann	Crane	Watts	New Zealand
Olwyn		Keyte	New Zealand	Paul & Jane	Revie	Wilcox	England
Erica		Kretschmer	Germany	Bode		Wilfred	England
Miriam		McLellan	Australia	Carol	Cole	Winton	England
Jane		McLellan	Australia	Rinji		Wophill	Nigeria
Herbert Stanley		McMillan	Australia				

## FROM THE ARCHIVES



(1969) Bob and Karen Braband  
Submitted by Karen (Braband) Mertes



William & Iona Collins (1932)  
leaving their 3 girls at Gowans  
Home. Miss Kaercher is in the  
background.

# CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Only the following schools and classes have current class reps.  
If you'd like to volunteer for a class, please contact the editor.

## Bingham Academy

[bingham@telecom.net.et](mailto:bingham@telecom.net.et)

### **CLASSES OF 1960-62**

Russ Schmidt  
PO Box 1689  
Sumas, WA 98295-1689

or

12-32615 Murray Ave.  
Abbotsford, BC  
Canada V2T 4T8  
(604) 853-1894  
[Rvschmidt@home.com](mailto:Rvschmidt@home.com)

### **CLASS OF 1976**

Malinda (Estelle) Duvall  
22 Elmwood Drive  
Taylors, SC 29687  
(864) 268-5873  
[Rduvall@juno.com](mailto:Rduvall@juno.com)

### **CLASS OF 1977**

Edward Estelle  
RD #1 Box 155A  
Stamford, NY 12167  
(607) 652-3111  
[estellewriters@juno.com](mailto:estellewriters@juno.com)

### **CLASS OF 1980**

Christina (Freeman) Grafe  
P.O. Box 772  
Cortez, CO 81321-0772  
(970) 564-1098  
[grafe@fone.net](mailto:grafe@fone.net)

## Carachipampa

[www.carachipampa.org](http://www.carachipampa.org)

Helen Steele  
c/o PO Box 7900  
Charlotte, NC 28241-7900  
[steele@bo.net](mailto:steele@bo.net)

## ELWA

### **CLASS OF 1984**

Pamela (McCarron) Graham  
207 John Ford Road  
Ashfield, MA 01330  
(413) 628-3335  
[RLAKE 82@aol.com](mailto:RLAKE 82@aol.com)

## Good Shepherd

[gss.mknet.org](http://gss.mknet.org)  
Betty Froisland  
2737 Sage Street  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907  
(719) 634-1435  
[froisland-GSS@juno.com](mailto:froisland-GSS@juno.com)

## Gowans Home

Ruth Whitehead  
8550 Eames Street  
San Diego, CA 92123-2120  
(619) 571-0130  
[ruthw@flash.net](mailto:ruthw@flash.net)

## International Christian Academy

[www.ica.ed.ci](http://www.ica.ed.ci)  
[ica@ica.ed.ci](mailto:ica@ica.ed.ci)

## Kent Academy

### **CLASSES OF 1950-'64**

Dr. Gordon A. Ireland  
400 Parkland Avenue  
Glendale, MO 63122  
(314) 821-9442  
[gireland@hsca.com](mailto:gireland@hsca.com)

### **CLASS OF 1965**

Jim Eitzen  
8612 Snowden Loop  
Laurel, MD 20811  
(301) 776-7779  
[jeitzen@commsysinc.com](mailto:jeitzen@commsysinc.com)

### **CLASS OF 1966**

Sherrill (McElheran) Bayne  
2229 Ransom Drive  
Ft Wayne, IN 46845  
(219) 637-5358  
[sbayne@juno.com](mailto:sbayne@juno.com)

### **CLASS OF 1967**

Grace Anne (Seeger) Swanson  
1565 Gascony Road  
Encinitas, CA 92024  
(760) 942-6109  
[swanson121@home.com](mailto:swanson121@home.com)

### **CLASS OF 1968**

Charlotte (Jacobson) Giebel  
1492 Hooli Circle  
Pearl City, HI 96782  
[giebel@roberts.com](mailto:giebel@roberts.com)

### **CLASS OF 1969**

John Price  
(wants replacement)  
6212 Paradise Point Drive  
Miami, FL 33157  
(305) 971-1211  
[JHPilot@aol.com](mailto:JHPilot@aol.com)

### **CLASS OF 1971**

Jim Kastner  
1125 Nottingham  
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230  
(313) 331-0818  
Fax (313) 966-1156  
[kasfam1@home.com](mailto:kasfam1@home.com)

### **CLASS OF 1972**

Karen (Seeger) Keegan  
222 Hyle Avenue  
Murfreesboro, TN 37128  
(615) 895-9011  
[simroots@sim.org](mailto:simroots@sim.org)

### **CLASS OF 1974**

Carol (King) Harvey  
1917 Rocksprings Rd  
Lavonia, GA 30553  
(706) 356-2569  
[ckharvey@alltel.net](mailto:ckharvey@alltel.net)

### **CLASS OF 1975**

Ruth Ellen (Hewitt) Howdysshell  
7069 Sears Road  
Horton, MI 49246  
(517) 563-8202  
[thowdysshell@aol.com](mailto:thowdysshell@aol.com)

### **CLASS OF 1977**

Annegret (Schalm) Horton  
6303 Leger Bay  
Regina, SK  
Canada S4X 2K4  
(306) 949-5610  
[annegret@pneumasoft.com](mailto:annegret@pneumasoft.com)  
[www.pneumasoft.com/sim77](http://www.pneumasoft.com/sim77)

Debb Forster  
2135 Manawa Lane  
Tega Cay, SC 29715  
(803) 548-3196  
[joy4debb@aol.com](mailto:joy4debb@aol.com)

### **CLASS OF 1978**

Elizabeth (Jackson) Quinn  
9 Cider Lane  
Nashua, NH 03063  
(603) 595-6300  
Fax: (603) 880-6503  
[lizard@inr.net](mailto:lizard@inr.net)  
<http://lizard.home.inr.net/class.htm>

### **CLASS OF 1981**

Frank Dubisz  
738 S. Westridge Avenue  
Glendora, CA 91740-4333  
(626) 398-7787  
[FADubisz@fuller.edu](mailto:FADubisz@fuller.edu)

## Rift Valley

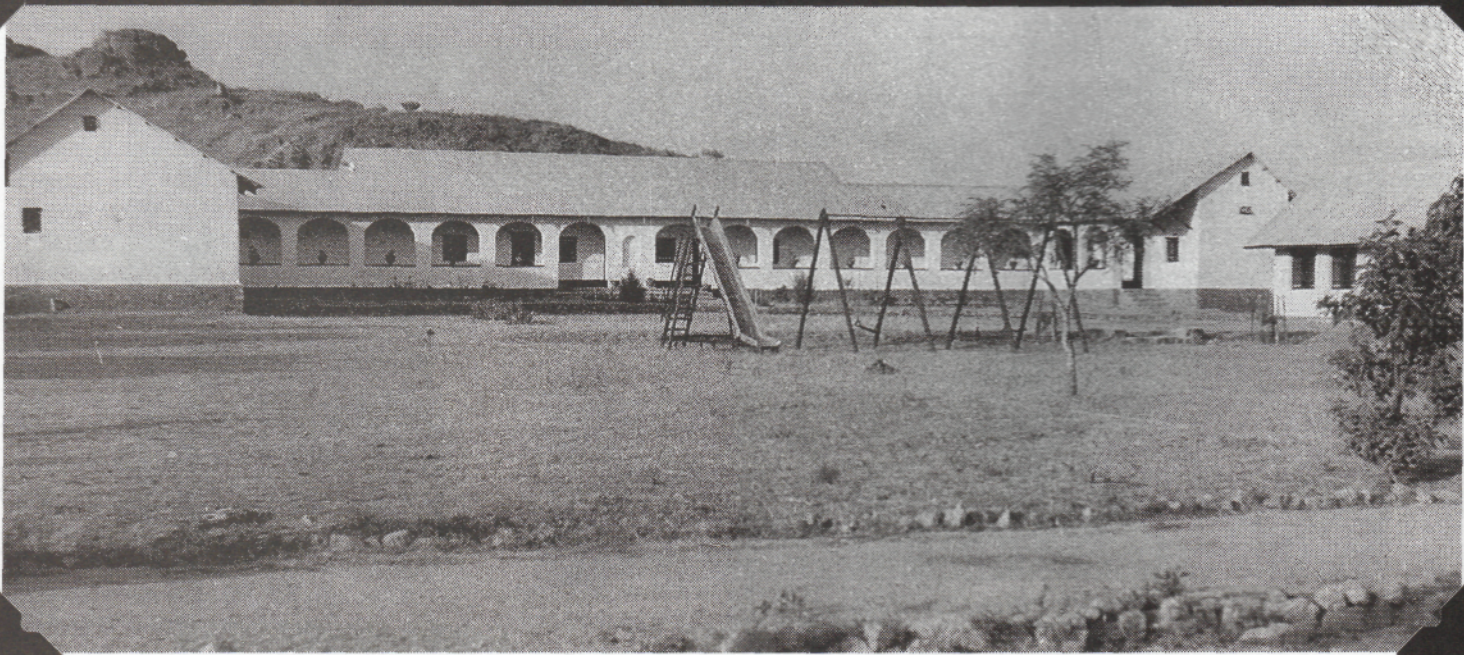
[www.RVA.org](http://www.RVA.org)  
Alumni director: [Deb\\_Ort@aimint.org](mailto:Deb_Ort@aimint.org)  
Rich & Janice Dunkerton  
4020-58<sup>th</sup> Ave North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33714  
(727) 522-0522  
[RJDunk1@juno.com](mailto:RJDunk1@juno.com)

## Sahel Academy

[www.sim.ne/sahel](http://www.sim.ne/sahel)  
[sahel@sahel.sim.ne](mailto:sahel@sahel.sim.ne)

*Photo below:  
KA circa 1949  
Houseparents and  
storage in the center  
separating the girls  
on the left and the  
boys on the right  
Photo submitted by  
Judy (Williams)  
Copeland (KA '62)*

FROM THE ARCHIVES



# History of KA Book

*Collecting stories and remembrances now!*

Camel Rock  
Crazy  
Field Day  
Marmite  
Harmattan  
Kingsway  
Piano Corner  
SIMAIR  
Vom

Say these words to any of your current friends and chances are they won't know what you're talking about!

There is a group of people though who not only know exactly what you mean but probably have a strong opinion about each subject. You and I belong to a unique "family" — MKs from Kent Academy. I was at KA from

1956 to 1962 (from second grade to eighth grade). I have so many wonderful memories from those years and hope that you do too. For some time now I have had a desire to collect all the history of KA that I can possibly find and put it all into a soft-cover spiral bound book which would be available at cost to those who are interested.

I am contacting staff and students who were at KA asking if they would like to write to me about their time at the school. **YOU HAVE A UNIQUE STORY TO TELL!**

**I would like to know things like: the years you were at KA, a physical description of the grounds when you were there, your dorm, your**

**classroom, your teachers, what you remember most, what you liked most, what mischief you got into — in short whatever it is you wish to express. I am especially interested in specific stories or episodes you may remember.**

Any photos you care to send will be scanned immediately and returned to you.

Happy remembering!

Grace Anne (Seeger) Swanson  
Class of '67  
1565 Gascony Road  
Encinitas, CA 92024

phone: 760-942-6109  
fax: 760-633-1584  
email: [swanson121@home.com](mailto:swanson121@home.com)

Clip and Mail

## ADDRESS CHANGES OR ADDITIONS

Clip and Mail

*The mailing list is only as useful as it is current. Please help us by sending in changes and supplying ALL of the following information. Thank you.*

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Work) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
High school graduation year (based on U.S. system end of grade 12) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mission school(s) attended or affiliated with on mission field (please list all) \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation with school as a \_\_\_\_\_ Student \_\_\_\_\_ Staff \_\_\_\_\_ Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Date of address change \_\_\_\_\_  
I am sending a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to SIM in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please remove my name from the mailing list.

Send changes to **Karen Keegan, 222 Hyle Avenue, Murfreesboro, TN 37128-8535** or email [simroots@sim.org](mailto:simroots@sim.org).

# ATTENTION INTERNATIONAL READERS

(outside of Canada and USA):

**This may be the last issue of *Simroots*  
that you receive.**

**See p. 29 for details.**



## WANTED

We would like to dedicate the next issue to our staff and caregivers at our boarding schools. Submissions of tributes to them, stories, memories, or photos should be sent to the editor today.

## DONATIONS

Thank you to Betty Collins who donated \$10 in memory of Herb Foster.

David & Rebecca John sent in \$100 in honor of Rev. David Beynon John who turned 91 on June 10, 2001.

Natalie Troup sent a gift of \$25 in memory of her husband Dr. Roger Troup.



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