

STEURYNGS: NEWS & VIEWS FROM JON & VERA

My heart is both heavy and encouraged at the same time following the extended Zoom conversation that I just had with our WGM Global Worker in northeast Nigeria named Pat. It's heavy from hearing of the ethnic conflict that has recently erupted in the community where Pat ministers, resulting in homes being burned down, and people being attacked and killed, including a man Pat had employed as a night watchman for the compound where she stays and serves. As you would imagine, many in the community are living in fear right now!

As soon as I heard the news of the guard's death last Sunday, I reached out to WGM's Member Health Department personnel and asked them to connect with Pat, which they promptly did. Today, as we talked, Pat shared how much that meant to her and how thankful she was for the resources that were shared with her to help her process the traumatic events. She went on to say how she is happy to now be able to share them with the women in her "living learning community" group, as well as the wife of the former watchman, to help them through this challenging time as well. Now you can understand why my heart is also encouraged in the midst of these difficult circumstances. Pat is living out 2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (ESV), which says,

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

Pat is sharing intimately in the afflictions of the community of Karim Lamido, and in their comfort as well. I find it fitting that Pat's closest colleague and friend in that community is named...Comfort!

Would you join us in praying for Pat and those that she is ministering with in the remote village in northeast Nigeria where she is serving in answer to God's call on her life? If you'd like to bless Pat with an email of encouragement, write to her at patricia.ali@wgm.org or go to <https://www.wgm.org/missionary/ali> to learn more about Pat or encourage her with a financial gift in support of her vital ministry.

Update:

After writing the paragraphs above last week, I found out over the weekend that fighting had broken out again in the villages surrounding the small village where Pat stays. Waking up to gunshots on Saturday morning, she had to flee, along with others, to the local pastor's house seeking the added protection in numbers and being in proximity to a religious leader who is less likely to be attacked. That pastor, her friend Comfort, and other trusted friends then advised Pat to return to Jalingo, her home base near her sister, which she was able to do. ***Please be praying for Pat in Jalingo as well as her friends in Karim Lamido, Nigeria!***

I can hardly believe that as I write this, we're halfway through 2023! Where has this year gone? Although I can't answer that question, I *can* answer the question, "Where have we gone this year?"

July 4, 2023

We began the year in Wilmore, Kentucky, but returned to Kenya in mid-February in the middle of an unusual outpouring of God's Spirit at Asbury University, just a few blocks from our home there. Jon was privileged to attend one chapel service just before we left. World Gospel Mission student center staff were present throughout the event to counsel and pray with students as they shared the sacred experience together.



Crowds gather in front of Hughes Auditorium at Asbury University during the February Revival

In March we spent a week in neighboring Uganda and were able to spend some time with all our WGM global workers there. Jon was also able to visit with the Africa Gospel Church leaders at one of their local churches on the shore of Lake Victoria, near the city of Jinja, the source of the Nile River. Pray for this church as a portion of its land is being contended.



Masese Africa Gospel Church, on the right, with Lake Victoria in the background on the left

July 4, 2023

In April we traveled by train to the Kenya coast to attend the WGM Kenya Field retreat.



It was a great few days of fellowship as well as some rest and renewal beside the Indian Ocean.

Answer to Prayer!

Randy & Linda Gant have been appointed by World Gospel Mission to serve as our Kenya Field leaders. They were able to attend the retreat in April and are now back in the US raising their financial and prayer support. They hope to be back in Kenya later this summer or early fall. Praise the Lord with us for calling them to serve in this role and pray that they will be able to come to Kenya soon. Go to <https://www.wgm.org/missionary/gant> to meet the Gants and help them on their way to Kenya!

Sabbatical

At the invitation and encouragement of our boss, WGM's Vice President of International Ministries, John Rinehimer, we took the month of May off from our usual responsibilities. It was a wonderful time of refreshment and rest and felt very restorative to our bodies, minds, and spirits! We are very grateful to those who stepped in or stepped up to take on more responsibility so we could enjoy our time away. Although we spent the bulk of the month at our home in Nairobi, we were able to get away for a personal trip to South Africa.



We enjoyed the beauty of the mountains and ocean there.

July 4, 2023

WGM Impact Conference in Albania!

As we returned to duty June 1st our first engagement was attending WGM's biennial leadership conference held near Tirana, the capital of Albania. Leaders from WGM headquarters joined with regional directors and field leaders from around the world.



We met together over a full week and enjoyed wonderful fellowship, heard challenging presentations, took part in fruitful discussions, and worshiped together in meaningful ways.



The Africa Region group (pictured below) had a chance to meet together each day and wrestle with how we can implement new strategies in order to navigate the changing environment and challenges of missions in this day and age.



Thank you for your interest and support in our lives and ministry with WGM in Africa!

Jon & Vera Steury

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