

## THE PIEPER'S PERSPECTIVE FROM EAST IA BIBLE CAMP

### Still Amazed

We are amazed that God took an over the hill couple, ages 54 and 58, and called them into ministry. We, who had received no formal bible school or language acquisition, would be sent to Mozambique, Africa. We, like the disciples, obediently dropped what we were doing or thought we would do in the future, partnered with Children's Relief International, raised financial support and quit our jobs in 2006. Throughout our tenure as missionaries God has been ever present and faithful. He is at our side counseling and guiding us his children.

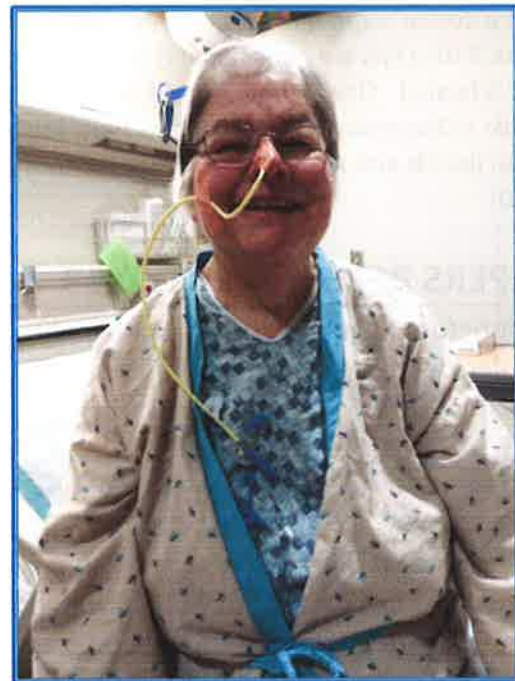
When life's circumstances became overwhelming and we acknowledged His presence, He led us through the crises. When we experienced joy, He was there to celebrate with us. We asked for simple things and He provided all!

In 2014 He shut the doors to our ministry in Mozambique but partnered us with East Iowa Bible Camp in Deep River, IA whereby I was the camp nurse and Guest Services Coordinator. John completed maintenance issues and did repairs of all kinds. He also supervised small construction projects throughout the camp. We were at peace. In our minds we felt as if we could work at this bible camp indefinitely!!

However, in 2015, 2016, 2017, my aging body reared its ugly head with different types of illnesses which took me longer and longer to recover from and my ministry at East Iowa Bible Camp came almost to a screeching halt. I was working less than part-time. John, on the other hand, continued to work, and work and work full-time.

In October 2018 the final blow came to me in the form of complications following a simple procedure to remove a Zenker's diverticulum, a small pouch or sac found growing in my esophagus thus preventing me from easily

swallowing food and medications. Upon removing the diverticulum, the back wall of my esophagus was perforated by the surgeon's knife creating a hole into my mediastinum and into my chest cavity. This perforation was very dangerous to me as the contents of my esophagus was leaking into my chest cavity causing infection, inflammation and maybe even an abscess to form ending in total body sepsis. After 7 days in the hospital, a nasogastric tube inserted, held nothing by mouth and being fed only liquids through the nasogastric tube, and 2 strong intravenous broad spectrum antibiotics being dripped into my body, I felt like I was in a war zone with no hopes of peace being negotiated in the near future. Also, all my medications had to be crushed and put through



the nasogastric tube as I could not swallow them. I had to be started on regular insulin as the tube feedings shot my blood sugars up. Miraculously after 7 days, the doctors of which now numbered about 20 from different facets and departments of medicine at the University of IA Hospital and Clinics declared I was stable enough to go home. Home I went without any in home health worker. [If you are on Medicare and need in home health care after discharge from the hospital, Medicare dictates that a healthcare worker has to come to the home within 72 hours for an interview to get home

care set up.] Since this was late Thursday night, no health care worker could come before Monday morning. On Monday I had an appointment at the hospital for a repeat CAT SCAN of my esophagus with possible removal of the nasogastric tube. Abandoned but not forgotten by God, home I went on nasogastric feedings every 4 hours. On Monday I had that CAT SCAN of my esophagus. No leak or hole was found in my esophagus (God is so Good!) so the doctor removed the nasogastric tube. Now began my journey to learn to swallow and eat solids again. Every time I swallowed I could feel the 4 metal clips in my esophagus that held the perforated area together. The clips were to eventually loosen and drop into the esophagus and as I swallowed be expelled naturally through my stomach and out of my body. I have a doctor's appointment on December 28<sup>th</sup> to see if the clips are gone and if the surgical area is healed. Finally, now since it is the middle of December I am able to swallow most foods, liquids and medications. Praise be to the LORD!

### **PIEPERS RETIRING JAN. 2019**

Right before I had this surgery John and I had decided to retire from fulltime ministry at East IA Bible Camp effective January 1, 2019. After Jan. 1, 2019, we will be volunteers at the bible camp and not be seeking financial support; however, in order to help us with this transition, the camp's board members have generously decided to accept donations for us until the end of March 2019 and to give tax credit for your donations. Please write "for the Pieper's" on your check memo line or continue to give to us though a credit card on-line. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts! Thank you for faithfully maintaining our partnership for all our years in the ministry. Thank you for believing in us and our ministry!

### **FUTURE EVENTS AT EIBC**

Winter Oasis 2019  
will be held January 18-20  
for youth grades 7 thru 12.  
Register on line at [www.loveeibc.org](http://www.loveeibc.org)  
Fee: \$65 per person  
Bring your friends!



During 2019 East IA Bible Camp will be celebrating 75 years of service for our King and Savior.

The hustle and bustle of Christmas is at hand. Please let us remember the real meaning of Christmas: Jesus, Son of God and our Savior came to Earth as a babe to serve mankind.

In obedience moving forward for Him  
*John & Cindy*

*Merry Christmas*