

January 25, 2018

Dear Circle of Prayer,

As the New Year progresses, we find ourselves reflecting on the last few months of 2017. It has been a few busy, hectic months since our last letter to you.

We would love to catch you up on all our news.

September of 2017 found us in Zomba, Malawi presenting a Family and Marriage Seminar to about 50 members of the Namikango Mission. This mission has a long and storied history. Our last visit to the mission was in 1979 when we were guest of B and Ruth Shelburne. So it was refreshing to visit again and bring encouragement to the students and staff and their families.

A Couple Practicing the Communication Technique



Our hosts this time, Ben and Rebecca Hayes, made us feel so welcome. Ben is a missionary kid who was raised in Kenya. How wonderful to see him following in his parents' footsteps.

After the seminar, we received word that Robin's mother was dying. So we cut short our trip and headed for home. We had hoped to spend some time with the churches in Zambia with which we had worked in 1978-79. However, on the road we learned that she had passed.

Rushing home, we purchased tickets, packed our bags and flew to the US. We were so thankful that we were able to be there for Robin's dad and all the family. The two weeks we were in the US was spent helping prepare for Robin's mom's memorial and being with family.

The brief time with our children and grandchildren, one of which we had not met, was so sweet and precious.

Upon our return at the end of October, we had only two days to do wash and pack for a trip across the Zambezi River to Livingstone, Zambia, where Keith preformed a wedding for a dear Christian friend, who is actually our doctor here in Kasane.



Clement and Dr. Agatha's Wedding

After the wedding, we rushed home, did laundry and re-packed as we headed for Gaborone and the wonderful arrival of Hazel Charlotte Sutcliffe, Elise and Robert's little girl. Ethan was so courageous and shed very few tears as he stayed with us while Elise was in the hospital .

We spent a week letting Elise rest and recover and took advantage of the time in the capital to renew our passports and get some Christmas shopping done.

Thankful to finally be home for a few weeks, we re-engaged in the various studies and activities here at home until December 21 when we drove all the way to South Africa for Keith to perform another wedding. Our long time and dear friend, Marilyn Cook's granddaughter Rachel Aub was married to Jason Brookstein. The wedding venue was gorgeous and the weather co-operated as it is the rainy season here. The wedding was on December 22 so in order to be home in time for Christmas, we left on the 23rd and drove for 18 hours to be home in the early hours of Christmas Eve. We were so excited to be home and to enjoy Christmas with family: Rob, Elise, Ethan and Hazel.

However, our friends Robyn and Louie lost their son Sean in a horrible car accident. Sean's death stunned everyone as he had celebrated his 17th birthday just days before. Several years before, Keith had studied with Sean and his brother Peter and baptized both of them. What a wonderful day that was for Louie and Robyn! What a comfort that was in these days of mourning to know Sean is alive and with Jesus.

So just days after Christmas, we gathered with tears and memories and celebrated Sean's brief but meaningful life. Young people drove long distances to come and share their memories of what Sean had meant to them. What a testimony to a life well lived! Pray for Robyn, Louie, Jamie, Mandy and Peter as they continue each day without their precious son and brother.

While Satan intended to steal our joy with these deaths, Robin's mother, Sean, and the first anniversary of Keith's mother on this Christmas, we press on knowing that a glorious reunion awaits us when we too make that step into the fullness of God's Kingdom.

We pray God's blessing on each of you in this new year.

In His Service,

Keith and Robin Honey