

# Musings from the Masons

## Family Focus ...

**Gratitude for Health:** After last year's eventful journey with one health challenge after another (knee replacement, clots in his lungs, and finally, open heart surgery to repair two heart valves), **Dad** has been steadily regaining his strength. His supervised post-heart op exercise program lasts for a few more weeks and he faithfully walks in the mall at least 5 days a week. We are so grateful for all the improvement in his health.

After well over a year's hiatus, in recent weeks Dad has felt 'recovered' enough to begin hosting regular dinners at his apartment again. The menu options are still simple (his delicious homemade hamburgers or macaroni and cheese) but it seems that many appreciate the hospitality and the chance to visit over a meal.

Dad continues to be an avid reader, has attended a short course at Wilfred Laurier University this spring, and busies himself with other projects such as making strawberry freezer jam and keeping in touch with friends and relatives by phone (and e-mail).

**Glenn's** new role (Assistant Deputy Minister for Canada's Land & Minerals Sector) has brought a steep learning curve, a bigger department & staff to manage, and enough travel as well. Needless to say, **Alex's** job as Communications Director for Canada's Summits has been intense over the past few months. She is currently taking a much needed break after a rather memorable and unpredictable G7 Summit in Quebec earlier this month! **Mattias** (nearly 15yrs) has been working extra hard with school these past few

months and remains as boisterous and lovable as ever! **Elysia** (13yrs) has excelled in school and synchro swimming. Both kids look forward to the summer's change of pace.



*Elysia & Glenn off to Elysia's Synchro Gala*

**John** keeps busy with ongoing climate change project work in Ethiopia, Kenya & Ghana. In his role as Board Chair he is also guiding the Zaina Lodge team in raising capital for an expansion phase that will develop lodges at three new

locations in Ghana over the next five years. **Daphne** has been running the farm business (cocoa, oil palm & citrus) and has her hands full caring for her boys (big & small). **Nii/Kieran** (4.5yrs) and **Kalum** (3.5yrs) continue to excel at Montessori school and have made amazing progress in literacy & numeracy. They love life around the farm and are thrilled that they will see a bit of their older siblings over the summer. After their first year living in Canada, and all the major adjustments that brought, **Karl** (20yrs) & **Kristin** (17yrs) are spending the summer in Ghana. This fall Karl will be returning for his second year at York University (Environmental Sciences) & Kris will begin her Geography degree at Ryerson University in Toronto.



*Kalum & Daphne showing off home-grown grapes!*

After his usual winter 'down south' **Geoff** is a 'busy beaver'. And since late March our home has had **Hannah's** lively presence again. She has done plenty of substitute teaching in this school board while she awaits an extension for her Australian working visa. **Geoff and I** seem to keep busier than ever with condo corporation board responsibilities, real estate, volunteer work, our family and a myriad of other things. We remain grateful for overall health and the capacity to serve in this season of our lives.

Thank you for your friendship, encouragement and support to Dad. It means so much.

In these turbulent and uncertain times, may God give each of us grace to recognize His gifts and experience His peace in each day.

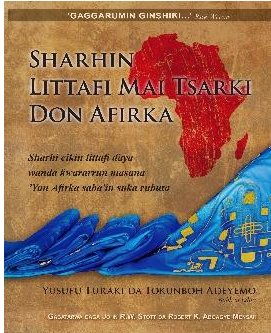
*"May the God who gives hope fill you with great joy. May you have perfect peace as you trust in Him. May the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope." (Romans 15:13 - NIRV)*

Blessings,

*Heather*  
June 22nd, 2018

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## Jim's Jottings ...



**Africa Bible Commentary (ABC):** The Arabic Commentary is due to be published in October, with the likelihood that the Latin America edition may be published early next year. Amharic (Ethiopia) and Hausa (see photo) may also be published by year end. The Hausa proofreading has been causing some delays. Your

prayers would be appreciated.

The ABC Board is now fully in charge of Hippo Books and has also started the process of revising the ABC. Under Hippo's management, a large Systematic Theology project is under way that includes eight authors - in both French and English. This is an exciting initiative. What is particularly encouraging is that through Hippo the ABC board has set their sights on publishing solid African theology on a regular basis.



**African Study Bible (ASB):** In the year since its launch 64,320 copies of the ASB have been published and 55,562 distributed in 18 countries (with most of them sent to four countries - Ghana, Nigeria,

Kenya, and South Africa). Matthew Elliott, the MD of Oasis Publishers (who brought the ASB to fruition) is going to Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Uganda in June/July for the launch of the ASB there. In Uganda, this will be held at Christian University in Mukono on 6<sup>th</sup> July and at Hotel Africana in Kampala on 7<sup>th</sup> July. The Guest of Honour will be the Education Minister who happens to be the first Lady of Uganda - a strong advocate of the Christian faith. There are 24 English-speaking countries in Africa and Oasis hopes to reach all with the ASB. Additionally, it plans to reach 23 French-speaking countries with a French Bible and translation of the study notes included. Translation to Portuguese will follow. The goal of Oasis is to publish 25 books by African authors annually to benefit Christians in Africa.

**Challenge Enterprises Ghana (CEG) Cinevans:** Cinevan had its first official showing on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1980 at Winneba – 30 miles west along the coast from Accra. For a short time, there were nine vans, but today there are only three with the youngest almost six years old. Replacement vehicles are desperately needed. Please pray specifically for this need. In 1992 and 1994 two separate Ghanaian business men gave a Toyota chassis worth \$45,000. CEG then had a body built on top. In 2012 a group of people from Germany gave two Cinevans - meaning four Cinevans have been donated to CEG in the past. Can this happen again? Yes, if God moves in the hearts of those who can give.

**CEG Prison Ministry:** In 1970, Martha Buehlor, a Swiss



missionary said, "Ghana's prisons are wonderful. More people are saved in prison, than in churches." God is still working in Ghana's prisons today. This photo shows a small car used by CEG prison chaplains that

was paid for by a Canadian donor. It is also used in hospital visitation and for a Bible Study that takes place in a private business.



**Kofi Agamah, CEG Managing Director:** Kofi has just been to the USA Booksellers Convention. He has been placing orders for the coming busy sales season (Nov-Jan), and ordering for the Pastors' Spiritual Life Conference (Sep). When this annual conference began, the aim was to provide 10 books for pastors at cost price to keep them studying and 'fresh' in their preaching. In the photo you will see Kofi has increased the number of books (at least 20 in the 2017 set). These Pastors' Conferences have been held annually since 1989.

With gratitude for your prayers and support for Christian literature-related work around the world.

May the peace of God enfold you and His love uphold you,

*Jim Mason*  
June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018