

Musings from the Masons

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14 – AKJV)

Family Focus ...

Dad has had a good year, especially as we remember how challenging his health journey was in 2017. His pace has slowed somewhat, but he continues to walk most days a week. In addition, he is now doing a circuit of exercises at a seniors centre fitness facility about 3x a week. Lately I've been happy to notice a bit more spring in his step as well! We had a lovely summer, weather-wise, and Dad made the most of it by entertaining dinner guests most weeks. Eating out on his balcony was a perfect setting – even on very warm evenings you can usually catch a welcome breeze up on the 11th floor! And in the early summer Dad might have even treated you to his balcony-grown lettuce. In September Dad was able to make a short, but most enjoyable, trip out to Alberta to visit with Mum's family. It was a warm time of reconnecting in spite of the unexpected and early snow. Dad just passed another driving exam – always a welcome milestone that will hopefully have him driving safely for another two years. Dad's local church, Northside Community, has just hired a new pastor which is good news all round. Dad continues to read voraciously and is even, with effort, expanding his personal supper recipe repertoire – adding a few things like stir fries and cock-a-leekie soup. We continue to be grateful for Dad's wonderful neighbours and friends



Dad & me enjoying supper on his balcony – July 2018

Glenn survived long-awaited knee replacement surgery in late August. I was grateful for the extra times to chat on the phone while he was recuperating. He had to get back to work sooner than he may have wished. His role as Assistant Deputy Minister of Canada's Lands & Minerals Sector is extremely demanding though fascinating. **Alex** had a hectic year as Communications Director for Canada's Summits and is now interviewing for her next federal government role. More news on that next time. **Mattias** (15yrs) demonstrated his caring side when his Dad was home recuperating. He is working hard at school and burning off lots of energy playing hockey. **Elysia** (13yrs) is now at a sports-focused school where she spends much more time on her synchro swimming. This means she crams her studies into fewer hours, so she is a very busy & physically fit young woman.

John is extremely busy with a growing portfolio of global chocolate companies supporting NCRC's work with cocoa farmers in rural Ghana – and is also involved in some new project start-ups in Ethiopia & Kenya. **Daphne's** roles as mother and farm manager keep her hopping and she is also thinking of converting an existing building into a B&B. **Karl** (nearly 21yrs) is in his 2nd year of the Environmental Science program at York University in Toronto and spent Thanksgiving weekend with Grampa (and us). **Kris** (18yrs) is in her first year of university at Ryerson in Toronto. Our winter weather seems to have arrived early and we are aware this can't be easy for these two who were raised in Ghana. **Kieran** (just 5yrs) and **Kalum** (nearly 4yrs) are both thriving in school - and at home love getting involved with every aspect of operating the farm.



Karl in Accra with little brothers, Kalum & Kieran – Summer 2018

After 4 months at home, **Hannah** (25yrs) returned to teach in Melbourne, Australia in August. She enjoyed two back-to-back summers (one in Australia and one here) but will make up for that when she returns home for a few weeks from mid-December. In order to keep her options open she plans to stay to do a few weeks of teaching in the local school board here so that she can remain on the supply teaching roster. **Geoff & my** lives are presently dominated with getting his mother, Grace (93yrs), settled in a retirement residence & her home cleared and sold. And then there's all the other stuff like real estate, condo corporation & other board & committee work, volunteering, supporting family, clients & neighbours in need, and just generally trying to keep a semblance of balance – considering we're no 'spring chickens' ourselves.

Grateful thanks, as ever, for your enduring friendship, encouragement and support to Dad. May your Christmas celebrations be meaningful and full of love – and your New Year blessed with peace and hope.

*“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”
(II Corinthians 9:15)*

*Heather
November 22nd, 2018*



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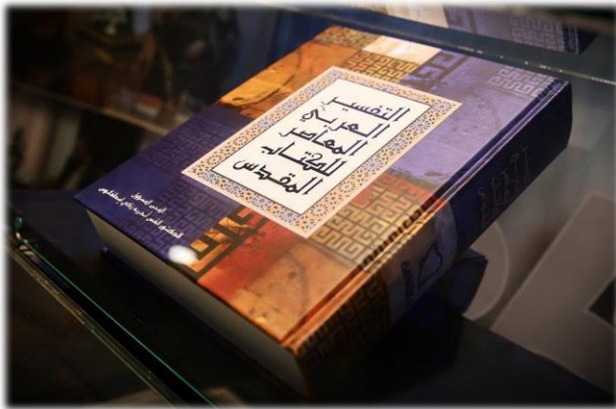
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Jim's Jottings ...

Challenge Enterprises Ghana (CEG) Prison Ministry: This ministry began in 1957 on an ad hoc basis - with a Ghanaian national and a foreign missionary visiting prisons weekly. In 1977 a prison chaplain was employed. Presently there are two chaplains visiting in 11 prisons. These chaplains also do hospital visitation and visit one private company to facilitate a workplace fellowship. From April to September this year CEG chaplains made 116 visits to prisons with 13,340 attending meetings. 3424 inmates put their trust in Christ during this time. Thank God for His blessing on this ministry and continue to pray for its fruitfulness in the future.

The car recently provided by a Canadian donor that enables the chaplains to travel more effectively in their work is being well used and much appreciated.

Bible Commentary Updates: Seventeen commentaries have emanated from the original launched in Kenya in 2006. Seven have been translations with all others new writing - but all follow the format of the original ABC.



Arabic Bible Commentary

There has been much joy and celebration around the publication of the Arabic Bible Commentary. It was officially launched in Cairo on October 15th - brought to fruition by a gift from Langham Partnership. The influence of John Stott continues in Langham Scholars as there are four PhD Langham Scholars serving the church in Egypt.

There were 48 commentary writers across the cooperating countries - Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Kuwait and Palestine. It took ten years from start to finish – remarkable considering the political instability in some of these countries during that time. The commentary includes 106 articles covering spiritual, contemporary, scientific, psychological,

economic, cultural and medical topics. These articles are inserted at appropriate locations in the commentary. This is the first Arabic Commentary in 1,000 years!

The Hausa Commentary is at the press and plans are in place to launch in March 2019. The Latin American Commentary should launch at a similar time. The Hindu and Urdu translations from the English Indian Commentary are nearing completion. With editing and typesetting still outstanding the publication will likely be in 2020. The Amharic commentary is due sometime in 2019.

Africa Study Bible (ASB): Matthew Elliott M.D. of Oasis, the ASB publisher, reports that 58,000 ASB's have been shipped, with most of these now being in the hands of those who need them most. In 14 countries, Bible schools, pastors' conferences and other leadership training venues have featured the ASB. You can get further information - and an update on the current needs of this exciting venture - at this website: <http://oasisint.net/africa-study-bible/asb-for-pastors/>.

Africa Study Bible (ASB) French Edition: Over 100 million Christians in Africa read in French, but there are shockingly less French resources than English. Translation of the ASB notes into French is making good progress with approximately 50% already having been proofed. This project has been a massive undertaking. Each of the 2600 notes and articles, the 100-page index, and all the special features have had to be translated, then reviewed, typeset and proofread. There are 855,867 words in these notes – more words than in the text of the Bible! Pray for the team who are working hard to have the French edition ASB ready for publication by 2019. There is hope that \$150,000 (over 3 years) in a matching grant program will boost fundraising for this most needed project.

Gratitude: With humble thanks for your continued interest in, and your prayers and other support for, literature-related work around the world.

May God make us strong in faith and guide us in truth and love,

Jim Mason

November 22, 2018

(Note: At Christmas some send personal gifts to SIM for which I am grateful. In future it would be helpful if gifts of this nature are designated to my Ministry Account which falls under the supervision of SIM and gives the donor a tax-deductible receipt. I can use funds from this account for approved expenses - including postage (for regular mailings like this one) and for office operating expenses.

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