

Special Appeal

Our Association Membership is growing, resulting in an increase of expenses. We urgently need to increase our PIM support base. If you are a Pastor, could you please add the VGMA to your PIM list? If you, as an individual, are looking for additional opportunities to support the cause of Global Missions, please consider supporting our Veteran Missionaries. You may visit the VGMA Website and enroll from there or by contacting Andrea Sanders in Global Missions at (636) 229-7915.

The Vanguard

The Vanguard - Winter, 2022

Reasons to Celebrate!

By the time that you become a veteran missionary you have many life experiences—some, you wish to celebrate and some you leave in the past. God is big on celebrations. This is evident throughout both Testaments. Celebrations for Israel were associated with their relationship with God and their deliverance. These celebrations lasted for a day, a week, and one (Jubilee) for a year!

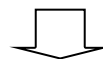
The word “Rejoice” is in the Bible 192 times (KJV), it is part of how God created us. We celebrate birth days, graduations, weddings, career promotions, and as apostolic, we might add baptisms, Spirit infilling, healings, miracles, and other major “*God moments*” in our lives. Jesus “rejoiced”. This word does not mean a weak smile or nod of the head. It means to be “truly and heartily joyous with a feeling of inward triumph!” Jesus celebrated and so should we!

What did Jesus celebrate? Luke 10:17-22 records that Jesus rejoiced in spirit when his disciples returned from a training outing with great joy. You have done the same. Healings, demons cast out and other demonstrations of God’s power give us cause to celebrate!

Jesus said, “I saw Satan fall!” He was acknowledging, “I saw you and I saw Satan”. I believe every time you engage in activity that causes celebration in heaven Jesus sees and rejoices! If you are like me, you forget even important developments, but Jesus never forgets, therefore, he never ceases to celebrate your life.

Jesus was careful to point out that the greatest reason for celebration was when a new name was recorded in heaven. You are engaged in the most joyous work on earth resulting in “names written in the Lamb’s book of Life”. Every time a soul is born again we celebrate.

Life is sometimes plagued with trials, heartaches, great despair, sickness, and eventually death. However, none of these experiences take away the joy of the Lord, the certainty of his eternal promises, and the many reasons to celebrate. We have hope beyond this world and we rejoice always.



Reasons to Celebrate *(Continued)*

When my wife, Susan, was near death with cancer, my children and grandchildren who lived near us, would gather at our home each evening. Those that lived far away would join us by Skype when possible. This time of prayer and edification was wonderful. On one occasion when my granddaughter, Esabella, was seven years old, she had a vision from the Lord that she shared. She saw three dark spirits depart from Susan, go out the door, and disappear into the darkness. These darkness's were deep wounds that Susan had experienced during her life. They had hindered her and caused her grief for many years. Now they were gone! Her wounds were healed. Not many days later she peacefully made her way into God's presence to await the rapture of the church. A reason to rejoice!

We celebrate the death of the saints. Eternal life within, a certainty of the resurrection, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit are reasons to rejoice! This is why Jesus could endure the cross, despise the shame and willingly offer himself with joy. This is why you have fought a good fight, kept the faith, and will finish the race. We celebrate you!

So, no matter what you are going through today, take a moment, meditate on the goodness of God, and celebrate!

Rev. Garry Tracy
Vice-Chairman / VGMA

Welcome to our Newest Members!

Paul and Stephanie Rivero



The VGMA extends their sincerest and heartfelt condolences to the Families of the following Members who have been recently promoted to their Heavenly Home:

Teresa Jeanne Banta

Carl H. Varnell

Richard A. Denny

George R. Craft



Introducing the New and Exciting VGMA Website!

www.vgmaupci.com

It is our happy privilege to announce the “Grand Opening” of our New and Improved VGMA Website! Visit often because new features will be added as they become available.

Take time to watch the *Banner Video* that plays continually in the background. The different features of the website are accessible above the *Banner Video* by “clicking” on the *Titled Tabs*.

In addition to the various “**Photo Galleries**,” we currently have posted over **40 hours** of Videos for your information and enjoyment.

For several years we have filmed and interviewed our Veterans at Retreats. Those Interviews are posted in Alphabetical Order under “**Video Bio’s**.”

Another new feature is called “**Vintage Videos**.” Over 20 years ago, Multimedia Ministries produced many Deputation Videos for individual Missionaries to use in their Missions Services. These videos have been re-edited with updated music and are being made available for their “**historical value only**.” They are catalogued by “Region.”

There are online “**Donation and PIM Enrollment**” links on the website as well as current and past issues of *The Vanguard Newsletter*.

Our plan for this Website is to create a **Historical Archive** of “all things” pertaining to UPCI-Veteran-Missionaries. **Your suggestions and submissions will be gratefully appreciated!** We would love to have our Veteran’s Articles, Video Sermons, Vintage Video Footage, Photo/Scrapbook Galleries, etc., to post online. Contact Bro. Burns to participate. (JLBurns47@gmail.com)

We will be promoting this Website among our UPCI Bible Schools as a great tool for the “**Missiology Classes**.” These resources may be streamed directly into their classrooms by the instructors. Stay tuned!

Take a look at the page called “**Tributes**.” We are creating and posting “**Tributes**” that will serve to keep the memories of our beloved Veterans in the hearts and minds of future generations. Please forward, to my attention, any Videos or Scrapbook Presentations of our departed Veterans to be included in the ever growing collection of “**Tributes**.”

A very special thanks to **Sis. Sherry Padgett** for her invaluable “technical assistance” with this website project. She and her husband have been wonderful friends of the VGMA for many years.

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Visit us at
www.vgmaupci.com

Smile!

Tablets were replaced by
Scrolls. Scrolls were replaced
by Books.

Now, we scroll through books
on 'Tablets!'

"It's been months since I
ordered that book on
'How To Scam People Online!'

It STILL hasn't arrived yet!

To the person who stole my
glasses: I will find you!

I have contacts!

Man needs marriage
Counselor....

"I met my wife at a zoo. She
worked there for years."

"I'm trying to convince her
she's a Keeper!"

Where 'In The World' Are They Now!?



Alan and Valerie Demos served in GREECE as pioneer missionaries for fifteen years from their appointment in 1974 until 1989.

Thereafter, they were in GERMANY from 1990 until official retirement in the spring of 2015, 25 years. The Demos' were on the field as full missionaries for a total of 40 years, plus, one more as missionary helpers (pre-AIM) prior to full appointment.

They are currently living in Sarasota, FL, assisting their son Joel in planting a church in Lithia, FL.



Richard and Jeannie Collins were appointed to GERMANY and SWITZERLAND in 1977.

They returned to the States in 1983, founded a Home Missions Church in Dublin, Ohio in 1986, and Pastored there until retirement.

They are presently serving as "Bishop" in the Dublin assembly which is now pastored by Rev. Jeffrey Tibbs.

Remember When?

