



VETERANS OF
globalmissions
ASSOCIATION

The Vanguard - Summer, 2022

Veterans on the Move!

Kenya 50th Anniversary and Conference Center Dedication By James and Karen Crumpacker

It was with great joy and anticipation we boarded the plane in St. Louis on April 6th for Kenya. After retiring in 2018 we had been looking forward to this trip to celebrate with the **UPC of Kenya** at their 50-year anniversary celebration and the dedication of the new conference center they built since we retired. We were accompanied by **Dr. & Sis. Tom O'Daniel**, their son and daughter-in-law, along with **Sis. Paula Barlow**.

We arrived a few days early to help us get over the jet lag before the conference started. We spent 3 nights at the **Masai Mara game reserve**. It was as beautiful and exciting as ever. Watching, lions, elephants and all the other animals has never gotten old, even after all these years. It was nice to travel on a tarmac road that had been only gravel all the years we lived in Kenya.

We moved on to **Nakuru** where the conference took place. It was satisfying to observe the first couple of days as they conducted their annual business meetings. The business meetings were run well and with brotherly kindness. It was great to see. We all got to minister to the preachers including former missionary **Jimmy Hall** and his son-in-law, **Jon Harris** who was an MK in Kenya.

It was a great time of preaching, unity, fellowship, reacquainting with old friends and enjoying the blessings of God. Each missionary was given an olive tree to plant on the property to represent their labor in Kenya.

Then the General Conference started but was not as well attended as they hoped because of a fuel shortage. They dedicated the new facilities on Saturday. It is a building that seats around 3,000 with sleeping accommodations, showers & toilets. They have done a wonderful job. The conference center is just outside the 3rd largest city in Kenya and in a more centrally located place than the previous locations used for conferences.



“The Vanguard”

Veterans on the Move! *(Continued)*

It was great to worship with these wonderful people again and have church the African way. **Bro. Randy Adams**, the RD for Africa was also there and did a great job ministering. Seeing many of our Bible School students who are now pastoring was a real joy.

God's church in Kenya is doing very well and we thank the Lord for the small part we were able to play to make this all happen.

History of the Kenyan Church

The church in Kenya was started in 1972 by **Missionaries John and Jeri Harris and William "Bill" and Francis Cupples** families. Both came to Kenya with experience and started off with an evangelism outreach with the **Doyle Spears family** singing and preaching at a bus stop. The nearby Red Cross building was rented, and first service held June 11, 1972. The United Pentecostal Church of Kenya was started!

Bros. Cupples and Harris traveled the country preaching and teaching the One God Apostolic message. They were invited to speak in many Trinitarian churches with great results.

Tragedy struck on May 21, 1973, when **Bros. Harris, Cupples and Regional Director E. L. Freeman** were in a car accident in Western Kenya. **Bro. Cupples** was killed instantly, and **Bro. Freeman and Bro. Harris** were injured. On the day of **Bro Cupple's** accident, 50 Kenyans were baptized in Jesus Name after he preached!

In 1974 **Bro. John Harris** was able to buy 2 ½ acres of property with a home on it. Construction started on a Bible College and a Church. The home provided missionary housing.

The UPC of Kenya was Nationalized in 2004, thirty-two years after its founding. The Kenya UPC presently has 493 churches and preaching points, 99,348 constituents, 2 Bible Schools with 141 students this year.

The following missionaries have labored in Kenya to spread the gospel:

John and Jerri Harris (1972-1982); William and Francis Cupples (1972-1973); Donald and Sharon Ikerd (1973-1980); Don and Joyce Rivers (1976-1980); Bobbye Wendell (1978-1981); J. P. and June Hughes (1981-1985); Thomas and Teri O'Daniel (1982-1989); David and Bonnie Ward (1984-1991); Darline Kantola (1985-1990); Terry and Lynda McIntyre (1986-1991); Louis and Martha Johnson (1989-1997); Arlon and Darline Royer (1990-1993); Jimmy and Pat Hall (1990-2001); Walter and Shirley Droke (1998-2006); Jim and Karen Crumpacker (2003-2018); Patrick and Jean Groves (2004-Present)

Veterans on the Move! (Continued)



Kenya Convention Center Dedication



3000 Seat Kenyan Convention Center



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**Check out the
new Videos
posted on the
VGMA
Website!**

www.vgmaupci.com

**Many new
“Tributes”
have been
added, includ-
ing one focus-
ing on the Life
and Legacy of
Audrene
Scism.**

Save The Dates!

2022 VGMA Annual Banquet and Business Meeting
October 7, 2022
Orange County Convention Center—Room S210A @ 2:30PM
Orlando, Florida

2023 VGMA Retreat
April 25-27, 2023
Lodge of the Ozarks, Branson, Missouri

RSVP will be required for both events! More info will be forthcoming.

Welcome to our Newest Members!

Monica Rushing
Paul and Stephanie Rivero
Angela Doan



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

Carol Ann Rash

Jerry E. Sawyer

Lena Mae McFarland Scott

James Dotson

