



Mission Update and Prayer Guide

NOTHING IS TOO HARD FOR THE LORD.....Jeremiah 32:17
Heritage AFlame - 198 Salt Rising Road - Bolivar, NY 14715 USA

Volume 6 Issue 1 *"HE MUST INCREASE - I MUST DECREASE"* January 2020

Vera Penz, Kako Retreat Center's co-founder and ambassador reflects on events in 2019.

From Vera Penz, Kako Ambassador.... Dear ones in Christ, A whole year has passed since you last heard from me and I'm sure you are wondering just what is going on in my life as well as at Kako! Let me share some thoughts and highlights with you. I am so thankful for Jonathan and Sharon who have so faithfully carried on the ministry at Kako with the added responsibility of their two boys, Micah David and Merrick Joshua. **Pray** for God to touch hearts of His people to come along side and help with the ministry at Kako. Stephen and Lorna Weston came for a couple of winter months prior this past summer's Family Retreat. Stephen was a counselor for several different summers and this year came to serve again, along with his wife. They stayed until after the Ladies' Berry Picking Retreat helping with winter preparations. They, along with Gordon Bakke, kept Kako running while Jonathan and Sharon attended a family wedding and took a much needed break. Gordon is a pilot who has flown for Kako several years, he returned twice, again this year. He flew Stephen and Lorna into several of the surrounding villages. All were greatly encouraged. (Village visits are so important in maintaining communication as well as encouraging those who are following Jesus. Please **pray** for these people to be faithful in their pursuit of holiness.)



We rejoice with John and Becky Erickson for their new baby boy, born May 19, 2019. After years of waiting, trusting God, and faithfully serving Him, the Lord has given them Gabriel to adopt and love as their own. They have ministered at Kako on and off over the years, helping with retreats and camps, filling in as director of kids' camp, or wherever they were needed. They have a heart for the native people and the work at Kako. They continue to minister as God brings people into Fairbanks from the villages. **Pray** for them as they love and raise Gabriel and use every opportunity to make a difference for Christ in their area.

As you know, Kako has a very special place in my heart and **prayers**. God provided all that was needed for each of the retreats and camps. Pilots came from all over, including Andy Trevan, who has returned several times from England - this time with his whole family. Rick and his wife Greta came as cooks for both retreats. Others came to help with preparations ahead of each retreat as well as the clean up after. God uses ministry at Kako to impact the individual lives of those whom He sends to help as well. These teams were so amazing in their giving spirit. They all worked hard and got the job done. They are thankful for the privilege of seeing lives impacted by their service.

It was a joy for me to return to Kako twice this year. The first visit was for our Family Retreat over Memorial Day weekend. Jeanne, Dave's daughter, flew with me. Our speakers this year were native leaders. Bill Pagaran, who is an Alaskan Tlingit Indian, a professional drummer and founder of "Carry the Cure" (which is fighting the epidemic of suicide) came with part of his team. His best friend, Jonathan Maracle, a Mohawk Indian from Canada, a professional musician and founder of "Broken Walls" ethnic band, handled guitar and vocals during the event. Support member and Athabaskan Indian, Kenny Simpson, spoke for one session. The speakers each shared personal stories of loss, shame and heartache and how God has brought healing to their lives; that all the good things from their culture are gifts from God; that they are loved and that God's love gives hope and a reason for living; that they can be proud of their people instead of being ashamed. It was so powerful. It was a meaningful time for everyone. We had about 150 attending including kids. We had four planes and pilots bringing everyone in to camp which is an amazing answer to many **prayers** - including yours!

During the months of June and July Kako had six weeks of kids' camps. We praise the Lord for a total of 259 campers and 28 on staff. We were grateful for the exceptionally talented and well-organized job performed by camp director this year, Jim Buckingham and his wife Martha. God again answered **prayer** providing pilots, cooks, counselors, and special speakers for each of these camps. Several of the young people put their trust in the Lord. A bumper sticker says, "No God, No peace; Know God, Know peace". Kids in western Alaska are not that familiar with peace. **Pray** for them as they return to their villages, that they would know God's peace. **Pray** as Jim and Martha consider taking on camp directorship again next year.

The summer closed out the first weekend in August with the annual Ladies' Berry Picking Retreat. I flew up a second time with Deb a week before to help with preparations. This was the 25th year for this event. We started in my living room, in 1994 with 7 ladies from the



villages. This year we had 63 signed up with 11 on a waiting list a week before the retreat! Due to bad weather, we were not able to fly the first day of the retreat so it was postponed to Saturday through Monday. In spite of this delay, 39 ladies were able to attend. I spoke on "Joy Comes in the Morning", sharing God's faithfulness even at seemingly "dead ends" in my life. These ladies see many ostensibly "dead ends" in their lives. God knew who needed to be there and spoke to their individual needs. The hills were loaded with blueberries and they picked even through downpours and wind. Ladies went home with full buckets as well as full hearts after a weekend together of sharing life with others with similar hurts and heartaches. **Pray** for these ladies through the isolation of the winter. **Pray** they would be encouraged through God's word and reach out to each other for encouragement.



dra to help me fill my bucket. We later enjoyed blueberry coffee cake, pancakes, muffins, and of course blueberry torte! There is nothing like Alaska blueberries!

One last highlight - I celebrated my 89th Birthday in October. My heart is filled with gratitude for all of God's blessings. I am thankful for each of you. I do so appreciate your **prayers** and loving support for me and for Kako Retreat Center. **With love in Christ, Vera Penz**

To our Heritage AFlame family - you have been standing with Dave (my Dad) and Vera Penz since the very beginning of Kako. Over the past 30 years your faithful **prayers** and generous financial support has really made a difference here. It is hard to imagine ministry at Kako without you guys. Bill Ayers has had such an impact. His wife Paula and their grandchildren have added life and light in so many ways. Many other individuals from there like Al, Rob, Ralph, Lori, Daisy, Robinlee, Cheryl, Jeff, and Dori to name a few, have contributed so much as team members. Your support since my Dad went home, especially over the past four years, has been incredible. Thank you for **praying!** Thank you for giving...**Jonathan Penz**



I give you greetings and I praise God for His manifest wisdom in you. During these past two months we have experienced highly successful ministry in Cameroon, but the price was, at times, almost unbearable. WE THANK GOD THAT WHILE OUR TEAM LOST THINGS NONE OF US LOST OUR LIVES. Last month, you lovingly warned me that my zeal for ministry should be girded by wisdom. I took those words very seriously. When I was praying, our Father led me to **1 Cor. 16:9 (For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries)** to understand that a great door for ministry is opened for me but through that door I would have many enemies. To be frank, I became very scared and was contemplating to halt ministry in risky zones. In a prayer retreat, God made me to understand that I should go in His might and that He would be with me. The target was Ako where we have had good ministry in the past with people coming in from neighboring villages of Nigeria. However the challenges we went through were of the kind that I have never experienced since I accepted the call in to ministry. After the 3 days of successful Bible conference meetings; on our way back, 7 of us (5 pastors, my driver and the piano player we took) were brutally stopped and detained by armed civilians.



They held us from November 29 to December 1 for 51 consecutive hours under terrible situations. We slept on the floor. Our captors would not allow any of us to contact our family members. All our phones, books and electronic devices were confiscated. However, one device was missed. We were able to secretly snap a few pictures of our surroundings. We saw that as a miracle of God. The soldiers expected to call our contacts and extort money from them. There were many hours when we believed our time to depart from this world had come. Knowing that I would be with Jesus was comforting, however I must confess I was struggling with fear. Finally, God raised up local pastors and churches in that area to come and vouch for us. After some time they convinced our captors to release us. They were given

some money and they were satisfied. We arrived home late in the night. I discovered newspapers were already reporting our detention as a kidnapping. My wife and children greeted me with tears of relief and joy. Once again I can say thank God *things were lost but by His mercy we were spared*. Four members of my team were hospitalized as a result of the trauma. Please continue to **pray** for all of us to recover fully. While in that two day captivity I asked God to open my eyes and reveal to me if there should be a different dimension of procedure we should consider as we do ministry here in Cameroon. Please **pray** with me.

I continue to plead with you all there to keep **praying** for us. We are convinced that the Lord is using you to help reshape and shake our country. You must know that we have been truly amazed with your financial assistance. Praise be to Yahweh for such timely provision. Truly, those who trust in the Lord shall never be put to shame. The recent happenings almost left us frustrated but God knew there were people who would step in as the answer to our **prayer**. You all are really vessels of honor to set the ministry here in Cameroon on fire. Your support helped us finish 2019 and lay a good foundation for 2020 without stress. This is the Lord's doing and it is wonderful in our eyes. We are eternally grateful to God for putting us together to accomplish His will.

I want to share this devotional with you. The title is: “Quickly be reconciled with others!” The text is Matthew 5: 23-24. Beloved, in our world many people have broken relationships with others and pretend that their relationship with God is okay. Our text says, **“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift”**. Still in line with the difference that kingdom citizens should make in this corrupt world, Christ told his disciples that if a person is presenting an offering on the altar and remembers that his brother has something against him, he should leave his gift in front of the altar, go get reconciled with him before coming back to continue.

This teaching again was contrary to the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law. Many of them had broken relationships with their fellow men, ignored them and claimed that their relationship with God was okay. Dear friend, broken relationships with each other seriously affect our relationships with God. It is useless pretending to worship God when one's relationship with his/her fellow man is broken. Let's first do our best to mend relationships with each other before performing any spiritual exercise. Peter tells **husbands to honor their wives and treat them with consideration so that nothing hinders their prayers (1 Peter 3:7)**. “Father, deliver me from the hypocrisy of pretending that my relationship with you is okay while making no effort to mend broken relationships with my brothers and sisters.” **May God give us unity in 2020. May we pull together for the sake of the Gospel.** We know there are dangers and trials in our country but we are still hoping to have Rev. Dave with us this year. **We are praying.....Joseph Tantor - Cameroon.**



We are so grateful for the final days of 2019 concluding with a three day Bible conference that went off with no difficulty. Men and women gathered for fellowship and to be challenged. The Lord did a mighty work in all of us. I was also able to purchase new materials to be used for ministry in the months ahead. Thanks again for your strong support, love and example. God bless you!

In closing I thought I would share a poem that was recently written by a pastor here. His words are seriously challenging us to humble ourselves before God, repent of our sins and seek His face. Our hearts are burning for Cameroon. Oh my family please, please pray for us. Please **pray** for God's favor to cover this land. **Pray** for our churches. **Pray** that we would leave the realm of apathy and charge forward with great resolve to bring peace, hope and love to our nation. Here is the poem: Cameroon a land of: **Religion without piety, Leaders without vision, The oppressed without worries, Courts without justice, Criminals without fears, History without glory, Heroes without honor, Schools without learning, Artists without taste, Intellectuals without thought, Terrorists without identity, Appointees without life, Hunger without famine, Change without progress, Next level without foundation, Democracy without freedom, Unity without love, Heroes without sacrifice, Policies without plans, Saints without humility, Integrity without performance, Wars without enemies, Billionaires without compassion, Youth without dreams, Elders without wisdom and CHURCHES without Christ.** Please **Pray** for Cameroon now!!! ***We love you all - Tantor Joseph***



We praise God for giving us the opportunity to partner with the **Ugandan Water Project**. Previously we shared the news that two Rain Water Collection Projects had been completed, providing fresh water for hundreds of people.

By the grace of God we just received confirmation that three boreholes have been repaired and refurbished in the villages of Bumera, Busawali and Kamuli. What joy it is know over 1,400 people now have fresh drinking water once again. We are grateful for the Ugandan Water Project teams that provided us with step by step reports of their progress. For the past 30 years the Lord has consistently put us with people of vision, integrity and honor. Nothing is too hard for the LORD!

BUMERA - The well is 233 feet deep. This well was only partially functional. Very little water was being provided to the villagers. Now the well has been refurbished and is capable of providing more than enough water for the residents and their livestock. 250 people are thanking God for sending help.

BUSAWALI - The well is 231 feet deep. With the pump in disrepair people were getting water from a shallow dug well. Now this village of 500 people are thanking God for providing fresh water once again. Blessed be His name!

KUMALI - The well is 109 feet deep. This dysfunctional well forced people to use surface water as their main source of drinking water. Today, the 700 villagers are praising God for sending them a team. Fresh drinking water is once again flowing. There is new life in the village.

Pray that Jesus, the Living Water, will refresh and revive His people in Uganda. **Thank you for giving!**



A few weeks ago we received this email from Bruce Smith of Wycliffe Associates. “You are having an amazing impact in the lives of people all around the world through your support of Bible translation. A dedication ceremony was held by the Dau* people of **Myanmar** to celebrate the much-anticipated translation and printing of the New Testament in their heart language. They also were celebrating generous friends like you who helped make it all possible.”

Here’s what a few of these grateful brothers and sisters in Christ had to share:

*"Now that we have the Bible in our language, our joy and happiness is beyond expression. Now we can read the Bible and be able to praise the Lord!" — Rev. M Ki**

*"To have the Bible in our own language is the most precious thing for me and for my people. Thank you everyone in Wycliffe Associates for making it possible." — S Le**

*"Having the Bible in my own language is a key to unlock spiritual and physical treasure." — D Tg**

*"I never imagined having the Bible in our language. But because God is so gracious toward us, He uses Wycliffe Associates so we have the New Testament in our language. Thank you, and God bless you." — T Ng**

*"May God bless those who participated in the translation financially and with prayer." — S Ng**

*Names changed for security purposes

Please continue to **pray** this year for Wycliffe Associates and other Bible Translators. Nard Puyao requests we **pray** specifically for Rudy as he continues to work on the *Isnag Old Testament*. He is also helping another team trying to finish their New Testament since he is a consultant in the Philippines. **Pray** that the Lord will send more people to assist translation teams. **Pray** for protection and discernment. As you know many translation teams are meeting in secret. They understand if they are caught their lives would most likely be forfeited. We are so thankful for the incredible courage of men and women around the world. Let us boldly go to the Lord daily on their behalf. Please **pray** for Dave as he prepares to travel to **Myanmar** with Dr. Sam George, February. 19 -25. They will be having meetings with Pastor Mung who is an Emmanuel Bible Institute graduate. In 1988, during his first trip to India, Dave met Mung at **EBI** in Kota, Rajasthan, India.

INDIA

Sam George and Elizabeth and family
 M.V. Johnson and family (Pudukottai)
 Suny and Golda and family
 Wayne and Betsy and family
 Alex and Deby
 Ravi and Allison and family
 Samuel and Shelley Thomas (Rajasthan)
 Padma Kumar and family (Andhra Pradesh)
 Paul Kumar and family (Andhra Pradesh)
 Becky Sam
 Sam Johnson
 Paolien and Mercy and family (Tripura)
 Bhaskar Joseph and family (Andaman Islands)
 Pastor Thangaraj
Emmanuel Believers Fellowship
Emmanuel Matriculation School
Emmanuel Bible Institute
Church Planting (100's of churches)
Hopegivers
Shi-Loh Church Ministries

GHANA

John and Martha Adjei and family
 Pastor Andrew and family
John Rogers Academy
Agriculture Project
Living Christian Church
Church Planting (20 churches)

LIBERIA

Jasper and Karen Williams and family
 Ebenezer and Thelma Browne and family
Community Church Ministries
Church Planting (35 churches)
Jesus Film Outreach Teams

KENYA

Pokot Community (5 village Churches)
 Pastor Nicholas and family
 Pastor Sylvester and family
Jesus Film Outreach
Medical Clinics

Recently we were asked to start including names of the people and organizations we are prayerfully and/or financially supporting in every update we print. We will do our best to use this last page to honor that request. Each edition will include some of the people and organizations we are directly assisting. This should help all of us to **pray** with more zeal for our brothers and sisters.

ISRAEL

Sylvia Fruit - Jerusalem School at Bethlehem

MALAYSIA

Lori Miller - Dalat International School

ALASKA

Vera Penz (Kako ambassador)	(Washington State)
Jonathan and Sharon Penz and family	(Russian Mission)
George and Eunice Landlord	(Marshall)
Josh and Alice Mathu	(Alaska at large)
Kako Retreat Center	

NEW YORK - PENNSYLVANIA

Odosagih Bible Conference	Ron Uhlman, Director
Circle C Ranch	The Aarum family
Penn - York Camp	Marlin Schrock
Gil's Hills	Cory Jennings
Bright Alternatives (pro-life)	Wellsville, Bradford

NIGERIA

Gideon and Alice Ukubit and family
 Esther Ukubit
 Ubong Usoro
 Pastor Eno
Heritage AFlame Church
John Rogers Bible Institute
Golden City of Lord Church Worldwide
Church Planting Teams

MALAWI

Enock and Clara Dimba and family
 Bishop Morris Dimba and family
 Headmaster Guis and family
Maoni Orphanage
Maoni Junior and Secondary School
Christian Resource Ministries
Church Planting (over 700 churches)