



On Eagles Wings

Isaiah 40:31

Stories of Africa from Greg and Deb Snell, missionaries serving in East Africa with International Christian Ministries from Eagles Wings, Naivasha, Kenya

ICM students dialogue and learn from each other in small groups



Our ICM Ministry

How good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity.

Psalm 133: 1

This verse is painted on the wall of the dining hall at ICM Kenya's ATS campus. We love this verse, and it is exemplified in the diversity of our students, faculty, staff, visiting professors and teams. We come together from different races, tribes, and nations, representing different cultures, languages, and socio-economic situations. But the one thing we share is our love of Jesus and a desire to know him better so that we can live like him and truly be his disciples and ministers. We all seek to study his word, to live it in our own lives and be his hand and feet in our human world. We all come here—in our case—to Kenya, with a passion to help the African church find African solutions to African problems. We believe that the Church in Africa is the center point for change. Change within people first—changed hearts, changed lives, transformed communities. Kay Warren said to Deb once, “NGO’s, governments, large relief efforts and yes, even individuals, come and go. But the Church remains.” That is what it is all about, folks. And it is why we are here. Read further for Greg’s stories of his recent experiences with ICM.

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Read the story of the opening ministry event and dedication of Eagles Wings!



Our Eagles Wings Ministry

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weak.

They will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40: 31

The beautiful stained glass window depicting the majestic fish eagle, wings spread over Lake Naivasha and Mt. Longonot, soars above the entrance to Eagles Wings. It represents this verse in Isaiah and our ministry from this place of peace. As we moved into this home we integrated ourselves into the community of Naivasha and have discovered many needs. We have found that there are 21 churches in a small slum community only about 5 miles from our deck. Many of their pastors are not trained and have heard of ICM “up on the hill”. So

Eagles Wings will offer training with ICM here, for them and for others. There are many opportunities to be the “hands and feet” of Jesus as our visitors come from many places. Deb, with her 18 years of experience bringing and hosting visitors in Kenya, offers a service she calls **Vision Ventures**—a bridge for intrepid travelers who want to come to discover the real Africa and perhaps a purpose and a plan, being on the ground to help facilitate. We have had opportunities to serve, to help and to learn, right here in Naivasha and from Eagles Wings.

WE HAVE A WEBSITE!!! You can read all about us, our ministries, Greg’s God Reaches Down, Eagles Wings and more. Have a look and let us know what you think—it’s still a work in progress.

<http://eagleswingskenya.weebly.com>

In His Grip,
Greg and Deb



Q&A's from our visitors



So, are you planning to go back to the US to retire?

A. We always say “how do you retire from life?”, and for now, until Jesus tells us otherwise, we plan to live out our lives and our ministry here at Eagles Wings. We are blessed to have two homes here on earth—Minnesota and Kenya!

Has living in Naivasha and building Eagles Wings changed your focus of ministry?

A. Not at all! We are still involved in training leadership for the church. When Greg teaches for ICM or provides assistance in his new role as Academic Dean, he works with ATS (Africa Theological Seminary) on formal training. Discipleship and exposing our students to ways in which they can be more like Jesus, is at the heart of ICM, so Eagles Wings, for us, provides an alternative regional place to teach, as well being a bridge to the community by offering ways the church can impact their own people and tackle “African problems with African solutions”. Deb serves on the Board of Governors of a local secondary school. We want to serve both ICM and the area where we have chosen to live our lives—day by day. It is the best of both worlds—teaching, mentoring and serving.

How often do you travel to ICM Kitale and other countries?

A. Greg teaches and attends meetings in Kitale approximately 7 times a year in the formal programs of ATS, meets with faculty and staff on academic issues, and is assisting in the development and growth of the Student/Alumni program. At least once a year he travels to ICM Tanzania to teach, and wherever else our ICM family requests. And of course, we love to attend Graduation!

How do ICM and Eagles Wings fit together?

A. We offer retreats for the staff, and encourage them to come with their wives for rest and renewal weekends. In addition, Greg hopes to host a cohort of ICM seminary students who will live with us in the discipleship model of the early church, for a number of weeks each year until their course of study is completed. Deb offers Labyrinth retreat weekends and time for women’s ministry events. We also serve as a Bed and Breakfast for our many students and ICM staff traveling back and forth from Kitale or Nairobi and other countries.

How do you serve as ICM ambassadors in the community around Eagles Wings?

A. It is not difficult at all. When we moved to Lake Naivasha people asked us “what do you do?” and we say “we are missionaries with ICM”, it naturally leads to the next question... “What is ICM?” The door opener! We talk about leadership training as the foundation of everything the church then does to serve the least of the least and care for the sick and poor...called to be the hands and feet of Jesus and to love their neighbors. Think about this. In a country where there is huge division of tribal groups and church denominations, there is much to be done to “love your neighbor”. We try to demonstrate this in the things we do here.

What kinds of thing do you do in Naivasha?

A. We have had many opportunities to expand our ministry with ICM and serve. Through word of mouth, and because Eagles Wings is also a bed and breakfast stopping off point, *VisionVentures* has brought people from the US. We take them to visit the local secondary school on whose Board Deb serves, the 21 African led churches in Kasarani, and other locations, and invite them to become partners. As a result, the Bible League has donated over 5000 Bibles for ICM and the school and churches in Naivasha, our ICM staff (John and Caroline Mosonik) have trained mothers in the Moms in Touch program and begun discussions about ICM youth camps, work teams have come to teach in a secondary school, install rain harvesting systems, and donate computers, and local people have begun asking about training opportunities

Are you paid a salary by ICM?

A. As missionaries with ICM we raise all our own support as well as support for our ministry. We raise support from friends, churches and other individuals. ICM USA provides support for us by receiving gifts and donations and providing a charitable contribution receipt. Designated funds are generally not allowed for projects but are received as our personal living expenses. Because our support varies greatly from month to month, ICM issues us a fixed amount determined by our annual estimated needs monthly. We are currently at about 60% of our desired annual personal and ministry need. If we are to do all that we envision for this year and next, we must raise the other 40% soon. (see the last page of this newsletter to see how you can help).



AFRICA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

"But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"

Romans 10: 14,15 NLT

TRAINING, EQUIPPING AND SENDING

One thing I like about our organization is the fluid nature. I am proud of the fact that I only print my business cards 12 at a time because it shows that we are a dynamic group always willing to change. For the past two years I have had teaching as a major focus. I am also now in charge of academics. Someone on Facebook said to me the other day, "I would love to see you teach!" She has seen me teach because she has been in my presence. My default is to learn and when you always want to learn you always want to teach. I have a name for this action I like better than teaching. I call myself a "facilitator of learning." The difference is that when I conduct class, or life for that matter, I work hard to create an environment where learning takes place by myself and all around me. I love to see

people grow and expand their gifts. I love to see new things and ideas created. I love to see people who didn't think they could do something do it. I never pushed my daughter into acting but I loved to see her growing up taking on something that was a challenge. I never pushed my son into running, but I am thrilled he has surpassed all my records (save one: I ran eight marathons and he is not quite there yet). I am proud Gina is a professional teacher today and TJ assists people in finding their best place to work. And I am proud of the men and women in the collage. They are pastors and teachers. EVERY class I teach at ATS I work hard to lift them up, pray for them, encourage them, train them, and send them out to do far better work in Kenya than I could ever do. They are the reason I am with ATS/ICM.



SENDING THE FEET OF MESSENGERS...



AFRICA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

GRADUATION 2012

This year's graduation in Kitale was special for many reasons. Because of the Christian Motorcycle Association, Missionary Ventures, and David and Cindy Just, ATS is able this year to give out 30 Yamaha motorcycles to Christian pastors for their ministry use. Perhaps you have heard about the difficult Kenyan roads and the high costs of keeping a car running here making a bike like these perfect for pastor's needs. Cindy and Dave are pictured here with an ICM student who is a converted Muslim, who now has a bike for his ministry in Sudan.



We were blessed to have Dave and Cindy come for graduation and meet the men and women who they helped get their ministry on the road. We had a committee of 5 people read over 145 essays from our students and graduates as to why they needed a bike for their work. I think we could have responsibly given 140 bikes away but 23 of them went out that day. For the next 2 years the winners will inform us with updates as to how these bikes have blessed their work. I already got one story back where a hemorrhaging pregnant women rode 30 miles on the back of one of these bikes at 2 in the morning to a hospital where her life was saved. It will bring great joy to hear more amazing stories in the days to come. I also received this note to forward to Dave and Cindy, from a pastor who received a bike.



Dear Partners,

Hi, and greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. Hope this finds you well. I thank God for this day. Am in ATS in the class of Hermeneutics. I work in East Pokot 165kms from Kitale. Am married to Evelyn and the Lord has blessed us with two sons 5yrs and 4months old and we are happily married.

Thank you donor once again for the gift. Since we departed on the graduation day I traveled well to Pokot and that day i covered 165kms. The following day was Sunday and the church received the bike with gladness. Currently I have used the bike to do visitations, seminars, PPI in schools we sponsor which are far apart. The bike has assisted my family even to get food from the markets. More so, I have rescued a child who broke her leg and took her to a dispensary 35kms away.

This is a wonderful gift that i will not forget in my life and to remind me always to pray for the donors who allowed God to use the for the glory of God.

Yours in Christ's work,

PIUS KIPROP KORIR

The good news is that the donors have signed up for one more year and so we will be able to bless more pastors with a great economical way to get their work done



BIBLES FOR ICM AND EAGLES WINGS MINISTRIES!



These pictures show the impact that a gift from the Bible League was able to make in the lives of our ICM students, the 21 churches of Kasarani, a very poor village near Eagles Wings, and St. Andrews, a secondary school we are helping.

The picture on the top left is a team led by our friend from Minnesota, Ward Brehm, standing to the left of Greg in the back row and his wife Kris, 2nd from left, front row). The team came to visit us at Eagles Wings (the photo is taken on our deck), on their way back from West Pokot with John Lodinyo (back row, 3rd from left).



Heidi and Bob Morgan, from Colorado (front far left and back, second from left), connected us with the Bible League and the distribution of over 5000 Bibles.



Honey, can I take her home?



ICM's student pastors will receive the bulk of the Bibles, each of the 21 churches received 20 Bibles each, and the students and faculty of St. Andrews all received

A huge THANK YOU for the generosity of the Bible League, and a visit from Executive VP, Dan Obinger!

EAGLES WINGS DEDICATION



JANUARY 2012

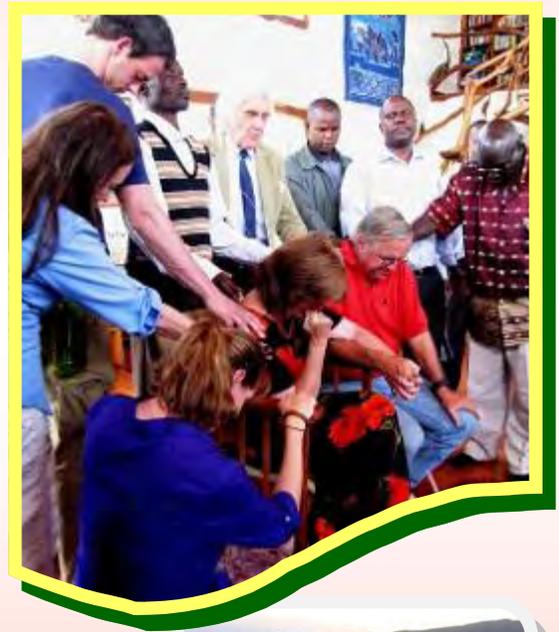


We are hard put to come up with words to describe the ways in which these two men—long time friends, colleagues in ministry, and who have passion in their hearts for Africa and have taught and given of themselves to both Africa and to us. They are mentors, spiritual fathers, and for sure, friends on the journey. Although sadly Roger could not be with us due to his health, Arthur and his Pilgrim Center team, including his grandson John on his first trip to Africa, held a retreat, our first ministry event at Eagles Wings, and the dedication and us to ministry that day.

Rev. Roger Anderson (left). Almost every week I (Greg) get a call from Roger checking in on the progress of Eagles Wings and our ministry here. He never fails to pray for us or to ask me to pray. He and Dotti have been there for us time and time again. Of course Roger (along with Arthur) was on that first trip I made to Kenya 30 years ago.

Dr. Arthur Rouner (right). For the last 53 years I (Greg) have had one church and basically one pastor, Arthur. We have journeyed over Africa together time and time again and his connection to Jesus has been my model since for ministry he came to Edina so long ago. Most of what I know about ministry came from being at the feet of this man.

The Dedication of Eagles Wings for us was as much a celebration of these two men and their roles in shaping us and our future in ministry. We were humbled by people who joined us from Minnesota, Florida, Alabama, Nakuru, ICM team members from Kitale and Nairobi, Green Park (the home of Eagles Wings), and our Kenya executive director, Stephen Mairori and his wife Roselyne. (Pictured below right with Mary Alice Carmichael (Mama Safari!)

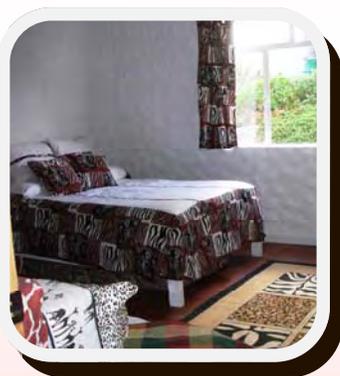




EAGLES WINGS PROGRESS



About 14 years ago, Deb got the city of Kitale to allow us to have this old roundabout street marker. It was probably put on the street in the 1940's and it was quite a job to haul it to our new garden in Kitale. When I was teaching in Kitale recently, I contacted our former landlord and he told me we could have it, so I managed to get it into the car (our trusty, rusty old Prado) and bring it back. The thing weighs about 600 pounds, so it took a lot of helpers to get it out, move it down the hill and put it in it's new place at Eagles Wings! Now for the mileage sign markers on the four sides... how far is it to your house?



Eagles Wings Main Guesthouse

Our home is ready for visitors! The main house can sleep up to 8, and everything is family style! Chef Greg fixes his famous Egg Snell, and Deb makes sure you are all comfy. It is our home base for **Vision Ventures**, mission teams, ICM staff, friends and family.



The Nest Cottage

Remember the garage? It is where we lived while Eagles Wings was being built (it has taken 6 years!) Well...as Greg said "it will never be a garage". And he was right. It is, as this comes to you, being reshaped into a guest cottage that can sleep an additional 4-6 guests! This gives us room for up to 14 people. However, it was primarily designed as a self-catering cottage (complete with bathroom/shower, and full kitchen. It even has a small fireplace! It is perfect for our visiting ICM team, couples, and missionary families from Kenya to stay and be more private if they wish.

Ministry and Retreat Center

Eagles Wings is in the "bush" area of the hills above Lake Naivasha, on 5 acres of land—the perfect place for retreats and vacation for our pastors, their wives and other mission organizations, or learning how to pray the labyrinth. There is also a great fire pit for barbecues and campfires (with s'mores!) while being amazed by the zillions of stars and the sounds of wildlife in the African night. Watch for news about **Kujia Baraka**, a summer cross-cultural international camp for kids and parents!





EAGLES WINGS COMMUNITY PROJECTS



While Rev. Dr. Peter Smith was teaching with Greg in Kitale, wife Carol and her friend Carol Hoebel stayed with me to meet students and women in our area. They brought with them the Moms in Touch International tools in KiSwahili! We look forward to the day when Greg's dream of hosting a cohort of students for ICM becomes reality and visiting teachers can teach at both "campuses" - Kitale and Naivasha!



John and Caroline Mosonik, ICM Kitale staff, came to Eagles Wings. Caroline met with the mothers of students at the Primary School and St. Andrews to train them how to start Mom's in Touch groups. She is the Kenya national director for this US based organization that teaches moms how to pray for their children, their schools and their teachers. Margaret Githingi, a member of the PTA at St. Andrews, and her husband Pastor David, hosted the training in their church in Kasarani.

John and Greg met with members of the pastors association representing 21 churches to explain the programs of ICM. There is much interest in accessing the training when it comes to Naivasha. John met with them to talk about returning in October to follow up on the plans for a youth ministry program, and Caroline will meet with the Moms in Touch groups.



Living in Naivasha offering Eagles Wings as a home base for teams and visitors gives us the opportunity to introduce them to ways in which they can become involved in short term projects or invest in ongoing support of the lives of groups and people close to us. Communication cross culturally is difficult at best, so being a bridge in helping identify projects and support is something we can do.



Deb writes a local e-newsletter, *The Lake Naivasha Community News*, which has a circulation of almost 500 addresses. Through this newsletter she has attracted volunteer teachers like Brenda from Holland to teach at *St. Andrews Tarabete Secondary School*. Brenda raised funds to build a water tank (the school had no water!) and provide school fees for some needy families. Greg's cousin, John Snell and his daughter Molly brought a team of Molly's friends who alongside students, installed gutters on the existing buildings to harvest the rain water. To celebrate their hard work, lots of friendships were formed playing and coaching soccer (football!), volleyball and baseball. A farewell "nyama choma" dinner was held at the Snells. Heather, one of the team members, returned to teach music and form a St. Andrews Choir, leaving behind a donated guitar (thank you, Rob Carter!) Molly returned to teach conflict resolution for a term. She and Deb participated in a bike race and walk to raise funds for the school, and Molly helped out at the nursery school in the workers camp in Green Park. She is returning this month (July) to follow up on her course. Gina, our daughter, is coming as well and will share some of her ESL training with the teachers.



VISION VENTURES



Bridges.

Ever thought about how a rainbow looks like a bridge? I like this image taken from our deck at Eagles Wings. I see YOU in the distance, climbing the rainbow to discover amazing Africa and all that she has to offer. CAN YOU imagine coming on a *VisionVenture?*



Eagles Wings is the home of *VisionVentures*, a way to connect people to Africa. We make journeys here personal, tailored to expose people to opportunity, people, places short term mission teams, we coordinate the team leader before they come.

visitors, whether coming for a safari or a visit to the

and the beauty of God's nature. For the program between the project here and Orientation packets are sent in advance to all Coastal area of Mombasa on the Indian Ocean. All in-country details are taken care of, including ground transportation, lodging, food and special tours to places like the Masai Mara or other safari sites, and Masai Market shopping experiences. What makes *VisionVentures* unique is that we are here and know many places for your visits that traditional tour companies don't offer.



A THOUGHT FROM HENRI NOUWEN ... THE COMMUNION OF FOLLOWERS OF JESUS IS NOT JUST A NETWORK OF CONNECTIONS BETWEEN PEOPLE. IT IS FIRST AND FOREMOST THE COMMUNITY OF OUR HEARTS.



HERE'S HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT GREG AND DEB IN THEIR
MINISTRIES AT ICM AND EAGLES WINGS

GIVE TO OUR PERSONAL AND
MINISTRY SUPPORT

Make check payable to ICM
Include note "for Greg and Deb Snell's personal support"

Mail to PO Box 9071, Bakersfield, CA 93309

Or donate to us online: www.icmusa.org

Please notify us at snell@usa.com

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VisionVenture trips are personally designed for individuals and
teams to meet your needs and wishes for an African experience.

Contact Deb Snell at snelldeb@gmail.com for more information.

Visit these sites to connect with us and our ministries

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Eagles Wings and VisionVentures

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