

On Eagles Wings

Isaiah 40:31



*Stories of Africa from Greg and Deb Snell
Missionaries serving in Africa with ICM and Eagles Wings*

DEB'S VISIT TO AMERICA

I have just returned from a trip “home” to the US, and it was a wonderful time of seeing family, friends and churches. It is always difficult to fit everything in and see everyone we want to see. This time, especially, it was difficult because Greg was not able to come due to the cost. Next time he gets priority!

FAMILY—FLORIDA

I stopped to see my former mother and father –in law, who are really surrogate parents to me as I have known them since I was 17, when my mother died and my father moved away. Dad is struggline at 92 (most are!) and mom is still as determined as ever to find joy in life at 88. It was a wonderful visit, many memories were revisited.



MINNESOTA and WISCONSIN



This trip I decided to stay with my sister, my children, and my good friend and soul mate, Connie Green while in Minnesota and Wisconsin. It was wonderful spending so much time with the kids and grandchildren—I took 6 of the 8 of them camping for 2 nights for what has become an expected tradition—Cousin Camp! Dedicated time and visits to each home and each child and grandchild were special, as was time with my sister Margaret and brother Topper and his family from Racine.

😊 Oh—and by the way—I also attended my 50th class reunion from Wayzata High School! Noticed how I was the only one who hadn't changed!

FRIENDS AND CHURCHES

As always, our dear friends Jeff and Suzanne Pope in Minnesota provided their home for me. I hosted a dessert evening for approximately 30 people who came to hear about our ministry; ministry with ICM and ministry with Eagles Wings. It was a great representation of the many who have been loyal supporters since 1996! Church members from Presbyterian, Episcopal, Congregational, Baptist churches in Eden Prairie, Edina, Minneapolis, and Wisconsin. If you would like to see the slide show I used, you can find it on the **Blog page** of our new Eagles Wings website: <http://eagleswingskenya.weebly.com> Unfortunately, it does not have dialog, just pictures, but I think they speak for themselves. I don't have any pictures of the evening, but I was pleased to answer lots of questions and offer new information.

I was able to meet with Brian Jones, our new minister of Missions and Outreach at Colonial Church, was graciously allowed time in a church service during a Mission Moment to talk about our plans going forward, and met people for lunches, dinners and coffee. Thank you all for giving me time in your ever busy lives! I even got to go to a soccer game to watch Meghan Whitney (Doug and Jody's daughter) and Minnehaha Academy beat Breck School! Daughter Jane played soccer when she was at Minnehaha so it was reliving those soccer mom days! There is a Kenya “football” jersey waiting for Meghan at the desk at Colonial!

DENVER

Finally, I went to Denver to visit our daughter Jane, husband Steve and grand-daughter Hayden. Jane had never met Molly Snell, Greg's young cousin who has been to Africa 3 times now to work at St. Andrew's Secondary School and stay with us at Eagles Wings. She is a sophomore at Colorado College, so we drove to the Springs to have lunch with her.



NEW SUPPORT FOR EAGLES WINGS MINISTRY

My trip to Colorado gave me a chance to meet with the people at **JOY TO THE WORLD FOUNDATION**. It is a wonderful Christian non-profit Foundation that serves as an umbrella giving vehicle for approved ministry projects. Eagles Wings has been approved as a project, so watch for more information on how to support the ministry of Eagles Wings that Greg and I do in Naivasha!

I also met with the wonderful folks at **TIMBERLINE CHURCH** in Fort Collins. They have approved **St. Andrews Secondary School** (one of our Eagles Wings projects) to receive the 4th quarter proceeds from their coffee shop! And they are planning a **VisionVenture** trip to visit the school next summer—led by good friend Heidi Morgan who will then accompany them to Rwanda to visit **ARISE RWANDA**.

God is moving, folks—and he clearly is blessing us, ICM and Eagles Wings through your support and prayer!

Thoughts on “Home is where your Heart is”

The Family Room

Our family continues to grow in size and importance to both of us. We are blessed to have children who understand our call to Africa, but who miss us, now that we have 8 grandchildren who miss our presence especially. What a joy they are and we love and cherish our time with them. This 2011 picture includes Deb's sister Margaret and her daughter Chelsea, husband Greg and 2 grandchildren. Pray with us that God will provide opportunities for us to travel to the US once a year which costs about \$4000 for air travel! (And on that note we wonder why He didn't call us to Mexico!)



The Friends Room

Our dear friends, wherever they are in this world, we carry in our hearts. So many... these photos are only representative of the people that we treasure, people who support us in prayer, love us and encourage us. We are deeply grateful to God for giving us you—and if you are receiving this newsletter today, you are appreciated and valued. Thank you for your trust. I have posted a slide show on our Eagles Wings website of friends over the years—watch it and see if you can catch a glimpse of yourself!



Check the Blog page on <http://eagleswingskenya.weebly.com>

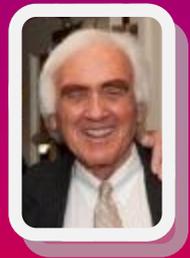
The Sending Churches Room

This picture represents the love we feel from the churches, who are made up of God's people, that have supported us and sent us on their behalf. Our lives are dedicated to God's work and God's people—all of us serving together—as we seek to join Him in what He is doing—here and everywhere. There is a significant room in our hearts for our churches!



The Ministry Room

In 1996 we were commissioned and sent by Colonial Church of Edina, MN, our home state to serve with ICM in Kitale, Kenya. Our focus was and is, leadership training and equipping for the church with a focus on discipleship. In 2012 we were again commissioned to service as our home and ministry center, Eagles Wings, was dedicated to ministry for the community of Lake Naivasha where we live—to train, to equip through ICM but also to be hands and feet of Jesus, listening to ways we can help here and give you chances to help through us. The Rev. Dr. Arthur Rouner presided at both events—and what a blessing it was. The photo on the cover of this newsletter was taken at the dedication of Eagles Wings and our commissioning service to ministry.



As the sun rises and warms our faces and our days, we are reminded of the warmth of your love and the memories of the times we enjoy with those we love in return that fills our hearts. Our Home is in the rooms in our hearts that hold the lives of our children, our grandchildren, our families, our friends, our church and our ministry—no matter where they may be. We feel God's love for us with every heartbeat as He makes it all possible and wakes us each day to live anew for Him.

I (Deb) feel I need to say this today. Not just for myself but perhaps some of you? We need each other. Daily we hear from some of you of struggles, pain, health issues, disappointments. We all have a story that deserves a hug, a word of encouragement. There are ways we can receive and give help and hope. We want to encourage you to discover the blessings you are and others can be, in your hearts, in those rooms, right where you are and for those you love and will come to love.

And meanwhile—back at Eagles Wings while I was gone, Greg was busy raising new puppies, hosting visitors, traveling to Kitale to teach, finishing up work projects on Eagles Wings, and suffering while eating popcorn! A day after I arrived home, he was off again to teach in Kitale!

Bless you, and, as always, In His Grip,
for Joy comes in the morning with the promise of a new day!

Greg and Deb





AFRICA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



The expat team visiting Kitale

On the Road Again....

I have decided to rename our car from "THE ROCK" to "WILLIE," in honor of Willie Nelson's famous song. After 17 years of hard use it is no longer the rock, and with the many trips I now make back and forth to Kitale it does seem like I am always "On the Road Again!" Soon I go to Nairobi to participate in a major conference with some of the most respected theological educators in Africa. It is amazing to think that our schools are in that discussion.

ATS has as a primary goal to change lives.

We say that theological education is just an excuse

to enter into the life of a pastor and help them become more like Jesus. That is what churches want even more than someone who is just educated, as helpful as that is.

STORYING. One of the things we are learning is that change needs to take place in the heart. One of the most effective ways of doing that is with story. Africans were some of the best story tellers in the world and over the years they lost a lot of that. So ATS is now one of the leading schools in exploring ways we can make story an ever more effective part of what we do. Let me tell you one story of how that works. I recently taught a course called "Pastoral Ministries." I took that course myself 26 years ago and it was a lot about the things we DO as pastors. But we at ATS are more interested in who we ARE. One of the parts of the course was on knowing your call to ministry. Your understanding of your call is what keeps you going when all else fails. Each day after devotions, I asked one student to take time to tell the class the story of his or her call to ministry. As each student recalled that part of their past I could see the value in the exercise both for them and for the class. In the end, I really cannot recall anything I said or did in that course more important than that. Each person told their story and each person heard each other's story. Now that is not considered part of traditional education, but it was of immense value in that class and in the lives of us all.



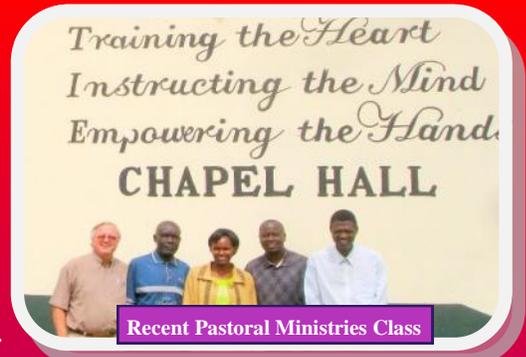
ALUMNI. One of the other exciting things going on is the rise in interest in ATS by our graduates. We are working hard to engage them in the ongoing life of the school and we in theirs. Of the roughly 1000 students and graduates we have (there were about 18 when Deb and I joined ICM) we have current contact

information on only about 350 of them. However, we recently held a conference at the campus and we had 260 present! What does that tell you about the interest and the need? We have some great supporters who have helped us get motorcycles for our pastors who work mostly in rural areas and they have made a real difference. I believe that promotion will enable us to get in contact with twice as many of our people enabling us to serve them even better. I know of no alumni and student association that has more potential for ongoing involvement and continuing impact in their lives and ministry. In the oncoming years my goal is to have 75% of all graduates involved. For now, the job is just getting the word out.



Me and my mentor, Phil Walker

One last thought for your consideration. Sometimes it is hard to help people become interested in what ATS does. No one doing what we do will ever make the final cut of CNN's HEROES. But as I talked with church leaders in Africa years ago, long before I ever heard of ICM and ATS, they told me: "We have the people, we have the resources, we have the ability to impact out countries and solve our own problems. What we need is training for our leaders." I have always thought it is important to help people in the way they want to be helped., not just in the way YOU think they need to be helped. ICM began with an invitation and I am grateful for the people God has brought my way to help make that happen.



Recent Pastoral Ministries Class



Bike winners (two on left)



Alumni and student conference

You can give to support Greg's teaching trips to Kitale—\$200 for each trip. See the donation page.



EAGLES WINGS OUTREACH

St. Andrews Secondary School

In August our daughter Gina returned to visit. She is an English as a Second Language teacher in a Minnesota school district, with experience in working with refugees and resettled families from Somalia and other countries. She did a morning session with the teachers from St. Andrews on how to teach English as a second language. Both the teachers and Gina learned a lot from each other. It is particularly difficult for African teachers to teach English as for them and their students it is mostly likely their third language—they speak first their mother tongue, then KiSwahili and then English. It was a great morning, and as important as techniques and methods for teaching, Gina was a great encourager for the staff and of course she has been invited back! Anybody out there who would like to come and teach ESL or even just English? English is the official language in Kenya and schools teach in English, but St. Andrews would love teachers to come for a term (3 months). *The Nest at Eagles Wings* is a self-contained cottage, and could be your home-away-from home!



Kasarani

With the presidential elections approaching next March, tribal conflict is again on people's minds—particularly after the post-election violence of 2008. Molly Snell returned for a third year, this time to help organize a PEACE RALLY in the poverty stricken village of Kasarani, which we can see from the deck of Eagles Wings. She used the students from St. Andrews who then formed a Conflict Resolution Club at the school. Because so little happens in this village of approximately 35,000 people, hundreds showed up to hear what the speakers had to say. It was very successful. Of interest was the chief, a Muslim, who spoke about the need for us all to love each other and shun violence. A teacher, student, Molly, myself, and a local pastor all spoke and Greg closed the event with prayer.



A Wedding at Eagles Wings



The labyrinth at Eagles Wings was the site of our first wedding! Mwangi, the young man who has worked for us for 10 years, and his bride Muthoni (who wore Deb's wedding dress!) were married by Greg and a local pastor. It was a Christian wedding service with African traditions, and 100 people came to celebrate with them. We provided the goat and the wedding cake, and friends of Mwangi came early in the morning to cook.

Green Park

Green Park is the diverse community where we live. There are about 15 different nationalities, many who were born here and are 2nd and 3rd generation white Kenyans with fascinating stories. There are permanent resident, weekenders and those who spend some months here and some in Europe. There is one other American couple who just moved here which is wonderful for us! Culture shock is not something one experiences only with the Africans! We continue to integrate ourselves into the social life here, hoping as we gain trust and friendships that there will be an opportunity to reach out and invite people to come to an occasional but regular fellowship evening. Being missionaries within a community of people who have a history of some negative experiences is not easy, but friendships are the best way to overcome stereotypes. We are among the few Christians here and see Green Park as another place to minister.

Exciting news: As of November 1, you will be able to support Eagles Wings projects and ministries through Joy to the World Foundation www.joytotheworldfoundation.org



A home base for African Vision Ventures

VISIONVENTURES

Calling church short term mission teams, youth groups, teachers, sports teams, or just a group of friends!!!

Start planning an African adventure now!

All VisionVenture trips are planned to show our visitors a bigger picture of Africa and her people. For all who come on short term projects we include a safari and guided tour of cultural sites and of course, shopping and eating in a variety of ethnic restaurants throughout. Most trips are planned for 2 weeks door to door, but are planned with your specific requirements. So whether you want to come for just a safari and cultural visit or to participate in projects, we know you will find more than you imagined.



Short Term Opportunities

ICM/ATS Kitale

Plan to come and teach at the seminary campus. There are places in the current academic schedule and to find other opportunities to teach extra-curricular topics. Opportunities to meet the leadership staff and alumni, visiting some of their extraordinary churches and ministry programs. Visits to Mt. Elgon and the ICM campus there are also available.



Eagles Wings Naivasha

Kasarani is a very poor disadvantaged community in our midst. There are 21 churches in Kasarani who are hungry for God's word and need His encouragement.

Come and teach courses on Biblical marriage, Purpose Driven Life Ministries, conduct women's conferences and Bible Studies, encourage a Mom's in Touch program, visit and help with the local orphans feeding program, all of which can be planned in advance in coordination with the local pastors.

Join John Mosonik from ICM Kitale and sponsor or help with a Sports Day or Vacation Bible School.

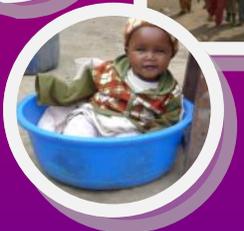
St. Andrews Tarabete Secondary School serves the village of Kasarani. Youth teams are a great encouragement in their sports programs and to serve as mentors and volunteer tutors.

Teachers are needed for teaching English and writing skills. Come to help with drama, music and arts programs. Computer skills courses are also much needed. Sponsor a field trip to climb Mt. Longonot, visit Crater Lake (animal sanctuary), or to do an outreach program.

Eagles Wings—Kujia Baraka Summer Camp

WANTED ASAP! A team to help build a campsite for an international cross cultural summer camp, on the property of Eagles Wings!

Come and work alongside high school students from St. Andrews to build 3 bandas (enclosed at night, open during the day, sleeping rooms), and construct an outdoor toilet/shower and washbasin facility, and enclose it with a buffalo proof stone wall (stones provided!) The firepit and picnic table banda are finished, so evenings can be spent getting to know the students, who will be future camp counselors and campers joined by a counselor from the US and 4 campers for a two week camp experience in Kenya.



For more information on ICM, e-mail Greg at snell@usa.com For information on Eagles Wings projects, e-mail snelldeb@gmail.com

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

GIVE TO OUR PERSONAL AND
MINISTRY SUPPORT WITH ICM

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

BECOME PARTNERS IN MINISTRY
PROJECTS THROUGH EAGLES WINGS

BY NOVEMBER 1, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DONATE TO EAGLES
WINGS AND DESIGNATED MINISTRY PROJECTS THROUGH

Joy to the World Foundation

www.joytotheworldfoundation.org

COME ON A *VISIONVENTURE*

VisionVentures are personally designed for individuals, groups and short term mission teams. Whether you want to come for a safari, vacation to beach and bush, or you are interested in partnering with us in a work project, teaching at ICM or a children's school, or volunteering in a host of ways using whatever skills you have, we will tailor your African experience just for you!

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

Here's how to connect with us and our ministries

Greg

E-mail: snell@usa.com

Friend on Facebook (with video chat access)

Telephone: +254 (0) 721-836767

Deb

E-mail: snelldeb@gmail.com

Friend on Facebook (with video chat access)

Telephone: +254 (0) 720-743625

Snell mail address:

PO Box 411, Naivasha, 20117 Kenya

ICM: www.icmusa.org

Eagles Wings and VisionVentures

Website: <http://eagleswingskenya.weebly.com>