



## The Good News Letter

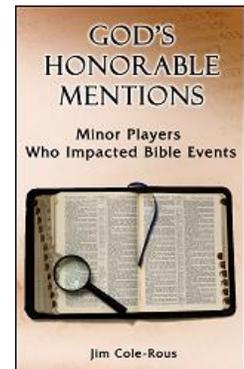
From: **Jim Cole-Rous** – March-May 2018

Tel: (417) 693-3550  
[Rousministry@aol.com](mailto:Rousministry@aol.com)

3134 Maranatha Ln. # 34  
Springfield MO 65803

I recently came across a thoughtful article by Joy Mosbarger, on two striking truths embedded in the story of Jesus at the Last Supper. The first words He spoke were “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer” (Luke 22:15). He was about to face intense suffering, and had a powerful longing to be with his disciples. This is remarkable considering their shortcomings on display during the events to come. First the disciples’ reaction, was not sympathy, but discussion about who would betray Jesus, and which of them should be the greatest (vs. 23: vv. 24–30) Second, though the disciples were with Him, they didn’t really hear what he had to say. In spite of their human frailties and failures, Jesus loved his disciples and still desired to be with them. How often we find ourselves talking to Him, instead of listening to Him! (Joy Mosbarger is a faculty member at BIOLA in California).

Here is some good news. Since Jim published *God’s Honorable Mentions* at the end of 2012, the book has become more and more popular. Each year more people are telling their friends about it. These stories are also online, and at the end of 2017, the statistical report shows the online stories were read by 186,590 people in this past year. This report listed these stories in first place out of 172 story categories on [GlobalChristianCenter.com](http://GlobalChristianCenter.com) which is an all time record. It is the fourth year in a row this category has held first place. Now anyone can get the whole book, with all the stories, in print or e-book format from Amazon.



On December 11<sup>th</sup> Jim submitted another completed course towards his M.A. degree to his mentor, and will begin the next subject the first week in March. So far he is coping with graduate college work, and maintaining a cumulative Grade Point average of 4.0. The Lord has provided exactly the amount needed, each time he is ready to begin a new course. His long-term goal is to make a significant contribution to the understanding of the connections and motivations of the Greek-speaking Christian disciples, who lived immediately after the ascension of Jesus. To this end he plans to publish his thesis as an academic book. Hopefully, further students may perhaps expand this research on the early social network of Christians in the beginning; right after Pentecost. Much public understanding of earliest missions work will become clearer, when this path is more fully explored.



It is wonderful having family living close by. Christmas with daughter Sylvia, and granddaughter Sabrina, was a great time for all. Sylvia was scheduled to work at the nursing-home that day, but she got off at three, so we made a sumptuous supper at her house. She managed to build a table, using heavy wooden beams on a metal frame; and this was the first meal they ate on a table since they moved into the house in June of last year. Their dogs and cat seemed very satisfied with the left-overs, and spent much time grooming each other the rest of the evening.

Winter in Springfield, Missouri can be cold, with occasional snow, with the north wind pushing the temperature well below freezing. It was a challenge to get Sabrina to college some days. Sylvia had to learn to drive in the snow, a first-time experience for her. They are slowly becoming acclimated to the ways of life in America. This winter has probably been the coldest we have ever experienced. Jim has lived in Springfield for 16 years, but February brought an ice-storm, which left a layer of ice on the roads, sidewalks and any smooth surface. It was actually dangerous walk outside, even to try to reach the car. One of the nurses attempted to drive to the nursing-home, but her car ended up in a ditch. Fortunately the electric power remained on, so we had central heating through this trying time.

Most Church services in Springfield were cancelled for two Wednesdays, and the intervening weekend, with Sunday services also closed. Jim is now teaching the adult mid-week Bible studies at Faith Assembly. He has just completed a ten-week series on the “*Spirit of Faith*”. He begins a new series on “*God’s Tent in the Wilderness*”, which will conclude in April. He enjoys teaching, and continues to be active in Biblical counselling online, and on the phone, as well as in person.

**This year Jim celebrates his 60<sup>th</sup> Year in ministry.** He was ordained in 1958 in South Africa, and has maintained his ministerial status ever since. Please keep Jim in prayer, as he remains active in ministry; still reaching people in other lands, using the internet to communicate with puzzled, discouraged, and questioning inquirers.

*1973 Congo Jim meeting the King of the Bakuba* →



Thank you for keeping in touch with this ministry. Jim is remarkably well for his age, and not yet retired from ministry. He concluded a decade of service at Network211 in August 2017, feeling that he could not continue to carry that much load, after his double-bypass heart procedure. Please keep him and his family in prayer, for continued health, to complete his studies, and publication of his book.

Jim’s daughter-in-law, Lorina Cole-Rous, in California, is now on the official waiting list for a heart-transplant. The National Heart Transplant Foundation is currently asking for funding so they can help her with the costs of the operation, and after-care costs (Likely to exceed \$1 million). Jim will put more information on the [Rousministry.org](http://Rousministry.org) web site about this in mid-March.

Thank you for your prayers and partnership,  
In Calvary’s Bonds

*Jim Cole-Rous*