



The Good News Letter

From: Jim Cole-Rous - June 2018

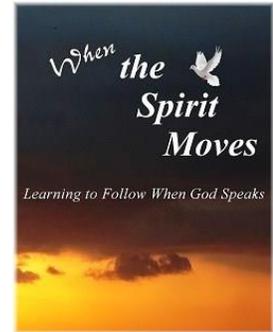
Tel:(417) 693-3550

Visit: www.Rousministry.org

3134 Maranatha Ln. # 34
Springfield MO 65803

Precious Partner,

During this month of June, Jim will be teaching a five-part seminar from his book *When the Spirit Moves: Learning to Follow When God Speaks*. This will be held from 7–8 pm on Wednesday nights at Springfield Faith Assembly of God, 3001 West Division St., Springfield MO 65802. The class will be looking at the Purpose, Power, Practice, Presence, and Vision of the Holy Spirit. The book is available from Amazon.com.



Why is Jim Cole-Rous back in College?

In the last couple of decades the Christian Church in Africa has undergone an amazing transformation. It no longer sees itself as a Western religion, but has embraced biblical theology as they find it by reading the Bible; instead of absorbing western viewpoints on what it means. Several African seminaries are now led by mature, qualified African theologians, and have embraced the *Great Commission* for what it is, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:19). It is a command to go into all the world and make disciples.

During the early years of missionary effort in Africa, the predominant effort was to offer Salvation through Jesus. Converts were encouraged to form local congregations, where discipleship was taught. What they initially missed, was clear teaching that those converts should share the gospel across cultural barriers. The Billy Graham 1974 Lausanne conference, advanced this idea. This was a bombshell to the African delegates. They took that message to their people and everything began to change. They initiated missions outreach to the other tribes and nations, reaching across cultural barriers, which is what the African people are now doing.

Dr. Gottfried Osei-Mensah served as a special representative on staff at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA), and as a Council member of the Accrediting Council for Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA). As one of Africa’s ablest churchmen, he writes

The non-Western missionary force now constitutes nearly one-fifth of the total evangelical mission force, and it is growing all the time....Against the background of the massive defections from organized Christianity in the West, due to the inroads of secularism, materialism, humanism and Marxism; in the Third World the church has meanwhile grown from 83 million in 1900 to an astonishing 634 million in 1980 (Osei-Mensah, Gottfried. 1990. *Wanted: Servant Leaders*. p 71–72. Ghana: Africa Christian Press).

There is good evidence that the center of gravity for Christianity has shifted away from the West to Africa and Asia. What is now needed is biblical commentary and teaching written in a format culturally acceptable to Third-World theological students. During my last year in Africa, I taught African students at the Transkei Bible College. There I became aware of the desperate lack of literature available in their culture.

I have knowledge and training to meet the need for writing biblical content on the cross-cultural clashes which occurred in the earliest Christian church. I plan to present those problems and how they were overcome by the earliest church; in a format our African theological students

can relate to culturally. I see this as an integral part of the ministry for which God has prepared me over these many years. Once I complete my Master of Arts thesis, that thesis will be published in academic format for use by African students.

This is why I enrolled in Global University's, Graduate School of Theology, studying for a Master of Arts in Cross-cultural Studies. I really need prayer as I undertake this project to give back to the church in Africa. I should complete my M.A. late in 2019.

Personal matters:

I am managing physically, but do need continued prayer support. The Cardiologist ran tests this past month and gave me a good bill of health. It is almost two years now, since my Cardiac dual-bypass operation in July 2016.



Maranatha Village, in Springfield MO, has a fine lake at the end of the property, where I take my exercise when the weather permits. There are many interesting things to see as I walk. There is a family of Canadian geese, mom, and pop, with five gorgeous half-grown chicks, with their fluff slowly forming into feathers. They walk right up to me, when I take a break to sit on a bench. They have no reservations about taking bread-crumbs from my fingers! In the lake are many fish and turtles, which also compete for bread crumbs.

A proud peacock and five females strut around the grounds, but keep their distance from people. Two separate groups of white-tailed deer come onto our lawns outside our place to feed on the sweet grass, usually in the gloaming, just before dark. There is a very shy little red fox to be seen on the grounds occasionally.



This is a fine place to live, and it is quiet most of the time, as it is a senior-living complex. I am happy to have my residence here in this Christian Retirement Village.

Thank you for being my friend and praying for me. I enjoy hearing from you, reading your news and needs, so I am able to pray with you and keep in touch.

In Calvary's Bonds,

Jim Cole-Rous