



# The Good News Letter

From: Jim Cole-Rous: Sept–Nov 2018

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Hello Good Friend,

These last three months have passed swiftly, and have been filled with many kind wishes from friends around the world. I appreciated the numerous birthday wishes as I celebrated my eighty-second birthday on the tenth of July. Sylvia, my darling daughter, hosted a birthday Chinese restaurant dinner for me, making it a very special time.

This September 16<sup>th</sup> I celebrate my sixtieth anniversary of ordination as a minister of the Gospel and thank Him for the grace and provision that has never failed over these exciting times. There were some challenges, when I was given directions from the Lord which humanly speaking seemed impossible to accomplish, but I took leaps of faith, knowing God had shown me what He wanted and He made a way to get it done.

Each time we moved to a new town to plant a church, we had no resources, yet we were able to lead people to faith in Jesus, and left behind five new vibrant congregations, in Africa with God's help. Obeying God's call to missions, I saw even more miracles, as I served ten years with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) of South Africa. I flew missionaries, doctors, and desperately needed supplies into remote locations in Africa. Despite inclement weather, and rudimentary short home-made airstrips, I never had an accident while flying. One day flying cross-country in the Congo, we faced a vicious line-front, with high winds and stormy precipitation. The weather front stretched for miles and there was no way over or under it. I turned the plane around and headed for a nearby abandoned mission station with an unkempt airstrip. We landed safely, tied the plane down to some fallen logs, and ran to shelter in a derelict building. An hour later the storm had passed over, then it was safe to fly on to a city for our night-stop.



While serving with Mission Aviation in the rugged country of Transkei, I got a call from the Minister of Health asking for help. Two big rivers, the Black Kei and the White Kei, converge in a deep canyon about fifty miles from the sea. There is an island just before the spot where the two rivers meet. Floods had destroyed the bridge some weeks before Easter 1976. An epidemic swept through the island and many children were dying. One man risked life and limb to swim the raging river, to get word to the outside world and made it across. A military helicopter took me there to scout out a possible landing strip. I found a footpath that had no serious obstructions, and began a series of flights to bring in doctors and medical assistance throughout the Easter weekend. Many lives were saved. The adults pleaded for Bibles. I was able to bring in several hundred New Testaments in their Xhosa language; for which they were most grateful.



In early 1979 the Lord led me to the USA, to complete an Aerospace college course. We were unable to return to fly with MAF due to the deteriorating relationships between South

Africa and the other African countries. Those countries were no longer accepting South African passport holders. I was qualified, but unable to serve! The church I attended while in college begged us to stay and help as associate pastors on staff. The Lord enabled us to get our visas changed to permanent resident status. We served First Assembly of God, Wilmington Los Angeles for five years, building up a fine children's ministry, training 28 teachers, and drawing in hundreds of children from the community. We then began traveling as itinerant evangelists, holding five-night revivals at churches; mostly on the west coast. Between 1985 and 2007 we preached to 63,000 people, and recorded 20,311 known first time conversions to Christ.

After the death of Rowena, my wife of fifty years, I served with Network211 at the invitation of Dr. George M. Flattery. This internet evangelism reached 10 million people in the first five years of online ministry, and current statistics show 33.7 Million Visits, and 1.6 Million Evangelism Responses as of August 27, 2018.

I regretfully retired from Network211 in August 2017, to give myself fully to read for a M.A. in Biblical Studies, which Lord led me to complete next. Hopefully I will graduate in the next year or two. This will allow me to publish much needed reference books for African theology students in their cultural narrative-learning format. I welcome your prayers for me as I complete my work to achieve that object.



I currently teach the Wednesday night Bible Study for Springfield Faith Assembly, MO. This September I commence a twelve week series on the foundational principles of Jesus teachings from the New Testament. This is the only extra-curricula work I will do now apart from my Graduate School of Theology studies.

Here are two thoughts I leave with you. "Unbelief is a strongly held opinion that disagrees with God", and "Faith is not believing in spite of the circumstances—it is obeying in spite of the consequences".

May the Lord bless and keep you,

In Calvary's Bonds,

*Jim Cole-Rous*

You are invited to visit the new website for Jim Cole-Rous' ministry:

<http://www.RousMinistry.org>