



Jim's Good News Letter

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Friend, you are most valued! Thanks for your interest in my ministry.

We commence this quarter preparing tax returns. Taxes have been around for a long time; even Jesus was obliged to pay taxes. When challenged by the religious leaders, who felt they should not pay taxes to the Roman government, Jesus demonstrated his priorities.

Jesus said to them, "**Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.**" (Mark 12:17). Many people resent paying taxes, they do it to avoid the consequences. Jesus showed us that there is also a requirement to meet our obligations to the LORD who gives us so much more than we deserve. The one theme that runs throughout the Old and New Testaments, is that our obedience to follow God's wishes should come from a right attitude towards Him. My courting days as a young man, were filled with a desire to please Rowena, the girl I married. Our marriage lasted over half a century, because we were committed to one another. We never lost the romance that our love for each other engendered. The one overriding commonality we shared, was our passionate love for Jesus.



Gold medal minted in 313 AD of "Constantine with 50 Invetur"
Photograph released into the public domain by the author

I am frequently asked what made me decide, in 2016, to go back to college at eighty-years of age. **There was one purpose that God impressed on me.** It was to provide a usable text-book for Two-Thirds World Bible students in their own culture. After years of working with African Pastors and finally teaching African students in the Transkei Bible College, I saw a need for text-books they could more easily absorb. I have lived in the USA for forty years, and am now a US Citizen, but my heart is still in Africa. God has equipped me with skills I can use in writing, and teaching. So, I continue the arduous task of reading for my Master's in Cross-Cultural studies. Publishers require authors hold a post-graduate degree before they will accept academic work.

For several years I considered writing a **Blog** on biblical social-network research methodology to explain the interaction between people in the New Testament church. Beginning in 2019, my first article, "Driven by the Dream" highlighted the amazing life of Tamara Lowe. In February "Job's Forgotten Factor" looks at the reality of evil. The March article offers tools to find information about people, both good and bad, who played a role in the biblical story. Visit www.rousministry.org and click on the '**Blog tab**' to read them. One new article is posted the beginning of each month. Please tell a friend about this monthly ongoing theme. If you have a question there is a contact area at the bottom of the web page. Write me, and I will answer your query, as soon as possible. I may well include the Q & A in the next blog post for our readers.

My son John's operation was delayed, but finally the doctor operated on his spine, and corrected the problem. He is still recuperating. He said that the last few days of February, he has been able to sleep all night without pain. We are still praying for a donor for his wife Lorena's heart transplant. Please remember our family in prayers.

Best wishes to you for a blessed Easter. I will write you again in June.

In Calvary's Bonds,

Jim Cole-Rous