



## Shifting Cultures (...and re-establishing “home” - again)

Bob & Hope Carter - May, 2025  
7946 Carberry Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46214

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

### In Transition - Again

Early in the movie, “The Wizard of Oz”, Dorothy comments to her dog, “We’re not in Kansas anymore, Toto.” We have lived in Africa most of our married lives, and every time we return “home” to the U.S. it feels like we have left “Kansas” and have awakened in “Oz”. It is sort of like cultural whiplash, where assumptions of what is “normal” no longer fit. It takes some time to get used to. One is not necessarily “better” than the other; they are just ... different. Each has its own challenges and issues that must be navigated in daily life.

After about six weeks back in the U.S., we are still gradually adjusting to the reality that Indianapolis is again “home” – at least, for the rest of 2025. We don’t yet know what 2026 will hold for us. Even here, we remain actively engaged in our work in Kenya.

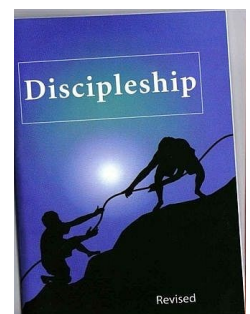
### Family Updates

Once again, God’s grace has been seen in the timings of our “going out” and our “coming in”. While no health events required an urgent trip back to the U.S. during our time in Kenya, a phone call three weeks after our return resulted in Hope flying to Dallas to stay with Nathan, who had gone into another KLS episode, while his wife and kids joined the rest of her 3-generation family for a long-planned one-week family vacation in celebration of her parents’ 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. This last-minute intervention would not have been possible had we still been in Kenya. By God’s grace, Nathan came out of his latest episode just by the time his family returned. Meanwhile, Bob stayed behind to accompany his parents to their medical appointments and for his own annual wellness visit. (Bob will live but won’t get any younger!)

Bob’s parents are doing well. His father’s CT scan showed no evidence of residual cancer, and his stepmother is doing well with the assistance of a home health aide. We are all looking forward to the arrival of three more new family members by the end of the year! Meanwhile, our daughter Hannah is finishing her final year as head librarian at an international school in Wuhan, China. We hope to have her “prophet’s chamber” in the bonus room prepared by the time she returns home in the fall.

### Discipleship Book

Hope’s big project, which has consumed huge amounts of time since our return, has been to reformat the book on discipleship that we co-authored with missionary colleague Judy Wadge while we were serving in Zambia. It is no longer in print, but we continue to get requests for it from time to time. A Christian Resource and Training Center in Kenya, in particular, has been requesting 200 copies for a long time, but getting it reprinted in Kenya has been held up by several technical issues including the need to reformat the book. This task has been on Hope’s “To Do” list for ages it seems, but there has never been time to devote to it until now. We are excited



that this week Hope finally completed the reformatting and sent it to the printer in Kenya! We will print 500 copies initially and then see whether there will be further demand. It should be available next month.

## News Notes

- We keep getting asked about the brown recluse spiders that have taken up residence in our house. We are glad to report that we are making good progress! Last fall's fogging between the walls seems to have really helped. So far this spring, the number of spiders caught in our glue traps has dropped significantly from previous years. Our May count this year was only six, whereas in May last year it was 47! Next month, the house will be treated with "Delta Dust" (an ultra-fine powder toxic to brown recluse) and then in July we will repeat the fogging. Now, if only we could get the rabbits out of the garden!



- Bob is preparing to reduce the budget for the Moffat Community Health and Development project in order to accommodate the reality of diminished funding. Unfortunately, this means cutting out the funding for the discipleship component, as the project can no longer sustain the salary of a part-time discipleship coordinator. Transportation costs will also need to be reduced, meaning a reduction in either the number or distance of outreach events. Bob hopes to have the revised budget ready to submit to SIM for approval by mid-July. On the positive side, we are delighted to report that one of our partner churches will sponsor the scholarship aid for one of our Community Health and Development students! We continue to request prayers for the Lord to raise up more project partners.



## Coming Up

Our June schedule is now falling into place:

- June 9-11, Washington D.C. - 2025 Annual Conference of Christian Connections for International Health (CCIH). The theme this year is "Change Agents for All" based on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount - ("You are the salt of the earth...You are the light of the world.") Christians are called to be agents of gospel-shaped change. Whether preaching from the pulpit or serving in institutions or communities, they provide care and use their voices for the integral mission of demonstration plus proclamation. Bob has been requested to serve as moderator for one of the breakout sessions.
- June 16-18, Charlotte, NC - We will be visiting SIM USA for some helpful home office appointments.
- In between the annual conference and the SIM office visits, we will be blessed to take some much-needed personal retreat time in the Smokey Mountains! Pray that these few days will be restful, restorative and refreshing.
- Following our visit to SIM we will have a few days to see friends and partners, including a visit to one of our partner churches in Kernersville, NC on June 22. Afterwards we will return home to Indianapolis. If we are going to be traveling near you, please contact us for a visit! (We already have some visits planned, but there's room for more!)



As mentioned last month, we have only one year to find someone to replace our departing Head of the Department of Community Health and Development. This is really a "niche need", and so your prayers that God will quickly reveal His choice will be greatly appreciated.

## Thank you

God has been so consistently gracious to us. Of course we face frequent challenges just like everyone else does, but our Shepherd has always guided us through them. We believe much of that is due to your prayers. God hears your intercessions and responds in ways that are always consistent with His grace and mercy. Even when the way forward is difficult to see, through your prayers He gives light for each additional step and strength to persevere. Thank you for praying for us, and for the essential role you play in this ministry.

### **Contact Information:**

Feel free to contact us in any of the following ways:

- US Mail: 7946 Carberry Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46214
- Email: bob.carter@sim.org or hope.carter@sim.org
- Mobile U.S. phone numbers: Bob - 317-828-6329; Hope - 317-443-7485
- Signal: we both have Signal on our U.S. phone numbers.
- WhatsApp: Hope has WhatsApp on her U.S. number; Bob – (+254) 715-719390 (Kenya number)

### **Prayer Points**

#### **Give Thanks:**

- For God's sovereign and perfect timing in directing our ministry and travel decisions.
- That Hope was finally able to finish reformatting the Discipleship book and got it sent to the printer.
- For the opportunity to take a few days of personal retreat next month.

#### **Please Pray:**

- For God to bless the health of Bob's parents and of our children and grandchildren.
- That we will make good progress on re-formatting our courses for online education, and that we will do it well and in a timely manner.
- For God to bless our recruitment efforts for a new Head of Department.
- That God would raise up financial support for the Moffat Community Health and Development project.
- For safe travels in June as we attend the CCIH annual conference and then travel in NC. Pray for an inspiring conference, for "divine appointments" and blessed conversations, and for helpful office visits at SIM USA.

**Contributions** towards our support may be sent by check to:

**SIM USA, 14830 Choate Circle, Charlotte, NC 28273.**

Make the check out to SIM-USA and indicate its purpose on the "memo" line:

Bob & Hope Carter (# 09892) or

Moffat Community Health and Development project (# 92163)

Alternatively, contributions may be made by online donation at **[www.simusa.org/get-involved/give](http://www.simusa.org/get-involved/give)**.

- Our SIM missionary number is **09892**.
- Our SIM project account is **92163** - "Moffat Community Health and Development".

***Thank you!***