



LINGERING MEMORIES OF 2009

By David and Sylvia De Jong

With our mouths we will make Your faithfulness known to all generations. Taken from Psalm 89:1

JANUARY We spent many hours in the office preparing Leadership and Mission Seminar materials for a trip to Africa and praying for God to provide the funds for our tickets.

FEBRUARY God provided the funds for our tickets through several supporting churches and friends. The Moreland Church encouraged us with their generous support and the women made potholders for gifts in Africa. We purchased the tickets and then trusted God for funds for Africa trip expenses and ministry while there. Office preparations continued, also visits to doctors, shots, travel insurance, securing documents, etc.

MARCH God answered prayer. He provided the funds we needed through wonderful supporters. We were commissioned in our home church, traveled to NJ for a short visit with Sylvia's son Rex and family and flew to Zambia for two weeks, via Holland and Kenya. We were hosted by Davison & Jean Zulu and family and given many opportunities for ministry to widows and orphans, pastors, and churches. Sylvia was offered a contract to publish 10,000 copies of *Widows of the Old Testament* in English for Africa. The income from this will help subsidize the Chinyanja/Chichewa, Kiswahili and any vernacular translations we publish. Joy Again Foundation widow and orphan ministry grew from a dream to a valued plan as Davison, David and Sylvia finalized the vision and constitution into reality.

APRIL Stanley Mutai, Joseph Kavuli and Benjamin Nzwili hosted us in Kenya where we enjoyed eating and sleeping in homes of our Kenyan friends. We had multiple opportunities for ministry to churches, pastors and widows. We learned much from them and left a part of our hearts with them when we returned to the U. S. after four challenging but fruitful weeks.

MAY After a weekend with Rex and Kim's family, we returned to Ohio. Sylvia enjoyed time for flowers, house and office – much to do. David made a DVD of Africa trip pictures to share. He drove to Warrenton MO, saw Joseph Kavuli at CEF HQ; helped his son James work on his house in Kansas City, MO; attended a funeral in TX and visited friends in OK.

JUNE Sylvia flew to Kansas City June 6. David was hospitalized several days with a urinary tract infection. He healed quickly and we traveled to Minnesota for a niece's wedding, and a De Jong reunion with sibling families. We visited a grandson Nathan & Joyce's family in Iowa on the way home. Moreland Church said goodbye, after 20 years, to Pastor Bob & Ardyth Stull (they were close personal friends of ours) and welcomed Pastor Tom & Janet Fish. We made a trip to Boston for Rose's graduation party (a widow who earned a law degree) and enjoyed time with South End Neighborhood Church and many friends. Joy Again Foundation International (JAFI) was certified in Zambia June 26.

JULY David finished our front porch steps, railings and gable, also helped Sylvia's daughter with a home project. We attended two weddings. And Sylvia enjoyed a reunion with women in her nurse's training class who graduated 50 years ago. So nice to enjoy a month at home! Our grandson Baxter (16 – Rex & Kim's son) toured Europe in the American Music Abroad Tour Band. He played French Horn.

AUGUST David taught the Men's Bible Study on Saturday mornings. We enjoyed the James Reunion (Sylvia's side). David continued working on various projects. We had a visit from David's nephew from MN. We traveled to Toronto to pick up the remainder of Sylvia's books from Essence Publishing. We enjoyed being with Sunil & Sheri Kapur family in Toronto. We shared our ministry with a senior group in Sarnia, Ontario when we visited former South Africa workers, Ken & Fran Miller.

SEPTEMBER We enjoyed a visit from our grandson Daniel and Heather's family (four great grandchildren) from GA. We traveled to Kansas City, MO to visit James, Kyleen & three granddaughters; also to assist with home projects and wedding preparations. We traveled with them to St. Louis for their son Philip and Kami's wedding. Upon returning to Ohio, we were keynote speakers at an "Ignite Your Faith" Conference in Heath, OH. We were saddened to learn that our Zambian friend, Jean Zulu, was diagnosed with cancer shortly after their first JAFI food distribution.

OCTOBER David continued to teach men's study. Sylvia planned and led the Prayer Partner Gathering at Wooster Community Hospital. She continues to direct the program which started 9 years ago. David installed our new water conditioner. A friend began teaching us how to use Power Point.

NOVEMBER David painted the inside of his workshop with the help of several friends. Our large Bradford pear tree (more than 30 yr. old) in the front yard was cut down at request of the power company. We attended another wedding. David showed a power point slide show of his family history and ministry to the Pleasant Hill Baptist senior group. We had 15 from Sylvia's side of the family for Thanksgiving dinner. Rhonda has a new brain lesion from her MS condition, but continues to teach. Shawn, her son, is a sophomore in college.

DECEMBER David enjoyed ringing the bells for Salvation Army while Sylvia played the Zither for 2 hrs. David was the grandpa in our church's Christmas program. We visited Harvey and Blanca Miller (the friend who edited Sylvia's book and has just become a published author) in Asheville, NC on our way to GA, where we stayed with Mary Hines (missionary with Source of Light) and with granddaughter Heather & Patrick's family (1 great grandson) in Atlanta. We journeyed on to David's son Mark & Ruthi's home in Bradenton, FL to celebrate early Christmas with their family (for pictures go to ruthidejong.wordpress.com); then to Augusta, GA for the De Jong family gathering when 30 gathered at Paul and Sandy's on Christmas Eve day. We also had opportunity to enjoy the individual family groups for gift exchanges and pictures. Paul's Sunday School Class gave us a check for \$847.50 for the widow Rose (will be used for her son's tuition). Back in Ohio, we learned that our friend Jean Zulu went to be with the Lord December 28. We celebrated a late Christmas and the New Year with Rhonda, Bruce, Shawn, and Sylvia's sister Cheryl and Ken. We have so much to praise God for!

Thank you for all the beautiful Christmas cards, letters, e-cards and e-mails we received. It is always such a joy to hear from you and your greetings convey much love. We thank God for you and the great encouragement you are to us. Thank you for your prayers and gifts of love. Your support inspires us to serve with passion. Due to our trip, we did not send Christmas cards this year. We write this letter to express our gratitude and praise to God and thankfulness to you. We hope your New Year is filled with God's provisions for you with answers to prayer. Please come visit us in beautiful Ohio Amish country. We invite you to go to our web site, listed below, to see our 28 photos of Lingering Memories. If you don't have a computer, we suggest you go on line with a friend or at the Library.

With love,

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