

MISSION MESSAGES

From the GC Loma Linda Office



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WELCOME

As 2023 comes to a close and we reflect on this last year, there is much to be grateful for. While this sinful world will never leave us short of prayer requests, there are also many blessings to count. I am grateful for this mission community and can see how His hands continue working through the DMA and GSA programs, sometimes in unexpected ways. We are pretty much assured that it will be a bumpy ride, but enter 2024 with peace and confidence in the One who goes before us. Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones!

- ANGELI 

GIVING THANKS

By Denny Hong, MD
Kendu Adventist Hospital, Kenya

Our family celebrated Thanksgiving in Kenya this past week. We were fortunate to have several student missionaries join us for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Afterward, we went around the group and shared various things we were thankful for.

I must admit that I'm normally not a glass-half-full optimist; criticism and fault-finding come naturally to me. While it may be easier to praise God and give thanks when things are going well, what about when times are tough?

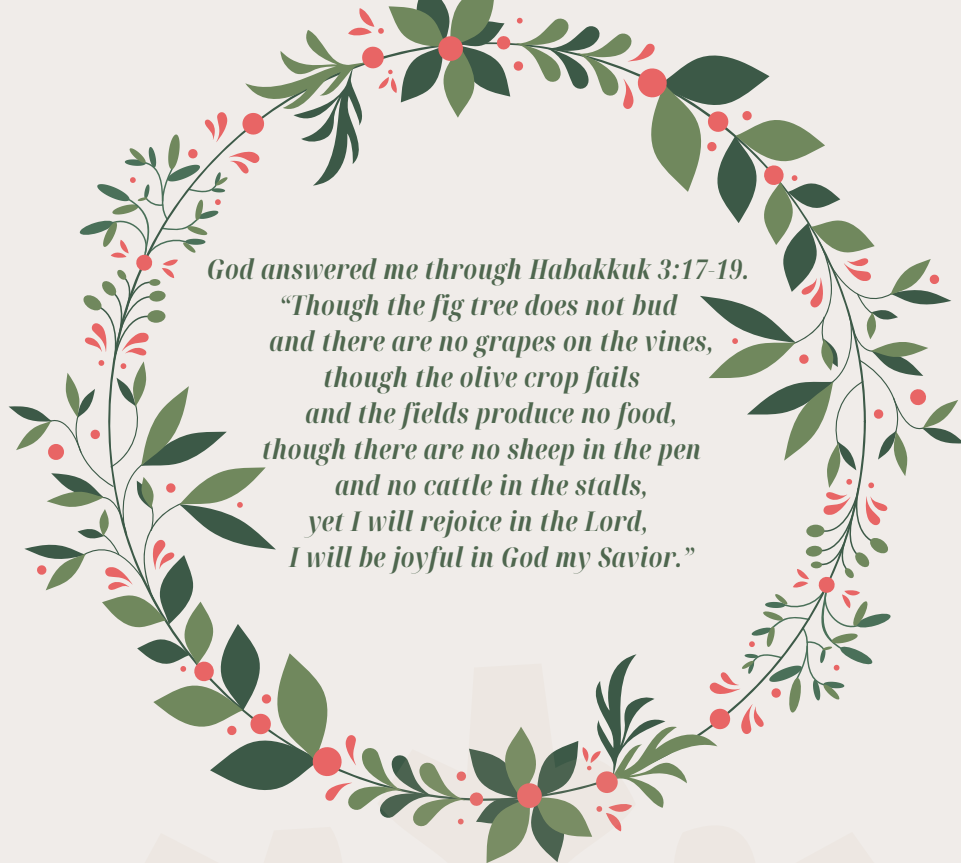
Recently, our hospital underwent major renovations in key clinical care areas. During construction, there was heavy rainfall, which led to major flooding.

The contractor had spent well over the budget but failed to complete the construction, so now the building is half-finished but entirely useless. He asked for more money, money which we don't have.

Our employees have not been paid for three months, the main water tank broke last week, and the community has been fetching water each morning. The dialysis center where we refer our kidney patients has booked their last chair, so now our patients have nowhere to go.

For those of you who have worked overseas, you are probably quite familiar with the myriad of obstacles and challenges in developing countries. The more I thought about problem after problem, the more frustrated and annoyed I felt. Why weren't things going the way we planned? Why are there so many problems with these projects? Why does change occur so slowly?





God answered me through Habakkuk 3:17-19.

*“Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen
and no cattle in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will be joyful in God my Savior.”*

Complaining is a deliberate choice, but so is rejoicing. I realized that I can either choose to dwell on the problems of our hospital or intentionally focus on the goodness of the Lord.

For each problem, God has a solution. During the time when the water ran out, we were supplied with an overabundance of rainwater, which has been a huge blessing for our community. The rainfall produced a bumper crop of vegetables, ensuring that our staff do not go hungry. After pleading with the contractor, he has agreed to complete the renovation with the original budget, and it is coming along well. Even though we are still behind on salaries, the staff are cheerfully providing excellent clinical care.

Lastly, we have just finalized a contract with a dialysis company to install 10 chairs in our hospital which will enable us to generate money and ensure that no patient is turned away.

Since coming to Africa, I have developed a lot of things to be thankful for. I am thankful for my patients, who travel from faraway places and entrust me with their care. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve in Kenya, where I am surrounded by an amazing community who supports me on my journey of faith and encourages me when I am discouraged. I am thankful for my wife and children, who show unconditional love to me. Most of all, I am thankful for a God who bears so patiently with me, despite all my deficiencies and complaints.

I pray that each of you will also experience and focus on God's goodness, making deliberate choices to rejoice in the Lord despite all the difficulties that you are facing in your life.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.



Wassail Recipe

This traditional holiday drink originated as an ancient English Yuletide and New Year's Eve tradition that was typically given as a toast to someone's health. According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the salutation wassail comes from the Old English, *ves heill* which literally means 'be well'. 17th Century farmers also used the expression to mean, 'be fortunate' to ensure a good harvest in the coming year. Today, wassail represents a warm, cozy cider drink with aromatic spices, ready to warm all your holiday celebrations! Enjoy!



Ingredients

8 cups apple cider

4 cups cranberry juice

20 whole cloves *

6 cinnamon sticks or 2 tsp of cinnamon powder

4 thick strips of fresh ginger root* (about 1" long)

4 whole star anise

½ teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg*

2 teaspoons pink peppercorn*

2 teaspoons whole Allspice*

1 thinly sliced Granny Smith apple (unpeeled)

1 whole orange studded with cloves-then sliced across ¼" thick

Sugar or honey to taste is optional



Directions

Place spices* in a mulling ball or tea diffuser and put all ingredients in a medium-size pot. Bring to a boil, then cover and simmer for at least an hour. To serve, garnish with a strip of fresh orange peel, cloves, and fresh cranberries. Please be at liberty to adjust the recipe to the spices that are available in your geographic area!

Secret tip: Refrigerate mix overnight before cooking for added infused flavor.





Christmas Word Search



Christmas Word Search

B	a	b	y	y	t	d	o	n	k	e	y
e	J	e	s	u	s	w	s	g	x	a	z
t	e	c	h	f	s	o	a	a	d	n	z
h	g	e	s	M	a	r	y	k	p	g	u
l	i	n	n	s	g	s	s	L	g	e	e
e	m	s	k	p	u	h	e	u	H	l	c
h	a	u	b	d	j	i	x	k	e	n	j
e	d	s	s	h	e	p	h	e	r	d	s
m	u	i	t	e	h	d	m	l	o	x	t
e	q	w	a	x	h	r	y	o	d	i	a
a	b	i	r	t	h	n	k	t	g	d	b
o	u	J	o	s	e	p	h	k	d	n	l
a	h	r	h	d	g	l	B	i	b	l	e
m	a	n	g	e	r	a	e	n	b	g	h
a	y	k	g	b	c	e	w	g	a	f	j



Baby	census	manger	donkey
king	Mary	Herod	angel
Bethlehem	inn	birth	shepherds
Joseph	stable	Luke	star
Jesus	worship	Bible	hay

NEWS

RECENTLY MARRIED:

Ben & Esther Rivera



STARTING SERVICE:

Stephen & Katie Waterbrook – Bere
Adventist Hospital, Chad



Michael & Kristen Wilkinson



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT:

Rute Fiducia Silva – born to
Sarah [Belensky] & Gabriel Silva



RECENT EVENTS:

MIG Vespers (3) and SM Summer Chapel
Series: featuring Brent & Laura Sherwin,
the Lohr family, and Jeff & Michelle Cho



Medical Auxiliary Luncheon
featuring Denny Hong



Global Healthcare Conference



Celebratory lunch with the Netteburgs
after Pacific Crest Trail completion

UPCOMING EVENTS

*Stay posted regarding a
2024 Mission
Bootcamp!*



Previous Mission Bootcamp – Haiti

Submit a Prayer Request:

<https://ghi.llu.edu/prayer>

CURRENT DMAs & GSAs:

Visit Us & Share Your Mission Story

[Accommodations in Loma Linda provided]

What is Provided:

- Two weeks of accommodations on or close to campus

In Exchange For:

- Public Relations activity - video recording, etc. or
- Event Speaker (MIG vespers, Oak Glen Fellowship, etc.)

Contact the GC Loma Linda Office to coordinate at least one month before visit by calling 909-558-7747 or email gc@llu.edu



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY
HEALTH

Global Health Institute

909-558-7747 or email ghi.llu.edu/gc