



# AFRICAN BIBLE COLLEGES



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President

## *Annual Report for 2006*

This Year End Report for 2006 is going to begin with a story—a most **UNIQUE STORY**—our climb of Mt. Sinai!

For the last 25 years, I've had the joy of teaching the book of Exodus, and somewhere along the line I found myself saying to the class, "When I reach Moses' age, I want to do that!" My primary reason: This is where God made His "Earth Landing!" The landing on the moon was awesome, but to me God's Earth Landing on Mt. Sinai led to consequences of far more importance—the salvation of our souls. And, I had a great desire, at the age of Moses, to stand where it all started—and that desire would not go away!

Thus, early this year Nell and I made two decisions: Let's make this adventure a family affair. And, when we found that six of our seven children, along with their spouses, could get free in April of 2006, we said, "Perfect—let's do it as a 60th anniversary celebration!" As they say here in Africa, "God's time is best." Thus, off to Mt. Sinai we went.



*Jack and Nell celebrate 60th anniversary at the top of Mt. Sinai with 6 of their 7 children and spouses*

Not only did I anticipate standing where Moses had met with God on top of Mt. Sinai, but also anticipated standing where Konstantine von Tischendorf stood when he discovered the most ancient scrolls of the New Testament...at St. Catherine's monastery which literally stands in the shadow of Mt. Sinai! In the mid 1800's, Tischendorf visited this oldest of all monasteries in the world to find a monk burning leaves using old

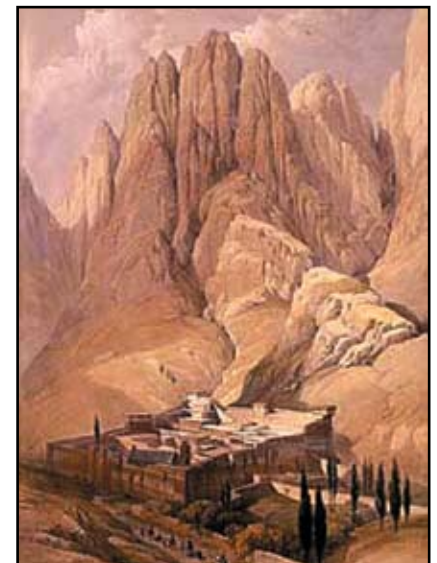
parchment papers as fuel. Tischendorf picked up one of the sheets about to be burned and realized these were ancient manuscripts. He begged the Monk to cease burning—and consequently rescued the most ancient manuscripts of the New Testament ever to be found...what are known today as "the Codex Sinaiticus." I wanted to stand at that historic spot!

And we did—and it was a thrill—but nothing compared to the thrill to come!

Just beyond St. Catherine's the path up 7000 foot Mt. Sinai begins—thank goodness 3500 of those feet had been accomplished on the bus ride. The rest is either by foot... or by camel. Shrewd Bedouins (the few natives of the land who carve an existence out of nothing) await the faint hearted with camels to rent. It was decided that the ladies would mount these reluctant beasts and that the men would do it like Moses—walk. And, I really did it like Moses—a beautiful hand carved African



*Nell riding a Bedouin's camel to the top of Mt. Sinai*



*St. Catherine's Monastery at the foot of Mt. Sinai*

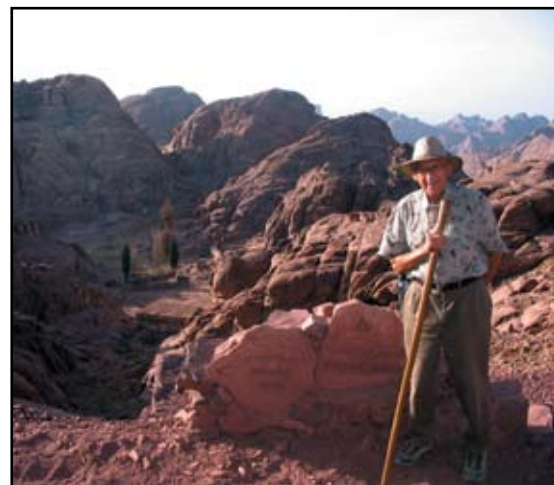
*"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations and then the end shall come." Matthew 24:14*

hardwood staff had been presented to me by my daughter Marion and husband, Steve. I now understand why the “staff” was such a precious possession to Moses—I would not have reached the top without it!

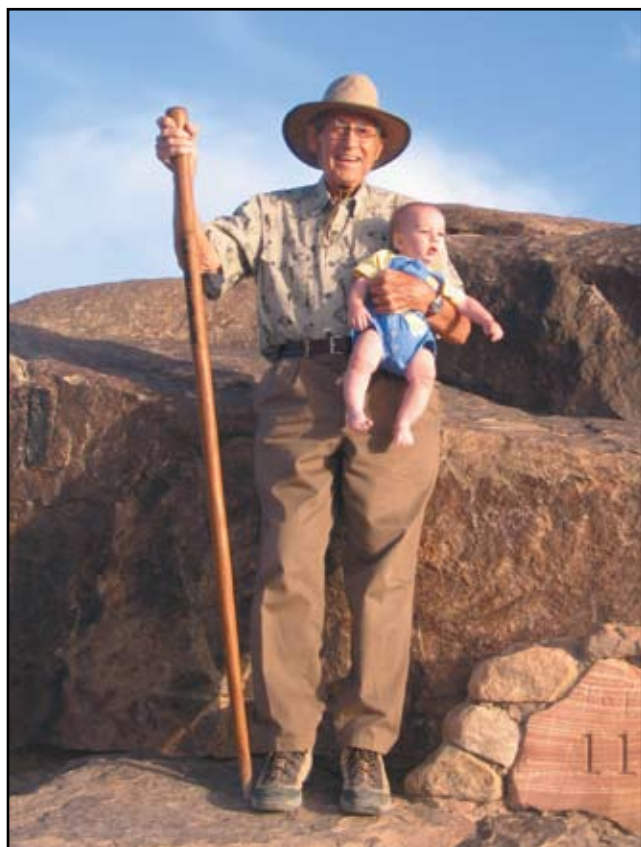
At the half way rest stop, Mt. Sinai became an upside down cone with the top broken off. As I look up at the endless winding trail that skirts the cones’ edge, I noticed that it seemed to stop at a black dot rather than reach the top. Curious, I asked our guide why the trail seemed to stop at the dot. “That’s where the stairs begin...and the camel ride ends,” he replied. An exhausting hour later we arrived at the “dot” to find what looked to be a cave. “You must enter there to reach the stairs” was our guide’s command. The “stairs” turned out to be over 500 boulders packed into some semblance of order by a monk doing penance centuries ago...to make possible the ascension of the last 700 vertical feet to the top.

To our surprise, we found that the cave was actually a giant cleft in the side of Mt. Sinai—so high and so narrow that just a bare trickle of light filtered through. After walking at least 100 feet through this enchanting hallway, we found ourselves standing on a flat platform of solid rock...overlooking an amphitheater. We were INSIDE Mt. Sinai! The cleft had brought us through the outside of the cone. This was entirely unexpected. Nothing we had read indicated that there was an amphitheater at the top of Mt. Sinai. Down below was the first greenery to be sighted since leaving St. Catherine’s. Moisture captured by the basin makes possible the growth of a few bushes and trees...and under the shade of the trees were a few inviting benches that beckoned us to “Elijah’s Garden.” This name was hand printed on a sign that pointed to a winding path to the bottom of the amphitheater.

We often forget that Elijah found refuge on Mt. Sinai when his life was threatened by wicked Queen Jezebel. No doubt, the “cleft in the rock” was his cave and this “garden” was his refuge...the place where he was refreshed and encouraged by God to move on to greater things!



*Jack Chinchin looking down on  
Elijah’s Garden*



*At the top of Mt. Sinai  
with grandson, Stephen Spencer*

We were exhausted and needed the refreshment of “Elijah’s Garden” before mounting “the stairs.” It didn’t happen. Our guide insisted we press on...it was late afternoon, and we dare not try to come down the “stairs” in the dark. Half way up my head began to spin and I quickly sat down. “If only we had been able to be refreshed at Elijah’s Garden,” was my immediate thought. To the rescue came son, Palmer, who had the foresight to bring a bag of dried fruit. A few pieces of dried apricots and pears later, and I was ready to conquer Mt. Sinai.

It was sunset when we arrived at the top. Spread out below us was the endless mountainous desert bathed in a brilliant bronze. When a picture was taken of me in this setting, with my staff in one hand and my 6 month old grandson in the other (our 38th grandchild, Stephen, had ridden on his father’s back for four hours without a peep), this was my moment of moments!

I returned to find “Elijah’s Garden” was constantly in mind. Not only because it is a marvelous picture of God’s grace, but also because it has helped me to realize that in God’s grace, He has given us **you** as our “Elijah’s Garden!” Over the last 30 years **you** have been our encouragers, **you** have supplied our needs, **you** have refreshed us with your prayers...so that we could climb the highest mountains, move on to greater things...the spreading of college campuses across this vast continent, raising up committed Christian leaders for God’s exploding Kingdom in Africa!

Now, the rest of the story:

## MALAWI

Expansion is still the watchword! When we receive over SIX HUNDRED applications for the 45 places that are open to the incoming freshmen; when enrollment at the Academy climbs to over 270 from 28 different nations and parents are clamoring for a high school; when the number of patients at the hospital continues to climb so that added facilities become a must...we dare not stand still. We have just applied for a lease of TEN more acres adjacent to the college—pray that this will be granted by the city of Lilongwe!

## SWAZILAND

Nell and I have just returned from another “property search” for campus #4, and we come back excited. In a most unusual way, the Lord led us to a situation that has REAL possibilities. Just a 15 minute drive from the center of the mountain top capital city of Mbabane, connected by a first class highway and nestled in a pine forest, is the company town of one of South Africa’s largest lumber companies. It reminds us of our Yekepa...on a smaller scale. We met with the division manager who felt that a lease agreement could probably be arranged—but would need the approval of the King. Swaziland is one of two small kingdoms that South Africa has allowed to remain in its midst, with this beautiful little gem placed halfway between South Africa’s two largest cities—Johannesburg and Durban. Property is scarce and prices have gone through the roof—could this be God’s answer to our dilemma? **Pray with us!**



*Swaziland Property Search*



*ABC Uganda Faculty: (L to R) Front Row: Rachel Ainebyona, Joanna Robertson, Marlene Schimke, Dawn Copeland, Allison Wiltbank, Graham Matsiko, Dennis Agaba; Back Row: Collins Kayogo, O. Palmer Robertson, Kurt Schimke, Christopher Copeland, John Wiltbank, Paul Austin*

## UGANDA

Seems impossible, but our college in Uganda is into its second year and the campus continues to sprout buildings. This last year two staff houses were added. And, speaking of staff, Dr. Palmer Robertson, the college’s Director, is full of praise for the blue ribbon faculty God has called to serve with ABC Uganda, enabling our students to receive the best...educationally and spiritually! Our radio station is into its second year, and in spite of constant power outages, our three graduates that man the station have been able to overcome this major obstacle through ingenious use of generators and other power sources.

## HOME OFFICE

Our expansion abroad has necessitated expansion at home. When we outgrew our office space at Reformed Seminary in Jackson, we were graciously offered the opportunity to build new offices in unused space at the Seminary’s magnificent new library. Son, Paul, gathered volunteer labor, and in less than six months we opened the doors to very spacious and beautiful complex of offices complete with a visitors entry lounge done in African decor and overlooking the Seminary campus. Next time you’re in the deep South, Buck Mosal, our Home Office Director, would sure appreciate you coming by.



*Home Office Staff in new ABC offices: (L to R) Ed Williford, Paul Chichen, LeAnne McDonald, Mary Courtney, Jan Harper, Dan Chase, Buck Mosal*



**BEFORE:**

*Becky Chinchin and Nell in front of Staff House #1  
(look closely through the overgrowth)*



**AFTER:**

*The front of Staff House #1 after Del and his crew's  
restoration work this summer*

**LIBERIA**

“LET’S BEGIN AGAIN!” That’s the catchy title Nell has given to the Liberian campus restoration project. And on January 1, 2007, it will be “back again” to our Liberia where we will be joined by Del and Becky, who spent six weeks in Liberia last summer laying the groundwork for the restoration of the campus. Not only was the entire campus brushed and cleaned, but a head start was made by roofing two of the staff houses.

The purpose of our trip is to prepare for a trial run of what we are calling “**The King Cyrus Plan.**” After capturing Babylon, Persian King Cyrus made this amazing proclamation to the Jews, “The Lord God of Heaven...has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem. Everyone whose spirit God has stirred, go up and rebuild the house of the Lord.... and all those about them are to strengthen their hands with gold, silver, goods, cattle, valuables, as well as free will offerings!” (Ezra 1:2-6). In essence, the King was saying, “Send a team to build, and those that remain are to supply what is needed.” That will be our plan, and the trial run will be made this summer by a team from The Grove Bible Church, which our son Palmer pastors in the Phoenix area. They will come to fully restore Staff House #1 with hands strengthened by those who have gathered supplies and shipped them out ahead of time by container! We expect this to be the pattern by which “LET’S BEGIN AGAIN” will be accomplished—and right here we need to make...

**OUR CHRISTMAS WISH!!**

Over the next four months the second staff house, which has already been capped with a roof, must be enclosed and made livable so the trial team will have rudimentary quarters to live in as they finish the restoration of Staff House #1. Supplies needed to provide those rudimentary quarters will be windows, doors, flooring, ceiling, bathroom & kitchen fixtures, beds & bedding, and tables and chairs—bare essentials but livable! Hopefully, we will be able to accomplish this with your gifts. *That is our Christmas wish for 2006.* Here is an opportunity to “**strengthen our hands**” as did the Jews of old. Enclosed is a “LET’S BEGIN AGAIN” card. May the Lord “stir the spirit of many of you” to participate so that soon the actual operation of the college can “**BEGIN AGAIN!**”

Cordially yours in Christ,

John W. Chinchin