

CHRISTMAS 2016

KIBOGORA MISSION, AFRICA

*"Sleigh bells ring: are you listening"? Well no, there are no sleighbells here. "In the lane snow is glistening". We haven't seen any! The temperature is right around 75. Actually there are beautiful flowers, bougainvillea with colors of purple and white and fucia, as well as red hibiscus and lovely birds singing.*

*We're happy tonight not walking in a winter wonderland, but in a lovely tropical garden where Jesus is Lord. Hallelujah!*

Christmas Greetings, Dear Ones,

Celebrating here at Kibogora in Rwanda, Africa does feel quite different than the feelings we have back in the good old USA. However, feelings really are not what Christmas is about, is it? It's about a wonderful God who loved the world so much that he gave the most fabulous gift in the world, His Dear Son, Jesus. Christmas is about a baby who came into the world who was fully God and fully man. A mystery to ponder! That first Christmas was about age-old prophecies coming to pass, a virgin becoming pregnant through the Holy Spirit, and myriad of angels appearing to the shepherds. Even two years after the baby was born, wisemen came bringing gifts, and then the terrible tragedy of babies being killed when an earthly king felt threatened by the baby.

For us in the West, all the stories have been told and retold for two thousand years. How blessed we are to know them and love them!

It seems a great privilege to be here at Kibogora this year, and to celebrate Christmas in a different way with different feelings, yet the facts are all still the same: the son of God was born on that first Christmas Day so long ago.

For the last two Sundays, we have worshiped at the Kibogora Free Methodist Church with hundreds of African worshipers. And we have sung the "First Noel", "O Little Town of Bethlehem", and "We Three Kings". It was glorious hearing a melody that we know in English

being sung in Kinyarwanda: the language of Rwanda. The understanding that the Body of Christ is all around the world, in all the nations where many many peoples are singing the songs of Christmas, has been so clearly demonstrated to us here in Africa.

Thanks be to God!

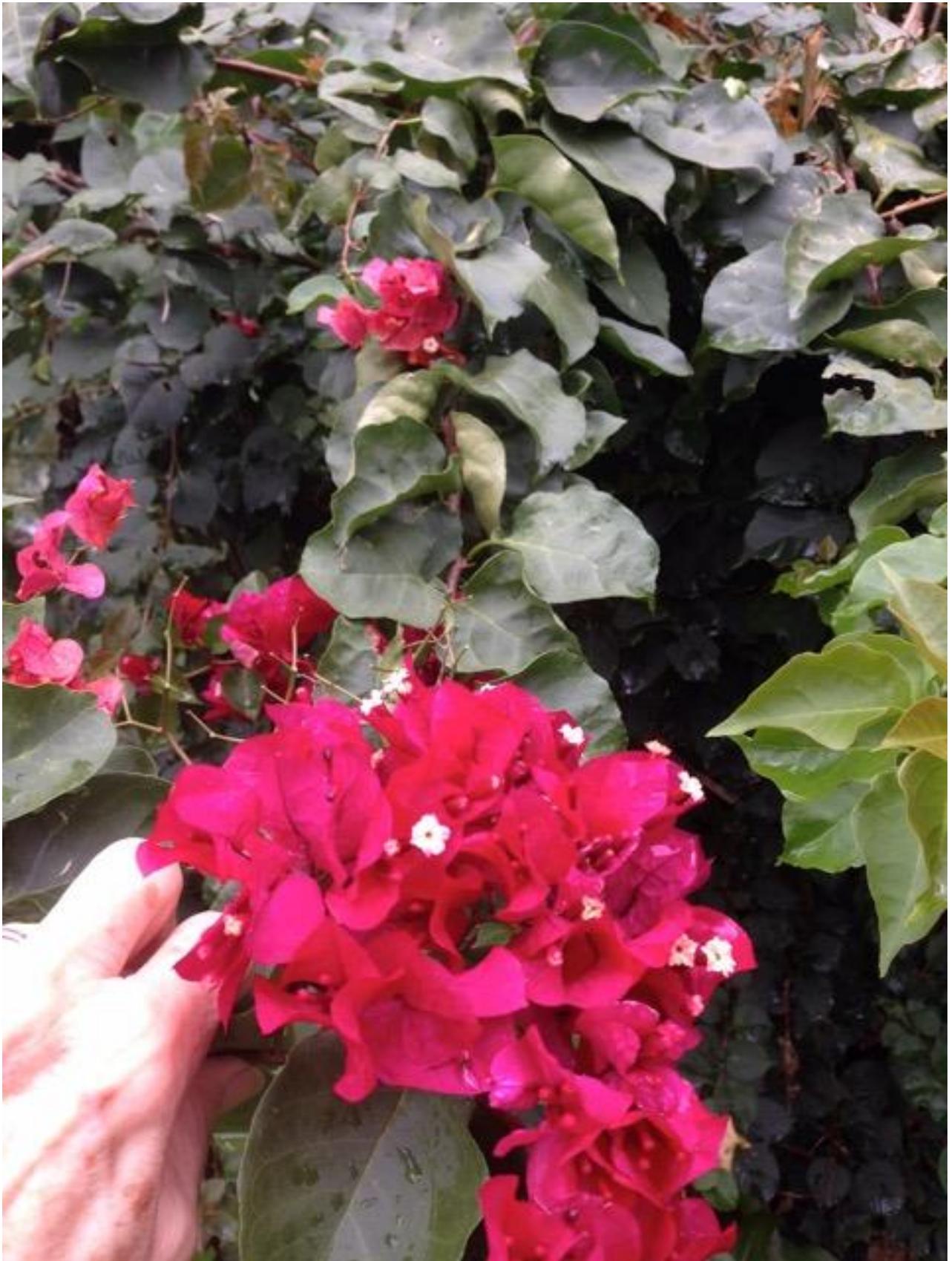
Our time here has been very special. Kibogora is a beautiful place, and God has assembled very lovely people here with us. If we could have our eight children, our 25 grandchildren, and one great grandchild, (plus 2 great grands to arrive in Jan or Feb.!), with us here, well, "WOW"! It would be kinda crowded! Honestly, we do miss our family and the very special people that God has put in our lives back in the States.

Our best wishes for a wonderful Christmas celebration and may God richly bless each of you in the coming year.

With love,  
Dave and Carol



Dr. David Crandall and Dr. Joel Green. Joel invited David to make early morning rounds with him at the Hospital.



Beautiful Fuchsia colored Bougainvillea



This bougainvillea is a lovely purplish.



Lake Kivu is just beyond these bougainvillea.



The Bouganvilleas are all over the place. It is just beautiful.

God's richest blessings to you all.  
Dave and Carol