

# KAIMOSI CONNECTION 20

## March 2006

### *Welcoming life-giving rain!*

*News from the Nugent Rehard family*

*FUM Field Staff in East Africa*

*Based at Friends Theological College in Kaimosi, Kenya*

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Dear Friends,

Well, the rainy season has finally come—always a relief. This year, as much of East Africa is experiencing its third year of severe drought, here in Kaimosi we had the rainiest dry season of the four we've experienced here. For reasons we can't quite explain, the wheezing old water system has worked like a gem for six months, and we had water straight through the dry months, even though the Goligoli reservoir was at a lower level than we have ever seen it. This is ironic in too many ways. We remain mystified but grateful!

Mary Kay and I intended *Kaimosi Connection* to be about news, not funding. However, **funding is our news at the moment**. I must retract something I said in the last *Kaimosi Connection*: we will not be in the US in March and April. Because of the leadership transition at FUM, we have concluded that it would be better to **postpone our travels**. Further, the FUM General Board is working on much more challenging policies for how much of our funding in the bank or in pledges we have to have in hand by the end of deputation (targets will range between 50% and 80% or more of our annual total, in contrast with the current 25%). Normally, field staff are released to return to the field only when they have met the target. Returning to FTC in a timely manner will require a much longer time of planning, and a much longer time of deputation. This has implications for our children's schooling, and also will mean a significant separation from Mary Kay, who will proceed with her studies in Kenya while I travel.

As soon as we know our travel plans, we will communicate them. We began employment with FUM in July 2002 and we arrived in Kaimosi January 2003, following language training. Having completed three years, we have renewed our contract for another three year period. Mary Kay's medical studies in Eldoret and our enthusiasm for FTC's approach to pastoral training and theological education means that we intend to serve much longer than three years, if FUM and FTC agree. Before we entered the field, we traveled as a family among Friends for 5 months to raise enough support to be released for service. Since then, our approach toward funding and deputation has been to visit the USA for 8 weeks each year—6 weeks have been devoted to travel and visitation; roughly two weeks have been for seeing family. We've encouraged regular and predictable contributions (monthly, quarterly or annual) so as to avoid the feast-or-famine pattern which is sometimes generated by long deputations with high fundraising goals. We are extremely grateful to our supporters who give regularly, and we would ask you to continue.

There are two things our friends in the US can do to help us prepare for our next deputation. First, I will visit as many Friends meetings as possible, so **please consider whether your meeting or church would like me to visit and share about what is happening at FTC**. I plan to spend time in every pastoral FUM yearly meeting, and am happy also to organize trips to any of the Eastern YMs as well, if there is interest. **Gatherings which attract an entire quarterly meeting are especially helpful**. Sunday visits are possible, though obviously limited. Second, you could explore with your meeting whether you are able to

**pledge collectively for a period of three years** (whether that would be an annual contribution or periodic contributions throughout the year). If you already give, annually or monthly, we would ask you to consider communicating your plans for the coming three years. **At present, FUM does not have pledge forms, but a short letter or even e-mail to me would be sufficient for the moment**, at least until FUM is able to establish clear policies and procedures once a new leadership team is in place. I am happy to correspond with any Friend about any of these arrangements.

In the meantime, our account keeps drifting into deficit—not terribly far, but it does cause the Board a problem, because it requires shifting funds temporarily from other places, a practice which complicates the accounting. We would therefore like to set a goal of raising an *extra* \$10,000 over the next two months to provide a more solid cash-flow foundation. Additionally, we will have a large tuition payment of about US \$7000 due around April 20 for the children’s schooling, so we would very much appreciate any help you can give us toward that.

I confess that talking about our ministry funding in such straightforward fashion is uncomfortable for me. I am much more comfortable sharing the story of FTC and its mission. It is very humbling to Mary Kay and me that we depend so completely on the generosity of others, and we are certainly aware that the economy has presented difficulties this year for everyone in the US. It is a great privilege to serve God and Friends here in Kenya, and we express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed to this venture. We thank you for your commitment to be present with us—and we pledge ourselves not to be doing a solo act here, but to be your ears and eyes, heart and hands here in Kenya. We welcome correspondence about any aspect of our work. We are deeply conscious that the readers of *Kaimosi Connection* are an integral part of this partnership.

Please continue to hold us, our children, and our work in prayer. Please remind your local churches that we are here, working on your behalf. Share with them what you know about FTC and the need for strong, well-prepared pastoral leadership in Kenya.

A final suggestion. A seminary teacher asked us to participate in her class by holding an e-mail conversation with students, in which the group would send a list of questions by e-mail, and we would respond by e-mail, and perhaps do this in a few rounds. Would your adult, youth, or children’s Sunday School class be interested in such an exchange? We’d be happy to share with you in that way.

Your gifts nourish the work of FUM in Kenya just like the life-giving rain that has begun to fall here. Your support for our family helps us to bring and encourage signs of new growth and much hope in Kaimosi, Eldoret and Turi. We thank you for the constancy of your contributions and prayers.

Wishing you many blessings and much grace,

Patrick Nugent

Do visit the new FTC website, under construction: [www.quaker.org/ftc](http://www.quaker.org/ftc). There you will find links to our blogs (*Kaimosi Connection* and *Eldoret Express*). You can also learn more about the exciting 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations at the girls’ school by visiting [www.standrewsturi.com](http://www.standrewsturi.com).