

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Mary and I are awed by the way God has been with us for fifty years. The words which guided us when we were in courtship were Paul's words: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." We also owned Psalm 23, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want." We memorized this Psalm and we like singing it during our morning devotion. We have been dumbfounded by the power of the Good Shepherd. As he promises: "No one can snatch them out of my hands". Satan has tried many time and has not succeeded. He works overtime particularly when we are preparing and taking off for missions. Yet in spite of Satan's schemes, we are more than conquerors.

We are not only celebrating 50 years of our life together but also the events and the seeds which we planted many years ago. Being commissioned as Church Army captain in 1964, ordained Deacon in 1974; ordained priest in 1975 starting the first company of Boys and Girls Brigade in Nakuru, Kenya, and the first KAMA (Kenya Anglican Men Association) in 1985. Surprisingly, today there are brigade companies in Anglican, Presbyterian and Methodist churches in Kenya. There are also KAMA in most Anglican Churches in Kenya. Startlingly, during our recent mission to Kenya, we attended 20th anniversary of Thika Diocese, the ceremony started with Boys and Girls Brigade parade. All the clergy paraded in brigade uniform with Bishop Julius as a captain and Chaplain. In 1964 we never imagined that anything of this magnitude, will occur. We were also amazed by the event which was organized by KAMA for mentoring a male child. The event was attended by males ranging from 5 to 76 years old, focusing on training boys to be men. They slaughtered three goats and were taught how to prepare the meat. I never expected to see this in my life time. All the glory to God. All these grew through Christ who said: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and me in him, he will bear much fruits, apart from me, you can do nothing." John 15:5

In addition to being in Christ we must nurture our best self by developing five virtues: **Vision** which is ability to see what others do not see. **Courage**-The ability to act despite fear. **Creativity**- the ability to think outside the box. **Self-confidence**- The ability to withstand criticisms. **Self-control**- The ability to delay gratification. In the words of Anatole France: To accomplish great things. We must not only act. But also dream. Not only plan; but also believe.

++John Githiga

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