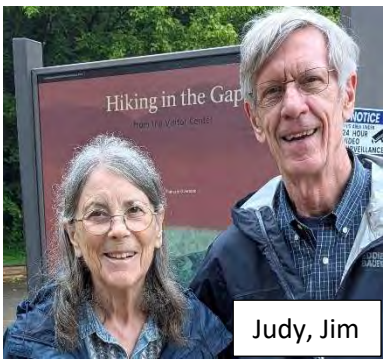
RMNi
RECONCILIATION MINISTRIES NETWORK

Sunsetting RMNI Before 2027



Judy, Jim

After graduating from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 1998, and completing a dissertation on why there were so few African American missionaries, I felt called (1 to mobilize the AFAM church for global mission (2 take AFAMs and others on overseas mission trips (3 help reconcile Blacks and Whites (4 work among urban poor (5 teach personal financial management and practical theology.


left: Jeremy Faber, Frederick Doe, Steve Turman, Mark Wardell, Jim Richter, AJ Davis

Judy and I became missionaries in August, 1972. I'd worked for 3 organizations for 17 years, but in 1998 needed a ministry platform to match the callings—RMNI. Attorney Jim Henry got our 501-c-3 in only 3 months. I wanted a lean non-institution, so operated from home. The Board would be 50% Black and 50% White, with 3-year terms. We would meet quarterly, beginning with Judy's home-cooked breakfast. We've had amazing unity.


Debt-free home

Having read the autobiography of George Mueller, Judy and I decided not to ask for donations. Apart from initially contacting pastors, friends and churches who we knew well when we became "faith" missionaries in 1977 (we were salaried 1972-76), and a "donate" button once briefly on our website, we have tried not to ask or hint for money, believing God will provide for His work. When gifts didn't meet family essentials, I took part-time jobs. Since 1999, approximately $2,460,000 in donations have come through RMNI, including $1,525,000 for ministry, and $747,000 for our personal support (we've taken only gifts designated for us since 2016). On August 12, 2026 the RMNI Board voted to dissolve RMNI at the end of 2026, at my request (so donations to RMNI can't be accepted after early-mid December, 2026).

Downloads	Hits
/files/handouts/Cults%20or%20Religious%20Issues/Bible%20Vs%20Kor...	2,797
/files/afam/AfAmMissionsTeam.pdf	2,530
/files/afam/CurrentIssues/TE%20Article4-06%20ed.pdf	1,974
/files/afam/HistoryandResearch/African-American-Missionaries-Ser...	1,609
/files/PowerPoints/Introduction-to-Ethics.pptx	1,607
/files/global/Cross_Cultural.PDF	1,384
/files/handouts/Evangelism%20Helps/UrbanEvanOutline.pdf	1,374
/files/handouts/Cults%20or%20Religious%20Issues/JWs%20NWT.pdf	1,338
/files/handouts/Cults%20or%20Religious%20Issues/Are%20the%20Unev...	1,304
/files/PowerPoints/Cults.pptx	1,230
/files/handouts/Evangelism%20Helps/Theology%20of%20Evangelism.pd...	1,210
/files/teaching_papers/Theological-Issue	

Top downloads, 2026

Why?

By year's end, I will be almost 81. Why not subsume RMNI under another ministry? There is essentially only the website to transfer. My friend and webmaster Walt

Robertson created www.RMNI.org and has operated it for most of 26 years! This has been indispensable. He will graciously host resources on his own website that are currently being downloaded. Why not hire a replacement? We tried that, unsuccessfully, but that year allowed me to complete the second phase of AFAM missionary research, published in 2023. We remained open if the Lord brought someone. The second reason to sunset is that elements of RMNI's work will 1) be passed on 2) will continue in other forms, or 3) can't be duplicated.

I've resisted helping to start institutions requiring endless Western funding. Were it not for RMNI donors, funding from Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church's (LMPC) World Missions Committee, the Maclellan Foundation, and other resources, none would have started.

Westminster Christian Institute of Uganda (WCIU) www.wciu.ac.ug

RMNI liaised with LMPC to provide 16 acres of land along Lake Victoria in 2003. LMPC has funded buildings, faculty salary supplements, and many income-generation projects.





Rev. Kiwanuka guided WCIU

Grace Theological College (GTC) www.gracetheological.net/



2014 Torit meeting



GTC began at a meeting in Torit in 2014. Starting with Bible institute materials from Third Millennium (https://thirdmill.org), LMPC provided scholarships for several faculty to earn masters and bachelor degrees at WCIU and Africa Reformation Theological Seminary (https://arts.ac.ug), and gave $3,000 for new library books. LMPC also funded income-generating projects which support daily operations! GTC does rely on outside funding to develop its campus under construction. Current enrollment is 64, with 8 more awaiting their graduation ceremony. Richard Sabasio and David Acellam, PhD, lead GTC.



GTC Sept. 2026

Redeemer FM 104.2 The studio and transmission equipment are on site, a 200' radio tower is under construction, and we're vetting solar-power configurations! Equatoria Presbytery will fund 104.2 from 2027. Chuck Lokey of Teaching Missions International (www.teachmi.com) helped greatly, as did radio expert Tim Kochis. Martin Peter is station manager.



Tower rising!

Agape Mission is a diaconal ministry, headed by Michael Ojok. All our work in Juba has depended upon their logistical support, and local knowledge. They've handled fund transfers, investigated and assisted in ministry in 4 refugee camps, enabled many food and Bible distributions, and overseen several agricultural projects. They coordinated the first high school inside the Jebel Refugee Camp—Hope Emergency Secondary School--when they had roughly 100,000 refugees. They coordinated eye surgeries at the Malakal refugee camp and at Juba's Buluk Eye Clinic. They also facilitated a large week-long dental ministry at Jebel camp.



Agape Christian School



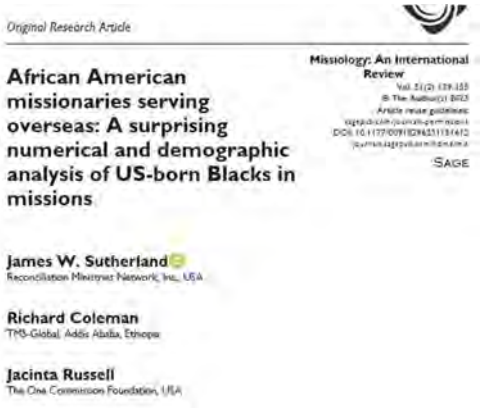
Drs. Brian (left) and John Ley



Gorom Refugee Camp food for 125 households, August 2026

All this work required full outside funding. Two years ago, LMPC and grants through a Maclellan Fund launched Agape Christian School, which now has 165 primary school students, with 110 in the nursery section. This school will fund Agape ministry going forward. Agape Church has also been begun on campus. LMPC is assisting Agape School's development.

Mobilization of African Americans (AFAMs) for Global mission—research and short-term trips The 1998 dissertation investigated reasons for few AFAM overseas missionaries. The short finding from 102 AFAM overseas missionaries was that the AFAM church considered AFAMs needier. The dissertation has often been downloaded from our website. In October 2004 *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* published "Time for African American Missionaries," to help mission organizations



Original Research Article

Missiology: An International Review

African American missionaries serving overseas: A surprising numerical and demographic analysis of US-born Blacks in missions

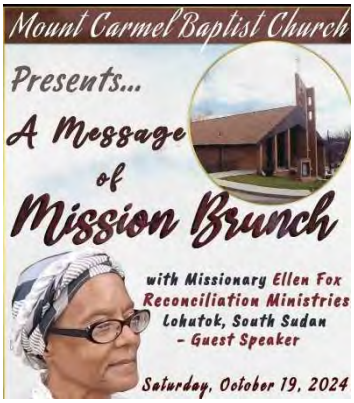
James W. Sutherland

Richard Coleman

Jacinta Russell

SAGE

recruit AFAMs, also often downloaded. The figure of 1% of US Protestant missionaries being AFAM was supported. I reopened research in 2016, publishing those findings in *Missiology: An international journal* in 2023. Over 600 mission organizations were carefully checked, with only 179 AFAM missionaries serving at least 2 years overseas verified. This research can be found on our homepage: www.RMNI.org Due to increased security and privacy restrictions, I doubt that another detailed investigation of AFAM overseas missionaries is feasible, or useful in the near term. One survey around 2022 did harm by conflating AFAM overseas missionaries and AFAM home office workers! I've taught workshops on AFAM missions, and dialogued with many, especially recruiters. The problem is now documented by research that is not discredited.



Since 1996 RMNI took 30 AFAMS on mission trips. Four of these completed a total of 25 trips with RMNI! Ellen Fox went 5 times, then stayed in remote Lohutok, South Sudan, for 13 years. She still continues missionary work in Uganda, for a total of 17 years in Africa. Some AFAM congregations and organizations sponsor short-term mission trips, particularly to Africa, and one supports Michael Ojok.

Teams to Juba—Jeff George

I've taken 28 trips to Africa, including 15 to what is now South Sudan. Current family responsibilities preclude my international travel. However, Jeff George is passionate to serve in Juba, and is well-loved. He trained 10 painters in Juba in 2025 and returns October, 2026 along with Dave, a career maintenance man, to work and train in Juba. His church, Covenant Presbyterian, Nitro, WV, is handling trip finances.


Jeff, with painters trained

Left: John, Lee, Bob, Jeannette, Jim, Denver, Damon



Urban ministry

I began working in major Chattanooga housing projects in 1990, then joined Inner-City Ministries. After starting RMNI, the focus in 2002 became College Hill Courts (the Westside), as it seemed neediest. This year perhaps a majority of these apartments were shuttered. By early 2027 the One Westside Plan (onewestside.org) will relocate 90 more families to apartments now under construction, leaving few remaining. Thursday teams have already extended outreach to area apartment complexes. I plan to continue Westside work/urban evangelism (not under RMNI) with fellow evangelists in 2027, as the Lord leads.

"LORD, You will establish peace for us, since You have also performed for us all our works." Isaiah 26:12, NASB Jim Sutherland, Executive Director, RMNI, POB 2537, Chattanooga, TN 37409 Jim@RMNI.org