

Mid-Month news June 2020 (Jim Harries)

Dear Friends,

Here's a refreshingly open report by the BBC about freedom to express oneself without being killed, in Somalia: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-52620433>

I recently got a letter from a bishop-friend in Tanzania, who told me both he and his wife are unwell, and that his father has died. He was inviting me to join him at his father's funeral.

Truck-drivers are the remaining big means of spreading corona in Western Kenya now. I am 2 ½ hours from the Uganda border, where apparently hundreds of trucks are lined up as their drivers are tested before entering Uganda. Many are being found with corona. Hence a 'hotspot' is just 2 hours away. All those truck-drivers drive along a road that is just 2 miles from my home.

Congolese people are denying the existence of coronavirus, this media report says. Finally, the West gets its own medicine thrown back into its face, at a horrible time, I suggest! Westerners have long told Africans that 'witchcraft does not exist', now they are being told that 'coronavirus does not exist'.
<https://www.news24.com/news24/Africa/News/theres-no-corona-denial-a-major-obstacle-in-fight-against-coronavirus-in-dr-congo-20200603?isapp=true>



Myself and Tanzanian colleagues, Feb. 2020.

Give thanks: a missionary couple who have been working in West Africa recently approached me, asking me if I can help to coach them. They have relocated within their country, and want to endeavour to minister on the basis of vulnerable mission. We are regularly exchanging emails, and audio messages. They have already read a great deal of our vulnerable mission, and related, materials.

The rate I am going ... I risk my reputation as a crazy white cyclist overtaking my reputation as a crazy white preacher. Since the start of lock-down, I seem to have gone more bicycle mad than usual, averaging 20 kms per day, taking scenic-route short cuts, and going full-pelt all over the place ...

For insights from Jim Harries, that relate directly to the race-protests in the USA, see here:
http://www.academia.edu/attachments/63560894/download_file?s=portfolio

Best wishes,

Jim