

This couple 'retired' to third world missions

When people retire, their thoughts turn to the quieter, simpler life they will lead. Pressures and worries take a back seat as life slows down and there's time to stop and smell the roses.

Forty years ago if you had asked newlyweds Jim and Joan Doble what the future had in store for them, they probably would have told you they expected to spend happy times with their family at home in rural Ballantrae.

Back in 1958, Jim spotted farmer Percy Wright in his Aurora Sideroad fields. Jim climbed over the fence and told Percy that this was just the property on which to build the Doble home.

Being one of 13 children, Percy must have known the importance of raising a



Rural Route Ruth
Ruth LeBlanc

family, because the deal was struck. Sons Mark and Norman followed and many years later, adopted son Kiflom Lewi joined the family. Sitting in the Dobles' livingroom, I was introduced to a whole new world, quite far removed from our rural routing lifestyle.

Along with Pastor Ebenezer Siki-cane of the Churchill Community Church, I sat spellbound as tale upon

tale of mission life in a third world country was told.

The pastor has taught about mission work for 16 years at the Ontario Bible College, and accepted the reality of the accounts sadly.

Jim and Joan have travelled to Haiti, Uganda, and to Sudan — the most horrific experience of all.

Sitting warm and cozy and eating squares, with a full fridge of refreshments nearby, I must admit I felt guilty. Water and hydro are luxuries we take for granted. Just ask our winter storm-ravaged neighbours in eastern Ontario and my bet is they would now agree.

Life for Jim and Joan will never be the same after being exposed to this sam-

pling of all that's wrong in this world.

Out of bad sometimes comes good, and in 1988 the Dobles went on a mission to Sudan and were assigned jobs as interpreters.

Fate intervened, and they met a fellow named Kiflom Lewi by chance. Kiflom was a refugee who fled Ethiopia and was on a death list to be shot for his actions.

Now 10 years later, his happy smile radiates from a photo that sits proudly in the Doble home. Kiflom has been a member of the family since being taken under the Dobles' wings after their first meeting. Canada is his home now.

They love these missions, despite the hardships, because of all they can accomplish. They have slept in huts and watched people suffering and dying because they lack a few dollars.

Yet the people and their needs keep drawing them back. What started before retirement has now become their retirement lifestyle.

As you read this, Jim and Joan will be seated on a plane heading off to yet another mission in Uganda.

The Dobles believe in helping where they can and they intend to continue doing so.

Jim says "It seems like the right thing to do" and Joan seconds that motion.

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