

INCARNATIONAL LIVING IN HAITI

BY DR. KIT FLOWERS, CVM PRESIDENT

My dictionary defines incarnation as “any person or thing serving as the type or embodiment of a quality or concept.” We know well the hope of the gospel message is founded in the incarnation of Christ. We also know His charge to us, “As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world” (John 17:18). Dr. Keith and Jan Flanagan have been faithful to His calling to be His light to the people of Haiti since 1987.

Many in the CVM family have enjoyed a particular Haitian experience: driving down the road in rural Haiti to the chant, “Dr. Keif, Dr. Keif, Dr. Keif.” No, he is not running for political office. Such chants and the love of the people of Haiti for Keith and Jan Flanagan are the direct result of their being faithful to be poured out in service to His glory and faithful to share the love of Christ in word and deed.

Keith and Jan originally served at Hospital Albert Schweitzer (HAS) in the Artibonite Valley. I have many fond memories of visiting them in this ministry site where they touched thousands of the people who live in that valley through development projects, serving in health ministry through the hospital, and enabling and encouraging the local church. I remember many visits to their home, always finding it open to visitors from outlying areas who did not have shelter, and a welcome place of refuge for friends who were recovering from an illness. Their table has been open to guests as Jan has so graciously hosted so many for a meal, and as Keith has sat and entertained them with his stories. It is always a joy to go with Keith and Jan to visit the homes of their Haitian friends. There you enjoy the love and hospitality of close friends, hearts bonded together by walking through so many of the trials that the Haitian people have faced. In these many deeds

of service they have been faithful to speak His word into lives and to serve with the church to introduce people to the hope of the gospel and to encourage the spiritual growth of believers.

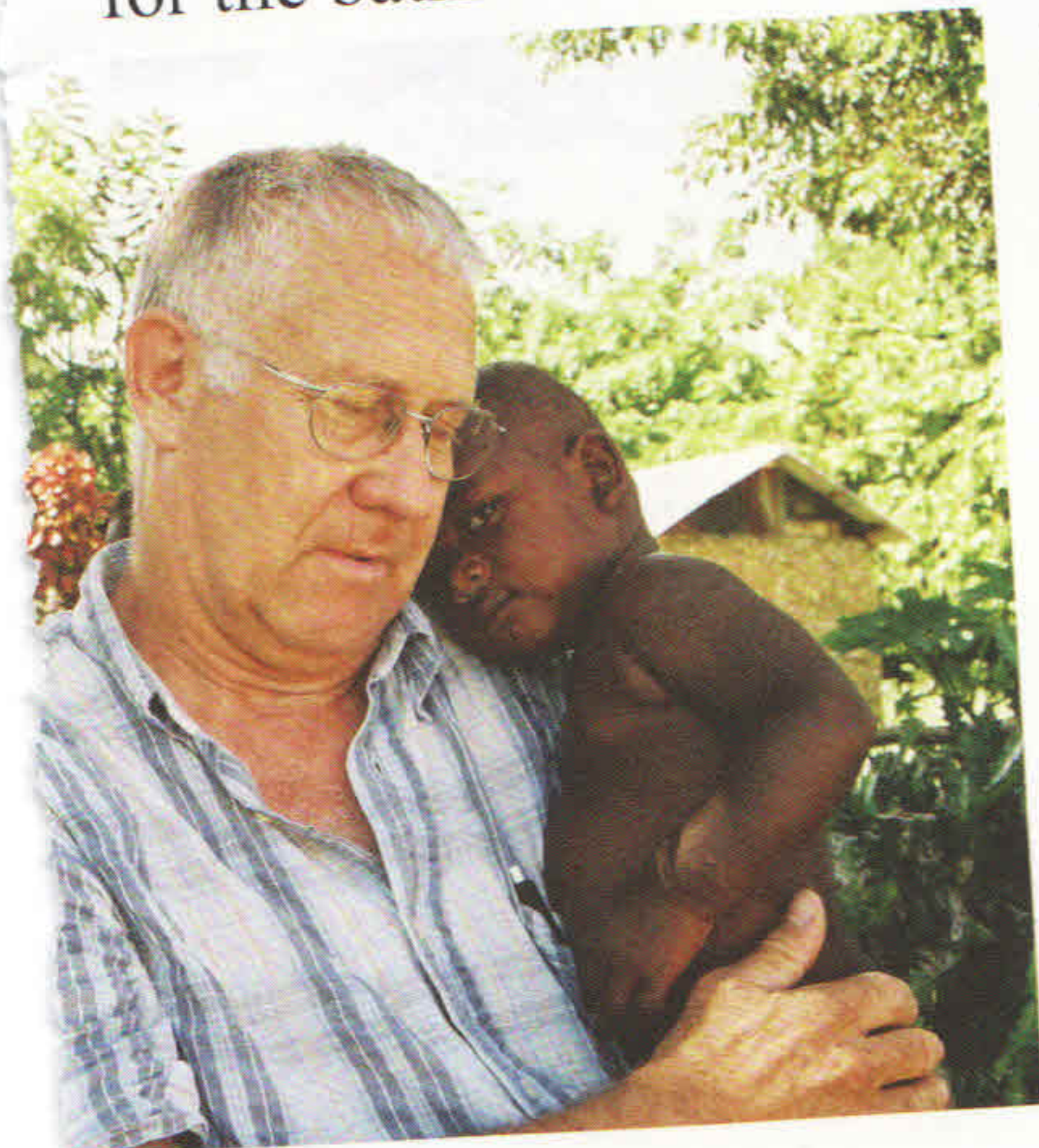
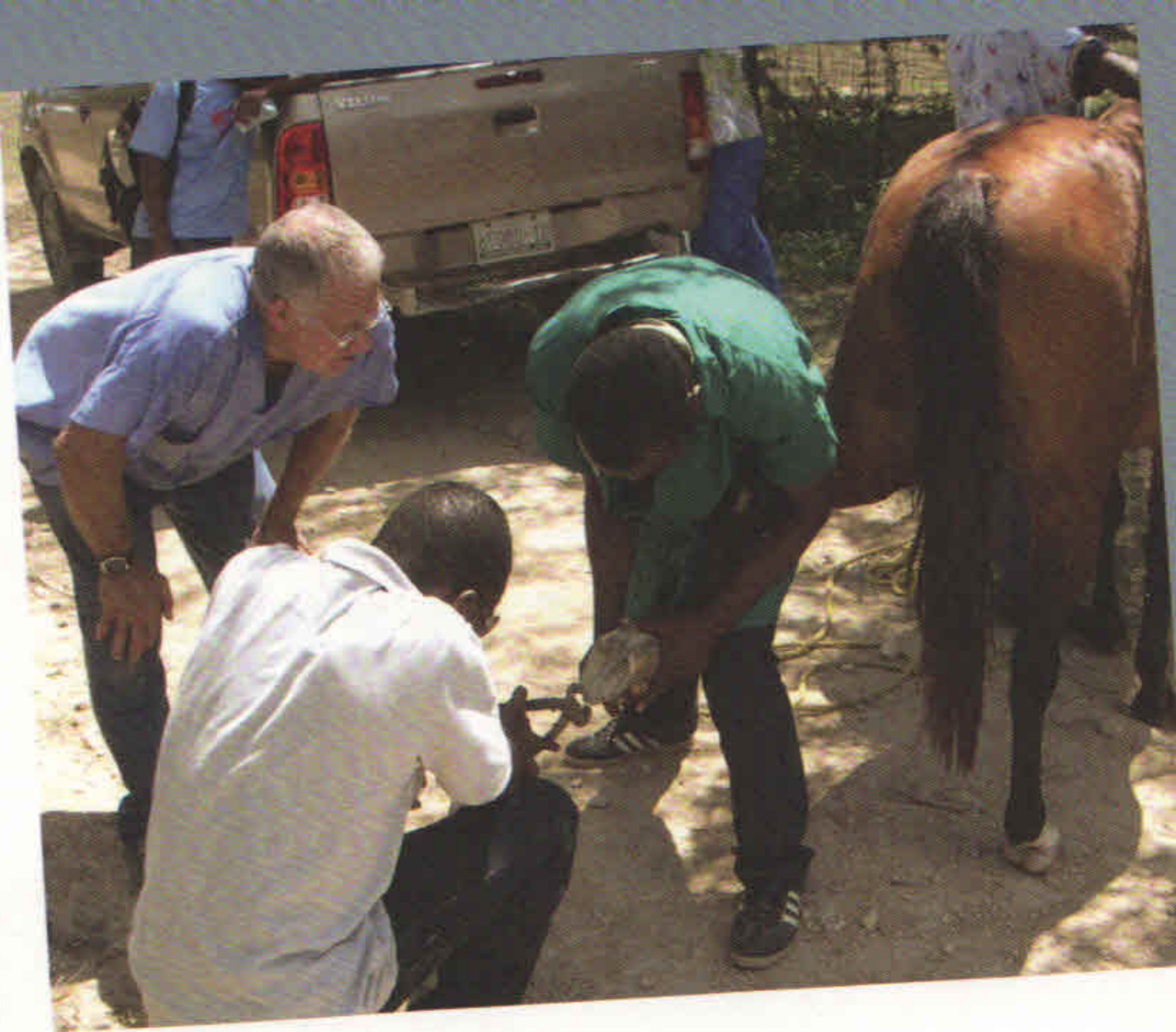
On one particular visit, I remember driving with Keith from the airport to their home on the HAS compound. He was very concerned as he had left his friend and co-worker, Feneus at the hospital very ill. As we arrived and headed to check on Feneus,

we came to find his room full of an assortment of family, voodoo witch doctors and a variety of other visitors. Keith cleared the room, gathered his friend in his arms and carried him to his home for quiet and rest. We prayed. I wondered if he would make it; he looked so weak. I awoke early in the morning and headed for the bathroom. There singing a Haitian song was Feneus, touched by the Lord and ready for a new day. God only knows the many lives touched by His healing power through the ministry of these two special servants!

Keith and Jan did eventually make the move to Port-au-Prince to serve in new roles and their ministry impact continued to expand across the country. Over 1,000 village level animal health workers have been trained by Keith and other CVM staff who have served in Haiti. Keith has served with the Ministry of Agriculture and as the head veterinarian for the last six years looking at the bigger picture and helping connect the inputs for development in

Haiti with the veterinarians and veterinary technicians to help and encourage the Haiti farmers. Jan has faithfully served the orphans and disadvantaged in Port-au-Prince. Their home continues to be a place of refuge for others serving in Haiti through short-term and long-term missions.

As I write their home and yard is full of refugees. The earthquake of January 12 has challenged them and so many others to once again be poured out in ministry. We have seen the response of the body of Christ to pray, give, and offer to go. We thank the Lord for the CVM family and pray to continue to encourage Keith and Jan and others in Haiti through our partnership and support. I am privileged to serve alongside of such faithful saints.



Dr. Keith and Jan Flanagan.