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# STEURY UPDATE

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## In Loving Memory of John Enright



It was a wonderful Christmas day! We were blessed to have all four of our children with us - 3 of them coming from the US to join us for the holidays. We had a lovely Christmas dinner that evening with Elinda's brother, John and his wife Kendra.

Little did we know it was our last.

Tuesday, December 26 dawned as a typical day after Christmas...a quiet, lazy day. John loved going out to Bundu - a remote farm where he found a

**John Enright was born and raised in Congo. His love for Africa lives on beyond him and inspires many.**

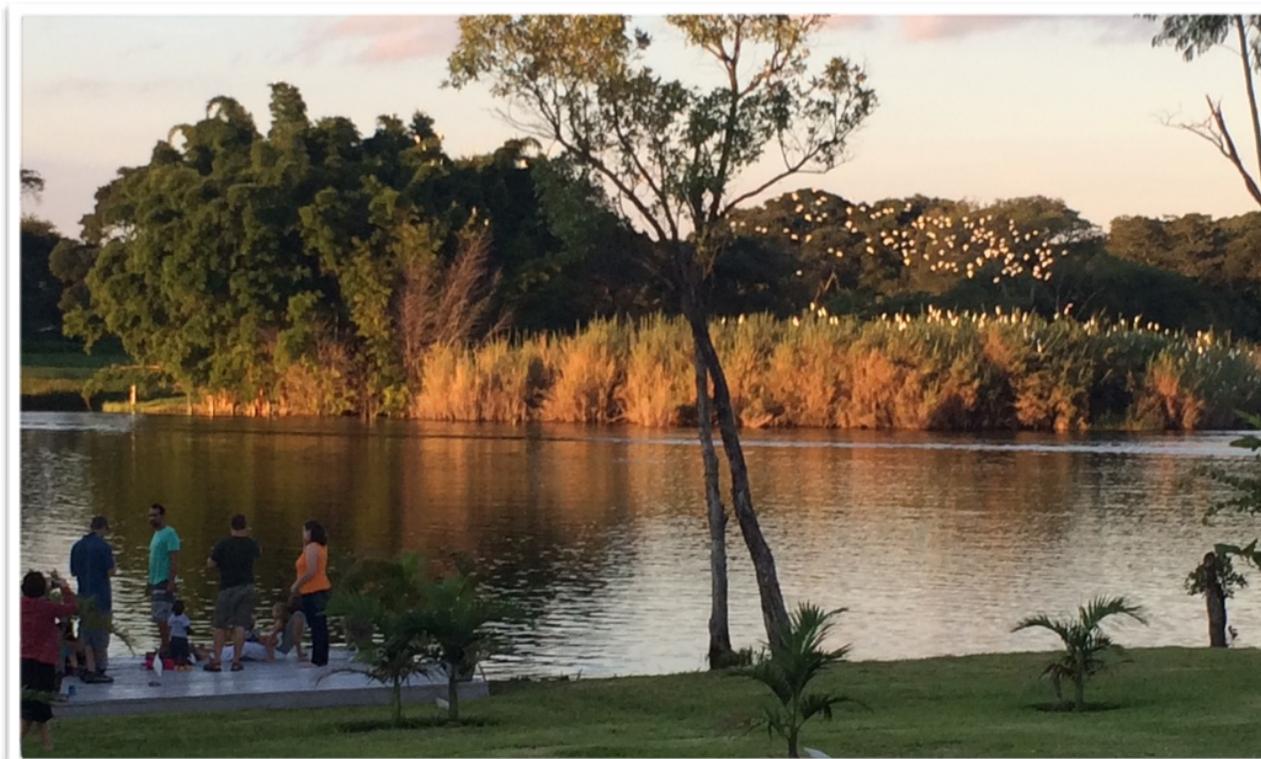
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quiet place to spend as many hours as he could squeeze away from his growingly busy life. John and Kendra left that morning to head out to the farm for a relaxing day, taking a picnic with them. Less than 15 minutes from home, on a 2 lane stretch of road, a large semi truck crossed inexplicably into their lane. John turned off the road to miss it, and despite so doing took the full impact of the collision, dying instantly.

Kendra, in the passenger seat, was also seriously injured that included 3 broken ribs, cardiac & pulmonary contusions, and a head injury. We are deeply grateful that she survived and is recovering well - walking with a walker, but on her way toward wholeness, Lord willing.

John's death has rocked our world, not to mention that of his wife, Kendra and their 2 sons, Brian and Nathan and their families! It is still hard to believe that it's not a dream. John was Elinda's close friend and a dear brother. They shared a closeness that was beautiful (and fun!) to witness.

John has been for me a mentor and friend. He steered me to the seminary I attended and helped me as a young, spiritually searching college kid to rediscover Christ and the beauty of the Kingdom of God. Last May (2017) we were privileged to move from our place at Kafakumba Training Center to our new home just across the lake from John and Kendra. John would often find his way over on his beloved "Gator" (recreational vehicle) with his devoted dogs following close behind to have a cup of tea and chat as we watched the white egrets fly in for the night to the reeds across the lake.



John touched the lives of so many people. He was dynamic, passionate and relentless in spreading his 7 principles of the Kingdom and pursuing his dream to bring abundant LIFE! to Central Africa.

The number of good wishes and comments to Kendra, his family, and to us has been overwhelming and we are deeply grateful to each of you who have been praying for us! Please don't stop now!

The question that some have asked us is "What now?" For Kendra...for us...for the businesses John was running. We are all - Steury's and Enrights - committed to continuing the vision of John. We were never here to serve John, but God. John certainly spear-headed the vision beautifully and life will not be the same without him. But it will go on...and, we trust, so will his vision.

Many of you knew John, and those of you who did, knew his passion to develop business models for those stuck in poverty in Central Africa. Whether it was a woodshop, a mango grove, a moringa or aloe vera field, a goat or chicken pen or a forest full of beehives, John never stopped trying to develop that perfect model. His passion and creativity reached the ears of the President of Zambia last year and he enjoyed a visit from President Lungu, and then by the first lady later the next week. His passion was only fueled by such an audience as you can tell in this picture.



John's son, Nathan was already heavily involved in Bee Sweet, the honey company, and his son, Brian in John's latest venture - growing cassava (a root used to make the staple food here). Both plan to continue on this direction started with their father. Of course, it won't be the same, but it will, with God's help, continue. Both companies can greatly impact the lives of rural farmers and their families.

For me (Nate) John's passing abruptly ended my time of learning of the honey business from him as I became more and more involved on the accounting end of things at Bee Sweet Honey. John's

“files” existed all in his head and I was slowly trying to get all the pertinent facts on paper. I wasn’t even close to finishing, but I am deeply grateful for the time I had with him discussing the various aspects of the company. Since John’s death, my time has been devoted to working with his son, Nathan, to ensure that Bee Sweet Honey continues to impact the lives of thousands of Zambians. We are grateful for each other’s skills and look forward to where God is going to take this venture.

Of course, things will never be the same. There is a new “normal” that we are all still struggling to get used to, and wishing we didn’t have to. As we’ve been going through this time, God has brought to my heart the story of the death of Moses at the end of Deuteronomy. Maybe because I have heard at least one Zambian refer to the death of “our Moses” referring to John. In Deuteronomy (34) Moses climbs to the top of Mt. Nebo and looks across the Jordan to the “promised land” towards which he had been leading the Israelites for 40 years...a land that he never got to set foot in.

Despite John’s persistence and tenacity, John never did get to see “the kingdom come” in its fullness. Even the businesses he started struggled with challenge after challenge. Like Moses, he could “see” the vision of the Kingdom, though he was never able to fully experience it.

Deuteronomy (34:10) says *“Israel never had another prophet like Moses: The Lord knew Moses face to face.”* Many of us feel the same way about John. There will never be another like him. And he seemed to have had a connection with God that made a lot of us jealous! But he is remembered with deep love and devotion.

Deuteronomy was the end of the story for a while. “The Torah” or law of Moses consisted of 5 books ending with Deuteronomy. But as we all know now, that was not the end of the story. In fact it was barely the beginning. God’s purpose in getting Israel to the promised land was not to be thwarted by Moses’ death. Turn the page from Deuteronomy and you’ll find a book called Joshua. And in Joshua (1:2-3) we find God telling Joshua, the new leader of Israel, *“My servant Moses is dead. Now you and all these people must go across the Jordan River. You must go into the land I am giving to the Israelites. I promised Moses that I would give you this land, so I will give you all the land wherever you go.* In other words, just because Moses had died did not mean God’s dream for God’s people had died. And God, through Joshua, was able to accompany the people of Israel into the promised land. Those of us who live on after John, are counting on God’s presence to lead us during this time of struggle as we continue on.

Despite John’s sudden, tragic and unexpected death, God’s dream is not dead! The vision of the Kingdom that Jesus proclaimed had a beautiful chapter added to it by the life of John Enright. But it did not end with his death. And it will not end with yours or mine. We carry on this vision, renewed in our passion and zeal. And we ask you to continue with us as we carry on...

Together...

nate and elinda

P.S. More news to follow shortly, but we dedicate this update to John.