



End of the Year 2018

For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth.” —Psalm 26:3

The year has been filled with blessings, and we praise the Lord for them! Our family had the opportunity this year to visit the States, take Ariel to college, and still be here in PNG for the majority of the year.

The Christian School is booming! We started with 13 students in 2016, and that grew to 38 students in 2017. Then, we had 49 students this year, and we are already over 80 students enrolled for 2019!

Here is the exciting part: God has already provided all the teachers for this year! That's amazing! We have several very talented, very experienced teachers headed this way, and we are excited about what God is going to do in the lives of these young people.

Several of the students trusted Christ as their Saviour last year, and we are now discipling them. What a thrill to watch them not only grow academically, but more importantly, grow spiritually.

We have undertaken a project to build more classrooms for the school building. Now here is the super-exciting thing: it will be more classrooms that we can use for more than just the school--the church will have Sunday School classrooms, and we can even use the extra rooms for training Bible School students. We have not even realised the potential of these extra classrooms.

In the middle of 2018, we moved forward by faith on this extension, and I did not mention it to anybody outside of my pastor and the missionaries that work closely with us. And in the last few months, we have watched God provide in an amazing way. One church contacted us and sent \$10,000 as a Christmas Offering toward this expansion. An individual that we don't even know sent a little over \$2,000! And a dear friend of ours reached out with a project he had put together.

I want to share this project of his with you, in case you'd like to be a part of it. Jim

and Geri Roads live in Edgewood, Kentucky. Jim is a retired engineer and Geri is a retired teacher. Jim loves to paint, and Geri has compiled a book of Jim's paintings. We met Jim and Geri at a church in Northern Kentucky about six or seven years ago--they were the greeters at the church, and we were just passing through. Somehow Jim and Geri found out that we were missionaries (we were not there to present the ministry), and they became close friends of ours. A couple of years ago, when our airplane engine was in for an overhaul, Jim made a trip to North Carolina so he could pray over that engine. That means the world to me. In fact, I've got tears as I write. This is a man that cares about the work of the Lord.

Jim and Geri got his book of paintings printed. They paid for all the expenses, and they are selling the books to help our Christian School. They are made to be put on a coffee table. His paintings are in the style of "Grandma Moses" from Upstate New York. (I recognise the style because somehow I'm distantly related to Grandma Moses. Maybe nobody else calls her Grandma...)

Jim and Geri are not taking any money from his painting books. They are asking that a \$30 donation per book is made to help the Christian School here in Papua New Guinea. And they will mail the book to anybody that wants one. I'll attach a picture of the book, and I'll give his phone number and email address. If you'd like to get the book, would you contact him directly? He's a kind fellow and I think you'd enjoy talking to him for a few minutes.

Here is Jim's phone number: (859) 341-6690

Here is Jim and Geri's email address: geriroads@gmail.com

Of course, I'd also be happy to help with getting in touch with him.

Here is an Introduction from Jim's book:

INTRODUCTION

The defining moments in my life have given me a desire to convey to others the message of God's presence in the workplace and in daily life. I have encountered experiences too good to hide under a bushel. As Warren Wiersbe has said, "If you can explain it, God is not in it." Many of the incidents here, I could not explain given my abilities, resources and training. However, God has shown me, over and over, His blessings, guidance, provisions and protection.

Pastors and preachers have written volumes describing the power of God in the church. This book was written to portray God's power in ordinary life and in the business world. The Holy Spirit leads in the work place as well as leading in the church. God is interested in the activities of the shop, the office and the farm. As fertilizer enhances the growth of corn, opposition motivates one to overcome the

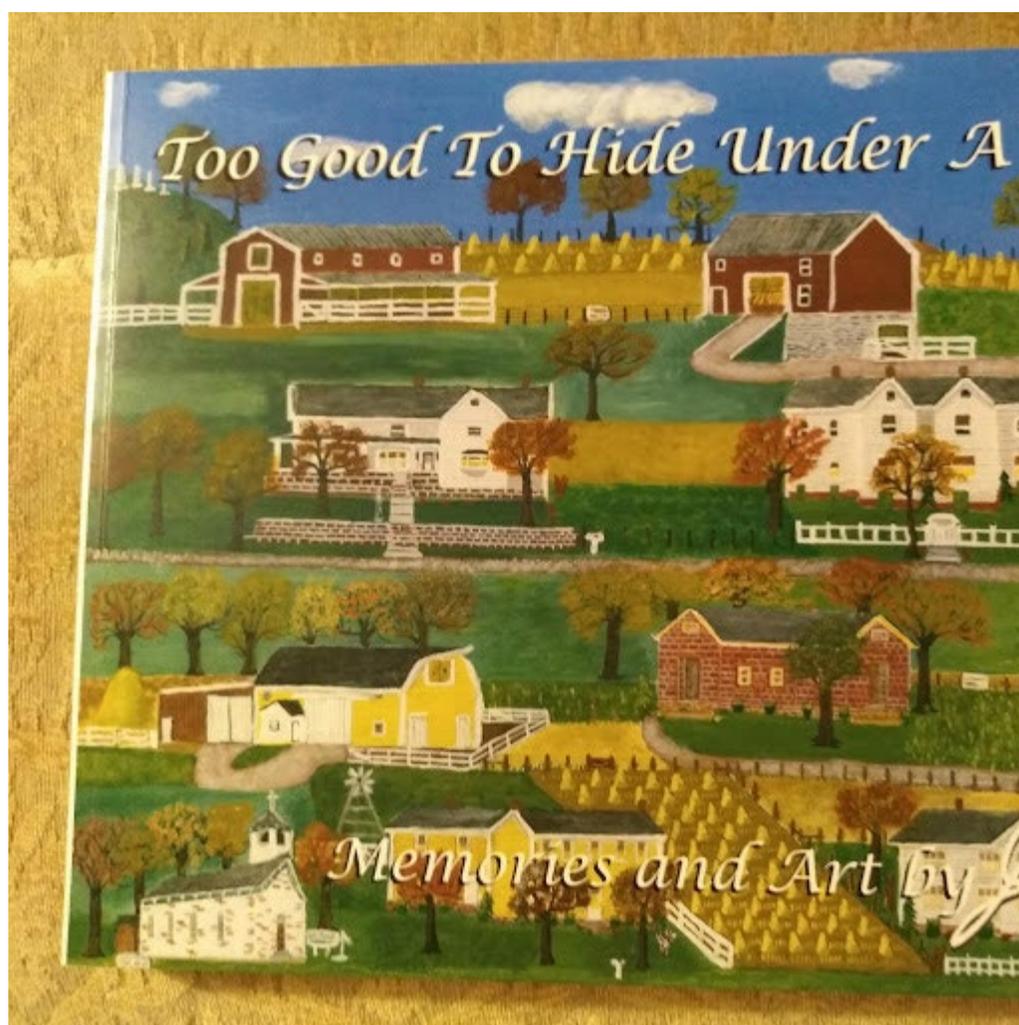
roadblocks to progress. The accomplishments do not belong to me, but to the Lord and many came along to provide much support. Each of my paintings is a story, a memory, which has been the way I have been able to paint.

Soon after my conversion, my brother, George, encouraged me with the verse, Matthew 6:33. I adopted it as my life verse, and it has been my guiding principle. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

I wish I had the space to tell of all the blessings God has given this year. Thank you for being patient as I shared about this one. We have the best supporters in the world. Thank you. And Happy New Year.

Because He lives,

Matt, Becky, and the girls



Jim describes what God has done in his life as "Too Good to Hide Under a Bushel." I think his title is fittingly chosen.

Jim and Gerry live in Edgewood, Kentucky. Jim is a retired engineer, and Gerry is a retired teacher. They have three sons and four grandchildren. Jim is involved with art projects, while Gerry assumes the role of art critic, supplier, and curator of his works.



\$29.99
ISBN 978-1-5323-9702-8
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