



January 2014

FROM ELVERSON TO UGANDA ~ *Corrine Iya*

One and a half years ago I left the comforts of Elverson to serve at Good Shepherd's Fold Children's & Babies' Home in Uganda. Although I physically moved to Uganda, a piece of my heart remained in Elverson. Is it because I was born and raised here? Or is it my fondness of the quaint juxtaposition of farm fields and neighborhoods? Yes to both, but Elverson is more to me; Elverson is my community.

So what is it like to leave my community of Elverson and live in Uganda? Since living in Uganda, I discovered that community exceeds locational boundaries. Although proximity may cultivate community, community is not exclusive to location, and community does not end with distance. In fact, the very basis of community is founded on commonness and similarity. This can be anything from a shared location, experience, religion, or hobby. It is these threads that cross the ocean with me. Our threads include the Elverson Halloween Parade, friendly faces at the Post Office, and with many of you, the bond of shared faith. This tapestry of threads defies distance.

Common threads drew my husband and me together. Although Daniel and I did not have race or location in common, we shared something much stronger: a passion to serve God in Africa. After meeting at LeTourneau University in Longview, Texas, Daniel and I started dating in 2011. As of this August, I am no longer Corinne Stoltzfus; we are Mr. and Mrs. Daniel and Corinne Iya. Our marriage

signified two individuals joining forces for the sake of ministry. Although we continue to unfold what that looks like, we do have plans for our immediate future.

On January 13, Daniel and I are moving together to Uganda. Community Evangelical Free Church of Elverson committed to send



us to Uganda for one year. Daniel will work with Engineering Ministries International as a Construction Manager, focusing on quality control and building to design. I will be returning to Good Shepherd's Fold Children's & Babies' Home to continue

working as the Sponsorship Coordinator. However, experience tells us that our ministry will extend beyond construction management and sponsorship coordinating. Daniel and I plan to live in a small village, among the people to whom we will be ministering. Our hope is that the shared location will develop the threads of commonness that I share with Elverson.

As the community with our neighbors grows, so will our door for ministry. It will be a new lifestyle for Daniel and me, and you can follow our journey at www.iyasinafrica.blogspot.com.

I am thankful for community on multiple continents, especially for my original community of Elverson. May we never limit community to mere location.

A NOTE OF THANKS

Recently, my brother Jesse, my mother, and I handed out fliers for homemade sticky buns. We put on the fliers that we would give all proceeds to Hope Rescue Mission. My Mom-mom and mom helped to make the dough, and we had quite a production line.

Our large freezer was filled with sticky bun tins! At first we did not have as many orders as we would have liked, but as we got closer to the deadline we received more and more calls. One customer called and ordered 60 tins! All in all we had orders for about 185 tins.

Finally, the days for pick up came. They were filled with people stopping in and chatting, restocking the cooler outside, and lots of loud greetings from my dog. And when we were done handing out tins late Christmas Eve, we counted up the money. We had received much more than we had expected! All totaled up we received \$702, and my mom and I dropped it off when we went to help at the mission the next day.

Our entire family would like to thank you for helping us with our family project this year!

Thank you,
Abby Hoke



HARRY BARNETT TO RECEIVE CANE ON JANUARY 19, 2014

Harry L. Barnett, Jr., of Park Avenue, Elverson will receive the Elverson Borough Cane in a brief ceremony on Sunday, January 19 at 2 p.m. at the Twin Valley Fire Department Meeting Room.

Harry, who is 89 years old, has lived in the borough in the same house for 23 years. He retired from his position as a soil Consultation Technician with the U.S. Department of Agriculture prior to his retirement and lived on a farm off Rte. 345 before moving to the borough in 1990. He has been very active as a volunteer with the Elverson Fire Department, serving as Ambulance Captain, EMT and Fire-Police Captain. He is a World War II veteran, having served on the European Front.

Harry has been married for 62 years and attributes his long life to always staying active, both mentally and physically. He still gets out regularly, visiting the Elverson Post Office daily, where everyone seems to know him.

Those who would like to meet Harry and to congratulate him personally are welcome to attend the ceremony.



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW ELVERSON BOROUGH?

By Jody Phillips

Last month's contest featured a photo of the Elverson Tree Stump on South Chestnut Street, next to the sidewalk, right at the corner of Murray Drive. Next to this historic tree is a beautifully engraved, polished granite plaque. I couldn't get the entire plaque in one picture so have quoted its inscription below.

It reads:

"You are standing in front of the most cherished landmark of our community. From 1695 when it grew from a little acorn until it fell from old age on July 16, 2004, the Elverson Tree was a silent witness to the growth of Elverson. In 1730 when our tree was full grown, 94% of Chester County was forested. Twenty square miles of trees in every direction would be cut down to feed the furnaces that made charcoal. This fuel would produce the heat to make cannon balls for General Washington and stoves for Ben Franklin. The Elverson School (built in 1867) or Warwick Bible Chapel (built 1869) had not yet been built. South Chestnut Street would be built in 1832 to make it easier to get to the Jones Iron Mine. In 1811 Jacob Warren who operated the White Bear Inn owned our tree. His property fronted on the Blue Rock Path (Route 23) and extended to the rear of our present-day Borough Hall. Our tree stood over us while our village called Blue Rock, then Springfield, and then Elverson was carved out of the wilderness. Many school children have played under its branches, and many a family admired its size while walking to church. For over 100 years our leaders parked their carriages and cars beside its huge trunk.

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OUR THANKS TO THE ELVERSON BUSINESSES BELOW WHO SUPPORT THIS NEWSLETTER. If you would like your business included, please contact Esther Prosser, esther@stoltzfus.com. 484.269.7153.



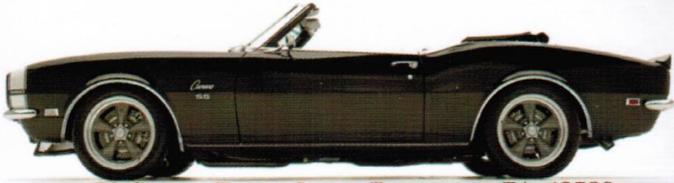
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ELVERSON DATES TO REMEMBER

- ◆ **Cane Awarding Ceremony**
Sunday, January 19
2:00 pm—Twin Valley Fire Company
- ◆ **The Farmers' Market at Elverson**
Saturday, January 25
10 am to noon - Twin Valley Fire Company

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Congratulations to Kayleigh Troxell, whose name was chosen at random as the winner of the grand prize in the How Well Do You Know Elverson Borough contest. She has won a gift certificate worth \$10 towards a meal at the Elverson Deli. Five other Elverson residents correctly identified the Elverson Tree Stump – all in the first three days of the contest. These runners-up, who win a free beverage at the Deli, are John Mohr, Joe Sullivan, Donna Murray, Mary Frazier and Gerry Barnett. I have given Kevin a list of your names so just tell him who you are when you come in. And be sure to enjoy one of his delicious homemade pastries with your hot drink.

This month's photo is similar to November's in that many Elverson residents pass by it almost daily. But how many really *see* it? This one should be a challenge for the members of Elverson's Neighborhood Watch, who searched diligently (but unsuccessfully) for the location of November's puzzle. I am quite pleased that this group has been looking for the answers to the contest as they patrol our roads to keep us all safe. The next time you see one of them, please thank him or her for their efforts – especially when it is cold and wet outside.

Email me at jodysfritz@gmail.com or call me at 610-286-8913 if you think you know where the January photo was taken and what it depicts and you could win the next grand prize of a \$10 gift certificate to the Elverson Deli. All correct answers received within three days of the day I receive my Newsletter will be eligible. (I think I'll ask my neighbor to draw the winning name this time.) All others whose names are in the drawing plus the names of anyone else who guesses correctly will win a free beverage at the Deli. Even if you don't win, stop by the Deli for breakfast or lunch. Also, check out Kevin's back room, which boasts some very interesting wall décor.

