

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION
OF
FR. JOHN JUDIE MINISTRIES, INC.

A Reflection

Tumsifu Yesu Kristo!

I serve a God of surprises! Most Catholics were baptized shortly after they were born—but they have no memory of it. By God's timing, I was baptized when I was 11 years old. I remember everything about it!

I had a very successful career in the business world—and was very happy being there. Priesthood was not my idea—it was God's idea. God had already decided it and, one day, He let me know about it. So, I accepted it.

Louisville, Kentucky in the United States was never on my mind or in my vision of where I might be living for the rest of my life. I was not looking for it—but that is the place to which I was led. I now know that I am exactly where I need to be, doing exactly what I need to be doing. I serve a God of surprises!

Coming from the United States to East Africa for the first time in 1994 was my idea. What I have found myself doing for the past twenty-five years in East Africa was God's idea. I had no vision of establishing a "ministries" organization—only a desire to help others here with whatever I had back there. This is now twenty-five years of support and encouragement for the brothers and sisters here—all of it without ever doing a fund raiser. Only God could make something like this happen the way it continues to happen. I serve a God of surprises!

Twenty years ago, I was diagnosed with cancer. According to all the medical information available and the doctors' experience, I should never have survived this health condition. I now have been cancer-free for the past twelve years. God desired that this ministry needed to continue—and He has decided that I am the one who needs to continue it. I serve a God of surprises!

I have left specific instructions that there are to be no speeches given at my funeral. Nothing more needs to be said about me. Instead, everyone needs to hear what "Thus says the Lord". As for me, love me while I am alive—because I will keep on loving you while I am living!

Of all the surprises that has happened already, I know that—for me and for all of you—the best is yet to come! So, be ready and stay ready! We serve a God of surprises!

Tumsifu Yesu Kristo!