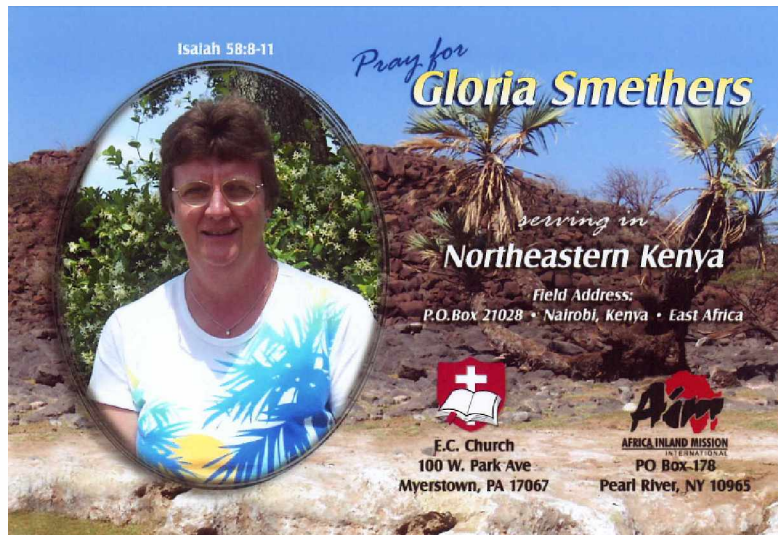




GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION

of the Evangelical Congregational Church
Empowering National Churches • Facilitating Mission Workers • Ministering to the Marginalized



Gloria Smethers

Gloria Smethers has been working with Africa Inland Mission for 23 years as of September 2008. She first went to Congo (formerly Zaire) from 1985-1996 as a nurse. During her years there she worked in the operating room, helped in the maternity and for one year did necessary bookkeeping in the local hospital nurse school. Due to political unrest and escalated violence AIM removed their missionaries from Zaire for a period of time. For 8 months in 1997 she assisted in the care of elderly AIM missionaries at the Retirement Center in Florida.

Another period of 6 months in 1998 she went to the same area in Zaire to work a few AIM missionaries, but the unrest had not subsided. At that point it was obvious that she and other missionaries would not be able to return to Zaire. The Lord opened up the avenue to minister in Northern Kenya after obtaining her Kenyan RN license in 1999. Since that time she has been working, still nursing, but doing Community Health and teaching Sunday school.

The work in Northern Kenya is among a traditionally nomadic peoples. Their livelihood is based on the livestock-camels, goats and sheep and donkeys. The small villages live a mobile existence looking for grass and water for themselves and their animals. Due to government requirement for education of the present generation their livelihood and culture are changing fast. More and more people are becoming sedentary and less- nomadic. This generation is getting some education and moving away from their traditional beliefs and customs.

Gloria is living on a AIM compound along with other missionaries seeking to ministry to the people around them. The church clinic is open daily, except Sunday unless an emergency, from 8-12 and 3-5pm. The clinic staff see patients of all ages and medical concerns. The gospel has been here since late 70's but just now individuals are starting to understand the meaning of be committed to Christ. Pray that more believers will be added to present church group by HIS POWER! Pray for wisdom in caring medically for patients. It provides avenues to reach people in their homes. Pray for the kids who come to the Sunday school on Sunday mornings- presently we have 35 kids, boys and girls! Praise the Lord. A number come despite the parents are not attending church. Pray for those who help to teach with her that their faith will grow strong as result!