

## LINKING former Wesleyan missionaries to each other and to Global Partners

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### **The 8th General Conference in the Philippines**

The Wesleyan Church of the Philippines gathered delegates from their 20 districts to meet with officers and guests for a body of 146 on April 5 to 7, 2017 in Rosales, Pangasinan, two hours north of Manila.

Statistical reports showed healthy growth continuing in evangelism, church planting, district growth and financial accountability. Conference sessions displayed responsible management of resources and projected vision for the future. Two districts have grown so much, division is necessary. A lot of discussion came up on the second day about dividing the Manila district, but when the vote came, all were united in an overwhelming yes vote. As late as 1971, Manila had one local church and was part of the Upper Luzon District.

New Officers are: **Rev. Silverano Lumuhan**, World Missions; **Rev. Amos Anteg**, Evangelism and Church Growth, **Dr. John Guillermo**, General Supt., **Dr. Melvin Aquino**, Educational Institutions and Sunday Schools and Assistant General Supt.; **Dr. Mamerto Acosta**, General Editor/Secretary; and **Rev. Mrs. Mary Sandoval**, General Treasurer.



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The conference published **The Kiamba Manifesto** that encapsulates their contagious vision to grow. Here are portions: *a Wesleyan congregation in each of the 81 provinces, 144 cities, 1490 municipalities and 42,036 barangays of the Philippines; missioning a daughter general conference outside the Philippines; publishing facilities for church literature and contemporary issues; offices and a training center in Cubao; elevate all districts to full status; district leaders equipped to mentor/disciple every believer to reproduce; churches that multiply daughter churches; engage the marginalized society of our time with the Love of Christ; and to abide on the Word of God as the final authority in addressing moral issues and other threats to scriptural truth. We envision re-affirming the teaching and of living biblical and practical holiness.*

(Continued on page 2)

## ***Philippines General Conference 2017 continued:***

The Festival of Missions led by Rev. Silverano Lumahan, preceded the GC on April 3-4, with the theme "***The Unstoppable Mission.***" Participants came from three areas of Minority Peoples in the Philippines and missionaries came from work in Hong Kong; Singapore; and Milan, Italy. The highlight was to commission Rev. Kenjie & Ingrid Patacsil and children for ministry in Takamatsu, Japan.

Ten years ago, the general board voted to enter into a contract with a Manila bank for a property in the Cubao area of Manila for a new church headquarters. **The Jabez Project** began raising funds and made every payment on time. This April marked the Eben-Ezer point and the last payment was made, making the Wesleyan Church of the Philippines the owner of a significant commercial property. **Jabez Two** will carry on the project to begin the foundation and start the superstructure sandwiched among the hustle of Manila. What a wonderful opportunity for God to bless the Wesleyans of the Philippines and enable their vision to become reality.

### ***Condolences. . . . Elsie W. House***

Mrs. Elsie Windquist House went to be with the Lord on Tuesday, November 8, 2016. Born January 26, 1927 in Newaygo County, MI, she was the daughter of the late Albin A. Windquist (d. 1978) and Emma Nyman Windquist (d. 1937), and step-mother, Marvel Radd Windquist (d. 1992).

Elsie attended Owosso College in Michigan where she met and married Rev. M. C. House in July of 1948. She did additional studies at Kletzing College in Iowa. She and Meredith served from 1954 to 1960 in missionary work with the Wesleyan Church in the Philippine Islands, teaching and caring for the home and family. Returning to the states she taught in elementary schools, still making family care a high priority, assisting her husband in services, office work, and entertaining guests. After their 1990 retirement, she did volunteer service at a hospital in Alabama, and then in North Carolina. She was an active member of the Old Fort Wesleyan Church.

Preceding her in death were her beloved husband of 62 years, Rev. Meredith Carl House (d. 2010); a granddaughter and a sister; and two brothers. Surviving are three children: Wilma House Hawkins(Wayne), Roger William House (Elaine), and James Alan House (Marsha); a sister; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



### ***James Ramsay***

Rev. James Aaron Ramsay, 76, died March 19, 2017. He was born in Gibraltar, PA on July 25, 1940 to Sedgwick Uriah and Mary Elizabeth Ramsay. He married Carol Chance on August 4, 1962.

James graduated from Frankfort Pilgrim College (Frankfort, Indiana); the University of South Africa (Pretoria, RSA); and did graduate studies at Fuller School of World Missions (Pasadena, CA). He was an ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church for over fifty years.

From 1964 to 2000, James and Carol served as career missionaries with Wesleyan World Missions (now Global Partners), first in Swaziland, Africa, then the Republic of South Africa, and Albania, Eastern Europe. During their ministry, the Ebenezer District of Swaziland gained full national leadership, the Emmanuel Wesleyan Bible Institute was created, and they did pioneer work among the Venda people of South Africa. James was the principal of Wesleyan Evangelical Seminary in Brakpan, South Africa while also pastoring the nearby Boksburg Wesleyan Church for thirteen years. In Albania they worked as church planters and with refugee relief during the Kosovo War. Upon returning to the US in 2000, James pastored Trinity Wesleyan Church (Central) and the Martin Grove Wesleyan Church (Sunset).

James is survived by his wife of 54 years, Carol; two daughters: Suzan and Sharilyn; and two brothers, Uriah and Thomas. Three brothers preceded him in death.



## ***A Nostalgic Return to the Philippines***

Janet and I enjoyed dropping into Manila on March 30 to attend the general conference/mission festival. Seeing familiar faces and talking with friends in ministry brought warm and enriching moments, reminding us of the years we spent there. We were not quite prepared for the growth of the church and the country. The hustle and bustle of traffic and people on the streets of Manila seemed so different from the open spaces of South Dakota. We were younger though when we made Manila our home. It was a treat to worship in the Jabez Center on the Cubao property and hear the pastora say, "Praise God, We have made the final payment this month!" Ten years of faithful giving has provided the church a marvelous opportunity.

Following the conference, we drove up to Grace Mountain Mission/ Bible College campus at Sinipsip, Benguet, a few hours north of Baguio City. They are in the midst of construction of a new chapel and admin building. It was pretty warm in the lowlands, but the mountains were refreshing.

Then we went to the island of Palawan for four days of family camp. Paul and Vic Oximas were honored as the "***Joshua and Caleb***" to Palawan in 1981 when they held the first bible study in the motorcycle shop of Carlito Mosquito. God has given good leaders and the district now is fully organized with 28 local churches and dreams to become 40 by 2020. The Bible College in Puerto Princesa contributes more pastors and laymen for growth. The food and families and fellowship we found there was worth the entire trip. We could have stayed there longer.

Easter Sunday found us in Tacloban, Samar Island where new Wesleyan churches exist following the typhoon of three years ago. We met the people who endured the storm and have found faith in Christ and the Wesleyan Church. Three of their young people finished classes in May in our Visayan Bible College in Cebu and returned home to minister this summer.

***--- by Paul & Janet Turner, GP Alumni***



### ***WMAF FLORIDA REGIONAL MEETING***

Forty-five people met in Brooksville, FL on Tuesday, April 11, for the 2017 gathering of the Florida region of the **Wesleyan Missionary Alumni Fellowship**.

Rick and Clara West were the main speakers, mostly sharing their insights and passion for the growing Wesleyan Church ministry in Cuba. Clara shared a most informative and interesting session about the life of ladies in modern day Cuba.

At noon, we were served Cuban style food that included Imperial (shredded chicken in rice), shredded beef, black beans, garbanzo beans and cooked plantains prepared by an authentic local Caribbean restaurant. Those preferring American style foods (prepared by local cooks), were served bread, ham, macaroni salad, assorted pies and cakes.

Although the emphasis of the day concerned Cuba, Rick also presented updates about the Wesleyan Church accomplishments in Bolivia, Equatorial Guinea, and Spain (all locations he was very much acquainted with).

There also was a time for memorials to missionaries associated with Florida who passed away in the last year; those remembered were Robert Smith, Grace Duda, and Forrest Gearhart.

Certainly a highlight always is the renewal of friendships the day affords any who gather in Wesleyan Village for the annual assemblage of those associated with Wesleyan Missions in former days.

***----by Phil and Elsie Meyers, GP Alumni***

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### ***Archives from the 21st Century***

This couple left for missionary service three years after they were married. First in Zambia to pastor, evangelize, teach in Bible School, and do administration. Then an interim time in the Philippines assisting national church leaders. Then in Korea to teach in seminary and direct the Wesleyan work there. He earned an M. Div, M. Th, and D. Min. degrees, directed the GP Jesus Film ministry, and was Pacific Area Director for GP. She assisted in the GP office in many ways. Their names? (Just retired!)

Last issue, you saw Miss Isla Knight, R.N. She was a tower of strength for the sick and needy. She served in Wesleyan missions in India from 1925-'31, then with missionary children in the Himalayas. She also served with the United Mission to Nepal from 1956-'66. She died January 21, 1968 and her body was laid to rest with family in South Dakota.

