

NEWSLETTER



Volume 1, Issue 2

APRIL 2002

WMAF UPDATE

Blast Off!! The Wesleyan Missionary Alumni Fellowship was launched in January 2002. Don Bray, General Director of Wesleyan World Missions, announced the launching with the first issue of the alumni Newsletter.

Since the launching of the Fellowship, we have been adding to and correcting the database of former Wesleyan missionaries. Some alumni who receive this Newsletter may not have received the first mailing, which also included the WMAF Constitution.

WWM's Director of Personnel and the missionary pastoral care team appoint the WMAF Executive Committee. The current Executive Committee consists of Marion & Vergie Vreugdenhil (Marion, Chairman), Wayne & Virginia Wright, Phil & Elsie (Kilmer) Myers, Meredith Bailie, and Beth Fussner.

The Executive Committee met for its initial meeting March 7th in Marion, Indiana. The agenda included the following:

- ◆ Fine tuning the WMAF Constitution.
- ◆ Analyzing the response forms sent in by alumni.
- ◆ Establishing an operating budget.
- ◆ Examining the database of former missionaries.
- ◆ Planning for alumni gatherings.
- ◆ Considering ministry opportunities for alumni.

ALUMNI RESPONSE

- ◆ *A terrific idea, –hooray!*
- ◆ *Great Idea! Long overdue.*
- ◆ *I support the idea of an alumni fellowship and wished for many years we had a way of maintaining our relationships with our overseas co-workers.*

The above are typical of the comments we received. As expected, the response to the launching of the WMAF was overwhelmingly positive.

A big THANK YOU to all who returned the response form. We would still appreciate receiving yours, if you have not yet sent it in.

MEMBERSHIP

The WMAF Constitution establishes membership as follows:

Membership: All persons who have served in the employ of Wesleyan World Missions as missionaries, with their spouses and families, are eligible and welcome to participate in the activities, relationships, and ministries of the Wesleyan Missionary Alumni Fellowship.

BUDGET

It is estimated that a basic working budget for the WMAF will require approximately \$2,000 per year. A major expenditure will be the mailing of the quarterly Newsletter. In addition, some expenditures will be incurred by the Executive Committee.

Rather than assessing dues, a decision was made to rely upon voluntary annual contributions of \$5.00 from members as a primary source of income. In addition, Wesleyan World Missions will provide some funds to complete the budgeted income.

ALUMNI DATABANK

We have the names and addresses of 400 Wesleyan missionary alumni units, either married couples or singles, and an additional 117 units for whom we do not have complete mailing information. Several have sent in names and addresses of former missionaries, and this has been very helpful.

In addition to the mailing addresses of alumni, we want to include in our database the field(s) and dates of missionary service. Please include this information in any correspondence sent to the WMAF.

NEWSLETTER

This is the second issue of the WMAF Newsletter. The Newsletter will be published four times a year, and will contain information and challenge from

Wesleyan World Missions, prayer requests, items of praise, and alumni news.

The Executive Committee considered several suggestions for an appealing name for the Newsletter, but none “grabbed” us. The decision was made to delay naming the Newsletter and solicit additional submissions for a name. Send name suggestions, as well as address changes and corrections, to the Newsletter editor.

GLOBAL PARTNERS NEWS

- ◆ **NAME CHANGE** - Wesleyan World Missions has been the “nickname” used by the General Department of World Missions of The Wesleyan Church for many years. Nearly three years ago, area directors challenged the Indianapolis leadership team to develop a new nickname for WWM that would reflect twenty-first century missiology and the values of our ministry. The area directors, missionaries, and others began a process of reflection and brainstorming that culminated in the new nickname—**Global Partners – Wesleyan World Missions in Ministry**.

Global Partners reflects the strategic plan of world missions to partner with local churches in North America and the international churches in fulfilling the Great Commission. Global Partners talks of shared ministry and authentic relationships, moving away from hierarchical structures.

Most people who have heard this new nickname respond with excitement and affirmation. North American or international churches and missionaries may choose to use either nickname: Global Partners or Wesleyan World Missions. It is expected that within a short time this new nickname will capture our hearts just as WWM did many years ago.

From: www.wesleyan.org/wwm

GLOBAL PARTNERS

**TRANSFORMED LIVES ◆ POWERFUL CHURCHES
PIONEERING, PARTNERING, DEVELOPING**

- ◆ **COLOMBIAN MISSIONARIES WITHDRAWN** - Because of the increasing violence and threats against Americans in Colombia, and at the advice of the U.S. State Department, Wesleyan missionaries have been withdrawn from Colombia, South America. The Eckhardts are being redeployed to Costa Rica, and the Grays are beginning their year of home ministry. The Guptills are currently on their year of home ministry. Remember to pray for these missionary families during this difficult transition time.

ALUMNI NEWS

- ◆ **Oldest Alumnus** - Elizabeth Carter will celebrate her 100th birthday April 29, 2002. We believe that she

is the oldest living former Wesleyan missionary. Charles and Elizabeth Carter served as missionaries in Sierra Leone, West Africa, for three terms during the years 1928-1945. They also served for a period of time as missionaries in Taiwan. Subsequently, Dr. Carter had a long and distinguished career as a professor at Indiana Wesleyan University (formerly Marion College) and Taylor University.

Birthday cards may be sent to Elizabeth at the following address:

Wesleyan Health Care Center
729 W 35th St
Marion, IN 46953

- ◆ **Karl Gorman** (South Africa) reports that he was privileged to attend the centennial celebration and conference of the Wesleyan Church in Southern Africa in December 2001.

- ◆ **Generations** - Three eminent Wesleyan families, each providing three generations of missionaries, gave faithful service to the South African church: Lehmans, Sanders, and Kiersteads. Rev. I. O. Lehman went to South Africa in 1898 and married a single Brethren in Christ missionary there. Their son, Rev. O. I. Lehman, is a retired Wesleyan missionary, and grandson, Rev. O. D. Lehman, currently serves as a Wesleyan missionary in Mozambique.

Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Sanders went to South Africa in 1901, and two generations of Sanders followed in their footsteps. Charles Sanders, the last of this missionary family to serve overseas, passed away in February 2002. Rev. and Mrs. I. F. Kierstead went to South Africa in 1905. Third generation missionary, Glendon Kierstead, is retired and a member of the WMAF.

- ◆ **Longest Service** - Who among us has served as a missionary the longest? Any 30+ year veterans? How about 40+ years? Let the editor know, along with the dates of service, and we will publish the result in the next Newsletter.

WMAF CORRESPONDENCE

General correspondence, address changes, and alumni news should be sent to:

M. J. Vreugdenhil
1418 SE Arbor Dr.
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Alumni contributions for the operating costs of the WMAF may be sent to the above address or to:

Global Partners,
P.O. Box 50434
Indianapolis, IN 46250