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Darlene is in Heaven.....

DARLENE LAFFOON MEEKS was born November 12, 1933 in Robinson, Illinois, and graduated from high school at God’s Bible School in Cincinnati. Her first job was as an accountant in a local bank. She met and married Paul Meeks while he was serving as a pastor in Southern Illinois, and served together with him for several years before going to the Philippines in 1958 under the Foreign Missions Department of the Pilgrim Holiness Church. After serving there for more than 20 years they returned to the States and served for ten years as pastors of the Whiteford Wesleyan Church in Michigan.

Following those years of happy and fruitful ministry, they returned to overseas missionary work as missionaries-at-large from 1990-98. They made visits to several fields including India and Germany, but served more extensively in Zambia and as the pioneer missionaries to Albania.

The next segment of their lives was spent in Marion, Indiana, where Paul served for nine years on the pastoral staff of College Wesleyan Church. Darlene was also very active with him in Bible studies and ministry to seniors. They retired from that ministry in 2007 and moved to Brooksville, Florida, to the Wesleyan Bible Conference Village.

In 2008 Darlene began experiencing some health issues, which finally resulted in more serious problems leading up to surgery, after which she passed away on February 6, 2010. Her home going was much more sudden than expected, so came as a shock to her family, loved ones, and extended church family, all of whom miss her greatly.

Four children were born to Paul and Darlene, three sons and one daughter, all outstanding in their fields, and all very attached to their mother. There were also 11 grandchildren that she loved much plus one granddaughter born a month after her death. As she was dying she was clear mentally until the last and called all her children, in-law children, and grandchildren to affirm her love for them and say a final “good-bye,” urging everyone to be faithful to meet her in heaven. The moment of her passing was sad, but also blessed by the sweet witness of God’s holy presence.

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Darlene Meeks continued.

Darlene was gifted in many ways, all of which she used in the Lord's work through the years. She possessed unusual skills in music, financial accounting, home-making, and as leader of women's Bible study groups. Paul refers to her as an "amazing lady." All who knew her agree.

—by Dr. Wayne W. Wright, Emeritus General Director
Global Partners

Darlene Meeks Tribute.

When Janet and I and our three children arrived in Manila in January 1971, we settled into our work at Villasis Bible School in the lowlands of Pangasinan. Paul and Darlene and their kids lived in Sinipsip, Benguet, high up in the Cordillera mountains north of Baguio City.

Our first Christmas in the Philippines was in the Meeks home in the mountains, surrounded by the beautiful pine trees and lots of bright red poinsettia. It was chilly and we shivered and took very quick baths, but the joy of our missionary families sharing those rooms made all the difference. Darlene had helpers to do laundry, but she managed the kitchen superbly. We enjoyed pancakes made from scratch with lots of banana slices to garnish them. I watched and learned and began to practice that meal in our own home on Sunday evenings.

Staying in Darlene's home, you also learned to get up early, for Mrs. Meeks would come around to your room looking for things to add to her laundry. Steve, one of her sons, once remarked to us, "You have to be awake and quick, for Mom will come and bounce you out of bed wanting the sheets for the laundry!"

Darlene was a marvelous home-maker and decorations were always tasteful and neat. The first Christmas in 1971 was special with an evergreen tree from the forest that reached from floor to the ceiling. Our kids were amazed. Darlene claimed the tree was legal as a logger friend had cut it for them!

It's important to keep accurate financial books. We all learned from Darlene since she had worked in a bank and she let on to us she enjoyed it. Sometimes she was actually exasperated with us when we didn't understand a simple 'aje' entry. "You don't spend money; just transfer it from one account to another." My books were to have several aje entries in the days to come! And "Don't erase an entry; cross it out with one thin line and make a new entry." Yes, thin lines appeared in my books too.

Thanks, Darlene, for making us all look good.

— Paul Turner, former Philippine missionary colleague

Graduation and Growth at Rosales

March 19, 2010, the 51st graduation ceremonies were held at the Rosales Wesleyan Bible College in Pangasian, Philippines. Rev. Amos Anteg, General Director of Church Growth and Evangelism, was the invited guest of honor and speaker. There were 28 Christian Leadership Certificates given to first year students, 11 Bachelor of Theology and 2 Bachelor of Religious Education degrees given to the four year graduates. There are 13 interns or field trainees from the third year now involved in ministries in their respective districts.



Just after the graduation, renovation began on the basketball court. Through God's grace there is enough fund to renovate the outdated court. Now bruised knee caps will happen on the concrete instead of the crumbling stones. New hoops will have true nets to capture the ball.

Work on the ladies dorm continues; all the second story walls are complete, and now plastering and electrical wiring and fixtures are being placed. The first floor has done double duty for the ladies, and hopefully when the June opening of classes comes, the second floor will be ready also.

Thanks always for your prayers for the College.

— by Pastor Bong Wag-e, College President

Albania Report.

Our missionary team befriended a couple and has been having a weekly Bible study with them in their home. According to missionary Allan Stevens, this couple prayed to be saved last week. They attended our team's Good Friday service and partook of the Lord's Supper. **Praise** the Lord! **Pray** for this couple to be grounded in their newfound faith.

— Global Partners European Area

Oklahoma Area GP Alums Meet

On Saturday, March 6th, First Wesleyan Church in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, hosted its second annual WMAF Gathering. Forty-four Wesleyan missionary alumni, former MKs, along with ministry and work team participants, enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship and sharing of experiences in cross-cultural settings. Good food, lots of laughter, and even some tears were a part of our gathering. We concluded the evening with a time of prayer for several Wesleyan missionaries currently serving overseas.



Esther Phillippe (Swaziland); Sally & Paul Phillippe (Brazil)



Jody & Kevin Mueller (Sierra Leone); Wes Hadsell (Mission Team Leader)

Caringal Ministry Visit to India

My visit to Gujarat and the MP Central region (Chhattisgarh) of India Feb. 19 to 25 was another testimony to the thriving Wesleyan churches in Asia. The Gujarat Conference today has a total of 15 churches while the MP Conference has 11.

What was evident is the strong foundational work laid by previous missionaries who started missions in 1884 in this area. Many of our pastors don't have the means to run and maintain the buildings and parsonages, but they remain faithful in service.

The primary and secondary schools in the two regions continue to reach out to Hindu communities as they provide quality education and Christian witness. I attended the unveiling of an auditorium marker at the Rajnandgaon Hindu and English Wesleyan Medium School. It was dedicated in honor of the late Dr. Rebecca Bibbee.

Please pray for Superintendents Joel Justin in Gujarat and Sharad Lall in Chhattisgarh and the thirty pastors across the region of Western and Central India. Ask God for strength, protection, and wisdom in dealing with daily affairs and also persecution from radical groups of other faiths.

The Conference Center in Pardi, Gujarat, is in need of expansion to provide dining hall service for large groups of people. Pray that God will inspire people to invest for this need.

Ask the Lord to make the schools an avenue to reach more communities for Christ. The schools are self-governing yet need financial assistance to make them more effective. The former Rajnandgaon Leprosy Hospital now is the site for education for the children of the former patients, enabling them to obtain training in practical ways to provide a respectable living. Twenty seven children are presently in the hostel. The majority come from Hindu families. This is a great witness to these people.



– Dr. Romy Caringal, Asia Area Director, Global Partners

New Egyptian District Superintendent Elected:



The Wesleyan Standard Church of Egypt elected a new leader on March 2, 2010. District Superintendent Rev. Atif Sedhom Khalif succeeds the fifteen-year leadership of Rev. Ibraheem Hanna Soliman who passed away on January 26, 2010. Rev. Atif becomes the fourth national leader of this Egyptian ministry that began in 1920. He will provide oversight and vision for 26 congregations in Upper and Lower Egypt. A spirit of unity and anticipation was present in this annual conference as participants celebrated the current openness of the Egyptian government to allow for the expansion of the Church.

-- reported by Global Partners



JESUS Film Nepal

JESUS Film Updates

Northeast India. After the *JESUS* film was shown for three nights in a certain village, the villagers and their chief requested the team to engage in a teaching program for three more days. This is the first time a follow-up program was ever requested by *JESUS* film viewers. This was a great time for teaching the gospel.

Colombia. Ten months ago we had a campaign in a place called San Roque. This month we had a cancellation in one of our planned events, so we revisited San Roque to see how things were progressing. We were overjoyed to see the church growing with the people who had been won to Christ in that campaign. It is such a blessing to see that the fruit is not lost but is growing and maturing in the work of the Kingdom. Three of the brothers were motivated by our return visit to help us as we showed the *JESUS* film. They wanted to be a part of the impact of winning those who are lost to Jesus

Nepal. As we were showing the *JESUS* film, a young prostitute came to see the film. She saw the part where Simon invited Jesus to his house for dinner and there a sinful woman came and washed Jesus' feet with her tears and cleaned his feet with her hair. Jesus then told her that her sins were forgiven. She watched as that same lady of sin was changed, and her life became visibly different. The next day this young lady came to see us and to ask us to pray for her, so that her sins could be forgiven like the woman of sin in the movie. She told us that she had committed many sins, she had sold her body for money, and sometimes she had contemplated suicide. But she said that in watching the film she found a place to wash her sins. She accepted Christ as her Savior and her sins were washed away. Her life has not gotten easy. She sells wood and sand to make a living, but she is going to church regularly and is happy and at peace. This is how the *JESUS* film is helping us to preach the precious and wonderful message of our Lord Jesus Christ.

-- reported by Dr. John Connor, Director *JESUS* Film