



Wesleyan Missionary Alumni Fellowship

LINKing our past to the present
and future of world
missionary outreach through
Global Partners

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LINKING former
Wesleyan missionaries
to each other and to
Global Partners

WMAF MEETS AT WESLEYAN WORLD HEADQUARTERS FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Thanks to Dr. Marion Vreugdenhil, WMAF was born a few years ago when Global Partners felt a strong desire to relate more specifically and positively to the growing number of “missionary alumni” who had given a significant portion of their lives to our national churches. The motivation was (a) to keep in touch so as to communicate a sincere appreciation for their love labors, (b) to encourage their continued partnership in prayer and maybe even short-term going, and (c) to facilitate continued fellowship among themselves through area gatherings.

The vision was great but leadership was needed. Dr. Marion Vreugdenhil willingly became the person and for several years has spent many hours at the computer and telephone to lay the foundations of a constitution, a plan of action, and a vehicle of communication (the *LINK*). Others have made their contributions as well, but the burden of leadership called for an additional level of commitment for which we are thankful.

Marion’s leadership has been characterized by persistence and faithfulness along with a genteel and kind Christian spirit. We owe him much and take this opportunity to thank the Lord for Marion and his leadership of WMAF during these formative years. Of course, we also need to say a warm “thank you” to Vergie who has been a loving and



helpful companion to him all along the way. Marion and Vergie, your imprint on WMAF will linger long. God bless you for your excellent work!! --By Dr. Wayne W. Wright

WMAF Executive Committee Actions

The Executive Committee met on June 7, 2006 at the Wesleyan World Headquarters to hold their annual meeting. Members present were: Marion and Vergie Vreugdenhil, Med Bailie, Wayne and Virginia Wright, Philip and Elsie Myers, Mary Pat Fuller, and Jim Vermilya. Also present were Bob and Julia Smith, and Paul and Darlene Meeks. The Smiths will replace the Vreugdenhils and the Meeks will replace the Wrights on the committee.

Don Bray, General Director of Global Partners, gave an inspiring and challenging update of how God is raising up a new generation of missionaries and young leaders in our Global Partners missionary family.

Jon Steppe met with us to acquaint us regarding the new WMAF web site, www.wmafonline.org. The committee also discussed the desire to have more regional meetings. Mary Pat Fuller informed us of her resignation effective August 5, from Global Partners, which we were sad to hear. Bob Smith will continue to serve as editor of the *LINK*. He is desperately in need of articles, pictures, and any prayer requests. Plans were made to mobilize Alumni Prayer Teams in order to pray more effectively for mission needs.

Bob Smith was installed as the new Chairman together with the other new members: Julia Smith, Paul and Darlene Meeks, and Irene (Duvall) Fancy (in absentia). --Elsie Myers, Reporting

HAITIAN GOVERNMENT UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP

Election Day - Feb. 7 - mostly orderly except in a few instances when polls did not open on time. Two or three people were killed in scattered incidences throughout the country.

The week after election, when only the votes in and around PAP were counted, reports were issued early that Rene Preval had considerably over 50% of the vote (like 60-70%?). Then gradually as the week wore on his lead dwindled until finally it was less than 50%.

The International Community sent advisors to Haiti. A compromise was reached about

the counting of blank ballots, and Preval was declared the winner with just over 50% of the vote.

The quiet-spoken Préval, who earlier served a term as president from 1996 to 2001, formed his own new party, called Lespwa - Creole for "hope." In his previous term as president, he earned a reputation as that rare Haitian politician who actually improved the lives of the people through road and school building projects, land reform, and by keeping down the price of fertilizer - a vital commodity to peasant farmers. For a nation beset by kidnappings, murders, and other violence, reports that slum gangs have said they would lay down their weapons once Préval took office is another hopeful sign.

Préval is also depicted as a man who speaks little but listens a lot - surely a plus in a nation that has more problems than answers. He has indicated he will call on successful Haitians abroad for help. Haiti's problems won't be solved quickly. There were two Christian candidates on the ballots. Some have said if the Christians had been united for just one of them, it might have been possible for a Christian to have been elected.

The only hope is in the churches, which are growing rapidly, but we don't know if they are mature enough to face the huge challenges. Some people say that if Preval doesn't come through on his promises and things don't get better in the country, then his rightful election will be questioned and things will be bad again. We know that many Christians are praying for the country, both in-country and outside. Certainly much prayer is still needed. (This report was prepared and read by Edna Taylor at our Florida Regional meeting in March, 2006).

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In an AP article titled "Haitians enjoy a delicate peace" by the Los Angeles Times it is stated: "Since February's election of Rene Preval, violence has plummeted. Some say gangs are giving the leader breathing room... In the tenuous peace... faint signs of economic life have emerged, offering the first breath of hope in years that Haitians might finally escape decades of desperation... With the election of agronomist Rene Preval... the kidnappings and killings that had made this capital a war zone ceased as if someone turned off a switch... Preval has reached out to defeated rivals in putting together a new government and recovery plans. (Published in the St. Petersburg Times, June 27, 2006).

About Miss Edna Taylor

Edna was born on June 9, 1923 in Dayton, OH. In pursuing her education she attended, for a period of one year each: God's Bible School, Central College (SC), and Marion College. She then studied and worked at Bethesda Hospital in Cincinnati, OH for 3 years to complete her nursing RN degree.



Edna went to Haiti as the 1st single lady missionary nurse on May 4, 1950. While in Haiti she worked as a nurse at both Port Margot and La Gonave. She returned to the USA in 1971.

After returning to the States she did nursing in Ocala, FL and St. Petersburg, FL before retiring at the age of 62. She then became the primary care giver for her mother, sister, and Edna Mae Carter in Brooksville.

She has returned to Haiti every year since 1983 for varied lengths of time (with the exception of one 2 year period). She is presently involved in prison ministry and hospital chaplaincy. Edna is a friend to all and is loved by all who come in contact with her.

NEWS AND REPORTS

Do you have any pictures or news to report. Please send any news, reports, or pictures to Bob Smith, 22275 Woodlawn Ave, Brooksville, FL 34601-2702 or e-mail: bobsmith2004@earthlink.net. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

ARTHUR J. CALHOON CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!

REV. ARTHUR JENNING CALHOON celebrated his 100th birthday on May 12. There were two places of celebration: Indianapolis, IN and Anderson, SC. The Indianapolis group included a number of cousins, nieces and nephews, children, grandchildren, and great grands. Several former co-workers (missionaries) in Haiti were there also.



At the Anderson, SC celebration there were about 75 present. A moment of excitement happened when almost 20 Haitians walked in. Pastor Pierre Daniel Ferdinand, a former student and associate of Arthur's in Haiti, and now pastoring in Brooklyn, NY had brought these friends to help in the celebration. Pastor Daniel presented a tribute (message) to his mentor and his family.

Ruth Faulkenberry, daughter, wrote that a week later as they were returning home by air from Kansas City, MO, one of flight attendants announced over the speaker that there was a special guest aboard; "Mr. Arthur Calhoon, in seat 21D, has just celebrated his 100th birthday." Applause erupted and the attendants led in "Happy Birthday, Dear Arthur." WMAF members from around the world add our congratulations to this "Veteran of Missions."

OUR CONDOLENCE

- Shortly after the *LINK* was sent to Indianapolis for publication, Mrs. Janice Barnett went home to be with her Lord. Memorial services were held in

Brooksville, FL and Houghton, NY. Her husband, Glen, continues to live in the Wesleyan Village in Brooksville, FL. His address is: 23166 Good Shepherd's Way, Brooksville, FL 34601. Telephone number is: (352) 799-2849.

- Lindsie McFadden met her Savior face to face on June 1, 2006. She is the granddaughter of former missionary Lois Downey (Brazil). Her parents are Dave and Helen Downey. She was married to Scott McFadden on Oct. 1, 2005, exactly 8 months to the day of her death. Lois writes, "Although it was a sad time, we felt the strong and comforting hands of God holding us up."

NOTES FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES

ENGLAND. Greg Rast writes, "Nono came to faith in Christ during our time in London...Before Nono came to England he lived in a West African country where the government is very, very corrupt. A bright young university graduate and businessman he began to support a movement that advocated the secession of part of the country. He was arrested several times. Just before he came to the UK he was arrested again, along with his pregnant wife. The night of the arrest was the last time he saw her, and she is presumed dead...According to Amnesty International the prisons of his country are some of the worst in the world. He was severely beaten several times and tortured with electric shocks. While under guard in a hospital a doctor helped him escape. Some family members put him on a plane to England...We met shortly after his arrival...I have never seen someone so eager to learn about his faith. Christ appeared to him in a vision, and this bright young university graduate now wants to do everything he can to grow up in his faith...Nono has been suffering from physical and psychological injuries related to his time in prison...memories of being tortured come back again and again. Please pray that Nono will get an Entry Clearance to remain in England. Pray also for his psychological progress and for the local church nurturing him."

SRI LANKA. Cedric & Sharlini write, "Yesterday I returned from three days of ministry in the south of Sri Lanka. It was a good time of evangelism. We traveled through a village which sometimes is roamed by elephants. A month ago one of our teams could not enter this village because elephants were blocking the roads. In this village we distributed tracts. On our return we visited a lady pastor who has planted twenty small churches and one large church in a very anti-Christian village. Her husband was shot and stabbed in the chest in her presence several years ago because he was preaching the Gospel. Her testimony blessed and encouraged us. On Sunday we were at the church in Runna. Pastor Aruna and Shirley are doing a great job. On Sunday morning there was an entire new family of four at church...At some point we plan to build a small church on that property. Pastor Aruna and his wife serve in a very dangerous part of the country. Since both are Tamils, it is like sending a mouse before a cat, because people in their village are all Sinhalese and Buddhists. They need our earnest prayers."

EL SALVADOR. Tom and Lydia Hines give highlights from a recent ministry tour. –An alcoholic who a few days before had nearly choked his mother to death was touched by God. –Twenty-five new children showed up at one S.S. doubling the attendance. –The Holy Spirit moved in a special way during the conference on prayer and worship, which

was attended by worship leaders from various denominations. –The students responded very positively to the Wesleyan History Class, realizing that as they establish The Wesleyan Church in El Salvador, they are writing another chapter of its history.

CROATIA. Bethany Karish recently met with a former student for coffee. Bethany asked her if they could read the Bible together. They decided to start with John’s Gospel. At the end Bethany’s friend said, “You have so much mercy with me. I feel like I can tell you everything...all my faults and you will accept me...No one else has ever done that.”

PRAISE NOTES...FROM AROUND THE WORLD

NICARAGUA. Mike Knox reports that he and his family participated in a children’s outreach at the Rose of Sharon church in Los Laureles. There are as many as 80 children who attend each Saturday for Bible Lessons. Pastora Reyna Gaitan and her husband live next door to the church.

GHANA, WEST AFRICA. Rick Cox and family went to Ghana to train a JESUS film team. They were able to do five showings with over 100 responding to the invitation to receive Christ. A boy of 12 sitting next to Eunice kept interpreting for her since the film was in his language! After a miracle he would remark, “Jesus is so fantastic,” or “God is so great.” At one point he looked at Eunice and said, “It makes me so sad that you can’t hear my language and hear what is happening.” When he saw the crucifixion he said, “This part makes me cry!”

THAILAND. Dan Merillat requests prayer for Sam, a young man from the village, attending vocational school in Bangkok. He is staying at the church to work as a security guard while studying.

ECUADOR. Tom Hines reports that Pastor Gustavo Viejo painted and fixed up a house on 16th Street in Guayaquil as a place to hold Bible studies and preach the Gospel. Gustavo grew up in the neighborhood and the people are intrigued by his transformation so they come to hear him preach.

ODESSA, UKRAINE. In June eight people from our Vladimir, Russian church went to assist our Russian missionaries, Denis and Tanya Ermilov in a children’s summer camp. Diane Moore, a Canadian, also joined the team to minister to approximately 100 children.

SURINAME. Phil Davis has just completed translating a book, Music and Worship, in Dutch. This is the last course to be translated for use in our Bible school. Cora Gorman deserves a lot of praise for leading the school and making sure the curriculum is in Dutch. Some of the courses will need to be strengthened, but the material is now available in the student’s own language.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA, WEST AFRICA. Rev. Anita Carrion from Peru has just completed a 30 day exploratory visit. She preached in several Wesleyan churches and conducted a 3 day seminar for women. As soon as she builds her prayer and support team

she will return as a career missionary.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PRAYER GROUPS ENCOURAGED

Most of us grew up in homes where a simple plaque on the wall reminded us that "Prayer Changes Things." We don't see that much anymore, but maybe we should. Prayer still does change things!

The missionary alumni here at Brooksville have made a specific commitment to pray about some burdens we feel on our hearts in regard to missions. We are praying for two major issues: (a) that the funds needed by outgoing missionaries will begin to come in more rapidly, even miraculously, and (b) that missionaries working in so-called "closed areas" of the world will see God at work in some unusual ways as well. We meet once a week to pray for requests distributed by Global Partners and for requests sent to us by e-mail from outgoing missionaries and those on the fields.

The executive committee is asking that the regional groups of missionary alumni consider forming such prayer groups, so if you are not already doing so, would you join us in creating a "missionary alumni prayer group" to meet regularly for prayer? We all pray individually but we can add to the urgency and fervency of our praying by uniting in prayer for these needs. We can offer suggestions if you desire.

We'd be happy for you to share any reports on this through the *LINK*. --Bob Smith and Wayne Wright, for the committee

BARNABAS CONNECTION

The Barnabas Connection was established to provide a relationship between newly appointed missionaries and a member of WMAF. "The past personal experiences of the older missionary should provide good life principles that are still applicable in today's changing world" (Guidelines for Mentors).

If you are interested in becoming a Mentor please contact Rev. Med Bailie, Coordinator. His address is: 26 W 467 Jewel Rd, Winfield, IL 60190. Tel. (630) 690-4173.

THE CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN CHANGED!

The Executive Committee in its recent meeting changed the Constitution to include GO-Net Employees who have served for 10 months or longer as members of WMAF. They will be included upon their personal request. If you know any GO-Netters who qualify, please encourage them to contact us. It would be great to have them as members of WMAF.

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