

LINKING former Wesleyan missionaries to each other and to Global Partners

Volume 18, Issue 2

Fall 2019

WMAF Executive Meeting Indianapolis



Rod Guptill Nikki Nettleton Jim & Jeanette Vermilya Janet & Paul Turner Charles Paine

The Executive Committee met August 6th for the biannual reporting and planning session. Dr. Charles Paine pointed us to Psalm 31 and the lovingkindness of God that spoke of David's relationship with God. We enjoy that relationship as well.

The 2017 meeting minutes and interim actions were reviewed and reports were given by the president, treasurer, and *LINK* editor. Regional meetings held in Canada, South Carolina, and Indiana continue to be one of the most productive ways to link alumni together. Our finances are healthy but additional costs will be reflected at the General Conference in St. Louis next year.

Ian Swyers gave an update on the International Conference of the Wesleyan Church held recently in Barbados. The new Regional Ibero-America area will be assuming more responsibility for leadership, and the IC Board was increased to 13 and Church/Membership criteria raised for new areas. Nikki Nettleton was named by Dr. Jackson as the GP representative to the WMAF Executive and she spoke of changes in departments and wellness resources for missionaries. Rod Guptill reported from the Task Force meeting that wants more Prayer Team initiatives and District Mobilizers involved to assist in mobilization. Prayer groups and engaging younger alumni were deemed important.

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"Keeping In Touch with Rod and Joy Guptill"

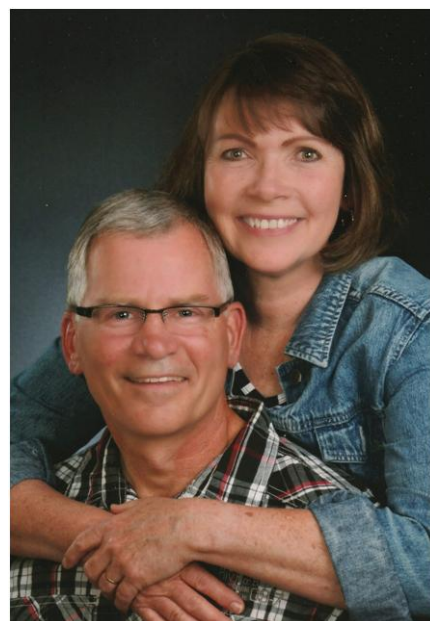
Rod and Joy Guptill are best known for their 22 years as missionaries with Global Partners in South America (Colombia) and the Caribbean (Dominican Republic). Rod started out in Civil Engineering at the University of New Brunswick. He shares, "The last thing on my mind was to serve Christ. All I was interested in was playing hockey and finding a job that made money." However, soon after surrendering his life to Christ, he enrolled at Kingswood University and graduated with his B.A. in Religion in 1981. During a missions emphasis week led by Don Bray, Rod felt called to full-time mission work.

After planting a church in Brampton, Canada, he and Joy (Silfwerbrand), KU '80 BsCE, began a lifelong journey serving with Global Partners. In 1987, they were sent to Colombia, South America for 14 years of ministry. Then Rod served as a Regional Director for the Hispanic Caribbean area for 8 years, training national leaders of various churches for effective ministry.

Rod and Joy then returned to Nova Scotia to serve as lead pastor at Woods Harbour Wesleyan Church for eight years. They experienced daily ministry with an emphasis on early morning prayer meetings, fasting, evangelism and missions. Rod served the past 9 years as coordinator for the Atlantic District partnership with Cuba, taking work teams annually to help with the work Rick West and Jibacam have been overseeing.

Presently Rod and Joy share ministry together. At Kingswood they are campus pastors, caring for the needs of students and setting the spiritual tone for a move of God on the university. At the local Wesleyan church Rod serves as Pastor of Outreach and First Impressions and Joy serves as Events Coordinator and leads Women's ministry. Rod also keeps in touch with GP Missionary Alumni in the area.

Their three children are *Heather (Jeff Vitaris)* Greenville, SC, *AJ (Shea)* Quispamsis, NB, and *David (Cheyenne)* Havelock, NB. They are all grown and married and provide 3 wonderful grandkids to spoil and dote on.



Condolences . . . Sharon E. Parman

Sharon Edith Parman, 75, of Grand Haven, Michigan, passed away Friday, August 30, 2019.

Born October 7, 1943 in Owosso, Michigan, she was the daughter of the late Rev. John and Ernestine Cliff. She attended Owosso College and graduated with a degree in elementary education from Michigan State University. She married Edward Dean Parman on August 29, 1964. Together they served as missionaries to Mexico with Global Partners for 22 years where she translated children's Bible lessons and provided training for children's teachers throughout the country. Before retiring at age 70, Sharon helped to launch Project Jordan at Shepherd Community, supporting at risk mothers and their babies in Indianapolis, Indiana inner city neighborhoods.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, Rev. Edward Parman, son Lance Parman (Kate), daughter Shari McIntyre, sister Barbara Guy, and grandchildren, Abbi, Lane, and Ian McIntyre.

A memorial service for Sharon was held September 7, 2019 at Life Stream Church in Allendale, Michigan with Rev. Jim Maness officiating. Memorials may be made to the Project Jordan ministry at Shepherd Community (www.shepherdcommunity.org).





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2019 Upgrades to bless new Missionary Families



The welcome mat is out even from Rwanda when your Mom and Dad bring you home to the USA.



The needed facelift included several areas of siding and facial boards to not only look better but keep inclement weather from damaging interior structures.

Would you believe these men came from Buffalo, New York to help us replace a foundation beam that had deteriorated due to water leaking from a balcony floor.



This has been a wonderful summer at Shunem House thanks to your generosity. Through all of this construction, Shunem House continued to carry out its mission. That includes providing care and hospitality to many individuals, churches, and groups.

- 94 overnight guests over the last 3 months
- 6 day groups utilizing Shunem House for retreat
- A neighborhood open house that hosted over 200 people
- A pool party of 50 GP M's and MK's during "Requip" training

It has truly been amazing to see God at work through so many volunteers and the generosity of our supporters. We pray the rest of your summer is a safe and relaxing one.

In His Love, Jim and Jeanette Vermilya, Co-Hosts at Shunem House

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To receive the digital *LINK*, please send us your email address. See us on the web at:

<http://www.globalpartnersonline.org/alumni/>

"Asking the Lord of the Harvest..."

One of our stated purposes in the WMAF Constitution is to "Provide a committed and informed prayer support team for the ministries of Global Partners." In a recent self-study we agreed that we need to step up our efforts in prayer support. We talked with James Winn, GP Mobilization Director, about our desire to be more supportive in this area.

In our recent WMAF Executive Committee meeting on August 6th, we decided to form a select prayer team to focus on the Mobilization Team and their efforts in recruiting new missionaries. Mobilization of new missionaries has declined in numbers and not just for Global Partners. Other mission organizations have experienced this. While Jesus was here on earth, he said these words: *"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."* (Matt. 9:37-38) This is what we want to do....*"ask the Lord of the harvest"* and do it on a regular basis. We would like to form a special group of about 10 committed prayer warriors who would meet for this purpose.

The meetings will be once a month and include someone on the GP Mobilization Team, using the Zoom conference feature via the internet. It will last between 15 and 30 minutes. We will see each other, hear about the needs, be informed of new appointees, track with mobilizers in scheduled visits to Wesleyan colleges, and pray together.

How nice it would be for small prayer groups to spring up all across our missionary alumni locations. Where a concentration of alumni exists, several small groups in your location could form to ask the Lord of the harvest to call reapers into the harvest whitened fields. They can be by Zoom or in person.

by Jim Vermilya, President WMAF

LINK

Our website has a new landing page.

There you will see some alumni, then four buttons about the LINK newsletters, current Leadership, History & Constitution, and In Memoriam. We found some more early newsletter copies and will soon have them added. Biographies are on the way in the history area. All of the obituaries that we know about are uploaded for your reading. Download to your computer or phone by clicking on a name to see the full details at your own time.

20th Century Archives



He was born in Indiana and she in Colombia. Both grew up in homes of honor and faith. He loved the out of doors and she the role of a nurse. Education came from Perdue and Ball State Universities, but no rivalry at home. Born again at early ages, they became vibrant exponents of Jesus. They served eight years in Sierra Leone Bible College, before going on to leadership in general church offices at Wesleyan headquarters. Their names are...?

In the Spring issue of the *LINK*, we featured Dr. H.C. and Gloria Wilson. Many of you identified them. They lived the Commission of Jesus to go into all the world and make disciples. They truly model to us the heart of God with compassion and love.