

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

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### *Portable Bible School Graduation*

Bob and Kay Bickert returned to the Philippines in October 2017 to set up a School of Evangelism (SOE) in Baguio City. Working with the Wesleyan Director of Educational Institutions, they arranged facilities, set up a board of directors and appointed a SOE Director. Emphasizing discipleship and outreach follow-up, growth has come across the district. Students work among their own people and extend the churches with new church planting. Chris Calya-en, an ordained minister in Baguio City has not only won new converts, but gone to their home areas. One is the Abatan, Benguet community, two hours north of Baguio. A new church was organized and many new converts are coming to faith in Christ. The Portable Bible School (PBS) courses comprise 200 class hours to equip believers to evangelize and disciple new converts. The first graduation of the PBS occurred December 7 in Abatan and is pictured above. Six months of intensive classes on Saturdays from 9 am to 4 pm completed the first PBS phase. Students were vegetable gardeners and professionals representing a wide variety of business establishments in Abatan, a municipal center on a mountain ridge in the North Skyline Wesleyan District. Graduation was held in the new Wesleyan Church that meets in the Banquet Center of Mother's Way, a grocery, restaurant and bakery. Thursday afternoon is employee worship with an evening Bible study. Sunday worship brings many family members together.



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God has blessed this second year of the SOE with ten mature and professional students graduating. They were committed to hard study, thrilled about learning, and are already applying lessons learned in their ministries. Eight new potential students have requested

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enrollment for next year. Two new board members, a Nazarene and a Pentecostal have gladly joined in planning future development.

Bob and Kay returned home in November 2019, thanking the Lord for His blessing. They anticipate returning next May for several months of teaching in the SOE program as well as in Cordillera Bible College, the Lord willing and health permitting following Kay's knee replacement November 22.

### *Condolences . . .*

#### ***Ann Louise Marshall***

Ann Louise Marshall, 89, died Wednesday, August 21, 2019 in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was born May 19, 1930 to Frank and Mary Martin. In 1950, she married Pastor Wallace Marshall. From 1958 to 1963, Ann served with Wesleyan World Missions in the West Indies, mostly in Antigua and Barbados.

Ann was a graduate of the University of Cincinnati, and taught elementary school for over 30 years. She was known for her prayer life, sending encouragement cards, cookies, and always making an extra place at the dinner table for anyone.

Ann is survived by husband Wallace, sons Robert, Steve, and Jim, daughter Laura; and 17 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by daughter Valerie, and grandson Brandon.

A memorial service for Ann was held August 24, 2019 at Turning Point Wesleyan Church in West Chester, OH.



#### ***Phyllis Nedra Van Cleave***

'Nedra' Van Cleave died October 13, 2019 in Miles City, Montana. She was born to James and Mabel (Armentrout) Ballinger on May 31, 1938 in South Bend, Indiana. After high school, she graduated from Marion College in Marion, IN where she met Paul Van Cleave. They married on August 15, 1963. After teaching school and pastoring, they sensed God's call to missions and moved to Michigan for missionary internship.

From 1973 to 1977, they served as Wesleyan missionaries to the Philippines teaching in the Bible Colleges before settling in Miles City. Nedra taught her children at home and loved serving in the church as a Sunday school teacher. She also served at Christian Women's Club and attended Bible Studies regularly. She prayed regularly for her children and grandchildren as an example of faith and love.

She is survived by her husband, Paul, her children Denise (Dale) Erickson, John (Lucy) Van Cleave, Stewart Van Cleave, Diane (Jonathan) Free, Dorene (Christian) Pfendler, and Steven Van Cleave; and her 13 grandchildren.

A memorial service for Nedra was held on Saturday, October 19, 2019 in Miles City, with interment in the Custer County Cemetery, Miles City.





## ***Multiplying Leaders for the Nepal Church Through Leadership Training***

by\_ the South Asia Church Multiplication  
Director\* Sep 20, 2019

God is on the move in The Wesleyan Church of Nepal! Their goal is to see that all of their churches are led by pastors who have completed at least six basic pastoral training courses. This past August, Dr. Paul Mills brought his unique teaching skills to Kathmandu for the fourth training class in a series of the six basic courses called the Six Pak.

Approximately 25 Wesleyan churches throughout this country are all led by enthusiastic believers who have little, if any, formal pastoral training. In the past 16 months, four of these intensive classes have been taught by pastors and instructors supplied by Global Partners.

In April, another missional leader taught Wesleyan History and Beliefs. Among the students at that class was a group of church leaders from western Nepal who are applying to join The Wesleyan Church. One of these pastors has a church of some 300 attendees. This church has birthed seven other satellite churches in the Lamahi region.

The August class was taught in a temporary bamboo and tin structure on property that was recently acquired for the purpose of building a permanent pastor training center. Dr. Mills inspired a love for the Word of God and the value of discipling believers with training firmly rooted in the Bible. His teaching was well received.

The final two courses of the Six Pak are expected to be taught in coming months. Nepalese pastors who successfully complete all six classes will be licensed by the Nepal Wesleyan Church. The Nepal Church will soon have trained pastors leading their churches who are passionate about reaching their world for Christ.



*\*Name withheld for security reasons. (This article used by permission of Global Partners)*

## ***Ellisons In Mongolia....Thanksgiving***

We got to spend Thanksgiving with about 35 Mongolian friends and share our traditional foods with them. They were fans of the turkey (which tasted like chicken, they said, but different). They were not fans of the maple candy. Stuffing was a hit, as was gravy (which I made from scratch successfully for the first time thanks to recommendations from several of you).



It was a time to be reminded that, even when you can't speak the same language well, hospitality speaks volumes. It was a gift to us to have people to celebrate the holiday with, rather than being alone. We played games and had fun. And then we breathed a sigh of relief that the days of cooking and preparing were over.

*by Cory & Jen Ellison, career missionaries with GP*



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

## **North Central Regional Gathering**

On November 8, the North Central Region missionary alumni gathered for fellowship and enrichment in Christ at Shunem House. Our area has been meeting every other year, pretty much since the early days of WMAF. This year we enjoyed a great discussion on how our overseas mission field experience shaped or changed our lives and our families in a positive way. We sang some Thanksgiving songs, shared a devotional time and enjoyed a delicious meal.

Dr. Dennis Jackson sent a special video greeting. After dinner we played a couple of fun games with some nice prizes for the winners. It provided a little fun and laughter. The announcement of the missionary presentation videos being available (thanks to Joe Estes) was joyfully received. We continue to believe in the value of coming together as missionary alumni to share our stories as well as the story of Jesus who calls us to follow Him to all people.

*by Jim & Jeanette Vermilya, North Central Region Coordinators*

## **Video Presentations Available**

Joe Estes has provided a wonderful opportunity for missionary alumni to look back at their video presentations from their years on the field. It is a true labor of love and nearly 250 videos are now available via YouTube. If you worked with Joe on a presentation, yours is likely in the collection. If you are interested, I can send you a link that will give you access to your video. If desired, you can send the link to family members and friends. Please send your request to [jimver44@gmail.com](mailto:jimver44@gmail.com).

# *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 Angola, Africa and she in New York. They met at Houghton College and were married after she completed nursing studies. He went on to medical school and obtained an M.D. and was ordained in the New York District. They were first appointed as missionaries to Haiti in 1952 and served some 35 years, finally retiring in the summer of 1989. Their names are...?

In the Fall 2019 issue of the *LINK*, we featured Dr. Kerry and Jule Kind, with Kara Lynn, Andrea Lora, and Paul David. Colleagues from Sierra Leone remembered them and one remembered Andrea (Summers), an ordained Wesleyan minister, serving as Director of Wesleyan Women. After serving in Sierra Leone from 1978-86, Kerry served in the Global Partners office with Don Bray, and was General Director of Education and the Ministry, TWC.