



LINK

LINKING former Wesleyan missionaries to each other and to Global Partners/Wesleyan World Missions

Volume 3, Issue 2

Fall 2004

FESTIVAL OF NATIONS WMAF GATHERING

More than eighty former Wesleyan missionaries attended the Festival of Nations in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 18-19, 2004. Held just prior to the General Conference of The Wesleyan Church, this exciting WMAF Gathering provided an occasion for missionary alumni to meet former colleagues in overseas ministry. Hugs were the common greeting, and tears flowed through smiles and laughter as friendships were renewed. "Do you remember when" was a frequent phrase heard in the conversation huddles that took place throughout the Festival.

During the Friday night Festival rally special recognition and honor was given to all WMAF members in attendance. As an expression of appreciation for their years of missionary service, all missionary alumni received a gift. Then, on Saturday morning, WMAF members met for a special gathering just for them. A highlight of that meeting was the devotional brought by Jim Vermilya (Pastor to Missionaries). (See excerpts from that devotional in this issue of the LINK.)

INSIDERS INFORMATION FROM GLOBAL PARTNERS

NEW SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR MISSIONARIES

By Jon Steppe, Director of Partner Services

September 1 marks the beginning of our new fiscal year. God has once again provided for us to end the year in the black. *Praise the Lord!*

It was just over a year ago that we realized we were facing serious financial shortfalls with more than one half of our missionaries under funded. Through budget cutbacks and the rally of the Body of Christ, we are on a track to recovery. Thank you for your support.

Over the past year and a half we have been evaluating our systems and funding structures. It became apparent that our current system of missionary support had some problems that needed to be fixed. For the past ten years, our missionaries have raised an averaged support target and their revenues were all pooled together. This team approach did have its benefits; however, it also had its drawbacks. It was possible for a missionary to be over funded and yet have his/her budget cut because the pool was under funded. This can be very demotivating to the missionary and donor. The result of our research has led us to a more individualized system.

Our missionaries now have unique support targets. They work through a budgeting process that calculates their true need based on location, ministry assignment, and family needs. Surplus funds received for their support will be able to follow their ministry from year to year or they could request them to be directed to other areas of ministry.

Faith Promises and donations are still submitted in the same manner. The only real difference is that missionaries will have differing support targets. Some missionaries will need to add to their support team because their target will increase.

Join me in praying for this transition. There are many logistical details that have been worked out to accommodate this change. Pray that things would continue to go smoothly. Pray for the missionaries as they adjust to the new system. Pray for God to continue to meet our needs as we seek to serve Him in Great Commission ministry.

If you would like to see the details of the new missionary support system you are welcome to visit www.gplinks.net and click on the "Forms" button. If you have questions about the new missionary funding system or anything related to the ministry of Global Partners, please contact me at steppej@wesleyan.org or 317.774.7937.

PARTNER POINTS

By Don Bray, General Director, Global Partners
(Adapted from CURRENTS, Newsletter for Missionaries)

“I am crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.” Jesus called us to not only live a “crucified life,” but to take up our cross daily in aggressive obedience to His vision of godly living and missional action.

About two years ago I was grappling with some inner spiritual issues, and the desire to be released from the pressures of leadership was enormous. The temptation to say that I’d done enough and settle down with past blessing was enormous. This went on for some time. I would lay awake at night processing my feelings, frustrations, and pain, pouring it out to the Lord. In the end it became very clear to me that if I was going to continue to walk in obedience and know Christ in his fullness my “cross” was to joyfully accept the pressures of leadership as a gift from the Lord. As I have sought to live in obedience the pressures have grown, but God’s grace has come to me in a variety of ways. I trust that God is bringing growth to me as a person and as a leader.

One of the areas of “pressure” that I feel is through change. The financial shortages caused a change in ministry resources and led to a change in how missionaries raise and expend support. Here in Indianapolis our team is working very hard for a smooth transition, and we feel deeply about being a source of strength and support to our missionaries and their ministry.

Another area of “pressure” comes with the transition in team leadership here in Indianapolis. On August 23, **Norm Wilson**, who was Director of International Ministries, moved to the Department of Evangelism and Church Growth to give leadership with Dr. Pence in North American ministry. We will miss him greatly, but we are thankful for God’s leadership in his life. I love Norm so much and have appreciated working with him these past seven years.

Many of the responsibilities that Norm held as Director of International Ministries are being given to the **area directors**. Their leadership role now goes to a new level of responsibility and authority for their respective areas. They are commissioned to lead their areas within the parameters of policy, budget, and the larger shared vision of Global Partners. Area directors will report directly to the General Director.

Phil Nettleton has worked for ten years as Director of Church Relations and has assisted in developing the missionaries’ support teams. On September 1 he and **Lucille** began the transition to a new role as pastor of missionaries. This year they will stay based in Indianapolis while they build their support team, but they will then be based in Europe and minister to missionaries in Europe and Africa.

Some other shifts in responsibilities give **Jon Steppe** leadership that includes the WORLD, media, and various aspects of fund and friend raising, and will be working directly with the missionaries to assist in team building. **Arnie Eastburn** will be working with major donors, churches, and others for fund development.

Beth Fussner, Director of Personnel, is leaving early in the new year for New Zealand where her husband Jeff will serve as area director for the Pacific. We are grateful to the Lord for the provision of **Mary Pat Fuller** to come as the Director for Member Care. Mary Pat and her husband, Jim, served for twelve years in Korea. For the past several years they have lived in Marion, Indiana, where Mary Pat has taught school and Jim has worked for IWU.

Lots of great things are happening in Global Partners around the world, and we have the privilege of working together to see our vision of **TRANSFORMED LIVES ♦ POWERFUL CHURCHES** become an increasing reality.

ONLY SERVANTS

By Jim Vermilya

While touring some of our mountain churches in Haiti, I was welcomed by recitations and songs at one of our Wesleyan schools. During the ceremony a young girl handed me a bouquet of flowers and kissed me on the cheek. The essence of the speech I heard was a sincere thanks for bringing the gospel to their village. I felt a little awkward because I was not the missionary who deserved the credit. It was Arthur Calhoun who came to Haiti when I was learning to walk and before the children of this school were born. But this was symbolic. This kiss was for him, for other faithful servants who followed him, and for many supporting churches in North America. I was touched deeply and recently had the opportunity to share this with Rev. Calhoun who is now in his late 90’s. In I Cor. 3:5 Paul wrote: “What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you

came to believe – as the Lord has assigned each to his task.” What a privilege it is to be His servants no matter what stage of ministry a church has reached. We see something of the nature of a servant in this passage and in II Corinthians.

1. Servants plant seed. (I Cor. 3:6)
2. Servants lay foundations. (I Cor. 3:10)
3. Servants sow generously. (II Cor. 9:6)
4. Servants supply needs. (II Cor. 9:12)
5. Servants touch hearts. (II Cor. 9:14)

These words are a real part of your life’s story as missionary alumni. I would urge you to read II Cor. 9:12-15 and find encouragement in this description of the effect of one’s service. There is an ongoing influence implied and the I Corinthians 3 passage promises a coming reward. In the recent Festival of Nations gathering in Grand Rapids I saw many of you embracing national leaders and talking to some for whom you invested your life. I was touched. I thank God for you! I salute you! We would not be where we are today without your faithfulness.

Before going to Suriname for the first time, Jeanette and I went to visit Rev. & Mrs. Leitzel, who were pioneers there. There were pictures on their wall of boys who are now leaders in the church in Suriname. Rev. Leitzel struggles now with his memory but was able to pray for us in the language he learned years ago. When we went, we saw the river they navigated, the dock where they landed as a family, and saw the school and church that is in “Pilgrim Country,” which appears on the official map of Suriname today. Their ministry lives on! “Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” (I Cor. 15:58) At the recent missionary training institute in Frankfort I noticed a digital recorder connected to a laptop computer and there was a window with an indicator bouncing with the voice of Dr. Med Bailie. It was the message he had just shared and a young missionary wanted to preserve it. It was a visual reminder of the opportunity we have as pastors to missionaries to speak into the lives of this next generation of God’s servants.

We have discovered that they want to hear from our experience and they really appreciate what the older generation has to say. You, missionary alumni, have spoken into the lives of many. Stories, challenges, and humorous incidents about you, are still being discussed all over the world. I have heard some of this. Thanks to God is overflowing. I am sure you are engaged in lives today and there is still much you have to offer. I

pray that God will continue to use you for His glory. Maybe there is a new missionary you could adopt, mentor, or become their close prayer partner. What a privilege we have had and continue to have in the spiritual harvest of this world.

(From Jim Vermilya’s devotional at the Wesleyan Missionary Alumni Fellowship meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan on June 19, 2004)

THE BARNABAS CONNECTION

At the WMAF Gathering during the Festival of Nations in June, Beth Fussner introduced the concept of what she called the Barnabas Connection. In the book of Acts we learn about Barnabas, the encourager and mentor. Beth told us that missionary candidates and newly appointed missionaries who are building their support teams are often in need of someone like Barnabas to encourage and advise them.

The Executive Committee of the WMAF in its August 2004 meeting approved the establishment of the Barnabas Connection. The purpose of the Barnabas Connection is to link selected WMAF members with missionary candidates or newly appointed missionaries. The Barnabas Connection will function under the direction of the pastoral care team of Global Partners.

Missionary alumni with field and home ministry experience, and who have a heart to come along side of new missionaries, are encouraged to volunteer to be a part of the Barnabas Connection. From a pool of missionary alumni who have volunteered or who have been recruited, the pastoral care team will select the Barnabas Connection mentors when they are needed. Guidelines for the mentors are being developed.

WMAF members interested in becoming Barnabas Connection mentors may contact the Director of Member Care at Global Partners, P. O. Box 50434, Indianapolis, IN 46250, or phone 317.774.7939.

MISSIONARY ALUMNI REWARDED

The following Wesleyan missionary alumni have gone on to their eternal reward in recent months:

Helen Bassett (Guyana/Zambia)	March 2004
Hazel Compton (India)	2004
LaShawn Davidson (Sierra Leone)	Nov. 2003
Floyd Fisk (India)	January 2004
Edward Jones (Zambia)	July 2004
Mildred Knupp (Guyana)	November 2003
Francis Taylor (Haiti/Guyana)	July 2003
Gertrude Bonner (Haiti, So. Africa)	Oct. 2004

NEW MISSIONARY ALUMNI

The following Wesleyan missionaries have concluded their ministry with Global Partners in recent months and are new missionary alumni:

Robert and Karolyn Bickert (Philippines)
Donald and Rhonda Pearson (Mexico)
Kevin and Cindy Austin (Germany/Czech Rep)
Daniel and Joyce Burnett (British Isles)
Jim & Sandi Todd (Brazil)

MISSIONARY ALUMNI SERVING OVERSEAS

The following missionary alumni are currently serving, or are preparing to serve, as volunteers for an extended period with either Global Partners' Go-Net program or with World Hope International:

Ed and Wilma Wissbroecker (Zambia) in Swaziland
Mike and Janelle Doud (Sierra Leone) in Sierra Leone
Dr. Chuck and Ruth Pierson (Sierra Leone) in Sierra Leone

NEW MISSIONARIES APPOINTED

The following were appointed this summer as missionaries with Global Partners:

Matt & Caryl Aukerman
Career missionaries to Albania
Plymouth, IN
574-936-5134
mattcaryl@wmconnect.com

Phil Boardman
Career missionary to Czech Republic
Hamilton, OH
513-893-0726
513-907-1223 (Cell)
png77@hotmail.com

Peter & Brenda Burgos
Career missionaries to Asia
Bixby, OK
918-369-3738
812-878-5130 (Cell)

Phil & Lucille Nettleton
Career to Czech Republic
Noblesville, IN
317-776-0848
plnettleton@juno.com

ALUMNI: PRAYER REQUESTS

Don Kinde (dkinde@juno.com) – cancer of the esophagus
Marion Vreugdenhil (mjvreugdenhil@bartnet.net) – recovering following colon surgery
E. K. Purcell (revek@clas.net) – recovering following heart surgery