



LINK

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

Volume 5, Issue 4

Winter 2006/7

WMAF ALUMNI MEET IN BARTLESVILLE



Everett & Virginia Hackett
Sierra Leone Nurse

Dennis & Connie Engle –So Africa
With Marge Conner

Dr. Bob Bonner –So Africa

The newly restored lounge in the LaQuinta Mansion on the campus of Oklahoma Wesleyan University was the venue and OWU Homecoming weekend was the occasion for the second Bartlesville, Oklahoma area WMAF Gathering that was held October 14, 2006. Thirty-one former Wesleyan missionaries, missionary kids, and current missionaries were in attendance. Dr. Robert Bonner (South Africa) was the master of ceremonies, and Dr. John Connor, Global Partners' Director of the Jesus Film Project, was the guest speaker.

Dr. Connor's presentation provided an update regarding significant changes taking place in the administrative relationship among the many international Wesleyan Churches and between those Churches and the North American Wesleyan Church. Many of the older, established national Wesleyan Churches are now relating as partners rather than dependents of the North American Church. Of special interest to former missionaries was information Dr. Connor shared about the changing roles of today's missionaries. He explained that young people are still being called to be missionaries and are just as committed to the Lord and to the Church, and just as passionate about the Great Commission, as an older generation of missionaries, but view missions as a specific task to be completed rather than a lifetime commitment to a general missionary call. This change may mean many more missionaries serving at specific tasks for shorter periods of time.

It was a special privilege to have two young missionary couples just returned from their fields of service to join us in the WMAF Gathering: Trent and Nikki Nettleton from Bosnia, and Jason and Kerensa McFrederick from the Czech Republic.

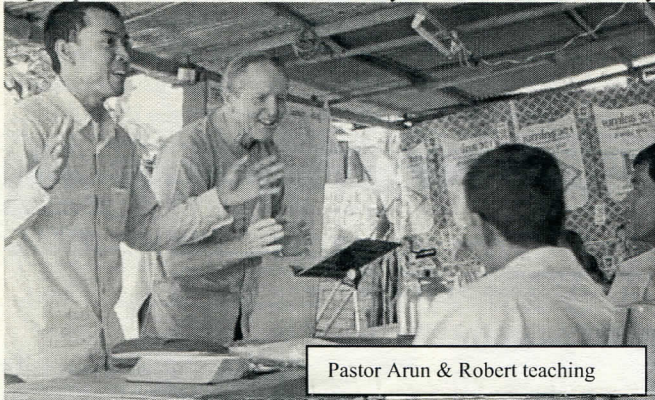
A segment of the Gathering was devoted to prayer for specific and current mission related needs and issues. The Lord's presence was felt among us as we joined together in prayer for matters that lay close to each of the hearts of both former and current missionaries.

Reporter Dr. Marion Vreugdenhil

IN CAMBODIA...WITH THE BICKERTS

Robert and Kay Bickert went to Cambodia in September 2006 to assist in teaching in the Bible College and to aid the church.

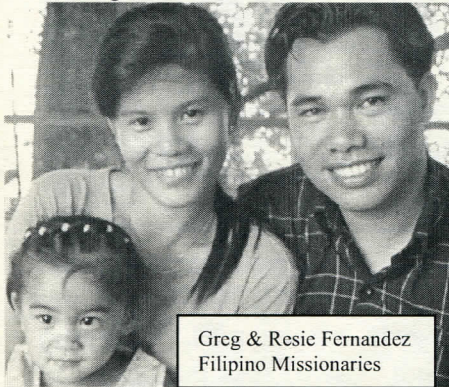
Just prior to their arrival Pastor Arun's home was burned by a group of 20 men who were led by the local monks. They



Pastor Arun & Robert teaching

broke down the gate and then proceeded to destroy the house. The mob then set fire to the house while Pastor Arun and members looked on. There were also several police present. Missionary Greg Fernandez had advised the pastor to forgive them and not to retaliate.

The next day the mayor came and talked with the monk leader and told him what they had done was wrong and that Buddhism teaches peace and good relations. This monk then came and asked forgiveness and promised never to do this again. Several of



Greg & Resie Fernandez
Filipino Missionaries

the monks then gained permission to come and study English with Pastor Arun.

Robert writing about English evangelism says, "Teaching English in Cambodia provides a culturally



Students sing for visitors

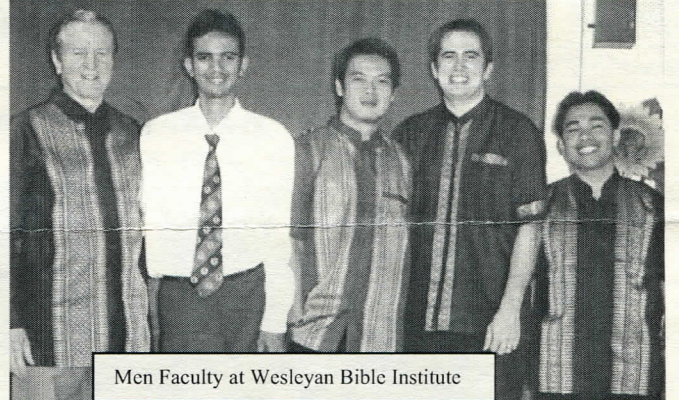
accepted channel to present the gospel. Teachers rank at the top of the social scale, and teachers of English even higher. This status affords our pastors, who would otherwise be without recognition or even a threat in this Buddhist culture, immediate acceptance...This past year, 12 of our pastoral

interns felt confident enough in the English they had learned at WBI (Wesleyan Bible Institute) to offer classes to their communities with significant success:

- *397 students enrolled
- *181 households represented
- *89 conversions with 61 now attending church
- * 1 new congregation with 75 conversions and an

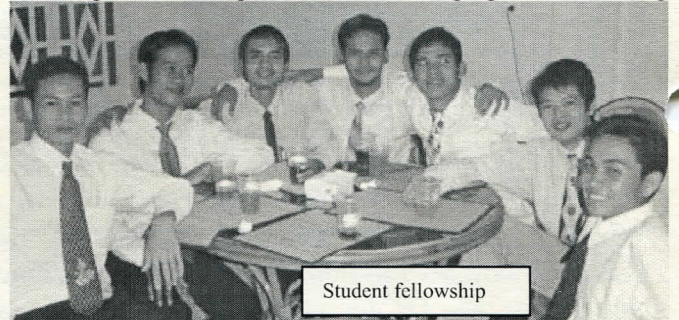
average Sunday attendance of 28 adults and 20-25 children. Two of our students, Zande and Sophoi come from this new congregation."

The Bickerts have been teaching in the school. He tells of an exciting service, "The father of Steylis, one of our



Men Faculty at Wesleyan Bible Institute

students, invited her class to come for dinner so 6 of our students came. Watching Steylis' joy of being home with her 6 siblings and leading the children in singing in the morning



Student fellowship

worship, will add a new dimension to my classroom teaching. Sharing the Word brought participation from the body with feed back and reading passages in focus. Their faces radiated joy and the presence of the Lord. When I asked if any wanted to receive God's free gift of salvation in Christ, two ladies came and stood in the front. After they followed me in the sinner's prayer, the congregation burst into applause and singing."

The Bickerts arrived back in America on December 19. Prior



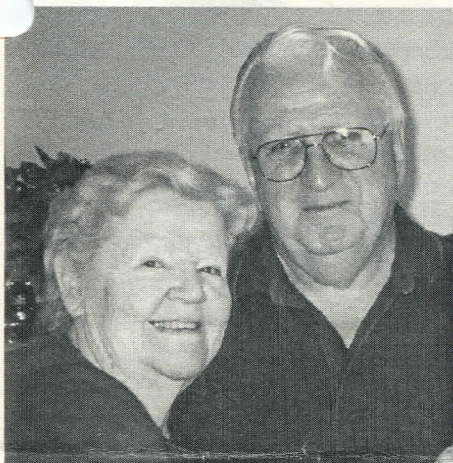
to their leaving they celebrated Christmas with Tim and Tiffany Gallant and the students. Robert wrote, "What joy and love was expressed between the students. They are one very happy and loving family. We count it a wonderful privilege to have had this time to be

impacted by their lives."

Adapted from E-mail messages from the Bickerts.

A VISIT WITH DAN AND BETTY McCANDLESS

Dan was born in New Jersey and Betty was born in Iowa, but grew up in South Dakota. They met in San Francisco while in the navy. After their tour in the US Navy they both

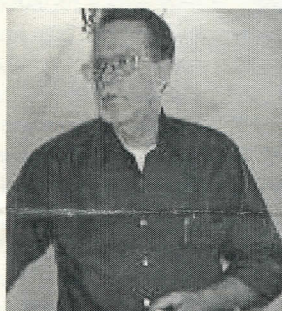


graduated from Marion College (IWU) in 1951 & 1952. Following graduation they were appointed to work for a year among the Native Americans in Rapid City, SD. Then for another year they pastored at Ipswich, SD awaiting their appointment to Haiti.

They served in Haiti from 1956 to 1962. They then left for the Philippines in Jan. 1964 and served there until 1967. In 1971 they left for Zambia and taught in the Choma Secondary School until 1975. Following a short stint working in Houghton College they then returned to Haiti in 1982. In 1986 they retired and moved to Brevard, NC where they lived until 1989 at which time they moved to Brooksville, FL.

Dan and Betty have been vitally involved in the local church in Brooksville. Dan has served on the LBA. They team teach a Sunday school class. For the past 13 years they have taught English as a Second Language in the Brooksville area. They have also made 2 short term trips to Haiti.

DR. JOHN CONNOR HONORED



Dr. John H. Connor, JESUS Film Partnership Director for Global Partners, has been chosen as the George Fox Evangelical Seminary Alumnus of the Year for 2007. This is only given to qualifying graduates of the seminary after 25 years following graduation. John graduated in 1977. This honor was given for "exemplary

character and having achieved extraordinary accomplishments in ministry." The reception will be held in February.

Your WMAF family congratulates you, John, for this distinctive honor.

AN EXCITING TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA

Reported by Eva (Mrs. Bob Cheney) Reeves
Alice (Lehman) Wyatt and I flew from Denver, CO to Johannesburg, So. Africa on October 9th and we were met by Missionary Orai Lehman. We then traveled on to Mozambique where we stayed with Orai and Linda Lehman. We were able to attend the Bible College graduation.

One of the thrills I had was seeing a number of students whom Bob and I had taught in Swaziland who are now doing ministry in Mozambique. It was nice to see that our work had not been in vain. After a few days here we then traveled to Durban, South Africa to visit a cousin of Orai and Alice. We then traveled up to Swaziland to attend the Emmanuel Wesleyan Bible College graduation. We had set up a Robert A. Cheney Memorial Scholarship at the school. It was my privilege to present this scholarship to Dumisani Sitole, a Swazi student. This scholarship has been awarded by a relative every year but one since my late husband's death. I praise God for this privilege. It is a way for Bob's work to continue in Africa.

NOTES FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES----

FOTIZO PEOPLE --Lester and Amanda Wyatt write, "We have had some interesting cultural experiences, some fun and some challenging. However, we have seen God's provision each step of the way. At times language has been a major frustration, but it has also provided moments of joy. Lester has successfully called the boys 'sausage' and said 'its raining women.' And if that wasn't enough he then said 'I cooked my wife.' You might think he said this on purpose, but it really was an accident!"

CAMBODIA --Tim and Tiffany Gallant write, "Hallelujah! We serve a God who answers prayer. Pastor Sideth, who suffered a serious accident and health problem, is now regaining his strength. His church recently reopened its doors, after a time of refurbishing, to a gathering of nearly 300 people. Thank you for diligently and faithfully praying for this brother whom you probably will never meet this side of heaven."

KARIS PEOPLE --Jason Tegen writes that a man working for World Hope has recently been saved. He is the first male convert in several years.

CZECH REPUBLIC --Andy Norton writes, "This past Sunday I had the privilege of leading a young lady to the Lord. Her name is Dana. She was one of my English students...Needless to say it was a very exciting day for me and a great ending to my time here."

SPAIN --Rick West writes, "On November 12, I was honored to participate in the official ceremony when a congregation of nearly 100 people was received into The Wesleyan Church. In the 1500's Spain conquered what is known today as Latin America. Today, there is a strong desire on the part of the Latino to reach the mother country of Spain with the Gospel. The Wesleyan Church in Elche, Spain is now planting 3 additional congregations in other cities.

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!

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM AROUND THE WORLD

***Ghana.** In December 2006, the first District Board of Administration and Board of Ministerial Training were installed in Ghana. This is a truly historic event as the Wesleyan Standard Church of Ghana completes the transition into the Global Partners' family. This structural step is especially necessary because of rapid growth; there are now 37 churches in Ghana.

***Nicaragua.** Missionaries Jim Eckardt and Mike Knox have been working on the framework for establishing a school for theological education. A home has been rented that will house the Centro Tabernaculo de Managua and the ministerial training school. Plans are to begin classes this February.

***Missions in a Mission Church.** A struggling church plant in Europe reports that from the beginning they planned to send 10% of the offerings to missions with the belief that it would give a broader sense of the task God has given His Church to go into all the world. They sent the 10% to help the Wesleyan work there. In addition to this, God has placed a desire in the heart of one of the members, Kerstin Ohme, to serve as a missionary there.

***Nepal.** A veterinarian came to the JESUS film showing and was under deep conviction. He expressed his desire for redemption and his conclusion was that his religion offered no redemption. He was told that this redemption could be his. He went home to think about it and later returned to receive Christ as his Redeemer. He has since been baptized and has become a member of the church.

***Guyana.** The JESUS film teams report 6 new churches were planted in 2006.

***Zambia.** Zambia health facts from Zimba Mission Hospital

- +Average life expectancy is 39 years.
- +1 doctor for every 14,285 people.
- +Fertility rate = 5.7
- +Neonatal mortality = 40 per 1,000.
- +Maternal mortality = 750 per 100,000.
- +28% of the children are malnourished.
- +63% of the people live on less than \$1 per day.
- +17% of the adults are HIV positive.
- +27% of those diagnosed with AIDS receive anti-retroviral (ARV) medications.

+Zimba hospital has 100 beds available for inpatient admissions and ministers to thousands annually.

PRAY FOR MISSIONARIES RAISING THEIR SUPPORT TO GO TO THE LAND OF THEIR CALLING!

THE WESLEYAN CHURCH – Global Partners
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WMAF ON LINE!

You may now access information about WMAF from our web site. Here you will find details about up-coming events, special announcements, pictures and much more. You will also be able to obtain copies of the LINK. You will want to visit this site often to keep abreast with WMAF happenings. Our thanks to Jon Steppe for developing and maintaining this vital link with Global Partners.

The address is: www.wmafonline.org

PRAYER REQUESTED

The Board of General Superintendents and the General Board are in the process of selecting a replacement for Dr. Don Bray, General Director of Global Partners. Let us join in prayer with them that the Holy Spirit will guide them in this important decision.

In consideration of his retirement at the General Conference, and due to the magnitude of the responsibility, Don felt it was best to tender his resignation as of June 2007 to allow time for his replacement to be selected.

AT HOME WITH THE LORD

Rev. Robert A. Crosby went to be with the Lord on November 8, 2006. He and his wife, Norva, served in Columbia and Puerto Rico from 1942 until 1983. While they were in Puerto Rico, Norva was responsible for the beginning of our present Wesleyan Academy. They were living with their daughter, Pricilla in Floral City, FL at the time of his death. Norva's address is: 12354 Hyacinth St., Floral City, FL 34436.

Mrs. Elizabeth Carter passed away on November 11, 2006. She was a missionary in Sierra Leone for 10 years. She and her husband, Charles, also served on many other overseas assignments. In April 29, 2006 her family gathered in Norman's home to celebrate her 104th birthday! There were 30 family members who came to celebrate. Her son, Norman, and daughter-in-law, Rowena, live in Swayzee, IN.

Mary Jean Holcomb met her Lord in glory on January 2, 2007. She was a former missionary to Sierra Leone (1963-1984). She was living in Fairmount, IN at the time. Her funeral was held in the Lakeview Wesleyan Church in Marion, IN with burial in Wisconsin with her other family members.

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