



LINK

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

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INDIA CALLING!

India is the second largest nation in the world with a population of over 1 BILLION. Many missions have attempted to enter this needy nation to bring the good news of Christ to her millions. Over the years The Wesleyan Church has sent several missionaries to minister to the spiritual and physical needs of this great land. Today there are 60 Wesleyan Churches and 5,553 members located mainly in central, west and northeast India.

One of those missionaries was Miss Rebecca Elizabeth Bibbee. She was born on March 12, 1922 in Wheeling, West Virginia. Her mother died when she was just one month old and she was raised by her uncle and aunt. They didn't attend church, but sent Becky to Sunday school. Becky's life was changed when she was seventeen years old and attending a service where an American Indian was speaking. That was the night she heard God calling her to be a missionary to India. After graduating from high school she enrolled in the Intercession City Bible School in Florida. She then transferred to Marion College (Indiana Wesleyan University) in Marion, IN.

She went to India under Bands of the World, arriving there on appointment by the Missionary November 15, 1950. She served with this mission for 8 years. Later this mission joined with The Wesleyan Church. At age twenty-seven, Miss Becky became "Mama" to about 100 children and one Indian lady. Miss Becky "wore many hats" –a mama, worship leader, bookkeeper, church planter, building contractor, architect, supervisor, and anything else that needed to be done. She often had the job of marriage consultant and arranger, as is the custom in India.



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In 1990 she was the spring graduation speaker at Indiana Wesleyan University. She received a standing ovation by the graduates following her challenging message. She was then honored with a Doctor's degree by the university.

For 50 years she served in the country she loved and that loved, revered and appreciated her (Having served under Missionary Bands of the World for 8 years and then under The Wesleyan Church for 42 years.) She officially retired as a missionary to India in 1992. She has made several annual trips back to the country of her calling and that she loved until she was not able to travel due to health issues.

In her last letter from India she wrote: "Leaving India is not leaving a job; it is leaving a life in His dear will which I love. The luxury of life in the USA –no water buckets to lug around... electricity not going off in the midst of a cake, gas in the filling stations, hot dogs in the stores, rugs on the floors –oh, innumerable such daily blessings beckon me, but these many years Jesus has enabled me to keep such nailed to the cross."

Today Dr. Bibbee lives in the Wesleyan Village in Brooksville, FL. Her heart still beats for the land and people she was called to serve as a seventeen year old girl. You may contact her at 22245 Wilson Memorial Drive, Brooksville, FL 34601; telephone: 352-799-6975.

MIRACLES IN SUMBA, INDONESIA –THE STORY OF AN OLD SHAMAN.....

The following story from Sumba was told to Dr. John Connor, Director of the JESUS Film ministry: “The team members didn’t really trust the old shaman (witch doctor), but he was also the civic leader of his tribe. It was necessary to gain his permission to show the JESUS film. The old shaman (witch doctor) didn’t really know why he had agreed to talk with this young Christian pastor who wanted to show a film about Jesus in his village. For decades he and his brothers had stood as a wall against any Christians who wanted to penetrate their villages.

The young man who came was very polite and soft spoken. He believed he could use this naïve Christian to his advantage, so he gave his permission and a day was set to show the film. The team had prayed and fasted for the showing. The old shaman didn’t come to the showing. Four of the team members stood at each side of the crowd facing outward. As the film was being shown all four men saw what appeared to be an apparition of the old shaman flying in toward the crowd, but he was frustrated by a wall that appeared to reject him. They realized they were in the midst of spiritual warfare.

The old shaman was frustrated and angry and cursed the young man. The young man was unfazed. The young man then told the old shaman that God had revealed to him that the old shaman would die the following day and he urged him to ask Jesus to forgive and save him.

The day following the old man died. The family called the young pastor. When the young pastor arrived at the bedside the old man opened his eyes and sat up. When he saw the young pastor with fear he asked, ‘What has happened to me? Why are you here?’ The family was terrified, nothing like had ever happened. The young pastor said he believed the Lord was giving this man a chance to repent, and repent is what he did. Then the old shaman said, ‘There are 72 fetishes in my house they need to be destroyed.’ So, at his instructions, they were gathered and burned.

That night the pastor was called again, this time to the hospital. When he arrived a son of the old man met him at the door, and said, ‘You should not have come. The old man has died and if you enter he will live.’ The pastor, however, went in and when he got to the bedside the old

man opened his eyes and in great fear said that he ‘couldn’t enter the gate.’ The pastor said, ‘The Lord has revealed to me there is one more fetish which you must give up before you can enter heaven’s gate.’ The old man replied, ‘Yes, there is one more, but I drank it; it is in my body. How can I give it up?’ The pastor answered, ‘God can do anything. If you are willing to give it up let us pray and God can take it.’

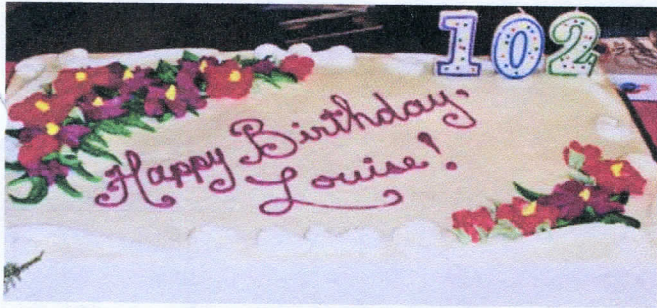
The pastor put his hand under the armpit on the ribs of the old man. As the pastor prayed he felt a power go through his hand and the room tensed as they felt the power swirl and then leave, and the old man was at peace, as he had never before been. He asked to be baptized and someone produced a bottle of drinking water. There in the hospital bed, at peace with God and man, the old shaman was baptized. The next day the old man died and was buried.” (This was adapted from an article written by Dr. John Connor).

Dr. Connor then reports this was the opening to a vast group of villages in a remote area of Indonesia that have never been reached by any church. It is also an area where the Muslim religion has not penetrated. Today there are 6 Wesleyan churches, 7 preaching points, and 8 trained lay pastors. At a recent gathering of five of those churches the shamans were present. They are not Christians, yet, but they have encouraged the people who follow them to become Christians and they have taken steps to dissolve their religion. Dr. Connor says, “In my 37 years of mission service and in all the reading I have done in anthropology, I have never heard of a religion that has a known ritual to dissolve that form of worship and belief. But there is one there.”

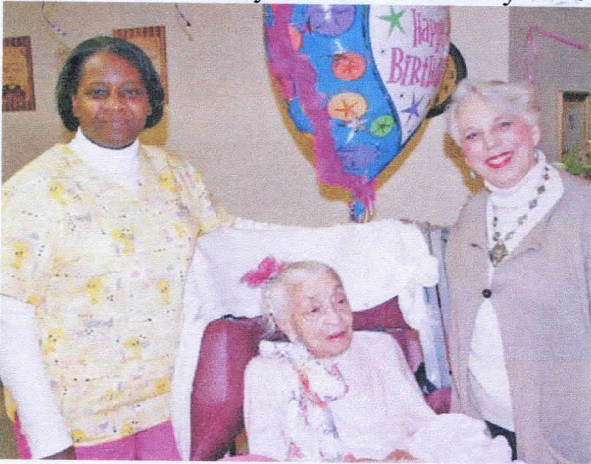
Please join us in praying that a great revival will sweep through the island of Sumba and that many will come to know Christ as their personal Savior. Pray that wisdom from the God of heaven will saturate the spirit of the JESUS film team.



Sumba Wesleyans worshipping in one of their temporary churches.



At 102 is Miss Louise VanMetre the oldest Alumna? On Thursday, January 24, 2008, she was 102. On her birthday she received many calls from



relatives and friends. Her niece, Becky Yoes, sent us several very good pictures. She served in Peru from 1935-46. "LINK" sends our congratulations. May the Lord bless Louise in this coming year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PUTNEYS!

John and Ruth Putney celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 21, 2007. They were honored by their 6 children and many friends. The Putneys served in Colombia and Puerto Rico for 33 years; from 1960 to 1993. They reside at:

80 County Rt. 23A,
Harrisville, NY 13648. Tel. 315-543-2542. E-mail: jrputney@aol.com.

NOTES FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES-----

TAIWAN –**Bill & Marilyn French** report, "Happy New Year! No, we are not late. The Chinese New Year began today, Feb. 7, and the celebration will continue for several days. This is the biggest holiday of the year and everybody celebrates. New Year's Eve, the family visits the wife's family and on New Year's day they visit the husband's family. The New Year's Eve meal will be the big family meal. For many, this will be hot pot. Hot pot can include

almost anything and everything and many things we can't name! This will also be the time for families and friends to give red envelopes containing money.

In December we held the Christmas Festival in the park. About fifteen churches participated. Our church gave away hundreds of home baked cookies, and hundreds of pieces of literature. We had about a thousand people visit our tables and there were five to six thousand that visited the Festival. In the follow-up, some of the churches reported contacts and conversions. We praise the Lord for this witness.

Note: While Bill and Marilyn are not serving Global Partners, they are Wesleyan Alumni from several fields.

PHILIPPINES –A new house church in Batangan, Valencia City, Bukidnon added new members as a result of the JESUS film ministry. There are several families coming to the fellowship after being visited by the pastor. There were 4 members who were baptized as a result of the film ministry. The lack of a church building caused some of the zone pastors to give their year-end bonuses to pay for the down payment for a church lot. Thank the Lord for the progress in the development of a new church in this barrio.

CAMBODIA –**Tim & Tiffany Gallant** report; "Recently one of our Bible school staff had a fire in his community. We got the call just asking us to come and help. By the time we got there, 18 houses had burned to the ground, but God had miraculously spared **Kim Sua's** house. Kim Sua and those of us from the Bible school were able to help his neighbors during this very difficult time.

NICARAQUA –**Mike and Amy Knox** write that **Connie** had a dream that someone had given her a boat load of shoes to sell. She shared the dream with her family and some friends. When they would meet, Connie would say, "I'm still waiting for my shoes!" So when Mike delivered about 100 pairs of shoes to her a few days later, it was a surprise but not totally unexpected. The vision from the Lord 3 years earlier was now fulfilled. She immediately called her friend to report the answer to her vision and her prayers.

SOUTH AFRICA –**JESUS Film ministry.** Majojombeni is an informal settlement which is known for its crime. It was a risk for the team to show the film in this area for two nights. God wonderfully opened the hearts of the people to respond to Jesus as Lord and Savior. Today, we are planting a new church through two young people who are under the mentorship of **Rev. Bill Niemack**. Crimes against women and children have been reduced. To God be the glory!

NEWS AND REPORTS

Do you have any pictures or news to report. Please send any news, reports, or pictures to Bob Smith, 22254 Birch Memorial Drive, Brooksville, FL 34601-2784 or e-mail: bobsmith2004@earthlink.net.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

NOTES OF VICTORY FROM AROUND THE WORLD
BRAZIL/GUYANA/PARAMAKATOI –**Holly & Derek Atkinson**, GO-Net missionaries report that they were invited to Guyana and Paramakatoi to assist in the youth retreat. There were about 300 young people who attended. Many walked for hours. Derek was the featured speaker. He also led 3 seminars. During the afternoons they youth played volleyball, kickball and soccer. In the evenings they had evangelistic services and showed two films. During the extended weekend of ministry there were 30 who made commitments for Christ.

SHUNEM MINISTRIES –**Jim and Jeanette Vermilya** are serving as directors for this ministry located in the Indianapolis area. The home has provided a “home away from home” for over 300 missionaries and their families during the past two years. Some were MK’s whose parents live abroad and some were re-connecting after years apart. They say, “It has been a joy to minister to people we know well and also to serve those we have never met.”

AUSTRALIA –During the National Conference former missionary **Lindsay Cameron** was elected as national superintendent replacing retiring Stan Baker. Dr. Steve DeNeff’s preaching was anointed and many lives were touched.

The conference also upheld the decision to sell the Kingsley College property. They will establish a relationship with Tabor College for the major courses. Kingsley will function as a facilitator for Wesleyan ministerial students. Kingsley will also establish Wesley study centers for tutoring in ministry preparation and Wesleyan distinctives.

NEW ZEALAND –**Tina Ridley** from the New Zealand church went as a short term missionary to Guatemala. Tina is an occupational therapist. Occasionally an open field was the examination room and 3 chairs the table!

LANGUAGE 101 –**Luanne** recently went to the store wanting to buy some potatoes and cucumbers. Instead of asking for one kilo of cucumbers and two kilos of potatoes (Bir kilo khiyar, iki kilo kartof) she asked for Bir iki khiyar – which meant “one two cucumber.” The young man laughed and corrected her with “Bir kilo?” She got her potatoes and cucumbers! On another day she went to buy some raisins. Instead of asking for raisins (kishimish) she asked for “kishim.” She had asked the salesman if he had “her man!” Language learning does have its fun time!

ZAMBIA –**Fred Cromer** reports that the JESUS film was shown 9 times in the Kazimaulu Zone. There were 192 who made professions of faith. Thirty nine people from 3 local churches were trained in follow up for the new converts. Many demons were cast out. One man prayed, “I want to change, I don’t want the spirits anymore. I want to be forgiven.

WMAF MEMBER PUBLISHES A NEW BOOK

Dr. Barry Ross has recently published a new book entitled *A Crumb of Bread*. You may read about it with data on purchasing it at <http://www.anderson.edu/sot/news/2007-08-31.html>. Dr. Ross’ address is: 1320 Wilkes Dr, Anderson, IN 46013. His E-mail address is: barryross@gmail.com

WMAF REPRESENTATION AT GENERAL CONFERENCE IN ORLANDO, FL

On June 7, 2008 in the afternoon WMAF will meet in one of the breakout rooms provided by the General Conference Committee. Inspiration and information will be the venue. All alumni are welcome to attend.

General Conference will begin the evening of June 7 and is scheduled to conclude business on Wednesday morning, June 11. The Rosen Shingle Creek Conference Center on Universal Blvd, Orlando, FL will host the conference. We hope to see many of you in Orlando!

AT HOME WITH THE LORD

Mrs. Marianne Chamberlain stateswoman and Christian educator died on May 26, 2007 at the age of 99. She and her husband served in Jamaica and he was an international missionary evangelist. Their son, Dan, served as the president of Houghton College for 19 years. Dan and his wife, Joyce, are now retired and live in the Wesleyan Village in Brooksville, FL.

Rev. George Blice went home to be with his Lord on July 23, 2006. In 1986 he married the former Mary Taylor, whose husband died just before they left for missionary appointment in Liberia. Rev. Blice served as a Wesleyan pastor for many years before they retired and moved to Ocala, FL

WESLEYAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF SIERRA LEONE

Ernest Bai Koroma, a third generation Wesleyan and member of the Kissy Dockyard Wesleyan Church near Freetown, was elected President of Sierra Leone, West Africa in September 2007.

All Nations Celebration on June 7 @ 8:00 pm.

A time to celebrate all that God is doing through The Wesleyan Church around the world, including the parade of flags. Rosen Shingle Creek – Orlando, Florida. Events are free and no registration is required. A limited number of rooms are available at the Convention Center. For more information contact 800.707.7715 or globalpartners@wesleyan.org

THE WESLEYAN CHURCH – Global Partners
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