

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP



LINK

Linking former Wesleyan missionaries to each other and to Global Partner/Wesleyan World

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

November 2002

Missionary Alumni Links

WMAF GATHERINGS

Bartlesville, Oklahoma Area

Former Wesleyan missionaries from six western states met on the campus of Oklahoma Wesleyan University in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, on Saturday, October 12. It was a memorable occasion, enjoyed by all who attended.

Attendees: Former Missionaries - 26
Former MKs - 5
Active Missionaries - 3
Guests - 3
TOTAL - 37

Marion, Indiana Area

Twenty-eight missionary alumni from four states met in Marion, IN, October 19, 2002, for a refreshing time of fellowship, music, Global Partner updates shared by Jim Vermilya and a special prayer time led by Jeanette Vermilya. Humorous stories and wonderful answers to prayer were shared as Paul Meeks interviewed several of the alumni. Paul Wilson provided special music during the lunch hour which was followed by a tour of the former Wesleyan Headquarters building led by Dr. David Wright. There was unanimous agreement that the reunions should be held on a regular basis. Thanks to Paul and Darlene Meeks and committee for a memorable reunion.

Atlantic District

This year, 2002, is the 100th anniversary of the first missionaries being sent from the Atlantic District of The Wesleyan Church to South Africa. During the summer camp meeting a special missions banquet was held for all former and current missionaries sent from the district. There were more than 30 persons present. They shared in a blessed time of relating "war stories," which were inspi-

ration, challenging, and in some cases highly humorous. In the evening service that day, these missionaries marched into the tabernacle to the sustained applause of nearly 1500 people present and were given reserved seating and special recognition.

Reported by Dr. H. C. Wilson, D.S

Houghton, New York

Several former Wesleyan missionaries meet periodically in Houghton under the leadership of Dr. Storer and Wilma Emmett (Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, Haiti).

Reported by Alton Shea (Sierra Leone)

COMING!!!

Central, South Carolina Area

Date: November 9, 2002

Location: Trinity Wesleyan Church, Central, SC

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MISSIONARY VETERANS

Some among us were missionaries for many years. Let the editor know how many years you served, along with the dates of service, and you will be mentioned in the Newsletter.

Dr. John and Priscilla Edling, Haiti, 1952-68, 1979-88; 26 years. Now working with Haitians in Florida.

ALUMNI DIRECTORY

The WMAF Directory contains the names and addresses of more than 400 Wesleyan missionary alumni units. The directory is available upon request to the editor for \$2.00 to cover printing and mailing. The directory will be sent free to those who can receive an e-mail attachment in Microsoft Excel. Any WMAF members who do not want their names and addresses included in the directory must notify the editor so their names can be deleted.

GLOBAL PARTNERS LINK

PARTNER POINTS

Dr. Don Bray, General Director, Global Partners

Familiarity breeds contempt is an old saying with a measure of truth (fortunately it isn't true for Joy and me!). Communicators tell us the unexpected grabs attention while the predictable disconnects. When we do the same thing day after day, what was once challenging, intriguing, and motivating becomes mundane and draining.

Matthew 13:44 says, *The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.* In this two-sentence parable, Jesus teaches that there is intrinsic value in the kingdom of heaven that fosters great joy because of its value, so the decision to sell everything you have to get it is a no-brainer!

Every believer is called to be counter-cultural (though many aren't), to deny oneself, and take up the cross to follow Jesus. For us in missions, it can seem like our calling and the reality of our lives separates us from others in the Kingdom. We are not only expected to be counter-cultural but bicultural, taking on the values of another people and releasing our inclination to be Canadian, American, Filipino, or Guatemalan for greater kingdom values. We agree to live at a different economic level than our culture and training expect, we leave family even at difficult times in order to fulfill God's call, but we do it to be like Jesus, *who for the joy set before him endured the cross despising its shame.*

Then, in the day-by-day living out of our call, the emotional cost of constant spiritual battle, the drain of being in, but not of, another culture, the value of the Kingdom can be lost. What was once joy is now drudgery.

We have paid the price to *buy the field*. Today, let the Holy Spirit blow the dust off the treasure, let the rays of the morning Sun capture afresh its beauty so our hearts can delight anew in the *treasure* of transformed lives and powerful churches that make worthwhile the investment of our lives. You are invited to fall in love again with your call to international ministry.

From CURRENTS

INTERACTING...

Norm Wilson, Dir. of Intern'l Ministries, Global Partners

Changing Wineskins

Right now our administrative team, together with our area directors, have a challenging task ahead of them—to work with our global church leaders on new strategies to fund national church ministries. In previous budget years, many of our national churches received monthly subsidies

from Global Partners-Wesleyan World Missions to assist with their ministries. These included (1) evangelism, (2) church planting, (3) leadership training, and (4) ministries of compassion. But after December 1, 2002, all national church ministry funds will be raised in partnership with North American local churches and districts.

This new budgeting approach is in response to a shift in North American giving patterns and will provide new ways for North American Wesleyans to get involved in missions. Traditionally, Wesleyans have given significantly to our general fund, which provided resources to assist with national church ministries. In recent years, however, undesignated giving to general ministries has declined significantly. This upcoming change in our funding procedures for national church ministries could have a significant impact on our work in many places, in both positive and negative ways.

God can turn these developments into a tremendous advantage if we will sense where He is leading and follow Him. These financial circumstances ought to prompt us to reexamine all our ministries in the light of our vision and mission and the call that God has placed upon our hearts. Currently, our national church leaders are developing and implementing strategic plans to double the number of our members and local churches within five years, and God is greatly blessing these initiatives. As we communicate with North American churches and districts about these endeavors, I firmly believe that God will touch people's hearts and provide resources to accomplish His will.

Let me summarize the provisions that are now in place.

- ♦ First, the amount of monies allocated for our mission team continues to grow, which includes direct support and other services to missionaries.
- ♦ Second, funds for mission operations has decreased, although not drastically in most cases.
- ♦ Third, the budget for home office operations has been reduced by around \$165,000, which has required reducing staff and significant economizing in a number of areas.
- ♦ Fourth, subsidies for national church ministries will be funded through national church shares instead of from the general missions' budget.

All changes bring questions and concerns, and this transition is no exception. However, our administrative team is confident that this new approach to budgeting will provide a solid foundation for future growth and development.

Adapted from CURRENTS

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY PERSONNEL

There are some new developments in the area of member care for Wesleyan missionaries. First, we have a pastoral care team consisting of Dr. Med Bailie, Dr. Art O'Dell and Dr. Jim and Jeanette Vermilya. They are qualified for not only pastoral care and counseling, but also for working

with missionaries in personality analysis and interpersonal relationships. They have all had training in Critical Incident Stress Debriefing as well.

Second, a volunteer Crisis Management Team has been recruited and trained. This team would respond to a crisis involving missionaries such as a terrorist incident, a hostage-taking, or a natural disaster. I am very grateful for these individuals' commitment and willingness to serve!

Beth Fussner, Dir. of Personnel, Global Partners

Newly Appointed Missionaries

Jim and Judy Keilholtz reappointed as "new" missionaries to PNG

Jared Holsing to Albania/Kosovo

Arrivals

Dennis and Lois Wright for home ministries from Austria (August)

Departures

Fred & Carol Cromer for third term in Zambia (August)

Greg and Shannon Rast for first term in British Isles

Todd and Karen Robinson for first term in Russia

Janell Sitzer for first term in Cambodia

Kirk and Tonya Statler for language study in Costa Rica

Jim and Sandi Todd for first term in Brazil

PRAISE AND PRAYER LINK

PRAISE

- ♦ **Mozambique, Africa.** A team from Swaziland went to Likunyi village in Mozambique and presented two showings of the JESUS FILM. Sixty-nine people accepted Christ, including the village headman.

Reported by Rich Lively, Dir. of JESUS FILM PROJECT

- ♦ **Sri Lanka.** Cedric and Sharlini Rodrigo report 12 new converts baptized.

- ♦ **Lusaka, Zambia.** At the end of a worship service in one of the Wesleyan churches, 18 people came to Christ.

- ♦ **Mexico.** Eighty-six people came to know Christ in special evangelistic meetings with Evangelist Luis Martinez preaching.

- ♦ **El Salvador, South America.** Three congregations are in the process of becoming Wesleyan churches.

From FRESH CALL and GLOBAL PRAYER NET

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ♦ **North America.** Brian & Wendy Sheets as they assist local churches with missions emphasis through Global Visioneering, a ministry of Global Partners.

- ♦ **India.** Dr. Lal Pulamte, Wesleyan Church leader, who has been ill for some time.

- ♦ **Guyana, South America.** Current economic uncertainties in this country cause concern for the construction of a new Bible school building.

- ♦ **Bougainville, South Pacific.** Frank and Ruth Midavaine have just returned from furlough and will be heading up the construction of a new Bible college building.

From FRESH CALL and GLOBAL PRAYER NET

WMAF LINK

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

KARIS PEOPLE

We have just opened our newest school that we built for refugee children. About 600-700 were in attendance. The mayor and a representative from the cabinet of ministers were present. The American ambassador was also present and was highly impressed with our work. He thanked World Hope in his speech. Mick's speech has been played several times on TV, and he has been invited to do an interview on a live morning program.

The school has nine rooms and enables 500 students to attend. This has given jobs to 45 teachers who were previously unemployed. The city paved the road in front of the school. I believe this is another way that the Lord has given us respect in the eyes of the government, and most importantly, we are truly helping the refugee status of the Karis people.

-Mick and Melanie Veach

SOUTHERN AFRICA

There are now seven students who are actively working towards their district ministerial license in the Transkei area. They have almost finished their second book out of

six needed for their license. Each time I go to teach, they are all there with paper and pencil in hand ready to learn. The district superintendent that I work with in the Transkei area is Rev. Solomon Hempe. He is 73 years old. He has such a delightful personality and has a heart of gold and a heart that is for God. Rev. and Mrs. Hempe have nine children who are all raised now, but with AIDS so rampant in the area, many of his family members on his wife's side have died with AIDS. Since Rev. Hempe and his wife are the only living relatives, they are responsible to raise the children left behind, ages one, five, seven, and nine. Rev. Hempe makes about \$50 American a month and was recently given the opportunity to be a leader in the community, which would pay him a very considerable income. The catch was that he would have to pray to his ancestors and not say that the Bible was fully God's Word. Rev. Hempe said NO immediately. He told me, "I know what I believe and that God has saved me from my sins. I don't want to go to Hell because of money. I'd rather be poor and go to Heaven than rich and go to Hell. God will provide for me and my family."

We are praying that God will give Rev. Hempe strength and provide for him.

-Mike and Cindy Helvie

MONGOLIA

We had a harrowing experience going to central Mongolia. With a mountain to cross and the road closed, we ended up going through the forest on top of the mountain and then down, at night! The path ended about 30 yards from the road with a ravine in between. But the Lord was faithful and got us through. We ministered to a small church of 30 people and showed the JESUS Film. On Sunday, there were 15 new people at the service. The pastor asked if anyone wanted to pray to receive Jesus and 11 came forward. That afternoon we baptized 14 at the river.

The mountain experience was the devil's way to try to hinder what the Lord wanted to do. But the Lord is faithful! We got home safely after a 13-hour drive, a different way over the mountain.

-David and Ginny Bass

ZAMBIA

Since praying the *Prayer of Jabez* over a year ago, I have had many opportunities to preach. I thank the Lord for making me willing to obey His nudging that first day when I was asked to preach but didn't really want to.

Last Sunday, I was asked to preach for the women's zone meeting at Siambula. The drive to the village was a challenge. After missing a turn, asking directions, using 4-wheel drive, and having the road turn into more of a path, we arrived at the church.

God blessed us that day for the effort we made to reach those people. The service was on being clothed in spiritual garments, taking off the old and putting on the new as

we were new creatures in Christ. Four women came forward when the altar call was given. It is a humbling experience for me to be used by God in this way.

-Liz Anderson

PHILIPPINES

Tonight in the Metro Baguio Youth Rally, we sensed the Holy Spirit's presence right from the start. The Lord moved on Art O'Dell (pastor-to-missionaries) to change his message. Conviction settled down on the 60+ youth. When Art challenged them to obey God and settle their eternal destiny, 27 college youth came forward. Many could not hold back their tears. The youth president testified that she had not been obedient to her calling, which she settled at the altar. Others shared how God had spoken to them.

At the pastor/laity seminar, when we walked into the room, we sensed the presence of the Lord, which made it so easy for people to be open and share. When Art began to speak, he found himself moved along by the Holy Spirit to touch on things he had not planned. The spiritual father of many present, now 71, and retired, stood to speak with tears to share how God was moving him forward in ministry again. Art's words had enlightened and encouraged him. Another older pastor stood to share about his renewed commitment for ministry. Tears were flowing. Art took us through the steps in understanding and developing our personal mission statement that ended in a concise written statement. This exercise seemed to open a whole new understanding of what God intended to do in and through them according to their personality and gifts. Art commented, "What happened here today is like a revival."

At services on Sunday morning, 15 prayed at the altar. Four were visitors. Sunday afternoon we held another service with many from other churches in the area joining us. Thirty-seven went to the altar to pray.

-Bob and Kay Bickert

Honduras Crusade

There are no words to describe what the Lord did this last weekend [in Honduras]. It was simply glorious! God sent His blessing before the crusade with all the work put forth by the Church of Honduras. They rented a baseball stadium and the first night we had approximately 250 people in attendance. Fifty of them came forward making a decision of one kind or another for Christ. On Saturday, we had approximately 300 people present and 45 came forward. On Sunday, we ended the crusade with about 400 persons present and about 80 came forward making decisions for Christ. The estimate of new believers is 75. It was very encouraging to see the commitment of the pastors to begin follow-up the very next week.

Honduras has an enormous potential to grow through evangelism.

-Luis Martinez, Evangelist