



LINK

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

Volume 2, Issue 2

Fall 2003

⌘ FESTIVAL OF NATIONS ⌘

When: June 18-19, 2004

Where: Grand Rapids, MI

Occasion: Prior to General Conference of The Wesleyan Church, which will be held June 19-23, 2003.

- ◆ A grand celebration of the international ministry of The Wesleyan Church.
- ◆ Missionaries and representatives from nations around the globe will be present.
- ◆ Recognition of former Wesleyan missionaries.
- ◆ A great **Gathering** of missionary alumni for a wonderful time of reflection, fellowship and fresh challenge.

Make your plans to attend the **Festival of Nations** and **General Conference**. Further information will be made available soon in the *Wesleyan Advocate*, or on-line at www.wesleyan.org, and in future issues of the *LINK*.

LIGHTNING RESPONSE TO A SPECIAL NEED

Deeply concerned over financial needs faced by Global Partners, the WMAF Executive Committee launched an appeal in July for alumni to make an extra, sacrificial love gift before the end of the fiscal year. Alumni responded like lightning with over \$14,000 by the end of August! Thanks to each one who sent a love gift to Global Partners during this time of financial need!

General Director Don Bray says: "Many of you have been praying for us and the financial issues that we are facing. The last three months of our fiscal year (June, July, & August) were a

source of encouragement for us. Many friends responded with financial gifts, churches large and small took special offerings, and missionary alumni, including many fully retired, gave sacrificially so that the gospel could continue to be proclaimed. One district raised funds at their annual conference so that the missionaries from their district would be fully funded. Another church has directed part of their budget towards support of missionaries as members have volunteered to help with the custodial work. We are so grateful for the encouragement and blessing you have given to us!

"In addition to appeals for assistance, we also made significant cuts in ministry budgets in the home office, including limiting travel, suspending publication of the *Wesleyan World* magazine, and not filling office staff positions. It appears that with the increase in giving, cuts in operational expense and using some of our limited reserve funds, we will end the year with all expenses covered. *Praise God!*

"While celebrating this good progress, we must report some big challenges in front of us. Until the funding issues are resolved we will continue to limit our spending significantly."

Financial contributions to Global Partners from WMAF members will still be greatly appreciated. It is not too late! Send your love gift to:

**Global Partners/Wesleyan World Missions
PO Box 50434
Indianapolis IN 46250**

Be sure to designate the contribution for the "missionary alumni appeal."

SHARE YOUR NEWS

The *LINK* would love to hear from you! To keep the information flowing between alumni, the following persons have accepted the position of correspondent for the WMAF. News and information may be sent directly to the editor, or to the following:

- CAROLINAS AREA**.....Lois Downey (Brazil)
107 Finch Ct
Central SC 29630
864-639-5598 or
ldow.1@juno.com
- FLORIDA AREA**.....Betty McCandless
(P I/Zambia/Haiti)
22259 Wilson Memorial Dr
Brooksville FL 34601
352-796-6250
- INDIANA AREA**.....Jeanette Vermilya
(Haiti HQ)
9204 Allisonwood Dr
Indianapolis IN 46250
317-595-6258 or
jv@wesleyana.org

Where Are They Now?

Can you help us locate "lost" former Wesleyan missionaries?

- Eugene & Jackie AlbertsonHaiti
Margaret Bally Sierra Leone
Larry & Daisy Bittinger Curacao
Sarah Britten Sierra Leone
Dorothy GillespieHaiti
Johannes & Ann Holte..... South Africa
Robert & Joanne Keith South Africa
Glen & Dorothy Pelfrey..... Jamaica
Joan PriceZambia
Eloise Wood Honduras

If you have addresses for any of the above, please send them to the editor:

M J Vreugdenhil
1418 SE Arbor Dr
Bartlesville OK 74006 or
mjvreugdenhil@bartnet.net

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 *LINK*.

- ◆ **Dean & Elizabeth Phillips** (Retired)..... 42 years
Caribbean and Guyana1947-89
- ◆ **Dr. John & Priscilla Edling** (Retired) 26 years
Haiti & Haitian American Ministries..1952-68 & 1979-88

PRAYER AND PRAISE *LINK*

PRAISE

THE CZECH REPUBLIC ☞ The cheerleading camp was the largest yet with 147 campers from several countries. Many shared that they are openly seeking God, and as many as 60 asked for a Bible. One of them accepted Christ.

GUATEMALA ☞ *Praise the Lord!* According to René and Glenda Crisóstomo, a total of 373 people were seen by a medical team that visited several towns in Guatemala from July 21-23. Forty-three adults and four children made commitments to receive Jesus as their personal Savior.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA ☞ In the Southern Highlands area of Papua New Guinea, during the months of June and July, 4,054 people at 17 centers watched the JESUS Film with 323 people giving their hearts to Jesus!

From *Fresh Call* and *Global Prayer Net*

CROATIA ☞ We celebrated a very special day for several people in our church. The whole church headed to the river for a very special celebration of baptism. Those who were baptized have really had to count the cost. Some of these followers have gone against their families by declaring Jesus to be the Lord of their lives. I have been challenged by several of the young people as they have demonstrated an incredible measure of faith.

--Bethany Karish, GO-Net

ZAMBIA ☞ During the last break at Pilgrim Wesleyan Bible College, six students and one lecturer went to plant a church in Chadiza, which is in the Eastern Province of Zambia. In three weeks they planted a church in a town where formerly there had been no Wesleyan Church. They spent a week in door-to-door evangelism, another week holding a crusade, and the final week following up new believers. They taught, preached, cast out demons, and prayed for the sick. Many people told them, "We have never heard the Bible preached like you preach it!" The students said they had never experienced anything like what they saw God do in that town. Scores of people were converted, including a local chief, a policewoman, a judge, teachers, and many others. They left behind a church of about 40 adults as part of the new Chadiza Pilgrim Wesleyan Church. In August 2003, Simon Mitti and his wife will graduate from PWBC and will pastor at Chadiza.

--Fred and Carol Cromer

PERU ☞ This summer a medical ministry team from the Texas-Louisiana District spent a week in the Amazon. Led by Pastor Howard Garver and Leeann Little, the team included one Peruvian doctor who currently lives and works in Mexico, two medical students from our Surco church in Lima, one medical technician from the Zarate church in Lima, and Joel Ferguson. During their week's outreach to a new village called Santa Cecilia, the team saw over 700 patients. The team also measured the vision of, and dis-

tributed glasses to a number of people. Other ministry included working with children and ministering in the evening services. During the week, nearly 50 people accepted Jesus as their Savior, and 20 were baptized, including three members of the team!

--Jarvis & Sue Ferguson

AUSTRALIA ☞ Each Thursday evening we have a Bible study in our home called "QACS" (Questions about Christianity). Last Thursday my friend, Brenton, wanted to know what unified the world's religions yet made Christianity unique. The whole session concluded with us looking at Romans 3 and talking about the difference between 'salvation by works' and 'grace'. I wish I could convey the looks of glee on the faces of my friends as it began to sink in: God gives me forgiveness, not because I deserve it or have earned it, but because He is gracious and has provided salvation through Jesus. We concluded with a time of prayer and four of the five attendees participated, including Brenton. I suspect it was the first time he has ever prayed out loud in his life.

--Bill Foster

PRAYER REQUESTS

PACIFIC AREA CONVENTION ☞ For the first time ever, the national superintendents of all the Pacific Area Wesleyan Churches will attend a leaders' forum in Sydney, Australia, January 12-13, 2004. This will be an opportunity for the leaders to consider how to cooperate in outreach and church development throughout the area. This leaders' forum will be held in conjunction with The South Pacific Convention, sponsored by The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia, January 13-18. Pray for these leaders and for Area Director Jeff Fussner.

BOUGAINVILLE ☞ Frank and Ruth Midavaine report that classes are scheduled to begin full-time in the new Bible college building in February 2004. The construction on the building is coming along, however, they are in need of help to build the furniture. Pray that the Lord will provide them with the workers they need in order to complete the building on time.

SRI LANKA ☞ Attacks on the Church in Sri Lanka are increasing. Reports state that Christians and Christian workers doing evangelism have been physically attacked and church buildings destroyed. Legislation is expected to come before Parliament that will restrict evangelism. Pray that Wesleyan workers in Sri Lanka will continue to minister boldly and experience the Lord's grace and protection.

EURO-CAMPS ☞ Many young people experienced life changes during the camps held in Europe this past summer. Some of them are new believers; some have sought the Lord for a deeper walk, and some have answered the call for Christian service. It is important to love these young people through prayer. Pray for their follow-up discipling and for continual spiritual growth.

HOME MINISTRIES ☞ This summer God protected a missionary family who was in a motor vehicle accident which totaled their car. Another missionary's car caught fire and destroyed everything but his laptop computer. Continue to pray for the Lord's protection for our missionaries as they travel.

From *Fresh Call* and *Global Prayer Net*

Global partners news *LINK*

OVERSEAS CHURCH RECORDS GROWTH

The statistical report is nearly finalized for the period from January 01 - December 31, 2002. Our membership continues to grow in most of the forty-five national churches that currently relate directly to Global Partners, bringing our total for 2002 to 132,133 members. This represents a 10.1% increase over the number of members at the time of General Conference in 2000. The number of churches for the same period reflects a slightly stronger gain percentage-wise, with a total of 1,860 for a 13.3% increase when compared with the 2000 report.

In recent months our area directors have been engaged in developing summaries of strategic plans for each national church, as well as action plans that outline the programs and other initiatives that will enable us to accomplish our goals in each place. Presently thirty-three of our forty-five national churches have put into writing elements of a strategic plan.

Would you join me in prayer, that these planning activities will not be mere mental exercises? Instead, may God inspire and equip our leaders around the world that we may truly understand how He wants to use us to accomplish the vision He gave us for transformed lives and powerful churches!

--Dr. Norm Wilson
Dir. of International Ministries

*WESLEYANS IN THE DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO*

We had the privilege of traveling with Dr. Don Bray and Rev. Lindsay Cameron on an historic trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The purpose of the trip was to officially establish a group of churches as a district of The Wesleyan Church.

How did these churches begin? Apparently, there were a number of people who were already attending an established church when a small group came through passing out gospel tracts. These tracts spoke of a personal relationship with Christ emphasizing a distinct work of holiness in the heart of the believer. These tracts created such a desire to know more about holiness that the people began to seek until they experienced the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Revival began, but it did not please the leaders of their church. Their leaders gave them an ultimatum. "If you want to stay in the church, you must stop seeking for the holiness of heart." You may have guessed it. They were put out of their church. After a period of time, this group somehow made connections with the Wesleyan Church in Zambia. They sensed a kindred spirit, and a relationship was started.

With the Congo, there are Wesleyan churches in six countries in southern and central Africa. Those countries are South Africa, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, and Zambia.

--Rick Cox

NEW TEAM FOR ALBANIA

Gary, Jody and Timon Cooper have recently returned to the United States from their term of service in Albania. Through their faithfulness, the church has continued to reach out to new people, and a lovely ministry center has been built. Much prayer has gone up for a team of missionaries for Albania. God has been at work, and two new couples, led by Kevin and Cindy Austin, will be attending the November Orientation here in Indianapolis in preparation to go to Albania. Praise the Lord for His provision that the work in Albania may go forward.

*DEVELOPMENTS IN
MISSIONARY TRAINING*

Global Partners' internship program provides on-field experiential training for new missionaries. Interns are appointed for two years, and work under the supervision of a missionary men-

tor. The program includes language acquisition, focused culture learning through the use of specially prepared study guides, and ministry involvement. Our first three interns have now been appointed as career missionaries, and have expressed their gratefulness for the development of their lives through the program. They feel they were well-prepared for long-term missions involvement. The mentors are delighted with the results of their investment in these lives full of potential. Currently nine people are in internships, with 14 more preparing to go.

--Mary Beth Fussner,
Director of Personnel and Training

WMAF LINK

Special Thanks to Dr. Marion Vreugdenhil for his work on the LINK. As this is being finalized, he is in South Africa, teaching in the Wesleyan African Leadership Training Seminar.

*ALUMNI NEWS AND ADDRESS
CHANGES TO THE EDITOR:*

M J Vreugdenhil
1418 SE Arbor Dr
Bartlesville OK 74006
918-335-8619
mjvreugdenhil@bartnet.net

*CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE
OPERATING COSTS OF WMAF:*

Global Partners/Wesleyan World Missions
P O Box 50434
Indianapolis IN 46250
317-570-5160
E-Mail: wwm@wesleyan.org

The WESLEYAN MISSIONARY ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP requests voluntary contributions to help cover the cost of publishing and mailing this newsletter.



Happy
Happy
Thanksgiving
Thanksgiving