

LINKING former Wesleyan missionaries to each other and to Global Partners

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Liberia Wesleyan College Graduation



Just over 10 years ago the Wesleyan College of Liberia suffered the huge blow of having their accreditation status revoked by the Liberian Department of Education. That meant that they could no longer offer degrees and consequently the size of their student body declined significantly. Graduations have not been held as they awaited the reinstatement of their status,

Over the past 10 years the college worked hard to meet the standards of the Education Department. The President of WESCOL, James Toga, completed his PhD and other faculty members upgraded their credentials. Facilities were improved including a new library, computer lab, and wall around the property.

The accreditation was finally restored this past December 2020 and plans were started to celebrate the graduation of the students who had completed their studies over recent years. On February 16th the long-awaited graduation took place (photo above) and once again WESCOL awarded theology degrees to its students. Years of prayer, sacrifice, and hard work finally was rewarded. All glory to God!

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What do Guyana, Uganda, Mongolia, Sierra Leone, and Mexico all have in common? They are all places we've visited (virtually) in recent days as we serve the church around the globe. Our interactions with these diverse countries were varied, including:

- Facilitating the response of Global Partners to needs in churches brought about by the pandemic;
- Acting as an intermediary between national churches and outside partners to help build a productive partnership
- Coaching African pastors on effective ministry in Muslim communities (Brenda)
- Coaching missionaries in their role in helping national churches develop culturally appropriate church structures
- Providing conflict mediation

by Bob & Brenda Bagley, Global Partners career missionaries

Rickard “Dick” Bennett (82), died December 22, 2020. He served as congregational care pastor at Eastern Hills Church in Williamsville, New York. Previously, he served at other Wesleyan churches in New York and as a missionary in Albania with Global Partners. (No obituary available)

Richard W. Barker

Richard Wilson Barker (92), died March 3, 2021 in Wilmore, Kentucky. He was born and grew up in Detroit, Michigan. He attended Kentucky Mountain Bible College and completed his degree at Indiana Wesleyan University. He then earned his MDiv from Asbury Seminary (Kentucky). There Dick met Barbara Adkins and they both shared a call to Japan. They married in 1957.

After pastoring seven years, they arrived in Japan in 1964 working with World Gospel Mission and the Immanuel General Mission Church. Dick taught at Immanuel Bible Training College, and helped start the Wesley Book Club. Barbara taught piano and organ at IBTC, English Bible classes, and cooking classes. They returned to the USA in 1979 to pastor three years. They returned to Japan in 1993 with Wesleyan World Missions (now Global Partners) for eight years ministry with IGM. They retired in 2001.

Richard is survived by his wife Barbara and their children, Lester, Martin, Norman, Cheryl, and Keith; and numerous grandchildren.



::: Complete obituaries are posted on our website: [HERE](#).

TRUSTING GOD WITH EVERYTHING

We stood in the living room of our home in a small town in South Asia, packed and ready to return to the States. Could this community of believers continue to grow in a sometimes hostile environment without us there to walk by their side? Our vision was to see a multiplying church blessing every village in our state. Now we were challenged to trust God with the vision.



One morning , we received a call from Santosh,* one of our developing leaders. During a visit to his village, he was approached by local leaders. They confronted him as a follower of Jesus. He was told to go back to Hinduism or there would be trouble for him and his family. He simply shared why he had decided to be a follower of Jesus and the changes that have taken place in his life. Church leaders organized a 24-hour prayer and fasting chain. Many people from the local church family committed one hour of focused prayer, and they fasted together as well.

Soon leaders met at the stone water tank of the pastor’s house, Santosh made his way into the water to be baptized. The cost of following Jesus was worth it. He was the final member of his family to be baptized. A total of 19 believers made the meaningful decision to be baptized.

We didn’t need to worry. The local leaders’ faith is strong, and the future is hopeful in South Asia.

**Santosh name changed for security.*

by Global Partners missionary in South Asia Feb 2, 2021

*“Train up a child
in the way he should go.”*

I am the third son of William and Flora May Link, and I am here today, retired after 62 years in ministry, because they did their job. With my 11 siblings, we are all serving the Lord. We are a testimony and a witness to what a Christian home can produce.

Every morning after breakfast Dad opened the Bible, read a selection and then we all got on our knees for prayer – every day. By age six, I was keenly aware that Jesus wanted me for full-time ministry. In a Sunday worship service, our Sunday school teacher, Grandma Markwood, knelt beside me and assured me the Lord was listening to my answers. Attending school, we found our teachers became a second mother to us. God kept on equipping us.

I enrolled at God’s Bible College where I took my first trip to Guatemala. Telling the college president of my trip, he returned my tuition check saying someone had given a grant for “a student preparing for missionary work.” I married Virginia A. Harper, took the pastorate at a church in Mason, Ohio, and prepared for a missions’ assignment. We arrived in Guatemala on September 15, 1960 and taught in a Bible Institute and planted five churches. We returned to the United States in 1974, and I joined the faculty at God’s Bible College and pastored a Wesleyan church. A door opened with Wesleyan World Missions for us to go to Medellin, Colombia, to open a residence Bible school. Over the next 15 years, we traveled to 26 countries, showing the *JESUS* film and planting churches.

Returning home to South Carolina, we pastored Hispanic churches there and in Texas. Now I have passed the baton but continue in obedience to the heavenly voice, a desire instilled in my heart by my parents and teachers.

Rev. Orvan Link retired in July as pastor of Nuevo Pacto, a Hispanic ministry at United Wesleyan in Easley, South Carolina. He and wife Virginia live in Seneca, South Carolina. *Weslife* Newsletter Dec. 18, 2020

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NEXT INTERNSHIP EXTENSION

Thirteen participants in nine time zones are being trained to host NEXT interns in the future. Some sites, the Lord willing, will host interns this summer; some are dreaming about becoming sites in the future. We are building the foundation for further expansion and impact.

NEXT is a mentored cross-cultural immersion experience for young adults. They will gain exposure to the global church and develop relationships with people who are different than themselves. Our trained NEXT site leaders are ready to walk with interns as they increase their self-awareness and understand their place in God’s kingdom work.

NEXT Site Leader Training not only gives us hope for the future sites of NEXT, but it gives us hope for the kingdom impact that is to come. Our past interns have joined NEXT because someone like you presented the opportunity to them.

by Dina Horne, NEXT Developer Feb 2, 2021 GP Amplifier



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To receive the digital *LINK*, please send us your email address. See us on the web at:
<http://www.globalpartnersonline.org/alumni/>

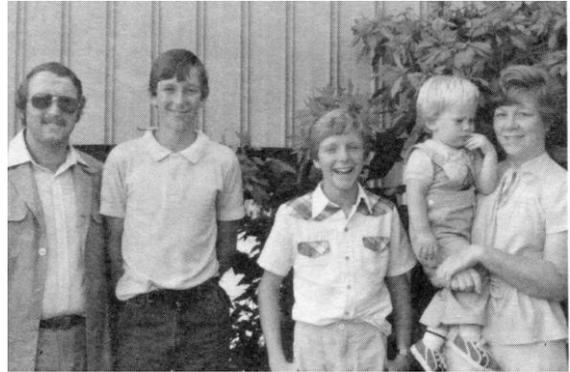
Pioneer Missionary Bios **The Papa Bear Gustave Prinsell**

Born in 1922 in Jersey City, New Jersey, Gus tells in his memoir of childhood poverty caused by the Great Depression. His father was unemployed for a decade, but his parents never wavered in insisting that their children pursue an education. In his early 20s, he served from 1942 to '46 in the US Navy where uniforms, a sea bag, and a hammock were daily routines. As a teenager, he refused to accept the truths learned at home as a child about Jesus, sin and salvation, and the hope of eternal life with Jesus. George Beverly Shea was his Sunday school teacher for two years in his early teens. Yet he found excuses to go his own way, but was not content. Soon after boot camp, he attended a church in Boston that had a Christian center for servicemen. The Holy Spirit began to work on Gus, and when another Christian friend invited him to church services, he was impressed with the friendly people. He was convicted of "sin, righteousness, and judgment." He avoided an altar call, but couldn't get away from how God was pursuing him. Alone in his room, he prayed and confessed every sin he could remember, especially his own hypocrisy. God gave him a personal relationship with the Savior, Jesus, and Gus did a 180 degree turn around with his life. He wanted to aim for everything God wanted for him.

Gus married Louise Marie Binger July 27, 1946. He had worked in her father's Fulton Fish Market for a year and a half in his teens and learned much about leadership, business management, and personal communications. He believes this foundation enabled him to manage the hospital in Sierra Leone, Africa and later his medical practice in Houghton, New York. People mattered and this has stayed with Gus through his years.

Gus graduated from Houghton College and earned his medical doctor degree from Columbia University in 1952 and went on to study surgery and tropical medicine. He then turned away from material gains and dedicated his life to medical missions in West Africa, where he moved with Louise and their four sons, Jonathan, James, Jeffrey, and Joel in 1957

20th Century Archives



In 1982, two months before their third son was born, this family left for Papua New Guinea. The father was born in Boise, Idaho and learned a deep love for missions from his parents. His sister served as a nurse in Zambia and a cousin served in South Africa and an aunt and uncle served in Haiti and Africa. The mother was born in Boise, Oklahoma and set out to become a school teacher. The couple met at Bartlesville Wesleyan College (now OKWU). Both parents gave their hearts to the Lord at the age of 12. They also served in Liberia, Guyana, Czech Republic, and he served a time in the Global Partners office.

..... Last issue we featured Jim and Roxene Lo currently teaching at Indiana Wesleyan Univ. Jim teaches missiology and serves as campus intercessor/pastor. Roxy serves in the Indiana Central District office.

Their sons are Andre and Matthew.

and opened the new Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital in 1959. They served two three year terms in Sierra Leone, and later short terms in Zambia and Zimbabwe. In 1964, they returned to the States where Gus served as a family physician in Western New York until his retirement. Gus has been an early riser, and takes daily hour long walks when he can pray and meditate. He has kept up with learning in his medical field to be current, reads volumes, and carries on correspondence. Gus has made several overseas trips under World Hope International to conduct medical clinics, and served 16 years as the leader of Wesleyan Medical Fellowship.

When asked to describe himself in one phrase, he defines himself as "a Christian missionary physician and humanitarian." His life of dedication to God and mankind is an example for us all. The Prinsells continue loving God and loving people.

from The Papa Bear, Gustave Prinsell, A Memoir Aug. 2016.