

LINKING former Wesleyan missionaries to each other and to Global Partners

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Happy New Year from Macedonia!

Matt and Sarah Boyer

Darkness, pain, suffering, fear, isolation, loss, and grief... I've experienced these feelings more over the last two years than ever before. BUT, I have the **hope of heaven!** Have you ever stopped to think how it must feel to live without that hope? In our country, less than 1% truly know Jesus' salvation; so life looks dark and hopeless. I can see it in the eyes of those who have lost family members with no hope that they'll ever see them again. I can hear it in the voices of those struggling emotionally, physically, or financially and don't know if this pandemic will ever end or if their lives will ever be normal again. This kind of darkness and hopelessness isn't new. Because of it, God sent His Son, the Light, to give us redemption, peace, joy, and hope, not only at Christmas but for eternity! Over the last 12.5 years in Macedonia, there have been times when we felt like we shined the hope of the Gospel well and that the "Light of life" is pushing back the darkness. However, this last year it has sometimes seemed that we're just keeping our heads above water. But whether we are having a great year or it's the hardest, God is still the hope of the world. And because of His love and forgiveness, these words remain true today...



The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah (9:2,6).

Pray for complete healing of recent health issues for Matt and Sarah.

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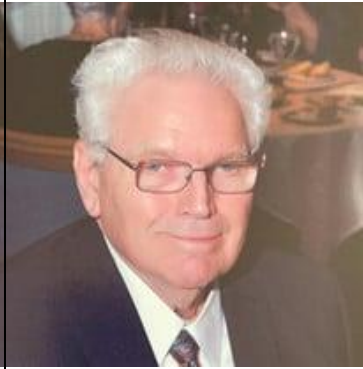
www.globalpartnersonline.org/alumni

Praise

In 2021, there were 144 long-term missionaries (4 years+), 19 NEXT (short term interns), and 20 new missionaries. The total giving was \$10,560,180, with 44% of churches engaged in support of GP and another 10% having individual donors. The Wesleyan Church has a presence in 97 countries, where 382,568 people worshiped. Salvations reported were 14,575, and 2,762 churches planted 256 new congregations. Praise God for what He has done through the efforts of His people!

Condolences

Everett Louis Hackett



Everett Louis Hackett passed away on July 20, 2021, in Broken Arrow, OK, at age 85. He was born in Whiting, IO, to Shirley Hackett and Harriet Persinger. Everett earned bachelor's degrees in agriculture and business, working as a teacher and landscaper in Minnesota. On September 2, 1964, he married the love of his life, Virginia Ann Hunter. Everett's many hobbies included reading, singing, coin collecting, and watching sports, especially the Green Bay Packers. He and his wife, Virginia, served as missionaries with Wesleyan World Missions in Sierra Leone for six years teaching agriculture. For another six years, Everett served in the Army Air Corps in Utah as a weatherman before separating with an honorable discharge. He is preceded in death by both of his parents, his wife Virginia Ann Hackett, and his brother George Hackett. Everett is survived by his daughter Emily Hackett Jorissen (husband Donavon), daughter Amy Malone (husband Chris), sisters Esther Ernst (his twin) and Caroline

Johnson, as well as his grandchildren Victoria Hackett (Tyler Schielke), Jacob, Caden, and Allie Malone, and Tiffany, Evan, Kristen, and Liberty Jorissen.

Marjorie Eila Shea

Marjorie Eila Shea of Houghton, NY passed away on Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022, at age 77. She was born on March 5, 1944 in Warsaw, NY, the second child of the late Alton James Shea and Aileen Ortilp Shea. She led a life dedicated to beauty and service in the US and in Africa as a nurse, a teacher, and an artist, serving at Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital from 1970–1982. After further education in art at Houghton College and IWU, Eila taught art and nursing at Houghton Academy for nearly two decades. After retirement in 2011 she continued to nurse part-time and to paint, with her works displayed across the country. She delighted in providing art therapy classes at nursing homes, holding weekly Bible studies at a county jail, and serving through her church.



Eila's family has long been mission oriented. Also serving in Sierra Leone were her parents (1970-1777), and brother Paul (Deborah) (1978 -1989). Brother Jonathan (Pat) ministered at ELWA in Liberia for many years, where grandson Alan and Cheri now serve; and an aunt and uncle, Henry and Elizabeth Orlip (also deceased) served in China and the Caribbean (1947-1984).

She is survived by her brothers Jonathan and Paul with their wives, five nieces and nephews, 12 grand nieces and nephews, and a host of friends who vouch "that she occupied a large part of their heart and life." Family and friends will gather at a date to be determined in May at Houghton Wesleyan Church to celebrate a life that glorified her Heavenly Father.

Complete obituaries for Edward Hackett and Eila Shea are posted on our website: [HERE](#)

Vicki Diane Shepherd



Vicki Diane (Summers) Shepherd, while not a fulltime missionary, is remembered for her selfless volunteer work for Global Partners. She was also well known as a woman of prayer, and she ministered teaching English in Croatia for six weeks and in Central Asia with the Karis people for eleven months.

Vicki entered heaven on the day after her 67th birthday, September 26, 2021 following an extended and courageous fight with pancreatic cancer. She was born September 25, 1954, in Indianapolis, the youngest daughter of Keith and Margaret (Stadler) Summers. She married Carl Shepherd on July 10, 1976. Her rich legacy lives on in her family and in the countless lives she touched along the way.

She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Carl Shepherd; three sons, Jonathan (Christine) Shepherd, Ryan (Kristel) Shepherd, and Stephen (Tamara) Shepherd; four grandchildren, Joel, Josiah, Ansel, and Zion; five siblings, Dennis Summers, Wayne Summers (Linda), Mike Summers (Sara), Sandy Edwards, Jerry Summers (Diana) and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in passing by her parents.

Happy 20th Birthday to WMAF & LINK!

The Wesleyan Missionary Alumni Fellowship is turning 20 this year. In early 2000 the idea for such an organization was discussed by GP personnel and put into effect, with a constitution established. The first executive committee of eight founding members was held in March of 2002. The members were: Marion and Vergie Vreugdenhil (chairman), Wayne and Virginia Wright, Philip and Elsie (Kilmer) Myers, Meredith Bailey, and Beth Fussner. Local and area chapters of the WMAF were also begun during 2002. The first issue of the WMAF Newsletter, as it was initially called, was sent out in January 2002. It was first named the LINK in the October 2002 issue, and has been published quarterly since its inception.



Marion Vreugdenhil, followed by Bob Smith, as the first two chairmen of the WMAF, initially sent out the newsletter. Paul Turned was appointed as editor during Bob Smith's tenure. Thank you to all whose hard work has helped us keep connected!

Awards

Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented this past October to Fred and Carol Cromer and Jim and Jeanette Vermilya. The Cromers received OKU's **Hall of Faith Award** for 2020, recognizing their "life's mission of serving Christ" and impacting others for the gospel. Jim and Jeanette were present for the "meet-up" at OKU (see picture), and the next weekend they received the **IWU Campus Distinguished Alumni Award** for many years of faithful service in various ministries for the cause of Christ. Congratulations Cromers and Vermilyas!



OK Meet-Up Report

The WMAF fellowship of the south-central region gathered Oct.9, 2021 on the OKWU campus in Bartlesville, OK, including thirty retired and current missionaries, missionary kids, and others. The last "Missionary Meet-Up" in the region was held fifteen years ago. It was great to have Jim and Jeanette Vermilya, WMAF president, bring greetings. Fred and Carol Cromer, retired missionaries to Zambia, were our featured speakers, sharing thoughts on the impact the mission field had on them and their family. Over



light refreshments the attendees introduced themselves, gave updates, shared scriptures, and sang and prayed together. The two hours passed quickly and once again we realized how precious is the missionary family and what blessing it is to connect and share with each other" (submitted by Kathy Daake, Regional Coordinator). Note: Kathy Daake (middle row, third from the right), is the daughter of Glen and Janice Barnett who served Wesleyan World Missions in Haiti (1951 – 1970).

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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/>

Bio: Dr. Doris Scott

Doris Scott, our featured missionary in the fall issue, sensed a new call from the Lord in 2021. Doris' father was a Wesleyan Methodist pastor in Michigan. After high school, she attended Houghton College; then transferred to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in New York City to complete her training. While at Houghton, she sensed God's call to missionary service, but it was another eight years before her call became clear. Learning of the need for nurses at Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital in Sierra Leone, Doris knew it was her time. Her local church supported her for a year in 1975-76, followed by a brief time at home. She then returned with the backing of Wesleyan World Mission for another two years.

During the following thirty-one years she taught at Indiana Wesleyan University while caring for her elderly mother (twenty-five years). She also received a master's degree and then a doctorate through Ball State University. Among other courses, she led cross-cultural trips with student nurses to Sierra Leone and Haiti. Doris retired from IWU in 2010 and returned to Michigan.

In 2021 a friend invited her to move with her to Georgia to live with her son, his girlfriend, and eight children plus a newborn. The adjustment was overwhelming after years of living alone, but Doris realized God's call of ministry to this family. She and her friend take whatever children are available to church each Sunday. They also have the freedom to hold devotions with the youngsters after evening meals. Recently one child said she had accepted Jesus and another asked God to help him keep promises after a discussion on that topic. For Doris, she has the opportunity to be another "grandmother" to these precious children.



20th Century Archives



Who am I? "When I was 12, I missed a year of school due to rheumatic fever. Our doctor could find no source of infection and ordered complete bed rest. Later that year, a visiting evangelist anointed me with oil and prayed for my healing. The healing did not come instantly, but after my doctor discovered and pulled two infected teeth, I was on my way to recovery.

An important result of my sickness was that I felt God tugging on my heart to answer His call to ministry. I said, "I am yours, Lord. If you heal me, I will give my whole life to You to preach the gospel." Years later, during a routine physical, the doctor said, 'You think you had rheumatic fever as a child. Your heart shows no evidence of that!' My only answer could be, 'Then God healed me!'

This missionary served as a pastor, then spent thirty years with Wesleyan World Missions on the Asian continent.

Evy (Hay) Campbell and Kerry Kind recognized last issue's picture of Doris Scott as they had served with her in Sierra Leone.

Zambia Report

Thank you to all who prayed for the nursing students during their semester in Zambia. For a fun student-created report on the trip, check out the following:

https://youtube.com/watch?v=O1xE5_dGKSg&feature=share