

Rejoicing Breaks out at General Conference

Spontaneous singing of the chorus "Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus" spread across the room on May 24 after Dr. Wayne Schmidt led the conference in reading "The Statement of the General Board of the North American Conference of the Wesleyan Church." The statement was affirmed by a resounding "Amen." The main tenets of the statement follow:

"We affirm our deep commitment to our core mission of evangelizing the lost, discipling believers, equipping the Church, and ministering to society. This mission is foundational as we seek to be agents of the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ. ...

"Our General Superintendent, General Board, General Conference, district superintendents, and the presidents and board chairs of our college and universities, have prayed, discussed, and reasoned together and unanimously approved the following statement of affirmation:

'We hereby declare that we remain deeply committed to proclaim, defend, and hold each other accountable for the historic and orthodox doctrinal positions of The Wesleyan Church ..., and We hereby affirm our full and ongoing support for the official Position Papers on the social issues of our time, ...

1. To affirm that persons of all races are created equal in the image of God and are entitled to equal justice under the law.
2. To affirm the sanctity of life and that all life is sacred from conception to death.
3. To affirm that God's only design for marriage is between one man and one woman.
4. To affirm that religious freedom is a liberty essential for our pluralistic democracy.' ..."

Praise be to God for our Church's continuing commitment to these standards!

To read the full General Board statement, go to wes.life/gbstatement. Taken from an article by Rev. Angela Alvarado, assistant editor of Communication and Administration of the Wesleyan Church and a graduate of Wesley Seminary, Marion, Indiana.

Condolences

Ruthan Burchel



Ruthan Jane Fisher was Born March 10, 1937 in Arcadia, OH and went to be with her Lord on June 27, 2021. After receiving her RN, Ruthan served as missionary nurse with the Wesleyan church in Sierra Leone. Ruthan married Hal Burchel in August, 1965 and together they worked as medical missionaries in Zambia. After raising their family, the Burchels returned to Africa, serving in Kenya, Tanzania and Somalia, in medical clinics, evangelism and discipleship. Ruthan was a disciple of Jesus who faithfully followed Jesus all her life.

Daniel R. Bursch

Daniel Bursch age 103, was born June 13, 1918 in Chanute, KS, and passed away January 18, 2022. He conducted missionary work in Zambia from 1950 to 1966 with the Wesleyan Church, overseeing the construction of mission schools. He later became the President at Owosso/John Wesley College, while obtaining his Educational Doctorate from Michigan State University.



Mitchell Cotrone



On April 27, 2022, Mitchell Cotrone's heart failed, and his race on earth was finished. Mitchell had married Ella (Roland) in 1957; they served twenty-two years with the Wesleyan Church in Columbia, South America. Ella developed cancer and went to be with the Lord in 1991. Mitchell married Janice Cooper, missionary to Haiti, in 1996, and they returned to Haiti for four years. This was followed by six years at Hope Wesleyan Church in Naples, FL establishing Haitian and Hispanic congregations alongside the English believers. Mitchell formally retired in 2008, but kept on serving Jesus wherever he was.

Naomi R. Croft

Naomi Croft, 87, of West Decatur, PA died May 17, 2022. She was born April 13, 1935 in Guyana, South America to missionary parents, the late Edward Everett "E.E." and Eunice (Petry) Phillippe. She lived in Antigua and Grand Cayman as a young person. Naomi was married on August 25, 1956, to Rev. John L. Croft, who survives at home. John and Naomi served as missionaries in Suriname (1962--1963) and Grand Cayman (1963--1974).



Hazel Leatherman



Hazel Leatherman of Ellington, MO was born Hazel Marie Thomas on January 19, 1926, and passed away December 9, 2021 at the age of 95. Hazel served with the Wesleyan Church in Northern Rhodesia, (now Zambia) at Chabbaboma and Siachitema Missions from 1959 to 1964, training local educators how to teach elementary school. Returning to the US, Hazel became Dean of Women at Bartlesville Bible College. She married Oliver "Bud" Leatherman in 1966 and served with him until retirement in 1993. Bud passed away March 2018.

Elaine K. Newton

Elaine Newton passed away on May 6, 2022. She was born October 22, 1941 in Muncie, IN the daughter of George and Lois (Manlove) Newton. She spent her entire career in the nursing profession in Indiana and at Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital in Sierra Leone, West Africa (15 years). In 1982 she returned to the US to care for her ill father. She had recently struggled with much pain from cancer.



Marcus Garnett Phillippe



Marcus Phillippe passed away November 4, 2021 in Indianapolis, IN at age 89 after living with Alzheimer's for a number of years. Born January 17, 1932 in the Dutch West Indies, he spent his childhood on several Caribbean islands with his missionary family. He married Ruth Marie Royer in 1952. They served as missionaries in Zambia, Africa 1961-1966. they remained until 1966. Upon retirement he and his wife lived in Avon, IN.

Doris Jean Wall

Doris Wall was born December 14, 1944, and died in Brooksville, FL on May 26, 2022. She joined Wesleyan World Missions in January 1967 to minister as a nurse to Indians in the interior of Guyana, South America. In 1987 Doris took extended leave to care for her parents' health needs, returning to Guyana in 1995 to teach in the Wesleyan Bible College in Georgetown. In 2000 she established a Bible School in the interior. She also worked with native translators to produce a more readable edition of the Patamuna New Testament, dedicated in 2011. She retired in 2012.



Note: Due to the large number of obituaries, they are shared briefly here with the full obituaries on the WMAF website: <http://www.globalpartnersonline.org/alumni>.

Missionary Bio

Mitchell John Cotrone was born in Chicago on Jan. 15, 1935. His father Nunzio had immigrated to America at sixteen and married Loretta Nanna. Shortly after his birth, Mitchell's parents came to know the Lord. Their faith grew strong, and they began seeking a life of holiness. Mitchell gave his heart to Jesus at age five. The family moved to a 160-acre farm in rural Wisconsin where each of their nine children learned the responsibility of chores and the value of a job well done. Mitchell also learned to overhaul old engines including keeping his mother's sewing machine running smoothly. At the age of 17 he was sanctified at a church camp and determined then to follow Jesus wherever He led. Mitchell enrolled in Vennard Collage in Iowa and earned a Bachelor's degree in Bible, with a minor in Missions. While there, he met Ella Roland and they wed in 1957. One son was born, Gregory Paul. *(continued on page 4).*

Missionary Bio

The family pastored in Iowa before serving in Columbia, South America with the Wesleyan Church (1970-1992). He served with his second wife, Janice (Cooper) in Haiti (1998-2002). The Cotrones adopted two Colombian children, Joe Anthony (Tony) and Rosella Esther, and two young Haitian brothers, Philip Joseph and Joshua John. Mitchell became fluent in Spanish and fervently carried the gospel throughout the Andes mountains, training and mentoring pastors while working as printer in the mission bookstore in Columbia. He pioneered the young congregation of what would become the largest Wesleyan Church outside the US. He constantly prayed for revival to sweep across our land and around the world. He lived his life to the glory of God. At the time of his death, he had been an ordained elder in the Wesleyan Church for 65 years.

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20th Century Archives



In the 1959/60 school year these kids were in first and third grades in different towns in Indiana. They met at God's Bible School and were married in 1974. Two sons were born in 1976 and 1978; the second with multiple birth defects. God touched him and today he lives a normal life. A daughter was born when the boys were 14 and 16. In 1987, they joined the Wesleyan Church and returned to Brazil under Global Partners, where they had served with another mission. While the husband was Bible college president in Manaus, the college grew from four students to ninety-four in one year! A second term was spent in Fortaleza, working with the national church. The family has pastored in Anderson, IN, for twenty years. Although officially retired, they are now pastoring Parkview Wesleyan in Chesterfield, IN. All three children are married to wonderful Christians and are ministering for God. Who are we?

Readers, you were correct if you identified the 12-year-old in the Winter issue as Paul Turner.