

GP News: Dr. Jim Lo in Transition

Dr. Jim (“Umfundisi”) Lo has served in higher education for the past 27 years, as professor, director of IWU’s World Impact, dean of the chapel and campus intercessor. His position will be changing after the Spring Semester 2023. Although he plans to continue at IWU teaching part time and as campus intercessor, as well as “circuit rider” for the Crossroads District of the Church, he will be partnering again with Global Partners as a trainer for Wesleyan pastors on international fields. This is especially relevant as his doctoral degree focused on “Contextualization and Cross Cultural Leadership Development.” He and his wife, Roxene, continue a long relationship with GP, which included their missionary work in Southern Africa and Cambodia from 1982-1996. Dr. Lo will not receive a salary for this international training. All fund contributions will go toward travel, lodging, food, and course materials.

Regional WMAF meetings are Held



The Northeast regional meeting of the WMAF was held at Chambers Camp in Central New York on Sept. 28, 2022, wonderfully hosted by Dick and Cindy Doan (Regional Director). Greetings were brought from Jim and Jeanette Vermilya and Joe and Pat Estes. Then Rev. Dan Pickering, who with his wife, has prayed for and supported missionaries for many years, spoke thankfulness for those who have made sacrifices to serve. Dan has also led many short term trips to Haiti. Great fellowship was enjoyed by all the attendees.



A missionary “Meet-Up” was held Oct. 8, 2022 on the campus of OKWU, with seventy people in attendance, planned and directed by Regional Coordinator, Kathy Daake. The speakers included OKWU professors Mike Fullingim and Becky Le. Jackie Fussner, mid-Southwest Regional director of NEXT (pictured) explained the NEXT program; and a recent participant, Ariela Nettleton, spoke of her overseas experience. Finally, the group heard from Jason and **Kerensa McFrederick**,

missionaries to the Czech Republic who were scheduled to return there the following week. They gave an update of their work and the effects of the Ukraine war in their area.

During the OKWU Homecoming, WMAF member Eleanor Hunsinger received the Hall of Faith award for her lifetime of faith and service. It was presented in a general assembly and again at the alumni banquet, as shown here.



Condolences

Dr. Marilyn R. Hunter



Marilyn R. Hunter, 85, passed into life eternal on Oct. 21, 2022, in Carmel, IN. Born Sept. 28, 1937, in Watertown, SD to Rev. John and Amy Jackson Hunter, Marilyn grew up in Wyoming, Montana, and South Dakota. Marilyn attended Marion College (IWU) for one year, then Houghton College, graduating with a pre-med major in 1959. She completed her M.D. degree at Temple University in Philadelphia in 1963 and a residency in pediatrics in Grand Rapids, MI. After practicing pediatrics in Lowell, MI four years, she served as Director of the Wesleyan Mission Hospital in La Gonave, Haiti,

for the next 25. Upon her return to the US, Dr. Hunter continued her practice in Nilus, MI, and Marion, IN, retiring in 2012. She is remembered as a joyful and generous follower of Christ, as well as a willing nursery volunteer at Brookhaven Wesleyan Church.

Rev. Joseph Edward Larakers

Joseph Larakers, age 80, of Normanna, TX went home peacefully to be with the Lord on Oct. 17, 2022, surrounded by the love and prayers of his family. Born May 28, 1942, to Joseph and Virginia Larakers, Joe gave his life to Jesus Christ at the age of 17, and was dedicated to serving his Lord. He married Patricia Sue Watson on Aug.15,1963, and together they served as senior pastor and wife at Hoyne Avenue Wesleyan Church in Chicago for 35 years. At age 59, Joe and Patricia went to Haiti to work as Director of West Indies Self-Help (WISH) for eight years. In 2001, he retired to live near family, and faithfully attended New Hope Christian Church in Beeville, TX.



Fred L. Mikesell



Fred Mikesell, 60, did not survive a tragic accident on Dec. 21, 2022. During icy conditions on a highway in Kansas, a semi-truck lost control pushing Fred's vehicle into a tree. The son of Ernest J. and Margaret H. (Kroeker) Mikesell, Fred was born on Aug. 28, 1962 in Belleville, KS. He grew up on the family farm, a lover of the outdoors, but also an avid reader. He received BA and MA Degrees in Biology from Kansas State U., then moved to Zambia where he taught biology and built relationships with Zambians. After

completing a MA in Divinity from Wesley Biblical Seminary in MS, he taught in Sierra Leone for three years. Back in the States, Fred was a spiritual pillar of his family and continued preaching in area churches and discipling friends. He also took two more short-term mission trips to Uganda.

James A. Sayers

James Sayers, 94, of Coleman, MI, died Nov.16, 2022. He was born Jan. 13, 1928, the son of the late Glenn & Jennie (Jewell) Sayers. James married Kathryn L. Arnold in 1948, but she preceded him in death in 1970. He then married Laura E. Jordan on Oct. 9, 1981. He is survived by his wife, and many other beloved family members. Jim enjoyed flying his planes and served as a missionary pilot in Guyana in the 60s. He likely helped missionaries like Doris Wall get into the interior.

The full obituaries can be found at globalpartnersonline.org/alumni/in-memoriam.



Celebrating the Brief Life of a Devoted Disciple

Nancy (not her real name) was lost in every sense of the word. She was from an unreached people group, had a very difficult life, and her prospects were bleak. One day she met Jesus, and her life started to change. She wanted to share her faith with others, and she connected with GP missionaries working in her country. Together, they begin to organize Perspectives courses, offering education and training for others who wanted to become missionaries. At one time she was leading up to 75 Asians through these courses.

When COVID began, the first countries impacted were in Asia. National leaders began meeting by Zoom, sharing the hardships their churches were facing. Members were unable to find work to feed their families, much less support their pastors. Hearing this on a Zoom call, Nancy was moved by the need to help. Like the Macedonian Church of 2 Cor. 8:2 (*"In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity"*), she encouraged house churches in her closed country to provide essentials for believers in other Asian countries. Within the next few months more than \$100,000 USD was raised by these church members. *(continued on page 4)*



Representative photo only

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Celebrating (cont'd)

In 2021, “Nancy” became the first member of The Wesleyan Church in her country. She continued to passionately and faithfully train new missionaries, giving her a full life to the advancement of God’s Kingdom, all the while battling stage four cancer. Nancy passed away in March 2022 while still a young woman. One of her dying wishes was for a pastoral training program to be started in her country, where today, 11 students are participating in an underground training course, preparing for ordination. Praise God for Nancy’s life that, though brief, was devoted to Him!

Taken from an article by Ben Ward in the November 2022 “Amplifier.”

20th Century Archives



Our missionaries met at Marion College in the fall, 1978. The woman had grown up in Michigan; her interest in nursing was sparked by a neighborhood nurse. Her relationship with God led to a desire to use that career in missions. The husband grew up in a pastor's home in Ohio. While in college, a summer mission's trip to Brazil opened the door to God’s call. They married in 1982 while in seminary, then pastored in northwest Ohio for 3 years, during which time their children were born. In August 1988 they began a year of Spanish study in Costa Rica before going to Peru, where they served for 20 years. Their main focus was on theological education and helping with a church plant in the capital, Lima. After 2 years, they moved 500 miles north to Chiclayo where the Bible school was located, remaining there until 1997. The husband’s focus was full-time teaching and assisting Peruvian leaders throughout the surrounding region. The mother focused on homeschooling their children, but also used her nursing skills to benefit Bible school students, friends and others. She assisted many couples through pregnancy, childbirth and lactation issues. They continued to serve churches in South America until 2018. With godly people in place to lead the new Ibero-America conference, they knew their time in missions had come to an end.

Last issue’s missionary was Elsie Kilmer Myers.