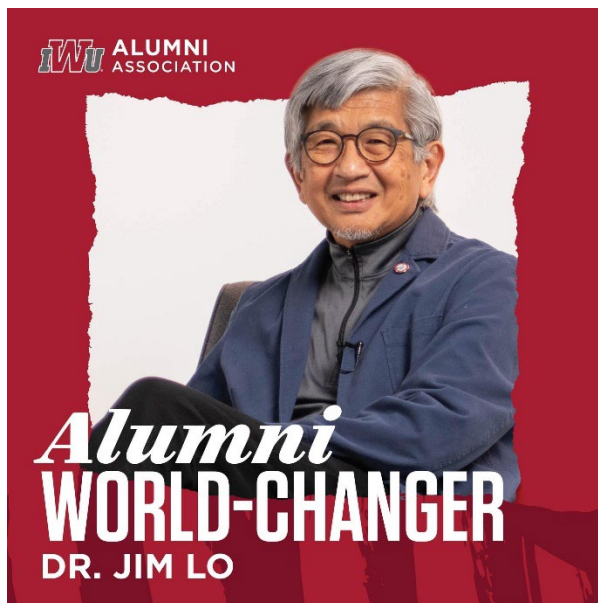


## A Perspective

Someone asked at my "Good-bye party" as I was finishing my time at Global Partners, if I was retiring. I was only 61 at the time, so I said, "No, I'm not retiring, I'm retreading." Yes, the Lord had something more for me to do. That was in 2006, and thanks to the Lord, He still has more for me to do. While I do believe as we age, there is a time to "step down," and not to judge anyone who has "hung up your hat," I believe God in His mercy still wants to use us. Just look around and be open to His leading. How about you? Let us know what you are doing in ministry. We'll pray for you and let others know too. ~**Joe Estes**

## The Goodness of God



A discipline I am seeking to practice more and more is to focus on the "positives"... seeking to see what God has done and is doing. This summer I had the opportunity to be in Nepal and Mozambique. I was able to see how God is transforming the "negatives" into "positives."

### Below are FB postings I wrote:

My trip to teach in Nepal is now history. Here are some of the positives of that trip. So many things come to mind:

- Meeting new Nepalese brothers & sisters in Christ who are amazing.
- Teaching and preaching to leaders who were so receptive to what was being shared.
- Watching tears flow from some of those who came forward to be saved.
- Praying over individuals who wanted to be entirely sanctified.

- Worshipping in a different cultural setting again brought joy to my heart.
- Seeing Nepal by traveling rough, steep terrain to visit mountain churches was thrilling.

My trip to Xai Xai, Mozambique was filled with a myriad of emotions. It was over 33 years ago that I ministered there.

- Tears welled up when I saw Bible school principal, Rev Filipe Macaringue. He was around 25 when we first met. He shared with me that he "surrendered to being holy" after a class I taught on holiness. I was around 30 at the time.

- I was amazed at the number who told me they remembered me. Many shared they were around 10 to 13 years old when they first saw me, and shared how they remembered me preaching about Zacchaeus and to get my point across, how I had climbed up into a tree to preach. They are now in their mid-40s.

- There was joyous laughter, fellowshiping with brothers and sisters in the cross-cultural setting of Mozambique.

I am on the 'phase out' plan at IWU with a lighter responsibility load. I still teach 2 classes and continue being the Campus Intercessor. But I now have more "space" to serve the church in America and to travel overseas to teach.

In all the ministries I am involved in, I am sensing the goodness of God. He is doing incredible things in the USA, Nepal and Mozambique. ~**Jim "Umfundisi" Lo**

## Interview with John & Marge Connor -Part 2



**Question three: Joe Estes:** *Over your years of service in many different places, how did this experience affect your values and worldview even to this day?*

**Marge:** One of the things that I noticed is that, while cultures are very diverse, there are similarities, like how families operate. The thing that I noticed most of all is that friendship really does matter and that everywhere we went, people usually had a best friend. I too, was able to have some best friends along the way. In every place that we went, God gave me a best friend. Jesus talked about friendship in John 15:13-15. He told his disciples that they were his friends, not just his servants and his disciples, but they were actually his friends. When you enter another culture, you try to figure out why the

people do things the way they do. We tried to remember God really truly is in control – and we were there for a purpose. The people we worked with were also there for a purpose. We moved around a lot. At one stretch, four different summers, we moved to a different country, and different continent. Our kids suffered. Our daughter at one point said, "Mom, I don't ever want to have another friend." And I said, "Why not?" She said: "Well, when I get a friend, I leave or they leave." So I began to pray for my kids that they would have one good friend. And if you have one good friend, you could get through just about anything.

**John:** One of the things that I learned which guided me in many ways is the differences in culture. When I was in Papua New Guinea, I spoke the language and there were weeks that I did not speak any English. My friends would teach me their culture. Later in Zambia, I thought, okay, I'm going to go see black people in Zambia, and the culture will be the same. But the culture was not a thing like I expected - it was very different. And just because I had that attitude, I made some stupid mistakes along the way. Now, I look at the cultural angle of things, even in my own culture and what's going on with other people and why is this happening? or why is that happening? Culture is very important, and you really can't understand the people until you understand their culture. The attitude of the people you're working with is different as well because they're not afraid to tell you what their culture would say about almost any situation. So, I think one of the values that I've learned is, look to culture and try to act within the cultural range.

**Question 4: Joe:** *Okay. John, you served as theological consultant in Bible schools throughout the world. What did this type of work entail?*

**John:** First of all, Bible colleges and ministerial colleges are really important for the development of the church. One of the things that we get caught up in as Westerners; is a feeling that a person cannot be a good pastor and have a real call without being schooled in a seminary or Bible school. But I have come to believe that God calls people in all ranks of a ministry to be in a village where they have strong beliefs and they have strong fears. And the pastor is affected by that because that's his culture. He feels called to ministry and his ministry may not look like the ministry of the guy that's ministering to the president or a senator or even a rich man. But God calls all levels of people and all levels of people need to be trained and they need to be trained and as far as they can go in the culture that they live in according to their abilities and their background. So, in looking at Bible colleges, one of the things that I observed that seemed to be a problem was that sometimes missionaries like to teach certain things and don't like to teach other things. For instance, I like to teach is theology, and if I have a chance to add a class to the Bible College and there's a choice between family counseling and theology, I vote for theology. But that doesn't balance the school. We need family counseling. We need history. We need languages. We need all of those things. And we need a balance. So, we set up a methodology so that pastors who were not really well-educated could get a district ministerial license by doing 6 to 8 major courses. And that's the first level. The second level is to be up to speed with the 24 required classes for ordination. That's what their call is and that's what they feel like they want to do. We needed some successes and we were able to establish certain successes within the framework that worked for the denomination and the national church as well. One of the passions I really appreciate now is the desire to see national pastors get master's and graduate level degrees because we're moving into cities where we really need trained pastors. And that's not the only thing we need, we need to be able to train every pastor to the level of his calling. *(To be continued in the Winter issue)*

## Condolences

### ***Joan Alice Kinde***

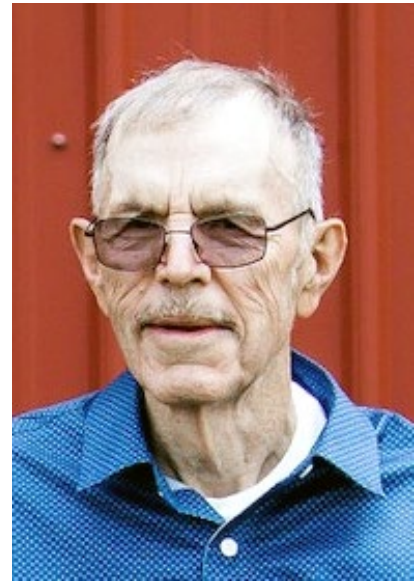


Joan was born on 10/5/1936 and died 10/5/2023 at 87 years of age, after a several-year battle with progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP). Preceded in death by her parents, Thure & Alice, her husband, Don, and brother, Russ, she is survived by her children, Mark (Sharon), Larry (Sandy), Carrie Jo (Geoff); 10 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; 1 niece, 8 nephews and spouses; and friends and believers worldwide. Joan testified to the assurance of being redeemed and forgiven and spoke with confidence about the plans God has for her (Jeremiah 29:11). A memorial celebration was held on 10/21/2023, at Waite Park Wesleyan Church, in Minneapolis, MN. (YouTube.com/WaiteParkChurch). Memorials preferred to The Evangelical College of Theology (TECT) in Sierra Leone, West Africa;

The Women's Ministries of the Sierra Leone Wesleyan Church; Wesleyan Church Global Partners; or Waite Park Wesleyan Church Missions.

### **Larry J. Ter Avest**

On September 12th, Larry J. Ter Avest (82) went to his heavenly home surrounded by his family. To honor Larry's wishes we will not list his achievements, other than to say he loved his Lord and Savior and always wanted to honor Him with his life. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Ter Avest, his baby sister Betty, his brother John, his stepmother Betty Bailey, his in-laws Mr. and Mrs. Clare De Went. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Carol, his children Dr. Kristi Ter Avest-Thede(Cory), Rev. Todd Ter Avest and Beth and his six grandchildren Taylor, Tristyn, Ty, Elijah, Anna, and Fritzlin, his sister Linda Wieringa, brother Bill Ter Avest (Sandy) and sister-in-law, Sherry Bergsma (Jerry). Larry and his family served the Wesleyan Mission in Haiti on the island of La Gonave from 1975-77 and on multiple work teams in subsequent years, during his daughter, Dr. Kristi Thede and family's years of service in Haiti. A family graveside service was held soon after his passing and later a memorial service was held on September 23 at Living Hope Community Church in Richland, Michigan, conducted by Rev. Todd J. Ter Avest.



## *A New Wesleyan University in Zambia*



Dr. Henry Smith, Principal (President) of Africa Wesleyan University College (AWUC), and President Emeritus of Indiana Wesleyan University, along with Dr. Alfred Kalembo, former Bishop of the Pilgrim Wesleyan Church in Zambia for over 17 years and the Vice-Principal for Advancement for AWUC, presented the dream of a Wesleyan University in Zambia to the Brookville Wesleyan Church in Florida. What a delight it was for them to meet with seven former missionaries to Zambia! Together, these men are telling the story and seeking support for this much needed Wesleyan University, the first outside of North America, to churches and friends throughout the world! We invite you to check out their website:

[africawesleyanuniversity.edu.zm](http://africawesleyanuniversity.edu.zm). More to come on this exciting endeavor in future publications of LINK.

[www.globalpartnersonline.org/alumni](http://www.globalpartnersonline.org/alumni)

Dr. Jim Vermilya – President- WMAF, [jimver44@gmail.com](mailto:jimver44@gmail.com)

Joe Estes, Acting Editor, [estesjp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:estesjp@sbcglobal.net)