

# LINKING former Wesleyan missionaries to each other and to Global Partners

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I am happy to announce that Joe Estes has been officially appointed as Editor of the LINK. Many of you remember him from his work at Global Partners as the one who helped us with our audio-visual presentations about our fields when we visited supporting churches. He served, along with his wife, Pat in Sierra Leone, prior to coming to Indianapolis. Welcome, Joe! ~*Jim Vermilya*

## A Perspective

A friend of the family asked for some advice regarding what is most important in their lives. I had to think and pray quickly. I thought of our relationship with God and how His presence produces the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Then the thought came to me, which I shared, "It's not what you do, It's who you are that counts." There is an old saying, "Who you are speaks so loud, I can't hear what you're saying." It's true – Who you are, on the inside, is most important. My hope and prayer is that the love of God might be clearly seen in us all. Please feel free to write to me and share what God is doing in your life. ~*Joe Estes*

## A Call to Prayer – Africa

Pray for Global Partners workers at Kamakwie Hospital in Sierra Leone. Dr. Bob and Marsha Vermaire and newly appointed missionary Don Werkheiser, who is helping with maintenance and project management at the hospital. Pray for strength, encouragement and good working relationships with Staff and patience as they serve.



Pray for the regional leaders like John Baminhoma in Sierra Leone, West Africa and Doctor Galela, (Africa) South East region - For wisdom and insight into how to raise up a young generation of servants and leaders for the African church. Also pray for the principals and leaders teaching in the 8 Bible schools across Africa. A special request is for the healing of Rev. Mohammed Said, national mission director in Mozambique. He has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer. Rev. Said is responsible for the national churches mission work established in Malawi and Tanzania. ~*Randall Cheney-Area Director*

## Caribe-Atlantic Area

Haiti continues to spiral downward as gangs control well over 80% of Port-au-Prince, and are now extending their violent dominance into more rural areas. Several Wesleyan Churches have been forced

to close their doors due to their location in heavily controlled gang areas. The National Superintendent had to move his family due to the constant threat of the gangs. He said on a Zoom recently, "We are prisoners in our own homes. When we have to go out, we could be shot or kidnapped." The island of La Gonave has remained relatively calm through this time, but the impact to food supplies and the cost of available food has been felt very strong by the people there. Please pray for...



- Our Haitian Wesleyan brothers and sisters living in this constant tension. That they will continue to live out and proclaim the hope in Christ.
- The Wesleyan Hospital on La Gonave that continues to serve as the only hospital on the island.
- The School of Nursing as it continues to prepare quality nurses in a country with so much physical need.
- The Wesleyan Church in Suriname
- The Wesleyan Church in Guyana and GP Missionary Angie Hemric
- Our Haiti missionaries who have been reassigned to other countries or assignments within GP (Cory and Kris Thede, Bob and Marcia Vermaire, Nancy Lanni, Daniel Stanley, and Don Werkheiser) ~**Greg Edmonds-Area Director**

## "Jubilados Jubilosos." "Happy Retirees!"



**Rick & Mayra West-Miranda**-edited by JE

God opened a door of continued service in this Wesleyan desert of North East Florida. Since there is only one Haitian church 45 minutes away, next closet English or Hispanic WC is 1.5 hours away, I chose to attend a small Hispanic Church of God Cleveland, TN, in Saint Augustine, FL. There were only about a dozen people, but both the Pastor & the People welcomed me to participate in every area of the church without being a member including serving on the LBA. I started a Sunday school for kids, 3-10 years old. Two of my granddaughters attended. The church grew over the next couple of years in spite of the COVID pandemic 😊. The church became my church family.

During this time I took an interest in Pastor and District Superintendent, Mayra Miranda of Puerto Rico. We were engaged on her 65th birthday December 7, 2021. So, I left Saint Augustine, FL for Puerto Rico. Shortly after, we were married on May 28, 2022. We remained there for 8 months, before moving to our home in Saint Augustine in January 2023.

Since we arrived in Saint Augustine, we joined the Iglesia Anastasia Hispanic Church about 20 minutes from our house. Pastor Gregorio would come to our house every Tuesday for 10 weeks for coffee, discipleship and sharing the vision of the church. He knew we will not be joining the church, but still wants us to be involved in every area of church ministry where we feel called to serve. We are part of a small group Bible Study that meets on Wednesday evenings in different homes in nearby neighborhoods. We began studying the Pentateuch a year ago; covering one chapter a day, with a guide, then having discussions on Wednesday evenings. It is a tremendous time.

On Saturdays the Church distributes groceries to 150-175 families who come to the church to pick them up. Mayra & I are part this amazing ministry which includes an offer of evangelism and prayer for each person. There is an average of 35-40 volunteers each Saturday from our church and others.

I was asked by the assistant Pastor to be his mentor. We meet once a month. Pastor Nelson spent 20 years on the beat for NYPD. Mayra & I are also discipling others using the guide provided by the church. Mayra discipled a lady from Cuba, and I'm discipling a man from Peru. The congregation of 100-120 are from nearly every country in Ibero-America including Spain. We also serve as ushers once or twice a month. Actually this ministry is quite involved and takes 2-3 hours, an hour before service, during the 1.5hr service and 1-2hrs after service. We enjoy serving.

On one occasion while I was in the hospital receiving treatment for cancer, I came down with the RSV virus, and had to be quarantined. Since pastors & people could not visit me as they had done in the past, they did a Google Meet prayer meeting. As one of the men, a founder of the church, prayed, "Lord in the 16 years of our church there has never been a couple who has influenced our church in a more positive way than Rick & Mayra." We were shocked; I didn't know what he meant. We had coffee a few days later and I asked him about it. He said: "Rick, you and Mayra are examples of authentic Christians, and there are so few today." We are still shocked, but with the realization that it is a joy to serve the Most High God.

Mayra & I also serve the FL District Mission Coordinators since last July. The FL District is focusing on: Colombia, Cuba, Guyana and Haiti. Mayra & I thank God that in retirement; we continue to be open to ministry opportunities. ~**Rick & Mayra West-Miranda**

## Condolences



### **Virginia Link**

Virginia Link, 89, wife of Orvan Joe Link, passed away on Friday, February 9, 2024, at Residences at Park Place, in Seneca, SC, surrounded by her loving family.

Born October 23, 1934, in Springfield, Missouri, and raised in Newport, TN, Virginia was the daughter of the late Walter Allen Harper and Josephine Angeline Lile Harper. Following her marriage to Orvan in 1958, they served over 25 years as career missionaries in Guatemala, Central America, and Colombia, South America. Upon returning to the United States, Virginia fulfilled a lifelong dream to be a nurse, becoming an R.N. at age 55. She loved caring for her patients on the fourth floor of Oconee Memorial Hospital. She was a member of ALIVE Wesleyan Church in Central, South Carolina.

Virginia is survived by her husband Orvan and three sons: Glen David Link of Greenwood, SC; Orvan Dale (Sheryl) Link of Seneca, SC; and Steven Philip (Sheree) Link of Summerville, SC. She was a loving grandmother to 4 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

### **Louise Prinsell**

Louise Marie Prinsell of Houghton passed away peacefully in her home on March 15, 2024, at 99 years old. She was born on January 12, 1925, in Jersey City, NJ, and raised during the "Great Depression." Though from an uneducated family, she studied and worked hard to graduate from college and nursing school — earning both Bachelor of Science and RN degrees by the young age of 20.



She married her childhood friend, Gustave Prinsell, on July 27, 1946, in Jersey City. Together with physician husband Gustave, she devoted the early part of her career as a nurse in medical missions at the Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital in Sierra Leone, West Africa (1957-1964). Her “second career” included volunteer leadership of the Wesleyan Medical Fellowship for sixteen years as newsletter editor and primary fund-raiser to sponsor Christian missionaries; service to the Houghton Wesleyan Church and community; and spiritual mentoring of Houghton University students, some of whom thought of her as their “2nd mom.” Gustave and Louise were voted by the students as “Grand Marshals” of the 2009 Houghton University Homecoming festivities.

Louise is survived by: four sons, Jonathan (Dawn) in Orlando, FL, James (Britta) in Plano, TX, Jeffrey (Kim) in Marietta, GA, and Joel (Jill) in Orlando, FL; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by her only sibling, Charles Bininger Jr, and her beloved husband of 75 years, Gustave, who died on July 13, 2022, at 100 years old.

## Jesus Led Me All The Way

While I served as a missionary nurse in Zambia from 1970-1992; I enjoyed writing articles for the monthly Wesleyan World Missions magazine. During my first furlough, I attempted to write a novel about Jesus’s childhood. When I retired from missionary service in 1993, I picked the project back up and began doing serious research and writing. Since I was an unknown author, publishing houses weren’t interested in my work. However, I kept writing. I divided the book project and added two more. Then I wrote about Jonathan, son of King Saul and about the Woman at the Well.



When I retired to Florida in 2008 I became busy helping with nursing home services, church and Wesleyan Village activities and more. I didn’t have time for writing.

With the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, all these activities came to a halt. So with nothing to do, I got out my manuscripts and began working on the story of Jonathan. I recruited several friends to help with editing, proofreading and with preparing book covers. I was advised to self-publish, and published \*“Mark of the Covenant” in 2021 and \*“Sarah of Sychar” in 2022.

In May last year we were able to restart the nursing home services, but a medical diagnosis in March stopped my participation. So, I have time for writing again. Now I am working on the fourbook series—which I have decided to divide into six instead. I recently published the first, \*“Like As We Are,” in October.

God used a pandemic to renew my hope of publishing. Praise God that after fifty years, He has turned two negative situations into positive results and fulfilled my dream. I can truly say, “Jesus Led Me All The Way.” \*Available on Amazon ~ *Eleanor Hunsinger, GP Alumni*

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