

A Perspective

Just thinking about what I said in the last issue about allowing God to use us in our later years – that He always has a plan and purpose. I can almost hear your question, “Okay, what about you? What are you doing? As the old expression goes, “the nut doesn’t fall far from the tree.” Yes, The Lord has opened a door of service for me. On Thursday nights, Trinity’s Garfield Park Campus hosts a church dinner for those who are homeless or have food insecurities. My wife, Pat, used to go faithfully to serve there, Since her passing the Lord has given me a heart for those people and impressed on me the need to go and share His love. The opportunity opened quickly and I shared God’s caring love with them. It was rewarding to see many respond to the call for prayer by putting their name tags on a clipboard. God is so good to us. He always has purpose for our lives – not retired – retreated. Please feel free to write to me and share what God is doing in your life. ~*Joe Estes*

A Call to Action

Rev. Cheri Floyd
Pacific-Southeast Asia Regional Director
[Global Partners](#) | [The Wesleyan Church](#)

In May 2023, violence and destruction erupted in Manipur, India resulting in terrible Christian persecution: Upwards of 400 churches and 7,000 Christian homes have been burned. Now tens of thousands of refugees are living in refugee camps facing an uncertain future. What began as a Wesleyan Emergency Relief Fund has become a Global Partners project, due to the long-term nature of this situation. Food, sleeping bags, and blankets have been distributed. However, more are needed. As children spend months in the refugee camps, we want to set up an education ministry as well. Will you please consider donating and commit to praying for the church in Manipur?



If you wish to write a check, please make it payable to The Wesleyan Church with **WM06-1634 Manipur** written in the memo line. Gifts should be mailed to The Wesleyan Church Corporation, c/o General Treasurer’s Office, 13300 Olio Road, Suite 100, Fishers, Indiana, 46037. You may also give online at <https://wesleyan.my.site.com/donorportal/s/fund/a1s7V0000091pelQAA/manipur-conflict-response-project-india>

Interview with John & Marge Connor -Part 3



edited by JV & JE

Joe: Was there a place where you served that you felt especially drawn to and wish you could have served longer there?

Marge: I was willing to serve anywhere. Zambia is dear to our hearts because that was our first place. I'd never been overseas before. I taught a class at the Bible College. Another place that I really felt drawn to was Croatia. I loved the people there. I loved the culture, I loved the friendship atmosphere. They were very warm and very welcoming. We would go out on Sunday afternoons after a Sunday service and go down by the water to the waterfront and drink coffee together. And as

I followed the ministry there over the years: Their churches are well organized. I liked New Zealand and South Africa, also.

John: One of the places that I felt drawn to was Bougainville. Bougainville is not at the end of the earth, but you can see it from there. It's pretty remote and there is an atmosphere of heaviness in Bougainville. They've had enough religion to be inoculated, but not to really find faith. And I just feel like it would be a really good place to go to help them find their way.

Joe: John, you directed the Jesus Film Ministry for Global Partners for several years. Please share an example of how God used this outreach in a remarkable way.

John: When I was appointed as Jesus Film director, I feel that it was probably the greatest area of influence that the Lord gave me during my time in missions. My graduate training and all my practical experience came together. It was at a place where I could use the strength God had given me. The Lord really blessed this ministry.

In Mozambique, we organized a national church committee, and the film teams were accountable to them. The committee was under the national board. The national church was really involved in the Jesus Film ministry and there was tremendous progress. Over a ten-year period, they averaged planting 30 churches each year. They went to areas they had never been before. Most of the people were Shona but they were willing to go to unfamiliar territory to establish churches and build Bible schools. They changed the face of the Wesleyan Church in Mozambique. This ministry is still going but now carried out by the Bible schools. Students are sent out and Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU) provides the equipment. The last six years that I led the Jesus film we had planted an average of 100 churches a year throughout our mission fields.

Joe: How has missionary work changed in during your lifetime?

John: I think the biggest way that missions have changed during my lifetime is computers and technology. When we went to Zambia, the whole time we were there, for a four- year term, the only contact we had electronically with the states was by wire. I sent one when my daughter was born and that's it. Now we can pick up the phone, we can be out in the village; we can be anywhere and use our cell phone. If we're within the tower's reach we can call back to the states or keep up with what's going on, or ask a question at headquarters. The biggest thing is communication especially and being able to write things and develop things on the computer.

Marge: One of the big changes that I've seen is opportunities. In 1970 when we went to the mission field, if you were a woman, you only had a couple of opportunities or reasons to be called to missions, and that was to be a teacher or a nurse. But now the opportunities are immense. You can go into the GP office and say, this is what I believe God wants me to do and they'll listen to you. I think that's one of the really big, big changes in today's world.

Joe: Could you share a highlight from your missionary career?

John: One of the things that I did not understand when I first went out of the missionary was the importance of writing and leaving the legacy of written materials. After a long, hard, delayed flight trip to Northeast India, I just wanted to eat and go to bed. We were 8 hours late but a group from the church was still there to meet us. As we were introduced by name, a woman asked, "Are you John? John Connor? You're John Connor?" I replied, "Yes, I'm John Connor." And she turned around and said, "Oh, he wrote the book: The Truth." I've thought about that woman. If I had never gone there to teach, she would have already learned it from the book. The Lord is using what I have done through writing the lay leadership manual, a set of courses that we have for laymen who are filling in as a pastor and have no training. Once they have finished that, then they can go on and finish their district ministerial license. Jim Lo and others helped on this, as well.

Another project that was accomplished was cutting down the Wesleyan Discipline to just the essentials, leaving room for things that were important to the culture. It was hard work. I did this along with Dr. Lee Haines and it was such a blessing. This is one of the highlights of my career.

Marge: Well, I don't know how much this has to do with my missionary career, but we can't really talk about Zambia and our time there without talking about our daughter Martha and her birth. She was born seven weeks prematurely in a mission hospital. The doctor asked John what he knew about incubators. And John said, "Well, I only know about chicken incubators." The doctor told me to go to bed. I did. He came back and checked me out and said, "John, how are you coming with the incubator?" John said, "why didn't you tell me I had to make one?" He finally got it started and it worked. Martha came through it but her breathing was not quite up to par and she stopped breathing several times. The doctor and nurses kept checking her out. They would pull her out of the incubator and get her started breathing again. And she survived! And God was so gracious to us to put the right people in the right place at the right time for her to be born and to live here. She's now a wonderful mom, a great lady of God. *Special thanks to John and Marge for sharing this interview with our LINK readers!*

Condolences



Karl Edwin Gorman

Karl passed peacefully in his sleep on October 11, 2023. Karl was born on February 25, 1933 to John P. Gorman and Della P. (Hoyt) Gorman in Millville NB the eighth of ten children. He is survived by his four children Sherry (Ron), Stephen (Carolyn) Philip (Donald) and Cora, five grandchildren and six great grandchildren as well as his youngest sister Pauline Foster of Bowmanville Ontario. Karl is also survived by his three brothers-in-law, Ivan (Penny) Shaw of Caribou Maine, Paul (Terrie) Shaw of Edmonton Alberta and Walter Cole of South Ohio. He was pre-deceased by his parents, his wife Helene Mabel (Shaw) Gorman, five sisters, three brothers as well as one granddaughter, Baby Marianne, and one great grandson, Baby Justin.

He graduated from Bethany Bible College on May 31, 1954 and married Helene the following evening, June 1, 1954. They pastored the Sandford Wesleyan Church for the next three years before heading to South Africa as Missionaries in April of 1958. They stayed in South Africa for a seven year period ministering in Louwsburg and Paulpietersburg in the South African province of Natal. In 1970, he then ministered in the Vryheid area of the Natal province. In 1976 they ministered in the Johannesburg area in the province of Transvaal. During this time he also assisted with The Wesleyan Evangelical Seminary in Brakpan. Retirement saw him continue to be active in the Yarmouth Wesleyan Church and other area churches.

Memorials may be made to the Yarmouth Wesleyan Church, Kingswood University or Global Partners.

WMAF Florida Regional Meeting



The Florida Region of Wesleyan Missionary Alumni Fellowship met on February 12, 2024 in Wesleyan Village, Brooksville for their annual meeting. The 53 participants were blessed with reports of God's working in lives and nations. Dr. Dennis Jackson, Executive Director of Global Partners, was our keynote speaker. He emphasized that 4 in 10 people have no access to the Gospel in their community.

GP is shifting in three ways:

1. From leading to following: Working together, sharing vision, learning and unlearning.
2. From vertical to horizontal: Consulting with any and all global leaders.
3. Everywhere to Everywhere: Moving from "West to the Rest."

Dr. Jackson requested prayer for the meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa of church and GP leaders meeting to plan the 2025 International Conference of the Wesleyan Church and for the 20 new missionaries going out this summer. ~ **Eleanor Hunsinger, GP Alumni**

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