

### "I Must Resign"

Looking across the desk of the young bank manager, I was startled to hear him say, "I haven't told my wife yet, but I must resign. God is calling me to preach." With his master's degree, he could go to seminary, but the costs were prohibitive. So I suggested meeting for Saturday discipleship studies and he readily agreed. The character traits of Chris Calya-en endear him as the life of the party, and he often MC's social gatherings and seriously performs weddings and burials. Chris and his wife Luz eagerly invested weekly time in our discipleship studies in 2001 in Baguio City, Benguet, Philippines.



He soon opened a branch office for Manulife insurance and began a seminary degree while planting Loakan Wesleyan Church in 2002. He completed basic extension seminary courses and was ordained as a deacon in the Skyline District. Chris sold a life insurance policy to Nardo and Lydia Alimondo who owned and operated businesses in the area, including a large grocery, bakery, and restaurant in Abatan, a trading center three hours north in Benguet Province. Chris and Luz were asked to conduct weekly Bible studies for their entire 80+ employees. Thursday afternoons the grocery, restaurant and bakery closes from 2:00 onward for a service followed by an evening Bible study. The assurance of eternal life and transformed lives with their extended families and friends who also began attending and trusting Christ alone for their salvation, has brought tremendous growth in Abatan. Plans are going forward for a new Wesleyan church there.

Several other young couples were part of those initial discipleship studies and today there are 40 church plants in the Metro Baguio area, with 20 of them led by lay pastors. Sharing with family and friends in web relationships has spread the gospel. The new South Skyline District set 35 as their church planting goal for the next quadrennium ending in 2020.

At the Philippines General Conference in 2016, Skyline was honored as the distinguished *District of the Quadrennium* for its increase in new churches plus one of Chris's early disciples was awarded the *Pastora of the Quadrennium* for her outstanding leadership in discipling.

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

Dr. Paul Turner,  
 LINK Editor  
[paul@turnerweb.org](mailto:paul@turnerweb.org)

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

## *Condolences . . . Kathy B. Cox*

Kathy Cox, 70, died December 23, 2018. She was born Aug. 29, 1948, in Hillsdale, Michigan to James "Junior" and Janice B. (Emens) Cox. Kathy graduated from W.A. Foote Memorial Hospital Nursing Program in 1972. Her main focus and dedication was travelling to the mission field to India, Puerto Rico, and Guatemala. She served in Wesleyan World missions as a nurse in Haiti from 1985 to 1989. Her greatest passion in life was helping others.



Kathy is survived by two sisters; two step-sisters; one step-brother; several nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents.

## *Dr. Malcolm E. Ellis, Ph.D.*

Dr. Malcolm E. Ellis, 89, died January 12, 2019. Born in Greer, South Carolina on October 15, 1929, he was the son of the late Edward S. Ellis and Gertrude Bridwell Ellis. He was married to the late Virgie McCoy of Means, Kentucky and the late Lois Sheridan, Allendale, Michigan. He was a retired professor emeritus of Bible and Philosophy, Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana. He also taught at Houghton College, Taylor University, and Southern Wesleyan University.



Dr. Ellis earned degrees from Indiana Wesleyan University, Butler University, Temple University, Ball State University, and Indiana University. He was an ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church. He served along with his first wife as missionaries of The Wesleyan Church in Sierra Leone, West Africa from 1953 to 1970. He is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Deborah J. Perkins (Russell) and daughter-in-law, Carol Ellis (late Dr. David M. Ellis); four grandchildren; a sister and a brother; and several nieces and nephews.

## *Donna Mae Dekker*

Donna Mae R. Dekker, 85, died November 26, 2018, in Madison, Alabama. She was raised in Wisconsin and attended Houghton College in Houghton, New York, where she met and married Paul Willard Dekker. She graduated from the School of Nursing at Columbia University in New York City.

She and Paul served The Wesleyan Church more than 50 years, investing 12 years as missionaries with Wesleyan World Missions (now Global Partners) in Sierra Leone, West Africa from 1958 to 1970, doing both medical service and evangelism. Later they traveled in the United States and internationally under Dekker Ministries. Paul was an ordained minister in the Wesleyan Church.

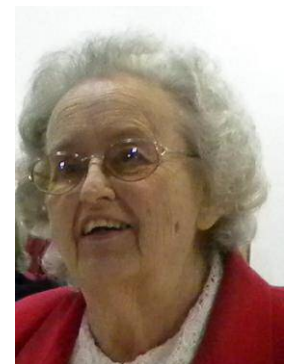
Paul preceded her in death in 2014. She is survived by a daughter, Jane E. and (David) Conrad, and one son, Paul Greg and (Diane) Dekker; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

## *Lois Elaine Curtiss*

Lois Elaine Curtiss, died on January 5, 2019. She was born November 24, 1943 in Lake Odessa, Michigan, daughter of Stephen and Sarah (Tanner) Curtiss. She graduated from Spring Arbor College (Free Methodist) in 1965 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree.

In addition to teaching school in the USA, she served at Rupp Memorial School, Kabala, Sierra Leone, West Africa as a teacher of missionary children for two terms (1969 – 1977).

Lois was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, and two sisters. She is survived by her brother Larry Robert (Carmen) Curtiss, and sister Linda Jean (Richard) Mason, many nieces and nephews, and several great-nieces and nephews.





## **Rev. Dr. Charles McCallum**

Rev. Dr. Charles Jacob McCallum, died January 31, 2019. He was born November 1, 1923, to Claude and Arvilla (Bailey) McCallum. He graduated from Allentown Bible Institute (PA) where he met and married Roberta L. Gunsalus on August 18, 1945. He earned four graduate degrees in psychology and counseling.

Charles was an ordained minister and served in a British West Indies Mission; pastored several Wesleyan Churches; and taught in the Wesleyan Evangelical Seminary, Brakpan, South Africa from 1983-'88. Later he pastored a Nazarene church in Kansas and taught at Schenectady Community College and Oklahoma Wesleyan University. He continued a counseling ministry to age 79.

Survivors include children: Chuck (Cindy); Darlene (Bill) Edwards; Wesley (Patricia); Suzanne (Bryan) Sprung; and Philip (Leslie); 11 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his sister, Arvilla McKenzie; wife, Roberta (2017); and daughter-in-law, Joy McCallum.



## **Aylo Lippe**

Aylo La Dora Lippe died January 15, 2019 at Lawrence Presbyterian Manor, Lawrence, Kansas. She was born on September 12, 1932 to Frederick W. and Leah (Regnier) Lippe and lived near Miltonvale, KS. She graduated from the Miltonvale Wesleyan Academy, Miltonvale Wesleyan College with a B.A. in Religion, and from the University of Kansas with a B.S. in Elementary Education. In 1971 she received an MS from the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

She was a member of the Lawrence Wesleyan Church (Connect Church) since 1954 and taught elementary school with the Kansas Public Schools. She served as a missionary teacher with Wesleyan Missions in the Wesleyan Academy in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico from 1963 to 1985, receiving teacher of the year awards several times. Then she taught at the Veritas Christian School in Lawrence from 1988 to 2004. Survivors include several cousins and their families.



## **"Keeping In Touch with Alumni"**

### **Don and Joy Bray** ( Papua New Guinea 1968 to 1977 )

Joy and I are in our 12<sup>th</sup> year on staff at Christ Fellowship, a multi-site church centered in West Palm Beach, Florida. I serve part time as the Senior Associate Pastor taking assignments from the Senior Pastor. This involves focusing on Special Needs ministry, mentoring and encouraging younger leaders (Everyone is younger!), and assisting in prayer and spiritual freedom ministries. I also serve as an elder. After founding and leading a weekend ministry for adults with special needs, Joy recently handed over the leadership to others. She enjoys ongoing conversations with pastor's wives giving counsel and encouragement; her reputation is as the youngest older lady on staff! She lavishes time and love on our kids and grandkids who live scattered across the country. Our son Jeff lives in a group home nearby and is an active part of our lives. We stay connected to several GP missionaries and are looking forward to attending the International Congress of TWC in Barbados in May at the invitation of Dr. Jackson. We love to talk about missions and the joy that comes in radical obedience to the call of our Lord Jesus.

**"I Must Resign"** continued: She inspired ten of her members in planting and shepherding new churches that have increased to 14 today. -- by Robert & Kay Bickert, GP Alumni

*Editor* – Officially retired, Robert and Kay are now helping to open the *International School of Evangelism* for training lay leaders in developing countries of Asia. They opened in 2018 in Baguio City and that is another story for Robert to tell.

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**GLOBAL PARTNERS**  
Paul Turner, WMAF LINK Editor  
PO Box 3251  
Asheboro, NC 27204

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### *20th Century Archives*

This couple left Canada to travel the world. One stop was in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Two more: as General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church and as General Director of Global Partners. Truly, the world became their parish. They lived and breathed the Great Commission as they stood alongside of missionaries and national leaders. Finally, back to the Atlantic District as District Superintendent. They felt they were but a tiny speck in God's great family. What do you think? Remember their names?

Several of you identified Paul & Lois Downey in the last issue, who found great joy in following the call of the Lord Jesus to tell the people of South America the Good News. Their bottom line was always the affirmation: "God has never failed us."

