

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

Volume 17, Issue 1

Summer 2018

### WMAF Florida Regional Gathering



Forty people met in Brooksville, Florida, March 13, 2018 for the Florida region annual meeting of Wesleyan Missionary Alumni Fellowship. The group included 8 former MK's, 3 of whom became GP career missionaries.

John Croft gave an inspiring presentation on the Jesus Film Partnership. He now serves as Managing Director (non-travel). The goal in 2012 to plant 300 new churches has now reached to over 750. From 10 countries in 2012, the Wesleyan Church is now involved with 24 countries. There are 48 trained teams, 31 of which are self-supporting. Campus Crusade provides the Wesleyan teams with all their equipment.

In the afternoon John Croft spoke of his new challenge in Port St. Lucie, to "Restart" Crosstown Fellowship Church. God is working in the church and community, and expanding opportunities for outreach.

Ryan Hansard, Brooksville Wesleyan Church's Outreach and Missions Pastor, reported on his recent 4-day trip to Puerto Rico. He and Rev. Josue Perez delivered hurricane relief funds from BWC to the Wesleyan District and to Wesleyan Academy. This was an informative introduction for our church to the Wesleyan work in Puerto Rico.

Dan and Martha Duda spoke of their 30-year ministry to the Seneca Nation on the Cattaraugus Reservation in western New York, cultural adjustments, and spiritual battles and victories. They had previously served as missionaries in Zambia. They retired last November and live in Wesleyan Village.

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This is the 50th anniversary of West Indies Self Help in Haiti. Dick Doan gave a brief history of the work of WISH and told of his 14 years of experience there. He was there last October on a work team (see the April Spring issue of *LINK*).

The WMAF annual meeting is always a time of inspiration and fellowship, especially with those who we don't see so often. We are blessed with rich memories and motivated by new challenges in missions.

Six "Missionary Kids" that became missionaries in their own rights that attended the regional meeting are pictured at left, they were: Johanna Duda, Marjorie (Strickland) Dumas, Joyce (Strickland) Edson, and in back Daniel Duda, John Croft, and Nancy (Edling) Thurbur. James Leitzel and Barbara (Barnett) Daake came later but missed the photo.

----- by Eleanor Hunsinger, GP Alumna

## Condolences . . .

### **Bessie Alberta Lemley Merrifield**

Alberta Merrifield, 75, died November 15, 2017. She was born August 9, 1942, in Daybrook, West Virginia. After high school, Alberta graduated from God's Bible School in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1965 and Bethesda Nursing School in Cincinnati. In Africa, she did missionary service from 1970-'74 in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia), and in Swaziland. She married Rev. Thornton Merrifield in 1994, and they went to Swaziland from 1996-'98, and then to Ghana, Africa from 1997-'07. She is survived by her husband, Thornton, and son Delbert; stepson, Thornton "John"; stepdaughters Lynn Russell and Kerri Nayper; one sister and two brothers; six grandchildren; and one great-grandson. Her funeral was held in Morgantown, WV on November 18, 2017 with burial in Beverly Hills Memorial Gardens in Morgantown.



### **Edna Jean Larimore**

Edna Jean Bozell Larimore, 84, died April 6, 2018. She was born in North Chittenden, Vermont, on May 16, 1933. She received a Master's degree and was a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing and Who' Who in Nursing. She worked at the Marion, Indiana General Hospital, as school nurse at Marion College (now IWU), and again at Marion General as Chaplain. She went as a missionary to Russia with CoMission in Nizhny Novgorod 1995 to '97. In her last years, she served as a hospice volunteer and as assistant pastor at West 8<sup>th</sup> Street Wesleyan. Survivors include her daughters, Rebecca and Deborah; son, Joel; 5 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren; siblings, Ed Holmquist, Betsy Palmer, and David Holmquist; and several stepchildren and step-grandchildren. Services to celebrate Edna's life were held April 14, 2018 with burial at Grant Memorial Park in Marion.



### **Nancy Rae Hubbard**

Nancy Rae Hubbard (Smeby), 60, of Grygla, Minnesota, died April 11, 2018. Nancy was born in Thief River Falls, MN on November 29, 1957. She graduated from Grygla High School and received a Bachelor's and Master's degree in International Leadership. Nancy married Perry Hubbard on December 15, 1979. They served together with Global Partners as missionaries for 31 years. Nancy was a key instructor and developer of the cross-cultural training program for the JIBACAM missions board of the Wesleyan Churches of Latin America. Nancy is survived by her husband, Perry; children, John (Valerie), Jeffrey (Heather), and Jessica; grandchildren, Donovan and Tobias; mother, Doris; three brothers, Jim (Eileen), Lowell (Rochelle), and Paul (Marie); two sisters, Pam (Tim) and JoAnn (John), and other family. A memorial service for Nancy was held June 23, 2018, at Waite Park Wesleyan Church in Minneapolis, Minn.



### ***Eula Rebecca Brown***

Eula Rebecca "Becky" (Slack) Brown, age 75, died February 7, 2018. She was born on August 30, 1942, in Greensburg, Indiana. She earned a bachelor's degree from Frankfort Pilgrim College, Frankfort, IN. Becky and Pastor Cecil LaMar Brown were married on October 7, 1961 and served as missionaries with the Wesleyan Church from 1968-'78 in Peru, South America. Becky was a licensed deaconess and a member of the Milan Wesleyan Church in Milan, IN. She is survived by her son, Wesley Brown (Lynette); her daughter, Lisa Brown; her grandson, Ashton Brown; her sisters, Naomi Coy, Janet Stonoff, and Barbara Freels; her brothers, Orville and Herbert Slack and numerous nieces and nephews. Funeral services were held February 11, 2018, at the Haskell & Morrison Funeral Home, Vevay, IN. Interment followed in the New Liberty Cemetery, East Enterprise, IN.



### ***Ella Phelps Woolsey***

Ella Phelps Woolsey, of Houghton, New York, died March 29, 2018. She was born Dec. 26, 1922, in Batavia. On Aug. 23, 1946, she married Warren M. Woolsey. Ella attended high school in Akron, Ohio, and graduated from Houghton College, New York. She taught high school in a women's school in Asheville, North Carolina. After Warren's seminary education, they accepted a call to missionary service with the Wesleyan Church in Sierra Leone, West Africa, ministering there from 1950 - 1966. Returning to Houghton, NY, Ella taught fourth grade and was a member of Houghton Wesleyan Church, and led a significant prayer ministry. Surviving are the couple's children, Stephen (Linda) Woolsey, Matthew (Barbara) Woolsey, and Ruth (Stephen) Strand; a daughter-in-law, Kathleen Woolsey; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. A funeral service was held at the Houghton Wesleyan Church, April 7. With burial in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Houghton.



### ***Madge Serna Bursch***

Madge Serna Bursch, age 95, passed away February 2, 2018. She was born May 7, 1922 in Mitchell, South Dakota. She married Daniel Bursch in Denver, Colorado on August 19, 1944. She earned a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education from, and taught school in Owosso. She served with Daniel in ministry in the Wesleyan Church including 16 years (1950-'66) as missionaries to Zambia, Africa. She was a member of the Owosso Wesleyan Church. She is survived by her husband of 73 years, Dr. Daniel Bursch; sons Dr. Lowell R. (Linda) Bursch, Charles A. Bursch and Herbert W. (Patricia) Bursch; grandchildren Eric (Robin) Bursch, Emily (Darin) Vandermolen, and Ian Bursch; and great-grandchildren Evan, Ryan, Rachel, Bailey, Liam, Lila, Gavin, Grayson & Julian. Funeral services were held February 6, 2018 at Nelson-House Funeral Home. Burial took place at Great Lakes National Cemetery.



### ***Elizabeth Canterbury Karns***

Elizabeth Canterbury Karns, 85, passed away Monday, May 28, 2018 in Seneca, South Carolina. She was born July 24, 1932, in Evansville, Indiana, a daughter of the late Richard and Mary Canterbury, and graduated from Reitz High School in 1950. Elizabeth married Donald Karns June 2, 1953, and together they had four children. Mrs. Karns ministered along with her husband in Clarksburg, Indiana, then in South Africa, Liberia, Zimbabwe, and Guyana. Missions was her life. She loved to travel, cook, and provide hospitality.

In addition to her husband of 65 years, Mrs. Karns is survived by 4 children: Brenda Bagley (Robert), Don Karns (Laura), Sheryl Dennis (Jeff), and John Karns (Debbie); eight grandchildren, Joshua, Tracy, Mary Beth, Meredith, Kathryn, Charlsie, Charldon, and Meagan; four great-grandchildren, Kaitlin, Kevin, Cameron, and Liesyl; a brother, Jerry Canterbury (Bernice); and a sister, Louise Nichols (Dave).



A funeral service was held May 30, 2018 at the ALIVE Wesleyan Church in Central, SC. Burial followed at the Heritage Memorial Gardens in Westminster.

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### ***Immanuel General Mission Church in Japan***

The 21<sup>st</sup> General Conference of IGM convened March 3, 2018 in Tokyo and elected new officers. They are **General Superintendent: Rev. Masaru Uchiyama**, senior pastor in Nagoya; *Director of Domestic Church*: Rev. Norohito Iwagami, pastor in Kobe; *Director of World Mission*, Rev. Toshie Umeda, co-pastor in Nakameguro; *Director of Education*, Rev. Nobutsugu Ogawa, assistant pastor in Bettupu; *Director of Laity*, Brother Sumio Saito, a member in Fukagawa; and *President of the Bible Training College*, Rev. Yorihiro Kawamura. The Laity office was newly created this conference. A combined worship and youth convention was held on March 4, with the Annual Conference held on March 5 & 6,

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***Rev. Masaru & Noriko Uchiyama***