

### Jesus Film Partnerships



Over the past two years, an increasing number of our international fields with JESUS film teams have become self-supporting ministries. This is an encouraging trend from a missional perspective.

Zambia is self-supporting and planted 15 new churches. They have also invested in the western regions of the country of Malawi where a number of churches have started. Mozambique has planted hundreds of churches and now is doing so in the eastern regions of Malawi. Sierra Leone has planted many new churches and is now sending missionaries with the JESUS film into the country of The Gambia. Many other fields are embracing this challenge and are becoming sending churches.

Think of this progress in 2017:

- 68 new church plants reported
- 93 new preaching points started
- over 63,000 people responded to the gospel message
- 546 cell groups initiated



Do you see the critical need for leadership development? To keep up with the explosive rate of the church globally, we must equip effective pastors, so that these churches will continue to mature and multiply.

Visit [gponline.org/amplifiedleaders](http://gponline.org/amplifiedleaders) to see the initiative to train 1000 pastors.

By John Croft, Director of the JESUS Film Partnership

#### In this issue.....

Condolences . . .	2
Keeping In Touch . . .	3
From the Archives. . .	4

Dr. Jim Vermilya,  
President WMAF  
jimver44@gmail.com

Dr. Paul Turner,  
LINK Editor  
paul@turnerweb.org

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

As an alumnus, you have a great part in this advance of Wesleyan missions through intercessory prayer. Perhaps your traveling days seem over, but intentional prayer focused on a particular field or missionary unit can become your daily pulpit. In the confines of your space, invite the Holy Spirit of God to take up your words and express them before our Heavenly Father who listens and moves mountains and opens doors that otherwise could slam shut. Why not join your colleagues and watch the Jesus Film ministry flourish. Let your friends know you are lifting them before God's throne. Paul Turner

## ***Condolences . . . Esther Marilyn Lind***

Esther "Marilyn" Lind (nee Elfstrom), age 88, died August 22, 2018. Marilyn was born on January 28, 1930, in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Mildred (Carlson) and Bill Elfstrom. She married fellow missionary Jim Lind in San Jose, Costa Rica in 1959 and they enjoyed 43 years together. They served as career missionaries in Mexico and Colombia from 1968-1980. Marilyn taught English and Spanish and supported the gospel printing ministry and church planting efforts in Medellin, Colombia.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her husband Jim (2002) and older sister Connie Johnson (Elfstrom). She is survived by her daughter Jennifer (Gene) Merwin and son Jay (Esther) Lind; and five grandchildren.



## ***Edna Marie Miller Johnson***

Edna Marie Miller Johnson, 94, died August 29, 2018. Born on May 11, 1924, Edna was a daughter of Harvey and Florence Miller. She married Harold Irwin Johnson in 1948. In 1952, she and Harold and their toddler daughter, Lorelei, went to Tokyo, Japan where they served as missionaries with the Wesleyan Church until 1986. The rest of their children were born in Japan. She was a speaker, an editor, author of books and magazine articles and wrote several songs.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold in 2016, and two brothers and two sisters. She is survived by her younger brother, Jack (Ginny) Miller; two daughters, Lorelei (Ron) VerLee and Flossie (Russ) Epley; two sons, Tim (Jeannie) Johnson, and Nathaniel (Lisa) Johnson; ten grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

## ***Donald N. Berk***

Donald N. Berk died October 15, in Glendale, California. He was born July 20, 1922 in Mora, Minnesota to Paul and Nora Berk. He met Joyce Clevenger in Marion College, Marion, Indiana and they were married August 25, 1946. Don helped build four Wesleyan churches then earned an Education degree to teach. In the summers Don and Joyce traveled to mission fields and collected and distributed over 160,000 books for mission libraries. He was preceded in death by his wife Joyce, his parents and 4 siblings. He is survived by his daughter Dorilee Bohatch; four grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild; and brother James Berk.



## ***Dorothy Ellen and Donald Glen Wood***



Dorothy Ellen Wood died June 22, 2018. She was born December 22, 1927, in Ohio to Ora and Della Love. At Owosso Bible College in Owosso, Michigan she met and married Donald Wood in 1949. Donald Glen Wood died August 5, 2018. He was born on January 23, 1929, in Oklahoma to Levi and Lillie Wood. They both graduated from Owosso with theology degrees, and Donald also graduated from Michigan State University with a Master's Degree in Education. They were missionary teachers with the Wesleyan Church in Zambia from 1963 - 1969 and



Papua New Guinea from 1975 - 1986. They are survived by children, Patricia (Wood) McKinney, Annette Wood, Jeff (Jerri) Wood, Roger (Debbie) Wood, Robert (Denise) Riffle, 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

## "Keeping In Touch with Alumni"

### **Robert and Rebecca Miller** (*Zambia 1970 to 1980*)

After ten years of missionary service in Zambia, Africa, Bob and Becky returned to the USA to serve in International Aid in Michigan and other ministries. In the beginning of 2018, the Lord opened the door to further work in Zambia and they returned to Lusaka, Zambia. They are part of the staff at Great Scholars Academy. Teaching classes, preparing lessons and learning



materials, building walls to expand the library, attending weddings, and a host of other "urgent needs" keeps them busy. Building relationships with students and staff and people in the churches brings great joy and fulfillment for them.

Prayer requests: spiritual growth of the staff who are serving God but need shepherding and encouragement; wisdom to use the funds we have to run the school; directing the increased number of students enrolled; and to complete the renovation of the school building.



### **Dan and Martha Duda** (*Zambia 1974 to 1987*)

December 2017 we moved to Brooksville Wesleyan Village in Florida. It's quite an adjustment following 30 years on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation in Western New York. The Indian Chapel is now under the ministry of their lay co-pastors, Kevin & Elaine Brooks, natives of the Reservation. We attend the Brooksville Wesleyan Church. Dan and Johanna are in the choir. How different to attend church services and activities without roles of responsibility! We are waiting on the Lord to lead us into whatever He has for us to do. Johanna is presently living with us, and enjoys life in Wesleyan Village. She volunteers with children's ministry, sings in the choir, and helps others who need a helping hand. She plans to spend the summer working at the Girl Scout Camp Timbercrest in Randolph, New York. Although we left New York, we find ourselves referring to the Reservation as "home," and missing / praying for friends and co-workers that have been such a big part of our lives for so long.

### **Steve and Lynn Miller** (*Guatemala 2004 to 2006*)

In June, Steve made a trip to Haiti to teach electrical classes at WISH. Last summer 2017, I stayed three weeks, teaching English to first year nursing students at the Wesleyan Nursing School. Steve stayed five weeks, training nine men to become electricians. He taught the CORE classes and Electrical I. This year, he is teaching Electrical II with 5 - 7 men attending, three of them having taken Elect. I last year. At home, Steve teaches electrical classes at Virginia Technical Institute in Altavista, Virginia. The Haiti class is an extension campus to VTI and enables the graduates to receive certificates from the VA school. Steve's parents, Paul and Merline Miller, served in South Africa for almost ten years. God bless, Lynn Miller.

### **Orvan and Virginia Link** (*Colombia 1978 to 1985*)

The Links celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family on July 18, 2018. They served as missionaries in Guatemala about 15 years, pastored in the states for 4 years, then served as missionaries in Medellin, Colombia for 6 years. Since returning to the states, he has helped to plant several Hispanic churches in Texas and South Carolina. Virginia went to nursing school and worked several years as an RN. She retired several years ago. Orvan is not pastoring now, but is still helping in a Hispanic congregation. They have 3 sons, 3 daughters-in-law, 4 grandchildren (and their spouses), and 7 great-grandchildren.



**THE WESLEYAN CHURCH CORPORATION**  
**GLOBAL PARTNERS**  
**PO Box 50434**  
**Indianapolis, IN 46250-0434**

*LINK*

To receive the digital *LINK*,  
please send us your email address.

See us on the web at:

<http://www.globalpartnersonline.org/wmaf>

### *20th Century Archives*

This couple were born in Ohio, came to know Christ as Savior in their family homes, and were married in Ohio. After a stint in the US Air Force, he completed a Th.B. degree and they felt a call to missions in a chapel service. They served in Brazil, Guyana, Suriname, and pastored in the West Michigan district. They said, "I've never been sorry that the Lord had control of our lives. God has never failed us." What a witness and ministry touching others in the name of Jesus. Do you remember their names?

Last issue featured the illustrious career of *Floyd Banker* as another example of dedicated missionary service to grow the body of Christ in our times. Preaching, teaching, singing, writing, following God's call on two continents is an inspiration to young people to complete careers in missionary ministry. May his tribe increase.

