

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP



LINK

LINKING former Wesleyan missionaries to each other and to Global Partners

Volume 13, Issue 4

Spring 2015



Third International Conference

The Third International Conference of The Wesleyan Church convened in Orlando, Florida, January 11-13, 2015.

Following a parade of flags representing more than 90 nations, delegates heard Dr.

Delia Nüesch-Olver, area director for Latin America for the Free Methodist Church, give a keynote address about "Unfinished Frontiers."

Dr. Alberto Patacsil, General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church of the Philippines, presided over business sessions, which began with reports from the various regions of the International Wesleyan Church, including the South Pacific Regional Conference and the General Conferences of the Caribbean, the Philippines, and North America. Fraternal delegates from Immanuel General Mission of Japan, the Wesleyan Holiness Church of Korea, and the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Brazil also greeted the conference.

Interspersed with business sessions, delegates attended seminars on ministering in Muslim regions, disaster relief, financial aspects of mission partnerships, the JESUS Film Partnership, and the pathway to global Wesleyan interdependence.

Elected to the International Board were Thabsile Thwala of Swaziland as secretary, Lindsay Cameron of Australia and Alfred Kalemba of Zambia as *members-at-large*. These persons join Dennis Jackson, executive director of Global Partners, *treasurer*, and Dr. Jo Anne Lyon of the North American General Conference, *board chair* for the next quadrennium; Joel Cumberbatch, *vice-chair*; and Alberto Patacsil, *president* of the International Conference.

The 2019 International Conference will be held in Barbados, West Indies.

--- by Rev. Ronald McClung, *Communications Department of TWC*

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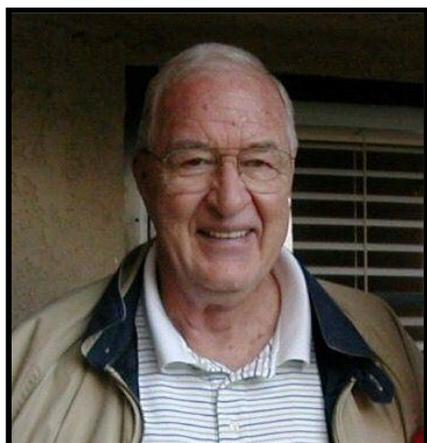
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CONDOLENCES.....

Rev. Alton James Shea, age 101, died January 17, 2015. He was born January 11, 1914, in Winchester, Ontario, Canada, the third son of the late Adam Joseph Shea and Maude Whitney Shea. He graduated from Houghton College in 1936 and studied at Biblical Seminary in New York City. He married Aileen Ortlip in 1938, who predeceased him in 2007. After pastoring Wesleyan churches in New York several years, the Sheas served as Wesleyan missionaries to Sierra Leone, West Africa, giving seven years in gospel radio production in several African languages for airing over Radio ELWA in Liberia. Surviving are three children, Jonathan (Pat) Shea of Rock Hill, S.C., Eila Shea of Belmont and Paul (Debbie) Shea of Houghton; five grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; a sister, Ruth Willett of Dahlonga, Ga.; and several nieces and nephews.

--- **Wesleyan Information Network**



Rev. Paul W. Dekker

Paul Willard Dekker was born May 13, 1932 in Mears, Michigan. In 1949 he graduated from high school in Troy, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Houghton College in Houghton, New York, where he met his wife, Dona Mae Gotter. They married in 1956 and, in 1957 they moved to Waldron, Michigan, to pastor the Wesleyan church.

In 1958 they were assigned to Sierra Leone, West Africa, by Wesleyan World Missions to work at the hospital in Kamakwie. Their first child, Jane, was born in 1959. They moved to Bafodia when George and Mildred Huff retired to the States. Son Gregory joined the family in 1960.

Paul and Dona retired from missions to the USA in 1970. Paul taught at Satellite Christian Institute in San Diego, CA. Some years later, Paul joined Overseas Crusades and traveled with ministry teams worldwide. They moved to Wisconsin to be security for Dona's parents until they entered eternity. In 2010 Paul and Dona moved to Madison, Alabama. Paul entered eternity on December 25, 2014. His funeral service was held January 2 at Summit Crossing Community Church.

Rev. William H. McDowell

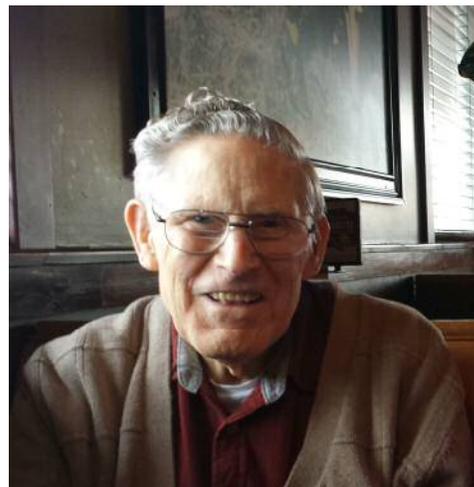
A correction needs to be made for the obituary of William H. McDowell that appeared in the Fall 2014 issue of the *LINK*, page 2, as follows: "William never served in Sierra Leone. Prior to their marriage in 2005, William's wife, Lois Roberta (Swauger), had served as a single missionary in Sierra Leone 1971-1974 under Wesleyan World Missions. She now lives in Deland."

Our sincere apologies for this error.

Rev. Harris D. Earl

Harris Delong Earl, 89, died February 14, 2015. Born November 16, 1925, to Dr. Leroy Earl and Antoinette Willson Earl in Plattsburgh, New York, he was the oldest son in the family of nine children. While earning his B.A. in Theology at Houghton College, he met the love of his life, Marcia Forsythe. They were married in September 1947 and lived in northern New York where Harris pastored churches. He also worked in a print shop in Cohoes to supplement their income.

In 1954 they made the move with their first three children to Colombia, South America, to work as missionaries with The Wesleyan Church. Harris managed the Tipografia Union, a printing company which produced Christian literature, in the city of Medellin for 35 years.



Harris and Marcia printed, preached, repaired, invented, taught, traveled, hosted, built churches and a Bible Institute literally and spiritually in Medellin, Bucaramanga, and Bogota. For their five children, growing up in Colombia was rich, eventful and secure.

Retiring after 36 1/2 years of missionary service, Harris and Marcia resided in Brooksville Wesleyan Village in Florida. For two decades, together they taught Bible studies in Spanish and English in several prisons regularly. Also, they organized volunteers and directed weekly church services in two or more nursing homes in the area. When not too busy, they visited the sick and shut-ins. Marcia preceded Harris in death on November 25, 2011. (See the January 2012 winter issue of *LINK* newsletter.) They enjoyed 64 years of married life.

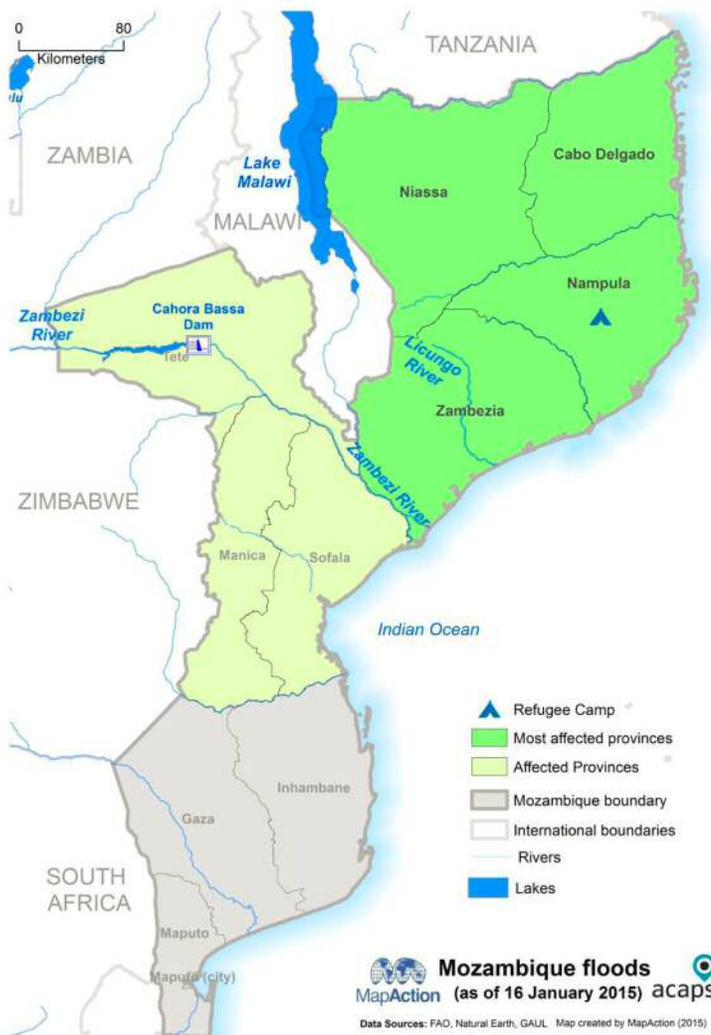
Harris set up a website (www.thetestimonyofjesus.net) to provide Bible studies in both English and Spanish. Memorial donation checks to Candace Robinson or Carol Earl with memo line note 'Harris Earl Website' would honor his wish and passion to spread God's Word. Harris was happy these daughters promised to keep the website running.

Surviving Harris are their five children - Candace, Mark, Melanie, Jeffrey and Carol who feel blessed to have called him "Dad"; eight grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren; his sister, Dorothy; and two brothers, Thomas and Paul. A Memorial and Committal Service for Harris will be held August 12, 2015, in West Chazy, New York.

Candace Robinson, 118 Ridgeview Circle, Glenshaw, PA 15116 <robinson.tandc@gmail.com>

Carol Earl, 2795 Drake Ct., Gibsonia, PA 15044 <pacycling@aol.com>

Floods in Mozambique



DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT Rev. Raul Diolo (Central Mozambique) wrote:

"We are experiencing the worst (widespread) flooding I have seen in my entire life. Eight of our members were drowned, 2685 houses have been destroyed, 11 have been hospitalized with dysentery (and now cholera is a risk), 23 churches have been destroyed, and 58 of our members are unaccounted for. We have been without any electricity in the whole northern half of the country for two weeks and still waiting. All our gardens are still under water and some are beginning to go hungry."

- Please pray for the millions affected by these events.
- Praise the Lord the government had an early warning system in place and there was less loss of life than in other floods.
- Without power, life is obviously difficult and crime increases. Several pylons fell in the floods and when the electric company tried to install new ones by helicopter a few days later, the stress caused additional ones to break. So now they must simply wait for the water to recede.
- People live month by month here. Absolute poverty does not permit people to keep money in the bank. Pray for relief agencies to arrive quickly and to be effective.

--- by **Rev. James Pickett, GP Missionary in XaiXai, Mozambique**

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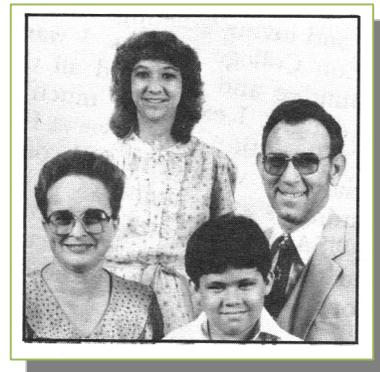
The date was August 18, 1985.

This family returned to Magelang for their sixth term of missionary service. They had served several years in this place and many more in Manila, Rosales, Sinipsip, and Kabacan.

They would work in church administration, church planting, teaching in the Bible college, and children's ministries. Their goal was to establish and organize four preaching points into churches and to plant four more. Trinity Wesleyan was their home church.

Paul's Colossian letter expressed their passion:
"Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily."
(1:28-29 NKJV)

Can you name all four in this family and name the field they returned to?



In the January 2015 issue, the missionary couple pictured was Don and Elizabeth Karns serving in Liberia as pioneer missionaries. They served in other countries as well, so that caused some of you to miss the correct field. Only one person, Dr. Don Bray, sent a correct answer.