

LINKING former Wesleyan missionaries to each other and to Global Partners

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God is indeed moving in Asia! The efforts of the Anti - Human Trafficking (AHT) teams are so encouraging. It's thrilling to see children and families become aware of human trafficking and to share their newfound knowledge with others. And the national churches are leading this initiative!

The Manipur team organized awareness programs in 17 villages. Some came more than 200 miles from our church headquarters!

One church leader said, "As our team goes out to these places, they realize the program is very much necessary as they were affected by the problems. For many, it is the first time to hear this message. It strengthens their faith in Christ as it is a biblical-based subject. We are greatly blessed by this training. We have requests to organize more awareness campaigns in the neighboring villages."

In Mizoram, more than 150 trained Wesleyan youth, lay leaders and pastors resolved to help prevent human trafficking by spreading awareness with their tools - workbooks, dresses, yarn dolls and the Priceless cubes in churches, schools and remote villages where vulnerable children and young people live.

In Nepal, we distributed dresses and yarn dolls in a follow - up visit while setting up an empowerment program by providing Bible - based life skills and vocational training to equip women and prevent trafficking.

Several women and men have been putting much love and effort into making beautiful dresses and yarn dolls as gifts and tools for the human trafficking prevention ministry. Pray for us as we prepare for the workshops - the printing of training materials, food, lodging arrangements, and transportation expenses for participants coming from distant places.



The AHT team is thankful for the prayers, gifts and concerns for East India. Compelled by the love of God, the awareness raising campaign is carried out by many gifted men and women of our churches who accepted the challenge at the Anti-Human Trafficking workshop where they were trained.

--- by Dr. Linda Caringal, Asia Area, Human Trafficking Project Director

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Condolences. . . .

Rev. Paul W. Meeks

Paul Wesley Meeks, age 86, died January 16, 2016 in Marion, Indiana. He was born in India in 1930 to missionary parents. He met and married Darlene Lafoon while serving as a pastor in Southern Illinois.

The Meeks served in the Philippines under Wesleyan World Missions (now Global Partners) from 1958 to 1978. After ten years as pastor of Whiteford Wesleyan Church in Michigan, they returned to overseas missionary work as missionaries-at-large from 1990-'98. They made field visits to India, Germany, Zambia and were the pioneer missionaries to open Albania. Paul then served on the pastoral staff of College Wesleyan Church in Marion, Indiana for nine years. He completed his pastoral roles as a retired minister in the Shenandoah District.

His wife Darlene preceded him in death in 2010. He is survived by three sons, Philip, Stephen, and Mark; one daughter, Elizabeth; and 11 grandchildren.

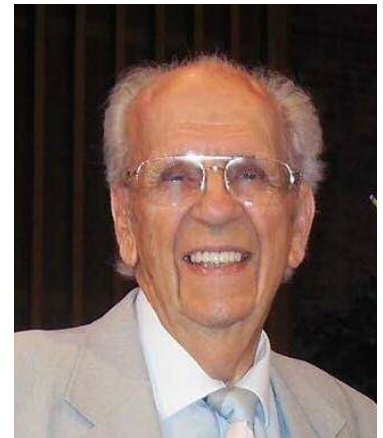


Rev. Harold I. Johnson

Harold Irwin Johnson, 91, of Fort Wayne, IN., died February 5, 2016. He was born to the late Albert and Orpha (Crummel) Johnson on September 22, 1924, in Hesperia, Michigan. Harold and his wife Edna were Wesleyan missionaries in Japan for 37 years. They partnered with Immanuel General Mission by teaching at their Bible College and doing music evangelism. He also pastored Wesleyan Churches in Wisconsin and Michigan.

Harold loved God and loved people. He was known for his winsome smile, his uncanny memory of people's names and significant details of their lives, and his generosity.

He is survived by his wife, Edna (Miller) of 67 years; daughters Lorelei (Rev. Dr. Ron) VerLee, Fort Wayne, and Flossie (Russ) Epley, missionaries in Tokyo, Japan; sons Rev. Timothy (Jeannie) Johnson, Fort Wayne, and Rev. Nathaniel (Lisa) Johnson, Ada, MI; 15 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



Dr. Hal Robbins

Dr. Hal Gardner Robbins, Jr., 86, husband of Lillian Andrews Robbins, passed away Sunday, January 24, 2016. Born in High Point, NC, Dr. Robbins was the son of the late Ruby Linthicum and Hal Gardner Robbins, Sr. He was ordained in the Wesleyan Church in 1957 and served pastorates in Virginia and South Carolina. He was Professor Emeritus at Southern Wesleyan University and Pastor Emeritus of the South Carolina District of the Wesleyan Church. Dr. Robbins served in South Africa as a short term pastor and teacher.

In addition to his wife, Dr. Robbins is survived by a daughter: Rev. Yvonne W. Beasley (Earl); brothers: Bobby Lawrence Robbins (Barbara), Jerry Wayne Robbins (Phyllis), and Billy Ray Robbins; sister: Linda Robbins Bevans; nine grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, Dr. Robbins was preceded in death by his sons: Rev. Jeffrey Ray Robbins and Joel Edward Robbins, II.

Edwin K. Wissbroecker

Edwin K. Wissbroecker, 91, died Saturday, February 13, 2016 in Brooksville, Florida. He was born Aug. 21, 1924 in Polar, Wisconsin. From 1964 to 1991, he served in Zambia, Africa, as a Wesleyan missionary, and then retired to Brooksville. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran of WWII and missionary work was his passion in life.

Predeceased by first wife, Phyllis; daughter: Judy Arlene and all of his siblings; he is survived by wife: Wilma of Brooksville; son and daughter-in-law: Raymond and Katherine J. Wissbroecker of Bourbonnais, IL; daughters and sons-in-law: Margaret and Tony Winter of Huntington, IN; Karen and Mark Wirth of Wichita, KS; 5 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.



Rev. Paul E. Miller

Paul Elmer Miller died November 14, 2015 in Gretna, VA. He was born June 28, 1930, in Phoenix, Arizona to Elmer J. and Edna Miller. He graduated from Western Pilgrim College in El Monte, CA in 1951, where he met and married Merline Mack, who preceded him in death in September, 2010.

The Millers served as missionaries in South Africa from 1958-1964 with the Pilgrim Holiness Church (now Global Partners). After completing a Master's degree, the Millers returned to serve in South Africa from 1967-'71. While in South Africa, Paul pastored, served as a superintendent over 14 churches, built a number of church buildings, managed a boarding school for 80 girls, taught in a Bible School, and built two new houses.

He pastored churches in Arizona and Washington, and taught at Seattle Christian Academy, and established a preschool and day care program in one church. In all, he pastored Wesleyan churches over 67 years.

He is survived by his four children, Steve (Lynn) Miller, Connie (Lyle) Gulling, Larry (Annette) Miller, and Dan (Rebecca) Miller; eight grandchildren and two step-grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Norva B. Crosby

Norva (Bassage) Crosby, 100, died March 1, 2016. She celebrated 100 years of life on October 10, 2015 in Brooksville, Florida with the missionary retirement community. She and her husband, Robert (who preceded her in death), were distinguished Wesleyan missionaries and founders of Wesleyan Academy, a large private Christian school in Puerto Rico. They served in Colombia and Puerto Rico from 1942 to 1983 under Wesleyan World Missions.

She is survived by her four children and their families: Priscilla, Robert Jr., J. Stephen, and Susan. They rejoice in her answered prayer to be with the Lord, while grieving the empty place she leaves in their lives here.

Field Updates....

Fred & Carol Cromer - Uganda, Africa "The Wesleyan Institute for Biblical and Sacramental Studies continues to develop. I recently taught an Old Testament Survey module with 15 students. Currently Dr. Barclay Brown is teaching The Pentateuch, and Philosophy & Christian Thought. There is still a need for painting, electrical work, plumbing and windows at the Institute, but we are making progress. Pastors are being trained at the Institute. During the last two modules the leader of the Wesleyan Church in Rwanda and three leaders of the Wesleyan Church in Kenya were also involved in the training."

Jim & Julie Eckhardt - Colombia, SA After 20 years of missionary service, Jim and Julie have decided not to seek redeployment with Global Partners. They began in Colombia in 1995 teaching in the Bible School in Medellin, then transitioned to Bogota and on to Costa Rica and Nicaragua. They returned to Bogota to focus on an internet Bible Institute. The investment of their friends and partners has enabled them to see progress in ministerial training for Latin America. Jim will be on the staff of Crossroads Wesleyan in Rapid City, SD as Connections Pastor, while Julie will be working in a nearby nursing residence.

Wes & Susie Munsell - Haiti "I recently completed a project after removing old storage cabinets from the surgery rooms in the old hospital. I saved as much as possible to build new cabinets in the battery room. It's pretty amazing to think that the old could be trimmed and put back together to create something new. In Haiti, that's called "Degaje" (Day-Gah-Zhay). St. Paul talks about that in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 when God makes us into a new creation in Christ Jesus. We believe that when we share the love of Jesus, we give every person with whom we have contact the opportunity to be made into the new creation that God wants them to be. A lifelong voodoo priest can become a pastor. A criminal can become a Jesus follower. A person who lacks direction and self-confidence can come to the realization that they are a Child of the King!"

Phil & Becky Davis - Philippines "I taught a course on "Postmodern Thought and the Asia/Pacific Context." There are no books available and everything had to be created from scratch. Another course I recently taught met in Quezon City. It was an extension course, involving a small group of pastors. In spite of long travel times, what a joy to teach these pastors. One of the students - Pastor Jeffrey - was truly inspiring. He lives outside of Manila in one of the provinces. Jeffrey would travel five hours to class, follow almost eight hours of lecture (in English), and then return home after another five hours journey. Incredible! Becky has worked hard on musical activities around the campus. She leads a volunteer student/staff choir of eighteen people. It's a gift of love, and they're having fun! Becky makes rehearsals enjoyable for everyone."

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For full obituaries go to:

<http://wmafonline.org>

General Conference June 4-8, '16

You are urged to attend the missions rally, which will be the opening service of General Conference on Sunday morning, June 4. Our Missionary Alumni Fellowship will have a booth in the Global Partners general display area.

Alumni - we need your pictures for our WMAF slide show we'll use at General Conference. We have many from 2012 and 2015, but some of you have never submitted anything.

Archives from the '60s to 2013

This husband and father did not learn English as his mother tongue, but married a young woman born in Nebraska. They began missionary service in 1968 and retired in December 2013. Where did they serve and what are their names?

Last issue, we pictured Alton & Aileen Shea who served in Sierra Leone, and Henry & Elizabeth Ortlip who served in China and Haiti. Aileen was sister to Henry.

Please send at least three photos from each person: close-up of the person or couple now, close-up of your family from the years you served, and some kind of photo doing ministry or posing with national colleagues. We prefer digital but can accept black and white or color photos. Send to Dr. Jim Vermilya at 313 Hall Court, Noblesville, IN 46060. He will return them if you like. Thanks much! (jimver44@gmail.com)

Check out www.wesleyan.org to learn more.

