

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP



LINKING former Wesleyan missionaries to each other and to Global Partners

Volume 14, Issue 1

Summer 2015

70th Anniversary Immanuel General Mission



Pastors and delegates came to Tokyo, Japan March 27, 2015, for annual conference and to celebrate the 70th anniversary of their church. Immanuel General Mission (IGM) now has at least one church in every prefecture, and several have more. Cross-cultural missionaries serve in four countries overseas.



Dr. Sam Fujimoto was elected to a third term as President. North American missionaries serving in Japan today are Andrea Swarthout in Kyoto, and Robin White in Nagoya. Robin reported: "I attended the Immanuel Church's annual conference. One major highlight was a big youth event on Saturday. It's good to see the denomination make our youth and young adults a priority."

IGM was born in 1945 when Rev. Dr. David Tsutada was released from prison after refusing to give up his faith in the Lord Jesus. Rev. Tsutada envisioned a church that would honor God; be self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating. They wanted to spread scriptural holiness to all people and be a mission-sending church. A Bible college was established in Yokohama City to provide theological and ministerial training for students after they finished university.

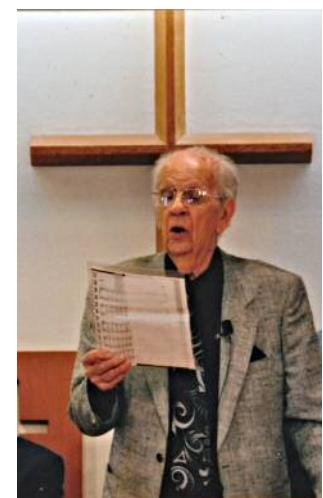
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Rev. & Mrs. Maurice Gibbs went as Wesleyan missionaries to Japan in 1919 and others followed. Churches were planted in the Tokyo area. After the war, it soon became providentially evident that the Wesleyan Mission should join with IGM to proclaim Christian Holiness in Japan. In 1952, the experiment in mission partnership began and that same year, World Gospel Mission entered Japan. In 1954 they joined the fellowship which functions well today. Also in 1952, **Harold and Edna Johnson** arrived in Japan and ministered effectively for over 30 years with IGM. Harold attended the 70th anniversary and sang in Japanese for the Sunday missionary service. He was asked to sing a solo entitled "As Thou Goest Step by Step," which was composed by Edna. The song is based on the Syriac version of Proverbs 4:12.



AN "AFRICAN" TREK

It all began last Fall when we were visiting Joan Kinde, our friend and former missionary colleague who lives in Minneapolis, MN. We were reminiscing about persons and experiences from our years in Sierra Leone, and one of us said, "Wouldn't it be terrific to visit those friends from long ago?" That began a dream and a plan, resulting in a fantastic two-week trek in March 2015, that took us to Indiana, South Carolina, and Florida, more than 3,000 miles round trip by car. I call it a trek because that's what missionaries to Africa do. In Africa we don't just travel, we go on a trek!

There were four of us: **Marion and Vergie Vreugdenhil, Joan Kinde** (photo right), and her friend Beverly Miller, all pushing 80 years of age. What a grand time we had connecting with missionary friends. The first leg of our trek took us to the luxurious Shunem House (shunemhouse.com) in Noblesville, IN, with our gracious hosts and missionary friends **Jim & Jeanette Vermilya**. There we spent an evening with **Kerry & Jule Kind, Steve & Kathy Ullom, and Joe & Pat Estes**, former missionaries to Sierra Leone. "Do you remember..." was heard around the table as we resurrected memories of persons and events from our past.



We trekked on to Central, SC, where we were the pampered guests of former Sierra Leone missionaries **Fred & Sondra Andrews**. Fred had arranged for a gathering of former missionaries. **Bud & Judy Leach, Jim & Lois Wiggins, Jim & Carol Ramsey**, and a few other friends came. More memories and more stories! Then, what a special treat it was to visit with **Alma Aldinger Robertson, Marie Evatt, Malcolm Ellis, and Don & Elizabeth Karns**, all an even older generation of missionaries than us. The oldest is 94. What wonderful and faithful heroes of the Faith!

On our trek to Brooksville, FL, we stopped for brief visits with **Joe & Shirley Neyman** near Macon, GA, and **Dr. Will & Jane Zike** in Gainsville, FL, missionaries with us in Sierra Leone in the 1960s. In Brooksville we visited former missionaries **Dr. Chuck Paine, Bob & Julia Smith, Eleanor Hunsinger, Ed & Wilma Wissbroecker**, and other friends in the Wesleyan Village. Trekking back north, we stopped to visit with **Donna Dekker**, near Huntsville, AL. Donna and her husband Paul, who just recently passed away, had also served as missionaries in Sierra Leone.

The purpose of our trek was not only to connect with dear friends from years past, but also to tell them how much their lives and ministries had enriched our lives. We thanked them for their years of faithfully lifting up Jesus in Africa. The years of cross-cultural ministry represented by the twenty missionary units we visited total nearly 300. What a significant legacy The Wesleyan Church has in all of the retired, former missionaries!

And the stories! As all missionaries can testify, because of unique and shared cross-cultural experiences, there is a special bond that ties us together. So what a great time we had reminiscing with friends during our trek. Remembering events and persons we had worked and ministered with all those years ago, both missionaries and nationals, brought a lot of laughter--and a few tears. The four of us will not soon forget our "African" trek on American Interstate highways.



Dr. Chuck Paine



Sondra & Fred Andrews



Carol & Jim Ramsay



Jim & Lois Wiggins

Nancy Lee Philippe Swauger

Nancy Lee Philippe Swauger, of Marion, Ind., passed away May 13, 2015. She was 83. Nancy Lee and her husband, Paul, served as missionaries with Global Partners in South America from 1963 to '66.

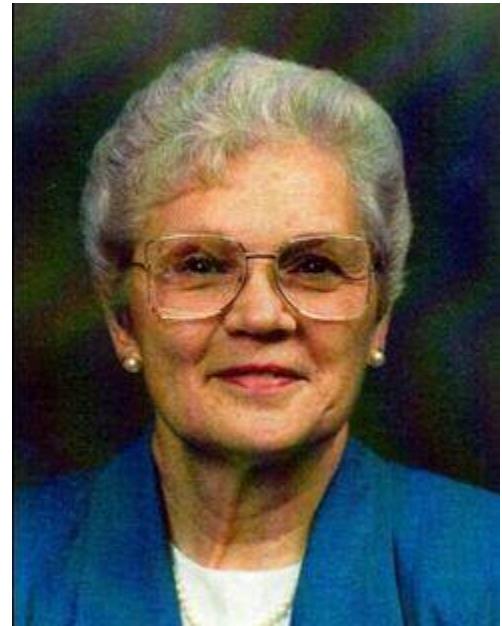
Prior to her missionary service, Nancy Lee served alongside Paul while he pastored churches in New York and Georgia. She was also a public school teacher and professor at Indiana Wesleyan University.

A graduate of Southern Wesleyan University, Houghton College, and Ball State University, Nancy Lee received a doctorate degree. Her published music and writings are in books, teachers' manuals, numerous other documents, both in Spanish and English, within The Wesleyan Church and beyond.

On the Metro Move team, which her husband led, she served as instructor, which included seminars in Brazil, Peru, Jamaica, Honduras, Trinidad-Tobago, Suriname, Guyana, Indonesia, Haiti, England, Philippines, Colombia, and Sierra Leone. Nancy was also co-hostess with her husband on mission group tours including repeated voyages to the Caribbean Islands, plus, China, India, and Nepal.

Her husband Paul survives her. The couple has four children: Paul Swauger, Jr., of Indiana; Reba Swauger Brane, of New Mexico; Sharon (Mark) Swauger Bardsley, of Indiana; and Nancy A. Swauger, of North Carolina. She leaves behind eight grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren; plus two brothers, Dr. Thomas E. Phillippe, and Rev. Joseph G. Phillippe. Siblings Rev. William E. Phillippe, Jane Phillippe Edwards, and Patche Lou Phillippe preceded her in death.

-- by Wesleyan Information Network, *The Wesleyan Church*



Conditional Approval of National Conference in Canada

The International Conference of The Wesleyan Church met in Orlando, Fla., in January 2015. One of the very significant actions was the unanimous adoption of a resolution granting conditional approval to form an Established National Conference (ENC) in Canada with some 120 churches, 8,300 members, and weekly attendance of over 14,000. It is expected this strategy will enhance the development of conversions, baptisms, new church plants, and cross-cultural ministries.

Procedurally, the resolution approved at the International Conference must now be presented to the two Canadian District Conferences in 2015. It would then go to the General Board in the fall of 2015 and finally to the North American General Conference in June 2016 in Buffalo, New York.



-- by Rev. Ron McClung, Communications Department, *The Wesleyan Church*

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To receive the digital *LINK*,
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The date was March 1954.

"This splendid couple will represent us in S.A." read the byline under this photo that appeared in a Wesleyan World Missions publication. He would manage a print shop, Tipografia Union, and produce Christian literature for 35 years. She would mother their five children who all grew up on this field believing life was rich, eventful, and secure. They would preach, teach, repair, invent, travel, host guests, and build churches and a Bible Institute.

In retirement, their ministries of compassion continued to touch the lives of many people as they encouraged and prayed with them, gave rides to church and doctor offices, and managed a website for teaching people about walking with Jesus Christ.

Can you name the couple and the field served?



In the April 2015 issue, the missionary family pictured was Bob and Julia Smith with Rebecca and Jonathan. They were returning to Indonesia for a sixth term to do church planting, disciple new believers in Jesus, and teach in the Bible College.