

# WESLEYAN MISSIONARY ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP



# LINK

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

Volume 12, Issue 2

Fall 2013



### *David Wright Elected Indiana Wesleyan University President*

As of July 1 of this year, Dr. David Wright became the 9<sup>th</sup> president of IWU. David was born in Manila, Philippines, son of missionaries Wayne and Virginia Wright. God's hand on David started even before birth with a special healing on him and his mother in answer to the prayer of a church leader, Dr. R.S. Nicholson, whose visit to the mission home in the Philippines came at a very opportune time. His life in Christ also started in another mission home at an early age. He was homeschooled for several years until the missionary department made it possible for him and his sister to attend Faith Academy in Manila where he attended from the fourth grade through his sophomore year of high school. He finished high school in Marion, Indiana, graduated from IWU, earned a master's degree at Western Evangelical Seminary and ultimately a doctorate from the University of Kentucky. He is thankful for the blessing of having been raised as a "missionary kid." His own call to missions came under the ministry of Dr. Marilyn Birch while he was in college.

He and Helen (also an IWU grad) served four year mission terms, first in Haiti and then later in Great Britain. On both fields they served in Bible college leadership. Since then David has held positions both at IWU and at Azusa Pacific University in California. An article in the *Marion Chronicle-Tribune* starts out with "From Pangasinan Province [Philippines] to Marion High School David Wright is ready to bring a global perspective to the president's office at Indiana Wesleyan University." A blurb in the latest issue of *Christianity Today* includes the words, "Selected - David Wright - As president of Indiana Wesleyan University, the largest member of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities."

David brings a servant heart to the great task of leading the university, which includes a vision to see IWU have an international impact providing

(continued page two)

### **Inside This Issue**

<i>Sri Lanka News</i>	. . . . 2
<i>Condolences</i>	. . . . 3
<i>Caribe Atlantic</i>	. . . . 3
<i>Sierra Leone National Conference</i>	. . . . 4

*Rev. Robert Smith,*

*President WMAF*

[bobsmith2004@earthlink.net](mailto:bobsmith2004@earthlink.net)

*Dr. Paul Turner,*

*LINK Editor*

[paul@turnerweb.org](mailto:paul@turnerweb.org)

*(David Wright NWU President continued.)*

Christian higher education to nations around the world.

In her announcement of the election and as a part of her introduction, Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, general superintendent, stated, "David Wright has a radical intelligence cloaked in stately humility. This honor is not only for him and his parents, but is a statement that 'missionary kids' need not be deprived of a preparation for all that God has planned for them. They're a pretty good bunch of 'kids.'" Dr. Lyon has recently offered one of David's books as a free gift to Wesleyan pastors. It is *How God Makes the World a Better Place: A Wesleyan Primer of Faith, Work and Economic Transformation*, available from Wesleyan Publishing House. Her words were, "I love this book! So many amazing ideas in such a small package." You will enjoy reading it if you can get it.

---

## News from Sri Lanka

After the end of the civil war in Sri Lanka, things have changed a lot. Some of what is happening is very good and some are not so good at all. Let me first talk of the good things:

The roads in Sri Lanka are modernized in most parts of the country. This of course is very helpful to me because I travel a lot visiting our churches each week in different parts of the country. Some new parks are being built and some old rundown places have been refurbished with modern facilities. Highways are being built which is also very beneficial for the type of work I do. One can travel to any part of the country now.

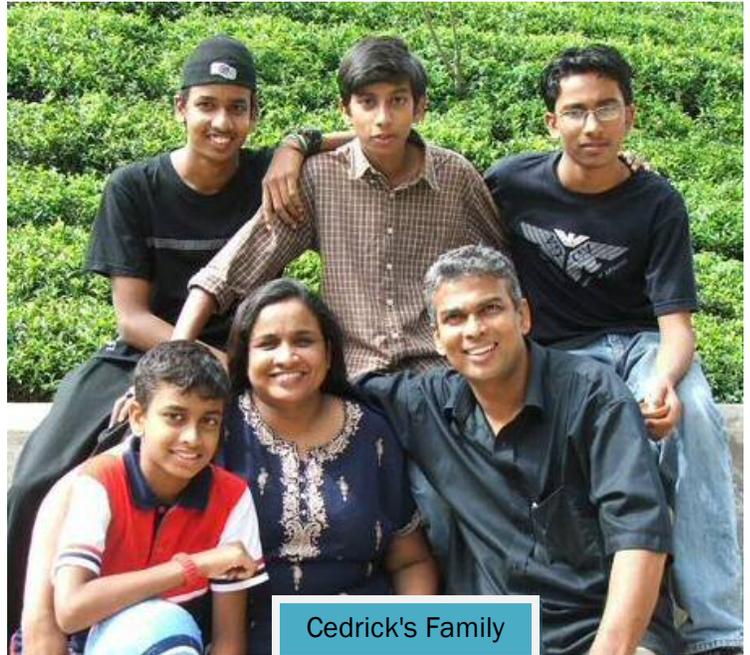
The negative side of things is that the cost of living has gone up to unbearable levels. Also there are many different groups taking to the streets and protesting or making demands for something. Buddhist extremism is very much active and on the rise. No one can register a new Christian church or charity organization. Starting a new place of worship in Buddhist controlled areas is almost impossible. The church is not growing as it did during the time of war.

In this back drop, we continue to disciple people and invest in leadership building. Both Sharlini and I are involved in conducting a midweek worship evening titled "Simply Worship." The attendance for this is growing. Sharlini has been spending time with an independent pastor counseling him to quit pastoring and find himself a job and take responsibility for his life's past mistakes. This pastor met with me two days ago and accepted that He should not be doing church and asked me to help him find a job. Sharlini also has been helping two families with children whose husbands have abandoned them. These are very deserving families who needed some help with sending their children to school.

In two months, we are planning to go on a family camp. These camps are always a blessing and provides most of our people the only opportunity to get out of their environment and find both spiritual and mental renewal along with fun and fellowship.

— **By Rev. Cedrik, District Superintendent, The Wesleyan Church of Sri Lanka**

(August 30, there were protests in a location about Sunday worship. Services are suspended for two months until meetings with community, religious, and political leaders can settle the situation. Intercede for them.)



## Condolences



**Elizabeth Carlson Ortlip**, widow of W. Henry Ortlip, died Jan. 22, 2012. She was born Feb. 9, 1920, in Vale, S.D., a daughter of the late Arthur and Elma Greenberg Carlson. She married Henry, who died Sept. 26, 2005. Elizabeth was a graduate of Houghton College and taught music for kindergarten through 12th grade at Theresa, N.Y. She and Henry were missionaries two years in China and thirty-five years in Haiti with Wesleyan World Missions and ministered to Native Americans at the Seneca Cattaraugus Reservation at Wesley Chapel. She was a member of the Houghton Wesleyan Church and the Houghton Senior Citizens. She is survived by a daughter, three sons, ten grandchildren, and one great-grandson. Burial was in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Houghton, N.Y.



**Mary Parks Mitchell**, wife of former General Superintendent Dr. Virgil A. Mitchell, died July 23, 2013. She was born in Asheboro, N. C., on August 28, 1915. She graduated from Central Wesleyan College (now Southern Wesleyan University), where she met her husband. They were married in 1937. She stood by her husband as a pastor, district superintendent, Home Missionary Secretary, and General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church. They visited most of the Wesleyan mission fields at some point. Dr. Mitchell preceded her in death in 2006. Mary is survived by two daughters, two grandsons, and two sisters.



**Pauline M. Leitzel**, wife of Leonard W. Leitzel, died Sept. 1, 2013. Born March 24, 1920, to the late Wardelle and Maude (Dearman) Burden, Pauline graduated from Allentown Bible Institute and was a member of College Wesleyan Church. She was formerly employed at Frankfort Bible College, Indiana Wesleyan University and The Wesleyan Hour radio program. She married Leonard W. Leitzel June 8, 1940. They served in Wesleyan missions in Suriname and Guyana from 1945 to 1965. Leonard preceded her in death in 2008. She is survived by 2 daughters, 3 sons, 14 grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren, and 12 great-great-grandchildren.

## Caribe Atlantic

We dedicated the new hospital at La Gonave Sept. 28. The three new buildings pictured here are the 18 months product of Julian Cattle, the Lemon Aid project manager, alongside



innumerable Haitian laborers. Final materials to complete the project, such as bathroom fixtures, lamps for operating rooms and beds, were stuck in customs for some time. God answered prayer.

Last year, Justin Charles joined a team from Pennsylvania to help with our projects. Justin and his team returned this year to install solar power for the hospital. The materials were donated by Lenape Solar. Maitre Rousvel Michel, hospital CFO, was happy to be the designated person to receive the shipment and oversee the installation. A new 42-bed guest house/ministry center was completed to house the visitors for the dedication activities.

The National Conference of the Wesleyan church is slated for March of 2014.

— by Dan Irvine, Caribe Atlantic Area Director



**Grace (McKinney) Paine**, wife of Dr. Charles Paine, died Sept. 21, in Brooksville, FL. She was born in Mopti, Republic of Mali. She and Chuck were married 58 years and raised 8 children to love Jesus. She was a missionary in India, Zambia, and Sierra Leone and was active in women's Bible study both in Michigan and Brooksville, FL. She was a member of the Brooksville Wesleyan Church. Preceded in death by son: John Paine, she is survived by her husband Charles Paine; 2 sons, 6 daughters, 2 brothers, 2 sisters, 43 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held Sept. 23 at the Brooksville Wesleyan Church with burial in the Brooksville cemetery.

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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US Postage Paid  
PERMIT #7828  
Indianapolis, IN

*LINK*

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

## Sierra Leone National Conference

The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone held its quadrennial national conference last May 2013. The conference combined informative seminars with business sessions as the church laid plans for its ministry in the coming four years. The Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone is the oldest and largest of the Wesleyan national conferences in Africa.

During the conference, Rev. Dr. Usman J. Fornah was resoundingly re-elected to a second four-year term as national superintendent.



Processional, Opening Ceremony



West African Wesleyan leaders with Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma,  
President of Sierra Leone

Before the conference, Wesleyan leaders from Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, and Burkina Faso gathered for a training event in Makeni, Sierra Leone. The growth of the churches requires changes in the administrative structures to accommodate new leaders. Present African leaders and Dr. Dennis Jackson, executive director of Global Partners, led the training and discussion.

A highlight of the gathering was an invitation to visit with the president of Sierra Leone, Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, in his office to pray with him.