

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP



LINK

LINKING former Wesleyan missionaries to each other and to Global Partners

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Missionary Alumni Executive Meeting



Phil Myers Jim Vermilya Marilyn Hunter Bill Peed Paul Meeks
Elsie Myers Elsa Caleb Jeanette Vermilya Julia Smith Bob Smith

The Executive Committee of the Wesleyan Missionary Alumni Fellowship (WMAF) met on July 8, 2014, for its annual meeting in the Café of the beautiful Brooksville Wesleyan Church. Rev. Robert E. Smith chaired the meeting with all members present which included: Dr. Jim and Jeanette Vermilya, Phil and Elsie Myers, Dr. Marilyn Hunter, Rev. Paul Meeks, Dr. Bill Peed and Elsa Caleb, Director of Training & Executive Director Initiatives with Global Partners, who also brought greetings from Dr. Jackson, as well as giving exciting news from GP. Reports were heard, including a report from Dr. Paul Turner who was our first recipient of the Alumni Grant that provides \$500.00 to any alumnus traveling to a GP approved field to assist for a short time. Paul went with a JESUS film team to Northeast India. It is hoped that other alumni will take advantage of this grant.

The Constitution and Standing Rules were also updated. The committee will now meet biannually rather than annually. Members will serve on a four-year term and the chairman will serve on a five-year term. Dr. Paul Turner was reappointed as *LINK* editor, and Dr. Bill Peed was appointed as Director of the Barnabas Connection. At the close of the meeting Dr. Jim Vermilya was appointed as the new Chairman to replace Bob Smith. Some new members were selected to meet with current members next year as the new schedule of biannual meetings will then be initiated. The meeting was inspiring, informational and anointed with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

--- by Rev. Robert E. Smith, retiring President of WMAF

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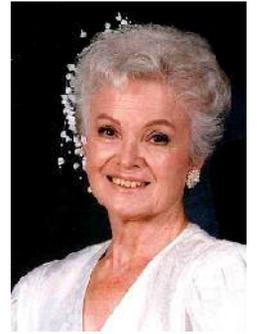
WMAF President Mourns His Mother's Death

Dr. James Vermilya, WMAF President, lost his mother, Dalene Vermilya, 91, of Columbus, Ohio, on Tuesday, August 19, 2014. She was born January 27, 1923, in Columbus, Ohio, daughter of the late Roy and Leila Jordan Shockley.

A special blessing was that the roommate (64 years old) of Jim's mother gave her heart to the Lord and was baptized a few days before. His mother had talked to her about the Lord over a period of 8 months, and Jeanette followed up with a long talk with the lady (Marcia), walking her through some Scriptures. She then prayed to be saved. Jim baptized her the next day at her request. Jim's mother was awake enough to know that this had taken place, and she responded, "Wonderful!"

She is survived by her son, James (Jeanette) Vermilya; daughter, Suzanne (Darryl) Mayo; sisters, Eileen (Charles) Risko and Juanita Clifton; brothers, Milton (Vicki) Shockley and Dean (Irene) Haycock; seven grandchildren and twenty-two great grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Monday, August 25, 2014, in New Albany, Ohio.



Rev. David Storey

1925 – 2014



The Reverend David Storey died peacefully in home hospice July 24 with his wife Maxine (Bowman) at his side. He was the son of Rev. R.K. Storey, first missionary to the Philippines under the Pilgrim Holiness Church. The Storey family was imprisoned by the Japanese during World War II in Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines. His father, Rev. R.K. Storey was also the president of Frankfort Pilgrim College for several years. David and his wife, Maxine, were involved in pastoral ministry and evangelism prior to retiring at Wesleyan Village in Brooksville, Florida. He is survived by his wife, Maxine, and a son, William David Storey in California.

William H. McDowell

William McDowell quietly slipped into glory in answer to the summons to a "better...heavenly country" (Hebrews 11:16) on January 9, 2014, after several weeks of acute pneumonia. The McDowells served in Sierra Leone, West Africa, under Wesleyan World Missions from 1971 to 1974.

A memorial service was held in DeLand, Florida, on February 1 with burial in the Greenwood Cemetery in Orlando, Florida. His wife, Lois Roberta (Swauger), survives, and lives in DeLand.



Rev. Barbara Fowler

1931 - 2014



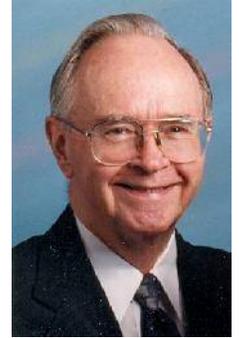
Barbara Fowler, 83, has gone to be with the Lord. She was founder of the Wesleyan Academy and Wesleyan Theological College in Puerto Rico. She and her husband, Ellsworth, left an indelible mark on the lives of the people and institutions where they served under Wesleyan World Missions from 1964 to 1970.

Rev. Vern Swanson

1928 - 2014

Rev. Vernon W. Swanson, 85, died February 22, 2014, in Marion, Indiana . He was born in Chicago, Illinois, to the late Wilfred and the late Lillian (Chrest) Swanson. He married Margaret 'Peggy' Paine on June 4, 1955. She preceded him in death on February 6, 2004.

He worked at Indiana Wesleyan University from 1968-1994, where, at the time of his retirement, he served as comptroller. Rev. Swanson was a member of College Wesleyan Church where he enjoyed singing in the choir. He was a graduate of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, Biola University in Los Angeles, Marion College in Marion, Indiana, and LaSalle University in Chicago. He was a minister of The Wesleyan Church, pastoring in Iowa and Illinois. Rev. Swanson served as a missionary under Wesleyan World Missions in Sierra Leone, West Africa, from 1960 to 1963.



Robert and Kay Bickert Visit the Philippines in 2014

In January Kay and I returned again to Baguio City, Philippines, where we had focused on discipleship ministry from 2001-2004 before officially retiring from Global Partners. Our objective this year focused on rewriting the discipleship lessons used previously in simple English for easier lay understanding.

One rewarding surprise was to see the growing influence of those three years of investment. Our first couple, Chris and Luz, who requested us to come back and help in the simplification, had changed vocations from being bank manager to pastor and assistant district superintendent. The Baguio churches had increased from five in 2000 to 14 in 2014. The new churches were planted by those in discipleship or by their converts, some of whom are now pastoring. During our three months of rewriting and teaching, we were rewarded to see those who had been in discipleship now filling key roles of ministry in the district. Dr. Allan Coppedge, author of our discipleship materials, came to give the lectures at the tenth Annual Discipleship Retreat in Baguio City.

In 2002, Family Camp Meeting began when pastors requested to restart the camps held during the Easter week for all ages. This year over 800 gathered on Easter Sunday. It was a privilege for us to participate, and Robert gave the sunrise message. We rejoiced to see the pastor's vision being fulfilled as children, youth, and parents sat under five big tents singing with gusto and listening intently to the Spirit-anointed messages that brought hundreds, at times, to seek the Lord.

We have cause for much thanksgiving to our loving Father for good health to keep us going and for moving on a host of longtime prayer partners and supporters who uphold us so faithfully, enabling this fruitful and rewarding ministry.



--- by Dr. Robert and Kay Bickert, retired GP missionaries

New Book Published by GP Alumnus

Unexpected Destiny: A story of Albinism, Adoption, Cross-cultural Living, and a Search for Identity.

Ever since starting school, Suzanne has felt different from all her acquaintances. She claims to be mad at God for her appearance. Her adoptive mother relates the tumult of emotions for Suzanne and her family as she seeks to decipher her racial, cultural, and familial identity. Her journey leads to her birth family, their unfamiliar culture, and the African village of her roots. Although hard to see in the midst of the struggle, the hand of God is guiding and protecting His beloved child while working behind the scenes to bring her dreams to fulfillment. Available in hardcover, soft cover, or e-book form from Westbow Press, Amazon, or Barnes and Nobel Websites.

--- by Pat Estes, retired GP missionary

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Siamese Circuit

Dan and Pada Merillat are GP missionaries in Thailand who work with the Muang Thai Church. On May 11 Dan preached from the book of Daniel, sons Samuel and Benjamin sang and played on the worship team, and Pada taught her Sunday school class.



Pada teaching

Ten days later martial law turned into a bloodless coup by the military, and a new government came into being. This was the 19th coup or coup attempt since 1933. Soon things were back to normal and they went about their daily routines of ministry.



Dan preaching at MTC

The new government has initiated a reconciliation process to try to lessen the political tensions in the country, including the red-shirt vs the yellow-shirt conflict.

Dan and Pada thank God for His mercies and the opportunity to lift up Jesus Christ in Thailand.