

# WESLEYAN MISSIONARY ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP



# LINK

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

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## *Philippine Bible College Graduations*

**Palawan** held commencement exercises on March 10 with 3 Christian Leadership certificates and 2 Bachelor of Theology degrees. **Visayan** (in Cebu City) graduated 7 CLDC and 2 BTh on March 12. **Kabacan** (Mindanao) graduated 23 CLDC and 7 BTh on March 15. **Rosales** (photo left) held their commencement on March 21 with 22 CLDC, 15 BTh, and 5 Bachelor of Religious Education grads. **Cordillera** (Luzon mountains) held their graduation on March 25, with 12 CLDC and 7 BTh grads.

Another part of ministerial training in the Philippines is done under WESTEE (Wesleyan Theological Education by Extension) in the districts and local churches. This year in **Palawan**, there were 31 WESTEE graduates that joined in the Bible college ceremonies. In **Western Mindanao**, there were 41 WESTEE grads at the Kabacan commencement. The Philippine Wesleyan Church *Discipline* provides for an ordained ministry as full-time clergy and for ordained deacons mostly trained through the extension program. Evangelism and church planting are at an all-time high along with district development. Equipping of God's people for ministry follows every path possible to advance the kingdom of God across the Philippine Islands and Asia.

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**WESTEE leaders & graduates**

## ***Cambodia Pastors' Retreat***

The Pastors' and Families' Retreat held at Sihanoukville on the coast was a good time May 14 to 18. God came and people were encouraged and renewed. Missionary Tim Gallant spoke on the importance of confessing the truth to God, others, and ourselves. Missionary Doug Slack spoke on servant-leadership as demonstrated by Jesus washing the feet of His disciples. A special time of prayer was held for everyone, and the last night Tim and Doug served Holy Communion to the pastors. Then the pastors served their respective family. Fifty-six people attended the 4-day retreat representing all of our pastors, spouses, plus children, etc.



***— By Doug Slack, Cambodia Mission Director Global Partners***

Tim Gallant, missionary in residence at Indiana Wesleyan University and career missionary to Cambodia, led a mission team of six IWU students to Cambodia May 9 to 25. They participated in the Pastors' Retreat and one of the students, Jon Morgan, sent the following observation about their ministry.

“Thank you so much for lifting us up in prayer. The pastor’s retreat has been a great success! The lesson we gave for the kids focused on feeding the 5,000 and how God multiplied the two fish and five loaves of bread. After the lesson, the kids made photo frames for the family photos from the retreat. We had the kids make bracelets, which they really liked, as well as the photo frames. Today the team and I (Jon) really bonded with the kids and enjoyed each other’s company even though sometimes we didn’t understand each other.

“After lunch we had a time where we could enjoy God’s beautiful creation while swimming in the sea of Thailand. Everyone enjoyed themselves. In the night service, we came together to receive communion and enjoy worship, which was really nice because even though we couldn’t understand what we were singing, we knew it was for God, and that’s all that mattered. During this time, it was nice to see the pastors come together and make a strong friendship in Christ with each other. The love that they have for God is so amazing, and it was awesome to witness.



“Today our team grew a lot! Although hot and sweaty, we still were able to enjoy each other’s company and see God’s beauty in Cambodia and the people. A bad thunderstorm came through and the power went out, but it was a great time for team bonding because we could sit and worship together and listen to God. The lightning and thunder were scary, yet we appreciated God’s power. Our evening devotions were led by Lauren Lehman where she talked about seeing God around us, and we definitely got to see Him today in many ways.”

***--- by Jon Morgan, IWU student***

## **WMAF FL REGIONAL MEETING**

WMAF members from all across Florida met on March 19, 2013, at Wesleyan Bible Conference Association Elliott Center for their annual meeting.

Dr. Ken Heer, WBCA president, and Dr. Jerry Pence, pastor of the Brooksville Wesleyan Church, got the “ball to rolling” by bringing greetings and offering the opening prayer.

The theme this year was the work of The Wesleyan Church in the interior of Suriname, South America. It was named Pelgrim Kondre, (Pilgrim Country), by Rev. Leonard Leitzel, missionary sent by the Pilgrim Holiness Church.

Our featured speakers were: Rev. James and Diane Leitzel and Rev. Phil Wiley, who served as missionaries there in earlier years. Both families are now residents of the Wesleyan Village in Brooksville, FL.

Rev. Jim Leitzel gave a power point presentation of “then and now of Pelgrim Kondre.” It was exciting to hear of his childhood exploits. Jim, as a young boy, accompanied his parents, Leonard and Pauline Leitzel, on early trips. Jim quickly learned the language and formed lifelong friendships with the bush children of Pelgrim Kondre.

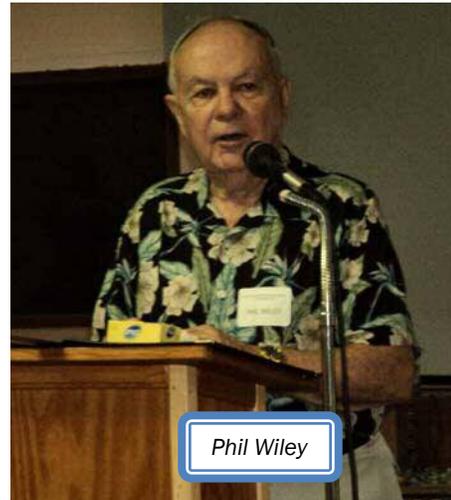


The blessings of the Lord flowed when Jim showed pictures of those childhood friends who are now serving The Wesleyan Church as pastors and leaders of the church in Suriname.

Rev. Phil Wiley told of the time he and his family went to Suriname in 1958. After landing in the capital city of Paramarabo, they then had to take a 10-hour boat ride up the Cottica River to Pelgrim Kondre, since there were no roads going to the interior. Phil shared with us the challenge of a small boat battling the waves of the huge boats loaded with bauxite ore coming from the mines up in the mountains. This was ore producing aluminum for the ALCOA Company in the USA.

It was Phil and the national brethren who “hacked out” the thick trees and underbrush clearing a runway for the missionary plane. One of the pioneer

pilots, flying a small plane provided by the mission department of the Pilgrim Holiness Church, was Rev. Roger Bassett who first landed on the new air strip at Pelgrim Kondre.



Both Jim and Phil showed pictures of the first buildings and then those that are presently serving The Wesleyan Church in Pelgrim Kondre. The long boat rides are no longer necessary since a nice road has been built there and on up into the mountains.

Phil’s first wife, Mildred, was a nurse, which greatly aided in those beginning days. Phil’s brother, Charles Wiley and his wife, Arlene, had preceded them in the mission work in Suriname. Charles came home to America for an emergency surgery, but he died following the surgery. Soon afterwards his wife, Arlene, returned to PK as a single missionary serving for several years.

Diane Leitzel shared her heart with us from the experiences of a young missionary wife and mother. She had come from city-like settings, so going into the bush for the first time was quite traumatic. We felt with her the joys, sorrows and fears of interior mission work. Diane had to serve as “mother” to the school children who lived and studied at PK. She, with the aid of some local men, often had to serve as “nurse” when accidents happened. We felt her loneliness when Jim would often be gone to conduct mission business.

Both Jim and Phil displayed a table with curios from life in the interior mission work. Phil prepared a collage of pictures from their first days at PK.

We are thankful for the 52 who attended this heartwarming time to see and hear friends and share their missionary experiences.

We hope during this year, you and your co-missionaries from your region will have the blessings of meeting together to share with one another experiences from those exciting days when you served as Wesleyan missionaries.

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## *Condolences*

Mrs. Elizabeth Ortlip, widow of Rev. Henry Ortlip, died January 23 in Houghton, NY. She and Henry served as missionaries in China and the Caribbean from 1947 to 1984. Henry passed away in 2005.

Margaret Lohr, 102, died Feb. 12 in Greensboro, MD. She served some time in Sierra Leone, Africa as a "GO-Net Nurse." She was a faithful member of the Wesleyan Medical Fellowship.

Reverend Dorothy Jean Hall, 82, an ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church, passed away February 2013 in Modesto, CA. She was a registered nurse and earned a B.A. degree in 1955. Dorothy became a nurse and minister for fifty years, twenty years in Zambia, Africa, and in South America. Later she was missionary nurse to the Piute Indians in Fallon, Nevada. She is survived by her sister Pauline Hall, and several nieces and nephews. Eleven siblings preceded her in death.

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Mrs. Arlene R. Eddy, 89, died March 13 in Tucson, AZ. She married Edward L. Eddy April 5, 1942. They served 13 years in Wesleyan missions in Sierra Leone, West Africa, 29 years in pastoral ministries, and 6 years as staff associates in the Billy Graham Crusade. She is survived by her husband, 3 daughters, 6 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.

Mrs. Lucille Day, of Marion, IN, died April 3. She and her husband, Charles (died 2011), served in missionary work in Colombia and Puerto Rico from 1946 to 1964. Her memorial service was held at Nelson Street Wesleyan Church in Marion April 6.

Rev. John Basham, 84, of Hobe Sound, FL, died May 8. He was a pastor for 42 years, leading Wesleyan churches in Winchester, KY; Owensboro, KY; and Marion, IN. He was a missionary for four years in Taiwan. His wife, Dorothy, survives.

Mrs. Louella Purcell, 92, of Olathe, KS, died May 19. She and her husband, Edward (died 2008), served as missionaries in Surinam/Curasao from 1952 to 1959. Her funeral was held in Cape Girardeau, MO, with entombment at Cape Girardeau County Memorial Park mausoleum.