



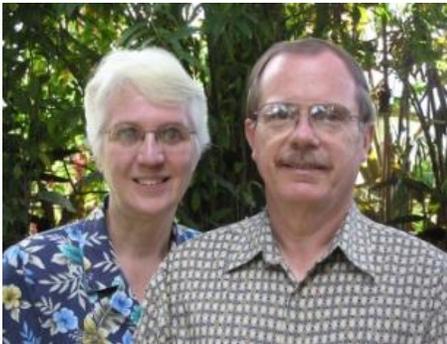
LINKING former Wesleyan missionaries to each other and to Global Partners

Volume 8, Issue 2

Fall 2009

Vessels Unto Honor...

The missionary journey of Jim and Judy Keilholtz.



In 1972, after pastorates in Indiana and Ohio, Jim and Judy began fulfilling their life calling in Papua New Guinea in a remote area only opened to outsiders 10 years prior.

Born on a Michigan farm in 1944, Jim began attending church at the age of 16 through the friendship and invitation of teenagers from Brockway Wesleyan Church. Brockway had a strong missions' emphasis and the first service Jim attended was a Wednesday night missionary service. That summer Jim was saved at the North Michigan District camp meeting in Cadillac, Michigan and followed his pastor's kids to Kentucky Mountain Bible College (then Institute). After graduating he enrolled in Indiana Wesleyan University (Marion College) and received an A.B. in Theology in 1968.

Judy was born in 1945 and grew up in a pastor's family. She graduated from Marion College with a major in science. Jim and Judy met at Marion College in Dr. Mary Dodd's John Milton's class. Later Judy enrolled at Goshen College and earned her B.S. in Nursing.

The year Jim received a call to pastor the merging church at Elkhart, IN, his first church, Judy was facing second year nursing student clinical practice to be held at the Elkhart Hospital. That seemed a green light from God to immediately merge their lives rather than wait for Judy to complete nursing school. They married August 4, 1968.

With God's call to missionary service confirmed, they built a support team and flew to Papua New Guinea in 1972. For the first 25 years in PNG, Jim & Judy trained pastors and women's leaders, working and mentoring on the national and district levels. They took a year out to pastor a church so one daughter could graduate from high school with her classmates in the USA. During that year Jim completed class work for his M.A. in Pastoral Theology. But he felt a strong need to get back to help the PNG Church and forfeited completing his thesis.

In 1997, Jim and Judy left PNG in the faithful hands of missionary colleagues. However, in 2002, they were asked to return to lead the new Bible College. With support raised, they returned to serve the people dear to their hearts. Jim became Principal of the Wesleyan Bible College and they both taught for two more missionary terms. [Continued page 4]

Inside this issue . . . .

Transitions to Glory..... 2
Larry & Cindy Marshall..... 2
Nepal National Church ..... 3
WMAF Committee ..... 3
Christians in Pakistan ..... 3
Karis People Requests ..... 4
Joe & Pat Larakers ..... 4

WMAF Chairman - Robert Smith
<bobsmith2004@earthlink.net>

LINK Editor - Paul Turner
<ilokdoc@gmail.com>

## Transitions to Glory.....

Rev. Joseph Braisted died September 10th of a heart attack. He was 50. Joe and wife Deborah are both GP alumni and IWU alumni. They served 1993 - 1998 as missionary colleagues in Peru. Later, Joe was an assistant pastor with IWU Pastor Steve DeNeff when living in Marion. They moved to Virginia and the Shenandoah District. This is a great shock and he will be sorely missed. Memorial services were held Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> at Emmanuel Wesleyan Church in Roanoke, Virginia.

Rev. H. John Blann went home to be with his Lord July 22<sup>nd</sup>. He and wife Eva served in South Africa from 1947 to 1960 under GP. For some time, Rev. Blann served as president of Frankfort Pilgrim College in Indiana. They made their home in Middleburg, FL.

Rev. Gerald Jack left earth for heaven June 13, 2009. He and wife Kristin served in Puerto Rico from 1977 to 1982 under GP in the English church. In retirement, they established their home in Brooksville, FL.

Mrs. Donna Reese, mother of Kay Bickert, GP Alumnus, died Sept. 14, in Coleman, MI. Confined to a nursing home the last several months, she prepared for her memorial service and expenses. Pastors who participated in the service, challenged family and friends to continue living out the eternal values this mother exemplified. When Bob and Kay gave her a report of their ministry in Baguio City, Philippines in 1998, she declared, "That's my fruit - my fruit!" Kay had reluctantly left her mother in the nursing home for that ministry time, but is thankful for her mother's prayers and faith.

Larry Marshall died September 23<sup>rd</sup> in Denver, CO, resulting from a well drilling accident on June 8<sup>th</sup> near Rapid City, SD. He was hospitalized in Rapid City, and transferred to Denver in August. Doctors worked valiantly to correct damage to his rib cage, lungs, pulverized liver and other vital organs. Larry's strong physique responded to treatment and he had some good lucid days, but in time the infection and overload to his system wore out his body and finally shut down. Wife Cindy and son Jordan stood by his bed as he passed from life to death in Christ Jesus. A memorial service for Larry was held in Rapid City October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Ministry of Larry and Cindy Marshall

The Marshalls sold their farm in Tulare, SD and obeyed God's call to volunteer as Wesleyan Gospel Corps to Sierra Leone, Africa in 1980. They paid their own way and helped with rice production. Larry brought in a tractor and machinery, and rice was planted at the end of the dry season, grew in the flooded fields in rainy season, and was harvested when the dry season came again. One night they were awakened as a fire was sweeping the fields. Larry knew about prairie fires in SD and organized the men to cut fire lanes and back fired the brush. The crops and village were saved and Larry became known as "the farmer who knew about rice and fires and had a powerful testimony for the Lord."

Returning to the USA, they attended Bartlesville Wesleyan College so they could be appointed as missionaries. They were sent to the Bafodia area in Sierra Leone where George Huff had started one church years earlier. Larry and Cindy worked among the Limba people - Larry would go to the villages and give his "farmers" testimony and the evangelist would give the message. Marshalls helped to plant 15 churches and three schools.

From 1987 to 1994, they worked in Chicago's inner city with the Olive Branch Mission for the homeless. In 1994 they moved to Rapid City to work with Wesleyan Native American Ministries for six years. Larry resigned as Director of WNAM for Adrian Jacobs to become the Director. In 2003, they signed up with World Hope International, and spent three years in Mozambique and Liberia in agricultural work. They gave families sets of hand farming tools, rice seedlings and other food items, began an animal multiplication project of sheep and chickens, and completed 42 wells to supply daily water for 34,000 people. Larry trained well-drilling teams and returned to the USA in 2008 to make their home in Rapid City.



Fresh Water with Living Water

## A Nepal National Church

After years of medical ministry by missionaries like Isla Knight, Margaret Wright, Debbie Mitchell, and Dr. and Mrs. Romy Caringal, the national church of Nepal is maturing and taking shape in a land opposed to the gospel. Global Partners has historically sent doctors and nurses to serve under direction of the International Nepal Fellowship or United Mission to Nepal, who sponsored them in securing resident visa permits. Missionary evangelism was strictly forbidden with the Hindu dominance.

Through a contact made by Dr. Rudyard Fay in 1996, the Regional Supt. of the Wesleyan Church of East India, received the work of a Nepal national as a Wesleyan Church. Supervision was assigned the East India Reg. Supt, by Dr. Kerry Kind, then Director of International Ministries for Global Partners, then later to GP. Partner churches have provided assistance with projects and GP has sponsored Jesus Film teams for witness and church planting all led by Nepalese believers. A national leader has attended the International Wesleyan Church meetings in the USA in 2000, 2004, and 2008 and given progress reports of the growth of ministry that reveal God at work in miraculous ways.



This August, Dr. Romy Caringal, GP Asia Area Director, attended a three day national conference in Nepal where 23 delegates came from the 29 Wesleyan fellowships. A new worship center is located in Kathmandu, capitol city, and work was contributed to by the local people. A five year rent free lease gives the people an opportunity to grow and eventually own the building, all done with local funding. Vision, zeal, and the power of our risen Lord are at work in this country. Let's pray for God's blessing upon our brothers and sisters of faith in Nepal.

## WMAF EXCO MEETS

The WMAF Executive Committee met on June 5, 2009 at the Shunem House in Fishers, IN. Jeanette Vermilya served as our hostess. This large, beautiful home serves as a refuge for missionaries who are in transit. It has been a tremendous blessing to many missionaries who are transitioning from the field to their homes while on Home Ministries or visa versa.



During this meeting reports were given and challenges presented. Plans were laid for the coming year to expand the ministries of WMAF. In this Fellowship we are endeavoring to reach as many "returned" and "retired" missionaries as possible. We feel it is a much needed avenue for information and fellowship for our faithful, veteran Wesleyan missionaries.

The officers elected are: Bob Smith- Chairman; Elsie Myers- secretary; Jim Vermilya-treasurer; Phil Myers-Directory manager; Members-at-large: Paul and Darlene Meeks, Dr. Marilyn Hunter, Dr. Bill Peed and Julia Smith. Rev. Mrs. Fran Lane serves as our Ex-officio representative from Global Partners. Dr. Paul Turner was appointed Editor of the **LINK**. Dr. Jim Vermilya was reappointed as Barnabas Connection Director. Area coordinators are: Marion Vreugdenhil, Bob Vardaman, Cindy Austin, Bill Moore, Bob Broome, Paul & Darlene Meeks and Lindsay Cameron.

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2010 at our World Headquarters in Fishers, IN.

## Christians in Pakistan

Recent news from Pakistan tells of severe persecution to the Christian communities. Homes were burned for allegedly burning pages of the Koran. People were shot and chemicals thrown on the house to burn it and girls' bodies disfigured. A third incident involved a Christian boy when the mother of his Muslim girl friend accused him of tearing the Koran. The boy was taken to prison and during interrogation, was killed. So far, Wesleyans have escaped.

## ***Karis People Sept. Prayer Requests***

Eve: pray for opportunities to meet with Sarah and for God to open her heart.

Carla: my friend Jana had a new baby. Pray for a time to visit and share the gospel.

JD: pray for more good meetings with Jonah and Stein and opportunities to present the gospel.

Ruth: English classes start soon for 10 weeks at the Hope Center. Pray for students to experience the love of Christ as we interact in teaching and learning.

Naomi: pray for elementary students in 3 to 6<sup>th</sup> grades and for Junior High Math & Science.

David: pray for opportunities to connect with locals and build relationships that will last with God.

Esther: pray for open doors and adjustment as I learn how to reach people in this new culture.

Luke: pray for good health of everyone, especially Timothy.

DD: pray for us to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit to lead us to opportunities for evangelism.

*—names changed for security. How nice to pray for real people the Lord knows about and will answer.*

## ***Vessels Unto Honor - Keilholtz***

While teaching, Jim also served as mission director and worked alongside the national superintendent and national treasurer.

In July 2009, after 31 years of ministry, Jim and Judy retired from full-time missionary service. With their hearts still in PNG, they accepted an assignment to reprint the PNG Church Discipline and publish a Pastor's Handbook. As the Lord provides the means and opportunity, they anticipate occasional trips to PNG as volunteers for short teaching ministry.

A favorite Bible verse that has inspired their devotion to ministry and mission work in any area God would lay on their hearts are the words and example of Jesus in Mark 1:38: "Let us go somewhere else - to the nearby villages - so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."

The Keilholtszes live in Marion, Indiana.

## **Joe & Pat Larakers' Update**

On the south side of Chicago, IL., Joe and Pat grew up in unchurched homes. Still children, they were invited to attend a new church planted by Hugh and Betty Paine in 1951. In time, both became Christians along with many members of their families.

In 1963, Joe and Pat were married and moved to the north side of Chicago to attend the Hoyne Avenue Wesleyan Church. By 1966, attendance dwindled and a new pastor was needed. Joe volunteered to serve as pastor until the District Superintendent could find "someone else." The years stretched over 35 annual reports with God's blessing. Then the Lord called them to serve with Global Partners in Haiti.

They were seconded for eight years to West Indies Self-Help, a relief and development agency that functions only on the island of La Gonave. Haiti is one of the poorest nations in the Western Hemisphere and La Gonave is the poorest part of Haiti. Relief ministry is a challenge to help the 100,000 people in that area.

The Wesleyan Church has operated the only hospital on the island for many years. The medical work is a factor in the planting and growth of many of the two dozen churches currently on La Gonave.



Larakers are now retired and live at 211 Windsor, Beeville, Texas 78102. Their phone: 217-204-5737 and email: <Jnplarakers@gmail.com>.

*— reported by Phil Meyers*

**4**

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

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US Postage Paid  
PERMIT #7828  
Indianapolis, IN