

WESLEYAN MISSIONARY ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP



LINKING former Wesleyan missionaries to each other and to Global Partners

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Editor Note: We removed the lead article for security issues in order to post pages two – three – four that have historical value. We here include a letter from Dr. Don Bray to the retired missionary family when WMAF came into being for your interest.

January 22, 2002

Dear Wesleyan Missionary Alumni,

This is an exciting day for me because it is a vision fulfilled and a vision begun. Years ago, shortly after dinosaurs became extinct which also was about the time Dr. Bob Lytle asked me to become the first director of personnel, I had a dream of developing an Alumni Association of Wesleyan missionaries. The purpose was to find ways to continue to express our appreciation for service given to the Lord, to nurture friendships and relationships established overseas, and to capture the wisdom and passion for cross-cultural ministry.

Now, under Beth Fussner's leadership and with her terrific team, this dream turned into a vision and is now reality. We believe that through this new network of Wesleyan missionary alumni God will be able to extend His kingdom even further in our own lives and across the world.

Over the years, we have had returned missionaries report they feel so isolated or cut off after they get back. With tears, some have asked what do they do with the passion that still burns in their hearts when they no longer have an outlet to express it. We think this new fellowship can help provide answers to these needs.

We invite you to be part of this exciting new venture. We really look forward to closer contact with you in the months ahead.

**Warmly,
Don Bray
Wesleyan World Missions**

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Barry & Margaret Ross Ministry in the Caribbean

From the middle of September through December, Barry and Margaret taught classes in the Caribbean Wesleyan College in Savanna-la-mar, Jamaica. Barry says, "It was a wonderful journey of ministry, of coming to love our colleagues and students, and hopefully a measure of love in return." Although it rained almost every day, Margaret enjoyed the grass, trees, flowering bushes, and green campus full of color. On Fridays, she baked cookies or cupcakes for a dessert for the lunch in the cafeteria, and she made sure the two maintenance men were included. Thanksgiving this year brought them a menu of goat curry, sweet potatoes, mixed vegetables, and Jamaican dumplings along with the joy of knowing they had the privilege to share their gifts of teaching with the Jamaican people.

Margaret was assigned an embroidery/sewing class with 15 women students. They laughed a lot and had fun with needle and thread. Their celebration party, when classes were completed, included the faculty, staff, and students that live on campus. Fifty of them left not a morsel of food on the tables of the dining room.



Barry & Hebrew Class



Women's Dorm Margaret & Pam Thompson

With accreditation coming to the school, the three-year Certificate Course needed an "upgrade." Barry assisted with Bachelor level courses to help the men with family and pastoral responsibilities. Many were in their midfifties and driving home to their families and churches on weekends was challenging. Barry watched the men balance the demands of family, church and college, and he developed great admiration for their tenacity and desire to become all that God would have them to be. Prophets and Biblical Hebrews, term papers, and final exams kept Barry on his toes. A highlight for them were visits to several Wesleyan churches in communities outside the campus where Barry was usually asked to preach, and sometimes both of them gave greetings and God's Word.

-- by Dr. Barry & Margaret Ross, GP Alumni

Jesus Film Training North East India

On October 15, three of us from Northwest District went to North East India for ten days to train a new Jesus Film team. Ryan Koltiska, assistant pastor in Sheridan, WY and Anessa Klumb, children's minister in Mitchell, SD joined me on this trip. We enjoyed meeting these men and observing their excitement and anticipation using one of the most successful tools of evangelism in missions today. The 2009 team has planted four churches so far, and the potential in Mizoram district is even more hopeful.

Five men from the Mizoram district will comprise this new team. Pray for the Lord of the harvest to bless and keep these men as they travel the mountains of Mizoram, bringing people into a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

--- By Paul Turner, GP Alumni



Condolences

Charlotte Louise Ammerman Brunk



Nov. 5, 1930 to Nov. 18, 2013

Charlotte Brunk was born in Covington, Kentucky, to Wayne C. and Letha P. Ammerman. She graduated from Withrow High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1949 and married Rev. Richard T. Brunk on June 17, 1949. She attended Asbury College later. The Brunks pastored churches in Ohio, Minnesota, Iowa, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Florida. In 1961, they went to Costa Rica and Honduras, Central America, as missionaries with World Gospel Mission. In 1967 Richard became professor of missions and philosophy at Vennard College in University Park, Iowa. From 1972 to 1980, they worked at the World Gospel Mission office in Marion, Indiana.

In 1988, The Wesleyan Church sent Charlotte and Richard to Puerto Rico as missionaries, where Richard served as field director until 1993. In 2002, they retired to Brooksville, Florida. Richard went to be with the Lord on January 16 of this year.

Charlotte was an accomplished pianist, secretary and administrative assistant. She was a committed believer in Jesus Christ, a wonderful helpmate to Richard, a wonderful mother to Deborah, Michael, and Timothy, and a very caring grandmother and great-grandmother. She is survived by her three children, five grandsons and twenty great-grandchildren.

Roberto Felix Bumanlag

Roberto F. Bumanlag, age 78, died on August 14, 2013, in Pomona, Calif. He was a retired ordained minister in the Pacific Southwest District. Born in the Philippines, he was instrumental in planting the first Pilgrim Holiness congregation in the city of Manila. He and his wife Ruth served in the Philippines as associate missionaries. He served as president of the Wesleyan Bible College in Rosales, Philippines, until 1990.

--- by Rev. Ron McClung, editor *Siftings*

Toonstras in Macedonia

Our first Thanksgiving in Macedonia was a delightful experience. We welcomed Phil and Lucille Nettleton into our home, who are Pastors to Missionaries for Global Partners. Our kids enjoyed having them act as temporary grandparents! Phil and Lucille were able to concentrate their efforts on listening and giving them undivided attention.

We continue to make progress in language learning and cultural adjustment. Being able to share our faith this Christmas with friends and neighbors and those who attend the small groups makes our work here worthwhile. Please pray for us to have a good balance in our lives with language, spiritual development, family, personal, team, and relationships (it's ALL ministry)!!!



--- by Joel & Tiffany Toonstra, Blake, Maryn, and Marisa
GP career missionaries

WMAF at Shunem House

"It was a fellowship, but more . . . it was a spiritual highlight!" From a thank-you note expressed by Paul and Nancy Swauger. A great fellowship



happened at Shunem House on October 26. Retired missionaries from Colombia, Japan, Peru, Brazil, Russia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Zambia, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Haiti enjoyed a wonderful time visiting and sharing stories, pictures, and remembering when. . . "Water in2 Wine," a musical group of two MKs (Jonathan and Aaron Ashlock), provided a mini-concert of inspirational music. Randall Freeman, GP Pastor to Missionaries for the Pacific, Asia, and Turkic-Arabic areas of the world, spoke God's Word. Anna Cunningham, 94 years old, came from Cincinnati, Ohio, with the help of two friends. This was a God-family reunion – each one knew the language of missionary service and didn't miss a beat in passion for "their" people where they served. What an honor to be with these warriors of the faith – it felt like a few moments of heaven.

-- by Jeanette Vermilya, Area Correspondent,
Shunem House, Indianapolis

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Euro-Trek with Dave & Dina Horne



The 20th celebration of The Wesleyan Church in Russia was held in November! How meaningful to be a part of the celebration weekend with so many ties from Central Wesleyan and Spring Lake Wesleyan churches throughout the years.



Dave with Pastor Anton next to the memorial plaque of Ron Dawson from Spring Lake in Michigan. Dina with Inna, wife of Anton, leaders of the Tokareva Wesleyan Church in Vladimir, Russia.