

# LINK

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

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### *PARTNERING in MISSION at LA GONAVE WESLEYAN HOSPITAL*

Despite political unrest in Haiti and Covid-19, La Gonave Wesleyan Hospital has provided excellent care for patients living on the island of La Gonave, Haiti.

Since 2014, Bob Vermaire, a family physician, and his wife, Marcia, have served faithfully as Global Partners missionaries at the hospital.

Dr. Bob works alongside and educates Haitian physicians who have a significant impact on the level of care at the hospital, as well as the care of patients throughout Haiti. Marcia touches many things at the hospital but mainly coordinates visiting teams and builds relationships with other organizations on the island.

Over the years, short-term medical teams have served at the Wesleyan University School of Nursing, and in villages on the island. Surgeons often perform operations that cannot otherwise be done on the island. Visiting teams encourage long-term missionaries and the Haitian staff. Most visitors leave changed and have a desire to see the mission thrive.

In 2020, Global Partners formed the La Gonave Action Team comprised of people with a strong connection to the hospital who are committed to raising awareness about the hospital, recruiting, and developing teams and individuals to serve at the hospital, to provide administrative assistance and oversight, and to raise financial support.

The team's first project raised \$28,000 for a dedicated Covid-19 unit to allow the hospital to staff the unit through the peak of the pandemic until cases decreased. The hospital and the La Gonave Action Team are grateful for all the donors that participated in this effort.

We thank the Lord for four members who traveled to Haiti in late February 2021 to reconnect with the hospital and the Vermaires. The team spent time interviewing key people at the hospital. Needs that arose are: 1) additional funding to increase staff salaries and hire specialists at the hospital, 2) a way to expand staff education, 3) more visiting teams, 4) Bibles for Pastor Bertand to give to patients, and 5) a spirometer for Dr. Badio, a pulmonologist, to provide better care to patients.

The La Gonave Action Team is excited about these opportunities. Perhaps you are thinking, "I could help with this" or "I'd like to join the next team trip to Haiti." Email me at [scott.addison@gponline.org](mailto:scott.addison@gponline.org) if you'd like to learn more!



Dr. Scott Addison

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*by Dr. Scott Addison, Director of Global Partners Health Network The Amplifier GP*

## Condolences

### *Gertrude L. Fulk*

Gertrude L. Fulk, 95, passed away April 1, 2021, in Kendallville, Indiana. She was born in Noble County, IN, on Aug. 21, 1925, to Oscar and Etta (Rowland) Fulk. They preceded her in death. She spent her formative years in Noble County.

After giving her heart to the Lord in 1942, she attended and graduated from Intermissions Bible School in 1946. She served as a missionary for 43 years in Haiti with Wesleyan World Missions (now Global Partners), from 1948-1991. When she returned to the USA, she served as a Chaplain at a nursing home in Louisiana, from 1991-1998.

Gertrude is survived by a sister, Laurel Wilson, and several nieces and nephews. Memorial services were held on April 5, 2021 with burial at Riverview Cemetery, Churubusco, IN. (See page 4 of this issue for more about the bio of Gertrude.)



### *Dr. Robert A. Bickert*

Rev. Robert Andrew Bickert, 83, passed away April 13, 2021, in Wilmore, Kentucky. He was born on June 25, 1937 to Carl Andrew and Margaret (Wiegman) Bickert in Lansing, Michigan. He became a Christian at age 10, and at 13, he felt called to be a missionary. In Owosso College in Michigan, he met and married Karolyn Yvonne Reese in 1962. Then Robert graduated from Asbury College in Wilmore, KY and completed Master of Divinity and Master of Theology degrees at Asbury Theo. Seminary. He was ordained as a minister in The Wesleyan Church in 1969.



In 1970, Bob and Kay, Jon and Mark went to Manila, Philippines to serve with Wesleyan World Missions (now Global Partners). Sherri was born that year and Tim came in 1972. They taught in Bible Colleges in Mindanao and Luzon and planted a new church in Cainta, Manila. Returning to the USA in 1977, Bob traveled with Dr. Don Bray and Paul Swauger Sr. in urban city Metro Move seminars in several countries of the world where Wesleyan missionaries served. Bob led the discipleship and follow-up segments.

Bob was professor at God's Bible School in Cincinnati, Ohio from 1986-'89. He completed a Doctor of Missiology degree at Asbury Theo. Seminary in 1996. Bob and Kay did a 24 year run as missionaries, teachers, pastors, and mentors to the Filipino people they loved. Bob taught in the Asian Pacific Nazarene Seminary in Manila, and opened a new School of Evangelism in Baguio City in 2017.

He is survived by his wife Karolyn; three sons, Jon (Donna), Dr. Mark (Deborah), Timothy (Cathy), and daughter, Sherri Raven (Tom); and nine grandchildren.

A memorial service for Dr. Bob was held April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Wilmore Free Methodist Church with burial in the Wilmore Cemetery.

∴ Complete obituaries are posted on our website: [HERE](#).



### *Urgent Covid 19 Needs*

Global Partners is receiving updates and more urgent needs from our church leaders in India, Bangladesh, and Thailand where COVID-19 is once again surging. In Bangladesh, church leaders are providing food packets to distribute to church members. Multiple districts in India are offering urgent medical needs, food, and subsidies for K-12 education. [Click here](#) to give.

## *"The gift of giving"*

by Jeff West April 29, 2021

My Mom, Clara, wondered before she passed away Feb. 7, 2020, if she had done enough. Yes, she most certainly did.

She is notably remembered for her service with Global Partners, which gives global focus to the mission of The Wesleyan Church.

In Mom and Dad's early days in Chiclayo, Peru, with Global Partners, she was instrumental in the formation of a Bible institute from "ground zero" to operational life for young people called to ministry. Mom taught in the institute, followed by homeschooling my siblings and me.

Mom loved working with short-term ministry teams in Chiclayo and later in the capital city of Lima, Peru, where we lived from 1985-1994. She served alongside Wesleyan Women in Peru and later with all of the women's ministries in the Ibero-America area. Our family then moved to Costa Rica, where Mom enthusiastically worked with new missionaries and helped with practical things and encouraged them as they became familiar with the new culture, foods and language.

After moving to Florida in 2004, Mom traveled with Dad to many countries, doing what she could to encourage pastors and spouses. Since her high school days, when a Cuban lady taught her Spanish, Mom had a desire to minister in Cuba. That ministry dream was filled exponentially in my parents' last 10 years of missionary service with multiple trips to Cuba.

Mom also had the gift of giving. Family was very important to her and she loved her four kids and their spouses well. The same goes for her 11 grandkids.

She selflessly gave her life to following God's calling to serve others. She taught us to love everyone equally, to treat others as we would want to be treated and that it is better to give than to receive. She was known for praying with and for others. She knew when to turn the other cheek or overthrow the tables — and she did it with a good sense of humor. I will always remember Mom living these values on a daily basis and the impact it has had on my life and many others.

And yet one of the last things on Mom's mind before she passed was whether she had done enough. Did she love enough, give enough, comfort enough? Yes, she most certainly did.

*Jeff West is a jewelry business owner in Indianapolis, Indiana. Weslife Newsletter*



## *Karis Project Update*



Military conflict erupted in 2020 for areas surrounding our team's work. While a peace treaty was signed, the death toll in just two months was estimated to be 6,000 people with thousands more losing their homes and being displaced. Almost every family known by our team serving in this region was impacted in some way.

Partnering with a sister world relief agency, we distributed 10,000 hygiene kits including soap, shampoo, towels, and more to families impacted. What a blessing to be the hands and feet of Jesus serving those in critical need. Thank you so much to all of you who prayed and gave to see this project to completion!

*by The GP Karis Team May 12, 2021 GP Amplifier*

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<http://www.globalpartnersonline.org/alumni/>

## ***Pioneer Missionary Bios***

### **Gertrude L. Fulk**

Gertrude Fulk served as an associate missionary in Haiti from 1948 to 1991. She lived at Port Margot for several years in northern Haiti, where the Wesleyan mission work began. But most of her service was on La Gonave, a little island off the mainland, which is 37 miles long and 9 miles wide and has an estimated population of 120,000. Its main town and only port is Anse-a-Galets.

She started a primary school at Anse-a-Galets and started a high school there, which was accredited by the Haitian government during her last years in Haiti. She coordinated the Compassion International child sponsorship program for all 26 Wesleyan Schools on La Gonave (every church has a school). She served as hostess and guest house manager for construction teams and medical teams who came to serve at the Wesleyan Hospital there. She helped organize the Wesleyan Women of Haiti and was active in their conferences. She considered herself a "faith missionary" and did not receive financial support from WWM as an associate missionary.

She believed the most important highlight of her missionary career was seeing men, women and children accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. This was the underpinning of her work, which included teaching, preaching, training, assisting with early medical needs, managing the guest unit and coordinating the Compassion International activities with the mission efforts. When asked about professional highlights, she listed "organizing the Wesleyan Women of Haiti, training pastors/teaching Bible school, hosting medical and construction work teams, and teaching pastors accounting financial records."

Gertrude smiles telling how her father and brothers were not in favor of her leaving to be a missionary. They said, "If you go, you will be on your own. We will not help you." One of the things she did with the women of the local church in Anse-a-Galets was to teach them to pray. Sometimes they prayed all night for people and for spiritual awakening in the churches. About 1970, she began to prepare for

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## **20<sup>th</sup> Century Archives**



They were married in 1945. Their ministry took them to the pastorate, to the West Indies and Gospel Corps service, to Oklahoma Wesleyan University and Church, to numerous roles in social agencies, industry, and professional counseling. He was principal of Wesleyan Evangelical Seminary in Brakpan, South Africa, and held degrees from United Wesleyan College, Eastern Nazarene College, State University of New York, and was an ordained minister. She met him at United Wesleyan and developed bookkeeping and accounting skills. All five of their children have been involved in Christian ministries in The Wesleyan Church.

*..... Last issue featured Phil and Lucille Nettleton with their sons Todd, Trent, and Timothy. They are retired from overseas missions and live in the greater Indianapolis, IN area.*

furlough and asked her women's prayer circle to pray for the salvation of her Dad. They promised they would pray and not stop until he was saved. She was speaking at a church in Churubusco, Indiana, and invited him to attend. She knew that he only attended church when there were funerals. He did not seem interested but surprised her and showed up while she was speaking. The Holy Spirit prompted her to give an invitation. She did and could tell her dad was deeply moved. She went to him during the invitation song, and told him she had prayed across the years for his salvation and that there were a group of ladies praying for him every day. He was surprised and didn't understand why they would do that because they did not even know him. She closed her eyes to pray and when she opened them, he had already gone up to the altar. One of her brothers, by then a believer, knelt there with him. Gertrude joined them, and her dad was saved. He died a year or two later. She also told of the conversion of a witch doctor during her years of ministry in Haiti. ■