

HOPE AMID SEASONS OF GRIEF



Global Partners has been active in providing COVID relief around the world, pictured from left to right: Venezuela, Burundi, Mongolia.

Global Partners asked each area director to comment on the impact of COVID in their specific region, and how God and his people are responding. The following is a paraphrase of comments by area leaders Randal Cheney (Africa), Kerensa McFrederick (Europe), Turkic-Arabic director (unlisted for security reasons), Jim Rice (Ibero-America), and Ben Ward (Asia-Pacific).

AFRICA: The economic pressures are great on pastors and church leaders in Africa, and outside jobs (necessary to supplement their incomes) are hard to find. Social media has been used effectively for outreach and evangelism, but this is limited at times by a lack of finances. One-on-one meetings are more effective for discipleship and spiritual growth. Churches have been losing attendees (mainly due to government restrictions). Rev. Cheney states, "I believe this is a refining period for the Church. Pastors and members are having to dig deep to determine the foundation of their faith and what God is calling them to do. God is calling the Church in Africa to greater faith and greater world impact."

EUROPE: Kerensa M. speaks of "the woeful and unexpected toll in England." However, she adds, "the challenges in several of our countries of figuring out online ministry and presence has reaped rewards (even new believers) and signaled that it must be a priority in future ministry."

TURKIC-ARABIC: Although "some of our fellowships are no longer meeting and some ministry connections have been lost, we are now seeing some new groups form and new opportunities for ministry." Responses to the gospel have maintained pre-pandemic levels.

IBERO-AMERICA: "Virtually everyone has been touched personally or in their extended family" by Covid-19. Leaders "are coming to a breaking point in some areas," However, members have been strengthened and are growing closer together. "Loving and serving the community has been a fantastic testimony... It brings "a general openness in those who don't know the Lord. There is great interest in family-life--centered Zoom and other virtual events."

ASIA-PACIFIC: "The ironic pairing of joblessness and generosity has been seen time and time again in the churches of Asia-Pacific who have excelled at giving. Churches all around the world have stepped up to provide for those in need. In particular, the underground church in one creative access country has contributed over \$114,000 to the needs of fellow believers in other countries.

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Prayer and hope have won the day over fear and despair in most places. ... God continues to work and use the church." All agree that the challenges have been many and the losses heart-breaking, yet they see God at work. We remember that our Savior was filled with healing and life-giving hope, and he was also acquainted with grief. With Charles Wesley, we can say, "Thou Knowest, Lord, the Weariness and Sorrow," and with John Wesley, we proclaim "Away with Our Sorrow and Fear." We claim His knowledge of our circumstances. God gives us reason to be filled with hope amid seasons of grief.

(taken from an article in *The Amplifier* edited by Andrea Hunter).

Condolences

Dr. Paul Edward Turner



We were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Paul Turner on July 31, 2021, at the age of 82 after a brief bout with Covid-19. He has been a friend and a blessing to us all during his tenure as editor of the LINK. Dr. Turner was born on June 24, 1939, in Rush Co. Indiana to the late Roy D. Turner and Armetha Steward Turner. He spent 30 years in ministry in the Philippines and in other Asian nations with Global Partners. He also pastored churches in South Dakota, Montana, and Kansas.

Dr. Turner was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings: Wilma, Robert, and Russell. He is survived by his wife, Janet Turner of Asheboro, NC; daughters, Joy Y. Anderson (Tim) of Brookings, OR and Lois J. McGrady of Asheboro; son, Daniel P. Turner (Julie) of Spokane Valley, WA; and three granddaughters, Natasha Turner, Brittany Sandy (Ryan), and Emma Chloe McGrady.

A memorial service will be held on Oct 4 at the Neighbor's Grove Wesleyan Church in Asheboro, NC. Tributes have come from the First Wesleyan Church of Rapid City, SD, and the Philippine Wesleyan Church. The former General Superintendent of the Church in the Philippines wrote: "Dr. Paul Turner possessed a gift of versatility and adaptability. He slept in our bamboo hut parsonages, and traveled our bumpy, dusty roads. He ate our food, wore our clothing and adapted to our lifestyle. ... His innovative thoughts and futuristic insight were a help to the leadership of [our Church]. All of us leaders were beneficiaries of his parental support and guidance." A former student wrote: "Praise God for the life of Pastor Paul. I am one of the many whom this soft-spoken servant of the Most High has touched and I am blessed to have known him."

Mrs. Lois Wiggins



Lois Wiggins, 83, wife and partner in ministry for almost 62 years of Rev. James E. Wiggins, passed away peacefully at her home on June 7, 2021. Lois was born in Lakeland, Florida, a daughter of the late Herman D. and Ethel Sherman Coile. She was a devoted partner and pastor's wife, mother, and grandmother.

Besides pastoring in the U.S., Lois and James served as missionaries in Sierra Leone, West Africa. She was a member of Trinity Wesleyan Church, was an avid reader, and had a special gift for discerning and ministering to the needs of others. Lois was a devoted student of God's Word and a faithful prayer warrior.

Surviving in addition to her husband James are: Three sons: Daniel (Jan) of Fayetteville, GA, John (Barbara) of Mt. Pleasant, SC, Joseph (Sheila) of Central, SC; daughter Mary Leach (Todd) of Clemson, SC; Brother David Coile (LaRae) of Lakeland, FLA; Sisters Ruthella Rider (Roger) of Claremore, OK, and Rachel McKee (Walter) of Alva, FLA; and nine grandchildren. Funeral services were held on June 12, 2021, at Trinity Wesleyan Church, with burial at Mt. Zion Cemetery in Central, SC.

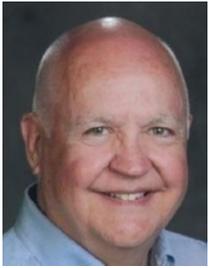
Rev. Milton Bagley

Milton Bagley had such a pleasing personality that he was called "Happy" by friends. Now his happiness knows no bounds as he entered the presence of his Lord on August 18, 2021, at age 90. Rev. Bagley was born in 1931, married Patricia (Patsy) Harris in 1953, and was ordained soon after. Together they pastored churches in Maine and Michigan in the US, and in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. They served with Wesleyan World Missions in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Liberia from 1971-1984. Many remember him fondly for his visits when they were shut-in or hospitalized. This continued well into his retirement years. He is also remembered for mentoring younger ministers, both in Canada and during missionary service in Africa.



Milton is survived by a large family: his wife Patsy, four children: Dianne Banks (Stanley), Robert (Brenda), Marilyn Cann (Stephen) and Peter (Patty); twenty-six grand- and great-grandchildren, as well as cousins, nieces and nephews.

His son, Robert (and Brenda) Bagley served on the mission field and Robert is now the Associate Executive Director of Global Partners. Their daughter, Milton's granddaughter Mary Beth Bagley, was born and raised in southern Africa, and now serves as a Wellness Specialist for MK's with Global Partners. Family visitation was held on Saturday, September 18 with a memorial service on the 19th in St. John.



Dr. Charles B. Pierson

Dr. Charles Pierson of Berrien Springs, Michigan, met with his pastor earlier this year to plan his funeral after suffering with Hodgkin's lymphoma for some five years. He was born in 1942 and died August 24, 2021. His funeral was held September 3 at the Berrien Center Bible Church. It was truly a celebration with the glory going to God, including the playing of the Hallelujah Chorus to close the event. Attendees claimed they felt as if they had joined him in the very presence of God.

Chuck and his wife Ruth served at Kamakwie Hospital in Sierra Leone from 1972–1982, with further trips back in later years. A eulogy was given by best friend Ron Baker, a fellow physician who also served in Sierra Leone. Other written remembrances came from Global Partners and from a “son” in Sierra Leone, Rev. J.Y. Konteh and his family. Another memorial service was planned for this “beloved father” in the country of his missionary service.

Dr. Chuck, as he was lovingly called, was preceded in death by his wife Ruth, his parents Kenneth and Eloise Pierson, and brother Norman. Surviving are sons David (Seyoung), Mark (Michelle), Steven (Kandi) and five grandchildren. Burial took place at Rose Hill Cemetery in Berrien Springs. (see *Dr. Chuck's salvation story on page 4*).

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

Senior Nursing Students from IWU Study in Africa



At the end of August sixteen senior nursing students from IWU traveled to Zambia, along with their professor and clinical instructor. One of these students is Bryce Parsons, granddaughter of missionary alumni, Kerry and Jule Kind, who served in Sierra Leone in the late 70s to early 80s. Once in the country they met their residential director and a Zambian midwife who will complete the team. The group was introduced to the hospital in Livingstone but then traveled four hours north to the rural setting of Macha, where there is a hospital and a nursing school. Their course of study for the first month is “Leadership & Management in Nursing” after which a different professor will travel to Zambia to instruct them in other topics. Besides intensive classwork, the students are involved in clinical rotations and watching and even participating in various surgeries. Beyond this, they are learning Zambian culture and a bit of the Tonga language. They will return to the U.S in mid-November. (see *p. 4 for team prayer requests*).

Western/OK WMAF Meet- Up

The Wesleyan Missionary Alumni Fellowship is inviting you to our Western/OK regional gathering on the OKWU campus in Bartlesville, OK, Saturday Oct. 9, from 2- 4 p.m. in the Drake Library. Former and present missionaries, short-termers, missionary kids, those considering missionary service or those preparing to go, are invited. This is an opportunity to connect and learn from others, to give updates, share stories, and pray together. Homecoming events will be going on the same weekend and all are welcome to the alumni experiences on the 8th and 9th. Activities are free except for the banquet on Friday evening. Register for homecoming events on-line at www.okwu.edu/alumni or call Charissa Dunn at 918-335-6822. RSVP for the WMAF meeting at kathydaake@gmail.com or call her at 405-982-4877, but please come even if you have not responded. Be ready to be blessed and to bless others as we gather and share.

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To receive the digital *LINK*, please send your email address to pesteslink@gmail.com
See us on the web at:
<http://www.globalpartnersonline.org/alumni/>

20th Century Archives



Called to missions while a student at Houghton College in the 60's, she later served as a nurse in Sierra Leone between 1975 and 1979, followed by teaching at a Wesleyan College for 31 years. Now she has a new calling from God. See her bio in the next issue of *LINK*. Email me with your guesses as to identity at pesteslink@gmail.com.

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Last issue featured Charles and Roberta MacCallum.

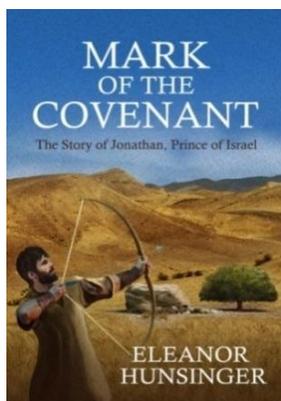
Missionary Bio:

Charles Pierson's Salvation Story

Charles Pierson, a medical student from Michigan, went to Haiti in the mid-60s to complete an intercultural requirement and to learn about tropical medicine. He didn't claim to know the Lord, but was looking for experience to make him a better doctor. While there he not only worked in the hospital but traveled to clinics and attended services in village churches.

As the annual conference of the Wesleyan Church approached, Rev. G.I. Norman and his wife, parents of missionary Della Blackburn, were invited to serve as the special evangelist. Chuck claimed that a combination of hearing testimonies of life change from Haitians and Americans brought a developing hunger for God. Perhaps it was also the messages of Rev. Norman, but one night in his room he knelt to confess his sin and ask Christ to be his Savior. By the time he was ready to leave Haiti to finish his medical training, he was sold on missionary service and was willing to answer a call from God if that were His will for him. Later, he became Dr. Charles Pierson, missionary doctor in Sierra Leone, West Africa.

(This information came from Jim Blackburn as the result of a discussion with Chuck over the phone earlier this year).



Missionary Alumna Writes New Book

Eleanor Hunsinger developed a love for writing while serving as a missionary nurse in Zambia. Returning to the US, she began working on a dream to write and publish biblically-based novels, but only recently did she bring the dream to fruition. She now has a first work on Amazon.com as a paperback or e-book: [Mark of the Covenant: The Story of Jonathan, Prince of Israel](#). Contact Eleanor, hunsinger.ea617zm@gmail.com for samples from the book. Watch for other books to come.

Prayer requests for the team in Zambia:

1. Group cohesion and vulnerability
2. Adjustments to new culture while missing home
3. Increased stamina for classwork, clinicals, and other duties
4. Wisdom and guidance for group leaders
5. That hurting patients would see Christ's love in the team