

Wesleyan Church Profiles

• New International Region

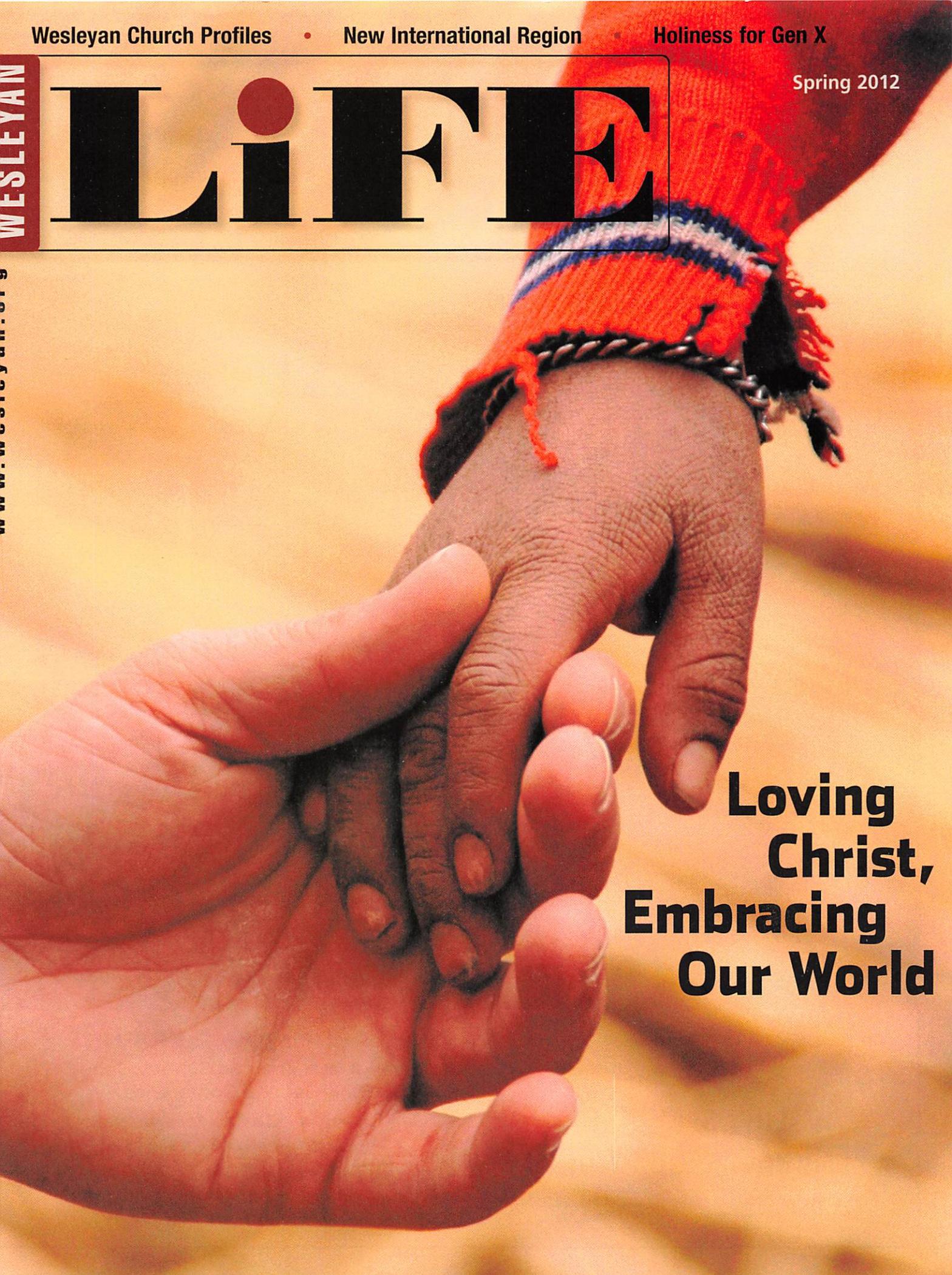
• Holiness for Gen X

Spring 2012

WESLEYAN

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Christ,  
Embracing  
Our World**

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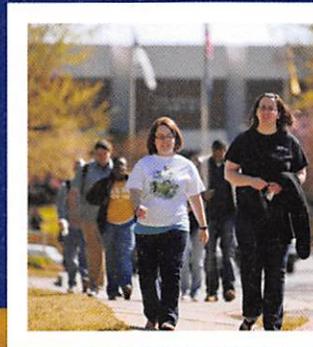
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#### Mission

The mission of The Wesleyan Church is to exalt Jesus Christ by:

1. Evangelizing the Lost
2. Discipling the Believers
3. Equipping the Church
4. Ministering to Society

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Physical Address:

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Tel: 317.774.7907

Fax: 317.774.3924

E-mail: [communications@wesleyan.org](mailto:communications@wesleyan.org)

Web: [www.wesleyan.org](http://www.wesleyan.org)

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*"To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up"*  
(Ephesians 4:12).



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# CONTENTS

## SPRING 2012

Volume 6, Number 12



## Our DNA

Written within the DNA of The Wesleyan Church is a commitment to reach out to a lost world. That commitment came in the form of opposition to slavery for The Wesleyan Methodist Church in its beginning. It took the form of holiness as a second work of grace during the holiness revival that birthed the Pilgrim Holiness Church and energized the Wesleyan Methodist Church. "Loving Christ, Embracing Our World" resurfaces today as the emphasis for the North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church. This issue highlights ways the Church is carrying out that emphasis, including **profiles of several Wesleyan churches**—small, medium, and large—that represent the 1700-plus Wesleyan churches in North America.

Rejoice with me in the ongoing affirmation of our evangelistic DNA.

—Ronald D. Kelly, General Editor

### 4 Loving Christ, Embracing Our World

by Jo Anne Lyon

### 6 Love Chapel Hill Reuniting People

by John Wesley Leek

### 8 International Conference Launches New Region

### 11 Generation X and Holiness Now

by Valorie Bender Quesenberry

### 12 North Carolina Church Celebrates 10 Years

### 13 Haitian Orphans Enjoy Camp Week

### 15 Hobby Lobby Owners Honored

### 18 College and University News

### 20 Skyline Celebrates New Worship Center

### 22 Obituaries

## Church “Overflows” in Bridging Diversity Gap

### Overflow Community Church

Benton Harbor, Michigan  
West Michigan District

Worship Attendance: 134

Rev. Brian Bennett, senior pastor

[www.overflowchurch.org](http://www.overflowchurch.org)

Overflow Community Church is intentionally bridging the gap to unite a community whose population is diverse. The church hosts events and workshops to “encourage reconciliation through Christ’s love.” The congregation has created environments for interaction in the local marketplace, which enables church members to meet people who don’t know Jesus.

Up to 95 volunteers serve weekly, many through the Overflow Christian Community Development Association (OCCDA), Overflow’s nonprofit community development organization. This organization comprises some 10 area congregations, and the group meets four times a year.

Rev. Brian Bennett says, “The Overflow Christian Community Development Association strives to break down economic and racial disparities through community development.”

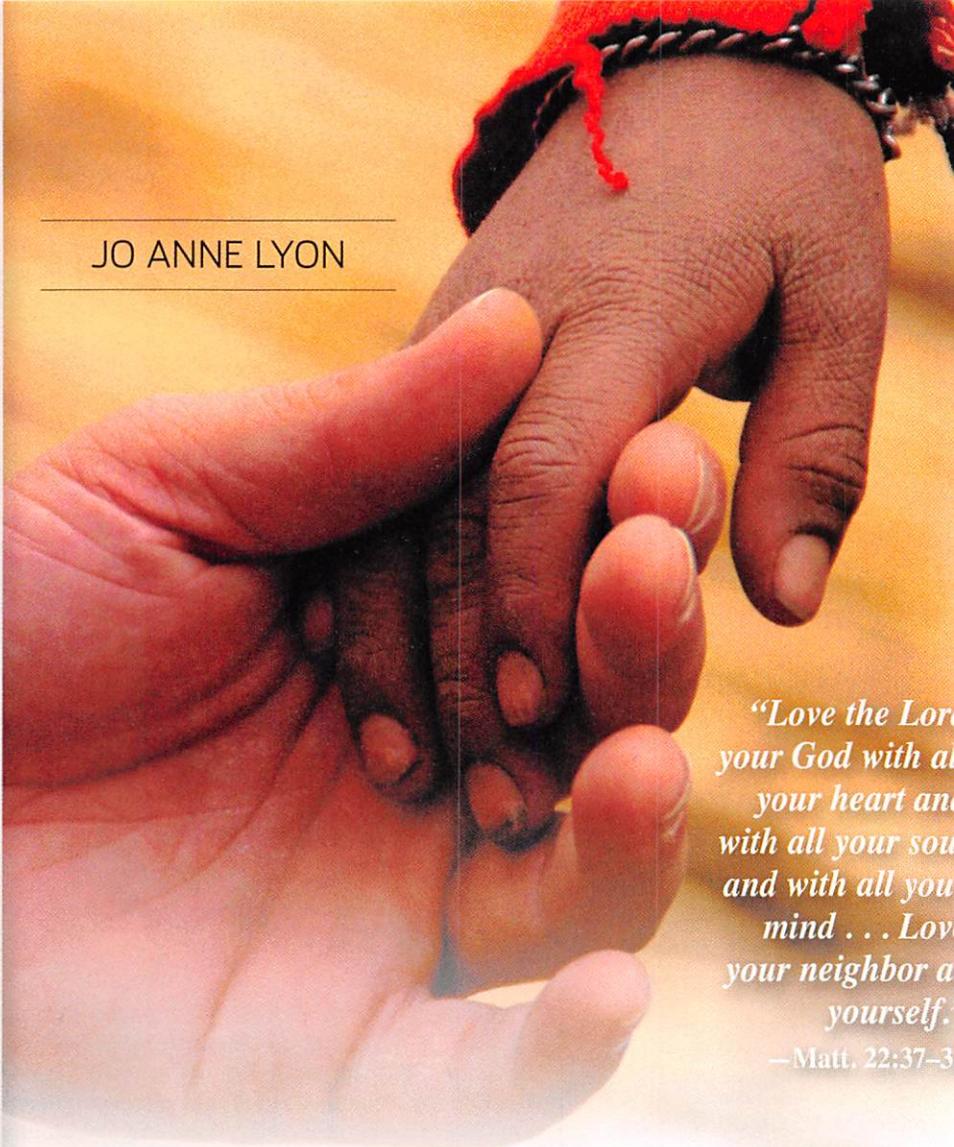
In the past year, Overflow has been the hands and feet of Jesus both in the community and beyond. Hundreds were served at the annual H3: Hoops, Hip-Hop, and Hot Dogs event and heard the gospel. Overflow also runs an after-school program where 25 students are enrolled to improve their reading skills.

The church also partnered with nine others to buy toys and gift cards for parents to give to their children. And the new Café Mosaic provides jobs, gathering space, an arts venue, and a place to promote the gospel. Many of its volunteers have received evangelism training.

Internationally, Overflow is exploring partnerships with Compassion International in Kenya and Global Partners’ missionaries to the Fotizo people in the Middle East.

Pastor Bennett said it’s important that Overflow disciples its own congregation: 60 percent are involved in small group or discipleship relationships, while the church hosted ten interns from the U.S. and Canada in the last three years.

JO ANNE LYON



*“Love the Lord  
your God with all  
your heart and  
with all your soul  
and with all your  
mind . . . Love  
your neighbor as  
yourself.”*

—Matt. 22:37–39

**T**here are catalytic moments in one’s life when this Scripture bores into the soul and makes instant, permanent change. I experienced one such moment while standing beneath the hot Zambian sun. I watched as a lone mother of four children wrapped her thin hands around a small shovel, trying to break the crusty soil to plant seeds with the hope that moisture would come and she might someday reap a harvest for her family. In the meantime, she had six hours remaining in this day to find food for her children.

That instant, something was triggered in my own spirit. “How do I love this woman as myself?” I wondered. “I have four children also, yet I have never been uncertain of how I would feed them.” That was the moment when I was driven to put my love for others into action.

### The Power of the Spirit

As I consider the powerful words of Jesus more closely, I see they are also prophetic. It is impossible to love our neighbor as ourselves without the Spirit of Christ in us—that is, unless we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

It is instructive to notice the difference in the disciples after Pentecost. The once timid and fearful group became bold and courageous, and they were filled with an overflowing love for the very people with whom they had been at odds. Remember that a few weeks before Jesus’ final days, Philip struggled to understand the identity of Jesus (see John 14). Trying to help Philip understand, Jesus told him that he, too, would do even “greater things than these” (v. 12). At that moment Philip could not begin to comprehend what Jesus had in mind.

# Loving Christ, Embracing Our World

Yet after Pentecost we find Philip bold and courageous, even performing great miracles in one of the most wicked cities of Samaria. His boldness and obedience gave him courage to give the gospel to an Ethiopian, who then took the good news to Africa (see Acts 8). I believe Philip had come to understand what Jesus meant by “greater things.” The power of Christ also multiplied from Philip’s household as his four daughters became preachers of the Word (Acts 21:9). I have visited the graves of these women in Turkey and have seen the result of their influence in that part of the world.

## Fresh Fire

I am happy to report that God, through His Spirit, continues to do great things. We don’t have to look back to the day of Pentecost to see the power of the Spirit at work. The Holy Spirit continues to be poured out on those who seek Him in this second decade of the twenty-first century. For example, although ministry among Native Americans in the United States has been seen as impossible by many, some godly people have continued to pray and give toward this work. In the past years, we have seen a mighty move of God with hundreds, especially among the Lakota tribe, coming to Jesus.

I have been in rural areas where others have said, “Move on—there is nothing to be done here.” Yet, we have Wesleyan pastors who say, “God has called me not just to this church but to this entire county.” With that vision, we are seeing churches revitalized and entire counties transformed by the gospel.

## A New Dream

A new vision is emerging in The Wesleyan Church for the urban areas of North America and beyond. We consistently hear reports of God’s stirring in the hearts of both lay people and clergy to go together to a city and carry the hope and holiness that transforms. As I write, I think of the young people and families serving in large cities in the Muslim world as well. Are they at risk? Yes. Are they doing “greater things”? Without question.

I was captivated by the words of Brian Russell, a professor at the Orlando Campus of Asbury Theological Seminary, when he said, “If sanctification involves empowering people to become fully the human beings whom God created them to be, then it will always drive the sanctified to live for purposes greater than their own.”

It is only through the sanctifying love and power of the Holy Spirit that we can love Christ and embrace our world.

Dare we dream that Wesleyans will do this? Dare we dream that Wesleyans will experience the spreading of hope and holiness that will transform people and nations? It has happened in the past, and God is calling us to a new future. In fact, the future has never been so open and compelling.

Yes! We do believe! ●

—*Jo Anne Lyon* is a General Superintendent of  
The Wesleyan Church, Indianapolis, IN.

## FAST FACTS ABOUT THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

**A**s of 2011, The Wesleyan Church in North America has 1,713 churches with an average worship attendance of 208,973. Worldwide we have 5,669 churches and preaching points, with an average worship attendance of 457,310.

In 2010-2011, we saw 29,289 people saved in North America, and 9,157 baptized. Worldwide we saw 74,036 saved and 28,921 baptized.

We are organized in North America into 34 districts. Worldwide we have a presence in 85-90 countries.

In North America, we are ethnically mixed:

- 83.2% White
- 7.3% Hispanic
- 3.3% Black
- 1.8% Asian
- 0.6% Native
- 3.8% Integrated

In North America:

- 25.4% of all Wesleyans attend a church of 1,000 or more.
- 10.2% attend a church of 500-999.
- 18.8% attend a church of 200-499.
- 19.1% attend a church of 100-199.
- 16.5% attend a church of 50-99.
- 10.0% attend a church of 1-49.



**A subsidiary of The Wesleyan Church, Wesleyan Native Ministries empowers Native leaders in North America to make a difference in their communities.**



# God Uses Love Chapel Hill to Reunite His People to Himself

JOHN WESLEY LEEK

**L**ove Chapel Hill is a congregation that is rooting itself in the cultural center of Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Lead Pastor Matt LeRoy calls it “a beautiful collision of college students and homeless men; young professionals and families; artists, activists and academics.”

Executive Pastor Justin Simmons says, “We believe that the most eloquent articulation of the gospel is a love that gives itself away. This belief fuels our evangelism efforts and strategies.”

**Relentless grace that  
seeks us out and  
just won't give up.**

## **New Strategies**

As a result, the congregation has undertaken ministries including Strangely Warmed, an initiative to collect and deliver warm winter clothing to homeless people, and Grace on Wheels, a partnership with the local transit authority to provide people living in poverty with free transportation to job interviews and medical appointments. The church also “orchestrates” piano drops, leaving a piano on a busy street corner for artists to play and crowds to enjoy.

“It sounds weird, for sure,” says Simmons, “but in a creative town that draws artists and musicians from all over the Southeast, it’s like speaking to them in their native language.”

These ministries are not random acts of kindness but are intentional moves of love. And the congregation proclaims the compelling love of Jesus with bold creativity in its worship gatherings and Bible studies.

## **Powerful Results**

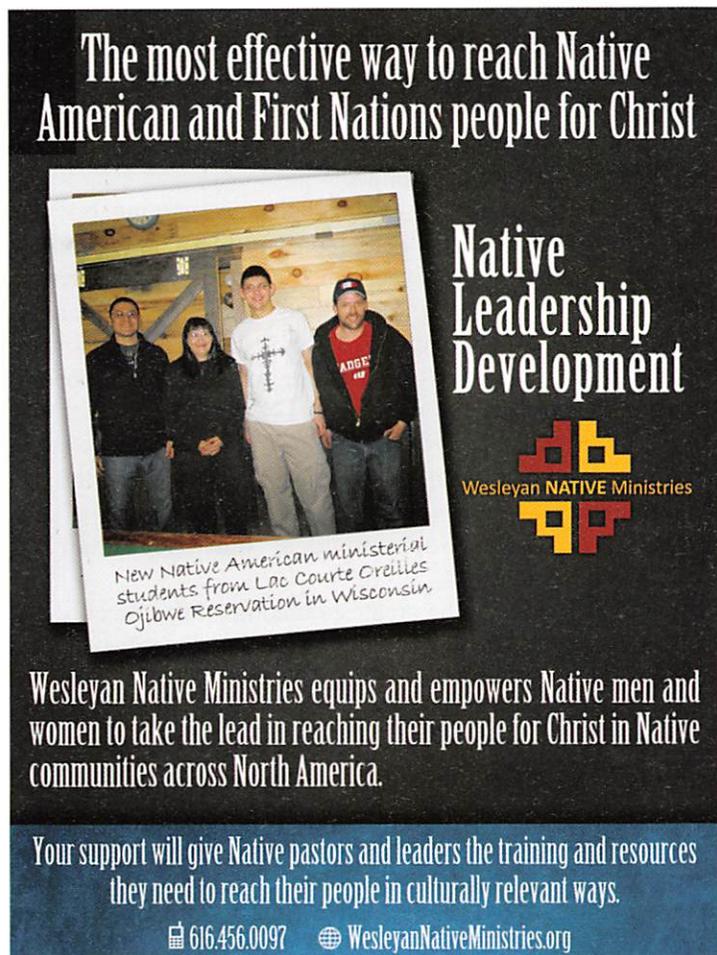
“Through the work of the Father, Son, and Spirit,” says Simmons, “we are experiencing the kind of grace that has the power to spark real transformation in the real lives of real people.”

# Not random acts of kindness but intentional moves of love.

God is using Love Chapel Hill to reunite His people—from college students to homeless people—to himself. The pastors shared the story of one such reunion in the life of a man named Felix. Drawn in by their hospitality and compassion, he offered his story. Felix said that he had never known his father, and he didn't feel that he belonged anywhere. He mused, "I have the Samaritan's curse. Nobody wants me." Felix went on to confess that somewhere along the way, he had given up on God. With a sense of awakening and confidence, he continued, "But now I see that God never gave up on me. The thing about God is, He's not a quitter."

God wants to save lost people and is going to do so through their obedience, according to LeRoy. "And there you have it. Relentless grace that seeks us out and just won't give up." ●

—From "Knowing that God is already at work," by John Wesley Leek, the feed at asburyseedbed.com. Seedbed is the theological resourcing center of Asbury Theological Seminary. Used with permission.



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616.456.0097 WesleyanNativeMinistries.org

## Shelter to Weather the Storm

### Miamisburg Wesleyan Church

Miamisburg, Ohio  
Greater Ohio District  
Worship Attendance: 55–65  
Rev. Jan Toft, pastor  
www.hopeofferedhere.com

The URL for Miamisburg Wesleyan Church's website says a lot about this congregation: hope offered here. The church's motto is "Come as you are and discover who God created you to be."

Though small, it partners with area churches to provide for the community in big ways. One partnership is the Blessings in a Bag program, which provides weekend meals for children on the free school lunch program. The church's Wiz-Kids tutoring program helps children with literacy and compliments the Adopt-a-Friend women's outreach to adults in a nearby retirement community.

Miamisburg Wesleyans believe that "Jesus Christ gives us hope for the human condition." The belief propels the church's Celebrate Recovery and Bible Study Recovery small groups. It partners with the nationally known Celebrate Recovery, a "Christ-centered program designed to help those struggling with hurts, hang-ups, and habits by showing them the loving power of Jesus Christ."

The church's first pastor was Rev. Lillie McGuire, mother of the members of the world-famous singing group, the McGuire sisters. The 1950s Hit Parade Hall of Fame group helped fund the church and sang at its Christmas Eve concerts. The church's current pastor is Rev. Jan Toft, a former physical therapy assistant who was convinced through her medical experiences that "the Bible has the answer for all of life's questions."

Miamisburg Wesleyan's mission to reach the unchurched is aided by its location, just two blocks from an elementary school. The congregation undertakes several outreach events each year that target families with a focus on communicating the gospel.

## Know Him and Make Him Known

### Stoney Creek Community Church

Washington, Michigan  
East Michigan District  
Worship Attendance: 800  
Mick Veach, senior pastor  
[www.stoneycreekcc.com](http://www.stoneycreekcc.com)

Stoney Creek Wesleyan Church has gone *glocal*. Using an outreach model from the book *Glocalization* by Bob Roberts Jr., these Wesleyans are fulfilling their vision to “know Him and make Him known,” and they are doing so both locally and globally.

The church’s location in a Detroit suburb provides numerous ministry opportunities in a tough economy. Church members tutor children and feed families in Detroit and tutor Muslims in nearby Dearborn at the Angel House, a multicultural organization for outreach and interaction. Local families at a mobile home park adjacent to the church receive free meals. Local Boys and Girls Clubs meet daily at Stoney Creek.

One thousand Upward basketball players gather at the church every weekend, and 85 percent of those families are unchurched. Each year, the church hosts Home the Homeless week, offering free meals and job search assistance.

Senior pastor Mick Veach and his wife, Melanie, co-founded Global Partners’ ministry to the Karis people in the Middle East, so the church’s interest in missions comes naturally. Additionally, this year, five teens will travel to five countries for short-term service. Since 2006, a total of 56 staff members and laypersons have been called to full-time ministry through the intense discipleship program of the church.

Children and adults are discipled in classroom and small group settings, and approximately 80 people just completed a ten-week course about finances, spiritual warfare, and apologetics. Fifty-three percent of the church is involved in a home group. The church also hosts life groups that focus on divorce care, grief share, and same-sex attraction.



## International Conference New Wesleyan Region

**U**nder the theme “One Church, Many Nations, One Message,” nearly 150 delegates, spouses, church leaders, associate members, and special guests attended The Wesleyan Church’s International Conference in Panama City, Panama, January 27–29. Fifty countries were represented. This was the second meeting of the International Conference, the first being held in 2008. Representatives from the North American General Conference (comprised of the United States, Canada, and Global Partners mission fields), the Caribbean General Conference, and the Philippine General Conference attended.

The International Conference is the highest governing body of the worldwide Wesleyan denomination. It consists of General Conferences which are fully autonomous except for doctrine. The International Conference also includes smaller units called established national conferences, which involve a single nation, or established regional conferences that involve multiple nations, as well as the mission fields operated by each of these bodies.

“In the future, this conference will be remembered as setting in motion the development of mission fields sponsored by the various General Conferences as more self-governing mission partners,” says Dr. Jerry G. Pence, General Superintendent and vice chair of the International Conference.

According to Dr. Pence, “The greatest outcome of this meeting was the creation of the South Pacific Conference as the first Established Regional Conference of The Wesleyan Church. The South Pacific Conference makes Australia, New Zealand, and their mission units in the Solomon Islands and Bougainville (a province of Papua New Guinea) a self-governing unit of the Church. That pattern of national and regional church maturity is one of our major missionary objectives.” The International Conference was created in 2008, when the North American General Conference of The Wesleyan Church re-crafted its international structure to respond to growth needs of the Church worldwide. General Superintendent Pence believes this step will begin a chain reaction of maturing leadership and self-governance elsewhere. The denomination is



## ce Launches

encouraging other mission units to develop an indigenous governance style and practices that best fit their cultures.

Dr. H.C. Wilson, General Director of Global Partners, believes legislations made at the conference will advance the work of Global Partners around the world.

“The cause is advanced around the world because of network building and further recognition of the amazing capacity of our international leaders,” says Dr. Wilson.

Associate members also attended the International Conference, consisting of organizations that, though not officially Wesleyan, are so in spirit. They have united their efforts with the denomination through similar doctrine identification. Immanuel General Mission, with 120 holiness churches in Japan, is an example of an associate member with delegates in attendance in Panama.

Dr. Pence notes another significant occurrence resulting from this conference: the restructuring of the International Conference itself. A more simplified, streamlined governing structure eliminated an executive committee and reduced the number on the International Board from 25 members to seven. Leaders also eliminated the dues structure and created a more sustainable, economic model for funding activities of the International Conference.

“The Master blended together divergent cultural and linguistic groups around a common purpose to impact our world with the gospel message,” says Dr. H.C. Wilson.

The Conference also adopted two position papers, one on global migration and the other on racial and ethnic reconciliation. Both are posted on the Global Partners’ website.

Sunday’s service at the conference included communion led in five languages—Japanese, Spanish, Polish, Zulu, and Tagalog—which were translated into English. The service was held on the Pacific Queen during a cruise on the Panama Canal. Services during the conference also featured traditional presentations by Kuna tribal dancers and the Panamanian National Dance Troupe.

Rev. Usman J. Fornah, national superintendent of Sierra Leone, provided the keynote address for the closing service.

Newly elected International Board members are Dr. Alberto Patacsil as chairperson, who is general superintendent of The Wesleyan Church of the Philippines; Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, vice-chair, representing the Board of General Superintendents of The Wesleyan Church of North America; Dr. Johnny Guillermo, general director of educational institutions and Sunday schools for The Wesleyan Church of the Philippines, representing that General Conference; Dr. H. C. Wilson as treasurer, director of Global partners for The Wesleyan Church of North America; Dr. Carlston Christie, general superintendent of The Wesleyan Holiness Church of the Caribbean, representing that General Conference; and members at large: Rev. Lindsay Cameron, former national superintendent of The Wesleyan Church, Australia; and Dr. Juan Piñeros, senior pastor of Bogota North Wesleyan Church in Colombia.

The next meeting of the International Conference will be January 12–13, 2015, prior to The Gathering, the Wesleyan ministers conference in Orlando, Fla., on January 13–15, 2015. ●

Photo courtesy of © Wild Goose Missions

### Working in the Power of the Holy Spirit

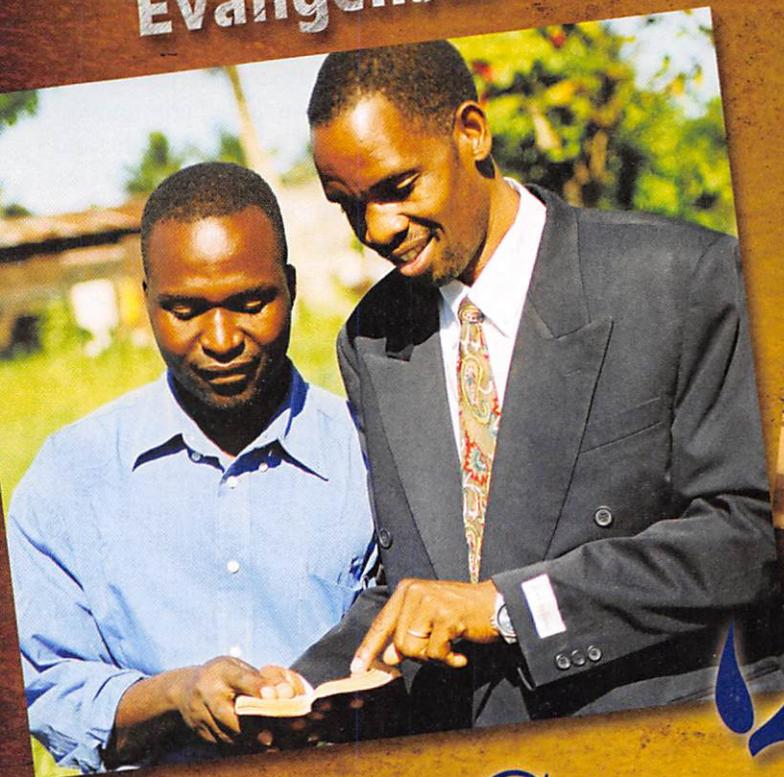
Satan is not necessarily opposed to all Christian work. He cares little how zealously we busy ourselves at good things so long as we do not work in the power of the Holy Spirit. He is often pleased if we work so hard and so long that we begin to fret and worry. He is happy if we undertake more work than we can saturate with prayer. He would not seriously oppose if every Christian were a tireless worker—so long as he worked only in his human energy and was not empowered and anointed by the Spirit of God.

—Wesley L. Duewel

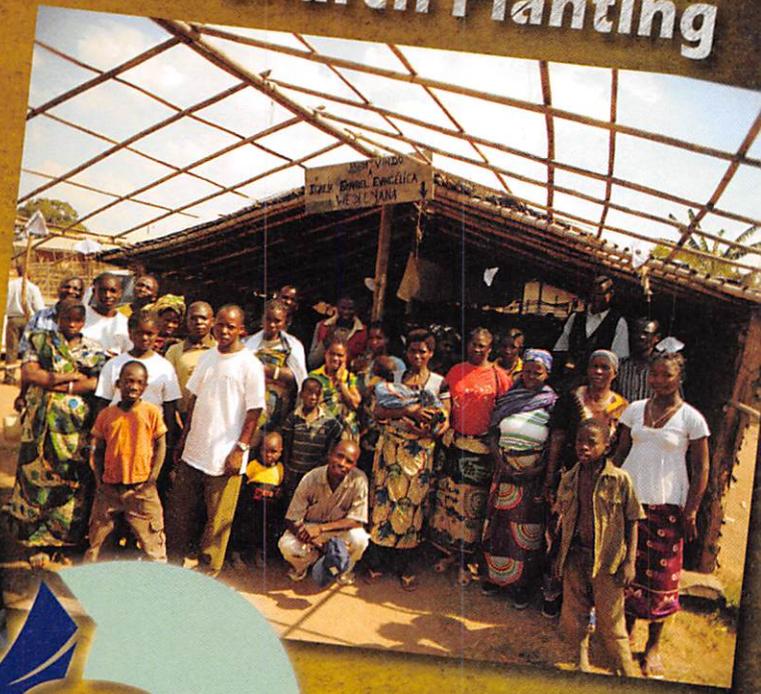


View the two position papers (global migration and racial and ethnic reconciliation) adopted at the conference.

**Evangelism**



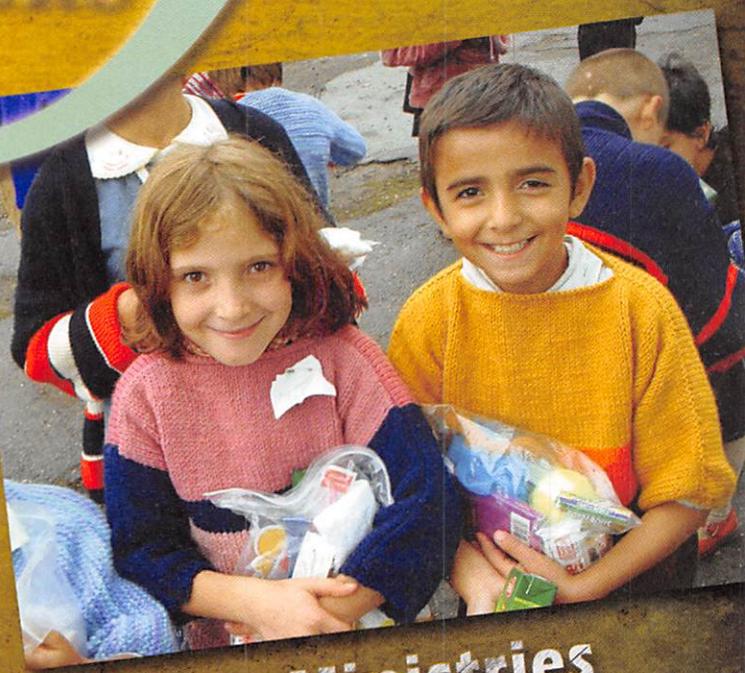
**Church Planting**



**GLOBAL PARTNERS**



**Leadership Development**



**Ministries of Compassion**

# Generation X and Holiness Now

VALORIE BENDER QUESENBERRY

I am a post-baby boomer who has often been baffled by the enigma of holiness, a Christian doctrine that can be difficult to understand and even harder to live out.

In my lifetime, I've witnessed the debut of innovations, which improve the speed of life. I recall the first microwave I ever saw—a gift to my grandmother. The whole family watched the demonstration, awed at the speed of the boxy thing with a knob that turned to set the seconds for cooking. I remember when clerks and librarians switched from punching cash register keys and date stamp machines to scanning barcodes for items bought and lent. As a child, I saw drive-in window mania reroute the fast-food industry. My generation became accustomed to “instant results”—and that expectation may influence its spiritual journey as well.

## Holiness requires process

The gift of maturation is, in part, the recognition that not all things good arrive with great speed. Childhood has no grasp of the lapse of time, and adolescence is bored and irritated with time's monotonous cadence. But adulthood begins to recognize that time is a blessed component of all things bright and beautiful in our lives, holiness included.

For me, this knowledge has been recent. As a younger person wanting to experience a consecrated life, I was often discouraged with my failures and seeming inability to “live it.”

As a teen, I didn't understand that this work God was doing in me was not instant, nor was it meant to be. I didn't know that holiness requires process—that yielding my will was only the beginning. I thought my moment of total surrender would be followed by a moment of completion, flawless in every facet.

But, thankfully, I was wrong. Becoming like Jesus isn't accomplished in a second, an hour, or a week, but in a lifetime. And then, only through God's grace. Living a life of holiness is really about growing to resemble Christ more each day. It's letting Him guide my purposes, inspire my passions and direct my steps. It's about learning to let Him be the center of every thought, plan, and activity.

## A lifetime of submission

I used to think if I were truly entirely sanctified, I would be controlled totally by the Holy Spirit, but I no longer believe that accuracy. I can't find a Scripture that says we should *be controlled*, but many imply that we should *control ourselves* as we obey the Spirit's leading. That is even more challenging. To turn over the wheel of my life to another driver requires a momentary relinquishment, an entirely different type of submission. I must surrender moment by moment and obey step by step. That kind of living isn't learned in a brief time of prayer at an altar or by the bedside; it's forged as I follow Him, going deeper into the wonder of holiness until my thoughts, motives, and dreams are submerged in Him. It's daily choosing to abandon myself to His will, knowing He is at work in me.

Certainly, there are things which God does in an instant. The transactions of redemption, justification, and adoption are granted to us in miraculous moments of grace. Even purification is accomplished in an instant—both of my past transgressions and the wicked seeds of sin in my heart. But the real life-transforming work of holiness, being changed into His image, is one that takes me on a journey of obedience that will only end when I stand before Him, clothed in His righteousness for eternity. ●

—Valorie Bender Quesenberry is a speaker and author of numerous books, including *Simply Content: Finding Freedom in a Culture of Excess*, *Redeeming Romance: Delighting in God's Love*, and *Reflecting Beauty: Embracing the Creator's Design*. All books are available at [www.wphonline.com](http://www.wphonline.com).



Learn more about the Spirit-filled life at Wesleyan Life Online.

## Crosspoint Gives a Rip

**Crosspoint Wesleyan Church**  
Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada  
Atlantic District  
Worship Attendance: 475  
Rev. Tim Guptill, senior pastor  
[www.crosspointchurch.ca](http://www.crosspointchurch.ca)

Crosspoint Wesleyan Church has a unique ministry called “Givearip.” Wanting to be a Matthew 25:35 congregation, the church created this ministry to aid those in the church or community who are in need. When needs become known to the pastoral staff or ministry volunteers, they are e-mailed to a group of “proactive servants who give sacrificially.”

This desire to love characterizes the soul of the growing church that Rev. Tim Guptill compares to the newborn nursery in a hospital. “Everywhere you look there is a ‘new birth’ for Jesus.”

A multigenerational congregation, Crosspoint Wesleyan is also a missional one. “What God is doing in us and for us isn't all about us,” Guptill adds. The overflow of love and service “pours out of Crosspoint into the community.”

He tells the story of a recent service in which the congregation “literally left its shoes, coats, and sweaters at the altar for a local ministry serving an under-resourced neighborhood.” The pastor said people “left the church in their socks and walked to their cars in sub-freezing temperatures with no coat, and were quite happy to do so.”

Crosspoint leaders say they constantly examine their ministry through the eyes of an unbeliever. To them, evangelizing the lost means doing everything they can possibly do on a weekly basis to present Jesus as best they can to those who don't yet know Him. Guptill's philosophy of discipleship is simple: “We strive to get people out of *rows* and get them into *circles* where they can grow in community.”

**Note:** Rev. Guptill is pastor-elect of Moncton Wesleyan Church in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.

## Million-Dollar Outreach

### BreakPointe Community Church

Overland Park, Kansas

Kansas District

Worship Attendance: 325

Dr. Tom Kinnan, senior pastor

[www.breakpointe.org](http://www.breakpointe.org)

Strong compassion ministries identify BreakPointe, a ten-year-old church in the Kansas District. Through its BreakPointe Charities organization, the outreach-minded congregation is “meeting the physical needs of people in the name of Jesus, year-round.” In the last seven years, BreakPointe, under the leadership of Dr. Tom Kinnan, has distributed over one million dollars of cash, goods, and services to people in its community.

Pastor Kinnan says, “It is critical to our outreach that we are clear in our message of the gospel. We reach out by the power of the Holy Spirit and with the person of Christ.” The church is also known as a congregation that emphasizes prayer and building healthy relationships. “We practice loving those around us. We must model what we want lived.”

BreakPointe has launched two churches and assisted with a church restart last year. Its goal is to launch 20 new churches in the Kansas City area over the next 20 years. Its spirit of outreach is born from its emphasis on discipleship, with its LIFE groups creating a vision for reaching and ministering to the community. Low key events such as neighborhood prayer walks, giving batteries, and assisting people with home repairs are typical of those ministries—along with sending short-term local, national, and international missions teams.

Kinnan says the breadth of the church’s compassionate ministries “has stretched our faith beyond our means . . . but never beyond God’s ability to provide.”

# North Carolina East Church Celebrates Ten Years

On January 22, newhope Church, a Wesleyan congregation in Durham, N.C., celebrated its tenth anniversary. A crowd of some 4,000 church members and attendees filled the Durham Performing Arts Center for the celebration, bringing with them coats and cans of food to donate to Durham-area ministries.

The worship arts ministry team played a high energy set featuring the spoken word performances of Amena Brown of Atlanta, Georgia. Founding and senior pastor, Dr. Benji Kelley, painted a vision for newhope’s future—one that continues to focus on the church’s mission “to reach, teach and release.” More specifically, that vision is to reach people with the love and grace of God in Jesus Christ, to teach them the Bible, and to release them as fully-devoted followers and other churches to the glory of God.

Pastor Kelley said, “I will go to my grave remembering the sight from the stage of hands raised in worship from the front row to the very back of the upper balcony. It was amazing!” He added, “These are people hungry to love and serve our Lord, and who will truly make a mark on the future of newhope and central North Carolina.” ●



# Haitian Orphans Enjoy Carefree Camp Week



**S**ince the January 12, 2010, earthquake that ravaged the country of Haiti, life has been especially difficult for children who lost their parents.

For a brief time in December, 75 orphans got a taste of normal life. Twenty-one teens and young adults from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, representing Caton's Island (a 120-acre island owned by The Wesleyan Church's Atlantic District), administered a camp for the children in Haiti. The children, who live in Anse-au-Galet on La Gonave Island, traveled by boat to a campground at Croix Lily (near Montrois) for the week-long camp.

While at camp, the children left behind a place where life would seem foreign to most North Americans: a place where dogs, chickens, pigs, and donkeys roam freely; pedestrians do not have the right-of-way; water is purchased; and food isn't bought at grocery stores.

Haitian orphans are also frequently victimized by adult predators, who attempt to sell them into sex slavery or the forced labor market. Some are treated no better than animals and are forced to beg and steal to survive. It has been estimated that there are now as many as 500,000 orphans in Haiti.

Led by Caton's camp director, Dean Stephenson, the team of volunteers played games with the orphans, took them swimming in the ocean, made crafts, and played soccer with them. Camp staff members stayed in the same dorms as the children and fed them "luxury" items like chicken, eggs, fried plantain chips, granola bars, and cookies, which provided a break from the staple diet of rice and beans served at the orphanage. Watching the kids run, jump, laugh, and play loudly and joyfully made the volunteers happy. The Haitian children live in a three-story building with no yard along a busy street and sleep cramped in quarters that also serve as their school.

The young Haitians weren't the only ones who left changed after a week with the Caton's Island volunteers. "The biggest

reality that hit me during the camp is that Jesus Christ, the [one who was] abandoned by everyone, is the one person who can truly relate to these kids, to bring hope and life," says Joel Guptill, a team volunteer. ●

**Wesleyan NATIVE Ministries**

## BUILD HOPE FOR NAVAJO PASTOR DARWIN TSOSIE'S FAMILY



Darwin Tsosie has ministered on the Navajo Nation for over 20 years. His shack-like home offers no indoor plumbing and little privacy for his large family. His teenage son Titus, wheelchair-bound due to a car accident, can't get around the home well or use the outdoor shower and outhouse.

Please help us bless Pastor Darwin's family with a new barrier-free home with indoor plumbing, enough bedrooms, and a therapy gym for Titus. A gift of \$65.00 pays for one square foot. Your gift of any amount will help build hope for the Tsosie family.

**HOW TO HELP:** Give online at [WesleyanNativeMinistries.org](http://WesleyanNativeMinistries.org). **OR SEND TO:** Wesleyan Native Ministries, PO Box 1705, Grand Rapids MI 49501-1705. For more info, call 616-456-0097

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## Hobby Lobby Owners Honored

**T**he family that owns Hobby Lobby Inc. has received the 2012 Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) Philanthropy Award. The award was given to acknowledge the family's support of Christian colleges, including Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU).

David Green, the founder of Hobby Lobby, and his wife, Barbara, accepted the award on behalf of the entire Green family. Barbara Green serves on the IWU Board of Trustees.

Dr. Paul Corts (left), CCCU president, and Dr. Henry Smith (right), IWU president, presented the award during the annual meeting of CCCU presidents in Washington, D.C. Smith serves on the council's board of directors.

The Green family most recently committed \$2.5 million toward the construction of a facility for Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University.

Corts also acknowledged the Green family's ongoing commitment to cultivating the study of the Bible around the world. The family developed the Passages art exhibition, an interactive display of the history of the Bible that has appeared at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art as well as in Vatican City.

The Passages exhibit, which currently is housed in Atlanta, Ga., is one part of the Green family's personal collection of biblical artifacts, which includes more than 44,000 items.

The educational and research arm of the collection, the Green Scholars Initiative, promises to facilitate the study of the Bible for generations to come. More than 30 colleges, many of them CCCU institutions, have begun research projects as part of the initiative.

Dr. Jerry Pattengale, an assistant provost at IWU, is the director of the Green Scholars Initiative. ●

## Exercising Their Faith

### Bolivar Wesleyan Church

Bolivar, Ohio

Greater Ohio District

Worship Attendance: 150-180

Dr. Steven Gerig, senior pastor

[www.bwctheroc.com](http://www.bwctheroc.com)

**W**ith the donation of \$20,000 worth of exercise equipment to the church, Bolivar Wesleyan turned the gift into ministry. Three times each week, members of the community take part in a free circuit training exercise group. The purchase and remodeling of a local restaurant into a community center not only houses the exercise equipment, it's also home to 5th Quarter after football and basketball games, Bible studies, community business meetings, addiction recovery groups, and health clinics.

Senior pastor, Dr. Steven Gerig, said the church had struggled with not having a high visibility in the community until God made it possible to acquire a second location on the main road through town. Local mission trips by Bolivar teens and adults result in community homes being repaired and renovated. Gerig said, "These works of service have provided a wonderful platform for witnessing to the individuals whose homes are being repaired and to the watching community."

Non-threatening outreach activities, such as bowling, softball leagues, and a photo club attract both the churched and unchurched. Yet they are not substitutes for preaching and teaching the Word of God and "sharing the love of Christ in meaningful ways with others."

A family in the community who was struggling with a bill from cancer treatment has also been blessed by the Christ-centered ministry of the church. Over \$14,000 was raised by the church and given to the family.

## Paying It Forward

### Faith Community Church

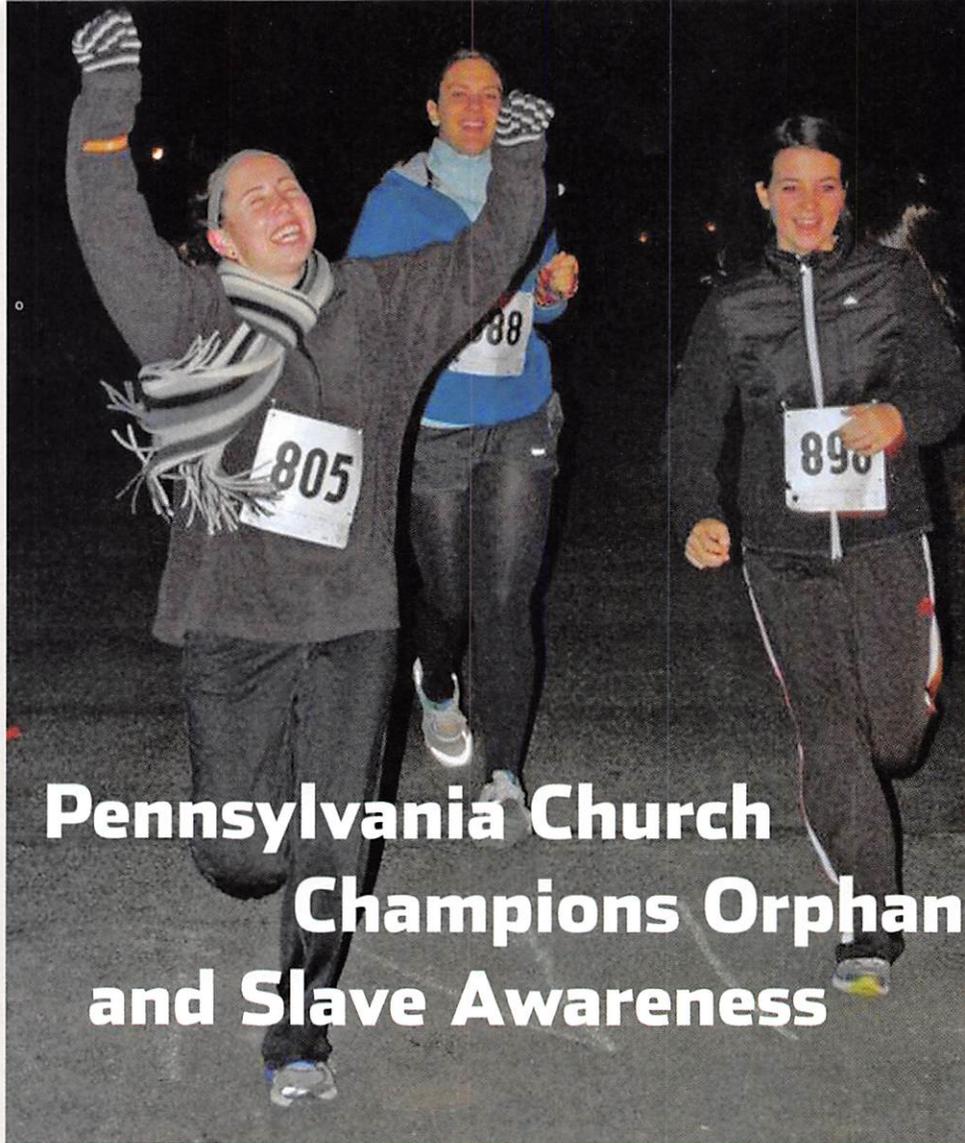
Charleston, West Virginia  
Shenandoah District  
Worship Attendance: 35  
Rev. Chris Shinn, pastor

The biblical scene of Christ preparing breakfast for His disciples after His resurrection is being played out each week at Faith Community Church. Its twenty-first century slant on the familiar event from Christ's life involves serving a free breakfast to approximately 75 people following the morning worship. Pastor Chris Shinn said, "The entire kitchen and distribution crew consists of 14 people, most of whom were once being served breakfast and are now serving in Jesus' name." In other words, those who were introduced to the grace of Christ are now "paying it forward" in service to others.

Faith Community doesn't just focus on meeting the physical needs of others; it is committed to meeting spiritual needs as well. Through its door-to-door and One-to-Won campaigns, the congregation is actively evangelizing the lost. The pastor said people have come to Christ through Faith Community ministries on the street, in homes, at the church altar, and in small group meetings. He said community ministries "earn trust and then earn the right to speak the Good News."

The Shenandoah District church also distributes personal care items such as shampoo, soap, deodorant, and combs to their homeless neighbors, both on the street and at the weekly breakfasts. The church also makes showers and a washer and dryer available to the homeless and is hoping to open a church-run laundromat to meet a neighborhood need.

"Love for Jesus is the center of our life and worship and service," says Pastor Shinn. "Acts of compassion and mercy flow out of our worship of and growth in Him."



## Pennsylvania Church Champions Orphan and Slave Awareness

**S**andy Lake Wesleyan Church is known as a church that champions justice for others, especially those considered "the least of these" (Matt. 25:40). Located in Sandy Lake, Pa., the congregation has a vision to meet the needs of the helpless and enslaved.

The church recently hosted two events that raised awareness for those who have been orphaned and those who have been enslaved by human trafficking.

Hope for 27 Million was the church's first annual Freedom Road 5K walk/run (pictured), to bring awareness to the plight of modern-day human trafficking. More than 140 people participated in the nighttime race, which featured a looping course along the historic Freedom Road and through an Underground Railroad cemetery.

The event highlighted The Wesleyan Church's history of abolitionism and the area's background as a safe, free place for those caught in the African slave trade. The event communicated the need to free today's slaves.

The second event, Global Orphan Sunday, made participants aware of the global orphan crisis through a special morning message and daylong "orphan experience" that involved vignettes of orphan life across the world. The orphan experience included a meal table featuring a Haitian rice and bean dish commonly served in Caribbean orphanages and a global marketplace with fair-trade goods available for purchase. The proceeds garnered from the marketplace benefited artisans and craftspeople worldwide, including some rescued trafficking victims. Over \$4,000 will be used in ongoing global missions projects. ●



The Wesleyan Church's heritage began in the fight against slavery.



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## Kingswood University Focuses on Holiness

Kingswood University began its second semester with a focus on holy living as Dr. Steve DeNeff spoke for Holiness Advancement Week, January 24–26. In his messages, Dr. DeNeff, senior pastor of College Wesleyan Church in Marion, Ind., challenged staff and students to have a vision of a holy God and to go to the cross, giving Christ everything. Using the metaphor of a wedding ceremony, he illustrated how deeply believers are loved by God. DeNeff encouraged all to have integrity and balance in ministry.

“When we see a vision of God from the top,” said DeNeff, “it changes the way we approach God. Our lives will move in the direction of the God we worship.”

Dr. DeNeff is the author of several books including *SoulShift*, a book that the entire campus is studying in weekly discipleship groups.

## Houghton students study at Nashville Contemporary Music Center

Houghton College students Jonathon Geeze '12 and Bethany Fonda '12 were privileged to spend the fall semester at the Contemporary Music Center in Nashville, Tenn. The two musicians were admitted into Best Semester, an off-campus program that integrates faith, music, and business provided by the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. The artists received instruction, experience, and a Christ-centered perspective on creativity and the marketplace. Each track was comprised of coursework, labs, directed study, and a practicum, including classes in songwriting essentials and studio recording.

## Josh McDowell's Legacy Collection Now at Oklahoma Wesleyan University

The Drake Library at Oklahoma Wesleyan University (OKWU) now houses the complete works of well-known Christian apologist and activist Josh McDowell. The body of work, entitled the Josh McDowell Legacy

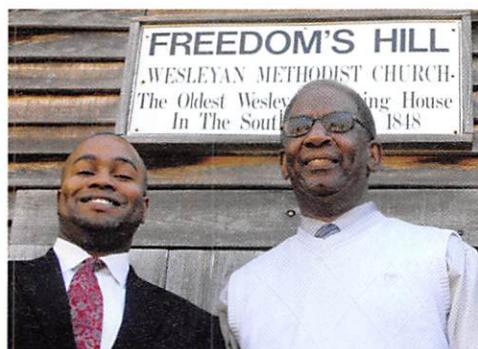


Collection, was added to the Drake Library on February 24. McDowell spoke at an OKWU chapel service that same day and received an honorary doctorate from the school. Drake Library, located on the university's Bartlesville, Okla., campus, is

the only library in the United States to house McDowell's works in its entirety. McDowell has written or co-written more than 77 books.

## Asbury announces scholarship winners

The Wesleyan Seminary Foundation awarded scholarships to three Wesleyan students at Asbury Theological Seminary. Receiving their awards at Asbury's annual Thanksgiving Banquet were Elizabeth McClellan, Richard "RJ" Wolgemuth, and Shawnda Dykhoff. Recipients are chosen based on their commitment to The Wesleyan Church, academic excellence, and potential for future leadership, in conjunction with a peer vote.



Tyson Wright (left) is pictured with Dr. Harvey Choplin, adjunct professor in the SWU School of Education. Dr. Wright mentors the program participants.

## Wright Second 'Mister' to be Inducted at Southern Wesleyan University

Tyson Wright, an elementary education major from Greer, S.C., was inducted into the Call Me Mister program during a ceremony on Jan. 30 at Freedom's Hill Church on the campus of Southern Wesleyan University (SWU) in Central, S.C.

Wright is the second person to be inducted into the program since Southern Wesleyan began its partnership with Call Me Mister (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models), a program aimed at training and placing teachers from a diverse background into the state's lowest-performing elementary schools.

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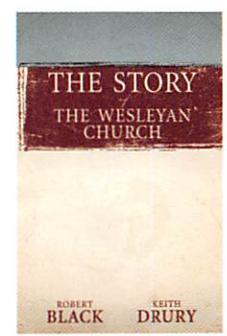
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## Publishing House Announces Book on Wesleyan History



Wesleyan Publishing House has announced the publication of *The Story of The Wesleyan Church* by Robert Black and Keith Drury. From its roots in European and American Methodism, through the 1968 merger of the Wesleyan Methodist and Pilgrim Holiness Churches, and continuing through recent historic events, Black and Drury trace the rich tradition and inspiring history of The Wesleyan Church. *The Story of The Wesleyan Church* offers a contemporary, reader-friendly history of the growth and development of the church, passing on its heritage to a new generation in a highly accessible format. Each chapter includes several photos with detailed captions that tell the story of the church in condensed form.

## Thousands of Students Commit to Follow Jesus

Out of the approximately 6,000 students who attended Spiritual Formation Department's Follow Tour regional youth conventions, 510 students made first-time decisions to accept Christ as Savior, and 1,170 students rededicated their lives to Him. A total of 749 students answered God's call to full-time Christian ministry, and over 2,500 students made commitments to follow Jesus and serve Him wherever He leads. Tour leaders logged over 8,500 miles during ten stops in eight states and one Canadian province. The 2012 International Wesleyan Youth Convention is scheduled for Louisville, Ky., Dec. 28-31.



Join other youth at the 2012 International Wesleyan Youth Conference.

## Building Bridges

Eight hundred million Facebook users probably post billions of messages every week. Add to those billions of postings the fact that every minue, 32 hours of video are posted on YouTube, which equates to 36 years' worth of video every seven days. Moreover, there are 100 million users of Twitter, half of whom log on and send 230 million tweets—every day.

[www.outcomesmagazine.com](http://www.outcomesmagazine.com) (winter 2011)

## Nitrogen Fueling equips church planters

Leaders from seven church plants in the West Michigan, East Michigan, North Michigan, and Western Pennsylvania districts attended a December 1-3 interactive training session in Lowell, Michigan. Rev. Phil Struckmeyer, founding pastor of Impact Church in Lowell, which has influenced nine church plants, led the event along with Dr. Tim Roehl, Rev. Ed Love, and Pastor Jim Bowen.

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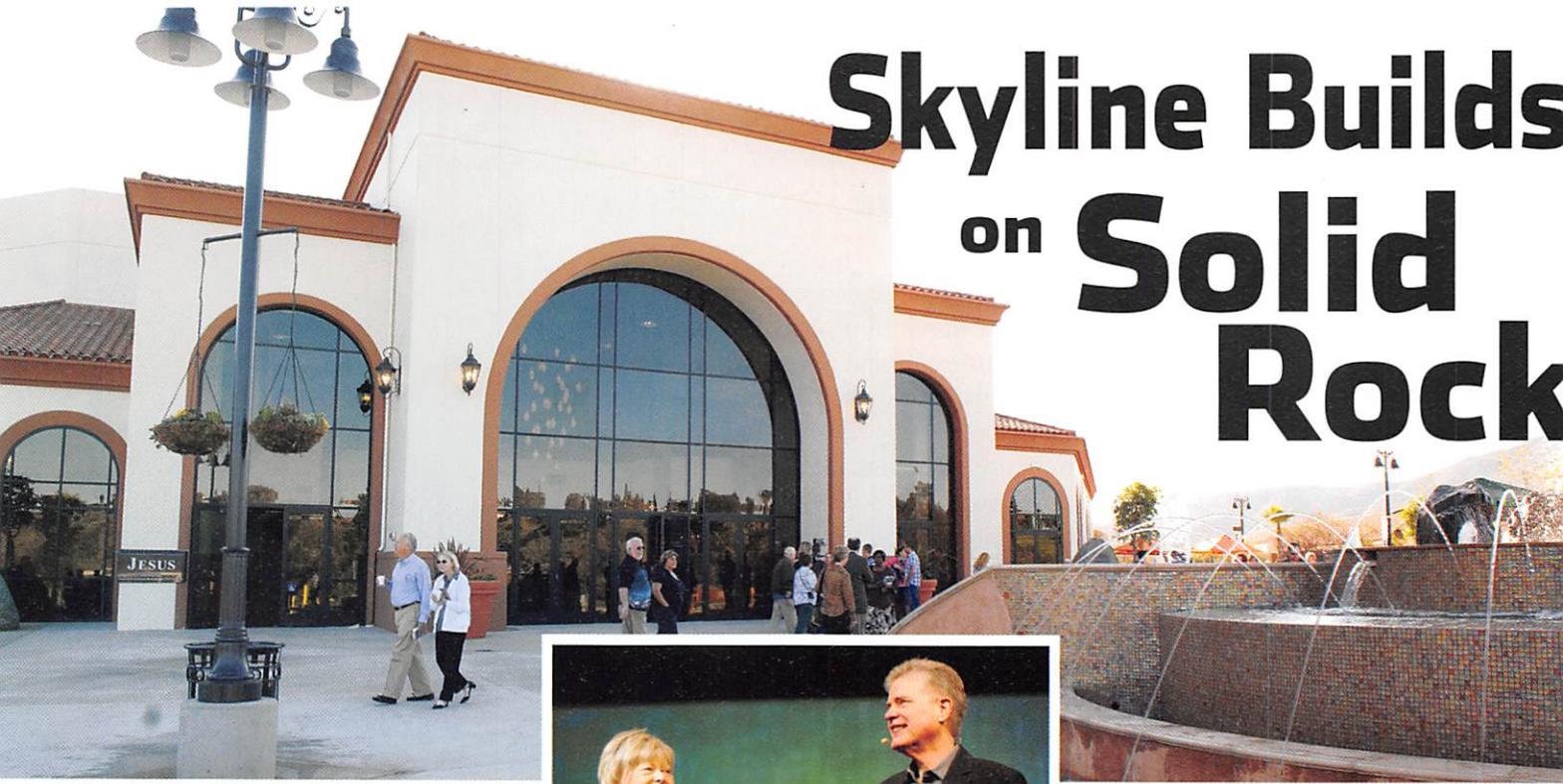
"God is working in my life."

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# Skyline Builds on Solid Rock



**M**embers, friends, and staff of Skyline Church (Wesleyan) in La Mesa, California, rejoiced in awe and praise as they met for the first time in their new 2,000-seat worship center on March 4. In Jesus' parable of the wise and foolish builders, the foolish built on the sand, while the wise chose a rock solid foundation. Skyline made the same building decision.

The Pacific Southwest District church is fifty-eight years old and has had only three pastors: founding pastor Dr. Orval Butcher, followed by Dr. John Maxwell, and then Dr. Jim Garlow. Each has added to a ministry foundation built on the authority and sufficiency of the Scriptures in cutting edge ministries.

The 60,000-square foot, \$12 million dollar sanctuary is a monument to faith and tears, perseverance and triumph. Twenty-seven years in the making, the facility is called "a modern-day epicenter of renaissance and revival; a hub of activity for those who desire to not only worship but commune with others who are seeking answers and relationships with the living God." A tour of the new facility is a lesson in history and theology.

Dr. Garlow calls the cornerstone of the new worship center a favorite. He says of the donated polished granite stone, which was quarried and cut in India, and inscribed with the name of Jesus, "May this stone forever, till Christ comes, be a reminder of why we exist as a church. Other reminders grace the building."

Lead pastor, Dr. Jim Garlow, described the day, praising the Lord that his courageous wife, Carol, could be at his side as he welcomed Skyliners and guests from the large platform. And those who have heard Dr. Garlow tell the story of how the church had to maneuver through a two-decade journey of bureaucracy and spend millions of dollars to get to the point of turning the first shovel full of dirt, can testify to God's faithfulness and the persistent prayers of His people.

Garlow said that on the Saturday evening before the first service in the new worship center, members of the congregation spent one hour reading the Bible in the new facility (dividing the Bible into 77 sections and splitting the congregation into 77 groups, with

each reading a section of the Bible—all at the same time) and then one hour of prayer. ●

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View pictures of Skyline Church's new worship center.

## Record Number of Moncton Wesleyans Travel for Missions

For the first time in Moncton Wesleyan Church's history, the number of men, women, and teenagers who traveled on short-term missions trips during a single year has exceeded 100.

Rev. Dave Steeves, Moncton's pastor of student ministries and missions, reported that 102 individuals traveled on four missions trips in 2011. This Atlantic District congregation located in Moncton, N.B., is over 100 years old, making it the oldest of the ten largest churches in the denomination. According to Steeves, Moncton's lead pastor, Dr. Laurel Buckingham, "is always proclaiming that 'we must use every available method, in every available place, at every available time, to reach every person for Christ. Everything we do and everything we are is for that purpose.'" Steeves notes that short-term mission trips provide another tangible way to put feet to this vision.



While attending a service at The Wesleyan Jerusalem Church in Flushing (Queens), N.Y., Penn-Jersey district superintendent, Dr. Harry F. Wood, said he experienced a first. "We joined together the Queens Jerusalem congregation, which translates their services into Creole, and the Spanish speaking congregation of Iglesia Christiana Evangelica, which meets in the same building during the afternoon. The result was a tri-lingual service. I spoke in English, and on my right was Pastor Faustin, who translated into Creole. On the left was a sister who translated the message into Spanish."

## Penn-Jersey Tri-Lingual Worship a First

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## Thousands Hear the Gospel at Heritage Christmas Services

Heritage (Wesleyan) Church hosted 5,999 attendees at its Christmas services on the church's four campuses in the Quad Cities region of Illinois and Iowa. The campuses are: Rock Island and Vida Nueva in Rock Island, Ill., Bettendorf, in Bettendorf, Iowa, and QC West in Buffalo, Iowa. In the past three years, 1,492 placed their faith in Christ through the church's ministries. "Our passion at Heritage Church is to meet people wherever they are on their spiritual journey and lead them into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ in order to change the world," says Rev. Eric Mills, outreach pastor. Rev. John Bray is senior pastor.

## NC Wesleyans Premier Adam Crooks Documentary



The North Carolina East District of The Wesleyan Church held a red-carpet premier of *The Courageous Love*, at the Old Varsity Theatre in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Dec. 16.

The film, directed by Aaron Mullins, is a mini-feature documentary that parallels two powerful stories. The first chronicles the ministry of Adam Crooks, a pastor who traveled to pre-Civil War North Carolina, preaching boldly against slavery and bravely facing numerous threats upon his life while planting the first Wesleyan church in the American South. The second story profiles continuing legacy of Crooks's ministry in the work of modern-day Wesleyan church planters in North Carolina.

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## OBITUARIES

### **Baldwin, Rev. Frank (77)**

Rev. Frank Baldwin lived in Stuart, Fla., at the time of his death. He served as a minister within The Wesleyan Church. Survivors include his wife of 60 years, Ann, a son, three daughters, 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

### **Gentry, Eulalia Wade (92)**

Eulalia Wade Gentry lived in Salem, Va., at the time of her death. She had served Wesleyan churches in Virginia, Kentucky, and Alabama with her husband of 55 years, the late Rev. Earl Gentry. She also supported her husband while he served as a district superintendent in Virginia and as chaplain at a retirement complex in Louisiana.

### **Gregorio, Lynette (71)**

Lynette Gregorio lived in Washington, D.C., at the time of her death. She was a pastor at Capital Wesleyan Church in the District of Columbia for many years. She was preceded in death by four sisters. Survivors include her husband, Dr. Newton Gregorio, seven children, 21 grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

### **Lavender, Rev. Paul (72)**

Rev. Paul Lavender lived in Shelby, N.C., at the time of his death. He was an ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church and served at various churches. He retired in November 2011 from Shelby Wesleyan Church, where he was a member. Rev. Lavender was preceded in death by his parents and two daughters. Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Brenda, one daughter, two sisters, three brothers, two grandchildren, one great-grandson, and one sister-in-law.

### **MacBeth, Bonnie (56)**

Bonnie MacBeth lived in Buffalo, N.Y., at the time of her death. Bonnie served with her husband, Wayne, as Wesleyan World Missions (now Global Partners) missionaries to Australia from 1997 to 2001. She cofounded Hope Refugees Services in Buffalo. Survivors include her husband, one son, one daughter, her parents, three sisters, and several nieces and nephews.

### **Peckham, Rev. Elin (64)**

Rev. Elin Peckham lived in Pinconning, Mich., at the time of her death. She was an ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church and served as a chaplain at Saginaw Covenant Hospital in Saginaw, Mich. She is survived by her husband of 41 years, Charles, three sons, a daughter, 19 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, two brothers, two nieces, and three nephews.

### **Phillips, Rev. Jasper (J.W.) (93)**

Rev. Jasper (J.W.) Phillips lived in High Point, N.C., at the time of his death. An ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church, he was a member of Shady Grove Wesleyan Church in Colfax, N.C. Rev. Phillips was a pastor for 42 years, assistant district superintendent for 13 years, district superintendent for 4 years, district board of administration member for 45 years,

delegate to the General Conference for 13 quadrenniums, and many other district committees and boards. Rev. Phillips was preceded in death by his first wife, Lucia, and four sisters. Survivors include his wife of 23 years, Linda, a daughter, two grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two stepdaughters, and four step-grandchildren.

### **Seaman, Rev. Edwin (91)**

Rev. Edwin Seaman lived in Queensbury, N.Y., at the time of his death. An ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church, Rev. Seaman served in churches in New York. He also served as youth director of the Northeast District of The Wesleyan Church. Dr. Seaman was a graduate of Houghton College and served on the Houghton board of trustees for 31 years. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Helen, one son, one daughter, five grandchildren, one sister, and several nieces and nephews.

### **Simons, Rev. Eldyn (94)**

Rev. Eldyn Simons lived in Cuba, N.Y., at the time of his death. An ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church, Rev. Simons pastored various Wesleyan churches. He was a graduate of Houghton College. Rev. Simons was preceded in death by a son and a brother. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth, whom he married in 1943, four daughters, 13 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, a sister, and several nieces and nephews.

### **Terhune, Rev. Dave (62)**

Rev. Dave Terhune lived in Rochester, Ind., at the time of his death. An ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church, he planted churches in various states, pastoring in Indiana, Michigan, Texas, and Florida. Rev. Terhune most recently served as pastor of The Cross, a Wesleyan church plant in Rochester. He also served in the U.S. Air National Guard and with the Bluffton (IN) Police Department. He is survived by Susan, his wife of 41 years, one daughter, two sons, four grandchildren, one sister, two brothers, and his parents.

### **Vanderburg, Dr. Ager Lee (87)**

Dr. Ager Lee Vanderburg lived in Boone, N.C., at the time of his death. He was a retired Wesleyan pastor and served churches in North Carolina. Dr. Vanderburg also served as a general evangelist and as district superintendent of the Tennessee District. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Jeanie, two daughters, four grandsons, four great-grandchildren, one sister, and nieces and nephews.

### **Werkheiser, Patricia (58)**

Patricia Werkheiser lived in Walnutport, Pa., at the time of her death. She was the wife of Pastor Donald Werkheiser and served alongside him at Gospel Chapel in Northampton, where he is an assistant pastor. Survivors include her husband, three daughters, a son, five grandchildren, two sisters, two brothers, her mother, and nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her stepfather.



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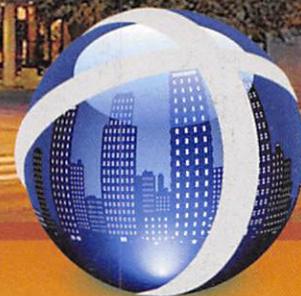
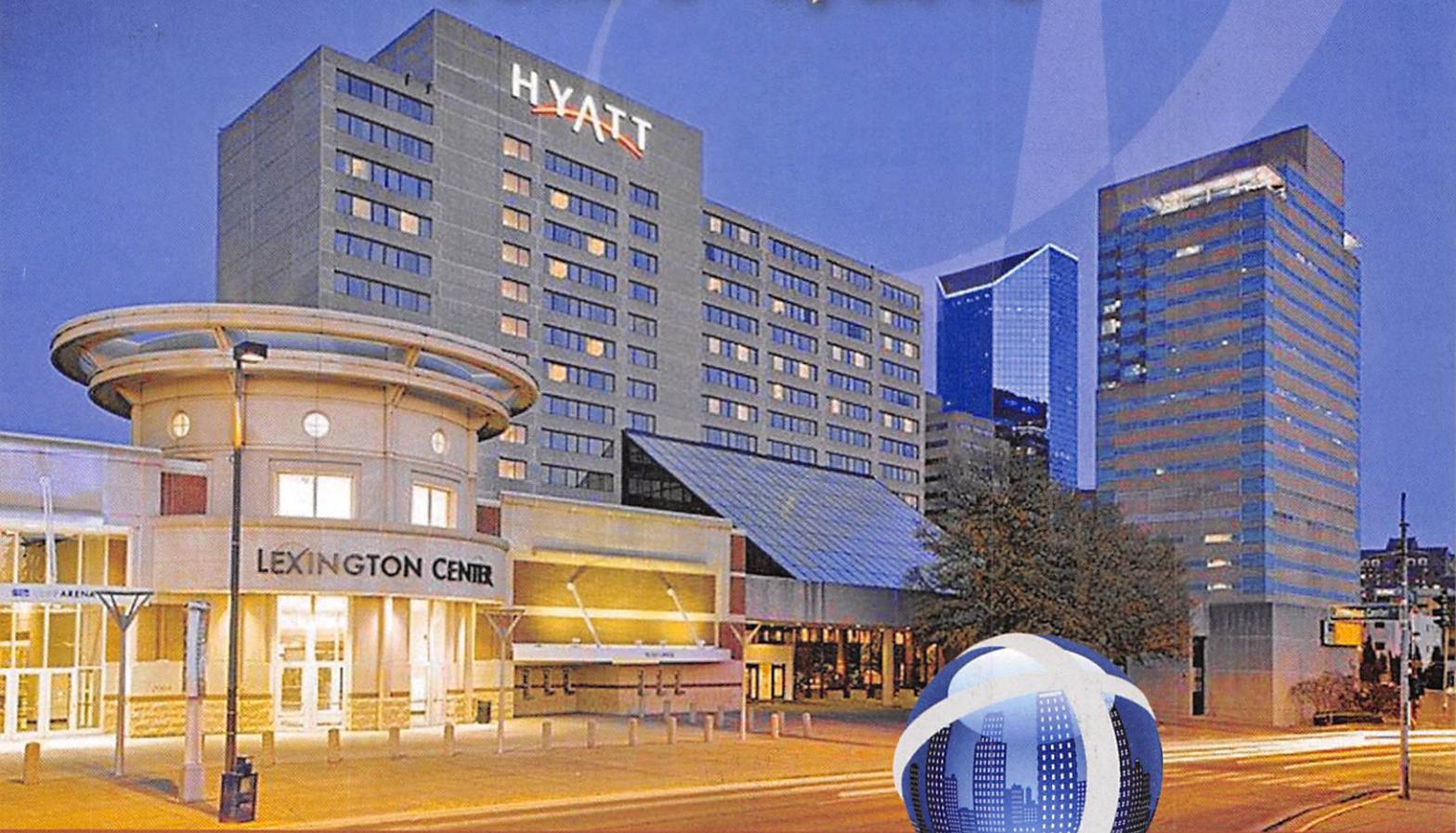
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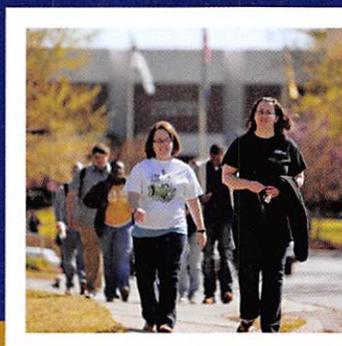
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*"To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up"*  
(Ephesians 4:12).



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## END OF AN ERA

The sights and sounds of Wesleyanism are noticeably different from those of its earliest days, but its biblical theology remains the same. That has been my experience as a pastor, district superintendent, and General Secretary of The Wesleyan Church.

### Answering God's Call

For me personally, this issue of *Wesleyan Life* marks the end of an era. My retirement was effective with the close of General Conference. What a journey! I could never have expected what God was up to when I knelt at an altar in the shavings of that tabernacle at the Denton, Md., campground and yielded my life to God's call.

When I graduated from high school, I enrolled in a five-year degree program at the former Eastern Pilgrim College in Allentown, Pa. And while there, God sent a young lady by the name of Tana Lynn Rittinger into my life. Tana was willing not only to change her last name to mine but also to become my partner in ministry. Seminary was not in my thinking when I headed off to college, but a mentor of mine encouraged me to go. Asbury Theological Seminary would become our home for completion of my master's and doctor of ministry programs.

### Local and District Leadership

My first church appointment was the result of a seminary professor's recommendation to, of all places, Allendale, Mich. There our sons Mark and Jeremy were born. And God helped us grow the church by more than 60 percent, build an addition and pay for it, and set the stage for continued growth.

I then served as senior pastor of Owosso Wesleyan Church. Through the preaching and teaching of God's Word, I was privileged to see the church grow in unity and outreach to the community.

Four years into the Owosso pastorate, I was elected district superintendent of the West Michigan District, and served in that good district for 16 years. What a ride! We grew 400 percent in finances, 100 percent in morning worship, and 20 percent in covenant membership. The district also grew from having only two churches that averaged over 500 in weekly attendance to seven of that size. Also during that time, both our sons finished their education and found their wives. Mark brought home Keirsten and Jeremy, Nycole.

### Serving the General Church

For the last 12 years, I have served The Wesleyan Church as General Secretary, which has included a multitude of duties. I saw many changes there as well, as statistical reporting went from paper to electronic, allowing pastors and district leaders to have six years of statistics at their finger tips, and office manuals were written for the department and for general conference planning.

In 2008, the Office of General Secretary was merged with the Department of Communications, adding supervision for eight additional staff members. Again, the Lord helped the new department as new ministries such as an online version of *Wesleyan Life*, studio production of audio and video resources, free online resources, and social media ministries were added.

I enter this phase of my life feeling God has allowed me tremendous opportunities to serve Him through the ministries of The Wesleyan Church. I am finally going back home to Delaware, after 43 years. Only God could bring the sense of accomplishment I feel. He is good!

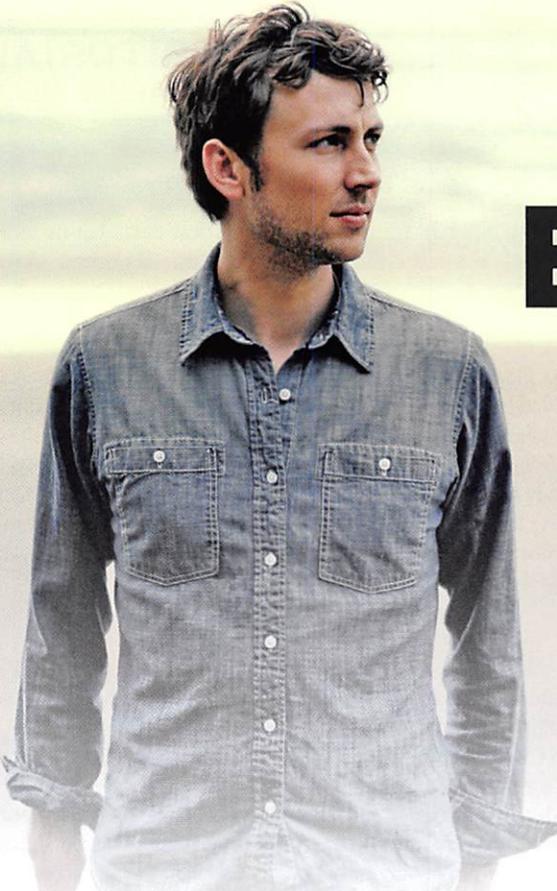
—Ronald D. Kelly, General Editor

## SUMMER 2012

### Volume 6, Number 13

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>4</b> Embarrassed about Holiness<br><i>by Jerry G. Pence</i>          | <b>10</b> God Kept His Promise                                 |
| <b>6</b> Six Reasons Local Churches Must Change<br><i>by Ron McClung</i> | <b>11</b> General Conference '12 Recap                         |
| <b>8</b> Domesticated Christians<br><i>by Lawrence W. Wilson</i>         | <b>16</b> Murphy Named Houghton Pastor of Year                 |
| <b>9</b> Todd Guy: Ambassador of Music                                   | <b>19</b> Cockerill Unveils New Standard Commentary on Hebrews |
|  | <b>20</b> Native Pastor to Have New Home                       |
|  | <b>21</b> Obituaries   |

## CONTENTS



# Embarrassed about Holiness

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JERRY G. PENCE

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**A**nyone who has ever done public speaking has a blooper to confess. One of my dumbest (so far) was as a young pastor doing a parenting seminar. I was waxing eloquent about teens needing heartfelt understanding. “Suppose your son tells you he just broke up with his girlfriend,” I said, pausing to make eye contact with as many listeners as I could. “It’s a time to be extra sensitive—even though we all know puppy love can always find another dog.” Unfortunately, my words and gaze stopped just as I turned toward my beautiful wife, who was there that morning to give me moral support.

Embarrassing moments can also happen in conversations about entire sanctification. The holiness movement is a historic stream of evangelical Christianity known for confidence in the Bible’s teaching that God’s will is to *sanctify* or *perfect* believers in their love for God and for others. Holiness evangelicals believe Christ-followers can love wholeheartedly and sincerely once we are delivered from habitual, willful sinning, thanks to the enabling, indwelling, and purifying presence of the Holy Spirit.

## Sinning Every Day or Finding a Better Way

Some contend that it is inevitable for Christians to sin every day in some way. This pessimism grows largely from viewing sin as

any failure to measure up to God’s perfection. Others believe sin is best understood as willful disobedience to God’s known laws and that He holds persons morally responsible only for their intentional acts. In other words, sin is not simply missing God’s mark. It is disregarding or disobeying what we know God desires and expects of us. Willful defiance is what separates us from fellowship with God, not unintentional faults and flaws.

## The best proof of holiness is living proof.

If every shortcoming or mistake in thought, word, or deed is “sinning,” then of course we all sin constantly and unavoidably. Nor should we expect deliverance from these consequences of simply being human. Yet God’s Word tells us to be holy, using words related to our conduct like blameless, pure, righteous, perfect, sanctified. So a crucial question is whether or not those who are simply human also can be so in love with God, so totally dedicated to Him, and so filled with His Spirit that our desires and actions become consistently love-driven and Christlike. Can we have pure hearts and

motives, even if all our words and deeds do not always come out perfectly?

Surely, if God can be trusted to forgive our sins, we can also trust Him to break sin’s control over our will. Forgiveness is reactive; sanctification is proactive. It makes sense that the Lord who commands us to “Be perfect, as I am perfect” would enable us to obey this command. This is the optimistic view of grace that Wesleyans believe scriptures clearly teach. The

Apostle John, for instance, described the effect of God’s transforming grace as “perfect love” that makes us “like him,” enables us to “love one another,” “drives out fear,” causes us “to obey His commands,” and enables us to “overcome the world” (1 John 4:7–5:3).

## The Glare of Reality

No matter how appealing the idea of experiencing this quality of discipleship may be, though—a genuine life of perfect love—we have to confess that the glare of reality sometimes casts doubt even on the most beautiful theology.

Take embarrassing claims of perfectionism, for example. Over the years both friends and detractors of holiness have confused *perfect love* with *perfect behavior*. Being sanctified does not make us unable to sin. It frees us from the bondage of thinking we have no choice but to sin. Perfect love delivers us from our inbred tendency for willful, prideful rebellion toward God. While this freedom can be received by faith in an instant, it must then be lived out over a lifetime. In responding to early Methodists and their critics, holiness advocate John Wesley warned against the false notion of “sinless perfection.” Sanctified believers will struggle with temptations, mistakes, personality quirks, faulty judgment, poor reasoning and weaknesses of all sorts—probably for our entire lives. However, bumps in the road do not mean the road is impassable or impossible.

Another embarrassment to the holiness movement is legalism—the mistake some make of thinking holy living is merely about observing moral laws and religious duties. Legalism is closely related to idolatry, except the legalist’s idol is not a statue—it is self-righteousness. The confidence of legalists is not in the Savior, whose love should so captivate their hearts and minds that obedience is the natural expression of love back to Him. Instead, a legalist trusts his or her own scruples, self-effort, self-discipline, and self-determined standards of goodness as ways to deserve God’s approval. Rule keeping is not bad; it is just an inadequate substitute for a relationship with God through faith.

Emotionalism can embarrass us. Religious feelings are precious gifts, but they also can be used as counterfeit assurance of a right relationship with God. Exuberant worship is not proof of serious devotion. Holiness is more than raising hands in praise, feeling good in church, enjoying Christian music, praying enthusiastically, or crying over touching stories. But put a tender spirit alongside a life of trusting, obeying, and serving Christ and you have a formula for a joyful walk with the Lord.

Judgmentalism is embarrassing when it shows its ugly head among the sanctified. When some people hear the word *holy*, they immediately associate it with smug, standoffish, self-righteous, shriveled souls. Comedians and politicians often portray Christians as condescending, censorious, holier-than-thou, out of touch, quaint, or caustic. Unfortunately, these caricatures are

not always unfounded. Being a Christ-follower is not a free pass for feeling superior or critical toward those who are not. The cure for a critical spirit is the Holy Spirit.

Some embarrassments felt by those who seek to live holy lives are actually generated by their opponents. Antagonists and skeptics

often scorn fully devoted Christ-followers. Their rejection can leave scars in the psyches of their targets. However, our reassurance comes from Jesus, who said, “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me” (Matt. 5:11). No matter how we are treated by others, those who choose to live out their sanctification will strive to respond with Christlike love.

### Minimizing Embarrassment

So how can we avoid being embarrassed about holiness?

First, embed God’s Word and what it says about sanctified living deep in your mind and heart. Many errors in the pursuit of holiness are the result of notions not grounded in the Scriptures. The world is full of scams and counterfeits. The wisdom of God’s inspired Word is our best protection against spiritual ones. What we need to know about godly living is clearly revealed in the Bible and those who study and apply its principles never need to be ashamed. As Jesus prayed in John 17:17, “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

Next, embrace full surrender to God’s will, just as Jesus did, when He prayed before His crucifixion, “My Father . . . not as I will, but as you will” (Matt. 26:39). The writer of Hebrews said, “In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters” (Heb. 2:10–11). Sooner or later, all sincere Christ-followers

must decide whether or not to place every area of their lives intentionally and willingly under God’s control. For many, this is a time of spiritual crisis and inner struggle. But as Jesus demonstrated, consecration leads to sanctification. So the Apostle Paul could pray, “May God himself, the God of peace,

## Forgiveness is reactive; sanctification is proactive.

sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it” (1 Thess. 5:23–24).

Embody holiness in your daily words and deeds if you want to live without shame. Jesus commended this tactic when He said, “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven” (Matt. 5:16). The Apostle Peter took Jesus to heart and repeated this strategy in 1 Peter 2:12, when he wrote, “Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.” The best proof of holiness is living proof—the kind we offer others by letting them see Christ in us.

Finally, embolden your witness about God’s desire and ability to make people holy. The Apostle Paul told a young pastor he was mentoring, “For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace” (2 Tim. 1:7–9). We need never be embarrassed about holiness, as long as we remember that it is simply offering our wholehearted love to the One whose love saves and sanctifies us. ●

—Jerry G. Pence is a former general superintendent and is senior pastor at Brooksville Wesleyan Church, Brooksville, Fla.

# SIX REASONS

## Local Churches MUST Change

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RON McCLUNG

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**E**ventually, we all change. It's part of life. Astronaut James Irwin said, "You might think going to the moon was the most scientific project ever, but they literally 'threw us' in the direction of the moon. We had to adjust our course every ten minutes and landed only inside fifty feet of the five hundred mile radius of our target."

Our lives typically do not face that much change that frequently, but we still find life demands a great deal of change.

Did you know that God is about change? Through Isaiah, the Lord said, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isa. 43:18–19).

### God is wanting to do a new thing!

What is God changing in your life? In your church? Lyle Schaller in his book, *Strategies for Change*, cited six reasons why change may be necessary in your church.

#### To Reach a New Generation

Unfortunately, some churches have lost a generation or two and are now changing in order to appeal to those who no longer attend. They may offer a different style of music,

expand off-street parking, improve the quality of the nursery, offer two or more worship experiences every weekend, create more attractive entry points for newcomers, enlarge their ministries with families with young children, or welcome adults reared in a different religious tradition—to name a few.

#### To Challenge People with a Fresh Vision

Vision is important if you expect to coax a congregation into the future. You've heard the old saying, "Don't cross a bridge until you come to it." But this world is owned by men and women who have "crossed bridges" in their imagination far ahead of the crowd.

To challenge people with a new vision for tomorrow, you have to keep emphasizing the vision until everyone gets it. Max DePree said, "You have to act like a third-grade teacher. You have to repeat the vision over and over again until people get it right."

#### To Focus on Ministry and Outreach

Some churches focus almost entirely on maintaining what they already have. Retiring Bishop Will Willimon of the United Methodist Church said, "We have hundreds of congregations, thousands, without any discernible mission other than the care and comfort of their members." Methodists are not alone in this problem. Too many of us have been satisfied too



You have to keep  
emphasizing the vision  
until everyone  
gets it.

long with mediocrity. If we are tradition-driven, we tend to affirm the status quo. If we are ministry-driven and outreach-driven, we are open, says Schaller, “to innovation, creativity, a willingness to change, and a desire to reach people beyond our current membership.”

### To Keep Up with the Competition

Baptists, independents, and others are not the enemy, but they are the competition. If others are quicker to implement constructive change than we are, we shouldn't be surprised if people who are church shopping choose to attend those churches rather than ours. Many things we now take for granted were once innovations—like regular telephone service, electric lights, central heating, indoor plumbing, and air-conditioning. You must not change the message, but you may well need to change some other things to attract the people you want to reach.

### To Respond to the Discontented

Schaller says that at any given time, 60 percent of the people are completely satisfied. Others may have some level of discontent, but it isn't enough to make them look for another church. However, some will become discontented enough that they may be tempted to worship elsewhere. What if adding an additional worship service would increase contentment?

Would it be worth it? What if offering communion more often would add to the contentment level? Would it be worth it?

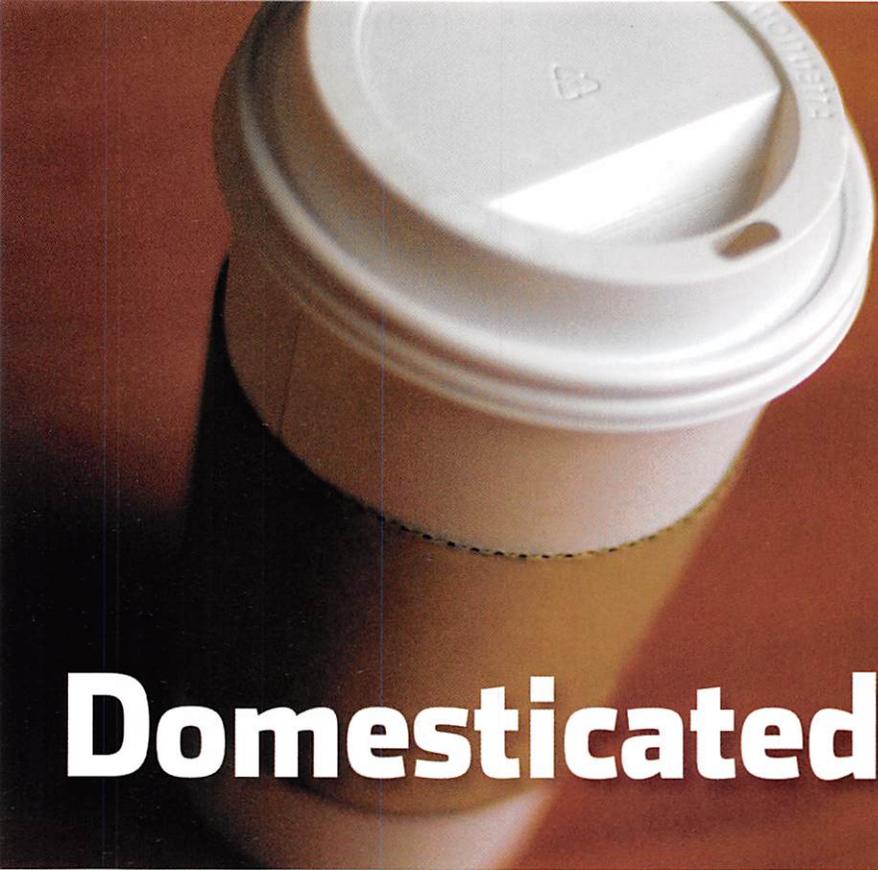
### To Accept Reality

Here's my advice: If your horse is dead, for goodness sake, dismount! If attendance is declining, if new people have stopped coming, if no one is receiving Christ, if life-change is no longer occurring, it's time to ask “Why?” Could we, by making some change in the way we do things, see different results? Remember that one definition of insanity is to keep doing the same things we've always done while expecting different results!

Jacob Braude said, “Consider how hard it is to change yourself and you'll understand what little chance you have in trying to change others.” No question about it, change is difficult. Yet, for Jesus' sake, for the sake of those in our community who do not know Christ, shouldn't we be willing to try?

The bend in the road is not the end of the road—unless you fail to make the turn. It's time to turn. God is wanting to do a new thing, even in your church, and even in your life! ●

—Ron McClung is a writer and assistant general secretary of The Wesleyan Church.



LAWRENCE W. WILSON

# Domesticated Christians

**R**ead the Bible and you'll see that people who follow God with their whole heart live passionate, adventurous, satisfying lives. They lead armies, perform miracles, confront great evils. They don't sit on their hands or organize tea parties—they change the world.

As a pastor, I look at our lives and wonder, "Why aren't we more like that?" Why is it that wherever the apostle Paul went, a riot broke out, but wherever we go they serve coffee? It seems that we have domesticated the Christian faith. We've made it a tame, acceptable, culturally relevant lifestyle choice.

Following Jesus is not that, really. It is not a lifestyle choice; it is a reorientation of your way of thinking about God, yourself, and the world around you. Far from being culturally acceptable, authentic Christians have nearly always challenged the dominant culture around them.

Have you ever wondered what your life would look like if you completely abandoned yourself to following Jesus, no matter where it would lead or what it would cost? What would happen if you stopped caring what other people think and lived to please God alone?

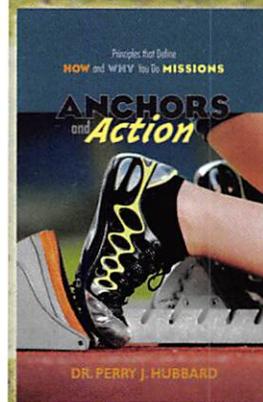
Here is an even more challenging thought: What would your life look like if you completely abandoned your faith in God? For many of us, I'm convinced that there would be no discernable change in the way we live. Our faith does not fuel our lives.

What would happen if you examined every decision—every spending choice, every relationship, every option for what to do with your day off or what to watch on television or whom to respect—according to what pleases God rather than what will advance your career or make other people think you're attractive or intelligent?

It would be more exciting than sitting around Starbucks, I promise you that. ●

—**Lawrence W. Wilson** is an author and pastor who resides in Fishers, Ind. He blogs at [www.LawrenceWilson.com](http://www.LawrenceWilson.com).

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# Todd Guy



**E**qually at ease on a camp meeting platform, the set of a Gaither video, or the chancel of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Dr. Todd Guy has been a high profile ambassador of music for Indiana Wesleyan University and The Wesleyan Church for more than 25 years. His enthusiastic, yet humble spirit, combined with his determination to perform with excellence, has made him a favorite music director both within The Wesleyan Church and in many other denominations.

From a small Wesleyan church in Bellaire, Mich., Guy made his way to Indiana Wesleyan University, where he received his undergraduate degree. He went on to earn a master's degree in choral conducting from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. He also holds a doctorate in choral conducting from Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

Affectionately known as Prof Guy to his students, he is the chairman of the Division of Music at Indiana Wesleyan University and has taught at the University for over two decades. Along with chairing the division, he directs two choral ensembles: the University Chorale and One Voice. Both ensembles tour extensively, leading worship or

performing at conventions, schools, and churches. Dr. Guy also teaches conducting and choral techniques.

The 85-voice University Chorale has been seen and heard across North America. It has appeared on such nationally televised broadcasts as the Hour of Power and the Coral Ridge Hour, and at Gaither Homecoming events.

The chorale also has performed in Europe, with concerts in Scotland at St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh; in England at St Michael's Church, Haworth; York Minster, York; Christ Church College Chapel, Oxford; St Paul's Cathedral, London; and in France at Sacre Coeur, Paris.

Prof Guy's students are some of his biggest fans. One wrote, "I have more respect and gratefulness toward this man for his teaching, passion, and character than he will ever know. He has impacted my life for good along with hundreds upon hundreds of others." Another said, "Singing for one of Prof's choirs is life changing." •

—**Pamela Downing** is a social media coordinator in the Department of Communications, The Wesleyan Church.

## Ambassador of Music

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PAMELA DOWNING

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# God KEPT His PROMISE

SARAH PYLE

I first heard of the idea of faith promise giving—making a pledge to contribute funds toward missions based on faith, depending solely on God to provide the money—while attending college. I thought it was ridiculous! First of all, how was I supposed to promise God that I would contribute to missions when I clearly did not have any extra money?

I had heard many stories at Bible college about envelopes of cash miraculously appearing in people's mailboxes. However, that was not how God seemed to provide for my needs. Whenever I prayed about finances, He graciously provided me with another job. So as far as I was concerned, God could provide for those missionaries very well without my help. Then, three years ago, our church started the practice of faith promise giving.

## The Faith Promise Challenge

It couldn't have come at a worse time. I thought finances were tight as a college student, but that was *nothing* compared to being married with three kids and expecting a fourth. How on earth did God expect me to cough up extra cash for missionaries? At that time, I was waiting tables for grocery money and was barely making ends meet. I wasn't even tithing, let alone giving away extra money to missionaries.

That's when the Holy Spirit began nudging me about this idea. He said, "Sarah, you need to obey me in this."

I said, "Lord, I want to, but I'm afraid we can't afford it."

He responded, "Sarah, trust me. Do not fear; try me."

## An Experiment in Faith

After a bit more nudging from the Holy Spirit, I decided that I would first be obedient in tithing and practice that faithfully for one year. It was rough. Every time I put that tithe envelope in the offering plate, I thought of how many tables I had to serve to make that money and how many gallons of milk it would have afforded for my family. But God provided, and, obviously, we did not starve to death.

After a year of obedient tithing, it came time to start thinking about faith promise giving. I prayed about how much God would have me promise, and He and I decided on a certain amount. I filled out my card, stuck it in my Bible and it stayed there—for four weeks. I could not bring myself to turn it in. I was now providing for four children. After giving my tithe and now this new missions offering, there wasn't much left over for groceries.

Yet God, ever patient and gentle, kept saying, "Sarah, turn the card in. Trust me. I will help you. I promised I would not fail you. I will hold your hand and help you through this." So, I finally turned in the card.

Dropping that card in the offering plate was the beginning of a huge growth spurt in my faith.

## The Test

I began turning in my faith-promise offering and my tithe. I choked every time I wrote that check. All I could think about was how many diapers, bottles of formula, and bananas I could buy with the money that I was just *giving* away. After three weeks, I quit giving my faith promise.

*continued on page 16*

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# LOVING CHRIST EMBRACING OUR WORLD

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2012





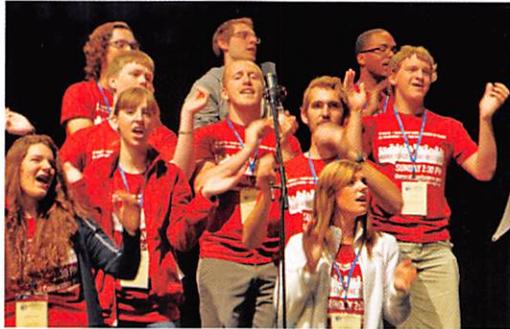
# SATURDAY

## THE WESLEYAN CHURCH 12TH GENERAL CONFERENCE

### Stories of victory mark 12th General Conference

The 12th quadrennial General Conference of North American Wesleyans meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, opened on Saturday, June 2, with praise to God as the first order of business.

Board of General Superintendents Chair, Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, called the meeting to order, using a gavel made from wood of the dogwood tree from which Wesleyan pioneer Micajah McPherson was hung exactly 150 years ago for preaching against the evils of slavery. (McPherson miraculously survived the hanging to continue in ministry for another 30 years.) Dr. Lyon reminded the 362 delegates, church officials, and



district and church leaders of the responsibility Wesleyans have to impact their culture.

General Superintendents Dr. Jerry G. Pence and Dr. Jo Anne Lyon presented

the BGS Pastoral Letter in a multimedia presentation. The theme, “Voices,” was amplified in the voices of *Miracles, Wisdom, Hope, and Prayer*—voices of an expanding Wesleyan church.

**North America:** 95,759 new Christ-followers; 32,533 baptisms; 142,429 members; 20,446 students in Wesleyan higher education; 208,973 average worship attendance (up 7.1% this quadrennium).

**Global:** 93 countries; 255,291 new Christ-followers; 89,944 baptisms, 5,669 local churches; 367,777 members; 437,310 worshippers. (Incl. N. Am.)

# SUNDAY

## THE WESLEYAN CHURCH 12TH GENERAL CONFERENCE

### Ninety-three countries represented in international rally

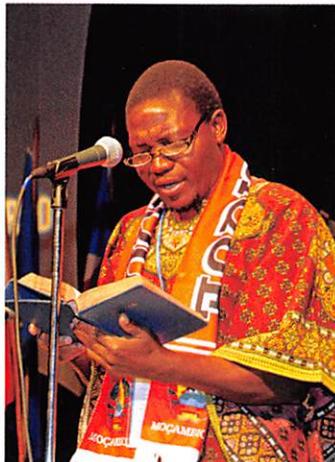
“Loving Christ, Embracing Our World” through global ministries was the theme of the Sunday morning rally. The service began with a parade of flags from the ninety-three countries of the world where the denomination has a presence through Global Partners and all General Conferences.

Stirring videos of Global Partners’ ministries included the second largest Wesleyan church in the world, the *Bogotá North Wesleyan Church in Bogotá, Colombia*. Its 7,000 active members have impacted its community with outreach, financial resources, and broadcasting.

Pastor Ducette Dorinvil, Wesleyan national superintendent of Haiti, was then introduced and thanked The Wesleyan Church for sending 500,000 lbs. of earthquake relief supplies to his country. He said over 60 rebuilding teams have visited Haiti to help in the restora-

tion, with teams continuing to arrive.

Dr. H.C. Wilson, retired General Officer for Global Partners, highlighted Campaign 300, a promotion intended to take the *JESUS* film to 21 countries via 30 teams over the next three years. The hope is to reach one million people with the gospel each of the three years, which could lead to planting 100 new churches each year.



### Myers stresses ruthless pursuit of mission

Sunday afternoon’s service at the 12th General Conference of The Wesleyan Church focused on the importance and role of the Church’s higher education institutions.

Serving as the keynote speaker was Dr. Kevin Myers, pastor of 12Stone Church in Lawrenceville, GA, and Indiana Wesleyan University alum. 12Stone is composed of four campuses in the Atlanta suburbs. It serves 14,000 and has been named the fastest growing church in America.

Dr. Myers encouraged the Church by stating that the denomination is doing at least three things “right”: Christ is the first priority, character and integrity are intact, and change is welcome. Myers urged church leaders, ministers, and guests to continue to be ruthless in believing God to move in supernatural avenues—and reminded the crowd of the importance in continuing to inspire those within the local church.

“If we want future pastors to lead the local church, we need to inspire future leaders within the local church,” said Dr. Myers. He also stressed the importance of prayer and the need to develop leaders within the context of the current church and not the church of the past.

“We need to raise up strong, aggressive, entrepreneurial pastors and church leaders,” said Myers.



**Wesleyans urged to implement an urban focus**

Urban evangelism took center stage at Sunday night's rally at The Wesleyan Church's 12th General Conference. Music by the Kentwood Community Church (Kentwood, MI) praise team mixed worship and urban music in praise to Christ.

Gabriel and Jeanette Salguero, senior pastors of the multi-cultural Lamb's Church in New York City, called Wesleyans to go into the cities and communicate the gospel. Rev. Gabriel Salguero asked the question: "How dare we not love the people who God loves?" The son of a teenage drug addict—who was abused by his kindergarten teacher—said, "God is in the business of redeeming people and things that most people wouldn't want to touch."

Over two hundred ministers with 40-50 years of service in The Wesleyan Church (pictured) were awarded medals and stood in recognition during the Sunday evening rally and received the grateful appreciation of the assembly.



**Restructuring vote clears way for changes**

During the quadrennium, the General Superintendents and General Board had focused on possibilities for restructuring the Church at the general, district, and local levels in ways that would heighten accountability and enhance the alignment of leaders in achieving the mission of the Church. At the General Church level, a memorial to adopt a "one General Superintendent with four Executive Directors" plan was adopted. The four divisions created by the restructuring are: Church Multiplication and Discipleship, Communication and Administration, Education and Clergy Development, and Global Partners.



**Dr. Jo Anne Lyon elected General Superintendent**

By a strong majority (69-31 percent), Dr. Jo Anne Lyon was elected the sole General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church. Delegates used an "open ballot" on which any name could be placed.

Responding to her election, she challenged the Church. "We have all been elected today to carry forth the great challenge that has been placed before us." Dr. Lyon also re-affirmed the Church's core beliefs by leading the Conference in reciting the Apostles' Creed and in singing *The Solid Rock*.

Executive directors were elected for each division: Jim Dunn (Church Multiplication and Discipleship), Wayne MacBeth (Communication and Administration), Russ Gunsalus (Education and Clergy Development), and Dennis Jackson (Global Partners). Meet the new executive directors at [www.wesleyan.org](http://www.wesleyan.org)

**GENERAL BOARD MEMBERS  
2012-2016**

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Kyle Ray  
Mark O. Wilson

*Lay*  
Martha Blackburn  
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*Lay*  
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Phillip Farrell  
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Jo Anne Lyon

**Advisory:**

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Russ Gunsalus  
Dennis Jackson  
Wayne MacBeth

Mark Gorveatte  
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Henry L. Smith  
Todd S. Voss

## Native ceremony highlights Tuesday Conference session

Wesleyan Natives from the Dakota District presented General Conference attendees with a meaningful glimpse into their customs as well as their faith.

Rev. Larry “Plenty Star” Salway, co-pastor with his wife, Dale, of the fast-growing He Sapa New Life (Wesleyan) Church in Black Hawk, South Dakota, gave the devotional message for the Tuesday morning session of the 12th General Conference.

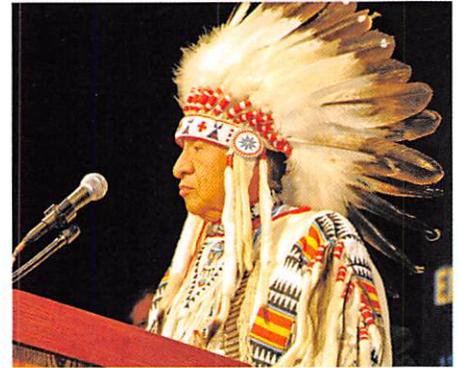
Rev. Salway understands the importance of WNM’s existence—and the deep need to communicate Jesus’ hope among His people. He said the unemployment rate on many reservations is 95 percent. Approximately 60 percent of homes located on reservations have no running water or electricity. The high school graduation rate is 60 percent, and the infant mortality rate is 300 percent greater than the U.S. average.

“This is where God has called us to labor—to minister to our own people,” he

said. “God is restoring the honor of our culture. Our dignity has been restored, and healing and restoration are in process.” Reservations in New Mexico, Arizona, New York, and South Dakota have people continually placing their faith in Christ.

“The prayers, investment, and labors of Wesleyans in Native Ministries has been held in God’s hands for 70 years,” Salway said, “and now the fruit of those prayers is being poured out in an abundant harvest!”

Before official business of the day began, General Superintendent Dr. Jerry Pence presented a lifetime achievement award to Dr. Jerry Yellowhawk, a Wesleyan Native leader and respected elder, who placed his faith in Christ in 1953, at age 18. Along with his service as district superintendent of the Wesleyan Native District, he has also assisted Wycliffe Bible Translators in providing a version in his native Lakota language. In 1955, Oklahoma Wesleyan University conferred a Doctorate of Divinity to



Yellowhawk. Dr. Yellowhawk is retired now, but is still influencing others to answer the call to minister.

One of the most emotional moments of the conference took place when Dr. Jerry Pence, speaking on behalf of The Wesleyan Church, praised Dr. Yellowhawk’s life and ministry and officially apologized for some of the more insensitive policies and actions toward Native peoples in decades long ago (in Dr. Yellowhawk’s early life). This resulted in the most sustained standing ovation of the conference, with tears in the eyes of many.

## Highlights of memorials approved by General Conference 2012

- Adopted a one General Superintendent and four division model of General Church leadership.
- Strengthened the Church’s statement on family violence and desertion.
- Removed “secretary” as a position that must be elected by the General Conference.
- Specified that the district superintendent will chair district conference in the General Superintendent’s (GS) absence, unless another GS-appointed representative is present.
- Removed term limits for LBA (Local Board of Administration) members.
- Gave pastors the choice to nominate the vice-chair, elected by LBA.
- Established LBA as body to focus on mission clarity, policy, goals, evaluation, and accountability, while pastor and staff focus on leadership and management.
- Encouraged diversity of geographical, ethnic, and gender constituency on all district boards and committees.
- Elected H. C. Wilson as General Superintendent Emeritus.
- Allowed for a GS appointee (preferably a former GS) to preside over services of ordination/commissioning.
- Called on The Wesleyan Church, in any country where we have standing and influence, to defend traditional, natural, and biblical definition of marriage as the God-ordained union of one man and one woman.

*To view a complete list of memorials acted upon by General Conference, visit [www.wesleyan.org/gc](http://www.wesleyan.org/gc)*

View archived videos of General Conference worship and business sessions on The Wesleyan Church’s YouTube channel:

[www.youtube.com/wesleyanhq](http://www.youtube.com/wesleyanhq)

## Retiring and transitioning officers honored

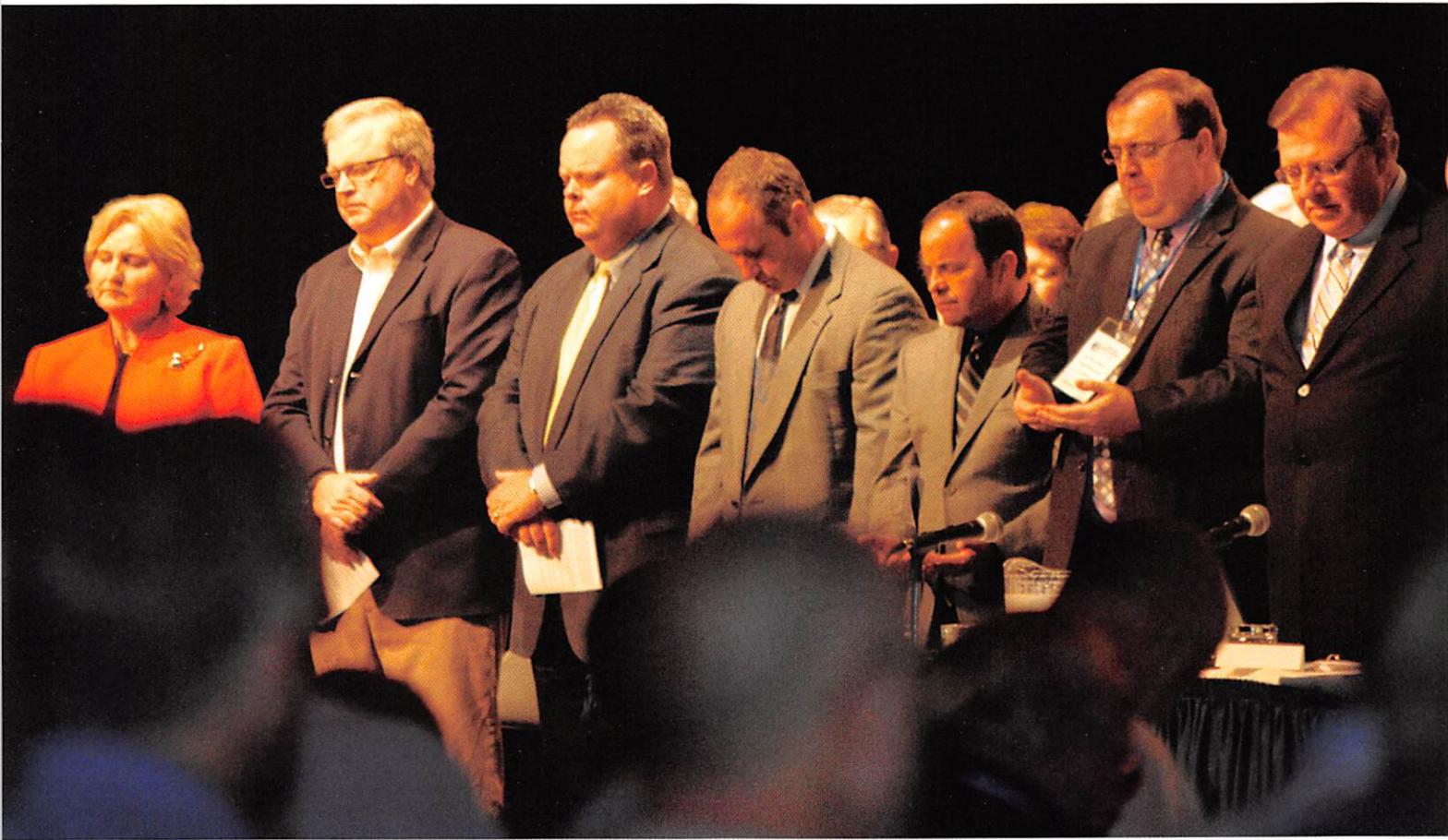
Newly elected General Superintendent Dr. Jo Anne Lyon invited five general officers of The Wesleyan Church who retired or transitioned from their positions at the rise of General Conference 2012. Dr. Lyon recalled incidents in their lives which have contributed to their rise to leadership in the Church. Officers include: Mrs. Martha Blackburn; Dr. Ronald D. Kelly; Dr. Kerry D. Kind; Dr. Jerry G. Pence; and Dr. H. C. Wilson.

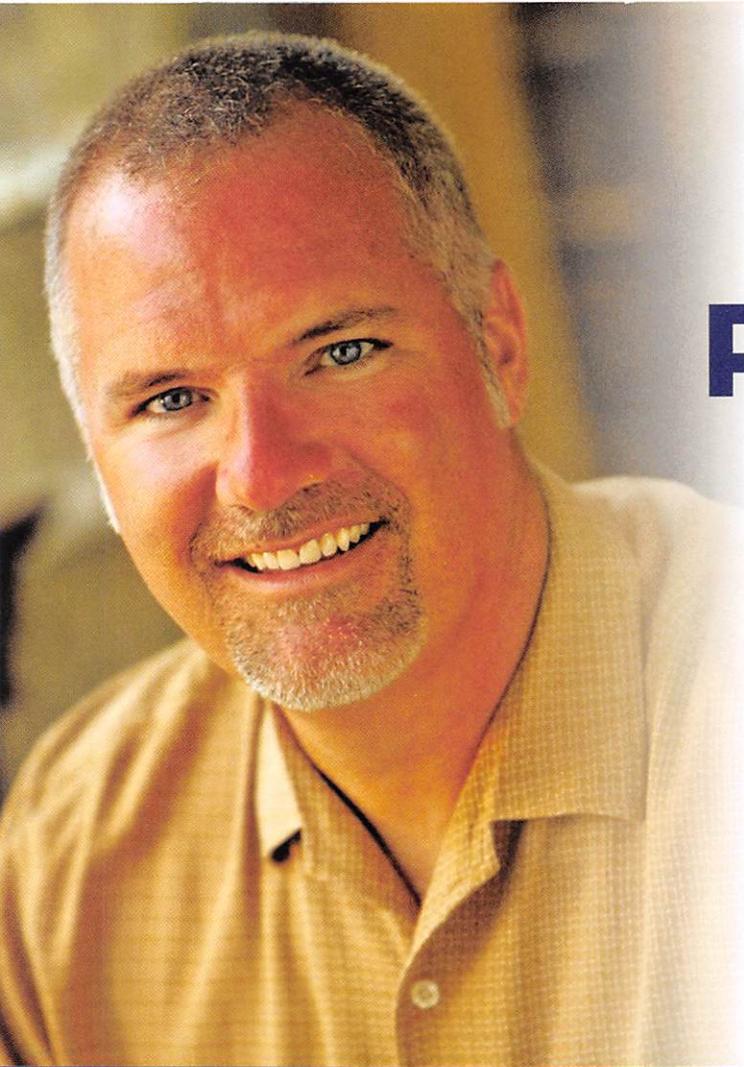


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# Murphy Named Houghton Pastor of the Year

**H**oughton College has presented the Claude A. Ries Pastor of the Year Award to Rev. Ken Murphy. This award was established in 1968 to recognize significant contributions to pastoral ministry and to honor a person who models the highest ideals of pastoral scholarship and leadership.

Rev. Murphy is senior pastor of Cypress Wesleyan Church in Columbus, Ohio. He has proven his passion for reaching the lost and his commitment to insightful and relevant Bible teaching through Cypress Wesleyan's many creative services, worship, and sports and children's ministries. These programs have set Cypress Wesleyan apart as a teaching church for other congregations to model.

Murphy attended both Oral Roberts University and Asbury Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Serena, have been married for 20 years and have three boys: Jackson, Mac, and Peyton. ●

—Elizabeth Larter

## God Kept His Promise *continued*

Then God began to whisper to my heart, "Sarah, you promised to give me this money. I will keep my promise to you. You need to keep your promise to me." I ignored Him for two months, but finally my heart was so convicted that I sat down and wrote out a check for the entire amount I had withheld from my faith promise. I put the check in the envelope, licked it, and said sarcastically, "Okay, Lord. Are you happy now?"

Then I packed up my four children and headed to the grocery store to buy groceries for a week—with only \$54. As we were on the way out the door, the phone rang. I noticed it was my mother calling, and I answered the phone. She said, "Honey, Dad and I just cashed in our change jars. Do you need a few extra bucks this week?" When I received the money, it was exactly the amount of the check I had just written for my faith promise! God had proven to me that He was going to provide.

## God Keeps Blessing

Over the past two years, there have been many other such incidents. On one week

when my paycheck was especially low, I turned in my faith promise as usual. That evening at work, a lovely red-haired lady come up to me, gave me a hug, and put something in my hands. She said, "Jesus told me to give this to you." It was an amount of money equal to the check I had turned in that morning at church.

Last year at Christmastime, a friend from high school called and said she was cleaning out her pantry. "Could you use some extra groceries?" she wondered. She gave us five paper bags full of pantry items. After she left, I found a Christmas card in the bag from her mother containing \$200.

The most recent experience was a couple months ago. Our house needed some major plumbing work, which would require quite a bit of money to be paid in advance. Like many people these days, we don't have a lot of unspent money lying around. However, God provided again. We received a most unexpected gift that was four times the amount of my faith promise for 2011. The most incredible thing about the gift is that

we received it before we actually realized we needed it!

## Now I Know

Three years ago, I was afraid to take God at His Word when He asked me to be faithful. King David told his son, Solomon, in 1 Chronicles 28:20, "Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished."

God tells us in Isaiah 41:13, "For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you."

As for me, I am no longer afraid to follow God in obedience in the area of finances. I no longer hope that God will take care of our family; I expect He will do it. ●

—Sarah Pyle is a stay-at-home mom who works part-time in the food industry in Kokomo, Ind. Sarah, her husband, and their children attend Trinity Wesleyan Church in Kokomo.



HOUGHTON PRESIDENT

# Joins Pledge AGAINST Global Poverty

**H**oughton College President Dr. Shirley Mullen was one of the initial signers of the Presidents' Pledge Against Global Poverty. She joins other current, former, and emeritus presidents throughout higher education in this initiative.

The Presidents' Pledge is an effort to create social change by leveraging the power of philanthropy and the role of higher education in addressing key issues and advancing human knowledge. Presidents who participate in The Presidents' Pledge commit to give 5 percent or more of their personal income to combat poverty in

U.S. communities and around the world. The project is directed by Ann M. Svennungsen, past president of Texas Lutheran University.

Dr. Mullen noted, "This commitment is motivated both by my own personal experiences in Sierra Leone over the past several years, as well as by Houghton College's historic commitment as an institution of The Wesleyan Church to a large vision of God's redemptive purposes in the world." •

—Danielle Brenon

## Southern Wesleyan Receives \$500,000 Gift

Southern Wesleyan University (SWU) has received a \$500,000 gift toward the construction of a future student and community center. The gift, from an anonymous donor, is timely, as SWU is considering the need to expand in academics, student life, and athletic facilities. University President Dr. Todd Voss said, "This gift will provide the impetus for us to start planning for the near future like never before."

## Church and University Volunteers Clean Up after Flood

During Easter break from Kingswood University in Sussex, N.B., a busload of 45 volunteer students and members of Sussex Wesleyan Church traveled to Perth-Andover, N.B., to help with cleanup after the Saint John River overflowed its banks. The incident was the worst flood in Perth-Andover's recent history. Over 500 residents were evacuated from their homes in March, and approximately \$25 million worth of damages occurred.

## Oklahoma Wesleyan Initiates Criminal Justice Program

A new criminal justice program focused on law enforcement is being offered at Oklahoma Wesleyan University. According to Eric Peterson, assistant professor of criminal justice, "The primary precept behind the entire developmental process is to develop a criminal justice program that balances academic theory with practical professional application from an unapologetic Christian worldview and biblical perspective."

—Andrea Ratzlaff

## Indiana Wesleyan Dedicates Cornerstone for Seminary Building

Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) dedicated the cornerstone for the Wesley Seminary at IWU building on April 12. The ceremony was held at the construction site near the Washington Street entrance to the campus in Marion, Ind.

Dr. Jo Anne Lyon and Dr. Jerry Pence, General Superintendents of The Wesleyan Church, participated in the ceremony, along with two other denominational leaders including Rev. Alfredo Barreno, director of Hispanic Ministries, and Dr. Kerry Kind, General Director of the Department of Education and the Ministry. Construction started earlier this spring on the \$7 million building, which will be completed before the start of fall 2013 classes.

—Alan Miller



## High Point First Volunteers Wash Citizens' Feet

More than 400 parents, students, and staff from Wesleyan Christian Academy (WCA) in High Point, N.C., served their community on March 3 as some 1,000 children, teens, and adults arrived at the school in hopes of receiving a free pair of tennis shoes.

The event was sponsored in cooperation with Samaritan's Feet, a non-profit humanitarian organization focuses on serving 3.5 million impoverished children and adults around the globe by washing feet, giving new pairs of shoes, and communicating a message of hope.

WCA volunteers distributed shoes, washed the feet of those in need, encouraged those in need, and prayed with them.



## Spring Lake Church Reads New Testament Together

Members of a West Michigan District church read the entire New Testament together in eight weeks.

Spring Lake Wesleyan Church in Spring Lake, Mich., used Community

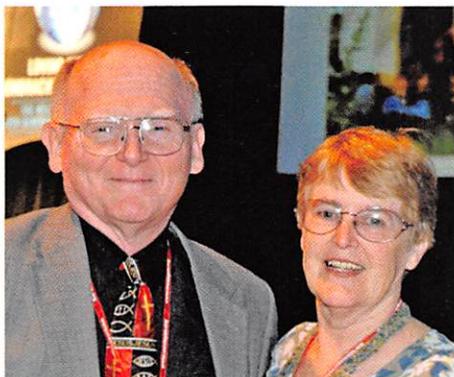
Bible Experience by Biblica (formerly International Bible Society) as a reading and study guide. Approximately 900 people—including students and inmates involved in the church's prison

ministry—participated. The church averages 1,300 in worship attendance, and Rev. Dan Ward, community life pastor, was pleased with the involvement.

## Cockerill Unveils New Standard Commentary on Hebrews

Until the early 1990s, F. F. Bruce's Bible commentary on the book of Hebrews was considered the standard writing on that New Testament letter. Dr. Gareth Lee Cockerill, professor of New Testament and biblical theology at Wesley Biblical Seminary in Jackson, Miss., has written the replacement commentary, which is included in the prestigious New International Commentary on the New Testament series.

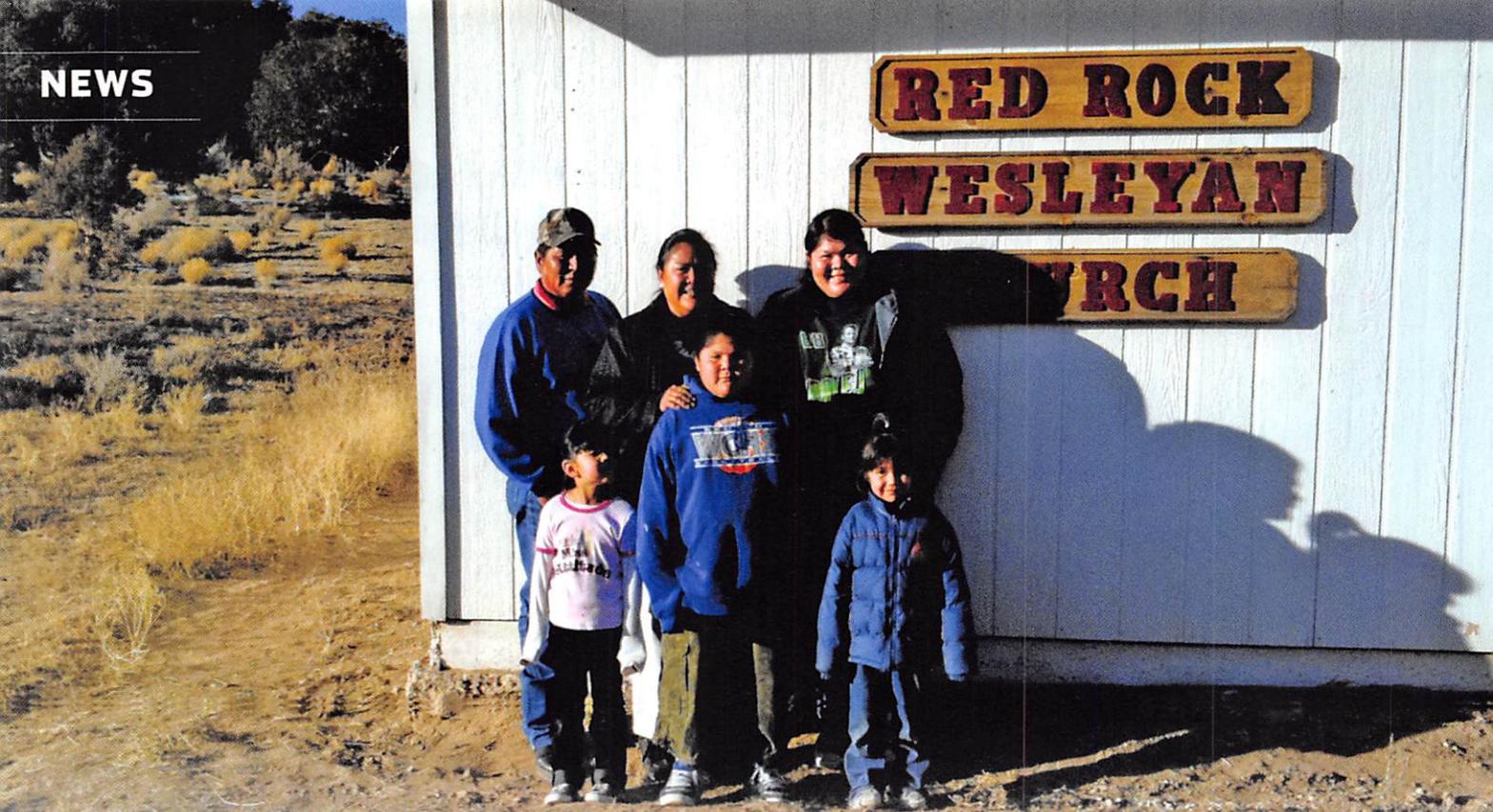
The commentary, titled *The Epistle to the Hebrews*, is available at Wesleyan Publishing House Online ([www.wesleyan.org/wph](http://www.wesleyan.org/wph)).



According to the book's publisher, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., "This commentary by Gareth Lee Cockerill offers fresh insight into the Epistle to the Hebrews, a well-constructed sermon

that encourages its hearers to persevere despite persecution and hardships in light of Christ's unique sufficiency as Savior."

Dr. Cockerill is an ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church and a member of the Shenandoah District. He has been on the faculty of Wesley Biblical Seminary since 1984. Prior to that he was a missionary with Global Partners in Sierra Leone, Africa, serving with his wife, Rosa, where they served in evangelism, teaching, administration, and medical ministries. The Cockerills have three adult daughters, two sons-in-law, and two grandchildren. •



## Wesleyan Native Pastor Will Have NEW HOME

Wesleyans across North America have responded overwhelmingly to assist a Native pastor in need of a handicapped accessible home. Two years ago, Rev. Darwin Tsosie (pronounced So-see) and his family were involved in a serious car accident that injured several and left their 19-year old son, Titus (pictured), paralyzed from the waist down.

Rev. Tsosie and his wife, Ann, brought their wheelchair-bound son home after several months of rehabilitation to the house where they have lived for over twenty years of their ministry. The family has struggled to adapt because their home is not handicap accessible and has no running water or indoor facilities. Maneuvering the wheelchair through the small home on the Navajo Nation near Jeddito, Ariz., has been difficult.

For a number of years some Wesleyans have thought it imperative for the Tsosies to have a new home, and the process finally began after the car accident. Just months after the 2010 incident, students and alumni from the FLAME (Fellowship of Leaders Acquiring Ministerial Education) program traveled to Red Rock Wesleyan Church, where Rev. Tsosie serves, to help in various capacities. They caught the vision for building a new home for Rev. Tsosie, who was awarded the Orval C. Butcher Outstanding Pastor Award in 2011 by the Pacific Southwest District of The Wesleyan Church.

Wesleyan Native Ministries, a subsidiary of The Wesleyan Church, set the goal of \$125,000 needed to build the home. So far, \$153,000 has been raised to build the manufactured home. The home will be modified to make it handicap accessible. Donations continue to accumulate, which will also be used to help furnish the home and defray maintenance and utility costs.

## Wesleyan Church Planters Gather at Exponential

Over 40 Wesleyan leaders from nine districts joined over 3,000 other church planting leaders at the Exponential Conference in Orlando, Fla., April 23–26. Described as “the largest gathering of church planting leaders on the planet,” the conference brought leaders together around the theme *Sifted*. The conference focused on the inner life and character of church planters. According to Dr. Tim Roehl, former director of church renewal and multiplication for The Wesleyan Church, “Over 150 workshops and numerous opportunities to network made Exponential a key event for missional leaders.”

**Berry, Beatrice (83)**

Beatrice "Bea" Berry lived in Rice Lake, Wis., at the time of her death. Beatrice attended college at Miltonvale Wesleyan Academy in Miltonvale, Kans., and served as a pastor's wife with Rev. Donald Berry, who survives. She and her husband (an ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church) pastored churches in Kansas, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. Other survivors include four daughters, a son, 13 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, two sisters, a brother, and many nieces and nephews.

**Ellis, Dr. Lois Sheridan (88)**

Lois Sheridan Ellis lived in Pickens, S.C., at the time of her death. Dr. Ellis was a retired professor emeritus of nursing education at Indiana Wesleyan University where she taught for 23 years. She had previously served from 1953-1970 as a medical missionary to Sierra Leone, Africa where she was a great encouragement to the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone. She labored alongside her husband, Dr. Malcolm Ellis, also an emeritus faculty member at IWU, both in the classroom and in pastoral ministry. She is survived by her husband, one daughter, one son, four grandchildren, one brother, one sister, and several nieces and nephews.

**Fookes, Helen (96)**

Helen Fookes lived in New Brighton, Minn., at the time of her death. She was married to Pastor Albert R. Fookes, an ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church, and he preceded her in death. She is survived by one daughter, two sons, three grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

**Hackman, Rev. Edward (82)**

Rev. Edward Hackman lived in Mansfield, Ohio, at the time of his death. He was an ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church and served in churches in Ohio. He also served as an evangelist. Rev. Hackman was preceded in death by his first wife, Ruth. He is survived by his wife, Anna, two sons and one daughter, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

**Harvey, Rev. F. Lyle (88)**

Rev. Fenton Lyle Harvey lived in Browns Flat, N.B., at the time of his death. An ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church, Rev. Harvey served in World War II in the First Canadian Armored Brigade. The Bethany Bible College (now Kingswood University) graduate pastored churches in both Eastern Canada and the United States. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, and his first wife, Lois. Survivors include his wife, Gwenda, three sons, one daughter, two stepsons, a sister, nine grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

**Hill, Dr. Fred W. (80)**

Dr. Fred W. Hill lived in Kernersville, N.C., at the time of his death. An ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church, he pastored several Wesleyan churches in 50 years. Survivors include his wife, Doris, one son, one daughter, two brothers, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

**Holland, Rev. Charles (95)**

Rev. Charles Holland lived in Marlton, N.J., at the time of his death. An ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church, he served in ministry for 42 years, including pastorates in Pennsylvania and Maryland. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ethel, and four brothers. Rev. Holland is survived by one son.

**Hudson, Cheryl (73)**

Cheryl Hudson lived in Cornwall, Prince Edward Island, Canada, at the time of her death. A graduate of Bethany Bible College (now Kingswood University), and also a trained nurse, she and her husband, Gene, served as missionaries in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and South Africa from 1962-1978. They returned to Canada to give many years of service in pastoral ministry in The Wesleyan Church. She was preceded in death by a brother and sister. Survivors include her husband, two sons, three daughters, and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

**Jeffries, Charlotte (90)**

Charlotte Jeffries lived in Westerville, Ohio, at the time of her death. She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Rev. Walter Jeffries, an ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church and former district superintendent of the Ohio District. A graduate of Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University), she was preceded in death by one daughter and one son. She is survived by one sister, one brother, and three grandchildren.

**Knupp, Rev. Clarence J. (93)**

Rev. Clarence J. Knupp lived in Youngstown, Ariz., at the time of his death. An ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church, Rev. Knupp and Milly, his wife of 65 years, began serving with the Pilgrim Holiness Church. He pastored churches in Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio, and later they became missionaries to British Guiana (now Guyana), Dutch Guiana (now Suriname), and various Caribbean islands. Milly preceded him in death, as did two great-grandchildren. Survivors include four sons, one daughter, 13 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

## OBITUARIES

### **LaCelle, Paul (82)**

Paul LaCelle lived in Rochester, N.Y., at the time of his death. A veteran of the United States Navy, he served in the Korean War and was a University of Rochester Medical Center faculty member for more than 40 years. He was a graduate of Houghton College and a long-time member of the college's board. He was preceded in death by his wife, June. Survivors include two sons, two daughters, five grandchildren, two sisters, and two brothers.

### **Lee, Rev. Gladys (92)**

Rev. Gladys "Fern" Lee lived in Wilsonville, Ore., at the time of her death. An ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church, Rev. Lee graduated as valedictorian from Holiness Bible College, now Oklahoma Wesleyan University. She married Thomas E. Lee and served alongside him in ministry for many years. She was preceded in death by her husband and a sister. Survivors include two sons, two daughters, nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

### **Massey, Rev. W. Albert (94)**

Rev. Walter Albert Massey lived in Staunton, Va., at the time of his death. A graduate of Allentown Bible Institute, Rev. Massey pastored Wesleyan churches in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. He also served as district superintendent of the Virginia District of the Pilgrim Holiness (now Wesleyan) Church for ten years. His wife, Louise, three sisters, and five brothers preceded him in death. Survivors include two sons, a daughter, two sisters, three grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

### **Meeks, Rev. Elvin (97)**

Rev. Elvin "Tommy" Meeks lived in Marion, Ind., at the time of his death. An ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church, he served many years as both a pastor and district superintendent. His wife, Martha, preceded him in death as did a son and eight siblings. He is survived by three daughters, two sons, 19 grandchildren and many great and great-great-grandchildren.

### **Miller, Rev. Floyd (87)**

Rev. Floyd Miller lived in Thomasville, N.C., at the time of his death. An ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church, Rev. Miller spent 40 years in ministry and served in the United States Navy for four years. He pastored churches in both the North Carolina East and West districts and was a member of Archdale Wesleyan Church in Archdale, N.C. He is survived by his wife, Marie, one son, one daughter, a sister, five grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

### **Roehrig, Rev. John (73)**

Rev. John Roehrig lived in Corning, N.Y., at the time of his death. An ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church, he was a member of Shady Grove Wesleyan Church in Corning. He pastored churches in Pennsylvania and most recently served as a part-time supply pastor at Sunshine Valley Wesleyan Church in Windsor, N.Y. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, five daughters, one son, fifteen grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, one brother, one sister, and several nieces and nephews.

### **Schenck, Melvin Lee (87)**

Melvin Lee Schenck lived in Lakeland, Fla., at the time of his death. A World War II veteran, he served as an emeritus board member of Southern Wesleyan University and was a member of Faith Wesleyan Church in Lakeland. Mr. Schenck also served as Florida District treasurer for 30 years. He is survived by Helen, his wife of 64 years, four daughters, one son, 12 grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, one brother, and a sister.

### **Tice, Rev. Robert (84)**

Rev. Robert Tice lived in Scotia, N.Y., at the time of his death. An ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church, he was a World War II and Korean War veteran. He pastored fourteen churches in five states in over 50 years. Rev. Tice also held several district positions. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lois, two brothers, and one sister. He is survived by four daughters, two sisters, and several grandchildren.

### **Twining, Lorin Emerson Rev. (82)**

Rev. L. Emerson Twining lived in Johnston, R.I., at the time of his death. An ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church, he pastored churches in New York and Virginia. He was preceded in death by two brothers and is survived by his wife, Rita, and one son.

### **Wilson, Rev. Ted (81)**

Rev. Ted Wilson lived in Marion, Ind., at the time of his death. He was an ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church and pastored in the denomination for more than 50 years. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Rev. Velma Bryant Wilson, one son, two daughters, four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, two brothers, and one sister.



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# wesleyan life

THE MAGAZINE OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

The New  
Hope in  
Brooklyn

Miracle  
of the  
Fleece

Mystery  
of Divine  
Healing

## SIA'S NEW LIFE

How she was  
transformed.

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**NICKIE HEERSCHAP**  
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# Featured



06

**The New Hope In Brooklyn**



16

**Global Prayer Impact**



28

**Mystery Of Divine Healing**

Editor's Note 04

**VISION**



Outward & Upward 05

Global Prayer Impact 16

**STORY**



The New Hope In Brooklyn 06

Miracle Of The Fleece 08

Filled Up, Poured Out 18

Mystery Of Divine Healing 28

Through Dust And Diesel 30

**TEACHING**



What God Waits For 25

Hearing God 26

**FEATURED**



Sia's New Life 11

**NEWS**



News & Information 21

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**Editor** Wayne MacBeth  
**Managing Editor** Kerry Kind  
**Assistant Editor** Tricia Rife  
**Creative Director** Kory Pence  
**Publisher** Donald D. Cady

**Contributors**

Kathy Bence  
 Anthony Graham  
 Dennis Jackson  
 Jim Lo  
 Jo Anne Lyon  
 Mark Wilson  
 Chris Whonsetler (whonphoto.com, p10-12, 21)  
 Luke Anspach (lukeanspach.com, illustration p18)

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**Correspondence**

For change of address give both old and new addresses. Address all editorial and advertising correspondence, subscriptions, and change of address to:

**Mailing Address**

Wesleyan Life  
 P.O. Box 50434  
 Indianapolis, IN  
 46250-0434

**Physical Address**

The Wesleyan Church  
 13300 Olio Road  
 Fishers, IN 46037  
 Tel: 317.774.7907  
 Fax: 317.774.3924

[www.wesleyan.org](http://www.wesleyan.org)

[communications@wesleyan.org](mailto:communications@wesleyan.org)



## THE PRIVILEGE & THE POWER PRAYER IS AMAZING.

I am not referring to answers to prayer, although I have seen many. Rather, I mean that prayer is a vehicle to have a conversation with almighty God. You and I have the privilege of connecting directly to the Master of the universe, to the Creator of all things.

As a Christian for many years, I pray daily and often. As a human, I have become so familiar with this spiritual discipline that I easily forget to be in awe over what it represents. God himself is willing to hear my thoughts and cares so much about the details of my life and family that he promises to hear and to respond. This one who deals with billions of people is so interested in me (and you) that he listens and responds to my daily prayers.

As you read this issue of *Wesleyan Life* about the transforming power of prayer, may God renew a sense of awe within you for the privilege and the power of prayer he grants to us.

In addition to the numerous updates on design, layout, and new size of *Wesleyan Life*, you may notice QR codes and suggestions for online links to more information about the news, events, and life of The Wesleyan Church. One new feature of *Wesleyan Life* is the interactive magazine available for download at [WPHeBooks.com](http://WPHeBooks.com) that will include additional articles, videos, and interviews. Thanks for sharing *Wesleyan Life* with others in your church family.

### Wayne MacBeth

Executive Director  
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# Outward & Upward

Jo Anne Lyon

**I never pray enough.  
I must not be using  
the right method.  
I don't know what  
words to say.**

**W**hen the topic of prayer is mentioned, these thoughts flood the mind. Shame plays tricks on us. Blame causes avoidance. In a mode of guilt, we delay our response to the outstretched hand of love from our Lord who invites us to quiet ourselves for a while and listen to him. He longs to continue his renewing work in us that will transform us as well as our communities and cultures.

The first work of the executive cabinet after General Conference was to come together for a 24-hour prayer retreat. We did not study prayer or just talk about it—we prayed! We had times of solitude—simply listening to God, we had times of sharing what God was saying, and we had times of celebration. We prayed for each other and we agreed in prayer for the future of The Wesleyan Church. Following our time together I was reminded of the words of Richard Foster: “To pray is to change. Prayer is the central avenue God uses to transform us. If we are unwilling to change, we will abandon prayer as a noticeable characteristic of our lives.” We left our time together changed.

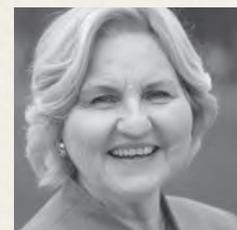
As I met with the district conferences in North America, I repeatedly heard reports of prayer initiatives by districts and local churches. Powerful

testimonies of transformed lives accompanied the reports. I realized again the words of Jesus to his disciples, “This kind can come out only by prayer” (Mark 9:29 NIV).

As you read these pages you will be encouraged with the marvelous things God is doing through his people. But we believe he wants to do even more as we commit ourselves to him in prayer. Many times, prayer and actions have been separated but they are so interdependent. Frank Laubach, the great teacher of prayer, shared about his experience of sitting on a hilltop in the Philippines, feeling futile and frustrated. In his agony, the Holy Spirit broke over him in a way that he had never known. In that moment he made a commitment to God for a life of prayer. He said, “And I added another resolve—to be as wide open towards people and their need as I am towards God. Windows open outward as well as upward.” The results of his life of prayer are seen around the world in transformed lives and nations and continue on today.

I am challenged anew by this resolve and invite you to join globally as a prayer movement “outward and upward.”

— Jo Anne Lyon is General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church.



The ***New Hope*** in

# BROOKLYN

Anthony Graham



## Prayer changes us, and moves us...

*From the very inception of New Hope Family Worship Center in inner city Brooklyn, New York, twenty-two years ago, we realized that we would have to depend completely upon our heavenly Father.*

**THE TWELVE** of us who planted this multicultural ministry would deeply rely upon prayer.

We have been “beseeching the Lord” (Ex 32:11), “pouring out [our] souls before the Lord” (1Sa 1:15). We have been “crying to heaven” (2Ch 32:20), “drawing near to God” (Ps 73:28), and often “bowing the knees” (Eph 3:14, all KJV).

Prayer is an indication of our faith in the reality of a personal God who hears us and cares about us, a God who acts with infinite wisdom and is sovereign over all that he has created. Prayer is God’s appointed method through which he relates to us and acts on our behalf.

Prayer requires our conscious decision to be in God’s presence: waiting, listening, and talking. If we want the work of God to go forth in power and bear fruit, we must pray.

There have been numerous instances within our church when God was clearly answering specific prayers. One of those instances was when we desired to purchase our current church building.

One morning eleven years ago, I rose quite early for prayer as is my custom. I felt a heavy burden, because New Hope needed a large sum of money quickly if we were to purchase the building that we believed was the right location for our future. Twenty-five percent of the purchase price was \$45,000 and this was an enormous sum to us. I remember praying earnestly and asking the Lord to show us the way. The Lord said to me so clearly, “Write a letter to this particular pastor and ask him for help.” This dear Wesleyan pastor invited me to his church and blessed New Hope with \$45,000. It was exactly what was needed, and then this very church began sending work teams to assist us in the preparation of the building for occupancy.

On another occasion, one of our people brought her son to the church, because only God could fix his problem. Doctors had diagnosed a hole in the boy’s heart. It was very serious. He was anointed in our service and all the church prayed for him. Our almighty God chose to answer our prayer in that moment and the child was wonderfully healed.

When the mother returned to the doctor with the boy, further tests showed that the hole could no longer be found. Our God still heals and delivers!

New Hope is a praying congregation. Five days a week, we have prayer assemblies at 5 a.m., 8 a.m., and noon. In addition, there are evening prayers on Wednesdays and Fridays. New Hope has always made prayer the foundation of all we do, and God is working. All praise is to him as our Sunday attendance is now over 650 and we have planted three daughter congregations in our area of the city.

Through prayer, God has directed us to engage in many ministries to help people. Every day our church is reaching out with food and clothing to the needy, education programs to lift people up, substance abuse programs, evangelism, and just prayer and love to our entire community. On one occasion, we gave away 1,000 book bags filled

with school supplies for struggling families. We help people with hundreds of overcoats every winter. At Christmas time, great numbers of toys are presented to children in our community. These

and many more actions are powerfully driven by the prayers of our church family.

Prayer changes us and moves us and brings responses from God. We find that we can’t just talk about prayer. We must really pray, be broken, and then God empowers us to be the church.

– Anthony Graham is lead pastor at New Hope Family Worship Center in Brooklyn, N.Y.

*Prayer is an indication of our faith in the reality of a personal God...*

# MIRACLE *of the* FLEECE

In June, 2012, the Greater Ohio District youth camp was in the midst of a great week when tragedy struck.



*Doctors had recommended withdrawal of life support for Steve Tromm*

**S**teve Tromm from Dayspring Wesleyan Church in Marion, Ohio, was a much-loved counselor at the camp. Suddenly, 48-year-old Steve was felled by a massive heart attack. In spite of quick action by camp nurses who administered CPR and rapid arrival by medical teams who eventually “life-flighted” Steve to Cincinnati, the situation was very grave.

For several weeks, Steve did not regain consciousness and was only maintained by life-support. Many people in his church, across the district, and elsewhere had prayed for God’s help. Finally, the neurologist and other physicians concluded there was no hope and advised the family that there was significant brain damage, major organs were ceasing to function, and they should be prepared to let Steve go.

Dr. David Holdren, former General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church, is the beloved pastor of Dayspring Church. He was working in the narrow crawl space under his home when his cell phone rang, and for a quick moment, he thought about not answering it, but felt checked by the Holy Spirit. It was Steve’s brother Bill, with the news that the doctors were saying that the life-support machines could be turned off. His forlorn question: What should they do?

Dave tried to comfort Bill and the other family members, all the time praying fervently within his own heart. Finally, he offered guidance tempered by years of ministry. “Let’s wait 1-2 more days, up to 48 hours, and lay out a ‘fleece’ before the Lord,” he suggested, referring to the story of Gideon in the Old Testament in Judges 6:36-40. “Meanwhile, let’s pray urgently that if the Lord means to bring Steve back to us, he will give us some definite sign during this window of time.” They

*We put Steve into the hands of Jesus and he returned him to us.*

all agreed to this.

Imagine their joy and wonder when, the very next morning, Steve awoke from his unresponsive state and began speaking and recognizing his family and friends. Doctors could offer no explanation, but all those who had been praying knew that something supernatural had happened.

By August, Steve was attending church, first in a wheelchair, and then walking normally. Although there were a few lingering effects from the illness, his joy at being restored was a great blessing to everyone. On his first day back, a large group of friends and family accompanied him, many of whom were coming with him to church for the first time! Steve's brother Bill remarked, "The doctors gave him little to no hope. We put Steve into the hands of Jesus and he returned him to us."

Today, Dr. Holdren speaks of God's clear guidance and the importance of prayer. "We don't pray just for what God will do for us," he said. "We walk with the Lord in prayer because we love him and because he first loved and redeemed us. But we know he is a God of miracles, and one of the great mysteries is how, in his love and wisdom, he sometimes chooses to touch our lives in very tangible ways. This was the most dramatic response by God to a specific prayer that I have ever seen in my ministry. Clearly, God has more for Steve to do."

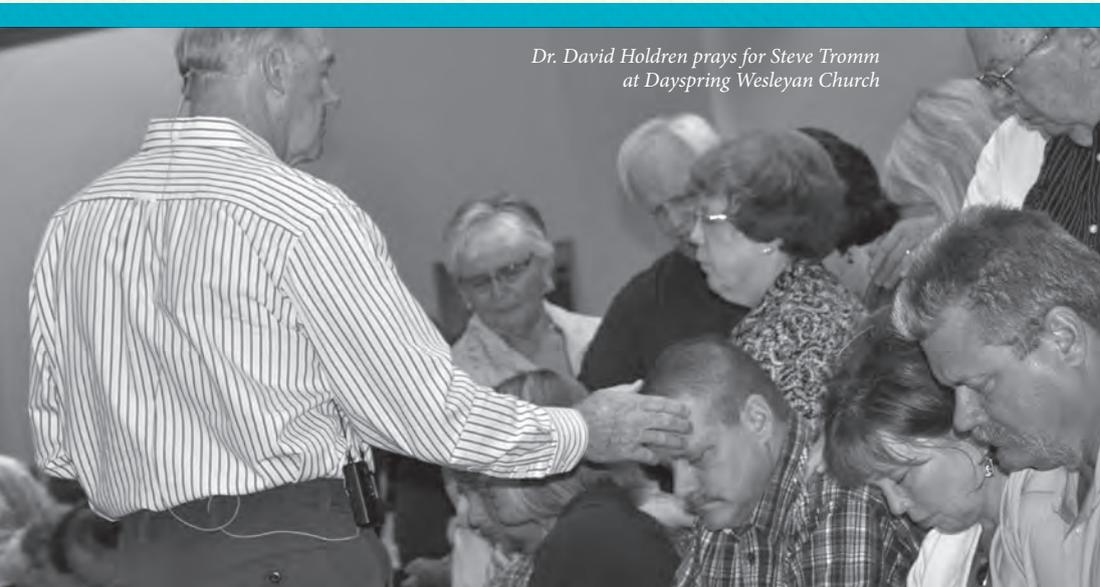
*Let's pray urgently  
that if the Lord  
means to bring Steve  
back to us, he will  
give us some definite  
sign during this  
window of time.*



From  
*John Wesley's*  
*Covenant Prayer*



Let me be employed  
for thee  
or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or  
brought low for thee.  
Let me be full,  
let me be empty.  
Let me have all things,  
let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield  
all things to thy pleasure  
and disposal.



*Dr. David Holdren prays for Steve Tromm  
at Dayspring Wesleyan Church*



# *Sia's* New Life

*A radical response to  
God's loving voice.*



**Sia M'Bayo** knew that there had to be more to life than just waking up in the morning. She had a six-year-old son. His father had died in a car accident five years before. Life was a struggle. She went to work. She paid her bills, including big medical bills for her son. She helped care for her younger brother and also her dad, who had suffered from a stroke. In the midst of all this, she began to seek a more personal relationship with God, asking him what her purpose was.

Sia (pronounced see'-yah) had the recollection, when she was a little girl, of riding to church a few times on a bus. She had developed an ongoing conversation with God then and came to know the sound of his voice in her heart. But from middle school on, her life had been pretty rough, and God had not been very much in the picture. She knew there had to be more, and by seeking Jesus Christ in the Bible and through prayer, she began to have a personal spiritual revival.

Soon, the Holy Spirit impressed upon her that she should fast and pray. During that time, a definite command stood out: "Give your next paycheck away!" What? How would she pay her bills? But there was a peace in her heart that she knew was from God, even though she was afraid.

Not knowing exactly why, Sia spent her entire paycheck on groceries, being as frugal as possible and encountering sales like she had never seen before. She took her loaded trunk to St. Martin's Community Center in her hometown of Marion, Ind. She had never been to this food pantry before and was shocked to see the shelves almost completely empty and people being turned away. Some men began to empty her trunk as Sia was greeted by Teresa Campbell, the director. Sia observed

*"Give  
your next  
paycheck  
away!"  
What?"*



*It seems wherever Sia goes, revival follows.*

something like a heavenly glow, and it was a surreal moment, as shopping carts were filled over and over from her trunk.

That was a moment that changed Sia's life. There were far more groceries in those carts and now in the food pantry than could ever have fit in her car trunk. Everyone there was confused, but then filled with wonder and then just praising God. Sia had come to trust Jesus Christ, and she had rediscovered his voice in her heart, but this was God speaking to her powerfully in another way.

For the next three months, Sia hardly had to pay a single bill. Utility meters were read and showed that she was paid up. Repeated calls to the bank revealed that "someone" had already made her house payments. Sia continued to be flabbergasted at what on earth God was up to.

She soon found out. God was asking her to begin working at the community center. She prayed about this for forty days. She had three degrees and a good government job. Now the Lord was leading her to take a lower-paying job with physical work and long hours (six days a week), working with the most needy, desperate people in the community. This was her missionary calling to become assistant director—not just in the food pantry, but with the daily lunch program serving thousands every month, a massive clothing supply operation, and all the other programs of St. Martin's.

But God was showing her that he would provide all her needs. So in obedience, she has been working at St. Martin's for the past four years. There have been dangers, threats of violent attacks, and serving in a culture that includes

prostitutes, pimps, drug addicts, and the homeless (as well as many other, but very needy people). In spite of all this, God has watched over Sia and her son and given her a tremendous ministry.

When Sia began going to area churches to tell the St. Martin's story, she happened to speak to a Sunday school class at College Wesleyan Church in Marion. Before the day was over, she knew she had found her church home. Since then she has had so many opportunities to teach and preach God's Word that she is taking FLAME classes to prepare for the ministry. Recently, Sia was leading a Bible study at a halfway house in a ministry introduced to her by Chaplain Jack Brady. She led ten people to the Lord that night, including eight of the men in the halfway house. It seems that wherever Sia goes, revival follows.

Is there more to life than waking up in the morning? Sia found out that God answers prayer, in big ways. Prayer changes things. Most of all, it changes us.

*St. Martin's Community Center, Marion, Indiana*





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English Composition/Literature  
English Literature  
Exercise Science  
Clinical  
Nonclinical  
Pre-Therapy  
Financial Economics  
General Science  
General Studies

Global Studies  
Media Design & Strategy  
Health/Physical Education (K-12)  
History  
History/Political Science  
Intercultural Studies  
Interdisciplinary Business  
Management & Leadership  
Marketing  
Mathematics  
Music  
Non-Profit Operations  
Nursing  
Pastoral Counseling  
Pastoral Ministry  
Pastoral Ministry/Biblical and Theological Studies  
Pastoral Ministry/Youth Ministry  
Pastoral Ministry/Worship Arts  
Political Science  
Psychology  
Social Sciences/Pre-Legal Emphasis  
Social Studies/History  
Sociology  
Sports Ministry  
Technical Programs  
Worship Arts  
Youth Ministry

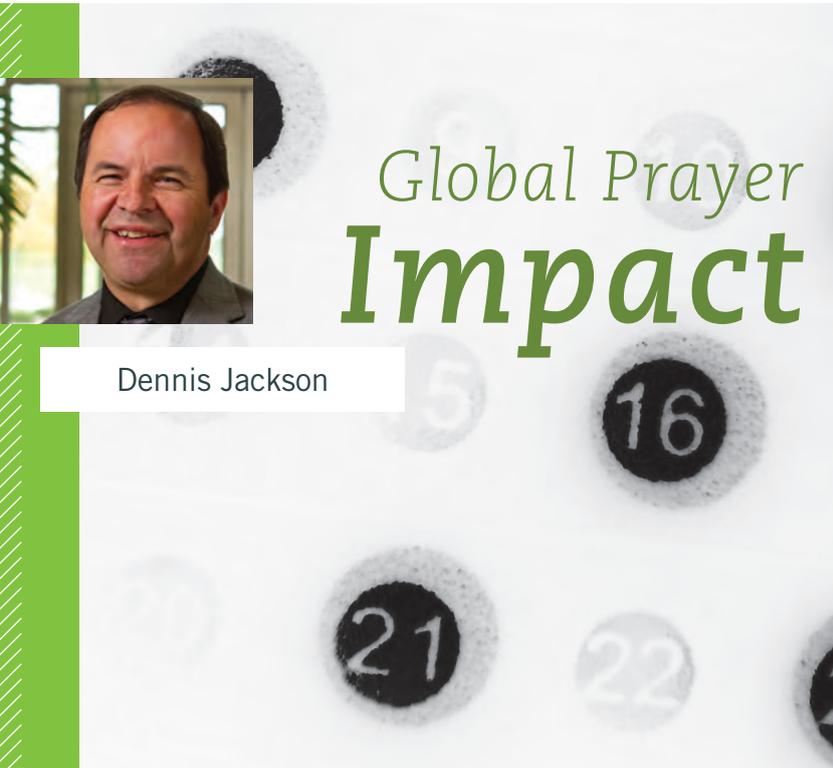
### Graduate Programs

Business Administration  
Christian Ministry  
Christian Studies  
Criminal Justice  
Early Childhood Education  
Education  
General Studies  
Human Resource Management  
Ministry and Leadership  
Nursing RN to BSN  
Organizational Management & Ethics  
Psychology Studies

## Southern Wesleyan University

[SWU.EDU](http://SWU.EDU)

Applied Computer Science  
Biology  
Biology Education  
Business Administration  
Concentration in Accounting  
Concentration in Management  
Chemistry  
Criminal Justice  
Early Childhood Education  
Early Childhood/Elementary Education  
E-commerce  
Elementary Education  
English  
English Education  
Exercise Science  
Finance and Economics  
Forensic Computer Science  
Forensic Science  
History  
Human Services  
Intercultural Studies  
Internet Computing  
Management  
Management of Information Technology  
Mathematics  
Mathematics Education  
Media Communication  
Medical Technology  
Missions  
Music  
Concentration in Church Music  
Music Education  
Physical Education  
Pre-Medicine/Pre-Dentistry  
Psychology  
Recreation, Sport, and Leisure Studies  
Concentration in Leisure Studies  
Concentration in Sports Management  
Religion  
Concentration in Bible  
Concentration in NT Greek  
Concentration in Christian Ministry  
Concentration in Children's Ministry  
Concentration in Youth Ministry  
Concentration in Sports Ministry  
Cognate in Pastoral Studies  
Social Science  
Special Education



Dennis Jackson

**F**rom Albania to Zambia God is at work in The Wesleyan Church! Prayer movements throughout Ibero-America, Europe, Asia—all over the Church—are showing results in evangelism and churches being planted. The impact of Wesleyan churches utilizing the tool of the *JESUS* film has resulted in significant numbers of new believers and churches from the Asian country of Nepal to African Mozambique to Cuba. Who would have predicted Wesleyan churches significantly impacting the country of Cuba for Christ? Even in the hard-to-reach, barrier-prone regions of Europe and predominantly Muslim areas of Asia and Africa, God is moving in powerful ways.

In each of these places God is at work, but there are very real barriers to the growth of the Church. All over the globe Wesleyan churches are addressing the barriers that require strategic initiatives in discipleship, equipping believers for ministry, educating pastors, and developing



leaders. We need all of these strategies, but strategies are not enough! We face barriers that are beyond human wisdom and practical engagement. We face off with blockages that are caused directly by the enemy of our souls. Some of his strategies in coming against us never change:

- Barriers of unbelief and false religions
- Hopelessness and despair
- Undeliverable promises of happiness from materialism and secularism

The enemy attacks the church through deception, divisions, distractions, and discouragement. Jesus made it so clear in John 10:10 – *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

So how do we experience the life-giving power of Christ? How do we see the church expand through evangelism, church planting, and the breaking down of spiritual barriers?

### **BY PRAYER...GLOBAL PRAYER.**

There are people all over the world who already pray, but what would it be like if there was a worldwide focus of prayer in The Wesleyan Church?

What if Wesleyan churches in Ghana were intensely praying for the church in Mongolia? What if Nepal prayed radically for the church-planting efforts in New Zealand? What if Colombia prayed for each of the great unreached cities of California? What if India called on God to break through barriers in Russia, and Cambodia possessed Papua New Guinea in prayer, and Spain owned Haiti, and Philippine Wesleyans pleaded with God over the brokenness of the city of Detroit, and former Islamic Karis believers took on the prayer mission of reaching Muslims in Mali?

What if Wesleyans all around the world prayed for Wesleyans all around the world? What if the established movements of prayer already in existence could share with those still in development? What if we could mutually learn how to pray with and for each other—in spite of language and cultural limitations?

What if there was a “Called 2 Pray” movement in the worldwide Wesleyan Church? John Wesley said,

# called2pray

This November the  
**Global Wesleyan Church**  
will join together in  
focused prayer.

*Join the movement!*



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“The world is my parish.” What if we Wesleyans lived out that same passion in prayer? Let’s rally around a shared vision of...Barrier Breaking Prayer that Leads to a Global Harvest of Evangelism and Church Planting.

All around the globe, The Wesleyan Church is working to see this movement happen. We recognize that unless God moves, there is no new life. Unless God moves, there is no transformation. Unless God moves, no one finds forgiveness and eternal life. But when God moves, people are saved, communities are transformed, and nations are impacted. When God moves, the zip code of the enemy is depopulated.

So how does this happen? Through focused prayer. Through simple resourcing. By the collection and distribution of specific prayer requests

through the web, Twitter, Facebook, and lots of personal conversations. By individuals, small groups, local churches, districts, and national churches giving focus to scheduled times of prayer. Through all of us acknowledging that some things only come by prayer and fasting.

What might the Lord of the harvest do in response to a global prayer movement like this? What might God do to reveal himself to us, his followers, and to those who do not yet call him Lord?

You can be a part of this movement. You can commit focused time to prayer. You can team up with a prayer partner or two or with your small group. Churches can set aside time in services and even some special extended times to pray. All Wesleyans around the world

## *Barrier Breaking Prayer that Leads to a Global Harvest of Evangelism and Church Planting*

can unite on the weekend of November 23-25 to pray in specific and focused ways for each other and for the great task: *Barrier Breaking Prayer that Leads to a Global Harvest of Evangelism and Church Planting.*

Let’s do it! Let’s do it together! Let’s do it for his glory, in compassion for a lost and fallen world, and in faith that, with prayer, all things are possible in the kingdom.

– Dennis Jackson is executive director of Global Partners.



# FILLED UP, POURED OUT



Mark Wilson

*Effective prayer  
isn't telling  
God how big  
my problem is,  
but telling my  
problem how  
big God is.*

**A**s a small town pastor, I've been called on to say prayers at graduation ceremonies, ski races, birthday parties, pet blessings, military deployments, auctions, a sculpture unveiling, and even a hockey tournament. I'm learning there's much more to the prayer adventure than saying prayers. God is helping me become a man of prayer. There's a big difference between speaking words and living the prayer life.

During an extremely stressful situation, I knelt in my room, informing God of everything that was wrong. After fifteen minutes of blathering, realization struck: I wasn't praying—just fretting with my eyes closed. Effective prayer isn't telling God how big my problem is, but telling my problem how big God is.

Reading biographies of such faith heroes as David Brainerd, George Mueller, Corrie

ten Boom, Amy Carmichael, R. A. Torrey, and others, I am always inspired by how they prayed. Their prayer-saturated lives reveal this important truth: you cannot live well unless you pray well. Godliness is the fruit of deep, frequent, and fervent praying. Prayerful means prayer-full.

Prayer is not parsley garnish on the platter. It is the main dish: the steak and potatoes. Rather than a token gesture, prayer is our chief source of spiritual strength.

Untangling a perplexing problem at a church board meeting, a member suggested, "Maybe we should stop and pray about this."

Another gasped, "Oh, no! Has it really come to that?"

Too often, we consider prayer a last resort, living by the adage, "When all else fails, try praying." Maybe we'd fail less if we prayed first!

My friend, Tom Albin, dean of the Upper Room Ministries, recently challenged a group of Christians by asking, "If I told you that we are going to spend the next thirty minutes in prayer, how would you respond? Honestly, deep in your soul, what is your gut level response? I know some of you would say, 'Oh, good! I can hardly wait. To pray for thirty minutes in the presence of other Christians will be wonderful!' Others would say, 'Thirty whole minutes? Oh my goodness, what am I supposed to do with the other twenty eight?' After two minutes, I have nothing left to pray."

Tom then made this astute observation, "If the idea of praying for a half hour does not delight you, then there's a good chance you have outgrown your prayer practices. It is

*Your spirit character rises and falls on the depth of your prayer life.*

time for you to learn new and better ways to pray.”

When we love someone deeply, we eagerly anticipate spending time together. The communication is pure delight. Consider a young couple in love. They spend countless hours in deep communication, and don't seem a bit bothered or bored. Should we not take such delight in spending time with our Savior, the One who loves us most?

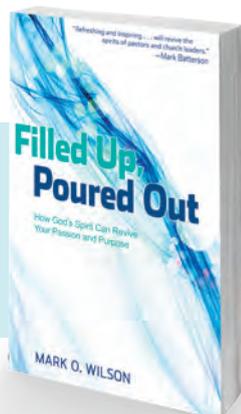
“The three most important things you can do,” said Billy Graham, “are to pray, pray, pray!” Prayer is the most significant work of ministry and our greatest act of love. Anybody is welcome to participate.

My friend, George Voss, resides at Water's Edge Nursing Home. His body has been ravaged by diabetes and strokes, leaving him blind in one eye, crippled in both hands, and unable to walk. Yet, George is actively involved in the most important work of the church. He is a prayer warrior, and his intercession is as valuable as anything or anybody at the church.

In fact, I'd rather have one prayer warrior like George, who can't usher, play guitar, or sit on a committee, than a thousand ushers, guitar strummers, or committee sitters who don't pray. E. M. Bounds said, “The prayers of God's saints are the capital stock in heaven by which Christ carries on His great work on the earth.”

What you are in prayer before God is what you are—nothing more. Your spirit character rises and falls on the depth of your prayer life. Most believers settle for anemic praying because they have failed to develop the daily practice.

— Mark Wilson is senior pastor at Hayward Wesleyan Church in Hayward, Wis.



-- Excerpted from *Filled Up, Poured Out: How God's Spirit Can Revive Your Passion and Purpose*.  
[wphonline.com](http://wphonline.com)



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# THANK YOU FOR BUILDING HOPE, AND A NEW HOME, FOR NAVAJO PASTOR DARWIN TSOSIE'S FAMILY



Because of your support, we've exceeded our fundraising goal to provide a new handicapped-accessible home for the Tsosie family. The project has been completed and the family is now living in their new home.

To see pictures and learn more about their new home, please visit [WesleyanNativeMinistries.org](http://WesleyanNativeMinistries.org).

**Building this new home would not have been possible without the generous support of:**

*Clayton Homes - Gallup, NM  
Dale & Stefanie Sommons - Bethlehem, PA  
Calvary Wesleyan Church - Bethlehem, PA  
Central Wesleyan Church - Holland, MI  
Christ Center Wesleyan Church - Sedona, AZ  
Ron Dibble Construction - Sedona, AZ  
Arizona Waste Water Service - Sedona, AZ  
Pacific Southwest District  
Penn-Jersey District  
Evangelism & Church Growth Department  
Wesleyan FLAME  
Hundreds of other churches and individuals*



Would you consider providing ongoing support for the Tsosie family and our Navajo ministries? You can give online at [WesleyanNativeMinistries.org](http://WesleyanNativeMinistries.org) or contact us for more info at 616-456-0097 and Wesleyan Native Ministries, PO Box 1705, Grand Rapids MI 49501-1705.



Rev. Hettich and Mosaic minister to Aurora kids

## IN THE MIDST OF TRAGEDY, AURORA, COLORADO, MAYOR INVITED WESLEYAN MINISTRY

The movie theater massacre in Aurora, Colorado, on July 20 occupied the nation's attention. Aurora Mayor Steve Hogan, the key figure coordinating the response, met with Wesleyan leaders immediately. The Mountain Plains District, led by District Superintendent Wesley Smith, happened to be meeting in Aurora the day following the tragedy, and Mayor Hogan addressed the group, expressing gratitude for the growing Wesleyan involvement in Aurora and requesting prayer. He affirmed the partnership of his administration with Mosaic, a Wesleyan urban initiative in Aurora for compassionate outreach and church planting led by Wesleyan pastor Rev. Reid Hettich.

## FEMALE PASTOR FIRST TO LEAD LARGER CHURCH

Until now, all 58 Wesleyan churches in North America that are over 500 in attendance have had a man as the lead pastor. Heather Semple is experiencing God's

gracious blessings as the first female lead pastor in a church this size. Rev. Semple shepherds Red Cedar Community Church in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. She became lead pastor in February 2012, and her husband Jeff serves as worship and arts pastor. Since last fall, attendance at Red Cedar has grown dramatically. "Fifty-three people have placed their faith in Christ since May, and we are completely out of room," said Heather. Red Cedar also has ministries among Hispanics and Somalis in the community.



Rev. Heather Semple

Used with permission by Wynter Clark Photography



## U.S. & CANADIAN WESLEYAN CHURCH REPORTS LARGEST ONE YEAR GAINS IN HISTORY

The total average attendance in all Wesleyan churches in North America was 221,335 during 2011-2012. This represents a 6% increase and a numeral increase of 12,362, the largest single-year gain in history. Reported conversions totaled 29,133, also the largest one-year total ever. Baptisms and membership set records, and even Sunday school, which has declined for the past 30 years, posted a 1.4% gain.

The Church is becoming more ethnically diverse. In 8 years, we have gone from 172 churches to 279 churches that are Asian, Black, Hispanic, Native, or Integrated. This represents movement from 10% to over 16% of the denomination. The second largest Wesleyan church in North America is He Sapa New Life Church, a Native congregation based in Rapid City, S.D.

## THREE WESLEYAN CHURCHES MAKE U.S. 100 FASTEST-GROWING LIST

*Outreach* magazine has released its annual list of fastest-growing churches. Three of the 100 fastest-growing churches in America are Wesleyan churches. **Newhope Church in Durham, N.C.**, is pastored by Rev. Benji Kelley and is ranked as the fifth-fastest-growing. **Fountain Springs Community Church, in Rapid City, S.D.**, pastored by Rev. Dave Kinnan, is new to the list and ranked 27th. **12Stone Church in Lawrenceville, Ga.**, led by Rev. Kevin Myers, is ranked 62nd this year. In size, 12Stone Church ranks 29th in the nation. General Superintendent Dr. Jo Anne Lyon stated, "The thing I love about these three churches is that they are truly seeing lives transformed by the gospel."



## IWU Honors Humanitarian Cheryl Beckett

**AN INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALL** was renamed October 3 to honor Cheryl Marie Beckett, who was killed while doing humanitarian work in Afghanistan. The hall, opened in 2010 as North Hall, has been dedicated in memory of Cheryl, a 2000 honors graduate. In August 2010, Cheryl was one of 10 members of a medical team who were shot to death while traveling in one of the poorest regions of Afghanistan. She was 32 years old and had spent the last six years of her life serving the people of Afghanistan.

### SWU ANNOUNCES MEDICAL SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

An agreement with the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) will provide Southern Wesleyan University students special consideration in the admission process at its Spartanburg, S.C., campus. VCOM is a respected four-year medical college offering a doctorate of osteopathic medicine. SWU's strong science program was a factor in the agreement, which guarantees acceptance for up to ten SWU students who meet all GPA, testing, and other general requirements. The agreement also outlines an early acceptance program for additional applicants from SWU for candidates from rural areas, low socioeconomic backgrounds, and underrepresented minorities.



### WESLEY SEMINARY GRADUATES FIRST MASTER OF DIVINITY STUDENTS

Fourteen students are the first graduates of Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University to have earned a Master of Divinity degree. The August 11 graduation marked a significant milestone for the seminary, which opened in 2009. Fifteen Master of Arts seminary graduates joined the first class of M.Div. graduates. Governor Sam Brownback of Kansas provided the commencement address.

**ETERNITY IN THEIR HEARTS AT KINGSWOOD** – Kingswood students develop a passion for ministering in homeless shelters, prisons, addiction recovery centers, and churches throughout the year, while in their studies. In the last year, they prayed with over 135 people to receive Christ. The university provides a scholarship for one African ministerial student enrolled at a Bible college in Africa for each new student enrolled at Kingswood, through their One for Another program, which results in 61 African student scholarships this year. President Mark Gorveatte remarked that this also contributes to the Kingswood students' awareness of the global impact they can have in following God's call.

**GROWTH FOR OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN** – OKWU reports record enrollment after ten years of growth in traditional and off-campus programs. The science building has just experienced a complete exterior and interior renovation. The new Frank Keating Center housing the Chesapeake Energy School of Business is nearing completion, and it is already fully paid for by donations. In addition, OKWU has received a gift of valuable property next to their campus which will be helpful for their continued expansion. President Piper noted that John Maxwell and other noted leaders are to minister on campus this year with the John Dunn Institute for Pastoral Leadership, the Veritas Institute, and other special programs.



### WESLEYAN MISSIONAL PRIORITIES –

Have you heard Dr. Jo Anne Lyon speak about the meaning of the Wesleyan 7 PACK?

“2.7 million people cry out to God.”



The Illinois District of The Wesleyan Church is planting multiple churches in the city of Chicago in the next 2 years. We are looking for high energy, entrepreneurial, creative church planters and teams!

Join Team Illinois in this aggressive multiplication movement.

Contact District Superintendent  
Al Goracke at  
agoracke@illinoisdistrictwc.org

“Should I not be concerned about that great city?”

—Jonah 4:11

[www.illinoisdistrictwc.org](http://www.illinoisdistrictwc.org)

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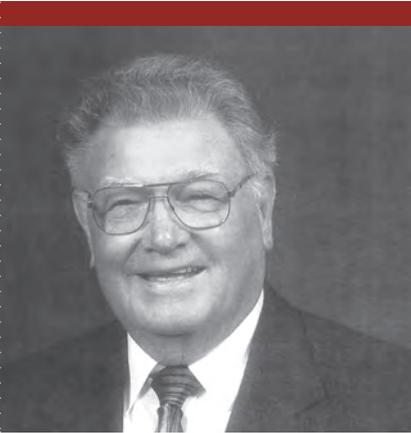
OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

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IMPACTING CULTURE  
WITH THE LORDSHIP  
OF JESUS CHRIST



## Obituaries



### C. B. Colaw Remembered

#### **DR. CHARLES BENJAMIN (C.B.) COLAW, 93**, died

Wednesday, July 18, 2012, in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He and his late wife, Mabel, gave a lifetime of service in The Wesleyan Church. After pastoral ministry in Kansas, Dr. Colaw was superintendent of the Tri-State District, 1956-1990, and was founding pastor of Bartlesville First Wesleyan Church in 1959. He served on the Oklahoma Wesleyan University Board of Trustees, 1956-2001, including twenty years as chair, and was instrumental in the university being located in Bartlesville.

His service included the General Board of Administration, chair of the Wesleyan Pension Board, and chair of the Wesleyan Educational Council.

Rev. Max Colaw, eldest son of Dr. Colaw, stated, "His genuine love for Jesus and the church was infectious: so much so that ten of his children and grandchildren are in pastoral ministry and all ninety-eight of his living family members are serving the Lord."

#### **BARNARD, REV. FORRIS (86)**

Rev. Forris Barnard lived in High Point, N.C., at the time of his death. A graduate of Central Wesleyan College (now Southern Wesleyan University), he was an ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church. He was preceded in death by one brother, one sister, and a son. Survivors include his wife of 62 years, Mary, one grandson, and two great-grandchildren.

#### **CRAWFORD, JOAQUIN (82)**

Joaquin Crawford lived in Lombard, IL, at the time of her death. An Indiana Wesleyan University graduate, she married Roy Crawford, former district superintendent of the Illinois District of The Wesleyan Church. Survivors include her husband, two daughters, five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, two brothers, and three sisters.

#### **PIERCE, REV. CARL, JR. (65)**

Rev. Carl Pierce, Jr., lived in Elwood, IN, at the time of his death. An ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church, he graduated from Asbury College and Asbury Theological Seminary. He served as an editor for 20 years at The Wesleyan Church World Headquarters and pastored churches in Indiana. Rev. Pierce also helped proof the Wesley Bible. He is survived by his wife, Julia, two sons, and three grandchildren.

#### **SEBREE, DR. PAUL, SR. (86)**

Dr. Paul Sebree, Sr., lived in Marion, IN, at the time of his death. An ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church, he pastored churches in Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, and West Virginia. He served as a religion professor at Indiana Wesleyan University and owned and operated a Christian bookstore. Survivors include his wife, Anna, two daughters, two sons, one sister, one brother, 12 grandchildren, and 24 great-grandchildren.

#### **MILLS, REV. RUSSELL (84)**

Rev. Russell Mills lived in Culloden, WV, at the time of his death. He was an ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church for 40 years. Rev. Mills also served as assistant district superintendent of the West Virginia District (now Shenandoah District) and was a U.S. Army veteran. He was preceded in death by two sisters. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy, one son, three daughters, five sisters, one brother, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

#### **STUART, MARJORIE (92)**

Marjorie Stuart lived in Greenville, OH, at the time of her death. She and her husband, Rev. Delbert Stuart, planted a church in Pittsfield, MA, that still exists. Marjorie also faithfully taught Sunday school. She was preceded in death by a daughter, two brothers, and six sisters. Marjorie is survived by her husband, one daughter, two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and two brothers.

#### **WILSON, REV. CHARLES (93)**

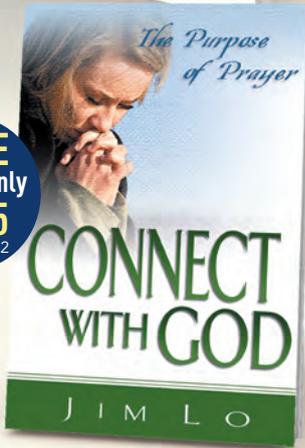
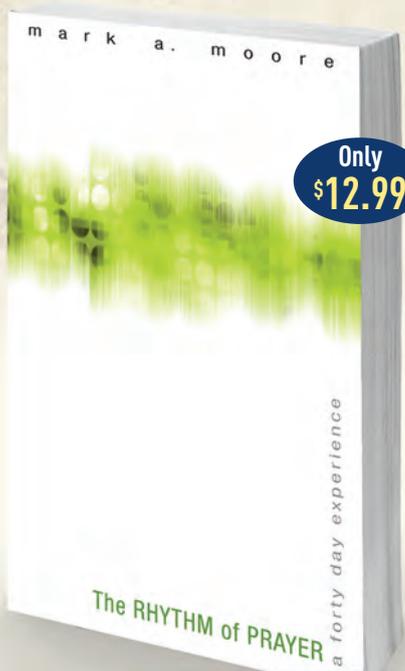
Rev. Charles Wilson lived in Fort Wayne, IN, at the time of his death. He was an ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church and served as a minister, author, and educator. Rev. Wilson and Loretta, his wife of 66 years, also served as missionaries in Taiwan and Russia. He was preceded in death by his wife, a sister, and brother. Survivors include two sons, two daughters, ten grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, one brother, and one sister.

#### **ZERAVSKY, REV. DAVID (52)**

Rev. David Zeravsky lived in Orefield, PA, at the time of his death. He was an ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church and a U.S. Air Force veteran. He was preceded in death by his father. Survivors include his wife, Lorri, one son, one sister, and his mother.



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# What God Waits For

Jim "Umfundisi" Lo

Often I hear Christians ask the question: How can we break out of the church bubble and touch this world for Christ?

A major part of the answer is by prayer.

Jesus Christ wants his followers to understand the priority, the power, and the privilege of prayer. He also wants us to put into practice the astounding partnership we can have with God through prayer.

This is a mystery that is not fully comprehended by many Christians. He, in his wisdom and sovereign power, has chosen to accomplish his will on earth through the prayers of his people.

*He does not move haphazardly in and out of situations in the world.*

He waits for his people to pray before he releases his power in response. And that changes everything. First he changes us, then the world.

– Jim Lo is dean of the chapel and professor of spiritual formation at Indiana Wesleyan University.



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Kathy Bence

# Hearing God

HOW CAN I BE SURE I AM  
HEARING THE VOICE OF GOD?



**T**he key to knowing the will of God is simple: know God and his Word. God is not separate from his will for us. A long, steady relationship with God is the best way to know God's will. You learn his voice by hearing it until it is familiar. Remember the "sheep know his voice" passage in John 10? You have to spend enough time in God's Word and in his presence so that the voice of your shepherd is familiar and there is no mistaking it.

Prayer is time spent with God. Do you enjoy God's presence? Do you like to talk with God? If you do, learning that voice and the will of God will be easy. If you don't want to spend any time with God, then wanting to know God's will is more like a vending machine. I will put in my question and he will answer—now! Better yet—text me!

There is no shortcut to prayer and discernment. Prayer is not about getting what I want, but a means to accomplishing what God wants—first of all in me, and then through me.

**Dallas Willard, in his book *Hearing God*, says that the primary external means of discernment are:**

- finding a consensus among people whom we consult, especially godly, trustworthy friends
- observing "doors" that open or close and other circumstances
- confirming that the Word of God agrees with other indicators

*Prayer is not about getting what I want, but a means to accomplishing what God wants—first of all in me, and then through me.*

But the external means of discernment are an accompaniment to God's direct means of communication with his children: that still, small voice. God, the Holy Spirit, speaks to millions of believers, and he is always communicating. We need to learn to quiet our minds. God will do the supernatural part; we need to learn to listen.

It only makes sense that God would speak words of encouragement and guidance to individual believers. We see it borne out in the life of the apostle Paul. He received specific instructions in Acts 16:6-10.

Paul received a vision "during the night" according to Acts 16:8. He received a specific message of where he was to go: "Come over to Macedonia and help us" (16:9). Look at Paul's understanding of these words. They concluded ". . . that God had called us to preach the gospel to them" (16:10). So they "got ready at once to leave for Macedonia."

Paul doesn't seem to linger, wondering, "Was that God I heard? Maybe it was my imagination..." He was accustomed to the voice of God so that when God spoke, no precious time was lost in dithering. How does one become adept at recognizing the voice of God? The same way we know a loved one's voice in a crowd—lots of time together knowing that voice.



*You must spend time alone with God and his Word to know his character and recognize his voice.*

# 5

## PRINCIPLES FOR DISCERNING THE WILL OF GOD ARE:

1. Listen to the counsel of godly Christians that you know. (This may be the humble elderly lady in your church.)
2. Visions or special guidance from the Lord are sometimes given. If you are so blessed, apply them with the utmost concern for the kingdom, as opposed to any selfish intent.
3. God's words of specific instruction are always consistent with his character, as revealed in Scripture.
4. When in doubt about interpreting the voice of God, check with the community of faith for confirmation and pay attention to your own sense of peace or unease. God is not the author of chaos or confusion.
5. When in doubt, take time. Time will generally give opportunity for you to know the rightness or wrongness of a perceived idea.

You must spend time alone with God and his Word to know his character and recognize his voice. We are not alone in this world. Enjoy the presence of your loving Savior. Align your thinking with his. We are serving his kingdom, not our own.

Practice asking God for his thoughts rather than just deciding. Many of our dilemmas could be resolved by stopping to pray before reacting.

And lastly, ask the Holy Spirit's help to love what God loves and desire what God desires. This transformation does not come automatically. But those who seek "the mind of Christ" are pleasing to God. And what better reward is there?

### SOME TESTS FOR GAINING MORE CLARITY REGARDING THE VOICE OF GOD:

1. Does this "word" or idea sound like the Lord you know from Scripture? Clearly, God isn't going to direct you to any action that is contrary to the life and teachings of Jesus or the Ten Commandments. If it sounds like Jesus speaking, it probably is. Knowing the character of God (love, goodness, truth, grace, mercy, peace, etc.) tells us whether it sounds like the God of Scripture.
2. Another test is whether we feel completely at peace about responding to this word from God. Or do we sense a "check" from the Spirit? If in doubt, stop. That seems to be what Paul experienced as he was twice stopped from traveling where he had clearly expected to go. If there is no "check" alerting you when you seek the Lord—and you are fully at peace—then it may indeed be God speaking to you.

**Galatians 5:25 says:** "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." Is this not a good summary of a life lived in surrender? To be constantly listening for the whisper of God so that we might be ready to go to Macedonia—or across the room—at his prompting?

– Kathy Bence is an ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church and teaches in the FLAME program.



# MYSTERY OF DIVINE HEALING

*Sometimes God uses the pathway of suffering through which to offer grace. His purposes are always redemptive.*

**O**ften, we pray for healing of the sick. In some ways, prayers asking God for divine help are a mystery.

After all, we believe he loves us even more than we love ourselves. And we cannot inform him of anything; he already has profound understanding of our needs in ways that we can't express or even know.

A mother and father love their 2-year-old daughter with a love that she can't yet fully comprehend. And although they understand her needs in most ways better than she does, they still want her to come to them with her joys and hurts. As an expression of their love, they deeply desire being present, the communication, the loving embrace. Does that help us to reflect on why God wants us to come to him?

## **GOD DOES WANT US TO PRAY FOR HEALING, AND IT IS HIS WILL THAT WE BE WHOLE. BUT HOW ARE WE TO INTERPRET THE DIFFERENT WAYS THAT HE RESPONDS?**

Frank Bateman Stanger, late president of Asbury Seminary, taught there are five kinds of divine healing:

- Natural healing. God created us with bodies that can heal themselves of most things. Antibodies fight off diseases every day, and we are not even aware of the danger. Wounds close and disappear. These are miracles of grace.
- Through doctors and medicine. Does not all knowledge and wisdom come from the Lord? Doctors who do not actually glorify God with their lips still glorify him with their skill and knowledge when they heal. This is his grace, also.
- By miraculous, supernatural intervention. So often this is what is prayed for; sometimes it seems like the only hope. It is wonderful when it happens, but we do not know God's plan. Would it be presumptuous for us to think that God should always heal by the pathway that we would choose if we could?
- Redemptive suffering. Sometimes God uses the pathway of suffering through which to offer grace. His purposes are always redemptive. God is not the author of suffering, but sometimes his will is found in seeing his grace shining through it. Sometimes miraculous spiritual healing is made manifest in the context of physical weakness.
- Finally, perfect healing ultimately comes to the redeemed by receiving a new and immortal body through the gateway of death and resurrection.



Kerry Kind



When we pray for healing, any merit is by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. We request the grace of healing so that we might have wholeness to do his will, and by faith we hope for the healing that would most glorify him and accomplish his purposes. We thank him for his infinite love, realizing that what he desires for us is the very best thing that can happen for us. We ask him to defeat any plan of the Enemy which may have contributed to our situation. And we pray for guidance to know what actions we could take in order to work along with him, in line with his purposes. Finally, we pray for grace, strength, and hope, in order to live life victoriously, no matter how he may choose to answer or provide.

– Kerry Kind is director of communications with The Wesleyan Church.

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# THROUGH DUST & DIESEL



**A** Wesleyan church with a record attendance of **only 46** is touching the lives of thousands of people.

It began with dust, noise, and more dust. Pastor Harold Henson and his wife, Angie, prayed about the problem. On the gravel road serving Cedar Grove Wesleyan Church and their parsonage in northwest Oklahoma, semis constantly roared past, leaving thick layers of dust and frustration behind. It wasn't always like this. Two years ago, almost no vehicles would be seen all day. That's because there are literally only five homes to be found within five miles, and it is nineteen miles to the nearest town of Alva. Indeed, it used to be nice and quiet.

When oil wells and pipelines began springing up all around them, the big trucks came. Now up to twenty semis go by every hour. Rev. Henson and the church people were greatly annoyed, but the Lord seemed to say to him, "Maybe if you offered a glass of cold water, some of them would slow down and stop."

*They began standing by the road in the dust and heat, one day each week.*

What if this was actually a ministry opportunity? Not everyone in the church liked the idea at first. But in August, 2011, members began making muffins and brownies, lemonade and coffee. They began standing by the road in the dust and heat, one day each week.

At first very few trucks would even stop. The truckers felt disliked by the locals. But word of their kindness began to get around. Now over 200 items are handed out in one day.

But it's not just about muffins. Yes, the truckers get a drink and a treat, but they also get a sack with Scripture, an offer of prayer, and contact information.

Now truckers' heads are seen bowing in prayer by the side of the road and all kinds of prayer requests are taken to the church. Some have received counseling and other help over the phone. Some of the truckers are regulars and have become friends. In the first year, over 2,200 people have been touched by this ministry, and the church people are also visiting the oil rigs and meeting workers who don't come by in trucks.

Why did God preserve a little church with a gospel witness in this isolated place? If anyone wondered, they are beginning to see the answer.

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