# wesleyan life

THE **MAGAZINE** OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH



*ON THE COVER*

## 4 MILLION DISPLACED

Caring for people after the Philippines typhoon

FEATURING

## SKIPPING SAMARIA

Leaving no outsiders in Grand Rapids, Detroit, Syracuse, and the Northeast




THE wesleyan CHURCH

# WILL YOU JOIN US?

**In 2014**, tens of thousands of people across The Wesleyan Church will do something historic **together.**

You are invited to be part of the 40 Day **Community Bible Experience** as Wesleyans worldwide will read through the New Testament during the Lenten season. Imagine if every person experienced reading the Word of God together.

## Begins February 24, 2014, so order your Bibles today!

See what Wesleyan pastors are saying

Disponible en Español

#40DAYBIBLE

**Every Bible includes:**

- E-Book and MP3 Audio Book
- Kid's Audio Version
- Daily E-Reader and Audio Clip Emails
- Participant Guide

**Leader resources:**

- Planning Guide
- Church Promotion Kit
- Small Group Discussion Guide
- Online Resource Access

**The basics:**

- Participants read five days a week
- Average daily reading 12 pages / 20 minutes
- Small group gatherings designed to feel more like a book club than a Bible study

Biblica®

40DayBible.com/thewesleyanchurch

wesleyan life


VISION

04 **Power** to change the world

09 **The heart** of the matter

FEATURED

10 **Skipping Samaria:** how the Church can be truest to God

TEACHING

21 **50 ideas:** into your community

22 **Joining God** in Detroit

STORY

05 **No outsiders:** moving outward in Syracuse

16 **New direction** in the Northeast

24 **Super Typhoon** in the Philippines

NEWS

25 News & Info




*You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work.* ***And go not only to those that need you, but to those that need you most.***

John Wesley – Conversation with Francis Asbury, Thomas Coke, and others, 1784

@WESLEYANCHURCH

FACEBOOK.COM/THEWESLEYANCHURCH

INSTAGRAM.COM/WESLEYANCHURCH

Look for these icons for bonus digital media

View Digital Magazine

# Power TO CHANGE THE WORLD



**As I was running the vacuum cleaner for the third time that day on our well-worn carpet, a silent, internal conversation took place.** We were the new, young church planters in a Kansas City suburb. Our home was the place for all the weekday activities. We met in a school on Sundays but needed a place for all the other events throughout the week. Children met in the family room, one bedroom became a nursery, music practice took place in the living room, adult Bible studies went on in the dining room, and the youth group met in the basement! In the summer we had over a hundred children for VBS in our house and yard (and bathroom).

*Holy living that is active and engaged in the need of the world gets its power from God's love.*

While sweeping the carpet that evening, it hit me that our home was really showing hard use. The cushions on the couch had lost their shape, the legs on the coffee table were scarred, and the end tables were stained where drinks had left their marks. Is this holy living (holiness)? I had yearned for a nice, quiet, contemplative life, where our furnishings didn't take such a beating. Wasn't one of the ideas of holy living supposed to be "set apart?" This did not seem like that to me. But then a voice within me, louder than the vacuum cleaner, entered my conversation, "Set apart for service!" [Romans 12:1-21]

Holy living gets its power from God's love. Love is active and engaged in the pain and need of the world. It is not isolated and inward. The Holy Spirit flows through individuals, churches, and communities as a river of life. We see this in history. Holy living uprooted the slave trade in England and laid the foundation for the abolition of slavery in North America as well.

After the Second and Third Great Awakenings in North America, through the preaching of Charles Finney, Dwight Moody, and many others, it became well-known that the power of the sanctifying gospel could transform society. The strongholds of poverty, slavery, greed, cruelty and oppression could be undone.

As John Wesley famously wrote: "Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen; such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of heaven on earth." [Letter to Alexander Mather, Aug. 6, 1777.]



**JO ANNE LYON**
General Superintendent
The Wesleyan Church

THE **MAGAZINE** OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

**wesleyan life**

*Transforming lives, churches, and communities through the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ.*

**Vol. 8, No. 1**

**Founders** Orange Scott (1843), Seth Rees (1897)
**Executive Editor** Wayne MacBeth
**Editor** Kerry Kind
**Assistant Editor** Tricia Rife
**Creative Director** Kory Pence
**Designer** Julia Park

**Cover Photo** Trash Mountain Project

**Contributors**
Wes Dean (intermotionmedia.com, photos pp. 5-7, 16-18)
David Drury
Dan and Joy Irvine
Mark Judkins
Christy Lipscomb
Jo Anne Lyon
Jeff Miller (illustration pp. 10-13)
Trash Mountain Project (photos pp. 24-25)

**Published By** Wesleyan Publishing House
P.O. Box 50434, Indianapolis, In 46250-0434

**Member**
Evangelical Press Association
National Association Of Evangelicals

Unless otherwise noted, all Bible quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Scripture quotations marked (KJV) are taken from the Holy Bible, King James Version.

Contents of this magazine are not to be reproduced without written permission. Signed articles present the views of the writers and are the property of the writers.

ISSN 2327-414X (print) ISSN 2327-4158 (online)

***Wesleyan Life*** is published quarterly, free to The Wesleyan Church constituency. Home delivery is available for a minimum donation of $15 per year U.S./ Canadian (overseas $20 U.S. funds, overseas airmail $50 U.S. funds).

**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** communications@wesleyan.org



Watch Video

# NO OUTSIDERS

by Kerry Kind

**48%**
of Syracuse, New York is said to have no use for God or the church

**A few years ago, one could say that Lyncourt Wesleyan Church was a typical church in Syracuse, N.Y.** It had been in decline, and had dropped to under 80 in attendance. They were good people and had a godly pastor, but Syracuse is a challenging city for Christian ministry. According to a recent Barna Group study, 48% of the population there is "post-Christian," meaning they are indifferent or hostile to the gospel, and don't believe church can be relevant to their lives. Half of the population! By way of contrast, Knoxville, Tenn., Dallas, Tex., and Indianapolis, Ind., are only 12% to 28% post-Christian in the attitudes of their populations.

Things began to change, slowly, when God called Wayne Wager, Jr., to return to Lyncourt, his old home church, and become the pastor there in 2006. (Wayne, Jr., is the son of the long-time district superintendent of the Central New York District.) The younger Wayne had never been a pastor before, and he felt far from being prepared, but God had put a passion in his heart for the lost of his home town. Before the church began growing, it dropped to only about 40 people during the transition. They were not getting new people. They decided to drop all of their programs for a time and just pray, asking God for direction and new vision. And God began to answer.

**Pastor Wayne's philosophy was to get out into the community.** He had been in the rock-and-roll scene as a technical director, and had even served for a time as the "sound man" for Wesleyan crusade evangelist Steve Wingfield. More recently, though, he had been in real estate and rental management in Syracuse. "You have to go into the world and meet people. Every single connection matters," he says. "Then you have to actually find ways to help people. Everyone has needs. You never know what the Lord will use to change someone's life. But it's not enough to just go and help, you also have to win them to Christ. We use *Evangelism Explosion* to train all of our workers to talk about Jesus."

Wayne's favorite ministry location is out in the streets of Syracuse in his pickup truck. He is single-minded about finding people who need Jesus. He helps people move, sits on his front bumper and chats with kids in the street, and often hauls donated furniture to needy families. These are the ways he makes friends every day.

Photo Gallery
www.facebook.com/thewesleyanchurch

**There is a sizeable immigrant Burmese population in Syracuse.** Because of Wayne's experience working with rental properties, he is well-acquainted with people in some of the poor districts of Syracuse, including the Burmese. He encouraged the members of the church to help him reach out to them and anticipate many of their needs. Today, there are about 80 Burmese attending Lyncourt Church out of 200 attendees, but that did not happen without change in the attitudes of some of the members.

Randy Tennant has been vice-chairman of the board for a long time. "It used to be that the only people we invited to church were those who were like us," Randy said. "But then we started to reach out to our 'Samaria.' At first I was upset when a bus full of Burmese kids showed up at our church. They were so poor; some of them came in dirty pajamas. They tracked all over our clean carpet. They began writing in our brand new hymnals and on the walls. I had to get over being offended. It took time, but God changed my heart. When I saw some of them genuinely coming to Jesus Christ, it melted me. Now we just love everyone, even the bums, hoodlums, drug addicts, and youth who have never been to church in their lives. Whether they are Burmese, Black, white, or Hispanic: it doesn't matter. We help them in all kinds of ways. It costs us; I know some of them are just taking advantage of us. But it's worth it, because God is using these connections to touch some of them and change their hearts and lives completely. This has changed me. And God has rewarded our church for doing the right thing."

Sustaining outreach into our communities to meet and befriend those who need Jesus is not just a strategy. It is the natural result of a more Christ-like love renewing our hearts.

Christine Ruffino, a volunteer youth work, echoed what Randy said. "We have anywhere from 25-60 kids on Wednesday nights. Many of them have suffered battering, abuse, unwanted pregnancies, drugs, and so on. But our congregation accepts them. We become their family, and a lot of them get saved. Some of them have been rescued from suicide. I have learned by serving others that it becomes a spiritual discipline that has also changed my life. And I thank God," Christine said with tears in her eyes, "that my son has







*"You have to go into the world. You never know what the Lord will use to change someone's life."*

*– Wayne Wager, Jr.*

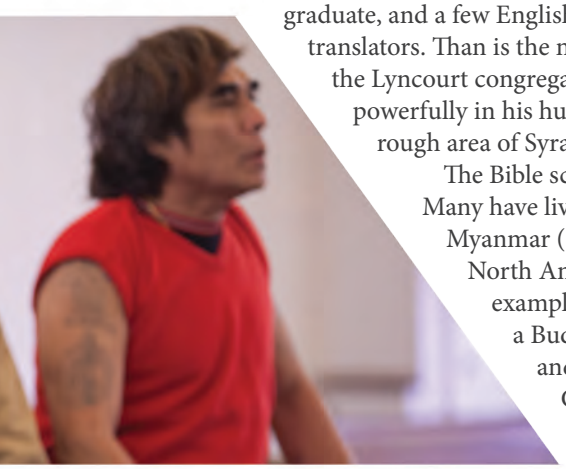


*Some people went away when the church began ministering to those deeply hurting.*

discovered this right alongside me. I think of all the young people who have been saved here: Shawn, John, Joe Bebe, Kevin, and many other lives have been made new, and me along with them!"

Pastor Wayne pointed out that they have a diverse church. They have professionals like doctors, real estate brokers, and social services people, but also lots of working class people. Some went away when the church began to really minister to deeply hurting people in their community, but a lot of others caught the vision when they saw lives being changed, and the joy from that became contagious.

**The basement of the church is being used to operate a Burmese Bible school with about twenty students who are preparing for ministry.** They are taught by Than Awng, a Princeton Seminary graduate, and a few English-speaking teachers who teach through translators. Than is the natural leader of the Burmese segment of the Lyncourt congregation. One senses the presence of Christ powerfully in his humble character. He chooses to live in a rough area of Syracuse, so he can be among his people.



The Bible school students have inspiring testimonies. Many have lived under government oppression in Myanmar (Burma) before finding their way to North America. One woman named Winkwi, for example, is an ethnic Burmese and was raised a Buddhist. In 1997 she was given a Bible and out of curiosity she read the book of Genesis. God used that to arouse her hunger for more. When she met some evangelists, she invited them to her house to tell her about God. It was not until 2007, though, that Jesus Christ made her life completely new. She came to the church on a Saturday, seeking the Lord. When she left, she not only was fully alive to God in her spirit, but she was also miraculously healed of heart disease. Other Burmese members, such as Shweethee, Ahsa, and Naw Aung, have stirring testimonies of God's grace touching them.

**Pastor Wayne does not lack vision in what he believes God can do through Lyncourt Church.** Already they have regular distributions of food, clothing, furnishings, and other supplies. They have started to engage in micro-enterprise ministries to help people get started in small businesses to replace the money that some formerly made from drugs or prostitution. About a dozen addicts attend their church whose lives are even now being transformed. For those in school there is a homework/tutoring program to help them keep up, especially those that do not have support at home. They also take young people camping and hiking in the Adirondacks. In everything, the love and message of Christ is shared.

"We have a couple of former pastors from other denominations that got burned out and are finding healing and new ministry here, Wayne said. "And I have the privilege of advising the boards of two new Wesleyan mission churches that are getting started in the Syracuse area."

Recently they came across an opportunity to buy a large Catholic property nearby, which includes a cathedral, a school, a rectory, and other buildings. The price seems right, and they would love to use the school for adult Christian education and the rectory for a half-way house that could accommodate a dozen men.

This kind of dreaming spurs Wayne on. Lyncourt is having a redemptive impact in Syracuse beyond what anyone might expect from the size of their congregation. **They are not on the sidelines; they offer Jesus wherever he is most needed in their city.**



**MISSIONAL OUTREACH** IS NOT JUST A STRATEGY; IT IS THE **RESULT OF CHRIST-LIKE LOVE, OR HOLINESS.**



# HEAD SOUTH THIS WINTER

## SPEND A DAY AS OUR GUEST AND EXPERIENCE WHAT MAKES SWU UNIQUE.

Most experiences can't be described in words and photos. We don't expect you to be convinced to attend Southern Wesleyan University without seeing it for yourself. That is why we want you to discover campus life and the special community we have here at SWU. We offer several visit opportunities so you can have the opportunity to experience life on our campus.

## SWU EXCURSION

Southern Wesleyan University would like to invite you and your youth group to come visit SWU and we will help cover some of your expenses!

### SWU WILL PROVIDE

- Up to $250 in gas
- Up to three meals on campus per person
- Housing on campus when available
- Campus tour
- Free admission to athletic and fine arts events
- Admissions meetings
- Visit class options when available

Visit **swu.edu/excursion** for more details.

## UPCOMING VISIT DAYS

Monday, February 17, 2014
Friday, March 28, 2014
Wednesday, April 16, 2014
Friday, June 20, 2014

Register at **swu.edu/visit**

SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

**www.swu.edu • 877-644-5556**

# THE HEART OF THE MATTER

by Tricia Rife

*"The heart of the **person** is the heart of the matter."*

This is **Rev. Al Goracke's** motto, and the people of Kingswood Church in Blaine, Minn., have adopted it too.

It has not always been so. "Pastor Al," lead pastor at Kingswood and also district superintendent of the Illinois District, has always wanted people to know Jesus in his fifteen years of ministry. But he is quick to admit that, in the past, his priorities sometimes got sidetracked.

A few years ago, Kingswood grew numerically as the church hosted big events and lots of dinners. Al calls that an "attraction model" of ministry.

"When the economy took a dive in 2008, our church attendance dropped 25 percent," said Al. The money was no longer there to fund the church's big events and he regretted that he had become so dependent on attraction ministries.



The situation and the losses humbled and changed him. What followed was a deeper relationship and love for Christ, a deeper personal holiness. Outwardly, he began to truly love others, all others, in a new way. His heart change became contagious. As he surrendered his ambitions as to how the church should look and operate, his members noticed.

Pastor Al's heart burned for the mission of reaching the lost and serving others. In 2010, Kingswood opened Hope for the Community, the largest food shelf in the county. Loving others is reflected through feeding five hundred families each week with ten tons of food.

"Reaching out in love and providing hope to others has changed me, but it has also corporately and spiritually changed Kingswood Church," said Al. And they are growing numerically again–even when, ironically, that hasn't been the main focus.

"This is a personal story, but it's also corporate holiness. I could not lead people where I had not been.

"This is a personal story, but it's also corporate holiness," he said. "I could not lead people where I had not been. As a pastor, if you try to take people on a holiness journey and you haven't truly experienced it, it's not going to happen."

# Skipping *Samaria*

by Christy Lipscomb

**I love the smell of possible redemption. What does your community smell like?**

My church smells—and I'm not referring to a "fragrant offering" or "pleasing aroma." It's the smell of raw humanity.



**Rev. Christy Lipscomb** is co-pastor of City Life Church in Grand Rapids, Mich., and assistant district superintendant of the West Michigan District.



**There is the smell of Dale, a homeless man who goes many days without showering. There is the breath of Alice who came to church drunk. And some Sundays the smell of stale cigarettes permeates the morning worship. I love this, not because I enjoy cigarette smoke or the odor of perspiration, but because we are a broken, dirty, messed up, odorous group of people gathered together for the purpose of finding Jesus.**

I have the privilege of pastoring an inner city church. One large segment of our church consists of people currently in rehab programs for drug and alcohol abuse. Another group is made up of low-income families who live precarious lives—always on the edge of emotional breakdown, financial breakdown, or some other extreme stress. A third segment of the church tends to be a bit more stable: middle class individuals and families. The congregation includes whites, Blacks, and Latinos. This is my Samaria.

Jesus tells us to go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). At the "ends of the earth" are different and exotic languages and cultures. And in my Jerusalem and Judea, I find my own people, my language and culture. So, what about Samaria?

At the time of Jesus in Israel, the Jews did not associate with the Samaritans, even though they were neighbors. Samaritans were the mixed-race outsiders. Their worship was all wrong, their morals were questionable, and their culture was distasteful. In other words, to a Jew, Samaria smelled.

Jesus' decision to travel through Samaria—where he met with the woman at the well, among others—was remarkable. Like most Jews, we tend to skip our "Samarias," don't we? But we are commissioned by Christ to go and make disciples in Samaria just as surely as the ends of the earth.

What exactly are we to do? Jesus repeatedly sent his disciples out to do ministry, and he gave them instructions to do three things. At least a dozen times in the Gospels, his sending message is to preach the gospel, heal the sick, and cast out demons. As the sent-forth church, we are commanded by Christ to go to Samaria, preaching, healing, and casting out demons. We can do other good things, but this is the command of Christ.

## *Preaching in Samaria*

Preaching is to be a supernatural act that counters opposition—a demonstration of the Spirit at work. What does preaching in Samaria look like? Among other things, it must speak to societal evil. When the Apostle Paul mentions "principalities and powers," he is including socio-political structures, like government or culture. Christians fight for God's kingdom in these structures, as well as at a personal level.

We confront the principalities and powers with courage and grace. We preach about taboo topics like sex, AIDS, divorce, polygamy, and immigration. The Enemy would love to keep the church silent on these unmentionable topics. But Jesus sets us free! Our speaking out in the silence opens doors.

**"The Samaritans' worship was wrong, their morals questionable, and their culture distasteful."**

It takes courage to preach the confrontational message of social holiness. But it also takes great grace, because we must relate to each person with the tenderness of the Savior. If we speak words that reveal guilt, we cannot fail to offer the words of living water and forgiveness that restore dignity and hope.

My church has been located in an area of our city known for prostitution. In our part of town, the police turn a blind eye to prostitution or drug trafficking. Prostitutes will be arrested in the better parts of town, but they are unofficially allowed to operate more freely in the part of town where my church is located. This is an unjust and evil system.

I first met Mary, a prostitute, one Sunday morning before service when I invited her in from the street for a cup of coffee. She looked at me and said, "You know what I'm doing here, right? You're not stupid, are you?" I replied, "I know what you're doing. I just thought you'd like some coffee." To my surprise, about half an hour later, Mary came in. As time went on, she would come for coffee and refreshments and people would call out "Hi, Mary!" She thrived on the attention and started to attend parts of the worship service.

Months went by, and Mary was arrested for drug possession. I visited her in jail. We talked about her lifestyle and her developing relationship with God. I shared with her the story of the prophet Hosea and his prostitute wife, and I told Mary how much God loved her and that he would never give up on her. I preach often, but there was something about sitting in jail with Mary and telling the story of Hosea and Gomer that felt like preaching on another supernatural level, pushing against Satan's chains.

**"SALVATION IS NOT ONLY FOR HEAVEN; *it's the pathway to a new, whole life here.*"**

Jesus has sent us to preach to Samaria. We need Holy Spirit-infused good news for people who need living water. Are you preaching to Samaria? Or are you tempted, like most of us, to skip it?

## *Healing in Samaria*

The second thing Jesus sends us to Samaria to do is healing. In the New Testament, the word "salvation" means to save, rescue, heal, cure, or restore to health. We are not only introducing people to the giver of eternal life, but also to the Healer, Jesus Christ. Salvation is more than a ticket to heaven; it is the pathway to a new, whole life.

John Wesley had a fascination with physical health. His medical guide, *Primitive Physik: Or, an Easy and Natural Method for Curing Most Diseases*, was highly popular. Professional medical care in his day was only affordable for the wealthy. Wesley was highly educated and aware of the medical knowledge of his day. He wrote the practical guide for those who couldn't afford doctors.

**"The need to restore health is an avenue for the gospel to penetrate our communities."**

There are several accounts of supernatural healing in Wesley's Journal. One of his friends, Mr. Meyrick, became sick and comatose. When Wesley went to check on him, Meyrick's pulse was gone. Wesley and several friends immediately prayed, and before their prayer was over, Meyrick's speech and sense had returned. Wesley wrote: "Let us examine the gift of healing. I have frequently said that it is not a sin to be sick or to die. It is, however, a sin for sickness and death to go unchallenged because there is no one to pray."

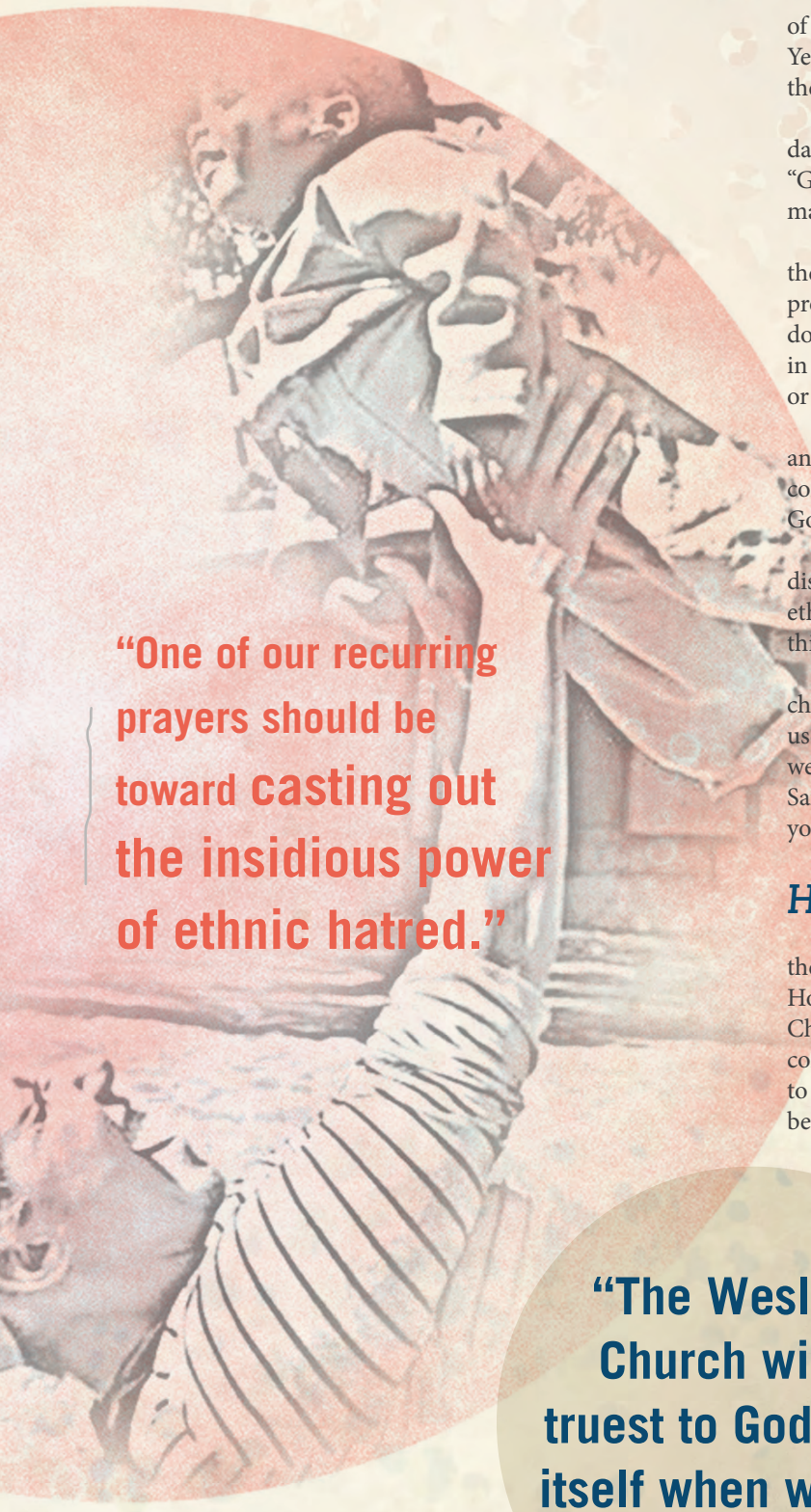
As we seek avenues for the gospel to penetrate our communities, health is one of those avenues. Both in practical and supernatural ways, we should seek to demonstrate the love and power of God.

What are the sicknesses of our Samarias? Often there is horrible nutrition. Some of us have Samarias with unclean water or nearby toxic dumps. The Lord cares about these. We are embodied people and our physical createdness is God's design. When we neglect to bring good news of healing to Samaria, we leave out one of Jesus' most dynamic messages of salvation.

Jack is a younger white man with a felony history. He burned down an apartment complex while drunk. Shortly after he was released from jail, Jack found our church. He became one of our church leaders. Matthew is a Black man and a single dad with three kids. Matthew has diabetes and went for kidney dialysis several times a week. He struggled to walk, had braces on his feet, and used a cane. He never complained, but life for this military veteran was not easy. He needed a new kidney.

This is a picture of healing on several levels: Jack offered to be tested to see if he was a match to be a donor for Matthew. Incredibly, he was. Jack's gifting of a kidney is another example of healing in God's kingdom.

Are you looking for ways to be an agent of healing? Not only to heal yourselves and your Jerusalem, but are you looking for ways to heal Samaria? Or are you skipping Samaria?



"One of our recurring prayers should be toward casting out the insidious power of ethnic hatred."

## Casting Out Demons in Samaria

Jesus also sent us to cast out demons. One needs to avoid the extreme of having an unhealthy fascination with spiritual warfare at every turn. Yet, realistically, the Enemy is clearly at work and can be defeated through the prayers of God's faithful.

Spiritual warfare against the Enemy was not "popular" in Wesley's day. Yet he had a surprising amount to say on this topic. He noted that "God alone can cast out Satan—but is usually pleased to do it through man. And God chooses the weak to confound the mighty" (Works, 5:484).

Casting out demons is another form of confronting evil. I see the power of hell wreaking havoc through the enslaving practice of prostitution and through drug addictions that drag the soul and body down to practically nothing. We have had multiple suicide drug overdoses in my church. I know we are not merely dealing with a person's willpower or a need for people to be "more committed" to Christ.

We need an unwavering faith that God's power is present in us and through us. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading about when to confront evil verbally and directly with the power of prayer and with God's presence.

One of the few things Jews and Samaritans had in common was their distaste for each other. There are few demonic powers as insidious as ethnic hatred. One of our recurring prayers should be toward casting out this deception of the Enemy.

We follow Jesus in acting against ethnic divisions by where we choose to live, by extending our hands in love, by the style of music we use in worship, the language we use in our sermons, and the friendships we intentionally build. Does your church clearly love and embrace Samaritans? Do you have any real friendships with Samaritans? Or are you tempted to skip Samaria?

## Holiness in Samaria

Holiness includes the idea of being different, being "set apart." But the purpose of this "set apartness" is not to isolate ourselves from society. Holiness is designed to move us—we are impelled by the active love of Christ. And he moves us to serve in places like Samaria. It might not be convenient or comfortable. It will be costly. Following Jesus through and to Samaria may require supernatural power that you do not have, perhaps because you have not prayed.

When will we go to Samaria? Or, a good question for The Wesleyan Church: When will we go back to Samaria? When did we start skipping Samaria? The Wesleyan Church will be truest to God and to itself, and it will be strongest, when we go to Samaria.

I may never learn to love the smells of Samaria—but as we live out the holiness and love of Christ, he imparts new aromas. The aroma of redemption is always sweet to those whom God has made holy.

"The Wesleyan Church will be truest to God and to itself when we go to Samaria."

**"But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. 15 For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing..." 2 Corinthians 2:14-15 ESV**

# SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE




Campus visits are pivotal for prospective students deciding to join the IWU residential community. Take a moment to invite students you know to attend a prescheduled visit day or schedule their own custom visit.

### GENERAL VISIT DAYS

showcase our more than 80 academic majors and give you the chance to experience our full community. The General Visit Day is a great option for your first visit to IWU.

### SPOTLIGHT DAYS

concentrate on introducing you to a specific academic division or a specific interest. This is for you if you know what you plan to study and want to learn as much as possible about your program.

### CUSTOM VISITS

are tailored to meet your specific interests. Let us know your needs and schedule, and we'll design a specialized visit itinerary, with at least ten days notice. These are available most school days except for General Visit Days.

## Upcoming Visit Days

**SPRING SEMESTER**

Friday, January 17
MLK Visit Day (Join us for this General Visit Day celebrating the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Friday, January 24
Spotlight on Nursing

Friday, February 7
Spotlight on Art

Monday, February 10
Spotlight on Music

Monday, February 17
General Visit Day (President's Day)

Saturday, February 22
General Visit Day (includes optional Transfer Track)

Friday, March 14
General Visit Day (includes optional John Wesley Honors College Preview)

Friday, April 4
General Visit Day (includes optional Life Calling Workshop)

Friday, April 11
General Visit Day with a Spotlight on Sophomores & Juniors

**SUMMER**

Friday, May 9
General Visit Day (includes optional Transfer Track w/ registration for Fall 2014

Friday, June 20
General Visit Day

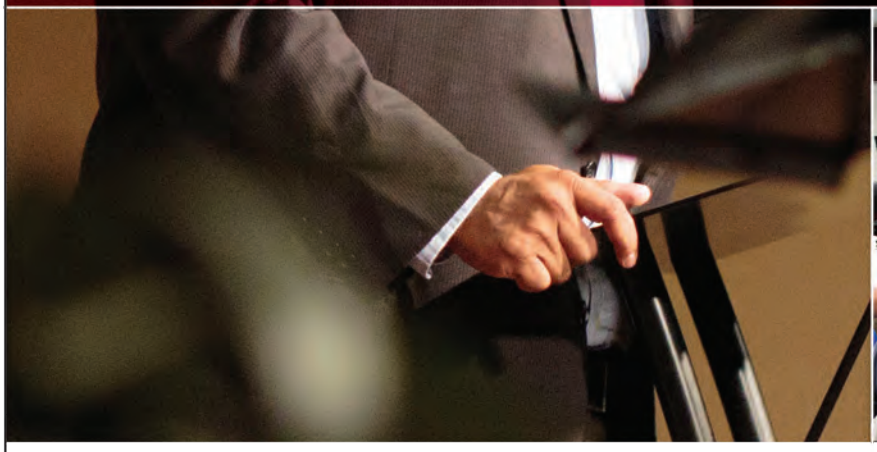
Thursday/Friday, July 24-25
General Visit Day

INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Schedule a campus visit at **indwes.edu/visit** or by calling Admissions at **866.468.6498**



# MASTER OF PRACTICAL THEOLOGY DEGREE





## Earn MDIV equivalency to apply for a Doctorate of Ministry

**The Master of Practical Theology** (MPTh) acts as a bridge for those who plan to apply for a Doctorate of Ministry (DMIN) but do not currently have the required Master of Divinity (MDIV) or MDIV equivalency.

- Allows those who have at least 30 credits of relevant graduate studies obtain MDIV equivalency
- 36 credit hours
- Students take 18 credits in Wesley Seminary's unique, integrated Master of Divinity program and 18 additional credits in theology, biblical studies, church history, and ministry

WESLEY SEMINARY
INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Master of Divinity
Master of Arts
Master of Practical Theology
Maestria en Divinidades en Español

**877-673-0009**
**Online and Onsite**

**IWUsuccess.com/seminary**

# NEW DIRECTION IN THE NORTH EAST

BY KERRY KIND




# How **changing** church culture is **winning** disciples...

**The Eastern New York/New England District of The Wesleyan Church is a historic district, comprised of some of the most venerable churches in the denomination.** Unfortunately, in recent decades, the district has experienced considerable decline alongside the measurable spiritual decline of this region of the country.

According to a 2013 Barna Group report on "post-Christian" attitudes in the United States, eight out of the top ten most post-Christian cities in the nation are located in New England and New York. In this study, post-Christian people do not attend church and generally find faith in God to be unimportant in their lives.

The #1 ranked post-Christian city in the nation is the Albany-Schenectady, NY metroplex, with 63% of the population reported to be post-Christian. Remarkably, one of the fastest growing Wesleyan churches in the district is Fusion Community Church in nearby Cobleskill, N.Y. Pastored by Rev. Andrew Fetter, the church averaged 171 in attendance in 2009 but today averages over 350 and is growing.

There are no Wesleyan mega-churches in the district, but they are undergoing positive changes in ministry philosophy. It is no overstatement to say that many of the pastors and churches have a new optimism, are developing new ministries and growth patterns, and are seeing more people in their communities turning to Jesus Christ.

**What happened?** A few years ago, Rev. Paul James accepted the assignment to serve as district superintendent. An experienced Wesleyan pastor and district leader, he had nonetheless never taken on a leadership challenge quite like this: a district of about forty-five churches that were mostly very small, declining, pessimistic, and situated in some of the least spiritually responsive areas of the country. He wisely took a year to assess the situation, pray, get to know his people better, and build trust. He read everything he could lay his hands on that would offer hope in this type of ministry environment.

When Rev. James began reading Paul D. Borden's books, especially *Assaulting the Gates: Aiming All God's People at the Mission Field*, he knew he had found at least a part of the answer. Many of the churches needed to make a radical change from an inward to an outward focus. Instead of catering to the needs of their own members, they needed a transformation that empowered them to embrace the role of Christ-like servants in their communities.

## ...a radical shift from inward to outward.

Often, outside help is needed to build the expertise, the confidence, and the spiritual willingness necessary to bring about this kind of transformation. Rev. James contacted Paul Borden and together with other district leaders, developed a plan called the District Transformation Project (DTP). Over the last three years, two dozen churches have had "consultation weekends" in which outside experts worked with pastors and their local church leaders to offer a prescription for change. Each prescription identifies five strengths a church already has and can build upon. Then it offers five important changes that must take place for the church to turn around and more effectively reach its community with the love and message of Jesus Christ. The church attendees must then vote positively to adopt the prescription.





## **Instead** of catering first to the needs of our own members...

**Rev. Russell "Rusty" Bissell** is pastor of Cornerstone Wesleyan Church in Heuvelton, N.Y. He returned to the district a year ago after having served elsewhere. He remarked that the optimism of pastors is like "night and day" compared with the former district culture. Cornerstone is reaching out into its community through organizations like the fire department, the school, men's and women's recovery ministries, and various connection groups. As the church honors Christ's Great Commission, the altars fill with people each week and seekers are finding Christ.

**Rev. Juanita Brooks** has been pastor of Brandon Center Wesleyan Church in North Bangor, N.Y., for twelve years. Her husband is also an ordained minister and serves as executive director of Hospice. The church meets in an old 40 x 30 foot building that was purchased for one dollar and housed no bathroom. Beginning with only ten people, they now conduct two services and over sixty people are being served in the quaint, rural community. Virtually all of them come from non-Christian backgrounds. Juanita's outward focus inspires her to participate in county food pantries, host community potluck dinners, and initiate other effective community projects. As a result of the consultation weekend, the church is now in a building project that will see them double in size.

One of the main features of a church that is a servant of the community is the way that the facility is used. Instead of having pews, most of the churches in the district now have flexible seating so the sanctuary can also be used for a meeting hall and activity center for the community. This is especially important in smaller towns and rural areas where the church can once again become a physical, psychological, and spiritual center of the town.



**Rev. Norm Mesel**, pastor of Turnpike Wesleyan Church in Plattsburg, N.Y., says the prescription helped their church transition from slow change to more dramatic change that would have taken many years to accomplish. He believes the culture of local churches must change if transformation is to occur. For example, a church might have a great mission statement about making disciples, but if the culture is inwardly focused, not much will happen. Norm remembers hearing that "culture eats mission and vision for breakfast!" After his church began to experience true change, their new vision statement had a different feel: "A place of hope and healing—a place to call home." Norm is excited that there are now many adults seizing opportunities to be vivid, active witnesses for Christ.



**Rev. Dean Brown** is lead pastor at Vantage Pointe Church in Queensbury, N.Y. When he began his ministry at Ridge Road Wesleyan Church, the congregation was divided and lacked vision. New people didn't stay and the church was spiraling down. After a 2011 consultation weekend, the congregation closed its doors and re-launched a new church—now called Vantage Pointe. Whereas only one person came to Christ in 2011, twelve people came to faith in 2012, and in 2013, it increased to twenty-three. The people have caught the vision for outreach. The community Easter Extravaganza saw 2,400 attend and there were 800 at the fall "Trunk or Treat" event. New people are now attending and staying. They are now seeing that, "From His Vantage Pointe, Anything is Possible!"



## If the **culture** does
## **Culture eats** missio





...we adopt the role of **Christ-like servants** in our communities as a **higher priority.**

**Rev. Dick Osborne** is pastor of the Wesleyan church in the twin villages of Hadley and Luzerne, N.Y. Following the consultation weekend, 80% of the people were in favor of the District Transformation Project. While some members took a "wait and see" posture, the first year following the consultation saw the church grow by 30%. This seemed to validate the process, with nearly everyone now supporting it. Like many of the churches, there is a lot of outreach planned around community events. One way they engage their community is by providing backpacks full of supplies for school kids living in poverty. New people are coming to all of their services. Prayer for people is a major foundation for loving outreach. Rev. Osborne said the church prays for the unsaved by name. At the foot of the church cross are 700 names of people who are regularly being prayed for.

**Rev. Andrew Fetter**, pastor of Fusion Community Church in Cobleskill, N.Y., connects monthly with new guests through a "Starting Point Café," where pastors and leaders share in more detail the reasons their church exists. The café is hosted by him at his home and averages over forty new people most months. He sees going beyond the church facility and into the community as a great way to make new connections. One of their most successful Sundays was called "Local Heroes Honor Sunday." The team did their research and found many people whose public service made them worthy of special honor—medical personnel, educators, active military and veterans, and others. It became a significant day in the life of the church and community and a record high attendance day, too.

Andrew realizes that vision drives ministry, but "in the church community, vision leaks—leaders have to continually work to keep it renewed." In that vein, he and most of the pastors are grateful for the opportunity to spend one day together each month with District Superintendent James. Rev. James calls the monthly gatherings "Success University." The pastors read inspiring new books together and discuss the application to their ministries. Each one gives a verbal report on what is happening and high accountability is a hallmark of the process. They mentor each other, share ideas, and experience great camaraderie while being challenged and renewed each month. Each one works to support his or her fellow pastors so that no one is left behind or is let down. The Success University is an important part of why this is a successful team of district pastors.

**Have all of the churches participated in the consultation process?** Not yet. But most of the churches have taken the first big steps in their transformation journeys. After decades of decline, new, positive trends have emerged. It is exciting to see dozens of healthy churches enthusiastic about moving out in Christ-like, generous service to their communities. Church growth takes place, and best of all, hundreds of people are finding Jesus Christ. If this can happen in the most spiritually unreceptive environment in the nation, one thinks it could happen anywhere!

not change, **vision is weakened.**

on and vision for breakfast!



# RETHINK COST

Throughout the past year, national news stories and President Obama have focused attention on whether or not tuition rates are reflective of the value of a college education. In response to this, Houghton College has become the first and only college in the eastern United States to offer a Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) to all of its incoming first year students in the 2014–2015 school year.

The LRAP is designed to assist or completely repay a student's loans after graduation when he or she earns less than $38,000. If a student earns $20,000 or less, the Loan Repayment Assistance Program would reimburse 100% of the qualifying loan payments until the loan is paid in full or that graduate begins to earn a higher salary.

Educational loans eligible for repayment include private, federal, and parent PLUS loans.

## The LRAP is designed to assist or completely repay a student's loans after graduation...

Eric Currie, vice president for enrollment management at Houghton, commented, "Houghton College provides an education that changes a person's trajectory for their life. With the loan repayment program, all new students have the opportunity to be a part of Houghton College's rich and long-standing history, which will prepare those students for a significant and impactful future."

A student must meet some basic requirements to qualify for the loan repayment. They must graduate from Houghton, be working a job that averages at least 30 hours a week and be employed within the United States.

According to a national study, the average debt for a 2012 graduating college student who had loans was approximately $26,500.

In the current economy, some graduates might find that they have to choose between following their calling or meeting their financial commitments. The Loan Repayment Assistance Program shows that Houghton graduates don't have to make that choice, and, in some cases, could have their loan payments completely covered.

For more information about the LRAP, contact the Houghton College office of admission at 800.777.2556 or visit www.houghton.edu/LRAP

18 83
HOUGHTON COLLEGE

# 50 IDEAS INTO YOUR Community

by David Drury

**We are seeing God transform lives, churches, and communities with the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ in The Wesleyan Church.** What are some practical ways we can offer hope in his name? How is an intentionally missional holiness applied in our hurting local communities?

**We've asked pastors and laypeople and received scores of ideas for demonstrating love and hope in Christ.** Which of these do you already do and which ones could you start? Let us know what you would add to the list!

## EMPOWERING PEOPLE

1. Make and freeze meals alongside those in need
2. Community garden: teach others to plant, harvest, & share
3. Offer ESL (English as a Second Language) classes
4. Teach car maintenance
5. Teach kids to fix bicycles
6. Offer biblical finance classes
7. Teach Spanish or other secondary local languages

## GENEROUS LIVING

8. Provide coins at laundromats
9. Give to relief efforts for those in desperate times
10. Keep a guest room occupied
11. Provide transportation
12. Put together holiday meal packages for families in need
13. Give baby care items to pregnant teens and others in need
14. Make it easy for the community to use church facilities
15. Fill backpacks with school supplies for needy kids

## CARING COMPASSION

16. Offer marriage/family counseling
17. Local hotline for key needs
18. Sit with people during chemo or other medical situations
19. Support and traning for mental illness
20. Depression support groups
21. Recovery programs
22. Combat human trafficking

## SPECIAL SPACES

23. Use church facility as a safe place for at-risk kids after school
24. Religious instruction in public school arrangements
25. Convert the old parsonage into a need-meeting station
26. Organize a kid/parent breakfast at school
27. Let neighborhood use church parking lot for block party
28. Host art show with community and school artists
29. Be generous in making church available for weddings, etc.

## BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

30. Befriend someone trapped in poverty
31. Have a conversation with anyone you give something to
32. Encourage schoolteachers and first-responders
33. Host a meal for veterans
34. Visit shut-ins
35. Food night at church (visitors eat free!)
36. Recruit foster/adoptive parents

## MEETING NEEDS

37. Clothing drives
38. Set up a group home or serve there
39. Sponsor newly arriving immigrants
40. Assist Native communities
41. Free medical screening days
42. Open a church facility overnight for the homeless
43. Open or partner at a community food & essentials pantry
44. Assist neighbors/victims after storms

## INTENTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

45. Police and firefighters
46. Salvation Army and rescue missions
47. Community centers
48. Neighborhood associations
49. School administration
50. Health and Human Services



# JOINING GOD in Detroit

BY MARK JUDKINS

**"Detroit Hustles Harder"** and "Detroit vs. Everybody" are a couple of the new slogans we see on T-shirts here in Detroit. In the largest city ever to file for U.S. bankruptcy protection, people are desperate for hope.

Slogans like these seem to bring us together and give us a little more confidence. Bankruptcy is not the city's biggest challenge. Poor schools, bad government, poorly managed public safety, the transfer of American manufacturing to the Far East, and many others factors contribute to that brokenness. God hears the cries of broken people and responds in ways that aren't obvious to those outside Detroit.

There are almost 4,000 churches in the city of Detroit, more than 200 for sale, and hundreds more crumbling under the weight of neglect and poor leadership. Healthy church partnerships are scarce. That is part of the reason The Wesleyan Church has developed an "urban urgency" policy and the Hope and Holiness Trust.

With more than 150 Wesleyan churches in Michigan, none existed in Detroit, the state's largest city. East Michigan District Superintendent Richard Meeks had Detroit's 800,000 people on his radar. But the challenge remained: How can we join what God is already doing in Detroit? In December 2010, after many prayer drives, prayer walks, and God-directed investigations, the East Michigan District purchased a 27,000 square foot office building in the most densely populated neighborhood of the city. We paid a fair market price, investing in the community, instead of exploiting a hurting neighborhood. God has blessed us in so many ways for this obedience.

Why not redeem one of the empty church buildings whose crumbling façades seemed to cry out for a caring congregation's reclamation? Their tragic histories seem to follow them. Why not recover one of the over 100 schools that have been closed, leaving abandoned, dangerous voids? We were outsiders, locked out of the insider deals that it took to acquire one of the public schools. So God blessed us with an office building on 7 Mile Road at Birwood Street. Little did we know that Birwood Street had been the racial divide between black and white. A block wall had been built down this street in the 1940's to satisfy FHA loan programs that kept black families locked out of the opportunities available on the east side of Birwood. God gave us what has become the Wesley Community Center to be a bridge, a place for healing, a place for "unlocking neighborhood access to opportunity." That is the mission statement we developed for the East Michigan Christian Community Development

**WE TRY TO PROMISE LITTLE BUT *DELIVER BIG* ON A MULTITUDE OF PROGRAMS.**

**WE PAID A FAIR MARKET PRICE, *INSTEAD OF EXPLOITING* A HURTING NEIGHBORHOOD.**





**HAVING A SPIRIT OF FEAR MAKES ONE MISS SEEING WHAT GOD IS DOING.**

Association (CCDA), the non-profit that runs our programs.

Everywhere in Detroit today, slogans, slick marketing, and phony promises offer false hope. At the Wesley Community Center, we try to promise little but deliver big on our programs. After-school youth programs, senior citizens programs, summer youth programs with art, drama and sports, a client choice pantry, monthly grocery distribution, job training programs, computer lab, resale shop, Christmas toy shop, urban gardening, urban immersions, internships, and community programs are just some of the multitude of services we offer through East Michigan CCDA. So far, we are employing seven people from the local community, part-time. Every month hundreds of volunteers provide over 1,000 hours of service in these programs. The Wesley Community Center gives people a place to learn and overcome the walls that divide people. Visitors learn to look at our community through the lens of love and to extinguish the spirit of fear.

If a visitor comes with a spirit of fear, they will miss seeing all the great things God is doing in this neighborhood. They see the burned-out buildings instead of the beautiful home next door, cared for by an 80-year citizen of our community. They don't see a wonderful group of young people made in the image of God: instead, they see a bunch of gang-banging troublemakers.

We fund these programs and jobs through individual, public, church, and corporate grants or donations. While they provide access to many new opportunities, we know there is only one thing we offer that is worthy of our entire hope. That is reconciliation to God through faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior. Real hope comes through being part of the bride of Christ, the Church.

We are launching a church at the center called Wesleyan Community Church – Detroit. Our mission is "Serving Our World – Honoring Our God – Loving Our Neighbors." We currently have youth group meetings on Monday and Wednesday evenings and a Bible study on Thursday evenings. Eventually, we will develop and launch Sunday worship events. That will depend upon God's timing, but the community is already asking for it, and that is a good base on which to build. Currently I use that time to preach at other churches to raise support for the community center. More workers will need to come alongside us for Sunday services to occur. Two staff members have already indicated receiving a call to ministry at WCC-D and many young people are being trained to be future leaders.

There are ways Wesleyans across the Church can help us provide real hope in Detroit. We need prayer partners to ask God to remove the obstacles that are in our way. We need prayer for the hurting people in our community and for the resources to meet their needs. Please pray for strength and wisdom for me to meet the challenges of being both pastor and community center director. My wife Janise is presently the executive pastor at a suburban church, our daughter Kyla and son-in-law Luke are in college, as is our other daughter, Michaela.

We have a place for friends and supporters of this ministry to volunteer at the center for a day, weekend, week, several months, or longer, through work projects, urban immersions, internships, and bi-vocational ministry opportunities.

## CONTACT US

EAST MICHIGAN CCDA
10421 W. 7 MILE RD.
DETROIT, MI 48221

313-397-6375

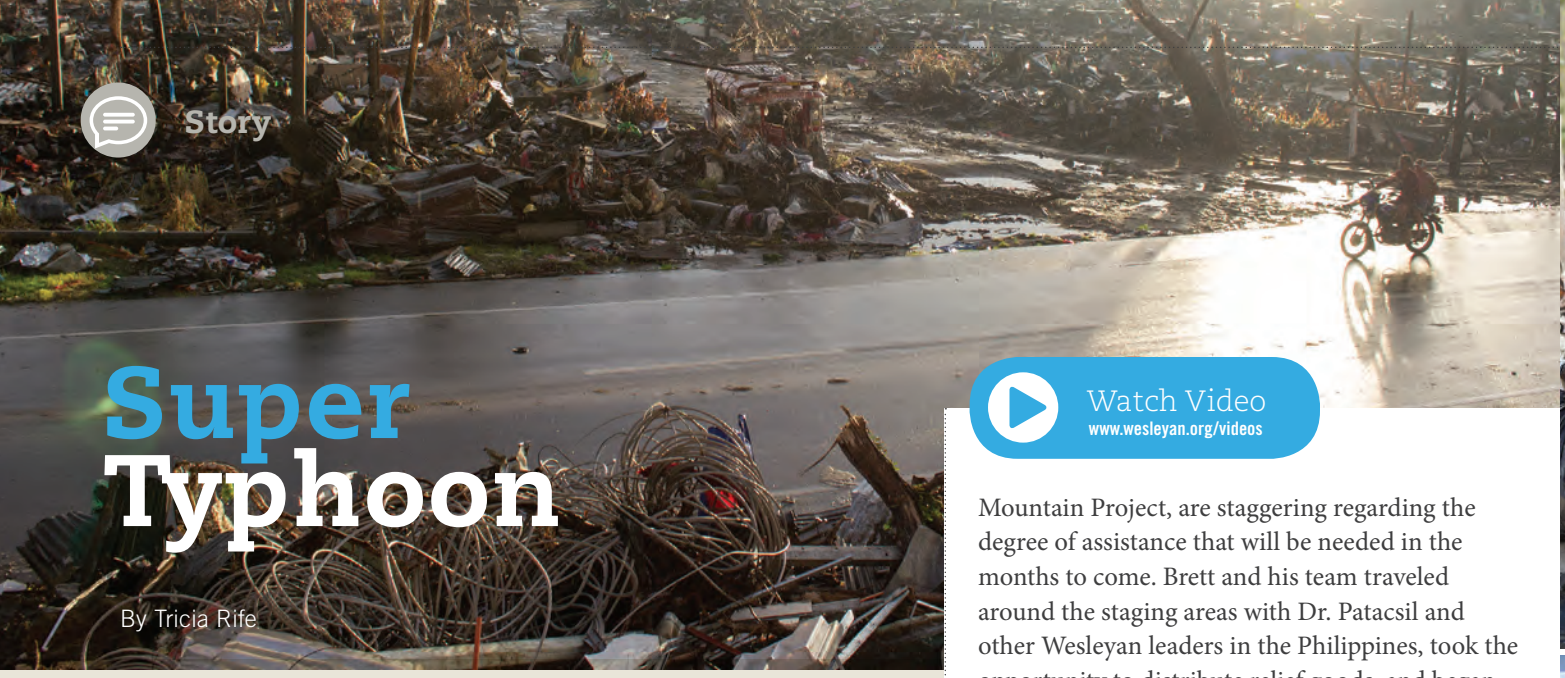
EastMichiganCCDA@gmail.com

facebook.com/mark.judkins.5





**Thank you** for considering joining God in offering real hope to North America's most hurting city.



Story

# Super Typhoon

By Tricia Rife

## TYPHOON HAIYAN WAS ONE OF THE TWO STRONGEST STORMS TO MAKE LANDFALL ANYWHERE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

**Weeks have passed since catastrophic Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines, and the effects of the second-strongest cyclone to hit land anywhere in recorded history are still being felt on the island.**

More than 6,100 people have been killed and as many as 4.4 million have been displaced from their homes. Over 1,700 are still missing. Many are experiencing hunger, fuel is scarce making food and resource deliveries slow, and communication connections are non-existent in some areas. The death toll could still rise in weeks to come, as many deal with diseases and malnutrition linked to the horrific natural disaster.

Because of the desperate needs facing Filipinos, The Wesleyan Church has stepped in to help. Wesleyans have had a strong presence in the Philippines since before World War II. Since 1972, The Wesleyan Church of the Philippines has been a dynamic and growing General Conference, with several hundred churches throughout the country. Dr. Alberto Patacsil currently serves as General Superintendent.

The Philippine Wesleyan Church has established three central points of disaster relief and recovery: northern Cebu Island in the city of Medellin; Tacloban City on Leyte Island; and Samar, an island north of Leyte. Reports show that Samar suffered great devastation, but since the area is more remote, it has not received as much attention as others.

Financial gifts received via the Wesleyan Emergency Relief Fund are helping to alleviate suffering. The Wesleyan Church, World Hope International, and Church of God officials in the Philippines are cooperating in their efforts to provide assistance in relief and rebuilding.

Women like Priscilla, who resides in Tacloban (one of the hardest hit areas), have received aid in recent weeks. Priscilla has four children, ages 5-19, and since the storm, her husband has been missing and is presumed dead. She has struggled to provide food and the most basic needs for her family since her home was reduced to a pile of rubble in the storm.

Stories like Priscilla's are, sadly, extremely common. Reports from American volunteer Brett Durbin, founder and executive director of Trash Mountain Project, are staggering regarding the degree of assistance that will be needed in the months to come. Brett and his team traveled around the staging areas with Dr. Patacsil and other Wesleyan leaders in the Philippines, took the opportunity to distribute relief goods, and began rebuilding homes.

Watch Video
www.wesleyan.org/videos

Government aid, international agencies, and volunteers of all types have only begun to scratch the surface of the need. Wesleyans from across North America are invited to join in the relief and recovery efforts, which could take months or even years. You can serve these Filipino Wesleyans and friends in three necessary ways: through prayer, giving, and going. Pray for needs to be met and lives to be changed, as Jesus restores hope to the affected communities. Give to the **Wesleyan Emergency Relief Fund**, which helps with relief and rebuilding efforts. One hundred percent of all funds donated go towards helping the victims of the disaster, and finances are still needed. Individuals and church groups desiring to volunteer and assist in the Philippines recovery should call 317.774.7907 or e-mail communications@wesleyan.org for more info.

## SOME REMOTE AREAS NOT RECEIVING MUCH ATTENTION ARE BEING HELPED BY THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

Photo Gallery
www.facebook.com/thewesleyanchurch

The North American Wesleyan Church has committed to stand with Dr. Patacsil, the Wesleyan pastors and leaders, and churches in the Philippines, both in prayer and financial assistance. Thank you for your generosity. You continue to make a difference, lifting up hope in the name of Christ.

**FOR REGULAR UPDATES ON RELIEF AND RECOVERY EFFORTS VISIT WWW.WESLEYAN.ORG.**


















# A new day for La Gonâve

By Dan and Joy Irvine



**SOMETIMES THE MOST AUDACIOUS DREAMS COME TRUE.** In 1958, a courageous missionary nurse set up a table under a palm frond roof on the island of La Gonâve, Haiti, and opened the first clinic. Missionary doctors and nurses have labored faithfully there for three generations. In recent years, the missionary medical personnel were replaced by well-trained Haitian medical staff.

Were it not for the Wesleyan Hospital, the 75,000 people who live there would have had no adequate medical care. It is 25 miles across the open sea to the Haitian mainland.

In January, 2010, a terrible earthquake struck Haiti, affecting three million people. Thousands were crushed in collapsing buildings. The hospital was inundated with earthquake victims in addition to its regular (heavy) load. For a time, they operated in tents because of fears of structural instability. However, when the rainy season began with its wind, rain, and a plague of mosquitoes, the patients and staff moved back into the outdated and potentially dangerous hospital.

The leaders could only petition God for answers. In ways that only God can move, he brought together a Scottish charity called Lemon Aid led by Justin Dowds; Compassion UK directed by Ian Hamilton; the Wesleyan Mission; and other partners to provide a whole new, remarkably modern hospital. A solar system supplying electricity for the entire hospital and mission station was designed and built by Justin Charles from Lenepe Solar.

On September 28, 2013, six hundred people gathered for the hospital dedication that featured 48 inpatient beds, maternity and pediatric wards, labs, surgical theatres, training rooms, and a dedicated staff. General Superintendent Dr. Jo Anne Lyon and executive director of Global Partners Dr. Dennis Jackson, along with media journalists, joined other honored guests.

## 600 PEOPLE GATHERED IN A COLORFUL AND JOYOUS HOSPITAL DEDICATION.

The choirs, orchestra, children's chorus, nurses and other staff in their pressed uniforms, a delegation from the Red Cross, former and present missionaries, friends from partner organizations, and government officials led a colorful and joyous assembly. The ceremony took place in true Caribbean style, with many leaders and guests bringing greetings. The keynote address was delivered by Wesley Stafford, former president of Compassion International.

Pray that this will be the beginning of a great new day for The Wesleyan Church of Haiti and its partners as they seek God's blessing and power for even more audacious dreams.

*Dan and Joy Irvine are long-term missionaries with Global Partners in Haiti. Dan is also the GP Caribe Atlantic Area Director. They are from the Western Pennsylvania District.*

Photo Gallery
www.facebook.com/thewesleyanchurch




# Houghton College to build huge solar array

Houghton College and Smart Energy Capital have signed an agreement for the college to use solar electricity from a 2.5 megawatt solar system located on its campus. Houghton College will establish one of the largest solar power installations in New York State. The energy generated by the system will meet over one half of the college's ongoing electricity demands with an estimated savings of $1.3 million over the 25-year contract. The solar installation will result in an instant reduction of 23 percent in greenhouse gas emissions.

## OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES GROWTH AND BEING DEBT-FREE

Recently, Oklahoma Wesleyan University ceremonially burned its "mortgage" to signify that it had emerged totally debt-free. This is especially remarkable, because in 2002 the university had over $7 million in debt, which represented over 80 percent of the annual budget at that time.

At the same time as the university was eliminating its indebtedness, it also constructed multiple new buildings on its beautiful Bartlesville campus. In the past decade the student population has nearly doubled.



## DR. GARY CARR JOINS EDUCATION AND CLERGY DEVELOPMENT

**Dr. Gary Carr** is a new director in the Education and Clergy Development Division. Among a range of division responsibilities, he is the new associate chaplain endorser for The Wesleyan Church.

Carr was a highly decorated military chaplain (COMMANDER, USN). He pastored at Diamond Springs Wesleyan Church in Michigan, then embarked upon active duty military chaplain service in 1987, and retired from the Navy at the end of 2007. Since then Dr. Carr has served as vice-president in charge of global translation operations for the International Bible Society, and more recently as vice-president at Southern Wesleyan University. Dr. Carr is married to Karen, and they have three daughters.



# New Wesley Seminary building dedicated

Wesley Seminary dedicated its new $7 million building in a ceremony on October 3, 2013.

The seminary, the first in The Wesleyan Church, began offering classes in 2009. Enrollment has already reached 401 students. Located near the main campus entrance of Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Ind., it offers Master of Arts and Master of Divinity degrees in English and Spanish.

The two-story building includes 21,000 square feet of floor space and was funded, in part, by a $2.5 million gift from the Green family that founded the Hobby Lobby stores.

THE gathering
WESLEYAN CLERGY CONFERENCE

JAN. 13–16 2015
ORLANDO • FLORIDA

TOGETHER
we
ARE MADE NEW



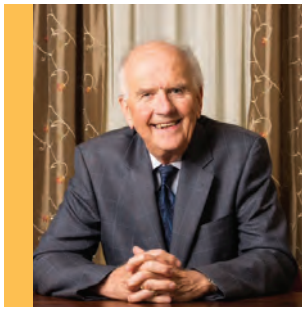
## IWU inaugurates its ninth president, expands to Australia

Indiana Wesleyan University inaugurated **Dr. David Wright** as its ninth president on October 4, 2013. About 3,000 attended the event.

One of Dr. Wright's stated goals as IWU's president is to broaden its global reach. On the same day he was inaugurated, the IWU Board of Trustees voted to authorize the creation of the university's first international campus through the acquisition of Wesley Institute in Sydney, Australia.

Wesley Institute, Australia's first and leading Christian arts college, is an evangelical, not-for-profit higher education provider. Dr. Wright stated,

> *"It is our shared vision that the university established in Australia will serve the Asia-Pacific region and will enable student and faculty exchanges between the region and North America."*



## Kingswood University establishes the Buckingham Leadership Institute

Kingswood University recently announced formation of the Buckingham Leadership Institute. Named for its co-founders, **Dr. Laurel D. and Mrs. Lois Buckingham**, the Institute offers programs for maximizing the potential of pastors and the organizations they lead.

Buckingham served as lead pastor of Moncton Wesleyan Church in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada, from 1969 to 2013. During that time the church grew from an average worship attendance of less than 150 to nearly 2,000.



# Southern Wesleyan University approved for NCAA membership

Southern Wesleyan University has started the process towards the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II membership and to join Conference Carolinas, NCAA officials announced recently.

Achieving full NCAA Division II membership typically takes three years. SWU will spend two years in candidacy status and one year as a provisional member before gaining full membership status. The earliest SWU can become a full member is the 2016-17 academic year.

## CHURCH LEADERS EXPERIENCE THE SUMMIT IN THE CAROLINAS

Under the direction of the Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division, the new health and multiplication network, Nitrogen, led the annual church health and multiplication conference into the mission field of North America. Known as the Summit, the conference allows participants to be exposed to the best practices of several growing Wesleyan congregations.

At this year's Summit, 105 Wesleyan leaders from across North America toured church health and multiplication sites throughout the South Carolina District. The 2014 Summit will take place in the Pacific Southwest District.



# The New Level Youth Leadership Forum kicks off at 12Stone® Church

Never The Same Camps, Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU), and 12Stone® Church have partnered together to help develop the next generation of Wesleyan leaders through a free, two-year leadership training class: The New Level Youth Leadership Forum. The first training session was held November 11-12, 2013, at 12Stone® Church's central campus in Lawrenceville, Georgia. The forum will meet twice at 12Stone® Church and twice at IWU, with each session focusing on one of four types of leadership: relational, organizational, self, and platform leadership.

## HOUGHTON COLLEGE AND OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY TO ASSIST STUDENTS WITH LOAN REPAYMENT

Houghton College is believed to be the first and only college in the eastern United States to offer a Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) to incoming first year students in the 2014–2015 school year. The LRAP will assist or completely repay a student's loans after graduation when the student earns less than $38,000. For those earning $20,000 or less, the LRAP reimburses 100 percent of the loan payments until the loan is paid in full or that graduate begins to earn a higher salary.

At the same time, Oklahoma Wesleyan University is offering a very similar arrangement to all its incoming students under its PURSUE program. It is the only plan of its kind in Oklahoma. Through PURSUE, OKWU will also partner with lower-income students to assist them in paying back student loans.

**DIGITAL MAG** & **ENEWS**
WESLEYANLIFEONLINE.COM

## Called to Heaven

# Mindy Cartwright Dunn



Jesus called Melinda "Mindy" Cartwright Dunn, age 44, home to heaven on November 4, 2013, after a two-year battle with cancer. She was married to Rev. Dr. James "Jim" A. Dunn, executive director of Church Multiplication and Discipleship for The Wesleyan Church. Mindy was a social worker and an active volunteer in her community. She is survived by her husband, one son, Caleb; a daughter, Courtney; her mother, Carolyn (Finke) Cartwright; one sister; and one brother.

# John Lyon appointed CEO of World Hope International



The Board of Directors of World Hope International (WHI) recently appointed **John Lyon** as president and CEO. Lyon succeeds Dr. Thomas E. Armiger, who accepted a position as lead pastor of a Wesleyan church in Fort Myers, Florida.

Previously, Lyon served as WHI's Vice President of Programs. He also served four years on the WHI board, and as a volunteer for over 13 years. As a volunteer, he contributed to the building of a primary school in Jamaica, redevelopment of the Caribbean Wesleyan College in Jamaica, and development of water and sanitation plans for WHI programs in Honduras and Sierra Leone. Prior to WHI, Lyon practiced law for seven years.

## HOUGHTON COLLEGE, INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Houghton College president, **Shirley Mullen**, and Indiana Wesleyan University president, **David Wright**, signed a memorandum of understanding on November 18, 2013, indicating their intention to explore a partnership, drawing on each other's strengths. This is the first such agreement among educational institutions owned by The Wesleyan Church.

"Our proposed partnership with Indiana Wesleyan University reflects one of the ways institutions are preparing for the changing environment in higher education," said President Mullen.

"Houghton has done great work developing service learning classes, student services, and programs to serve international students," said President Wright, "and we want to learn from them."





The Way to Move members, clergy & employees –
Stevens Worldwide Van Lines

- Personalized attention
- Discounted pricing
- Customized moving packages
- Top-rated drivers
- Stevens Home Protection Kit ™

The Clergy Move Center ®

800.248.8313

www.stevensworldwide.com/wesleyan

Proud supporter of the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.®
STEVENS worldwide van lines
The Way to Move. The Way to Care.

USDOT 72029

Recommended by
The Wesleyan Church



## Three Former District Superintendents Promoted to Heaven

**REV. DONALD C. FISHER**, age 96, a lifelong minister of The Wesleyan Church, died October 27, 2013. He pastored Wesleyan churches in Ohio and Indiana and was district superintendent in Ohio from 1953 to 1963. He served on the General Board of the denomination for twenty years and was a trustee or trustee emeritus of Indiana Wesleyan University for 59 years, the longest-serving trustee in the university's history. His wife of 74 years, Mildred, three sons, two daughters, twelve grandchildren, sixteen great grandchildren, and a sister survive him.

**REV. DONALD C. BOYD**, age 79, died November 1, 2013. He lived in West Chester, Ohio. He served as a pastor for 28 years and a theological professor for 30 years. He pastored Wesleyan churches in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, and New York, was district superintendent in the Allegheny Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and a delegate to the Merging General Conference of The Wesleyan Church in 1968. He joined the faculty of Asbury Theological Seminary in 1977 until his retirement. Survivors include Phyllis, his wife of 60 years, three daughters, one son, 11 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**REV. WINFRED JAMES "WJ/WINNIE/WIN" BROWN**, 87, died November 7, 2013. He pastored Wesleyan churches in Nebraska and Colorado, served as district superintendent of the Colorado-Nebraska District for 15 years, and served on the Board of Trustees of Oklahoma Wesleyan University, Bartlesville, OK. His wife of 55 years, Esther, preceded him in death. He is survived by one son, one daughter, one brother, and five grandchildren.

# Obituaries

### GOODMAN, REV. LOUIS (89)
Rev. Louis Goodman lived in Palm Bay, Fla. He served as a minister within The Wesleyan Church. Survivors include Phyllis, his wife of 64 years, two sons, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

### HINE, ROBERT "BOB" (99)
Robert "Bob" Hine lived in Lebanon, Ind. He was the oldest living alumnus of Frankfort Pilgrim College, where he served on the board in years past. He also served on the board of Clyde Dupin Ministries. Those who preceded him in death include his wife Margaret and two sisters. Survivors include three daughters and five grandchildren.

### JOHNSTON, REV. BILL (89)
Rev. Bill Johnston lived in Boynton Beach, Fla. He pastored several Wesleyan churches in Pennsylvania and also served as assistant district superintendent of the Penn-Jersey District for several years. Rev. Johnston served as a missionary with Worldwide Evangelism Crusade, and, after retirement, he served as a pastor in New Jersey. His wife, Evelyn, preceded him in death.

### LAFFERTY, REV. LARRY (60)
Rev. Larry Lafferty lived in Mullens, W.V. He was a coal miner called into ministry with The Wesleyan Church and ordained in 1989, pastoring two churches in West Virginia. He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters. Survivors include Teresa, his wife of 38 years, two sons, two daughters, two sisters, a brother, nine grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

### LAMAR, REV. LLOYD (88)
Rev. Lloyd Lamar lived in Petersburg, Ind. He pastored Petersburg Wesleyan Church for 29 years, as well as other churches prior to his service there. The World War II veteran was preceded in death by his wife Ruth and a daughter. Survivors include one daughter, four sons, and grandchildren.

### MITCHELL, REV. DON (83)
Rev. Don Mitchell lived in Butler, Mo. He began ministry within The Wesleyan Church in 1960 and pastored churches in Kansas, Colorado, Missouri, and Nebraska. He also served as an evangelist for two years. After retirement, he served as a visitation pastor in a local church. He was preceded in death by one brother. Survivors include Mary Jane, his wife of 65 years, four sons, nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and a sister.

### PHIPPS, LESTON "LES" (71)
Leston "Les" Phipps lived in Battle Ground, Wash. A member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe in Pine Ridge, S.D., he served five years as the director of Wesleyan Native Ministries (WNM), following his father, Rev. Neal Phipps, the founder of WNM. Survivors include Shirley, his wife of 53 years, two sons, two daughters, 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, one brother, and one sister.

### SHAFFER, REV. CECIL (99)
Rev. Cecil Shaffer lived in Intercession City, Fla. He was a minister with The Wesleyan Church and ministered for more than 50 years. Survivors include two daughters, a stepdaughter, four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

### TAYLOR, REV. GRACE (101)
Rev. Grace Taylor lived in Marlton, N.J. She and her husband, Rev. Paul Taylor, pastored nine churches and spent five years as missionaries. Rev. Taylor preceded her in death, after 52 years of marriage, as did one son. Survivors include six daughters, two sons, twenty-eight grandchildren, sixty-three great-grandchildren, and twenty-four great-great-grandchildren.

Living Generously
THE wesleyan CHURCH

*What would happen if Christians would shift this culture of greed in which we live to become a culture of generosity? To the point where people would say,* ***'those people are Christian because of their generosity.'***

***– DR. JO ANNE LYON***

# *What's your strategy for* ***living generously*** *this year?*




**EMAIL OR CALL US TODAY**
GENEROUSLIVING@WESLEYAN.ORG
317.774.3932 / WWW.WESLEYAN.ORG

**GENEROUS LIVING** is here to serve you and all Wesleyan churches. Let us come alongside and creatively assist you to invest in Kingdom work with the blessings God has given you!




# GOOD NEWS for GIRLS




**85%** of women in Sierra Leone are suffering from FGM: the removal of the external female reproductive organs

Join the Heart of Ministry Offering on February 23, 2014.
Help Wesleyan Women partner with the church in Sierra Leone to end FGM and share the Good News with thousands of girls and their communities.

**Give Online:**
wesleyan.org/hom

**Give by phone:**
317.774.3891

**Give by Mail:**
Wesleyan Women's Movement
Heart of Ministries Offering
PO Box 50434
Indianapolis, IN 46250-0434

Or give through your local church



Find creative ways to learn about, pray for, & support these girls @ wesleyan.org/hom

HEART OF MINISTRY OFFERING 2014

# wesleyan life

THE **MAGAZINE** OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH



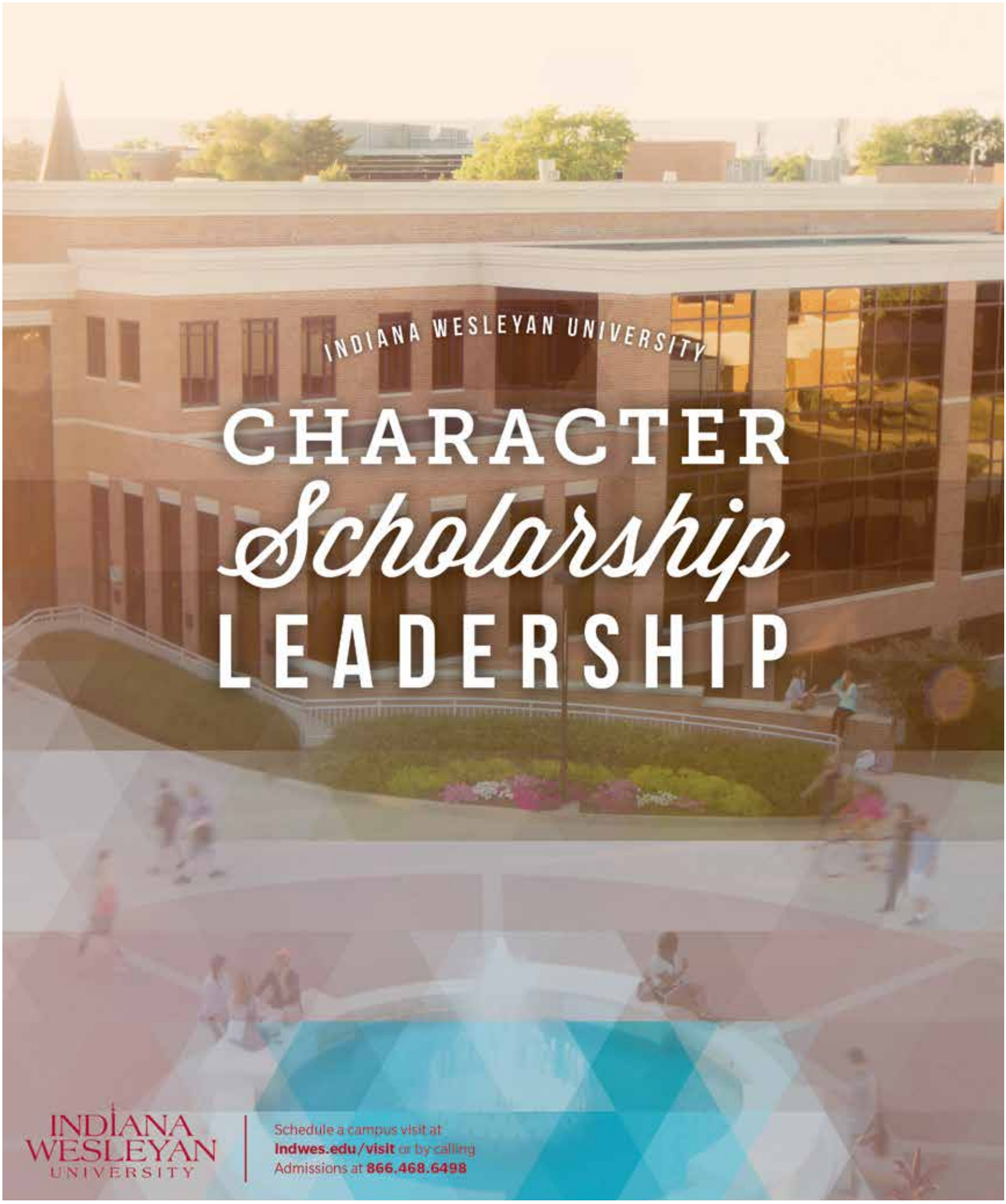
ON THE COVER

# HEAVEN IS FOR REAL

**The movie** about a Wesleyan pastor's family raises big questions. What will eternity be like?

## C.S. Lewis
CONSIDERS HEAVEN

## Pacific Southwest
CHURCHES OPEN SIDE DOORS




INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Schedule a campus visit at
**Indwes.edu/visit** or by calling
Admissions at **866.468.6498**

wesleyan life


VISION

04 **Never** alone

23 Saving the best **for forever**

31 **Nimble** as your thoughts

FEATURED

18 **Side Door:** moving ministry off campus

TEACHING

08 **Glory Forever:** too beautiful to bear

16 **C. S. Lewis** considers heaven

STORY

05 **Heaven is for Real:** the movie and opportunity

06 **Restoring hearts** in Tacloban, Philippines

12 **Dos Pastores:** ¿Es castigo el sufrimiento?

NEWS

25 **News** & Info




10



08



05




@WESLEYANCHURCH

FACEBOOK.COM/THEWESLEYANCHURCH

INSTAGRAM.COM/WESLEYANCHURCH

Look for these icons for bonus digital media

View Digital Magazine

# Never Alone

## HOW HEAVEN CHANGES EVERYTHING

*"Jo Anne, your mother and two sisters have been in a car accident. One of your sisters is dead."*

I will never forget these words tumbling out of the mouth of my teacher when I was 15 years old. She continued: "We don't know which sister died and your mother may not be alive when you get there." In that moment, horrible words became my reality, bringing separation, devastation, and utter helplessness. Those feelings were all part of the word "alone" for me.

Aloneness crosses every geographical and cultural border. At certain times, we all have been struck by an indescribable sense of aloneness. If we are fortunate to embark on the journey with Jesus, aloneness decreases, but it never totally leaves us in this life. When those close to us die, we sense aloneness more powerfully, and the questions about heaven surface.

I remember being told about heaven when I was a child. Otherworldly characters inhabited the picture. We sang songs with beautiful images of golden streets and pearly gates. Do these pictures really capture the essence of Heaven? It does not seem that mansions or streets of gold speak to the depth of our pain.

However, we are not left there. John writes in Revelation: "I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, 'Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever'" (Rev 21:3-4 NLT). Heaven, then, is complete healing and life eternal with God. It will bring the end of aloneness. "God himself will be with them."



*When those close to us die, we sense aloneness more powerfully, and the questions about heaven surface.*

One sister died; my mother survived. But a miraculous cushion of rest then came around my family. Even today I cannot describe it. I understood prayer and the presence of Christ in a new way even at that young age. Later, when my eyes fell on the words of John in Revelation, I caught a new vision not only of heaven, but also of this life. "And the one sitting on the throne said, 'Look, I am making everything new!'" (Rev. 21:5 NLT)

Finally, in heaven we are made new and made whole as God intended for us from the beginning. The empty place in our souls that only God can touch will be completely filled.



**JO ANNE LYON**
General Superintendent
The Wesleyan Church

THE **MAGAZINE** OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

**wesleyan life**

*Transforming lives, churches, and communities through the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ.*

**Vol. 8, No. 2**

**Founders** Orange Scott (1843), Seth Rees (1897)

**Executive Editor** Wayne MacBeth
**Editor** Kerry Kind
**Assistant Editor** Tricia Rife
**Creative Director** Kory Pence
**Designer** Julia Park

**Contributors**
Alfredo Barreño
Wesley Dean (intermotionmedia.com, photos pp. 5-7)
Keith Drury
Jo Anne Lyon
Ron McClung
Ed and Sharon Parman (Spanish editing)
Jerry Pence
Eric Wieringa (ericwieringa.com, illustration pp. 8-10)
Trash Mountain Project (photos p. 6)
Sony Pictures Digital Productions (**cover photo**, pp. 3, 5)

**Published By** Wesleyan Publishing House
P.O. Box 50434, Indianapolis, In 46250-0434

**Member**
Evangelical Press Association
National Association Of Evangelicals

Unless otherwise noted, all Bible quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Scripture quotations marked (KJV) are taken from the Holy Bible, King James Version.

Contents of this magazine are not to be reproduced without written permission. Signed articles present the views of the writers and are the property of the writers.

ISSN 2327-414X (print) ISSN 2327-4158 (online)

***Wesleyan Life*** is published quarterly, free to The Wesleyan Church constituency. Home delivery is available for a minimum donation of $15 per year U.S./ Canadian (overseas $20 U.S. funds, overseas airmail $50 U.S. funds).

**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**
communications@wesleyan.org

By Kerry Kind

# **Heaven** *is for Real*

## *brings questions about life and death and heaven to the fore in a powerful and mysterious way.*

The movie *Heaven is for Real* is based on the compelling events described in the best-selling book by Wesleyan pastor Todd Burpo from Imperial, Nebraska. His young son, Colton, had a near death experience and then, over the course of many months, began to matter-of-factly mention his memories of a visit to heaven. The innocent four-year-old's recollections were all the more astounding because he had gained knowledge of things and people that he could not have known by any other means.

Randall Wallace wrote a true-to-life screenplay and directed the movie. He is a first-rate filmmaker with screen-writing and directing credits in such movies as *Braveheart*, *Pearl Harbor*, *Secretariat*, and *The Man in the Iron Mask*. Wallace is a man of faith, a seminary graduate. He was delighted to have an opportunity where he could use his craft to share what he calls a "transcendent story about ultimate questions" with the world.

Jim Garlow, senior pastor of Skyline Wesleyan Church in California, stated, "*Heaven is for Real* is extremely well done. The casting was superb. Greg Kinnear even walks like Todd Burpo. Colton is profoundly portrayed, as are Sonja and Cassie. I believe the story will affirm the faith of believers and nudge open-minded skeptics towards truth. This film is fabulous and definitely worth seeing!"

**Sony Pictures' April 16th release of the movie affords Wesleyan churches a special opportunity for outreach.** The local Wesleyan Church is presented very well. More importantly, the movie brings questions about life and death and heaven to the fore in a powerful and mysterious way that encourages respectful seeking.
Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church, affirms, "This movie is a God-given opportunity . . . It will definitely lead to conversations that will further open doors to share faith."

**Local churches can access a wealth of free ministry resources related to the movie at heavenisforrealchurch.com.** The Church Multiplication and Discipleship Division is dedicated to providing churches with information, resources, and ministry ideas that can be used to pursue making disciples through this unique avenue. In partnership with Wesleyan Publishing House, excellent free tools have been provided such as a Q&A that biblically and relevantly engages skepticism, ministry outreach ideas, movie follow-up discussion questions, topical studies from the Scriptures, and sermon-note ideas. Contact cmad@wesleyan.org, or call 317-774-3888. This could well be a God-given spark to kindle discussion in our communities about Jesus Christ and the hope of heaven!

## *Spark a God-given discussion in your community.*

Watch the Trailer

Ministry Resources
www.heavenisforrealchurch.com









# RESTORING HEARTS *in Tacloban*

By Wayne MacBeth

***The church** will not leave this relief and care ministry anytime soon.*

Maria sobbed as she shared her testimony. Typhoon Haiyan was the cause of unbearable loss in her life. Her husband had died even before the worst storm in history struck. After the loss of her husband, she had taken comfort in her two sons. Through her tears she spoke publicly for the first time that the storm not only swept her home away, but also took both of her sons.

When Wesleyan responders arrived in hard-hit Tacloban City, they found many widows and children. They learned that most women and children had fled to higher ground ahead of the storm, while many men had stayed behind to protect their homes. Winds of 195 mph drove a great surge from the ocean that totally submerged thousands of homes for an hour. About 3,000 of the 7,300 people lost in the Philippines that day were from this community. The sight that met survivors was worse than a war zone. In vast areas, everything was gone except heaps of refuse.



*Pastoral team led by Dr. Alberto Patacsil*



*Bible college students serve at relief center*

In the days following the storm, Maria watched the ministry at the newly-established Wesleyan care center. Hesitant at first, she finally came for food and for help with shelter. The pastors and carpenters who had come from other parts of the Philippines built her a modest house across the street from the care center. Today, despite her tears she speaks clearly about her new-found faith. "Jesus and the church are now my family," she shared, "God's grace is enough for me."

Arriving four months after the November 8th storm, my wife, Tammy, and I were in shock with what we saw. Bodies were still being discovered in the rubble. The devastation was so complete that it will take many, many years to restore the physical destruction that took place in one catastrophic hour.

Grace is 16 years old. During the surge, her family went to the highest ground they could find nearby and they still were swept away. Grace luckily was able to cling to a floating object and somehow was not swept out to sea. After she survived, she discovered that one of her older sisters was also alive. She was grateful that God had answered her prayer to save at least one other member of her family, and she is honored to give her life to serve him. Grace and her sister are living in a tent today (not unusual in this stricken community) and The Wesleyan Church is sponsoring her school fees so she can continue in high school.

General Superintendent Dr. Alberto Patacsil pledges that the church will not leave this relief and care ministry anytime soon. He stated, "We have already seen 60 people come to faith in Christ here. And we have helped many more with medical needs and food. We have built homes for homeless widows, and we want to do much more in the months and years ahead."

District Superintendent Meretz and his wife Jena are unsung heroes. They have been away from their home for most of the last four months, enduring hardships of daily life that would be too much for most of us to experience. Along with students who came from Palawan Wesleyan Bible School, they have brought hope and life in the name of Jesus to many survivors who had nowhere to turn. Children lovingly follow Rev. Meretz everywhere and are reluctant to go to their tents at the end of a long day.



*Alberto Patacsil and sponsored student Grace*




*Tacloban Relief Center*

Watch Video Update
www.wesleyan.org/videos

Donate to Relief
www.wesleyan.org/donate

**The relief center at Tacloban is one of three Wesleyan relief centers located in three hard-hit provinces of the Philippines.** The Wesleyan Emergency Relief Fund in North America has received $250,000 in generous giving to help people affected by the disaster there. Ongoing partnership will strengthen the long-term relief and rebuilding efforts that the Filipino church is committed to. One-hundred percent of the funds given are channeled to this ministry.

The temporary center location must be vacated very soon. If funds can be raised, there is a site nearby, off the main road, where a more permanent center could be renovated. The Meretz' dream is to provide a safe home for child survivors who are alone. They will continue providing simple widow housing as long as Filipino and overseas volunteers come to help build. They will continue giving food to those who have little or none. And, praise God, they will continue to speak hope and life into hearts that have suffered much and are in great need of God's healing grace.

*They speak **hope and life** into hearts that are in great need of **God's healing grace**.*

"We are grateful for churches and people from overseas who are still praying with us and have given financially," Dr. Patacsil said. "With continued partnership we will be able to help many children without parents to live in safety and return to school. "A gift of $1000 will sponsor a child for one year," he noted. "Also, in Tacloban where fishing is a main livelihood, the Wesleyan center is hoping to get fishing boats to some of the families who lost theirs. If they can become independent again, they will in turn be able to help others. It takes about $1500 to provide a boat, small motor, and nets."

In a worship service at the center, there was an astonishing joyousness in the singing and dancing, and our hearts were moved by the incredible testimonies. God was always there in Tacloban, but in the aftermath of the catastrophe, people with broken lives are turning to Jesus and finding a love and hope that they never knew before.



By Keith Drury • Illustrated by Eric Wieringa

# Glory Forever

Like many religions, Christians believe in life after death. Atheists believe we are born, we live, we die, and that's that. Christians believe something comes after this life: resurrection, judgment, heaven. Most Christians think very little about heaven until a loved one dies, or the doctor says, "You have three months to live." It is in times like these that we wonder what heaven is like and is it for real? The Christian answer is—heaven is for *real*.

## So what is heaven like?

We don't know everything but we know some things. For instance, Christ promised to prepare *a place* for us. Heaven is more than a non-material spirit-world where our disembodied souls float around like data in cyberspace. It is a physical place so we'll need our bodies there, and the Scriptures are clear that our bodies will eventually be resurrected and transformed.

We also know that God will be there, and all of God's redeemed people from all time. Heaven has been pictured as a promised land, a homeland, and a paradise re-created as the perfect Eden—all ideas implying a place of delight and bliss so we know it is a good place. We also are told it is something like a feast or great banquet and that implies eating and fellowship, both things we understand as enjoyable. And we know it is an everlasting place—heaven never ends.

**Will we know others in heaven?** Most Christians say yes. Sure, Jesus replied to the Sadducees' trick question by saying they misunderstood heaven by asking whom the woman who had seven husbands would live with in heaven. But, answers to trick questions are not the best place to find the Bible's core teaching on heaven. Other Bible verses suggest we will recognize others. For instance in the resurrection we will come from the east and west to sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Matthew 8:11). Who? These are recognizable people, so recognizing others in heaven is our expectation.

> Imagine things and people a thousand times more beautiful than we can currently bear.

Thus, most Christians believe we will know others in heaven. God will work out complicated relationships like with whom a remarried widow will spend time with in heaven. Maybe relationships are so altered in heaven that the problems we see from our point of view are silly from a heavenly perspective. Perhaps all relationships will be raised to the level of marriage relationships—or even higher. Maybe our preoccupation with sex gets in the way of our understanding of how heaven works. Jesus might need to say to us, "If I have told you earthly things, and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things?" (John 3:12 ESV). Our answers are incomplete, but most Christians can't imagine heaven without knowing our loved ones, and we all expect to recognize Jesus there. While we do not know everything, we do know this: heaven will be better than we can think or imagine.

Some people imagine a privatized heaven like eternal fly-fishing on the banks of a stream teeming with trout with nobody around to bother us. Maybe, but I see heaven as a peopled-packed place. The book of Revelation portrays a lot of group singing. There are massive international throngs praising God together in one place. The Bible also pictures heaven as a "New Jerusalem," a populated city coming down from God. (We presume that those of us who dearly love the solitude of the mountains will be suitably glorified before entering, so we can love city life!) But of course we will love it—because God will dwell there.

A city, a banquet, a feast, endless worship—these are the communal pictures of heaven. Heaven is communal because of who is going there: *the church* goes to heaven. The church is the bride of Christ and heaven is the place we settle down together after the reception—marriage supper of the Lamb. The church from all time will be there. Peter, John, and Mary the mother of Jesus will be there. Mary Magdalene, too. My dad and your mother and our brothers and sisters, sons and daughters will be there (as long as they are also sons and daughters of God). John Wesley and John Calvin and Martin Luther and John the Apostle will sit down together. Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and you and me will have eternity to talk, to ask questions, to listen, to learn, to work, and to grow. Heaven is one gigantic reunion—including thanksgiving dinners with the people we love and admire—feasting and worshipping and nobody complaining about the music. What a day of rejoicing that will be!



## We bring a little bit of heaven to earth now by loving God and others.

But heaven is more than a reward for living right. Good theology gives us a different way to think about heaven: heaven as the goal of life, not just a reward. Think about it. For what were we created? To eat pizza, drink lemonade and watch TV? To get up and go to work, make money, eat ice cream cones, build houses, retire, and go on cruises? Is this the purpose of life? The atheist answers, "Yes! Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die." Christians give another answer: we were created for eternal life in fellowship with God and others. Only in heaven can we fulfill our purpose completely. Thus heaven is more than a reward, it is the goal of life, our destiny, the final place where we become fully what we were made to be. As we learn to love God and others while on earth we are bringing a little bit of heaven down to earth—an appetizer for our future main course.

**Seeing heaven as the goal of life changes how we view this world, too.** It makes us think that this world is not our home; we're just passing through. We come to understand that we are pilgrims and strangers here. Sure, we work to bring love, joy, peace to this world too, because we don't want to be "so heavenly minded we're no earthly good." But all our praising, our work, our learning and service here are merely practice for heaven. We work now, but we know that soon, now, very soon, we are going to see the King. In the scope of eternity it will be but a moment 'till we go. In heaven we shall behold Christ face to face, seeing him as he is. And, when we see him we shall be *like him* (John 3:2-3)! What a promise! In heaven we can finally experience what we have yearned for all our lives—perfect worship, communion and delight in God and each other. There will be no strife, bickering, or division there. No pain, death, sin, suffering or temptation. Our relationship with God and others will be perfect and communal and everlasting. In heaven we can enroll in eternal classes of worship, learning and loving. When we've been there 10,000 years we will have not yet used up a single day.

**Heaven is the climax of salvation.** It is what we were designed for. There, we shall become what we were always meant to be—fully human, fully holy, and fully loving. We want to live this way now but we often fall short. We search for a perfect church, but can't find one. In heaven we will become what we were created to be and finally be part of a perfect church with a perfect Leader. We were not just saved from something but were saved *for* something—for a life with other God-loving people in the very presence of God. In heaven, we will finally know God face to face.

If we are not interested in knowing God, heaven would be hell to us. So, these are the great, worthy goals of life: *to know and love God* and *to love others*. Our spiritual progress now is training for our eternal vocation in heaven—knowing and loving God and loving others. This is what we were made for.

**Resurrection happens!** We know this because one already happened! Jesus' body is not somewhere in a grave in the Holy Land. His body was really resurrected and he really ascended into heaven. Jesus—in his human, glorified body—is in heaven now preparing a place for us. We will one day, quite soon, actually, join him there. When we see life from an eternal perspective, things look different. Suffering seems temporary. Anxious reports of murders or terrorism seem fleeting. Death becomes a transfer station. We are already citizens somewhere else and are just passing through this land. Yet while we're here, we serve as ambassadors of the gracious King of that foreign land. We recruit new citizens for heaven, and there is no ban on immigration. We can take others along with us. Together, in heaven, we will finally be able to be perfect in keeping the two great commandments: loving God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and loving others completely.

Heaven is the great goal of our lives here—life forever with God and His people.

All of the pain and regrets, tears and loss will be left behind and be no more, not even a memory. And all that is good, beautiful, joyful, and godly will be magnified and made far more glorious than we can imagine. I sometimes am almost overwhelmed by beauty that I see. But imagine things and people a thousand times more beautiful than we can currently bear. Then, get ready, for this is the place where we are going.

**Dr. Keith Drury** is Professor Emeritus, Indiana Wesleyan University, author of *Holiness for Ordinary People* and many other books from Wesleyan Publishing House






Road Trip!

OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

# Keith Drury

## DISTINGUISHED WPH AUTHOR




**ALL KEITH DRURY TITLES $9.99**

*through May 31*

wph

1.800.493.7539 | WWW.WESLEYAN.ORG/BOOKS | WPH@WESLEYAN.ORG




## Las Adversidades Se Convierten
# En Bendiciones

By Alfredo Barreno

## ¿Es castigo el sufrimiento?

¿La adversidad una maldición de Dios? ¿O son ingredientes utilizados por Dios para lograr sus propósitos eternos? Las siguientes dos historias son claros ejemplos de como Dios utiliza las dificultades en nuestra vida para sus propósitos.

**El Rev. Rodolfo Piedra** es el pastor de la Iglesia Cristiana Wesleyana Alfa y Omega de Russellville, Ark., donde junto con su esposa, Maribel e hijos, sirven activamente a la comunidad hispana. El pasado invierno, un miembro de su iglesia le pidió que lo acompañara a Port Isabel, TX para visitar a un familiar detenido por Inmigración (ICE). Después del largo viaje de 15 horas hasta el centro de detención de ICE, ellos le informaron que la persona que buscaban ya había sido deportada a su país y no había nada que se pudiera hacer por él.

...ayúdame a tomar una actitud de servicio para que tu nombre sea glorificado.

El Rev. Piedra relató que del regreso, llegaron al Punto de Revisión en Sarita, Tex., en donde los oficiales de inmigración les pidieron identificación a todos los pasajeros. Al revisar los documentos no había un estatus claro de la residencia del pastor y le dijeron que sería detenido hasta que se aclarara su condición migratoria. En ese momento, el pastor levantó una oración a Dios, diciendo: "Señor, entiendo que como pastor, no debería estar aquí, pero si tu estás permitiendo esto, ayúdame a tomar una actitud de servicio para que tu nombre sea glorificado." Entonces el pastor se puso a la disposición de todas las personas encarceladas que vinieron de 15 países.

La primera noche durmió en una celda de acero inoxidable y la segunda noche en una que le llamaba la hielera con piso de concreto, el aire condicionado a su máxima capacidad y con solo unos plásticos para ayudarse a calentar. Fue en esa noche que un grupo de budistas de Nepal le acercaron al pastor para escuchar al fondo la historia de Jesús. Después ellos aceptaron que el pastor orara por ellos.

De acuerdo al Pastor Piedra, después de cada exposición de la palabra de Dios, se acercaban las personas para pedirle consejo sobre sus vidas y muchos de ellos se volvían a Dios. El pastor expresó que no tuvo tiempo para sentir lástima de sí mismo, porque Dios le daba la oportunidad de ver la necesidad y sentir el dolor ajeno de los migrantes que desesperadamente intentaban entrar a este país por un futuro mejor. Muchos de ellos ya no tenían futuro en su país y sufrían el estrés de haberlo perdido todo.

El último día de su estadía en la cárcel, el pastor pidió a Dios que le mostrara quien sería la persona que heredaría su biblia. De repente, un joven llamado Luís se le acercó para contarle que una semana antes había tenido un sueño, donde escuchó una voz que le dijo: "Abre el cofre porque allí hay un tesoro para ti." Al abrirlo, vio un libro negro, pero no entendía de lo que se trataba. Pero el pastor al momento lo entendía y le persuadió al joven entregar su vida a Cristo. Cuando el pastor le regaló su biblia, el joven entendió que ese era el tesoro que había visto en su sueño.

**En ese momento el pastor entendió que había estado allí para cumplir el propósito de Dios.**

El pastor comenta que al momento de su salida, los presos se acercaron para despedirlo y empezaron a aplaudir y a corear su nombre. El guardia que lo encaminaba le dijo: "Parece que Ud. ha hecho algo bueno aquí." En ese momento el pastor entendió que había estado allí para cumplir el propósito de Dios.

**Rev. Haydee Tolentino** es la pastora de la Iglesia Cristiana Wesleyana de Plainfield en el Distrito de Penn-Jersey y sirve a su comunidad como asistente médico en el hospital John F. Kennedy de Edison, N.J. Ella emigró de Perú en 1989, cuando casi no se miraban hispanos en la ciudad de Plainfield. Sin saber ni una palabra de inglés, ella empezó a visitar las iglesias americanas del área, pero no entendía el idioma.

La pastora comenta que un día vino un pastor a visitarle, el cual le conectó con la Iglesia Weslyeana Hispana de White Plains, N.Y. Desde ese día por tres años, cada fin de semana ella viajaba cerca de 2 horas para llegar al servicio dominical. Pero su pasión por Cristo no se limitaba a la asistencia a la iglesia, sino que también aprovechaba para evangelizar su comunidad. Pronto, el pastor le propuso que abriera su casa para realizar cultos evangelisticos y más de 20 personas se congregaban los sábados en su hogar y el domingo le acompañaban en su viaje dominical.

Por tres años ella oraba para que Dios enviara un pastor para encargarse del rebaño que ella había comenzado. Un día el Dr. Harry Wood (ex-superintendente de Distrito) fue a visitarles para conocer el grupo hispano y ella aprovechó para presentarle la necesidad de que el distrito enviara un pastor. El Dr. Wood le puso la mano sobre la cabeza y le dijo: "Uds. no necesitan un pastor, Ud. es una pastora." Esa declaración en un principio le trajo terror y confusión, pero poco a poco el Señor le fue revelando que ese era su llamado. Meses más tarde ella estaba inscribiéndose en el programa educativo FLAMA, donde recibió instrucción para el ministerio.

## Uds. no necesitan un pastor, Ud. es una pastora.

La Pastora Tolentino comenta que era un reto el haber aceptado como mujer el llamado al ministerio. En la cultura hispana existe el "machismo" y no es común que una mujer lidere un grupo en público. Pero con todo eso, el año pasado la iglesia recibió 7 nuevos miembros por el bautismo, regularmente asisten 60 personas al servicio dominical y en eventos especiales, 80. Hace unos meses atrás, la pastora fue diagnosticada con trombosis en el cerebro y aunque no podía predicar, sin embargo ella siguió pastoreando la iglesia, ni un domingo o sábado dejó de asistir a los servicios. Ahora que el peligro de la enfermedad ha pasado, curiosamente algunas personas que están asistiendo a la iglesia han sido sanados de cáncer y sobre todo la congregación se ha fortalecido.

# TWO PASTORS
# Adversities Become Blessings

These two pastors are inspiring examples of how God uses the difficult times of our lives for good and to fulfill his purposes.

**Rev. Rodolfo Piedra** is pastor of the Christian Wesleyan Church Alpha and Omega of Russellville, Ark. Last year a member asked Rodolfo to go with him to a detention center at the Mexican border to visit a detained relative. When Rodolfo attempted to return, he was detained when his own documents showed an unclear status of his residence.

He prayed: "Lord, if you are allowing this, help me to be your servant so your name will be glorified." For several months in detention, Rodolfo preached to people from all over the world: Indonesians, Chinese, Indians, Nepalese, Bangladeshis, and of course, Latinos. Fifteen men made decisions for Christ and one was miraculously healed. At the time of Rodolfo's release, other prisoners saw him off by clapping and chanting his name. A guard said, "You have done something good here." Rev. Piedra sees his months in detention centers as a blessing.

**Rev. Haydee Tolentino** emigrated from Peru in 1989 as a lay person and has worked in a hospital in New Jersey. Knowing no English, she traveled two hours on Sundays to attend a Hispanic Wesleyan church in New York. She began to win her neighbors in New Jersey to Christ, discipling them, and taking many of them to church in New York. For years, Haydee prayed for a pastor to take over the group in Plainfield, N.J.

When Dr. Harry Wood, the former district superintendent, visited, he put his hand on her head, saying, "You do not need a pastor; you are the pastor." She was afraid, especially as a woman leader, but the Lord slowly revealed to her this calling. She received ministerial training through FLAMA and her church has now grown to 60-80, with many new Christians. In recent months, the Lord has helped Haydee through serious disease, but she persists as pastor. Since then several members have been healed of cancer and the church has been greatly encouraged.

**Alfredo Barreno** es el Director del Ministerio Hispano de La Iglesia Wesleyana

**Alfredo Barreno** is Director of Hispanic Ministries for The Wesleyan Church





# Master of Practical Theology Degree





## Earn MDIV equivalency to apply for a Doctorate of Ministry

**The Master of Practical Theology** (MPTh) acts as a bridge for those who plan to apply for a Doctorate of Ministry (DMIN) but do not currently have the required Master of Divinity (MDIV) or MDIV equivalency.

- Allows those who have at least 30 credits of relevant graduate studies obtain MDIV equivalency
- 36 credit hours
- Students take 18 credits in Wesley Seminary's unique, integrated Master of Divinity program and 18 additional credits in theology, biblical studies, church history, and ministry

WESLEY SEMINARY
INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Master of Divinity
Master of Arts
Master of Practical Theology
Maestria en Divinidades en Español

**877-673-0009**
**Online and Onsite**

**IWUsuccess.com/seminary**

# C. S. Lewis on HEAVEN

by Kerry Kind



*No doubt one of the five most influential Christian authors of the twentieth century, C. S. Lewis did not write for theologians but for common people, as long as they are willing to think. Among his many wonderful volumes are occasional thoughts on heaven. He was grounded in Christ and the Scriptures, but his logic and his imagination still serve us well. Lewis calls us to unite a vigorous hope of heaven with the privilege of living life in service to Christ and others.*

*Aim at heaven and you will get earth "thrown in." Aim at earth and you will get neither.*

Looking forward to the eternal world is not a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most about the next. Aim at heaven and you will get earth "thrown in": Aim at earth and you will get neither. *Mere Christianity: Christian Behavior, ch. 10*

There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations—these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendours. This does not mean that we are to be perpetually solemn. We must play. But our merriment must be of that kind (and it is, in fact, the merriest kind) which exists between people who have . . . taken each other seriously. And our charity must be a real and costly love . . . [for] your neighbor is the holiest object presented to your senses. *The Weight of Glory*

Meanwhile the cross comes before the crown and tomorrow is a Monday morning. A cleft has opened in the pitiless walls of the world, and we are invited to follow our great Captain inside. The following Him is, of course, the essential point. *The Weight of Glory*

There is no need to be worried by facetious people who try to make the hope of "Heaven" ridiculous by saying they do not want "to spend eternity playing harps." All the scriptural imagery (harps, crowns, gold, etc.) is, of course, a merely symbolical attempt to express the inexpressible. People who take these symbols literally might as well think that when Christ told us to be like doves, He meant that we were to lay eggs. *Mere Christianity: Christian Behavior, ch. 10*

How far the life of the risen man will be sensory, we do not know. But I surmise that it will differ from the sensory life we know here . . . as a flower differs from a bulb or a cathedral from an architect's drawing. *Transposition and Other Addresses, ch. 2*

"The angels," he said, "have no senses; their experience is purely intellectual and spiritual. That is why we know something about God which they don't. There are particular aspects of His love and joy which can be communicated to a created being only by sensuous experience. Something of God which the Seraphim can never quite understand flows into us from the blue of the sky, the taste of honey, the delicious embrace of water whether cold or hot, and even from sleep itself." *God in the Dock, ch. 7*

[Concerning the resurrection of the body:] It is presumably a foolish fancy (not justified by the words of Scripture) that each spirit should recover those particular units of matter which he ruled before. We all live in second-hand suits and there are doubtless atoms in my chin which have served many another man, many a dog, many an eel, many a dinosaur. Nor does the unity of our bodies, even in this present life, consist in retaining the same particles. My form remains one, though the matter in it changes continually. I am, in that respect, like a curve in a waterfall. *Miracles, ch. 16*

God will look to every soul like [your] first love, because He is your first love. Your place in heaven will seem to be made for you and you alone, because you were made for it—made for it stitch by stitch as a glove is made for a hand. *The Problem of Pain*

We do not want merely to see beauty. We want something else which can hardly be put into words—to be united with the beauty we see, to pass into it, to receive it into ourselves, to bathe in it, to become part of it. If we take the imagery of Scripture seriously . . . we believe that God will one day give us the Morning Star and cause us to put on the splendour of the sun. We cannot mingle [now] with the splendours we see. But all the leaves of the New Testament are rustling with the rumour that it will not always be so. *Transposition and Other Addresses, ch. 2*

"The dream is ended: this is the morning," said Aslan softly. And the things that began to happen after that were so great and beautiful that I cannot write them. And for us this is the end of all the stories . . . but for them it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story, which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before. *The Last Battle, ch. 16*

*We know something about God which the angels don't. God's love and joy flow into us from the blue of the sky, the taste of honey, the delicious embrace of water whether cold or hot.*

# SIDE Door

By Ron McClung

*New people come to church every Sunday because of these side door ministries!*

**What do a biker ministry, a free community barbecue, and an Easter service on the beach all have in common? They are "side door" ministries of churches in the Pacific Southwest District. Every church has front door ministries such as worship services and Sunday school on the church property. Side door ministries are different. According to Dr. Charles Arn, author of the book, *Side Door: How to Open Your Church to Reach More People*, a side door is "a church-sponsored group or activity in which a new contact can become comfortably involved with the church on a regular basis." Usually they meet somewhere besides the main church campus.**

## Apache Junction

Apache Junction Christian Community Church, a new Wesleyan congregation near Phoenix, Arizona, is in a suburb of approximately 40,000. Beginning with a handful of people in 2011, Pastors Bob and Sandy Lenz determined they had to get out into the community. He joined the Chamber of Commerce, which opened doors for him to offer prayer at local meetings and even at the state legislature.

One of the first outreaches was vacation Bible school. They began to see children and parents coming to services. A major idea for them was "barbecue to go." They packed up tables, food, grills, and guitars, taking free meals, music, and kids' games into neighborhoods. The barbecues became a way to build relationships and trust. Though the meals were free, one person gave $100, saying, "I love this. Keep these going, and keep helping people."

At about the same time, a sister congregation, Faith Legacy Church of Sacramento, Calif., gave them a tremendous boost by doing a "monster makeover" of Apache Junction's church facilities. Pastor Sandy Lenz has a heart for those with twelve-step needs and began Celebrate Recovery on Thursday nights in 2011. Dr. Kristen Bishop, a medical doctor, started a side door ministry at her practice to help local Christian business owners operate their businesses more like ministries. She coaches them to focus on biblical principles that build the kingdom of God and even lead people to Christ.

At every community event where it is possible, the church sets up a booth with give-aways and information or gets involved in other ways. They provide a clothes closet and offer free clothing, shoes, toys, and more. Every holiday, even Christmas, the church is open for food and fellowship. Fifty community volunteers assist with holiday meals. "It's not just about feeding people," Pastor Bob declared. "It's about getting people to the cross."

New people come to the church every Sunday because of all these. The handful has grown to a solid hundred. The Side Door book became a guide to the way Bob leads the church. A "dream team" continues to strategize and discover new interests that could connect members with more new people. To emphasize the idea of side doors, the church even added doors to the side walls of the sanctuary with the words "Friends," "Love," and "Laugh" on them.

# Friends. Love. Laugh.








## Encinitas Beach

Four hundred miles to the west, another side door ministry is attracting worshipers to the beach. Rev. Larry and Holly Peltier came to Beach Chapel in Encinitas, Calif., in 1995, except in those days it was El Camino Community Church [Wesleyan].

Pastor Larry had experience producing major outdoor events, and he gravitated toward the beach, three miles from the church. So instead of holding services at their church on Easter Sunday, they began having "Easter on the Beach." Over the nineteen years that they have done this, it has grown. Now, they rent a stage and five hundred chairs. In addition to their own worship band and the Easter message, they receive testimonies from Marines from nearby Camp Pendleton and from others in the community. Church workers gather the children at a nearby playground, where they enjoy clowns, activities, and a "wordless book" gospel presentation.

Photo Gallery
www.facebook.com/thewesleyanchurch

According to Larry, this has opened the way for more people to come into contact with the gospel and some new, solid people to be incorporated into the church.

Beach Chapel also takes advantage of the nearby seashore at other times for side door ministries. One night every week scores of people gather around a fire pit at the beach for Bible study, fellowship, and a meal. Periodically, the church conducts a Saturday morning puppet theater at the beach. This creates connections not only for the church itself, but also for the church's weekday preschool program.

Other side door activities include carnivals on the parking lot and "beach chair theater," featuring wholesome outdoor movies. They conduct food drives enabling them to provide $100.00 food boxes for people at a cost of only $20.00. "GO" teams also go out wherever people gather outdoors, meeting people, talking to them, offering prayer if they desire, and inviting them to church or to events.

Not every church has a beach nearby, but like Encinitas Beach Chapel, any church can find creative ways to connect with its community.

# Full Throttle



Back in Arizona, another side door ministry is growing at "full throttle." Pastor Dave and Kim Dahlberg have enjoyed riding motorcycles most of their lives.

When they arrived in Tucson in 2005 to pastor Christian Faith Fellowship, a Wesleyan congregation, nobody else in their church had a motorcycle. So they prayed to find the right people to ride with and began to meet other bikers. After a time, however, it seemed to Pastor Dave that the Lord was gently saying: "You've been riding motorcycles for yourselves. Now I want you to do it for me."

They began a ministry on Columbus Day weekend, the beginning of biker season (summer is too hot!), and called it the "Blessing of the Bikers." Not wanting bikers to think of it just as a good luck charm that might keep them safer on the road, Pastor Dave emphasizes a deeper commitment to Christ.

The main event, held on a Sunday evening, has come to include biker rodeo games, rock climbing, mechanical bull ride, and free food. The first year only attracted 17 bikes, but by October 2013, the eighth year, 122 motorcycles were present with 550 people in attendance.

**Bikers join "prayer rides" to pray God's blessing over people and communities.**

For the Blessing of the Bikers, all the riders assemble in three columns. As each row of three riders pulls forward, Pastor Dave and staff members pray a blessing over each bike and biker, not only for safety on the road, but for a real connection with God.

The motorcycle ministry, called Full Throttle, is larger than one weekend. They hold rides on the fourth Saturday of each month. This is an opportunity to connect with people and build relationships, and every so often, the ride becomes a "prayer ride." They have ridden as far as 200 miles to pray over a particular pastor, a church, and a community. There are about forty motorcyclists in the congregation now.

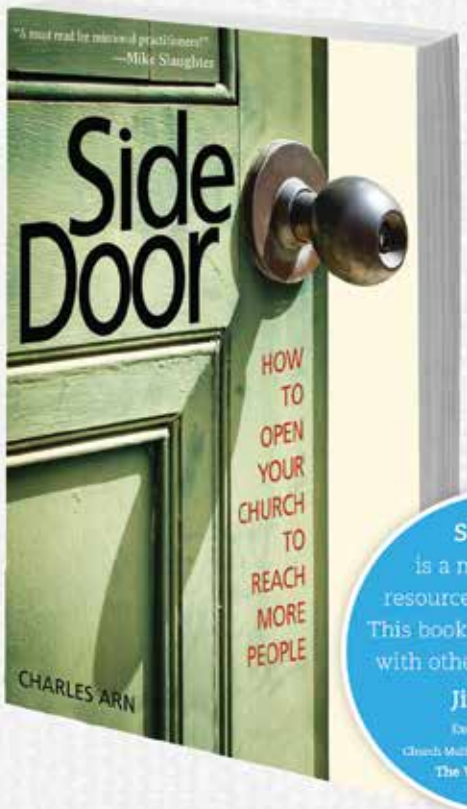
Bikers are not the only side door ministry at Christian Faith Fellowship. Tucson is a real western town and conducts an annual rodeo parade. On that weekend, the church sponsors Rodeo Sunday. Instead of their normal three Sunday services indoors, the church conducts one huge gospel service outdoors in the church courtyard. That is accompanied by a festive, family-friendly event with free food, live horses, and some of the same activities that spark interest at the Blessing of the Bikers.

Over the past seven years, worship attendance has grown from 150 to more than 270. However, they outgrew their facilities and could not expand in that location. So they prayed. Suddenly, without any action on their part, they began receiving offers on their property. It was only two acres, but it turns out that they were able to sell it for $2.3 million due to their commercial location.

Then, the last thing they wanted was to amass a huge debt erecting a larger facility. They wanted to be relatively near their historic location, they needed a sanctuary that would hold at least 325, and that would require a sizeable parking lot. So they prayed again. Before long, their broker called them with news that they could buy a beautiful church that would meet every requirement. They are only 4.3 miles from the former location, they are doubling their size and space, and it was available for only $1.7 million. Even after moving costs and adapting the facility to their needs, their mortgage is greatly reduced.

When they were at the beginning of this process, such an outcome seemed totally impossible. Asked how it came to be, Pastor Dave said it could only be a "God-thing." He believes it was the result of prayer, following the guidance of the Holy Spirit, remaining true to God's Word, and being courageous in their commitment to enlarge the church's ministry.

In communities all over North America today, it appears that God is opening new doors – side doors – for expanding his kingdom.




# Open Your Church

## TO REACH MORE PEOPLE

***There are ways into your church you may never have imagined...yet.***

Author and church-growth expert **Charles Arn** reveals how congregations empower people to pursue their unique strengths. It is by discovering the passions of its individual insiders that a church can creatively and effectively draw the outsiders into its fellowship and into Jesus. God is all about connecting us with our communities in ways that are relevant to each of our own passions and gifts.

*See how God will reveal your side door.*

***Side Door*** is a much-needed resource for the church. This book helps us connect with others like Jesus did.
**Jim Dunn**
Executive Director, Church Multiplication and Discipleship, The Wesleyan Church

**$9.99** *through May 31*
REGULAR PRICE $14.99

**Also available as an eBook**

wph 1.800.493.7539 | WWW.WESLEYAN.ORG/BOOKS | WPH@WESLEYAN.ORG

# THE gathering

WESLEYAN CLERGY CONFERENCE

Let's gather again to encourage, inspire, and engage.

**JAN. 13-16, 2015 • ORLANDO**

**WESLEYAN.ORG/GATHERING**

Registration Opens June 2014



# EARN YOUR DEGREE ON YOUR OWN TIME.

## WHY CHOOSE ONLINE PROGRAMS AT SWU?

CHRIST-CENTERED • CAREER-READY • FLEXIBLE • AFFORDABLE

**ONLINE PROGRAMS OFFERED**

Associate of Arts in General Studies
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
Master of Business Administration
Master of Education in Classroom Leadership
Graduate Education Content Area Courses

Learn more about our undergraduate and graduate online degrees at **swu.edu/online**

SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

www.swu.edu • 864-644-5557

By Jerry Pence

# SAVING THE BEST FOR FOREVER

## YOUR MOST AUDACIOUS DREAMS OF HEAVEN WILL BE EXCEEDED.

I am privileged to lead a local church in Brooksville, Fla., well-known for its ministry to retired seniors. It is a church that heaven is transforming. Dozens from our fellowship each year finish their earthly race and cross over into the indescribable wonder of eternity. Heaven feels imminent.

Heaven is also transforming our church because its King is constantly invading our community with merciful acts of saving love. People of all ages are being "made new." Life in Jesus Christ and the hope of heaven make us an increasingly multi-generational, multi-cultural church. Allow me to share a few of their thoughts about heaven.

## WHAT WILL HEAVEN BE LIKE?

**MR. TERRY PETTEE** "There is little said in the Scriptures about heaven, I suspect, because there is nothing on earth from which to make a comparison. How does one describe a rainbow of color to a blind man? I know this—there is no pain, no guilt, no sin, nor depression. There is a return to perfect innocence, virtue, and holiness. In short, heaven is bliss beyond the human imagination."

**MR. DON MACK** "I think heaven will surpass anything that I can imagine. I believe we will be overwhelmed by the love and presence of Jesus."



**Dr. Jerry Pence** is senior pastor of Brooksville Wesleyan Church in Florida and former General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church.

**MRS. DONNA MCKIM** "Heaven will be a place of light; no darkness. A place of completeness; no more unanswered questions. A place of love as I've never known before. A place of reunion with loved ones already there. A place of celebration for God's honor and glory."

**MRS. JOAN WALLACE** "I'm not so much elated over streets of gold and all of the precious gems of heaven. What I like to think of is the "new heaven and the new earth." From what I have seen of our present earth, both in pictures and real life, it is a beautiful place. Imagine what it would be like to live here when all sin is removed! God's creation is spectacular!"

## I THINK HEAVEN WILL BE LIKE JESUS' FIRST MIRACLE. HE'S SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST!

**MRS. FLOSSIE PETERSON** "Heaven will be far better than our mortal minds can imagine… an amplified version of what we experience here on earth, without the sin factor. We'll probably be busy with productive activities, rejoicing in the pleasures of the presence of God and all his creation."

**MRS. CAROL S. WALDRON** "The glory, majesty, and brightness of the Deity will be unspeakably awesome. If we had known, we would have tried to get there sooner!"

**MR. SHIRLEY PAWLING** "When I think about heaven it seems to me that everything I can imagine (and that's a lot) will not appear there, because it will be crowded out by even better stuff . . . stuff I can't imagine here in my present state."

Finally, a note from someone whose name I could not read sums it up: "I think heaven will be like Jesus' first miracle. He's saving the best for last!"



# RETHINK MUSIC

## ENGAGING THE 21ST CENTURY MUSIC STUDENT

In college education, a paradigm shift in the musical culture has been occurring, both in the application of desired studies such as contemporary worship music, and the emerging Christian artist in the ever growing mainstream music scene, along with the rapidly growing job markets in commercial music production for applications such as video games, film, and sonic design.

In response to this shift, Houghton College is continuing to retain the historical relevance for which it is known by keeping and refining classical musical offerings while also building a progressive commercial music industry program, which focuses on new recording and production technologies. This will create a well-rounded learning environment to engage the music student of the 21st century while enhancing the experience of the more traditional music student.

"We have had great success as a School of Music for generations…," stated Stephen W. Plate, dean of the school of music.

**The way we make music, capture music, consume music, record, and produce music have all gone through a transformation, so Houghton will adapt to address these changes in the marketplace.**

-Dr. Stephen Plate, Dean of the Greatbatch School of Music, Houghton College

"But times are changing and the way we make music, capture music, consume music, record and produce music have all gone through a transformation, so Houghton will adapt to address these changes in the marketplace."

To meet the changing market paradigms, the college has recently designed and implemented a music industry minor and has developed a new Bachelor of Science program in music industry, pending approval from the National Association of Schools of Music and the State of New York.

The current music industry minor offers courses such as Intro to Music Business, Recording and Sound Technique, Pro Tools I & II, among others.

"We are offering commercial music to equip Houghton's students with the required skill sets that will make them successful in their respective fields when they graduate," said Kevin Jackson, director of technical arts.

Few colleges and universities in the northeastern U.S., including Christian liberal arts colleges, offer a program as comprehensive and distinctive as Houghton's.

www.houghton.edu/music

18 83
HOUGHTON COLLEGE



# Wonders *in Nepal*

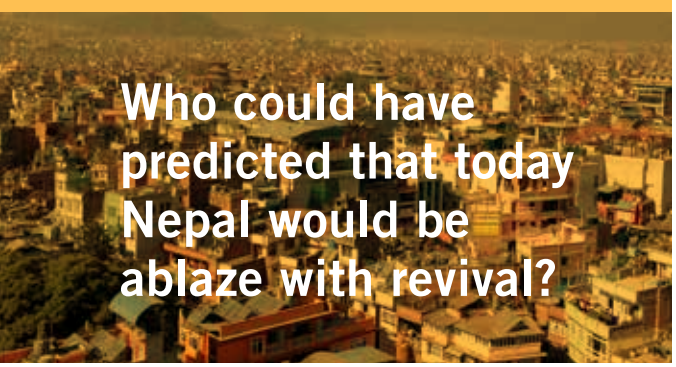
By Kerry Kind



Photo Gallery
www.facebook.com/thewesleyanchurch

Read More Stories
www.wesleyan.org/news

**Twenty years ago it was difficult to share the gospel legally in Nepal and there was very little responsiveness.**



**Who could have predicted that today Nepal would be ablaze with revival?**

In the last few years, The Wesleyan Church in Nepal has exploded from one church to 53, and 13 of these were planted in 2013! Now there are plans afoot to plant 300 churches, and it doesn't seem unreasonable.

Donate to Global Partners Project WM06-1213
www.wesleyan.org/gp

## How could this happen in a Hindu country?

- There is a dedicated and visionary Nepali leader for the church, Rev. Babu Hingmang, who planted the mother church in Kathmandu and is deeply committed to evangelism and pastoral training. He brings 10-20 pastoral candidates at a time to the church where the students bunk and cook in one small room. They live, study, and work with Pastor Babu in a 5-month program of intensive pastoral training at the mother church: Emmanuel Wesleyan Church in Satobato, Kathmandu. This provides a stream of workers.

- The *JESUS* film (the Gospel of Luke) has been used in Nepal with great effectiveness. It is presented and followed up by Nepali teams. Currently there are eight active film teams working throughout the country. The number of people attending and responding to the showings has been phenomenal. Most of the churches are located in places where the gospel was first offered through the *JESUS* film.

- Many witnesses testify to an overpowering feeling of the Divine Presence when the gospel is presented. After almost every showing of the *JESUS* film, people request deliverance from sickness and physical brokenness. And then, the Lord heals them! With signs and wonders almost routinely taking place, people are turning to the Lord, receiving new life in Christ, receiving healing, and churches are started. God has chosen to pour out his Spirit during these days in Nepal! The *JESUS* film teaches the basic story about Christ, but it is a "God-thing" the way people's hearts become deeply convicted and are moved to turn to Christ as Savior.

High praise has been given to the Emmanuel Wesleyan Church members and Pastor Babu; they have helped plant all 53 churches so far. It was a serious shock for the church, then, when Hindu landlords who owned the church property suddenly tripled the lease payment beginning January 1, 2014. They must now find a permanent location for the combined church and pastoral training center. Because land is expensive and almost unavailable in Kathmandu, it was a blessing simply to find a suitable site. The new site will cost $85,230, just for the land. A North American project to help them purchase the land was approved by Global Partners. It has to be raised, but what a privilege to be serving with the God of signs and wonders in Nepal!



## 600 pastors meet at the John C. Maxwell Leadership Center at 12Stone®

12Stone® Church, Lawrenceville, Ga., hosted over 600 pastors at the Home Run Leader Conference in February 2014, the first major event at The John C. Maxwell Leadership Center at 12Stone. Guest speakers included leadership expert, **John Maxwell**; senior pastor of Gateway Church, **Robert Morris**; and senior pastor of 12Stone, **Kevin Myers**. The conference was based on *Home Run: Learn God's Game Plan for Life and Leadership*, a book co-authored by Myers and Maxwell, released in February 2014. "If we are to radically change the leadership landscape in the church and in our world," said Maxwell, "leaders must invest in the next generation of leaders."



### HOUGHTON LAUNCHES NATIONAL SACRED HONOR CHOIR AT CARNEGIE HALL

The National Sacred Honor Choir, sponsored by Houghton College, Houghton, N.Y., performed at Carnegie Hall Sunday, March 9, in New York City. The Choir is comprised of hundreds of Christian musicians from six countries and across the U.S. These performers, representing professional and collegiate choirs, partnered with a professional New York symphony orchestra and featured the work of Houghton College faculty, students, and alumni. The performance was led by Maestro Brandon Johnson, director of choral activities at the Greatbatch School of Music at Houghton College.

### FLORIDA DISTRICT GENEROUS TO CUBAN CHURCHES

Pastor Pedro Lopez* attended Florida District Conference last summer. A spontaneous offering of $1,500 was received to assist with five new church plants in Cuba for one year. Then, due to the diligent effort of Pastor Judi Baxter, the "Wheels for Jesus Project" was launched with a goal of purchasing eleven bicycles for Cuban pastors. On December 16, the bikes were presented to eleven pastors and spouses who minister in the Matanzas area of Cuba.

*Name changed for security reasons.

## Meeting people at the well

After massive flooding last year in Mozambique, the government relocated many communities away from flood plains. Some Wesleyan members moved to Jofar and Bequissa, new settlements on the outskirts of Maputo, the capital. As there were no churches nearby, The Wesleyan Church was requested to plant churches. Church funding provided for land purchase, cement blocks, and "church starter packs." World Hope International drilled wells at the church locations, providing the new towns with clean water. Recently, missionary **Jim Pickett** and World Hope leaders handed over a well to church and community leaders. As people come near to the church every day for water, they have the opportunity to come into contact with believers.





READ FULL STORIES AT WESLEYAN.ORG/NEWS

## DON HODGINS RETIRES AFTER EXTRAORDINARY SERVICE IN CANADA



After serving in ministry since 1966, **Rev. Don Hodgins** has retired as district superintendent of the Central Canada District. In 1995, Rev. Hodgins was elected district superintendent in Central Canada. During his superintendency, the district grew from 22 churches to 58, including 15 church plants, 19 Standard Church of America congregations (a holiness denomination that merged with The Wesleyan Church in 2004), two Filipino churches, one Hispanic, one Korean, one Francophone house church, a Mandarin Chinese church, and Caribbean and African-American black churches. As Rev. Hodgins said, "God has brought the world to our doorstep. We are becoming a multicultural church in Central Canada."

# Child protection guidelines for local churches

As a resource to all Wesleyan churches in North America, the office of Communication and Administration has provided guidelines to help local churches establish their own child protection policy. The General Board, in its November 2013 meeting, recommended that each local church implement a child protection policy.

The guidelines and forms can be customized to work in the state where a church is located. The Church established an agreement with Protect My Ministry (PMM), an organization which provides training materials for child protection and conducts background checks for church volunteers.






# Wesleyan Youth SHINE on Follow Tour

Fifteen hundred students gathered in four locations for the "Follow" Tour, Dec. 28-30, 2013. The teens were challenged to follow Jesus in such a way that their lives would "shine like stars in the universe" (Philippians 2:15). Hundreds of students responded, making first time commitments to Christ and answering the call to full-time ministry. The Follow Tour moves on in 2014 to different locations across North America. The International Wesleyan Youth Convention is scheduled for December 28-31, 2015.

## WEST VIRGINIA CRISIS: A CUP OF COLD WATER MEANS MORE THAN YOU THINK

Early in January 2014, a huge toxic chemical spill into the Elk River near Charleston, W.Va., contaminated the water for residents of nine West Virginia counties. The water was unsafe even for cleaning and washing clothes for weeks. Government assistance arrived late and left early. Shenandoah District Superintendent **Greg Reynolds** relayed the urgency of the need across his district and to Wesleyan World Headquarters. The news of the crisis mobilized many truckloads of supplies and financial assistance from Wesleyan churches in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee.



The five Wesleyan churches in the affected area became centers for distribution of clean water, containers, food supplies, paper products, etc. As they reached out into their communities ministering to both physical and spiritual needs, some of those whom they helped prayed to receive Christ as Savior.




## Buckingham Leadership Institute launched with strong financial backing

Denominational leaders and businessmen from the Atlantic provinces of Canada gathered in January 2014 to launch the Buckingham Leadership Institute at Kingswood University in Sussex, New Brunswick. Guests showed their support through gifts and pledges that covered the institute's entire budget for the first year and over half its baseline budget for the next five years. The evening was hosted by institute co-founders, **Dr. and Mrs. Laurel D. Buckingham**. Dr. Buckingham served for 44 years as senior pastor of the Moncton Wesleyan Church prior to his retirement last year.



### GENEROUS LIVING BY SPOONER WESLEYAN CHURCH BLESSES MANY

Recently, Senior Pastor **Ron Gormong** of Spooner (Wisconsin) Wesleyan Church announced that all tithes and offerings on a given Sunday would go to Wesleyan relief efforts for victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. The result: over $14,000 was given, the single largest donation received in the Wesleyan relief campaign, and far beyond Spooner's usual weekly offering.



## Fighting to retain religious freedoms

In 2012, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a mandate that every employer providing health insurance must offer full coverage for contraceptives, including abortifacient drugs. Many Christian organizations believe this forces them to choose between violating conscience or ceasing to exist. There is no exemption for non-profits like Christian parachurch organizations and Christian colleges, nor for private businesses owned by Christians whose beliefs are disregarded.

Ninety-one court cases involving over 300 organizations, including Oklahoma Wesleyan University, have been filed against the government, seeking relief. So far, the results are encouraging.

- Churches have been granted the exemptions one would expect under the U.S. Constitution.
- Religious nonprofits, such as faith-based colleges and universities, hospitals, adoption agencies, and anti-poverty groups, are winning in federal courts, 19 to 1.
- Private businesses are winning in court, 33 to 6.

**DIGITAL MAG & ENEWS**
WESLEYANLIFEONLINE.COM




The Way to Move members, clergy & employees – Stevens Worldwide Van Lines

- Personalized attention
- Discounted pricing
- Customized moving packages
- Top-rated drivers
- Stevens Home Protection Kit ™

The Clergy Move Center ®

800.248.8313

www.stevensworldwide.com/wesleyan

Proud supporter of the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.®
STEVENS worldwide van lines
The Way to Move. The Way to Care.

USDOT 72029

Recommended by The Wesleyan Church



# Obituaries

**ABBOTT, GLADYS (92)**
Gladys Abbott lived in Goshen, Ind. She was the wife of former General Superintendent Dr. J. D. Abbott, who preceded her in death in 2010. She was a bookkeeper, church and office secretary, as well as a companion in ministry with her husband. She is survived by two sons, eight grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

**BENNETT, REV. ALFRED (87)**
Rev. Alfred Bennett lived in Rockingham, N.C. An ordained pastor, Rev. Bennett served in World War II with the U.S. Army. He was preceded in death by his wife, Irene Dee Bennett, and one daughter. Survivors include one daughter, one son, six grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

**BRUNK, CHARLOTTE (83)**
Charlotte Brunk lived in Brooksville, Fla. She served in Puerto Rico, alongside her husband Richard, as a missionary for five years. The couple also pastored several Wesleyan churches through the years. She was preceded in death by her husband. Survivors include one daughter, two sons, nine grandsons, and twenty great-grandchildren.

**BUTTS, REV. VELMA (88)**
Rev. Velma Butts lived in Bogart, Ga. She grew up in Guyana, South America, with missionary parents. She later returned to serve as an ordained missionary in South America and also South Africa. Survivors include her husband, David, one daughter, one son, four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, one sister, and one brother.

**COOK, REV. ARLIE (83)**
Rev. Arlie Cook lived in Roanoke, Va. An alumnus of Owosso Bible Academy and Owosso Bible College, he served as an ordained minister pastoring churches in West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. He is survived by his wife, Camilla Jean Entzminger Cook, a son, a daughter, four granddaughters, four great-grandsons, and a brother.

**HAMON, REV. THOMAS, SR. (90)**
Rev. Thomas Hamon lived in Modesto, Calif. He pastored Pilgrim Holiness and Wesleyan churches and was an ordained member of the Pacific Southwest District. Rev. Hamon also served as a medic, stationed in France, during World War II. He is survived by Murlene, his wife of 72 years, and two sons.

**HOGARTH, REV. VIRGIL (85)**
Rev. Virgil Hogarth lived in Topeka, Kans. An ordained minister of The Wesleyan Church, he pastored churches in Oklahoma and Kansas. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Ruth, two brothers, and one sister. Survivors include his wife, Fay, one son, one daughter, four grandsons, one sister, and one brother.

**HOLDER, REV. CARL (97)**
Rev. Carl Holder lived in Marion, Ind. An ordained pastor, he and his wife of 72 years, Mildred, served churches in Wisconsin and Indiana. They also served at Brainerd Indian School, World Missionary Press, Shiloh Boys Ranch, Bethany Children's Home, and Hephzibah Children's Home. He is survived by three sons, one brother, seven grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

**LEWIS, REV. ERNEST "ERNIE" (91)**
Rev. Ernest "Ernie" Lewis lived in Indianapolis, Ind. An ordained minister, he served in World War II in Italy. He and his wife, the former Caroline M. Nelson, engaged in a life-long music ministry. He taught music and directed choirs at Pilgrim and Wesleyan colleges that were the forerunners of Oklahoma Wesleyan University. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, two daughters, a son, nine grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.

### MCCANDLESS, REV. DANIEL (88)

Rev. Daniel McCandless lived in Brooksville, Fla. He was an ordained minister and served as a missionary alongside his wife, Betty Lou, from 1956-1986 in the Philippines, Africa, and Haiti. A veteran of World War II with the U.S. Navy, Rev. McCandless is survived by his wife, three sons, one daughter, one grandchild, three great-grandchildren, one brother, and two sisters.

### MCCALLUM, REV. GEORGE (80)

Rev. George McCallum lived in Brooksville, Fla. He was an ordained minister and served on the board of administration of Wesleyan Village in Brooksville. Rev. McCallum also served with the U.S. Navy and was a veteran of the Korean War. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Whilma. Survivors include his wife, Helen, three sons, six daughters, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.*

*We regret that the obituary for Rev. George McCallum in the fall 2013 issue of *Wesleyan Life* was incorrect.

### PIERSON, RUTH (71)

Ruth Pierson lived in Berrien Springs, Mich. She served, along with her husband Dr. Charles Pierson, as a missionary nurse at Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital in Sierra Leone, West Africa, 1967-1989, and accepted numerous short-term assignments thereafter to Sierra Leone. She is survived by her husband, three sons, four grandchildren, two sisters, and three brothers.

### POLSTON, REV. DON (86)

Rev. Don Polston lived in Indianapolis, Ind. He was an ordained pastor serving Wesleyan Methodist and Wesleyan churches in Indiana, Texas, and Iowa, including 30 years leading Sunnyside Temple (later called Cedar Valley Community Church) in Waterloo, Iowa. He is survived by his wife Ruth Ann, a son, a daughter, four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

### PRATER, REV. DARRELL (64)

Rev. Darrell Prater lived in Charleston, W. Va. He was an ordained pastor serving in the Shenandoah District for 22 years. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Joyce Overbaugh Prater, two sons, three grandchildren, one sister, and one brother.

### QUARLES, REV. JAMES, SR. (73)

Rev. James Quarles lived in Maiden, N.C. An ordained minister, he pastored churches in North and South Carolina. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Rachel Moorefield Quarles, a son, a daughter, seven granddaughters, one great-granddaughter, a brother, and a sister.

### ROBERTSON, DR. MALCOLM (91)

Rev. Malcolm Robertson lived in Glendora, Calif. An ordained minister in the Pacific Southwest District, he earned a doctorate in education from USC. He served as an Azusa Pacific University administrator and professor of religion and philosophy. His first wife, Ruth Smith, preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife, Marie Storms Robertson, a son, and a daughter.

### ROLD, REV. CLYDE (82)

Rev. Clyde Rold lived in Harned, Ky. A graduate of Frankfort Pilgrim College and Indiana University, he served as an ordained pastor in Kentucky. He also taught school for many years. He is survived by Dorothy Kiper Rold, his wife of 52 years, one daughter, two grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

### SANDERS, MYRA (95)

Myra Sanders lived in Brazil Lake, Nova Scotia, Canada. She served a lifetime in South Africa as a Wesleyan missionary, both before and after her marriage to Charles, in South Africa, who preceded her in death. Survivors include three daughters, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

***Finally Home*** by Don Wyrtzen

But just think of stepping on shore-And finding it Heaven! Of touching a hand-And finding it God's! Of breathing new air-And finding it celestial! Of waking up in glory-And finding it home!

### SMEENGE, ESTHER (88)

Esther Smeenge served as a missionary with The Wesleyan Church in Sierra Leone, Africa. She was preceded in death by two brothers and one sister. Survivors include two daughters, one sister, seven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

### SMITH, REV. G. ROLAND (83)

Rev. G. Roland Smith lived in Kannapolis, N.C. A veteran of the U. S. Army and the Korean War, he was an ordained pastor and served Gold Hill (N.C.) Wesleyan Church for 30 years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ada Gaddy Smith. He is survived by a daughter, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren.

### STALEY, REV. BRADLEY (66)

Rev. Bradley Staley lived in Brazil, Ind. An ordained minister in the Indiana South District, he was a veteran of the U. S. Navy. He is survived by Elaine Kathan (Treash) Staley, his wife of 35 years, two sons, one daughter, twelve grandchildren, one sister, and three brothers.

### SWANSON, REV. VERNON (85)

Rev. Vernon Swanson lived in Marion, Ind. A graduate of Marion College and LaSalle University (Chicago), he was an ordained pastor of Wesleyan churches in Iowa and Minnesota, served as a missionary in Sierra Leone, West Africa, and served as comptroller at Indiana Wesleyan University. His wife of more than 48 years, Margaret "Peggy" Paine Swanson, preceded him in death in 2004. He is survived by five daughters, two sons, 29 grandchildren, and 16 great-grandchildren.

### SYMONDS, REV. CONARD (65)

Rev. Conard Symonds, an ordained minister, lived in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. At the time of his death, he was the co-lead pastor at Crosspoint Fredericton Wesleyan Church. He is survived by Debby (Cochrane) Symonds, his wife of 44 years, a son, a daughter, three grandchildren, three brothers, and two sisters.

# Nimble as our Thoughts

ADAPTED FROM JOHN WESLEY'S SERMON "ON THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD"



**It will not be long before this house of earth tumbles into dust; it is not our home — we look for another house, eternal in the heavens.**

Our bodies shall be raised in power. In our present state, our bodies confine the freedom of the soul. In our heavenly bodies, the speed of our motion will be unfettered, for "they shall meet the Lord in the air . . . and mount up with him into the highest heaven." This earthly body is slow and heavy, listless and soon tired with action. But our heavenly bodies shall be as active and as nimble as our thoughts are.

Let us patiently bear our troubles. Let us hold out a little longer, and all tears shall be wiped from our eyes, and we shall never sorrow any more. And how soon shall we forget all we endured in this earthly tabernacle, when once we are clothed with that which is from above! We now have many struggles and difficulties; but it will not be long before we come to our journey's end, and that will make amends for all. We shall then be safe at home in our Father's house.

Let this especially fortify us against the fear of death: It is now disarmed, and can do us no hurt. Only "be ye steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord;" and then let death prevail over, and pull down, this house of clay; since God hath undertaken to rear it up again, infinitely more beautiful, strong, and useful.

D6 2014 CONFERENCE
Based on Deuteronomy 6
CONNECT
A FAMILY MINISTRY CONFERENCE
CONNECTING CHURCH AND HOME
D6conference.com
DALLAS 1-DAY PLUS
SEPTEMBER 18-19, 2014
LOUISVILLE 2-DAY
OCTOBER 2-3, 2014

*Reaching our own backyard*

# 200 Million Reasons



There are more than **200 Million** unreached **lives** in North America. The third largest mission field in the world is **our own backyard**.

**What our backyard needs most** is the raising-up of planters, leaders and teams who will go out into the mission field of North America and be a part of the movement of church planting.

Be a part of this year's **200 Million Reasons Offering** and be a part of mobilizing planters, leaders and teams to reach the **unreached in our own backyard!**

**Participate in the 200 Million Reasons Offering**
(formerly Easter Offering)

1. Personally, give online at www.wesleyan.org/210/200-million-reasons
2. Give to the one-time offering taken during the month of April at your local church ($1 from every Wesleyan church attender would raise over $200,000)
3. Help your church participate through a one-time contribution from your annual budget or missions giving

**For more information:**
Rhonda Moore – moorer@wesleyan.org
317-774-3900
www.wesleyan.org/210/200-million-reasons

NITROGEN
Fueling the Movement

THE wesleyan CHURCH
Church Multiplication and Discipleship

# wesleyan life

THE **MAGAZINE** OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH



NEW LIFE IN
## North Carolina

VICTORY OVER
## Suffering

FEATURED
# ENDURING LOVE

**Crystal Blake's** faith in her battle with cancer wins people in Czech

# OFFERING HOPE

By Lawrence Wilson

IT IS DIFFICULT TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING, ESPECIALLY IN THE FACE OF PEOPLE WHO ARE EXPERIENCING IT. SO WE PUNT BY SAYING THINGS LIKE, THERE ARE NO PAT ANSWERS.

IN FEAR THAT WE WILL OFFER AN INADEQUATE RESPONSE, IS IT BETTER TO OFFER VIRTUALLY NO RESPONSE AT ALL? NO, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT.



We do have to take care to avoid trite comments. I have personally experienced the death of a child, chronic illness, serious trauma, and four major surgeries, so I've been on the receiving end of many well-meaning, but insensitive remarks designed to say suffering is okay.

- *God needed your little girl in heaven.*
- *I guess you have suffered, because God knew you could handle it.*
- *Praise God, now you will be able to minister to others who are suffering like you.*
- *Whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth.* (Ouch!)

## AGREE THAT SUFFERING IS BAD

But it's not okay. Suffering is a terrible thing. And somebody needs to say that out loud.

- *I'm sorry for your loss.*
- *I can't imagine the pain.*
- *I'm so sad about what has happened.*

Agreeing that suffering is bad is not a pat answer. It is one of the best things we can do for people who suffer. But it can't be the only thing.

## AFFIRM THAT GOD IS GREAT

A theology of suffering cannot be reduced to 140 characters, the social media standard for communication. Yet, if we have any understanding of the character of God, we might say something helpful to those who experience it.

It is not a pat answer to set human suffering against the larger backdrop of God's story and eternity. *I hate it that terrible things happen in a lost and fallen world. I don't know why this happened, but I believe that one day we will understand, and that he will wipe all the tears from our eyes*

JESUS SUFFERED, AND WE CAN BECOME MORE CONNECTED TO HIM IN A POWERFUL WAY THROUGH OUR SUFFERING.

## OFFER PRAYER & LOVE

*I'm praying for you. We care for you.* These statements are elegant affirmations of what we believe about suffering, God, and our hope for the future: The world is a messed up place, but God is good. Life is hard, but it will get better, and the sufferer is not alone. Prayer and love are not pat answers, and to offer them is a deep expression of hope.

## FIND GOD HERE, NOW

"Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him" (Hebrews 5:8–9).

Jesus is the Son of God, yet he suffered, and gained from the experience of suffering. We follow Jesus, and there is something to be gained from suffering. Jesus suffered because he became like us; when we suffer, we become like him. Jesus' suffering literally saved the world!

God doesn't allow suffering because he's short-staffed. He does, however, enter fully into the human experience and redeem every moment of it, including suffering. Jesus suffered, and we are connected to him in a powerful way through our suffering. The Holy Spirit can help us to express this in ways that are sensitive.

- *God is here, now.*
- *Jesus knows your sorrow. He will help you through this. His presence is our source of hope in every human condition.*
- *I pray that in you, God will bring you the grace and power you need, and you will know his love and his presence.*

## WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER, AND GOD IS IN IT TOO

There's nothing trite about that. In the face of suffering, we can affirm that there is trouble in this world, but God is good. We become more like Christ when we persevere through it, and know that better days are coming. In short, we have faith and we have hope. We can say these things with words, but we can also clothe words with love when we add tears, hugs, presence, or acts of service for those who are needy or who are mourning.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God" (2 Cor. 1:3–4).

**Lawrence Wilson** is the senior pastor of Fall Creek Wesleyan Church, Fishers, Ind.



# Entering
## INTO SUFFERING



I will never forget the cool morning air as it hit my face standing in a packed field outside a feeding station in Ethiopia. The famine had already claimed thousands of lives. The people crushed around me would be the next victims of starvation unless help came in the next few hours. People were not talking. A silence of death hung heavy.

As I walked along with medical personnel into the crowd, people began to whisper and quietly tell their desperate story of why they needed help immediately. The reason for the whisper was to save calories, yes, to preserve their lives a few more hours. I later learned that mothers had buried several of their children on the way to the feeding station and some had even died at the gate of sheer hunger and exhaustion. This was suffering beyond comprehension to me.

In daily news, we are made aware in graphic pictures of suffering. It is difficult to grasp the pain of war, rape, murder on our streets, sickness that surrounds us. If we are honest, we will admit a fear of identifying too closely with the suffering. We fear experiencing the pain ourselves. As a result we as a culture are driven to seek happiness at all costs. In a recent article (April 7, 2014) in the *New York Times,* David Brooks writes, "We are a culture awash in talk about happiness. In one three-month period last year more than 1000 books were released on Amazon on that subject."

In a culture seeking only fleeting happiness, Christianity must be counter-cultural and take suffering seriously.

Jesus entered into the suffering with people. He wept with Mary and Martha at the death of their brother.

Paul tells the church in Corinth, "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored every part rejoices with it" (1 Corinthians 12:26). Also to the Romans he writes, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15).

***A Christian is never an escapist. We enter into the suffering with people, bringing a healing presence for people who feel alone in their pain.***

I will never forget the words of an old woman I met in a refugee camp who must have been over 80. After being carried by her family members escaping the atrocities of the rebel war in Sierra Leone, Africa, she told us: "Thank you for coming, I thought we had been forgotten."

There are millions of people calling to us, saying, "We are suffering … Have we been forgotten?"

***Join me in the best Christian response: "We will enter into your suffering and there we will find the Resurrection of Christ with you."***



**JO ANNE LYON**
General Superintendent
The Wesleyan Church

THE **MAGAZINE** OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

**wesleyan life**

*Transforming lives, churches, and communities through the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ.*

**Vol. 8, No. 3**

**Founders** Orange Scott (1843), Seth Rees (1897)

**Executive Editor** Wayne MacBeth
**Editor** Kerry Kind
**Creative Director** Kory Pence
**Designer** Julia Park
**Assistant Editor** Beth Sanders

**Contributors**
Crystal Blake
Maggie Hubbard (illustrations pp. 8-12)
Jo Anne Lyon
Ron McClung
Richard Meeks
Tricia Rife
Lawrence Wilson
Chris Whonsetler (photo p. 5)

**Published By** Wesleyan Publishing House
P.O. Box 50434, Indianapolis, In 46250-0434

**Member**
Evangelical Press Association
National Association Of Evangelicals

Unless otherwise noted, all Bible quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Scripture quotations marked (KJV) are taken from the Holy Bible, King James Version.

Contents of this magazine are not to be reproduced without written permission. Signed articles present the views of the writers and are the property of the writers.

ISSN 2327-414X (print) ISSN 2327-4158 (online)

***Wesleyan Life*** is published quarterly, free to The Wesleyan Church constituency. Home delivery is available for a minimum donation of $15 per year U.S./ Canadian (overseas $20 U.S. funds, overseas airmail $50 U.S. funds).

**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**
communications@wesleyan.org

wesleyan life


FEATURED

16 In his right hand: Crystal Blake's story

VISION

04 Entering into suffering

15 Generous Church: the joy of giving yourself

TEACHING

02 Offering Hope

07 24/6: Becoming a Sabbath-keeper

STORY

08 Victory over suffering

20 New life in North Carolina

26 Churches under attack: A rescue in Egypt

NEWS

27 News & Info


@WESLEYANCHURCH

FACEBOOK.COM/THEWESLEYANCHURCH

INSTAGRAM.COM/WESLEYANCHURCH

Look for these icons for bonus digital media

View Digital Magazine

WESLEYANLIFEONLINE.COM

# *Equipping Servant Leaders for Global Impact*



KINGSWOOD UNIVERSITY

**www.kingswood.edu**

Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology • Bachelor of Arts in Ministry • Bachelor of Arts in Christian School Education
Bachelor of Theology • Associate of Arts in General Education • Associate of Arts in Evangelism & Compassion Ministry

888.432.4422 | 506.432.4422 | admissions@kingswood.edu | 26 Western Street, Sussex, New Brunswick, Canada

# Becoming a Sabbath-keeper

By Richard Meeks

## By keeping the Sabbath, I acknowledge that God is on the throne of my life and he determines how I spend my days.

When I decide to stay on the job 24/7, as if the God of the universe can't rule my world without my nonstop working, I've declared that I am in charge and God needs me—rather than the other way around.

God powerfully used the visit of Dr. Matthew and Nancy Sleeth of Blessed Earth to remind the pastors and leaders of the East Michigan District of the importance of being Sabbath-keepers.

The Sabbath represents the establishment of God's Kingdom—his rule and reign—in my heart and life. There is nothing that more clearly indicates my full surrender to the King of kings than my obedience, including observance of the Sabbath!

> ***Keeping the Sabbath means I am trusting God with all I am and all I do.***

As a workaholic who battles the temptation to be defined by my work—keeping the Sabbath is not optional. It's a "must-do" if I'm to be holy as a sanctified disciple of Jesus Christ.

Sabbath-keeping—obeying the fourth commandment—is an incredible indicator of our love for our God and King! It's one thing to sing our songs, say our prayers, sanctify our giving, and sermonize—all as worship in the Lord's name. For many of us, it's another matter to so surrender our hearts to God that he sits on the throne of our lives and determines how we spend our days.

### I am, and will be, a Sabbath-keeper! Here's why:

- The Sabbath fixes my problem – I surrender my kingdom of self-reliance!
- The Sabbath focuses my priorities – I stop to acknowledge who and what is most important!
- The Sabbath fuels my passion – I step deeper into God's grace and his presence in my life!

Friday is my Sabbath. It's the day my wife Crystal and I stop working so we can pray and play. It's our time to rest and enjoy God's rhythm for our lives. I take off my watch; I turn off my cell phone; I stay away from emails; I read for relaxation and spiritual growth – not to prepare for my next teaching session. I rest. I worship my King. He refreshes my soul.

God knows us. He knows we need this, and our relationship needs this. I am thankful that he has placed this before us once again so powerfully.



**Richard Meeks** is district superintendent of the East Michigan District of The Wesleyan Church.







## CONSIDER 24/6 FOR YOUR NEXT DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

In this four-session video study, Dr. Matthew Sleeth lays out a plan for living a healthier, happier, more God-centered life by simply and faithfully honoring the Sabbath.

**Order at wphonline.com**

# Victory Over Suffering

Compiled by Ron McClung and Tricia Rife
Illustrated by Maggie Hubbard



## *God has not abandoned us—to whom else could we go?*

Probably you or someone you know well has had to endure suffering. Human travail—serious disease, injury, war, loss of a loved one, abuse, deep loneliness, and much more—will eventually touch us all.

Some react to suffering in such a way that it destroys them. Anger, bitterness, and self-pity are allowed to take up permanent residence. Some lose faith in God and walk away from him. Is God not powerful enough to prevent the suffering? Why would a loving God allow this?

Others find ways to overcome the spiritual challenges that often come with suffering. While they may harbor doubts or question God's reasons for allowing suffering, they don't forsake God. To whom would they then go? Instead, they seek him and receive his care and grace in the midst of the suffering. He is good and loving. His ways are not our ways, but he knows the end from the beginning. He is sovereign and trustworthy. By his grace, hope, and even joy, God helps us through the deepest struggles of life.

The following are all real people in our churches who have experienced their own stories of suffering. Each is unique, yet they have a common thread: even though suffering is a reality of life, God's real presence and love give hope and power to have victory over it.

# Perseverance *and Joy*



After a distinguished career as an evangelist, pastor, professor, dean, and president of Vennard College in University Park, Iowa, Dr. Merne Harris retired. He and his wife Sue moved to Ankeny, Iowa, and he embraced the role of international pastor for World Gospel Mission. Then he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease.

Parkinson's is a progressive neurological disorder with symptoms that vary widely. The Harris' knew little about Parkinson's except that it had left an acquaintance unable to eat with his hands. Harris never experienced the familiar hand tremors associated with the disease. Instead, his muscles grew rigid and his movements slowed. The disease progressed until he was compelled to use a cane, then a walker, and finally a wheelchair. He lost the ability to drive. Tasks such as writing and dressing became laborious. Each stage brought a deeper dependence on others and a loss of privacy. Intensely shy, he found the loss of privacy very difficult.

Even worse was the loss of his voice, especially painful for a person who lived to preach and teach. Yet he persevered. His daughter, Sharon, said, "Dad received many honors in his lifetime. But I am most proud of him during his final years, because we could see the truth of his faith, commitment, and trust." When his son, Bob, asked Merne why God had not healed him, Dr. Harris explained, "God has entrusted me with Parkinson's. I can be a better witness through this."

Merne described his perseverance as a combination of "God's grace and Merne's grit." His grit was so tenacious that daughter Sandy remembers a doctor once told a roomful of medical students that they would never again see a patient at Harris' stage of Parkinson's who could still get in and out of a chair.

*God had entrusted him with Parkinson's.*

Merne Harris died in 2007 at the age of 83. When asked what enabled her husband to maintain his positive perspective on life and ministry, Sue Harris said, "His relationship with Jesus." He never lost his joy regardless of his circumstances.

*God's grace and Merne's grit were both tenacious.*

# Life After *The Knock*



Renee Mercer loved her calling as a pastor's wife. She was content in the background, serving next to her husband, Dave, a Wesleyan pastor. They had just celebrated 30 years of "I do's" and were looking forward to the next thirty. They had a home with three teenage boys and one girl newly married. Their church was bursting with possibilities and new people.

A knock on the door in the wee hours of Sunday morning, December 9, 2012, shattered their lives. When Renee answered, she received the news that her husband had died while on his mission trip to Nicaragua. Time seemed to stop at 5:20 a.m. as she cried out "No, this can't be!"

Renee soon began to ask questions: *Where is God's will in this? David still had so much to do. I can't do life without him!* When no answers came she did what many of us do in the silent mysteries of suffering: blame ourselves. *Did I not pray hard enough? Did I not love him enough, or did I somehow deserve this? God, what did I do wrong? God, what's going to happen to my kids?*

"I don't think this hurt will ever go away," Renee said. "Sometimes the sorrow is so deep all I want to do is throw up. It's hard to move on when every moment feels like 5:20 a.m. when I was blindsided."

"At my lowest moments God's grace often appears clothed as ordinary people who not only grieve for me but with me," she said. "The first night of being single, he caused someone to slip a verse onto my pillow: 'God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble' (Psa. 46:1). Then people helped us sell our house in three weeks and find a new one in Kentucky (where my family lives) in three days."

"Some days I want to sit down and quit because this is too hard, but God's grace scoops me up and helps me keep doing the next thing. My children and I struggle in our unique ways with the ongoing grief, and as their mother I wish I could 'fix it.'"

Many tiptoe around her suffering so as to not make her cry. But Renee knows crying is part of her healing. She recounts the Apostle Paul's statement that "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Corinthians 12:9). Renee said, "We are learning to daily lean on God and limp at our own pace."

# After Despair *A Seed of Faith*

For Sarah Cochran, infertility brought sadness that took root deep in her heart.

For years, Sarah had said to God, "I will do whatever you want me to." She fell in love with Tom the summer after high school graduation and three years later, they were married. She felt blessed and happy to join him in his call to ministry.

But one thing afflicted her. She often jumped out of bed screaming with abdominal pain or doubled over while strolling through a store or driving. Doctors diagnosed her with polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), and Sarah soon learned that conceiving children would be difficult. Bearing children became a goal to be achieved in order to make the physical pain worthwhile. Sarah began to withdraw from people. Symptoms of depression began to appear as she and Tom pursued fertility treatments month after month without result.

*Could she have faith in a God who would not heal her?*

One morning, after years of trying to conceive and yet another failed pregnancy test, Sarah locked herself inside their bathroom and screamed. She repeatedly banged her head against the wall. She vomited out of pain–caused by nausea from the fertility drugs–and from her disgust and rage. She cried out to God to let her die. Her prayers felt as though they bounced off the ceiling, mocking her every thought. *How could she have faith in a God that would not heal?* She was weary of the pain and weary of praying for others, doubting that God even cared. She became cynical and bitter. Her life had been built around a God who cared, but she could see no evidence of that care in her own situation.

One morning, as questions swirled in their minds, Tom played his guitar in the bedroom where Sarah lay, and began to sing: "The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love…the Lord is good to all and he has compassion on all that he has made. As far as the east is from the west that's how far he has removed our transgressions from us…" [1] In that moment, God met them in that room.

*God's grace often appears clothed as ordinary people.*



A seed of faith and hope began to take root in Sarah's heart. It expanded and grew over the next decade. God was answering Sarah's prayer: "God, I will do whatever you want me to." Sarah realized God was asking for all of her heart. He did care for her, but did she care about God's creations, his plans, and his people or was she completely focused only on her own desires and comfort? God wanted her to surrender her full attention, her plans for her future and family, and her aspirations for education and a career. Could she simply submit her entire life to God?

Eventually, God called Sarah to return to school and become a pastor. She now says confidently, "God's grace is sufficient to forgive my sins. He is sufficient for me. God does care, though he does say 'no' sometimes. God's perspective is not our perspective. His is bigger and better!"

[1] Ord, Graham. (1998) The Lord is Gracious and Compassionate. Vineyard Music.

Photo Gallery
www.facebook.com/thewesleyanchurch

# Shattered *Childhood*

Jane's father was a violent alcoholic. One night, in a drunken rage, he raped her mother. When he found she was pregnant, he beat her and threw her down a flight of stairs, attempting to end the pregnancy.

Jane (not her real name) became a living reminder to her mother of her alcoholic father's abuse. Jane lived in constant fear of her mother's tongue-lashings, and beatings were common. But the abuse didn't stop there.



Starting when Jane was just three, she was sexually abused by an uncle, a great-aunt, a cousin, and even a man who made friends with her in the school park. When she was seven, her mother married a pedophile. Over the next five years, Jane was raped hundreds of times in what should have been the safety of her own bed. She learned to dissociate, to disconnect from herself. It was the only way she could cope.

Jane tried to go on and just leave it all behind. But years later, married and with her own children, it overwhelmed her. She couldn't sleep because of flashbacks. Vivid memories crashed in without warning. Any loud noise sent terror coursing through her. She felt hollow inside.

*God can take the worst things and eventually use them for good.*

Jane asked some hard questions along the way. *Why did God let this happen? Why didn't he stop it when she begged for protection? Would she ever be able to live a normal life, without the flashbacks and terror?* "I was angry and depressed. Then I became suicidal," she admitted. "I realized if I wanted to live to see my children grow up, I needed help." That admission started her on a long road to healing.

During one session, her Christian counselor asked what she thought it meant to be protected. She told him: being kept from harm, and not having her worth as a person shattered from the earliest moments of her existence. The counselor told her she needed to see protection through God's eyes. "God doesn't protect us by shielding us from pain," he said. "He protects *by keeping the pain from destroying us.* And because of his sovereignty, he takes the worst things and eventually uses them for good."

In healing, she had to do two things. First, she had to teach herself to think differently. She kept track of negative thoughts, and worked to replace them with positive ones. She tried to follow Romans 12:2: ". . . let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think (NLT)." The second step was much harder. She needed to forgive those who abused her. She resisted, thinking, "Isn't forgiving the same as saying the abuse was no big deal? It was a big deal! It hurt me!"

But bitterness was destroying her from the inside, and affected those she loved most. She had to give it up. She didn't want to forgive, but she started at first by asking God to help her become willing to just *think* about forgiveness. It took her a long time.

With God's help, she experienced renewal of her mind and spirit. "Today," she says, "I can honestly say I have forgiven those who hurt me. I don't know why these things happened. But I know that God is good. He was with me through the worst of times, and has brought more healing than I dreamed possible. Now he's using what I endured and what I have learned to help others."

# Antidote *To Self-Pity*



George Voss had a massive stroke in 2006 while only in his 40's. He lives in a nursing home in Hayward, Wisconsin. Confined to his bed for life, he is unable to use his arms, hands, legs or feet. He cannot feed himself or even lift his head without assistance. His vision is greatly impaired, and he struggles to communicate.

Many people in George's condition would be consumed by self-pity and despair. But by God's grace he has chosen to be a blessing instead.

From his nursing home bedroom, George has become a missionary who has provided goats for needy families in Zambia for the last seven years. He began asking friends and relatives to purchase a goat for $25. The goats are given to Zambian grandmothers raising children whose parents died from AIDS.

George is passionate about his mission. Any visitor who shows up in George's room is a prospect. "People come through the door," he said, "I pray for them, and they give me money for goats."

Chad McCallum, Director of Mobilization for Wesleyan Global Partners, recently met George and bought a goat. Chad said, "I was privileged to be in the presence of one who had a great purpose in life, even in the face of great challenge. George's love for Jesus and for people was crystal clear."

Today, pictures of grateful grandmothers, children, and their goats cover the walls of George's room. His "herd" of goats has grown to over a thousand.

*George's love for Jesus and others is infectious.*
















Road Trip!

Cited by CBS Money Watch for having the BEST FACULTY in the nation

Forbes

BEST COLLEGES U.S.News

2012 Colleges of Distinction 2013

OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY



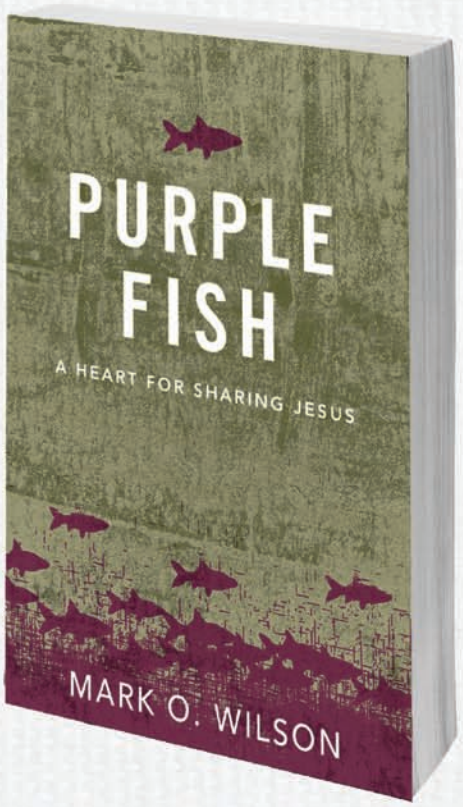
# Now Available

FROM PASTOR MARK O. WILSON

*Purple Fish: A Heart for Sharing Jesus*

Ancient merchants searched for a rare shellfish, valued for its rich, purple dye—the purple fish. Like the merchants, Jesus goes to great lengths in seeking his most valued treasure—lost, broken people. In this inspiring, practical book, Mark O. Wilson offers a new approach for sharing Christ with others, especially for those who feel intimidated by the task. *Purple Fish* also shows how telling other people about Jesus can fill your own soul in the process.

"In *Purple Fish* Mark teaches an approach to evangelism that he lives and teaches. If you're being called to the deeper water, where the fish are plenty but the struggle is great, this is the guide you need." —**Mark Batterson,** *New York Times* bestselling author




WESLEYAN LIFE SPECIAL

**$10.99** *through August 31*

PHONE ORDERS ONLY

wph

1.800.493.7539 | WWW.WESLEYAN.ORG/BOOKS | WPH@WESLEYAN.ORG




## SPEND A DAY AS OUR GUEST AND EXPERIENCE WHAT MAKES SWU UNIQUE.

Most experiences can't be described in words and photos. We don't expect you to be convinced to attend Southern Wesleyan University without seeing it for yourself. That is why we want you to discover campus life and the special community we have here at SWU. We offer several visit options so you can have the opportunity to experience life on our campus.

## SWU EXCURSION

Southern Wesleyan University would like to invite you and your youth group to come visit SWU and we will help cover some of your expenses!

### SWU WILL PROVIDE

- Up to $250 in gas
- Up to three meals on campus per person
- Housing on campus when available
- Campus tour
- Free admission to athletic and fine arts events
- Admissions meetings
- Visit class options when available

Visit **swu.edu/excursion** for more details.

## UPCOMING VISIT DAYS

Monday, September 29, 2014
Friday, October 24, 2014
Monday, November 3, 2014

Register at **swu.edu/visit**

SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

**www.swu.edu • 877-644-5556**

# GENEROUS CHURCH

**A lifestyle of generosity** strikes a chord with Wesleyans. Unselfish generosity flows directly from the heart of God, **from the loving and serving side of holiness.**

## FIVE LOAF HOUSE

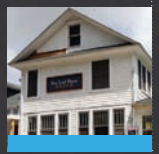
The old scenic Lake House at Pocono Lake in Pennsylvania had been a well-loved inn since 1918. It was closed, abandoned. There was joblessness and poverty in the area. Churches were receiving requests for help from the hungry and homeless. At the same time, the local food pantry lost its home.

In February, 2013, the people of Pocono Lake Wesleyan Church purchased the Lake House. An enormous amount of work lay ahead. Generous assistance was offered by Habitat for Humanity. Several sister churches in the area began to help, also. For over a year, a labor-intensive transformation has been taking place.

The food pantry is open again, serving 500 per month. The house is in use for public events. People have given their time and skills unselfishly in addition to donations. When completed, the second floor will be for transitional housing.

This was never the sort of generosity that ended with writing a check. Especially for Wesleyan pastors Revs. Carolynne and Luke Richards and other volunteers, it has been a deep commitment of time and self. But they are extending the Kingdom of God in their community.

**"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."** ***Romans 12:1 KJV***



Watch Video
www.wesleyan.org/videos

## GARFIELD PARK

Buckeye slumped into the folding chair when he was told the meal was free and he didn't need to pay. His toothless grin faded. "I just wanted to give an offering." Quickly, a basket was found and, with his smile restored, coins totaling $2.52 were received as the first-ever offering taken at the Garfield Park Neighborhood Ministry.

For two years, on every Thursday, a team from a Wesleyan church in the Indianapolis northern suburbs has made the 30-minute drive to Bethany Wesleyan in the under-resourced Garfield Park Neighborhood in the city. Every week Cyndi Harris shows up and helps prepare a home-cooked meal. Every week Pastor Cathy Howie and a faithful team of volunteers comes to work with Rev. Eric Key of Bethany, and they serve, enjoy fellowship, listen, pray, lead worship, teach, counsel, hug, and promise to come back.

The volunteers give and serve, but they also receive and learn. One important lesson learned from Buckeye: Everyone is a giver, and everyone is a receiver. Anything less is degrading.

Although there are financial commitments which help sustain the ministry, no doubt the greater treasure being offered is the people who offer themselves and their precious time—a great deal of time, over the long haul. Generosity of the holy variety often includes funding, but it often calls upon us to do more, to give ourselves.



# IN HIS right HAND

By Crystal Blake



***What happens when you are on the mission field that God took you to and suddenly the bottom seems to drop out? What happens to your faith when the only thing you are sure of is that you will see Jesus one day—possibly sooner than you expected?***



*His **peace** has overwhelmed me more than any cancer diagnosis.*

*In some ways the last year has been our most fruitful and exciting year of ministry.*

**My name is Crystal.** My family and I have lived in Brno, Czech Republic for the last 11 years. We came to help Wesleyan pastors across Europe receive training they need so they can lead their own churches confidently. Another responsibility we have is to pastor here in Brno an international fellowship where people from all over the world come to worship together in English.

Over four years ago, I went to the doctor here in Czech, and received the news that I have breast cancer. This was not what I expected at the age of 35! The doctor said, "Well, I think you have a chance." It was not what I hoped to hear. I had listened to God's call to be a missionary as a teenager and was now working in Czech for Global Partners. I had a wonderful husband, Matt, with three small children and all I could think was, "God, I want better than this from you. I want a guarantee that my life will be long and, of course, I will follow after you." Instead, I had cancer—stage 3.

My life, my hopes, and my dreams seemed to be over except for one thing: God kept speaking softly into my heart from 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.'" God's peace overwhelmed me more than the cancer diagnosis. With this verse also came an understanding that while there are few guarantees in life, there is a guarantee that God would hold me close, no matter the outcome. That was the guarantee I craved more than anything.

After chemo, surgery, radiation, and more surgery, I was told I was cancer free. We all celebrated and went to the States for our home ministries seeing friends, family, churches, and supporters, all the while sharing about God's goodness to deliver me from cancer. Each time I spoke, I thanked God that I was past this blip in our lives. We returned to the Czech Republic to continue sharing Jesus and to begin working with the international church, confident that God's hand was on us and the next chapter would be better than what we had just gone through.

God's hand was indeed on us, yet his plans for us were different than we expected. About a month after we returned, I began to feel sharp pain in my hip and within three days could no longer walk without a cane. I went again to the oncology hospital. The appointment I had with my doctor less than a month earlier had been joyful. I had more scans done and found that I had metastatic breast cancer with cancer now found in my hip bone. Again, God infused Matt and me with peace, gave us time to cry together, and then gave us strength to start a new battle which would begin with radiation, chemo, and an unknown future.

I asked my doctor if I could go on our planned family vacation with




*God holds you by the hand and says, "Do not fear; I will help you!"*

two other families. She agreed, yet I could see in her face that this might be the last holiday for me. I wrote on my blog on Caring Bridge, and many people around the world began to pray. They prayed for healing, they prayed for comfort, they prayed that God would use this for his glory. God heard their prayers. That weekend holiday, God looked down on me and touched me, taking away the cancer in my hip. Though I still fight the cancer with chemo and radiation, to this day it has totally disappeared in my hip.

You might then ask—is the story over now? Did God heal me and am I now living free from cancer? Yes, God healed my hip bone, but the cancer also attacked me again—it is still breast cancer, but now in the liver. I have been fighting cancer for the last 4½ years. My small children are growing and are now school age. I have lost my hair multiple times. (My boys are pretty convinced that they will be bald when they grow older since my husband is also bald.) I am still taking chemotherapy, and fight through the side effects that affect me harshly.

My future is still unknown, yet instead of worrying about it or fretting about what could come, I am actually, surprisingly, filled with joy and peace. Why? Because God has proven himself to me that he is really there, he loves me, and I can trust him to have the best for me. This does take a conscious choice on my part to believe that God's best for me is what I am currently going through. Does it feel like it? Not always. When the side effects force me to stay in bed, thereby making me miss out on fun memories with my kids, or the pain that comes from cancer or chemo is harsh and I wish for something different, I still choose to remember to thank God for strength for the day, and for his love that shines on me.

When I am quiet, and I allow God to speak through the Bible, I am reminded that Jesus suffered so much more than I ever will. Jesus gave up heaven to come to earth. He gave up his right to live in perfection in order to come into our world where there is imperfection and suffering. Me? I will have pain and trouble in this world, yet Jesus says in John 16:33, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

I don't enjoy having cancer. It is an awful disease that destroys. Yet, I know that God has the last word and will make us new, and even better. Since the cancer, I have been able to grow more deeply in love with our Savior. I have more time to spend with him, as well as ministering for him. I let Jesus minister to others and sometimes I get to see what happens through the words that I write or through time that I spend with people. I am blessed so much to be able to live my life ministering next to my husband.

*Since the cancer, I have been able to grow more deeply in love with our Savior.*



Together we share life with people here in the Czech Republic. For people in this atheistic country, we provide an example of what is means to be a believer in Jesus Christ. It is a privilege to listen to people's stories and then share the stories that God has given to us, sometimes because of the cancer. God is answering our deep desire to know him more and to share him with others.

One of my greatest joys is hosting Bible studies in our home to read the Word together, knowing that God is the ultimate transformer of people. In some ways the last year has been our most fruitful and exciting year of ministry. Matt shares in his sermons that God is our provider. Matt's authenticity draws others to know Jesus more. It's a beautiful thing to watch. Could this have happened had I not gotten cancer? Not in the same way. God has taken what destroys and made something beautiful.

God has helped us to accept our present circumstances and to thank him for the strength, peace, and unexpected joys that he provides. God truly loves us and his best will never be realized on earth. His best is perfection: a disease free, sin free place—heaven.

The medical tests have not been favorable. Yet, we continue to see God's miraculous faithfulness to us in so many ways. Yes, God could choose to heal me and keep me here on earth longer, and I would welcome that. It would be a little foretaste of heaven! However, if he chooses to heal me by taking me to heaven sooner, my purpose on this earth is fulfilled – to glorify God and enjoy him forever. Either way, I know that he holds me in his right hand.

Crystal's Blog
www.caringbridge.org/visit/crystalblake

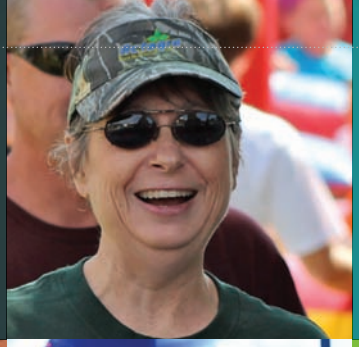
Photo Gallery
www.facebook.com/thewesleyanchurch



**Crystal Blake** and her husband Matthew are Global Partners missionaries in the Czech Republic.

Story

# NEW LIFE in NC















# RTH AROLINA

By Kerry Kind

*North Carolina is home to 182 Wesleyan churches in two districts (east and west), ranging from tiny country churches to a mega church of over six thousand.*

These four exciting churches are different from one another, but one notices some key ideas that they share. 1) Each church is united behind an idea of their mission that is biblical and inspiring. 2) They do not stay within their walls, but make serving and loving their wider community a key part of their identity and purpose. 3) They make reaching children and youth among their highest priorities for leadership and resources.

## CONNECTION CHURCH

Connection Church was planted in 2011 as a partnership between North Carolina East and North Carolina West Districts. Serving the Thomasville and High Point, N.C. area, it has begun well, and growth has been steady with attendance now regularly topping 550, with a high of 900 at Easter. The lead pastor is Rev. Scott and Dacia (Emery) Newton. Prior to his call to the ministry Scott had been making a living as a professional golfer. He attended the Charlotte Wesleyan youth convention in 2003 as an adult sponsor. God met him there and changed his life. As a result, he has been pastoring churches since 2005.

The mission of Connection Church is simple and powerful: "We are vessels of the Holy Spirit being used to set people free." According to Scott, there are four ministry essentials, and everything they do is designed to strengthen these essentials:

- Outreach—flows through everything
- Worship—people feel welcome and loved, even in the parking lot
- Next generation—priority on children from birth through high school
- Small groups—it is here where powerful connections for life take place



# Helping one more person find their way back to God.

The target of the church is young people. That is apparent from the very youth-oriented Christian music used in worship. At Connection Church, the older, more established Christians may not personally prefer this style, but they support it. They get joy from seeing their children and grandchildren and other young people experience life-change.

Small groups are not closed. They are "almost required" to get out and serve others. The principle is Up-In-Out: Up to God, In for spiritual growth, and Out to serve in the community. They pack food bags for needy kids to take home from school on otherwise hungry weekends. They work in a recovery house. They hold cookouts, inviting new people that they can include in the circle of love in their group. The small groups don't just meet; they do life together. Over half of the congregation is engaged in regular serving of some kind.

Connection Church is intentionally generous—over 25 percent of income is given away. But they find they can't out-give God. He is entrusting people and resources with the church. In the last year there were 138 first-time salvations and 134 baptisms. They have been meeting in a school. But they are breaking ground in August on a new 36-acre campus, and with God's help they hope to move into a paid-for facility in 2015.

Scott is quick to say, "This is not me. This whole church—staff and volunteers—has united behind a God-given vision. God is doing this. We are constantly adapting to try to keep up with what he is doing!

*Each church is united behind an idea of their mission that is biblical and inspiring.*

## BAGLEY SWAMP

Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church is a colorful name. It was constructed on some donated swamp land 100 years ago. The church is located in Hertford, N.C., a town of about 3,000 people in the northeast corner of the state (NCE District). In most of its history the little church served a group of 50-70 people.

Rev. James and Amy Spaugh went there to pastor the church fifteen years ago, and they stayed. At first they just had a few workers, who had been overworked. So they decided to try to do fewer things, but do them well. Everyone agreed to emphasize a solid ministry for children on Sunday mornings. They developed a more accepting atmosphere for teens of different backgrounds in their youth group, and contributed to racial reconciliation in the community.

Bagley Swamp's mission is: "Connecting people with God and each other, and serving both." The church gradually began to do more things for the community. Last year in July, seventy volunteers from the church gave 700 hours of service in one week, painting school classrooms, doing renovations for people's homes, etc. In the spring when there was tornado damage, the official word was, "If you need help, call Bagley Swamp Wesleyan Church." The church provided food to many people and even housing for a displaced family. They love to build relationships by serving. This gives natural opportunities to speak into lives about Jesus Christ.

Today, Bagley Swamp's attendance of sixty in the youth group is about as large as the whole church used to be, and about a third of these are minorities. On Sunday mornings they are seeing well over two hundred people in church and they had nearly three hundred on Easter. That beat their record attendance by about a hundred. Pastor Spaugh has had offers to be a candidate at larger churches, but he has never felt released by God from Bagley Swamp. He believes their best days are ahead.

On March 2, 2014, they moved into their totally new and larger church a few hundred yards down the road on a new 25-acre campus. The old church is now used for student ministries. James is eager to have the whole town see the new building as theirs, and the church constantly invites others to hold events there. He said, "We don't want to hear anyone say, 'That's a wonderful building you have built for yourselves, there.'" Even a hundred-year-old declining church can get new life.



# N.C.

## VINTAGE CHURCH

Vintage Church is a five-year-old church plant in Randleman, N.C. (NCE District). It is pastored by Rev. Matthew and Ashley Smith. Matthew is a Southern Wesleyan graduate who grew up in a Wesleyan parsonage. He had about eight years' experience on staff at other churches before he took the challenge of planting a new church.

The mission of Vintage Church is to "inspire people to live and love like Jesus." From the very first Sunday any new person attends the church, they hear about the mission. Matthew is deeply committed to Wesleyan holiness, but believes that some churches fail to emphasize the "serving and loving side of holiness." Matthew is strongly influenced by the book of Acts and seeks to capture the best things about the early church and put them into practice at Vintage Church. Some of those values include personal sacrifice, prayer, a deep commitment to taking care of one another, being Spirit-led, a boldness to speak about salvation, and an apostolic vision.

### *Mission: to live and love like Jesus*

Randleman is a community of about 3,500 people that has a low average income and Matthew noted that too many people seemed to have a lowered expectation for themselves and their families. There are a lot of broken people and many unreached people. As a starting point, people have practical needs that can be addressed, so the church provides things like a free clothing store, food backpacks, Thanksgiving meals, etc.

An original group of twelve families that launched Vintage Church with Matthew and Ashley has grown to several hundred people. Since Easter, 2014 they have averaged about 500. The middle school has been their meeting place since 2012, which has been good since so much of their service in the community is to and through the schools. At first they developed the reputation of being the "youth church" because their music is very modern and the volume is up. Often, the first person they reach in a family is a teenager, then families follow when they see the transformed lives.

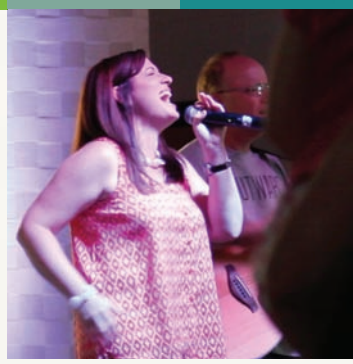


The church has been praying about a potential move to a main corner of the town into a large facility that can be remodeled. Having their own facility can save hundreds of hours of volunteer time every month that is currently spent setting up and tearing down their church services in the school. Matthew sees the importance of freeing up many of their key volunteers to engage in more outreach ministry. What he is most passionate about is seeing people fall in love with Jesus Christ and his church. Already God is transforming lives and beginning to give greater hope to a whole community.

## WENDOVER HILLS

Wendover Hills Wesleyan Church in Greensboro (NCW District) was a 10-year-old church plant in the west district that had fallen on hard times. By January 2011, when Rev. Tom and Sherri (Bickert) Raven arrived, there was a committed core of about forty people left.

Tom was a seminary graduate with ministry experience and he was also a professional baseball coach. He had been coaching and teaching at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Ill., when God prodded him to return to pastoral ministry. The folks at Wendover Hills liked the idea of a pastor with a coaching style.



There are many people in a Bible-belt state like North Carolina who have some prior church experience but have been de-churched. Many have been wounded by life and are trying to recover from something. Wendover Hills Church sees its mission clearly: "Helping one more person find their way back to God."

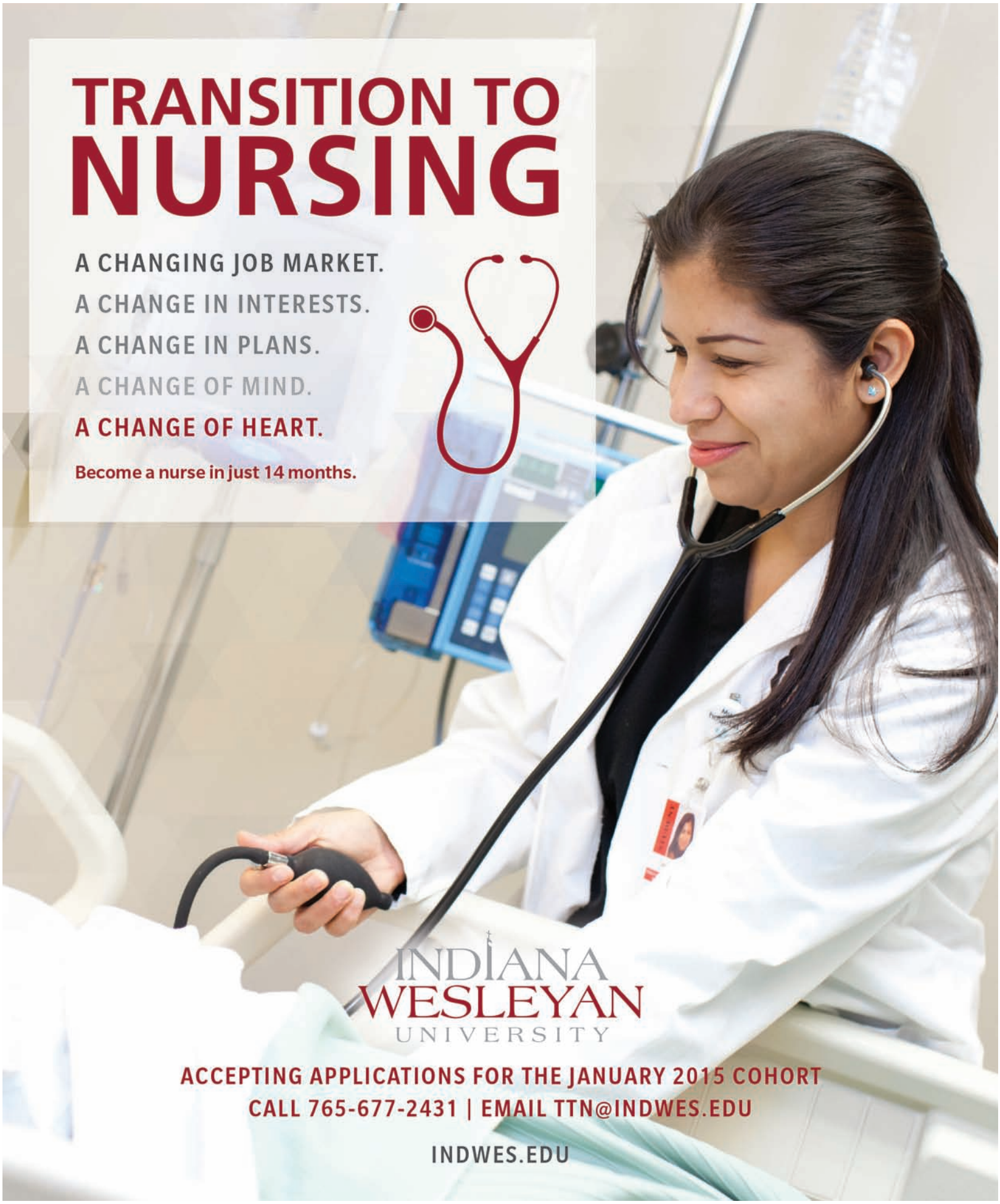
At Wendover Hills, Tom seeks to empower God's people to do ministry that they feel called to do. This results in some creative ministries. For example, "Pierced Ministries" is a recovery center, a home for men. Members of Wendover Hills felt led to start it up and Tom got behind it. Other members offered their time and finances to help. Men in recovery now are paired with men in the church for mentoring.

Another example is a store which recycles and sells used building supplies. It turns a modest profit, but then uses that to support a "free" store that helps needy people in a variety of ways. These ministries don't have to be owned by the church, but the church can encourage and assist them.

This year, the church's theme is "Outward." Social media are used for sharing photos of their members wearing "Outward" T-shirts and serving others. On "service Saturdays" they mobilize, team up, and help people in practical ways.

All of this service and loving their community is not primarily a growth strategy. It is simply a way of witnessing to the love of Jesus Christ in the context of doing service to which they feel called. But the joy of serving, the fellowship, and the new people that are touched also tend to bring growth. In just a couple years, they have quadrupled from 40 to an average of 160, with a high Sunday of 232 on Easter. More importantly, lives are being transformed and made new.

We are grateful for the leadership of district superintendents Rev. Jerry Lumston (NCW) and Rev. Dan LeRoy (NCE). They have the role of developing and encouraging these pastors and churches in their quest to see lives, churches, and communities transformed by the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ!


TRANSITION TO
NURSING
A CHANGING JOB MARKET.
A CHANGE IN INTERESTS.
A CHANGE IN PLANS.
A CHANGE OF MIND.
A CHANGE OF HEART.
Become a nurse in just 14 months.
INDIANA
WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY
ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE JANUARY 2015 COHORT
CALL 765-677-2431 | EMAIL TTN@INDWES.EDU
INDWES.EDU



# CHURCH PLANTING Q&A

**Dr. Ed Love**, Church Planter, network strategist, and catalyst of the Certificate in Church Planting and Multiplication

### What are your current ministry roles?

*I currently serve as the narrative pastor for The Well, catalyst of the Greenhouse Planting Network, director of church multiplication for the West Michigan District of The Wesleyan Church, and training catalyst for the church multiplication department of The Wesleyan Church.*

### Why is church planting and multiplication important to you?

*I am a firm believer that new churches and fresh expressions of the gospel will always be an essential strategy to reaching those who don't know Jesus Christ. When I think about church planting, I don't think about signs and buildings—I think about a lost soul who doesn't know the life-changing love of Christ.*

### Why a Certificate in Church Planting and Multiplication?

*Church planting is not for the faint of heart. Since a new start has many unique leadership dynamics, it is important to receive as much training as possible. This certificate will provide leaders with the necessary knowledge, experience, and skills, in order to initiate new churches, sites, and venues with conviction and confidence.*

### Who is the certificate for?

*This certificate is designed for anyone who desires to plant a new multiplication-minded church, daughter a church, or launch a new venue.*

### How is the certificate structured?

*The certificate provides a combination of classroom training, online engagement, collaborative learning, interactive conferencing, and field-based learning experiences. There are four courses, totaling 12 credit hours, which can be completed within 12 months. An additional 2 credit hour independent study may also be pursued.*

### What classes are in the certificate?

1. *Multiply: Foundations in Church Planting and Multiplication (5 day intensive)*
2. *Core: The Calling, Character, and Competency of a Church Multiplier (online)*
3. *Launch: Initiating Effective New Churches, Sites, and Venues (online)*
4. *Thrive: Maximizing the Post-Launch Phase (online)*

### Can I use these certificate classes toward a degree?

*All of the certificate credits can be integrated and transferred into Wesley Seminary's Master of Arts in Ministry or Master of Divinity programs.*

### What if I only want to take one class?

*The courses are designed to build off of one another; however, if a student desires to take one course they are free to do so.*

### Who do I contact for more information?

*The Wesley Seminary Admissions Office, 877-673-0009 or Wesley@indwes.edu or online at seminary.indwes.edu/Academics/CCPM*

WESLEY SEMINARY
INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Master of Divinity • Master of Arts • Master of Practical Theology
Maestria en Divinidad en Español

**Onsite or Online • 877-673-0009**

**seminary.indwes.edu**

18 83
HOUGHTON
COLLEGE

SUMMER
VISIT DAYS
JULY 26, 2014
AUG. 15, 2014

More information at
www.houghton.edu/visit

BEST VALUE
IN PRIVATE COLLEGES
-2014, Kiplinger

www.houghton.edu

# A rescue in Egypt

By Kerry Kind

**For about two months after the military coup in Egypt in July 2013, there were widespread demonstrations and violent clashes in which over a thousand people lost their lives.** Churches were not spared the unrest. In fact, some Islamic extremists were clearly targeting known Christians and Christian businesses as well as pastors and churches.

Over a hundred churches were attacked with forty of them completely destroyed. In addition, many private homes were burned and over a hundred shops and businesses known to be owned by Christians were attacked.

The attacks on Christians were all over Egypt, but especially in the governorate (province) of Minya, where over four million people live. This governorate, about 160 miles south of Cairo on the west bank of the Nile River, has more Christian churches than most of the other governorates, and the attacks there were especially intense.

A Wesleyan church in the town of Mallawi, Minya was directly threatened. Mallawi is a town of about 200,000.

The pastor, Ahmed (name altered), got word that the attackers were coming and that they wanted to burn the church with him inside it. He called the Wesleyan national superintendent and asked whether he should run away or stay and die for his church.

THE PASTOR ASKED WHETHER HE SHOULD FLEE, OR STAY AND DIE FOR HIS CHURCH.

They prayed together. Then the superintendent told him, "Go to your Muslim neighbors next door and up and down your entire street. Tell them that if the church burns, the entire block will burn, since all the buildings are touching each other. Ask the people to stand with you."

After the pastor spoke to all his neighbors, everyone in the neighborhood came out of their apartments and their businesses until a large crowd filled the side street. When the mob of extremists arrived, they were blocked from getting close to the church. The neighbors rebuked the members of the mob and called upon them to return to their homes and quit threatening peaceful people. The church was saved.

Dr. Jo Anne Lyon happened to visit the church this year, while in Egypt. She noticed that next to the church, Pastor Ahmed had set up a play area for children, including some play equipment and toys. Children of Christian and Muslim families are now playing together there for the first time.





## Celebrating first class of graduating pastors in Cuba

After four years of studies, eighteen pastors and leaders graduated in June 2014 from Facultad Teológica Wesleyana-Cuba (FTW-Cuba). **Rev. Edgar Chacon**, district superintendent of Distrito Hispano Suroeste (Southwest Hispanic District) in North America, was the founder of FTW-Cuba. The Cuban pastors presented him with a large plaque in appreciation for his investment in training them.

Wesleyan ministry in Cuba officially began in January 2010. Considerable growth has followed among Wesleyan churches there. Officials expect 40 new incoming students when FTW-Cuba resumes this fall.

### HOUGHTON RAISES MORE THAN $740,000 IN 24 HOURS

Houghton College held its first ever one-day giving campaign on April 25, 2014, raising over $740,000 in a 24-hour period. Matching gifts were the catalyst for the campaign. Utilizing email, social media, and every channel available to get the word out, 1,323 donors got involved by midnight and surpassed the matching challenges. The funds raised will go to the Student Scholarship Fund and other projects.



## *True power:* a meeting with President Obama

In April 2014, **Dr. Jo Anne Lyon**, General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church, and five other evangelical leaders met with **U. S. President Barack Obama** in the Oval Office to discuss immigration reform.

Dr. Lyon said, "As I sat in proximity to such power, my heart was aching for those without power, specifically the immigrants among us." She told the president the story of Wesleyan pastor **Rodolfo Piedra**, who was detained as he tried to help another with immigration issues. He could not be located for several months, but after his release, it became known that he had led fifteen men from various countries to Christ.

### KALEMBO, A RESPECTED LEADER IN AFRICA

**Rev. Alfred Kalembo**, national superintendent of the Pilgrim Wesleyan Church in Zambia, spoke in May 2014 to more than 300 church leaders from Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. Zambia celebrates 50 years of independence in October 2014. Kalembo said his church had several reasons to join the government in celebrating because of the achievements the church has made, especially constructing 74 schools and three hospitals in Zambia.

Kalembo said, "The church should not be seen to be a competitor of government, but a voice of the voiceless."



# New district superintendents elected

In June, 2014, the Penn-Jersey District elected **Rev. Anita Eastlack** and re-elected **Dr. Karl Eastlack** as co-district superintendents. This is historic on two counts: it is the first time a woman has served as a district superintendent in the North American General Conference and the first time for co-district superintendents.

Other newly elected district superintendents in June, 2014: **Dr. Matthew "Matt" Pickering** in the Central New York District and **Rev. Aaron Sherman** in the Kentucky-Tennessee District.





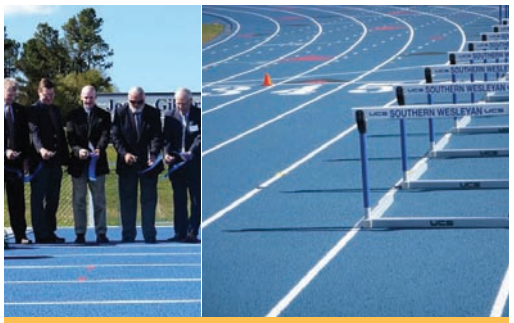







## WESLEYAN NATIVE MINISTRIES HOLD HISTORIC MEETING

Native leaders from South Dakota, Wisconsin, and New York gathered at Wesleyan headquarters in Fishers, Ind., in May 2014, for training, inspiration, fellowship, and celebration. Wesleyan Native Ministries Director **Larry Salway** led the first-ever such meeting. Native leaders presented gifts of appreciation to several headquarters employees. **Dr. Jim Dunn** presented each Native pastor with a hand-crafted chalice and plate.




## SWU DEDICATES NEW TRACK AND FIELD COMPLEX

Southern Wesleyan University dedicated a new $1.1 million track and field complex, including a 400-meter, eight-lane track surrounding the future soccer field.

The facility is named for **Joe R. Gilbert**. His son, donor **Cameron Gilbert**, said, "Dad would have loved SWU's Christ-centered focus, focus on academic success, and commitment to athletics." Cameron is father to Shelby Gilbert, a member of SWU's women's basketball team.

## KINGSWOOD OPENS DOORS TO WELCOME FLOOD EVACUEES

Flooding in Sussex, New Brunswick in April 2014 forced hundreds of residents to evacuate their homes. When the mayor contacted **Dr. Mark Gorveatte**, president of Kingswood University in Sussex, the university opened its doors to the community.

KU staff and students greeted crowds of evacuees with food and dry clothing, helped victims make phone calls, listened to their stories, and played with their children. The following week, the Honorable Bruce Northrup, minister of public safety and solicitor general for New Brunswick, held a press conference at KU and thanked the university for its help.







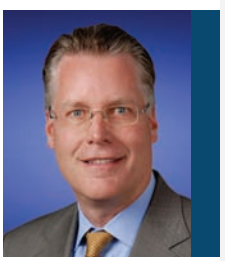


## *Made new* at Renuevo, California

Approximately 400 people representing sixteen churches from Arizona, Nevada, and California, gathered in Perris, California, in April to attend Renuevo 2014. Renuevo ("Renew") seeks to strengthen Hispanic families in the faith.

Renuevo provided ministry to all ages. Fifteen children and nine youth made decisions for Christ. One woman testified that God had put the pieces of her broken life back together. One student said, "I am so happy to see my little brother get saved."

## IWU CREATES BASTIAN CENTER



Indiana Wesleyan University is establishing the Bastian Center for the Study of Human Trafficking. Made possible by a $1.5 million commitment from **Edward and Anna Bastian**, the center brings IWU's people and resources in opposition to a multibillion-dollar industry that buys, ships, and sells people – an estimated 27 million men, women, and children, globally.

**Laura J. Lederer, J. D.**, former senior advisor on Trafficking in Persons to the Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs, has been named executive director of the Bastian Center. Edward Bastian is president of Delta Air Lines.

## OKWU TO OFFER THREE NEW MASTER'S PROGRAMS

Oklahoma Wesleyan University announced in May 2014 the addition of three new master-level programs to their adult and graduate studies. In addition to the Master of Education and MBA programs, students will be able to enroll in new programs for Master of Arts in Theology and Apologetics, Master of Science in Nursing, and Master of Science in Strategic Leadership in the fall of 2014.

## Highlights on generosity, mission, and district merger

Made New: Online
www.wesleyan.org/madenew

**The General Board of The Wesleyan Church met on May 6-7. Highlights include:**

- Generosity: the Church gave $682,313 to aid victims of Hurricane Sandy, a flood in Mozambique, a tornado in Oklahoma, and a typhoon in the Philippines.
- Easter attendance in 2014 totaled about 365,000 in North American Wesleyan churches, with 6,086 reported conversions and 617 baptisms.
- *Wesleyan Life* received the "Award of Excellence" from the Evangelical Press Association as the most improved evangelical magazine of 2013.
- Global Partners is now present in twenty African nations, only four of those having North American missionaries. The Church worldwide has a presence in 97 countries. The JESUS Film Partnership has 40 Wesleyan teams, all led by national workers, with 101 new churches planted, 85 additional preaching points, and thousands of Christ followers.
- Forty-seven churches were planted this year in North America, plus sixty-eight new venues/ satellites/multi-sites.
- Wesley Seminary at IWU has surpassed 400 in enrollment and graduated the first Hispanic M.Div. class this spring.
- **Mr. Kevin A. Batman** was re-elected General Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer for a four-year term.
- The merger of Mountain Plains District and Texas-Louisiana District was approved, pending approval of the respective district conferences this summer. The new district, called Mountain Plains, will have 54 churches in Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, Texas, and Louisiana.




The Way to Move members, clergy & employees –
Stevens Worldwide Van Lines

- Personalized attention
- Discounted pricing
- Customized moving packages
- Top-rated drivers
- Stevens Home Protection Kit ™

**The Clergy Move Center ®**

**800.248.8313**

**www.stevensworldwide.com/wesleyan**

Proud supporter of the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc.®
STEVENS worldwide van lines
The Way to Move. The Way to Care.

USDOT 72029

Recommended by
The Wesleyan Church

# Obituaries

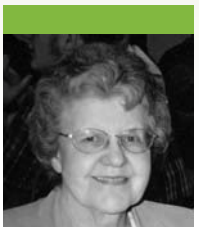
### BLIMLINE, REV. CURTIS, 87
lived in Cincinnati, Ohio. A World War II veteran, he served churches in Pennsylvania (Penn-Jersey District) and Tennessee for thirty years until his retirement in 1988. He is survived by his wife, Mary (Rogers) Blimline, two sons, one daughter, two sisters, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

### CALL, REV. CARL, 80
lived in McMinnville, Tenn. A veteran of the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy, having served in both Korea and Vietnam, he pastored in the Kentucky-Tennessee District. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Betty Dean Young Call, two sons, three daughters, eleven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, and two brothers.

### COLLINGS, REV. FORREST CHANE, 89
lived in Springville, Ind. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and World War II, he pastored in the Indiana South District. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Thelma Jean Collings. He is survived by his wife Mary E. Couch Collings, three sons, four daughters, 22 grandchildren, many great-grandchildren, and one sister.

### COWART, LONEY MAE, 89
lived in Irmo, S.C. She and her husband served as Wesleyan Methodist missionaries to West India from 1953-1965. She is survived by her husband, Thomas, two daughters, five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and two sisters, including her twin sister Phroney.

### EDLING, REV. DR. JOHN, 91
lived in Leesburg, Fla. An ordained minister in the West Michigan District, he was also a physician. He and his wife Priscilla, who preceded him in death, served as medical missionaries in Haiti from 1952 to 1968 and 1979 to 1988. He is survived by a son, a daughter, a sister, and one brother.



### GLENN, ANN ETSLER, 82
lived in Marion, Ind. She had served as asst. general director of Wesleyan Women, as well as district director of three districts. She had also served as general director of children's ministries. A school teacher for over thirty years, she was an accomplished musician, choral director, and authored books, devotionals, and songs for the church. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Rev. Don Glenn, a daughter, a son, two sisters, and a brother.

### HOGARTH, REV. VIRGIL LEE, 85
lived in Topeka, Kan. He pastored churches in Oklahoma and Kansas. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Ruth Berkgren Hogarth, in 1985. He is survived by his wife, Eleanor Fay Clark Hogarth, a son, a daughter, four grandsons, a brother, and a sister.

### KING, REV. HAROLD, 83
lived in Statesville, N.C. He pastored Wesleyan churches from 1957 until 1995. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and the Korean War, receiving two Bronze Stars. He is survived in death by his wife, Joan, a daughter, two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and one brother.

### LLOYD, REV. LUELLA GARLOW, 95
lived in Olathe, Kan. A graduate of Miltonvale Wesleyan College, she and her husband of 54 years, Rev. Willard James Lloyd, co-pastored Wesleyan churches in the Kansas District for 35 years. He preceded her in death. Luella is survived by three daughters, one son, 14 grandchildren, 27 great-grand children, and two great-great grandchildren.

### LYON, REV. LEWIS, 79
lived in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He was first a school principal and then served as a Wesleyan pastor for thirty years, retiring in 1994. He is survived by his wife, Betty, three sons, one daughter, three brothers, two sisters, nine grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

View videos and bonus media in our digital magazine
www.wesleyanlifeonline.com

**MAYBERRY, REV. WILLIAM "BILL" THOMAS, 87**
lived in Lincolnton, N.C. A veteran of the U.S. Navy during World War II, he pastored in the North Carolina West District. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Pearl Richard Mayberry, one son, two daughters, six grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren.



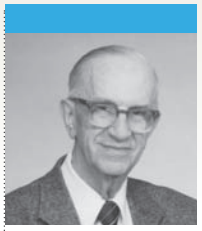
**MORGAN, ELSIE MARIE, 87**
died in Fredericton, N. B. An alumna of Bethany Bible College, she and her husband, William (Bill) Morgan, served 33 years as missionaries to South Africa. She is survived by her husband, two children, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

**TARR, REV. PAUL F., 79**
lived in Jasper, Ind. He pastored in the Indiana South District and was also a retired welder. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Lois E. Davis Tarr, one son, eight grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

**SHULER, WILLIAM "BILLY", 69**
lived in Florida. A graduate of Marion College, he pastored churches in the Greater Ohio District. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Esther Martin Shuler, three sons, six grandchildren, a sister, and a brother.

**WHITE, REV. ERNEST BANNISTER, 91**
lived in Riverside, Calif. A veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II, he was a researcher with the University of California Riverside. He was a minister in the Pacific Southwest District. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy White, one son and two grandchildren.

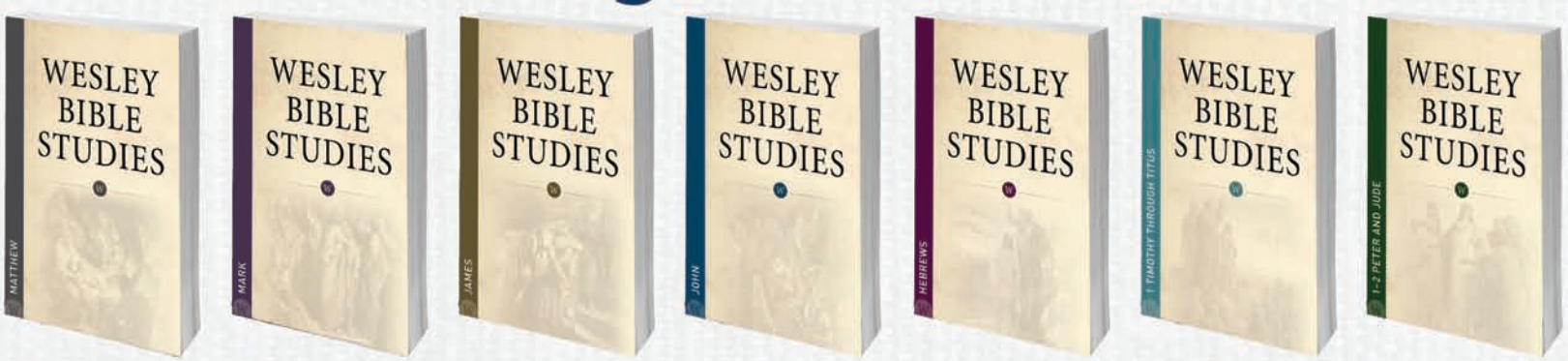
**WILLIAMS, REV. JAMES A., 68**
lived in Anderson, Ind. A minister of the Indiana Central District, he is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Sandra (Keck) Williams, two sons, two daughters, seven grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, and three brothers.



**WILSON, DR. ERMAL, 97**
lived in Marion, Ind. Dr. Wilson and his first wife, Madgel Marie, served in Swaziland and South Africa for two missionary terms. He served as General Secretary of Foreign Missions for the Pilgrim Holiness Church for ten years prior to merger in 1968. After merger, he served as General Secretary of World Missions for an additional four years. After the decease of his first wife in 1967, he married Gloria Lup. After holding denominational offices, he and Gloria served in local church ministries and evangelism. He is survived by his wife, Gloria, two sons, one daughter, nine grandchildren, twenty-one great grandchildren, and five great-great grandchildren.


*Introducing*

**Wesley Bible Studies**




The **Wesley Bible Studies** series provides a thoughtful and powerful survey of key Scriptures, combining accessible commentary from contemporary teachers with integrated highlights from the hymns, life experiences, and complete writings of John Wesley and his brother Charles. Also included are creative and engaging questions to foster deeper fellowship and growth.

***Now Available***

*Matthew :: Mark :: James :: John :: Hebrews :: 1–2 Peter and Jude :: 1 Timothy through Titus :: 1–3 John :: Romans :: Galatians through Colossians and Philemon :: Revelation*

***Releasing This September***

*1–2 Thessalonians :: Acts :: 1–2 Corinthians :: Luke*

**$8.99** *each*

Also available as eBooks!
visit *wphebooks.com*

wph 1.800.493.7539 | WWW.WESLEYAN.ORG/BOOKS | WPH@WESLEYAN.ORG

TOGETHER *WE* ARE MADE NEW

# THE gathering

WESLEYAN CLERGY CONFERENCE



**BOB** ROBERTS



**JOANNE** SOLIS-WALKER



**KYLE** RAY



**JOEL & BECKY** HUNTER



**KEVIN** MYERS
**JOHN** MAXWELL



**KEN** MURPHY



**KEVIN & SHERRY** HARNEY



**TODD & SONJA** BURPO



COMEDIAN **MICHAEL JR.**



**CALLING ALL PASTORS AND SPOUSES IN THE WESLEYAN CHURCH...**

**REGISTRATION OPENS JUNE 13**
**WESLEYAN.ORG/GATHERING**

## ORLANDO • JAN. 13-16, 2015

**Single Occupancy:** $495/each
**Pastor & Spouse:** $595
**Double Occupancy:** $645
**Onsite One-day Pass:** $100/each

**Join us** as we gather together as a Wesleyan clergy family to be encouraged, inspired and engaged.

**The Gathering** incluirá seminarios en español y servicios de traducción para las sesiones generales.

# wesleyan life

THE MAGAZINE OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH



ON THE COVER

## GOD'S STORY IN WEST MICHIGAN

**Jim Maness** stirred by answered prayer

STANDING AGAINST

## THE EBOLA STORM

FEATURED

## N.T. WRIGHT'S REAL JESUS

Arguments about God are like pointing a flashlight toward the sky to see if the sun is shining.



# West Michigan

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

By Kerry Kind

### GOD IS UP TO SOMETHING IN WEST MICHIGAN.

Many churches of the West Michigan District have become increasingly missional in recent years. District Superintendent Chris Conrad has spent his life as a champion of the values that are at the foundation of churches like these. In these examples, unique ministry opportunities have followed faithful prayer in often surprising ways.

## 01: *COURAGEOUS INNOVATION IN ALLENDALE*

Allendale Wesleyan Church used to be a stable church of about three hundred, west of Grand Rapids. By the time Jim Maness arrived in 2007 as lead pastor, the people already realized they had not been doing enough to reach all the new housing developments in their township. They wanted to be more missional. But it was hard to grow in their landlocked facility. Many of the members were active in parachurch organizations, but the church was no longer a ministry leader in the community.

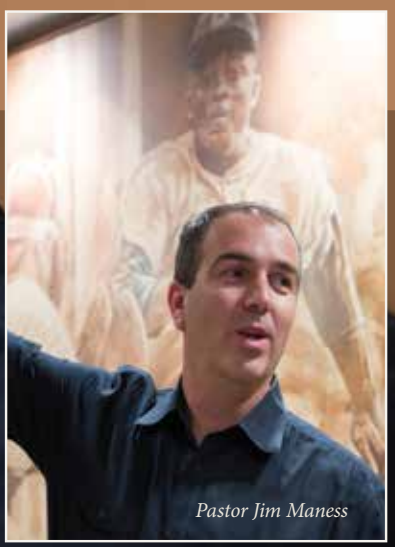
Jim was not interested in a new job. He had a great ministry in Wisconsin, but God unmistakably called him to replant the established Allendale church. Right away, Jim and the church made the risky move to sell their facility and move into temporary high school facilities. While they looked for their new permanent location, Jim worked hard at "rewiring" the church to be more missional, not waiting for a building.

They left behind many things that don't really matter. They found seven things that matter most: grace, the Scriptures, prayer, worship, community, spiritual gifts, and mission. They grew by one hundred while in temporary quarters, over a three-year period.

A large middle-school facility on the main highway became available. Through prayer, Jim and the church were assured that was their new location. They offered $1 million dollars for it, but the school board voted to tear it down and sell the land. Surprisingly to some, Jim was not disappointed. "I don't know how it's going to happen now, but I have the inner assurance from God that this is where we will be!"

01





*Pastor Jim Maness*



Indeed, there was an almost miraculous reversal, and since 2011 the Life Stream Church has been meeting in a fabulous 110,000 square foot facility, 92,000 feet of which has been beautifully renovated. The attendance has blossomed to over 900. This is now a place "Where the story of God meets the story of your life."

The arts are a high value in the community, and Life Stream Church reflects that. God created people to be like him and create beauty. The church hosts concerts and art festivals. The long hallway locker spaces have been replaced by art gallery walls. The café is beautifully decorated. There are glass walls all the way into the sanctuary, which symbolizes a connectedness to the community.

WHERE **THE STORY OF GOD** MEETS THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE.

Many new Christians are now identifying with the church's deeply-observed mission, which is to be "A people living and sharing the story of God." Life Stream Church is based on the streams of living water Jesus spoke of in John 7:37-38.

Life Stream Church and Jim Maness have taken courageous steps of faith as the Holy Spirit guided them through prayer. God has re-formed them into a missional church and surprised them by his amazing provision.

CONT'D PAGE 14

Watch Video
www.wesleyan.org/videos

# Never Been
## LOVED LIKE THIS



It was the end of a long work day in hot, steamy Sierra Leone, West Africa. We were lovingly tending to people suffering from vicious rebel attacks resulting in crude amputations of arms, legs, hands, etc., during a devastating civil war. Dr. Smith (a pseudonym) had made it clear at the beginning of the trip that ***he was an agnostic and would not participate in any of our "faith" talk.***

One evening he asked to go for a walk with another team member. During the walk, words tumbled from the famed Dr. Smith. "I have been to India to an Ashram to seek peace," he began. "I have been to Tibet to meet with the Dali Lama," he rather proudly stated. But then his voiced dropped as he said, "I left empty." In soft, intense tones, he said, "I have also read most of the New Testament, but I have never been able to accept that Jesus is the Son of God."

My colleague confessed later that she was not in a mood for a debate. But the doctor went on, "Out of all the places where I have sought peace, I have found it here. I have never been loved as I have by this group. All the things I thought I could never believe, I not only believe, but have experienced. The most difficult has been my resistance to believing that Jesus is the Son of God.

***Tonight, somehow I feel that I have seen the living Jesus in the people here and I can now believe."***

Later, I reflected on Paul's letter to the Colossians. They, too, were being influenced by false teaching that Jesus could not be the Son of God. But Paul writes with great grace, beauty, and power on the supremacy of Christ. One of the great verses reads, "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).

I saw this lived out among my colleagues and saw the mystery of the Holy Spirit making Jesus known to my friend Dr. Smith. Let us continue to cooperate with the work of the Spirit as Jesus makes himself known through our words, our deeds, and our love.



**JO ANNE LYON**
General Superintendent
The Wesleyan Church

THE **MAGAZINE** OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

**wesleyan life**

*Transforming lives, churches, and communities through the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ.*

**Vol. 8, No. 4**

**Founders** Orange Scott (1843), Seth Rees (1897)

**Executive Editor** Wayne MacBeth
**Editor** Kerry Kind
**Creative Director** Kory Pence
**Assistant Editor** Tricia Rife
**Designer** Julia Park

**Cover Photo** Kory Pence

**Contributors**
Keith Jagger
Jo Anne Lyon
Ron McClung
Kory Pence (photos pp. 3-4, 14-17)
Christin Taylor
Michael Smith (painting pp.5, 17)
N.T. Wright

**Published By** Wesleyan Publishing House
P.O. Box 50434, Indianapolis, In 46250-0434

**Member**
Evangelical Press Association
National Association Of Evangelicals

Unless otherwise noted, all Bible quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Scripture quotations marked (KJV) are taken from the Holy Bible, King James Version.

Contents of this magazine are not to be reproduced without written permission. Signed articles present the views of the writers and are the property of the writers.

ISSN 2327-414X (print) ISSN 2327-4158 (online)

***Wesleyan Life*** is published quarterly, free to The Wesleyan Church constituency. Home delivery is available for a minimum donation of $15 per year U.S./ Canadian (overseas $20 U.S. funds, overseas airmail $50 U.S. funds).

**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**
communications@wesleyan.org

wesleyan life



FEATURED

02 West Michigan: Responding to God's grace (cont. on p. 14)

VISION

04 Never been loved like this

27 Why we gather

TEACHING

08 N.T. Wright's vision of the real Jesus

22 Christin Taylor discovering an organic faith

STORY

18 The clearest evidence: The Lord still meets us

NEWS

07 Facing the rising Ebola storm

28 News & Info

**JESUS PAINTING**
This depiction of Jesus Christ's cruxifiction was painted live on stage during a Sunday message at Daybreak Church by artist Michael Smith.

@WESLEYANCHURCH

FACEBOOK.COM/THEWESLEYANCHURCH

INSTAGRAM.COM/WESLEYANCHURCH

Look for these icons for bonus digital media

View Digital Magazine

WESLEYANLIFEONLINE.COM



# VISIT HOUGHTON

"The Christ-centered atmosphere makes Houghton stand out far beyond other colleges. The campus was beautiful, and the students that I met were eager and extremely friendly. I will now be attending Houghton because of my visit."

## 2014 VISIT DAYS

| | |
|---|---|
| 09.26 | INTERCULTURAL STUDIES/INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (FAITH & JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM) |
| 09.27 | EQUESTRIAN |
| 10.13 | COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PRE-LAW, GENERAL |
| 10.24 | MUSIC AUDITION DAY |
| 10.27 | STEM (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, & MATHEMATICS) |
| 11.10 | BUSINESS, THEOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY, GENERAL |
| 11.17 | TRANSFER STUDENTS |
| 12.12 | MUSIC AUDITION DAY |

www.houghton.edu/visit

18 83
HOUGHTON
COLLEGE



# Facing the rising Ebola Storm

By Kerry Kind

As the Ebola crisis continues to spiral further out of control in West Africa, The Wesleyan Church is doing what it can to disseminate preventive information about the disease to all of the towns and villages and prepare Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital (KWH) for the onslaught. **It is coming.**

In partnership with World Hope International (WHI), a small team traveled to Sierra Leone and Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital to help train workers and promote widespread education about Ebola. A truck load of valuable medicines and medical supplies was shipped with them.

The situation in Sierra Leone and Liberia is critically urgent. There have now been over 5,500 cases of the disease and over 2,600 deaths in this outbreak, and the number of new cases will soon be thousands per week.

According to the WHO (World Health Organization) these numbers will increase exponentially in the coming weeks. There has been insufficient staffing, technology, and expertise to do the necessary "contact tracing" to track and locate all those who have been in contact with the disease, especially in a society where housing addresses are often nonexistent or unknown.

There are presently not enough hospital beds for the current Ebola patients in Sierra Leone and Liberia, especially in isolation, and those numbers will soon be multiplied. Many medical caregivers have contracted the disease and many hospitals and clinics have simply closed because the staff will no longer show up. Fear has been leading people not to cooperate with the authorities.

At Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital, all ten national medical staff workers are working at this time. Construction of an Ebola isolation ward is underway, using local building materials that can be quickly assembled. KWH is a bush hospital, the only facility within fifty miles, and one of the few hospitals that remains open in the Northern Province.

In the heart of the Wesleyan region, there is still a small window of time to get vital information, training, and supplies in place, before the acceleration of Ebola deaths becomes more epidemic.

Wesleyans worldwide are urged to help, through faithful prayers and generous giving to the Wesleyan Emergency Relief Fund (WERF). Several tens of thousands of dollars have been raised through both WERF and World Hope. However, much more is needed to activate the technologies of information gathering, communication, rapid transportation, isolation, and treatment that will be necessary.

Continuing to raise these funds now is essential. Available resources have become quickly exhausted, meaning that care for other "normal" diseases such as malaria and typhoid is jeopardized. The true measure of Ebola deaths will include untold thousands of those who die from other diseases who cannot get treatment.

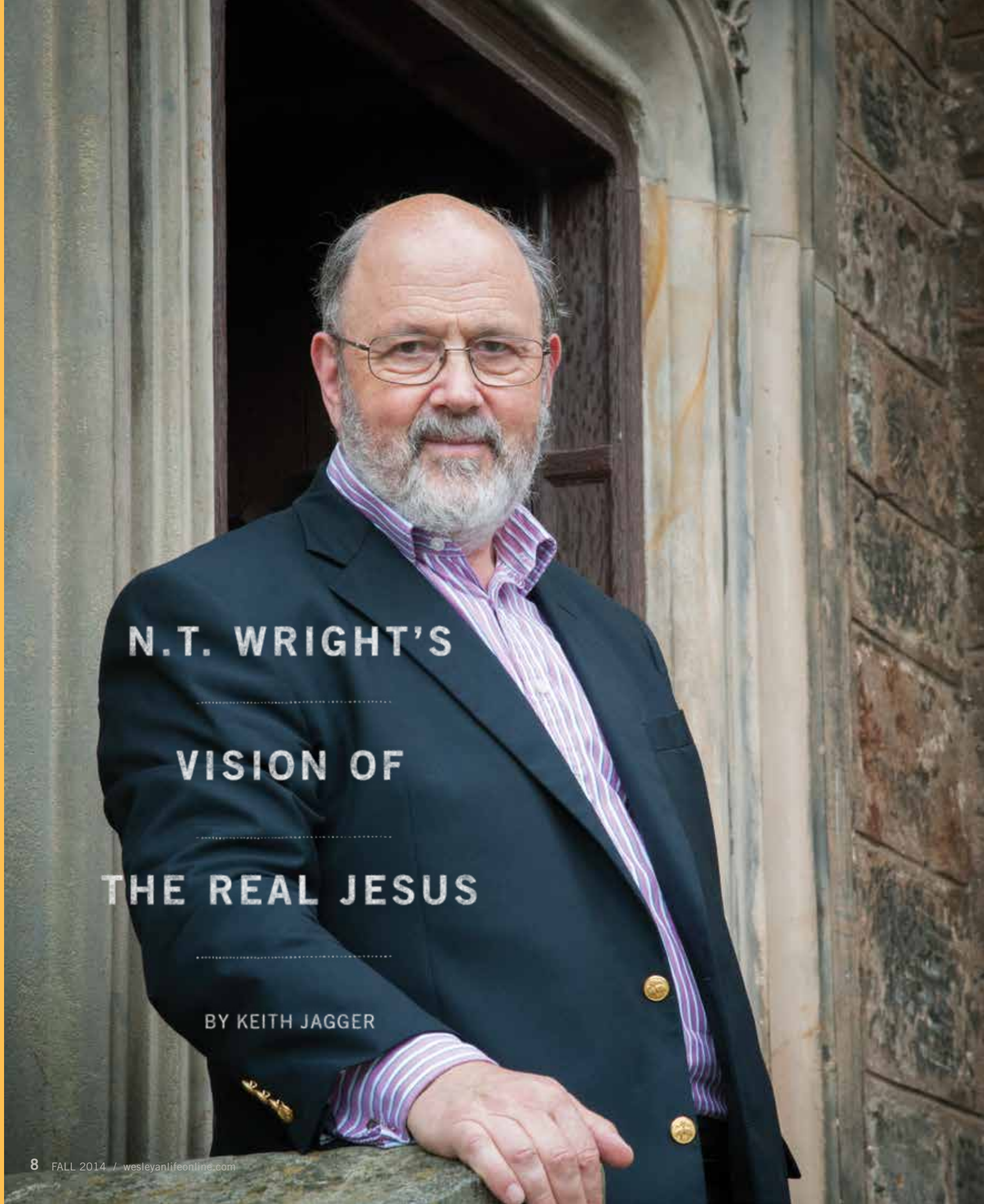
Wesleyans can help fight the spread of Ebola by donating to the Wesleyan Emergency Relief Fund. And please pray. Pray that God in his mercy will act to halt the outbreak.






**Give to Ebola Relief**
wesleyan.org/relief

**Watch Video**
wesleyan.org/videos



# N.T. WRIGHT'S VISION OF THE REAL JESUS

BY KEITH JAGGER

# RESURRECTION AND LOVE

**A new generation of church leaders can't get enough of N.T. Wright.** He is the most published living Bible scholar in the world and defends the faith with freshness and clarity. *Christianity Today* refers to him as a genius, and the most important Christian apologist since C. S. Lewis. He served as Bishop of Durham in the Church of England, and he is now teaching at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

At the heart of Wright's theological vision stands his view of Jesus, who is at the same time someone foreign to us but becomes far more beautiful than we had at first realized.

He has written prolifically on Jesus, including *Simply Jesus* (2011). He acknowledges that accepting Jesus fully has never been easy.

What's the problem with Jesus?
bit.ly/wrightjesus

**BELIEF** IN JESUS' BODILY RESURRECTION, DIVINITY, AND HEAVENLY LORDSHIP TODAY **MUST OVERCOME THE GOLIATHS** OF MODERNISTIC WORLDVIEWS, NARRATIVES OF SECULAR PROGRESS, AND AN INCREASINGLY POWERFUL DESIRE TO FLOURISH, **EVEN IF IT MEANS PUSHING GOD OUT OF OUR LIVES TO DO SO.**

But the first Christians stood up against the forces of Roman authority, deeply religious paganism and Jewish monotheism, and the growing influence of the Greek philosophers. For the earliest Christians, accepting the gospel was not without punishing opposition, but it was always simple enough. To join the Christian community all that was needed was a baptismal confession that Jesus is Lord, and that the God and creator of the universe endorsed, empowered, and resurrected Jesus of Nazareth bodily from the dead. It is just as straightforward today.

Today we see about us in Western civilization a generation of church-going men and women many of whom feel uncertain about the real Jesus and whether they trust the church to get him right. N. T. Wright's vision of who Jesus was and is remains one of the most exciting articulations around. He is a bright beacon, helpful for those who love

**N.T. WRIGHT**
is the most prolific author among living Bible scholars. He served as Bishop of Durham in the Church of England and now teaches at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.



FOR THOSE OF US WHO WORSHIP JESUS, WE MUST **ASSUME WE KNOW ALL** THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT

and are concerned for their skeptically-inclined brothers and sisters.

For Wright, Jesus of Nazareth and the Jesus of our faith cannot be separated as if one was an unknowable person from the past, blurred by the agendas of the early church, and the other a Jesus-shaped god, crafted in our own image. Wright reminds us that we can know the Jesus of history to a very great extent. Jesus was a first-century eschatological prophet who preached the kingdom of God, died to institute it, and has an agenda for his followers. Jesus is the same person today.

It is a crucial point that we must know who Jesus was in the first-century, and in his Jewish setting, especially.

AT ONCE, THE THEME OF THE **"KINGDOM OF GOD"** EMERGES AS JESUS' CENTRAL MESSAGE, AND THE GOSPEL COMES INTO FOCUS AS THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THE **CRUCIFIED AND RISEN** JESUS IS THE LORD OF THE WORLD. WHAT DID JESUS THINK HE WAS UP TO? WHAT DID HE DO AND SAY, WHY WAS HE KILLED, AND **DID HE INDEED RISE** FROM THE DEAD?

In *Jesus and the Victory of God* (1996) Wright stated:

> The relevance of Jesus, then, becomes radically different depending on whether one accepts or rejects the witness of the early church to his resurrection. Furthermore, even if one does accept that witness, it means radically different things depending on one's view of Jesus prior of his resurrection. If he was a docetic figure [God, but not fully human, *ed.*], the divine being of so much would-be orthodox Christology, his resurrection would simply validate the salvation he had revealed and offered. It would prove that he was after all 'god'... If he was a teacher of timeless truths, the announcer of the timeless call to decision, or the pioneer of a new way of being-in-the-world, his resurrection would presumably endorse the programme he had articulated… But if he was an eschatological prophet/Messiah, announcing the kingdom and dying in order to bring it about, the resurrection would declare that he had in principle succeeded in his task, and that his earlier redefinitions of the coming kingdom had pointed to a further task awaiting his followers, that of *implementing* what he had achieved. Jesus, after all, as a good first-century Jew, believed that Israel functioned to the rest of the world as the hinge to the door; what he had done for Israel, he had done in principle for the whole world. (p. 660)

Jesus' actions before he went to the cross and after the resurrection enlarged the worldviews of his followers. Some, who would still see themselves as faithful Jewish monotheists, began worshipping him shortly after his resurrection, while others doubted what they were seeing.

Wright offers a challenge to us: for those of us who worship Jesus, we must never arrogantly assume that we know all there is to know about him already. Our task is to keep going, to keep learning about the real Jesus. And there is another task for those who struggle with Jesus and the claims of Jesus bodily resurrection and heavenly lordship. Rather than feeling any need to exit the church, perhaps you have been given the gift of the reformers afresh: to locate the pressure points that modernistic worldviews place on faith in Jesus, to discover the ways that church might, in fact, have Jesus wrong, challenge the deficiencies of modernistic worldviews, and help us all know Jesus a little bit better. In *The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering Who Jesus Was and Is* (1999), Wright ends up saying:

> I am someone who believes that being a Christian necessarily entails doing business with history and that history done for all its worth will challenge spurious versions of Christianity, including many that think of themselves as orthodox, while sustaining and regenerating a deep and true orthodoxy, surprising and challenging though this will always remain. (p. 16)

> It simply will not do to declare this question out-of-bounds, to say that the church's teaching will do for us, thank you very much, so we do not need to ask historical questions. You cannot say that to a serious and enquiring person who engages you in conversation on a train or to someone who wanders into a church one Sunday and asks what it is all about. If Christianity is not rooted in things that actually happened in first-century Palestine, we might as well be Buddhists, Marxists or almost anything else. And if Jesus never existed, or if he was quite different from what the Gospels and the church's worship affirms him to have been, then we are indeed living in cloud-cuckoo land. The sceptics can and must be answered, and when we do so we will not merely reaffirm

# NEVER ARROGANTLY HIM ALREADY.

> the traditions of the church, whether Protestant, Catholic, evangelical, or whatever. We will be driven to reinterpret them, discovering depths of meaning within them that we had never imagined. (p. 18)

[WRIGHT CONTINUES:] AND **OUR TASK**, AS IMAGE-BEARING, GOD-LOVING, CHRIST-SHAPED, SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIANS, FOLLOWING CHRIST AND SHAPING OUR WORLD, IS TO **ANNOUNCE REDEMPTION** TO THE WORLD THAT HAS DISCOVERED ITS FALLENNESS, TO **ANNOUNCE HEALING** TO THE WORLD THAT HAS DISCOVERED ITS BROKENNESS, TO **PROCLAIM LOVE AND TRUST** TO THE WORLD THAT KNOWS ONLY EXPLOITATION, FEAR AND SUSPICION.

> So the key I propose for translating Jesus' unique message to the Israel of his day into our message to our contemporaries is to grasp the parallel, which is woven deeply into both Testaments, between the human call to bear God's image and Israel's call to be the light of the world. Humans were made to reflect God's creative stewardship into the world. Israel was made to bring God's rescuing love to bear upon the world. Jesus came as the true Israel, the world's true light, and as the true image of the invisible God. He was the true Jew, the true human. He has laid the foundation, and we must build upon it. We are to be the bearers both of his redeeming love and of his creative stewardship: to celebrate it, to model it, to proclaim it, to dance to it. (p. 184)

This is just a small snapshot of N.T. Wright's vision of Jesus. At its best, Wright's perspective helps Christians get ahead of the cultural curve. It can help us shape new futures that embrace Jesus rather than other figures or agendas that rehash old and problematic worldviews.

A great old hymn, *Once in David's Royal City* (1848), is used by N. T. Wright to reflect on Jesus of Nazareth, the Jewish man who is both Lord and king of the world to come.

"AND **OUR EYES AT LAST SHALL SEE HIM**, THROUGH HIS OWN **REDEEMING LOVE**."

**KEITH JAGGER** is a PhD student at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, completing a dissertation on the gospel of Luke.





## HOW TO DISCERN THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

**John Wesley** famously taught that there are four key sources for all knowledge about God. Today, these are called the "Wesleyan quadrilateral."

1. Human **reason** and rational examination
2. Personal **experience** of all of life, including our spiritual side
3. The great **teachings** of the Church that have stood the test of centuries
4. The **Holy Scriptures** as revealed by divine inspiration

If there is any doubt or conflict of evidence, **the Scriptures** are the highest test and final authority.

# ANNOUNCING...

WESLEY SEMINARY
INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

## WESLEY SEMINARY *RECEIVES ACCREDITATION*
From
## The Association of Theological Schools



"ATS accreditation is the key accreditation for seminaries. Many ministry-related organizations, such as military chaplaincy programs, look for ATS accreditation as an indication that candidates for their programs have degrees that reach a certain standard."

**-Dr. Ken Schenck**
*Wesley Seminary Dean*



Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University has been granted accreditation in The Association of Theological Schools("ATS") by its accrediting agency, the Commission on Accrediting ("Commission"). The current Commission membership is comprised of nearly 250 graduate theological schools in the U.S. and Canada. They include Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox graduate schools of theology and reflect a broad spectrum of doctrinal, ecclesiastical and theological perspectives.

**seminary.indwes.edu**




facebook.com/okwuniv twitter.com/okwuniv youtube.com/okwuniv instagram.com/okwuniv pinterest.com/okwuniv

Frustrated by unclear or untimely financial information, complex ever-changing regulations, or finance personnel changes?

## Outsource your accounting headaches to the professionals at GuideServe®

GuideServe® is a division of Batts Morrison Wales & Lee, a national CPA firm dedicated exclusively to protecting nonprofits.

Outsource to our cloud-based accounting and financial advisory service, and your ministry could be making statements like these from our clients:

*"The GuideServe® team takes care of all the financial details so I can focus fully on ministry."*

*"We feel protected."*

Contact us today at 800.960.0803 or GuideServe@nonprofitcpa.com to learn more about our special incentives or visit www.GuideServe.com.



GUIDESERVE®

BETTER INFORMATION. LESS RISK™

# West Michigan cont'd



02

Photo Gallery
www.facebook.com/thewesleyanchurch



*Pastor Jason Holdridge*





## 02: *PASSION FOR MULTIPLICATION IN LOWELL*

Impact Church in Lowell, Michigan, helped stir the beginnings of what former Pastor Phil Struckmeyer called Nitrogen, a Holy-Spirit led resource center committed to new church planting. Today, Phil is giving leadership to a denomination-wide movement that uses that name, so the West Michigan church-planting center is called Greenhouse.

Impact Church has been a major part of planting eight daughter churches and now two granddaughter churches. Planted in 2003, Impact believes that God will help them plant 25 churches by 2025.

The new head pastor, Jason Holdridge, was on staff for six years before becoming lead pastor in 2011. He has maintained and strengthened the culture of taking aggressive risks for God, releasing their very best people to join new church plants, being incredibly missional in reaching the lost in their communities.

In spite of all the church-planting, Impact attendance is over a thousand and they are investing in larger facilities. The church culture there is completely unselfish and kingdom-minded: all of the staff and lay leaders are constantly looking for groups of people that can be "hived off" to start another venue to become another church.

It is a culture of openness and constant innovation. As an example of the innovation, recently they began a series of 5-minute video interviews with their own people that they call "2nd chance stories." For the last eighteen months, this has been a catalyst for greater excitement about life-change. People don't want to miss church and miss the next "2nd chance story."

What drives this innovation? This church believes their job is to represent the whole community where they live, including the "undies": the unchurched and the de-churched. They constantly seek to represent the voices of the undies, never satisfied with the status quo or married to successful programs. People don't want to be marketed to. But they respond to genuine love, hope, and unselfish service.

Impact has scores of missional team ministries like divorce care, Celebrate Recovery (12-step), prisoner re-entry, building homes for needy families, student service nights, Stephens Ministry (care teams), Love Week in the local schools, as well as block parties, cookouts, and many fellowship opportunities. They train their people to be redemptive in their relationships in the community. They work to remove any possible barrier that would keep undies from meeting Jesus.

Impact Church could be one of the greatest "teaching churches" to show sister churches how to build and protect a missional culture, as their entire staff also exhibit an inner joy and love toward each other that contagiously reflects Christ's admonition to "love one another." Jason Holdridge is deeply aware of his role to lead and feed that culture of Christ-centered and missional love. God continues to be up to something big at Impact.

THE **CHURCH CULTURE** IS UNSELFISH AND KINGDOM-MINDED

## 03: *THE POWER OF PRAYER IN SOUTH HAVEN*




South Haven, Michigan, is the venue of LifeBridge, founded in 2012 by Milan Bittenbender and his wife, Jennifer. A beautiful resort community on Lake Michigan, it is Jennifer's hometown. The Bittenbenders, after years of ministry elsewhere, felt specifically called there.

South Haven has among the highest percentages of unreached people in Michigan, and their calling was to plant a new church that would effectively reach the unchurched and de-churched. The mission of LifeBridge is to "Extend the hope of a rich and satisfying life in Jesus we encounter" (John 10:10).

Realizing that nothing of lasting importance would happen without God, the Bittenbenders determined that prayer must be the most important component in everything they do. They began, not with Bible studies or with worship, but with corporate prayer on Saturdays. Milan has been greatly influenced by Jim Cymbala's *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire*. Their prayer emphasis is foundational. They would sooner cancel Sunday worship services than cancel Saturday prayers. Just entering its third year, the attendance in a local high school is averaging 250 with a high day at almost 300.

One of the powerful results of all that prayer is that it leads to greater compassion for the lost and for the needy—and that compassion finds expression corporately and individually. With many new Christians, the church is full of people who want to be discipled and trained for leadership. A leadership training event is held every month, most recently with 41 people.

God brought to LifeBridge a unique ministry in the downtown tourist district. A Christian visiting LifeBridge from out of town was led by the Lord to purchase a downtown retail property in the midst of million dollars buildings. He leases it to LifeBridge for a small amount (compared to its worth). The church office and a private prayer room are located in the back. But the main shop consists of a wonderfully decorated Christian coffee shop called "The Living Room."


*Jennifer and Milan Bittenbender*

### SACRED SPACE IN THE MIDST OF THE MARKETPLACE



Watch Video
www.wesleyan.org/videos



The Living Room offers a sacred space in the midst of the marketplace, the center of the city. All the churches in town find it to be a meeting ground, and nine churches partnered together to form a 77-hour prayer chain when The Living Room opened. God has been answering prayer in South Haven in creative ways.




Dr. Ed Love
Pastor, The Well



Nate Smith
Straight Street Ministry



Watch Video
www.wesleyan.org/videos

## 04: *NEW BEGINNINGS AND HOPE FOR IONIA*

Ed Love had earlier planted Epic Church, a healthy new congregation in Portland, Michigan. He was obedient to the Spirit when he was unmistakably called to begin yet another new church in Ionia, Michigan.

Ionia is a city in need of Christ's redemption and hope. Several large prisons and a mental hospital are the largest employers. These contribute to the atmosphere of the town. One of the bright spots, however, has become "The Well," the new Wesleyan church downtown.

Ed and Emily Love, starting with just a small missional band of Christ followers, opened a baby pantry in an effort to reach out to young mothers who needed a helping hand. One of Ed's personal ministries is the men's basketball league. A server in a local diner has played against Ed and said, "The man has skills! He could be on the Harlem Globetrotters!" Ed says his basketball gives him "street-cred(ibility)" and is a great way to befriend young men.

### A STORY OF **UNSELFISH GIVING** AND KINGDOM-MINDEDNESS

The Well had gotten off to a good start in temporary quarters, when something close to a miracle happened. A great, historic church at one end of the downtown shopping district happened to be an American Baptist Church. Unfortunately it had fallen on hard times and was down to a handful of older people. They became aware of Ed Love's budding ministry and began building a relationship with The Well. Both groups spent time in prayer about their potential partnership. After a few months, the church voted to hand their entire, well-maintained facility over to The Well, including the church's accumulated savings. This became a well-known story throughout the town, a story of unselfish giving and kingdom-mindedness by the Baptist members, and a story of new beginnings and hope for Ionia. Most or all of the Baptist members who remained have now joined The Well!

The church building has a historic sacredness about it, with its tall steeple and massive bell that can be heard for miles on Sunday morning, with its stained glass windows and great pipe organ. But remodeling has also transformed the basement into a catacomb of wonder for kids' ministries, and the sanctuary is a blend of ancient-future that is both sacred and upbeat. The church began in 2012, and since then, 50 people have been baptized and attendance on Sunday mornings is nearing two hundred.

The mission of The Well is simply the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). The test of everything they do is whether it contributes toward the Great Commission. Every sub-group in the church, every activity, is strategic. Each "Go Group" develops spiritual growth and has a "going into the community" focus.

In addition to several typical kinds of outreach, The Well has a unique ministry to prisoners and former prisoners. Nate Smith, a partner of The Well, directs an addiction rehab ministry called Straight Street. Close to twenty former prisoners are currently short-term residents in a sort of Christian "half-way house." Nate has also multiplied and planted a church within the prison walls. Nate develops the internal Christian leadership among prisoners and designs two Sunday evening worship gatherings. Known gang leaders have been set free in Christ and removed their gang colors, risking their lives in doing so. In just a few months, the whole culture inside the prisons is changing and they are talking about adding a third service since the two are packed to the brim.

God is using The Well to change Ionia.





05



*Wes and Claudia Dupin*

**OPEN PATHWAYS**
TO CHRIST FOR
ANYONE






Read More Stories
www.wesleyan.org/news

## 05: *BREAKING DOWN ANY BARRIER TO CHRIST IN HUDSONVILLE*


*The Well*

Daybreak Community Church in Hudsonville, Michigan, is an exception to the rule that new churches are more evangelistic than older, established ones. Wes and Claudia Dupin planted Daybreak in 1989 as a daughter church under Kentwood Community Church, owing much to the vision of Kentwood Pastor Wayne Schmidt.

Wes Dupin, son of the world-renowned evangelist Clyde Dupin, has remained lead pastor of the church for a quarter century. More recently, Claudia Dupin was named the executive pastor. It turned out to be a great move, as her gifts mesh well with Wes'. The attendance at Daybreak averages over 1,200 today.

But the more remarkable thing about Daybreak is the number of decisions for Christ. From 1993-2009, the church reported 100-200 each year. In the most recent five years, the range has been from 300-450 decisions for Christ per year. Asked if numbers like these include raised hands in services, Wes said, "I had a personal conversation with almost every one of those, usually in a lounge area in the church. I had to be satisfied that they had made a genuine decision for Christ."

In addition to prayer, Wes feels that, if anything, his passion has been increasingly to throw down every barrier and open pathways to Christ for anyone. Scores of targeted caring ministries embracing their community all are sharing the compassion of Christ and opening side doors for people who may have reluctance to visit the church's main door.

Churches and leaders that are focusing on prayer and compassion for the lost in West Michigan are finding that God is building his church.

# THE LORD STILL MEETS US

COMPILED BY RON MCCLUNG

***DOES GOD STILL SPEAK TODAY?*** *Does he ever give his children vivid experiences with Jesus? The persons whose stories follow would tell you Jesus does still speak personally to us at times in real, unforgettable ways. Often the clearest evidence of the reality of these experiences is found in the changed lives.*

# GOD IS IN CHARGE OF THE MARROW

**BRADY STEPHENS**

When our son was two years nine months old, he was diagnosed with leukemia. The doctors told us to expect two and a half years of chemotherapy, with no guarantees after that. About two years into the process, a blood test revealed he was anemic. The doctor ordered a test to see if the leukemia was back. If so, it would indicate an aggressive type of the disease.

The night before the test, I drove past a church where the lights were on and cars were in the lot. I felt strongly impressed to stop and request prayer. I hesitated and decided to come back later.

On my way back home, I stopped at the church and went inside. It was a midweek service and the pastor was teaching. He motioned for me to join them and went on teaching.

Suddenly, he turned to Hebrews 4:12, which says, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow" (KJV). Marrow! When I heard that word, it reminded me that Jesus, who healed all kinds of diseases, is in charge even of the marrow.

I believe Jesus arranged my visit to that church and that message to assure me that he was caring for my son. Indeed, when the doctor came out to report the results the next day, she said they could not find any trace of leukemia in our son's marrow.

Today, our son is healthy and just finished high school. God is in control, even of the marrow! He cares about us, and speaks to us, if we are open to hear.

**JESUS ARRANGED MY VISIT TO THAT CHURCH AND THAT MESSAGE.**

**I USED TO SELL DRUGS IN THAT NEIGHBORHOOD, BUT NOW I SHARE THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.**

# WITH JESUS ON THE SUMMIT

**JUSTIN GRAVES**

My wife died in December 2009. Although deeply saddened by this experience, over time God has helped me to see that he uses everything to help us serve him better (Romans 8:28).

Soon after her death, on a trip to Taos, New Mexico, I decided to climb a nearby mountain and scatter my wife's ashes. Climbing up the mountain by myself, I was taking a lot of pictures with my camera, when I felt an unmistakable prompting to "put the camera away." I obeyed. Just then I came around a bend near the top of the trail. Looking up at the trees, which covered the trail, the sun was shining through like a heavenly light. It was a very special moment. I felt a great peace. If I had been taking pictures I could have missed that moment.

Nearby was a large rock where I stretched out completely and felt the presence of Jesus with me very personally. He gave me comfort for the loss of my wife and encouragement for the pathway ahead. In fact, as I stayed there, having a conversation with him, I felt the direction of my life change. His voice resounded clearly in my heart, saying, "You are going into ministry."

Since then I have been part of a church plant in inner city Indianapolis, in one of the city's most perilous neighborhoods. I used to sell drugs and dodge bullets in that neighborhood, but now I share the gospel of Jesus Christ with everyone whom we touch with our ministry there.





Read More Stories
www.wesleyan.org/news

# HE PULLED ME OUT OF THE PIT

**MARK JENKINS**

In 1995 I was a drunken doper living in LaPorte City, Iowa. Married and searching for answers, I visited a Wesleyan church. The pastor preached about the sinful life I knew I was leading and said that "it had to stop."

The men of that church were attending a Promise Keepers event. I signed up, not knowing what to expect.

On Saturday night of the event at the Metrodome in Minneapolis, the speaker said that we had worshiped with loud shouts and praise music, but "now, be still and know that he is God." I closed my eyes, raised my hands to heaven, and had the extraordinary experience of feeling the Holy Spirit flow into and through my body. I felt the oppression of addiction leave me and I knew I was "clean." It was not just a feeling; it was an encounter with Jesus. And I was indeed completely changed. No one can tell me that God does not exist because I know he reached into the pit I had placed myself in, and pulled me out! I began studying for ministry and have since been ordained.

**I FELT THE OPPRESSION OF ADDICTION LEAVE ME AND I KNEW I WAS "CLEAN."**

# I KNOW THAT I KNOW HE IS REAL

[NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST]

I was a young pastor of a small Wesleyan congregation. It was my habit to do my sermon preparation in my study at one end of the church. I was praying over John 14.

Repeatedly, I came to verses 20-21: "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them."

One of my regular prayers after I was saved as a teenager was that God would help me set aside my cynicism and to love Jesus with all my heart. In that moment in John 14, I was praying, "Lord, I do love you with all my heart."

Suddenly, the Lord answered me in a way that has changed my life. I felt his presence, his glory, his overwhelming love fill the room so powerfully that for the next quarter hour I was face down on the carpet, weeping and worshipping. It was nothing from inside me that created the power of that moment. The Lord reached out to me and spoke to my heart and my mind in ways deeper than words can express.

I have had just a few very special, supernatural moments when God broke into my "walking by faith" life. Each has been unique, but since that day in my study, "I know that I know" he is real. I trust the Scriptures and rely on them daily. But I am not at the mercy of debates about the existence of God to know that he is real and that he loves me. If I would ever have been tempted to doubt Jesus, that experience with the Lord was so real and unmistakable, it has helped give me the courage to face every fear that can come in life and death.

**THE ONE WHO LOVES ME WILL BE LOVED BY MY FATHER, AND I TOO WILL LOVE THEM AND SHOW MYSELF TO THEM.**

# KERN MINISTRY PROGRAM



The Kern Ministry Program at Indiana Wesleyan University is designed to prepare pastoral ministry leaders in the church.

Students can earn a B.S. or B.A. degree in Christian Ministry and an M.A. degree in Christian Ministries in five years through the Kern Ministry Program. Program benefits include significant scholarships, weekly mentoring, hands-on practical ministry experience, a summer internship and a 12-month residency on staff at a local church.

Kern Ministry STUDENTS

**MORE HIRABLE**

**BETTER-TRAINED**

**GRADUATE WITH LESS DEBT**



**Dr. Edward Shigley**
*Director*

"Do you have a heart for God, a compassion for people without Christ, and a commitment to the Church as the avenue to transform our culture? The Kern Ministry Program is the pastoral training model of the future. It combines a unique design of mentoring, leadership development and practical ministry experience with some of the foremost leaders, pastors and thinkers of our era. We have crafted a program that helps students become successful pastors for the long haul. We would love to have you come learn with us!"



**Elyse Garverick**
*3rd year Kern Ministry student*

"The professors have been one of the greatest parts of being at Indiana Wesleyan University. I have been encouraged as a woman preparing for ministry in ways that far exceed my expectations. What a blessing to have professors tell you they believe in your life calling."

**APPLY NOW**
**indwes.edu/kern**
**866.468.6498 or 765.677.2248**

Two Degrees - Five Years
**Kern Ministry Program**
more hirable - better trained - less debt

INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

**KERN MINISTRY PROGRAM**
**SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY**
MARION, INDIANA 46953-4974
868.468.6498 OR 765.677.2248
INDWES.EDU/KERN | KERN@INDWES.EDU

# Everything Nailed Down is Coming Loose

By Christin Taylor



I WAS TWENTY-SEVEN WHEN I STOPPED READING THE BIBLE FOR A YEAR. I DIDN'T STOP FOR THE REASONS YOU MIGHT THINK. I WASN'T REBELLING. I WASN'T NECESSARILY DOUBTING MY FAITH. I QUIT BECAUSE MY SPIRITUAL MENTOR TOLD ME TO DO SO.

**IT'S IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO HER SOMEWHAT RADICAL PIECE OF ADVICE.**

The year I stopped reading the Bible, my husband, Dwayne, and I lived in Azusa, Calif.. He was a full-time graduate student, and I was working full-time as an adjunct professor. Our daughter, Noelle, was just a year old, and full of all the life and energy of a toddler.

I cried a lot that year. I remember being stalked by the constant shadow of anxiety, prowling like a wolf. I had no time for friendships, hardly time to go to church, no time to grade papers and prepare my lessons, no time to even do dishes. Our apartment was overrun by weevils and cockroaches. Life felt as if it were barely holding together. And I felt as if I were the sole safety net pulled taut beneath our family. If I broke, everyone and everything would come tumbling down in jagged edges of concrete and metal.

It was during this season that God led me to Jackie as a spiritual mentor. She was a graduate student studying spiritual formation at another Christian university. Jackie was a mother of three and a former missionary. We connected on many levels, and I sensed that I could trust her godly counsel. She began meeting with me monthly.




About six months into our relationship she advised me to "put your Bible down. Start spending your time with God doing things that energize you."

I blinked at her, stunned. Telling someone to stop reading their Bible seemed absurd. What if I put down my Bible and never picked it back up? What if I put down my Bible and started a slide away from faith? What if I put my Bible down and God fell absolutely silent?

## WHAT IF I PUT MY BIBLE DOWN AND GOD FELL ABSOLUTELY SILENT?

"You have read and heard the Bible since you were a little girl," Jackie reassured me. "It is buried deep within you. The Holy Spirit will bring you what you need."

All my life I had attended church, Sunday school, singing hymns, memorizing verses. I had an image of myself in high school spending time each day curled up, slogging my way through the Old Testament prophets. All the way through college, I beat myself up for not whipping my hours into shape so I could have regular devotions.

During the college years, I remember a friend saying, "I really look forward to getting up an hour earlier so I can meet with God before classes." She seemed close to heaven, beatific. I felt small and guilty. Why wasn't I getting up an hour earlier every day too?

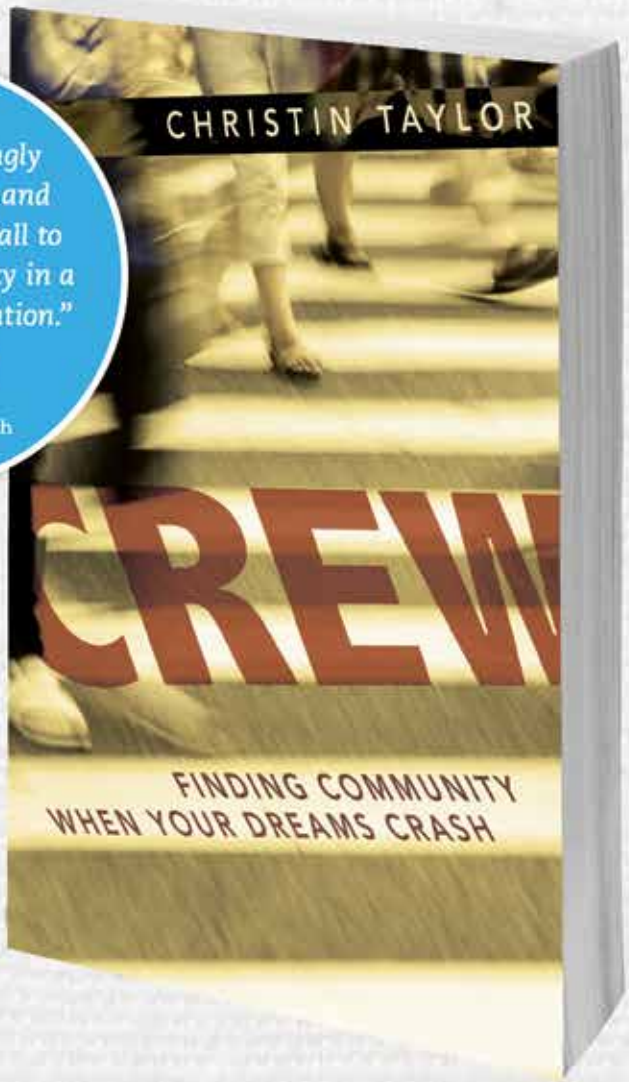
This guilt perpetuated into my young adult years. No matter how much time I spent reading the Bible, there always hung over me the elusive measure of more. Why wasn't I getting up earlier? Reading longer? Praying harder? And during that season of exhaustion at Azusa, I felt that my misery stemmed from my lack of spiritual discipline. But my time in the Bible had become a millstone of guilt and obligation.

# Finding Community

## WHEN YOUR DREAMS CRASH

"Crew offers a surprisingly radical, practical, and counterculturual call to Christian hospitality in a world stuck in isolation."

David Drury
chief of staff,
The Wesleyan Church




In *Crew: Finding Community When Your Dreams Crash*, author Christin Taylor explores how young adults can both find good company during a time of personal shipwreck and be good company for others who might be experiencing their own shipwreck. In the process, you will learn the hope and security that comes from being part of a community.

Based on sound scriptural principles and the latest research on young adult spiritual formation, Taylor gives young adults the knowledge and perspective you need to build a community that will help you make your way toward a sense of hope and new meaning.

WESLEYAN LIFE SPECIAL

**$10.99** *through November 21*

PHONE ORDERS ONLY. MENTION PROMO CODE WLCREW.
OFFER DOES NOT APPLY TO PREVIOUS ORDERS.

Also available as an eBook!
visit *wphebooks.com*

wph

1.800.493.7539 | WWW.WESLEYAN.ORG/BOOKS | WPH@WESLEYAN.ORG

As I sat with Jackie, contemplating new ways to spend time with God, she asked, "What things bring life, make you excited?"

"Writing," I answered immediately. She nodded. "Then use your writing time to connect with God." I tried to imagine how the act of writing could constitute communion with the Holy Spirit.

She brainstormed other ways for me to connect with God outside of studying my Bible: listening to worship music and taking walks with Noelle through our San Gabriel Mountains while listening for him.

My first few weeks without focused Bible-reading were odd. Sort of like a free-fall. I felt an unnerving absence wrap itself around my shoulders. Not so much the absence of my time reading the Bible, since that had been sporadic lately anyway, but more like the absence of the requirement.

I decided to spend Noelle's morning nap time working on writing my book and praying. At first when I sat to write, I felt a measure of uncertainty. "I'm here, Jesus." I whispered. "Meet me, please." And then I typed away.

Jackie taught me a contemplative prayer for the morning and one for the night. In the morning, "What do you have for me today, Lord?" And in the evenings, "Show me where you were in this day, Lord." As often as I could remember, I included these prayers, hedging my days with an awareness of God's presence that had previously been gobbled up by a sense of rote duty.

A light came on after a time with my new forms of devotion. I began to recognize just how anxious and desperate I had been. Like a girl floating outside herself, I saw the ways that fretfulness had dictated my thoughts, attitudes, and actions.




Any time I felt the spindly fingers of anxiety return, I was taught to hold my anxiety in my hands, turn to Jesus and say, "This is what I'm feeling. Now what do I do?" Then wait and listen. The hand of God began streaming into my days like light falling through panes of glass.

One morning, as Noelle and I walked through our subdivision, we were passing a tricycle in someone's yard and Noelle gravitated toward it. "No, no!" I called out. "That's not ours."

At that moment, the door of the apartment opened, and there stood a beautiful brown-eyed woman with a baby on her hip. Behind her, two curly-haired children peeked out. "It's okay," she smiled. "I've seen you walking before. I wanted to tell you that she can play with our toys."

That morning, Denada invited me in for tea. We sat and talked and laughed while the children played. Afterwards, as I walked back, a single thought whispered across my heart as real as spoken words: "She is my gift to you, and you are my gift to her." I wept all the way home.

"God brought me a friend," I told Dwayne later. "I didn't know how much I needed a friend, but he did." I felt love crack its way through my being, a deep crevice opened by a God whose limits are worlds without end.

One year with my mentor Jackie turned into a second, and the time came when I asked, "So is it

Alive

www.wesleyan.org/alive

A generation of women creating space for God to move. Let's meet Him there.

April 17-19, 2015

Nashville, TN, & simulcasting live across North America



## EVERYTHING IS AT STAKE WHEN WE CHOOSE TO EXAMINE OUR VALUES AND BELIEFS IN ORDER TO OWN THEM FOR OURSELVES.

okay for me to read my Bible again?" I grinned. She laughed. "Yes," she nodded, "but only if you desire to, and not from guilt, and start with no more than fifteen minutes."

I was like a woman picking up an old habit. Would I be able to return to regular Bible study without beating this beautiful spiritual discipline into ruts of guilt and obligation?

In his book, *Becoming Adult, Becoming Christian: Adult Development and Christian Faith*, Dr. James Fowler chronicles a shift in faith very much like the one I went through. He calls it moving from synthetic-conventional faith to individuative-reflective faith. We must move from a faith built around the scaffolding given to us by our parents and caregivers to a more organic faith rooted deep in the soil of our own soul.

As children, we mirror what we have been given. These are good guidelines, good boundaries. Our parents and pastors offer us blueprints by which to build the foundation of our faith.

But in the following stage, Fowler says we begin to examine these beliefs and make "critical choices about the defining elements of [our] identity and faith." In other words, we begin to own these beliefs and identities for ourselves.

Inevitably, learning to see our faith from a more objective point of view means first separating from them. We need a little distance in order to gain perspective. Dr. Robert Kegan, an authority in developmental psychology puts it, "What we separate from, we find anew."

Jackie had discerned that I needed to separate from my unhealthy pattern of reading the Bible in order to discover devotion with God in new ways.

In so many ways, the guilt and obligation that dictated my quiet time had been an extension of misconceptions about God and Jesus that had filtered into my thinking. I believed without ever saying it out loud that God would only interact with my life if I were disciplined enough and faithful enough. I believed my difficulties were because I was not working hard enough in my relationship with him. As a result, I beat myself into a pulp and missed the abundant love of my Creator and Redeemer.

Transitioning from one faith stage to the next is not like the next step on a ladder. It entails a reconstitution of our whole being. Everything is at stake when we choose to examine our values and beliefs in order to own them for ourselves. In the classic movie, *The Green Pastures*, one character says, "everything nailed down is coming loose." In order to move from one stage to the next, the structure of how we see the world, interpret our values, and connect to God must shift.

As a parent, pastor, or mentor watching our young adults go through this kind of transition, it can feel as if they have lost their faith altogether. It can seem they have slipped away on the ether of doubt.

BUT THE MAPS GIVEN TO US AS CHILDREN CAN NEVER BE OBLITERATED FROM OUR IDENTITY.

But the maps given to us as children can never be obliterated from our identity. Sometimes we get the maps confused with our essential identity, and we need to untangle ourselves in order to embrace faith in healthy ways. Eventually, in order to make sense of the world, we acknowledge where we've come from and integrate our past into our future.

I returned to reading the Bible like a bird lighting on a limb. No more cages of misconception and compulsion. Over the years, my time in the Word has only gotten more regular, because it is a great source of joy and life for me, a quiet place where I drink deeply and rest.

Now I read the Bible, not because I feel I have to, or because I believe that God will be more faithful to me if I do it. I read because my time with the Lord is mine, and mine alone.



**CHRISTIN TAYLOR'S** second book, *Crew: Finding Community When Your Dreams Crash*, was released this fall from Wesleyan Publishing House. She lives in Gettysburg, Pa., where she writes and teaches at Gettysburg College, and lives with her family, Dwayne, Noelle (6), and Nathan (3).

# Why we gather

## A CALLING DISCOVERED AT THE GATHERING

As Sarah Cochran battled infertility and loneliness, she was asking God, "What do you want from my life?"

She was engaged in children's ministry and loved being a pastor's wife. But her certainty in her calling ended there.

Sarah and her husband, Tom, attended The Gathering in January 2011. God spoke to her powerfully there, and she suddenly knew she was called to pursue a broader role in spiritual formation for the church.

She began to prepare diligently as a student of God's Word and enlarged her ministry focus. "The Gathering is not a one-time thing," Sarah said. "It has a very special spirit."

## EARLY-BIRD REGISTRATION OCT. 30TH

**JANUARY 13-16, 2015**
**WESLEYAN.ORG/GATHERING**

THE gathering
WESLEYAN CLERGY CONFERENCE

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



**[Jan. 11-13, 2015 – 9AM]** The highest organizational conference of our global Wesleyan tribe. Enjoy a front row seat as you engage with our international family in worship, seminars, prayer, business sessions, and informal connections.

**ICWC REGISTRATION REQUIRED**
**wesleyan.org/gp**

### MULTIPLY: PRE-REG. REQUIRED

*Making Disciples in a Changing Culture*

**[Jan. 13, 2015 – 9AM]** Join speaker Bob Roberts for a CMAD pre-conference event.
**wesleyan.org/multiply**




### WORSHIP ARTS SEMINAR

**[Jan. 14, 2015]** Super-seminar designed to kindle ministries – inspirational teaching and innovative worship arts for pastors & worship leaders – RSVP. **wesleyan.org/waseminar**




## MEDIA

Watch G15 Video
www.wesleyan.org/gathering

G11 Audio Archive
http://bit.ly/g11clips

*Let's pray **together** that as we gather God will **transform** us.*



## KINGSWOOD STUDENTS SPAN THE HEMISPHERE WITH SUMMER MISSIONS

Kingswood University ministry teams traveled this summer, serving in Canada, the United States, and Guatemala.

"Many students are coming from broken situations that I could never imagine," said Lauren Kerr, a fourth year student from New Zealand "At camp, they come to know Jesus in a tangible way."

An Ontario youth camp student told KU team member JJ Gorveatte how he felt God speaking and removing his doubts.

A Kingswood team wrote from Guatemala, "Our team is being stretched and strengthened . . . lots of heat, lots of rain, and lots of smiles."



## SOUTHERN WESLEYAN AND BAPTIST EASLEY HOSPITAL SIGN AGREEMENT

Southern Wesleyan University in Central, S.C., and Baptist Easley Hospital have signed an agreement making possible a degree concentrating on healthcare administration and new wellness programs.

Baptist Easley CEO Michael Batchelor and SWU President Todd Voss signed a memorandum of understanding, aligning the two organizations for years to come.

"Collaboration is the future for higher education as well as health care, and joining forces with an innovative and caring organization like Baptist Easley allows for both organizations to serve the community and our constituents in new and exciting ways," said Voss.

## IWU FORMALIZES PARTNERSHIP WITH AUSTRALIA COLLEGE

WESLEY INSTITUTE | EXCELSIA

Indiana Wesleyan University President David Wright announced on August 5 the partnership between IWU and Wesley Institute in Sydney, Australia, making their global Christian learning community a reality. Through the partnership, Wesley Institute seeks to become the foundation for the first global Christian university in Australia with plans to develop multiple campuses across the Asia Pacific region.

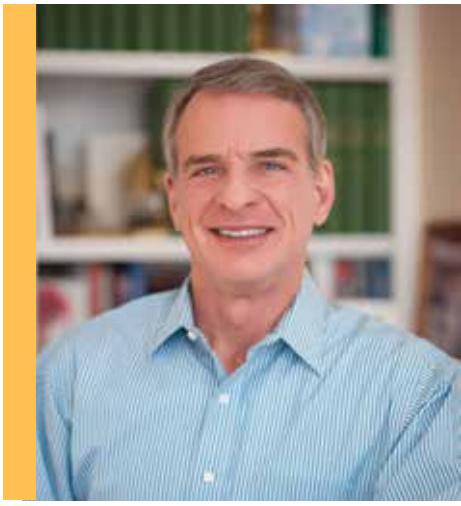
In January 2015, Wesley Institute will change its name to Excelsia College, "a community where people excel." The institution plans to relocate to a new campus in 2015 and offer new courses by Semester 1, 2016.

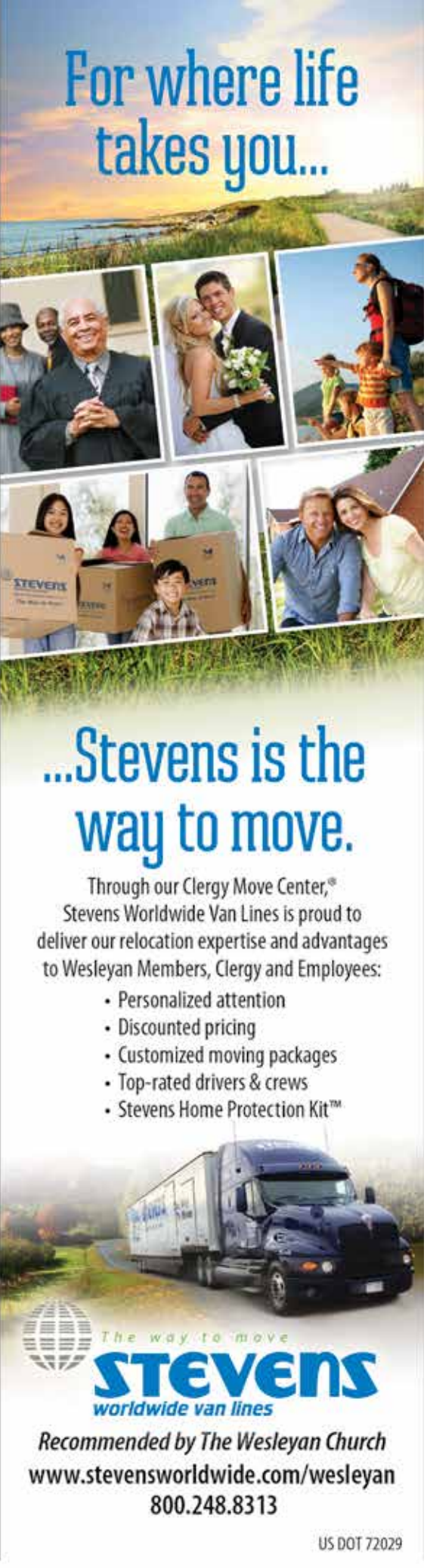
## PHILOSOPHER CRAIG PARTNERS WITH OKWU THEOLOGY & APOLOGETICS PROGRAM

Oklahoma Wesleyan announced recently the partnership between Dr. William Lane Craig and the Master of Theology & Apologetics program launching this fall.

"Craig is one of the world's foremost Christian philosophers," OKWU President Everett Piper said. This new OKWU program involves innovative coursework, designed to help students learn how to contend their faith and understand contemporary Christian issues.

"Specifically, students will learn the coherence of Christian doctrine, how to correct common misconceptions, and answer with logic and facts as they face the toughest challenges to the Christian faith," said Dr. Devon Smith, OKWU professor.

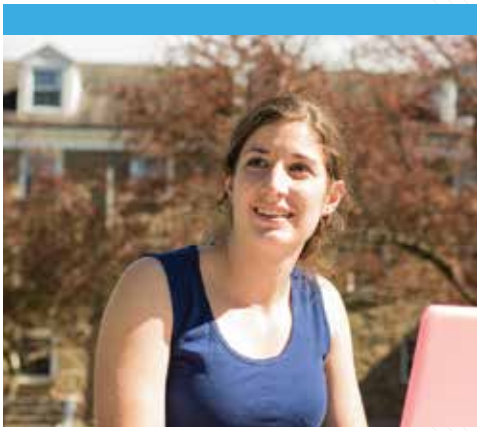





## HOUGHTON COLLEGE RECEIVES HIGH RANKING FROM FISKE'S GUIDE

For the consecutive second year, Houghton College of Houghton, N.Y., has received the highest ranking (four out of four stars) for quality of life from the prestigious publication The Fiske Guide to Colleges for 2015.

Houghton also ranked high in social activities and was praised for having a beautiful, rural, spacious campus. Fiske's Guide also praised Houghton for its large equestrian center and strong academic programs, where almost 50 percent of the students have taken advantage of the off-campus study programs that span the globe.



**DIGITAL MAG & ENEWS**
WESLEYANLIFEONLINE.COM

# Obituaries



### Blank, Dr. Lester (77)

died July 5, 2014, in Redding, Calif. He was an ordained minister and a former pastor in the Pacific Southwest District. He served 32 years at Azusa Pacific University in the admissions department, as a faculty member in the division of religion and philosophy, and as founding dean of the School of Theology. He is survived by his wife Joanne, one son, one daughter, three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, one sister, and one brother.

### EILER, DANIEL "DANNY" (30)

lived in Ringgold, Ga., at the time of his death. He served as senior pastor at The Springs Community Church in Ringgold. Survivors include his parents, wife Cassie, two sons, and one brother.

### Eddy, Rev. Edward (94)

lived in Oro Valley, Az. He was the son of missionary parents, born in Sierra Leone, where he later returned as a missionary to serve with his wife Arlene. She preceded him in death. He served as Global Partners field staff the last nine years of his missionary term. Rev. Eddy also pastored Wesleyan churches in California. He later served with the Billy Graham Association, taking part in the Billy Graham Crusade across the country. Honored for 50 years of service with The Wesleyan Church, Rev. Eddy is survived by three daughters, six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

### GEARHART, MARGARET ANN (87)

lived in Fern Park, Fla. She served alongside her husband, Rev. Forrest J. Gearhart, who was district superintendent of the Northern Illinois District from 1968 to 1976, as associate missionaries with Global Partners in Puerto Rico, and as founding pastor of the Sturgis, Mich., Wesleyan church and the Wheaton, Ill., Wesleyan church. She is survived by her husband, two sons, one daughter, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

# Obituaries



## Wheeler, Rev. Paul (93)

passed away in Lynchburg, Va., on August 11, 2014. Rev. Wheeler, age 93, is a former district superintendent of the Virginia District of The Wesleyan Church where he served for 10 years.

A veteran of World War II, Rev. Wheeler served in the United States Navy. Besides serving as a district superintendent, he pastored several churches in Michigan and Virginia. He also served as a chaplain for the American Legion, Virginia Baptist Hospital, and Lynchburg General Hospital.

Survivors include his wife, Marie (Cockerill) Wheeler; daughter, Karen Gillespie; son, Jack (Deb); two sisters, six grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

### JONES, REV. DR. LARRY (76)

lived in Hawk Point, Mo. He was an ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church and pastored at various churches through the U.S. He was preceded in death by a great-granddaughter. Survivors include his wife Karen, five sons, two daughters, 28 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, one brother, and two sisters.

### MCALPINE, REV. HERBERT (65)

lived in Tamaqua, Penn. The U.S. Army veteran served in Vietnam and was a member of Allentown Evangelical Wesleyan Church, where he served as pastor of evangelism and outreach. He also served as a leader of Allentown Community Wesleyan Church, a forerunner of Gospel Chapel. Survivors include two sisters, three brothers, three stepsisters, one stepbrother, a stepson, a stepdaughter, and four foster sons.

## Hertel, Rev. James (99)



former president of Frankfort Pilgrim College in Frankfort, Ind., died on July 20, 2014, in Greenwood, Ind., at the age of 99. He served as college president from 1959 to 1966.

In addition, he served as an evangelist and pastored several churches in the Indiana South District, both before and after his presidency, served on numerous district boards and committees, and taught countless students at the Indiana South District Seminars, a forerunner of today's FLAME program.

He and his wife traveled internationally, including 30 trips to the Holy Land.

He is survived by his wife of 77 years, Martha L. Hertel; children, Dr. Marti Eicholz (Robert) of San Diego and Dr. J. Wesley Hertel (Pat) of Greenwood; seven grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren. His funeral service was held on July 24 at Mount Auburn United Methodist Church in Greenwood.

### MILLER, REV. BETTY (94)

lived in Raymond, Wash. She became an ordained minister with the Pilgrim Holiness Church in 1948 before it merged with The Wesleyan Church. She was a college professor and pastored five churches

### REYNOLDS, REV. WALTER (83)

lived in Los Angeles, Calif. The ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church served in the East Michigan District. He was preceded in death by his wife Grace, as well as five sisters. Survivors include one son and one daughter, four grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, two brothers, and one sister.

### SCHELL, REV. CARL (59)

lived in Hillsdale, Mich. He served several years as the pastor of Coldwater Wesleyan Church and started or volunteered with several other ministries. Survivors include his parents, two brothers, and one sister.

### SMITH, REV. EDWARD (77)

lived in Remus, Mich. The ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church pastored churches in several Michigan cities. He was preceded in death by his wife Vera. Survivors include one son, two daughters, six grandchildren, and four sisters.

View videos and bonus media in the digital magazine

www.wesleyanlifeonline.com

## Storey, Rev. David (77)

lived in Brooksville, Fla. In 1936, his parents took him and his older sister, Lola Mae, to the Philippines to serve as missionaries. His parents were the first missionaries to the Philippines under the Pilgrim Holiness Church. His sister passed away in the Philippines while the family attempted to escape capture by the Japanese. The family was captured during World War II and spent four years in a prison camp in Manila. Rev. Storey served as both a pastor and evangelist with The Wesleyan Church. Survivors include his wife Maxine, one son, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

### TIPPEY, REV. WAYNE (85)

lived in Myrtle Beach, S.C. He served as a minister with The Wesleyan Church for 50 years. A Marion College graduate (now Indiana Wesleyan University), he was married to his wife Bonnie for 63 years. Survivors include his wife, two daughters, one brother, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

### WATSON, REV. GREGG (58)

lived in Olathe, Kans. A graduate of Bartlesville Wesleyan College (now Oklahoma Wesleyan University), he served as a Wesleyan pastor for 34 years in churches in Kansas, Wyoming, Arizona, and South Dakota. Rev. Watson was preceded in death by his father. Survivors include his mother, his wife Holly of 38 years, three sons, two grandchildren, and one sister.



# EARN YOUR DEGREE ON YOUR OWN TIME.

## WHY CHOOSE ONLINE PROGRAMS AT SWU?

CHRIST-CENTERED • CAREER-READY • FLEXIBLE • AFFORDABLE

**ONLINE PROGRAMS OFFERED**

Associate of Arts in General Studies
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
Master of Business Administration
Master of Education in Classroom Leadership
Graduate Education Content Area Courses

Learn more about our undergraduate and graduate online degrees at **swu.edu/online**

SOUTHERN WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

www.swu.edu • 864-644-5557

# TOGETHER *WE* ARE MADE NEW

# THE gathering

WESLEYAN CLERGY CONFERENCE



**BOB** ROBERTS



**JOANNE** SOLIS-WALKER



**KYLE** RAY



**JOEL & BECKY** HUNTER



**KEVIN** MYERS
**JOHN** MAXWELL



**KEN** MURPHY



**KEVIN & SHERRY** HARNEY



**TODD & SONJA** BURPO



COMEDIAN **MICHAEL JR.**



**CALLING ALL PASTORS AND SPOUSES IN THE WESLEYAN CHURCH...**

**REGISTRATION OPENS JUNE 13**
**WESLEYAN.ORG/GATHERING**

## ORLANDO • JAN. 13-16, 2015

**Single Occupancy:** $495/each
**Pastor & Spouse:** $595
**Double Occupancy:** $645
**Onsite One-day Pass:** $100/each

**Join us** as we gather together as a Wesleyan clergy family to be encouraged, inspired and engaged.

**The Gathering** incluirá seminarios en español y servicios de traducción para las sesiones generales.