

wesleyan life

THE MAGAZINE OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

Serving
AROUND THE WORLD & IN OUR BACKYARDS





The goal of a short-term trip is...how everyone grows in relationship... with the global church.

Spanning

All Shores Wesleyan Church in Spring Lake, Michigan, has been partnering with the national church and missionaries in Mongolia, a country in eastern Asia, for 20 years. There were two Wesleyan churches in Mongolia when the relationship began. Today, there are seven churches with more church plants being planned. Four national leaders are ordained and leading the Church of Eternal Light (the Mongolian national church) ministry.

Multiple short-term trips between the church and the country have been diverse in practice but unifying in the discipleship of going and receiving teams. All Shores disciples have helped with family camps, evangelistic outreach, men's ministry, anti-human trafficking, business start-ups, construction projects, theological training and participation in the Mongolian national conference and ordination. Support has also been provided by All Shores for each of the missionary families that have been on the field in Mongolia, including two family units serving today.

I was privileged to lead a team to Mongolia in 2016 that included staff member, Jennifer Ellison, and her husband, Cory. Both of the Ellisons are ordained pastors in The Wesleyan Church and joined the team to teach theological education for a quarterly Bible school, of which Jennifer taught classes.

After returning to Michigan, the Ellisons felt called to engage at another level and became Global Partners missionaries with All Shores' encouragement and support. The couple, fully committed to the work there, is in Mongolia learning the language and culture.

A short-term All Shores team traveled to Mongolia in September 2019, visiting churches to encourage and strategize with staff, assisting missionaries with various tasks and praying over the city.

Brian Wyns, an All Shores member, was part of that team. A mechanical engineer, Wyns questioned the impact he might have but felt led to go. While in Mongolia, he discovered that his engineering training was key to replacing electrical units and installing a much-needed stove.

Another team member, All Shores Executive Pastor Steve Rimes, engaged with missionaries,

6,000 miles



helping raise up leaders and providing young churches with much-needed organizational insights. For All Shores kids' ministry volunteer Dave Woodrum, who has joined other short-term teams, this was his first trip to Mongolia. He feels led to be a part of a greater work around the world and is praying and planning to serve on the field as God leads. As team leader, I represented All Shores in services and assisted with the ordination of two pastors.

Keith Allison, outreach pastor from Victory Highway Church (Painted Post, New York), was also part of the team. Because of Allison's time with the national pastors and missionaries in Mongolia, he is taking steps to add his church as another North American partner to the work there.

New efforts are underway for the Mongolian Enterprise Fund, a project with Global Partners that helps local churches apply for micro-loans to move them to a self-sustaining work. Businesswoman Bethany Grossman, who attends All Shores and participated on a team to Mongolia in 2016, serves on the Mongolian Enterprise Fund board and helped develop strategy to create income-generating activities that support local churches.

Individuals from All Shores have used their marketplace talents and spiritual gifts to help our brothers and sisters globally.

No matter what you do or who you are, there are ways to serve on the field during short-term trips. For All Shores Wesleyan, the goal of a short-term trip is not what gets done but how everyone grows in relationship and partnership with the global church.

Short-term opportunities are being planned for business professionals to learn from and strategize with the national church, including theological training, English camps, family camps and vision trips.

I have seen an unleashing of a Kingdom Force, locally and globally as a result of the All Shores-Mongolian partnership. The Mongolian church has taken ownership in evangelizing and sacrificing for the gospel. Likewise, All Shores' members who return from team trips have become more involved and grown more passionate in serving in global and local outreach.

More than 6,000 miles separate Michigan and Mongolia, but this unleashed partnership knows no boundaries. ✨



! LEARN MORE
All Shores Wesleyan Church
allshores.org

The Mongolian church has taken ownership in evangelizing and sacrificing for the gospel.



THAD SPRING

is the global outreach pastor at All Shores Wesleyan Church in Spring Lake, Michigan.





Marketplace

KINGDOM-FORCE IMPACT

We're praying for the Holy Spirit to empower a "Kingdom Force" so that every believer, wherever they are, lives and shares the good news of Jesus.

Nothing is more energizing than hearing stories like this one from Emily Zottarelli. She is very involved in their local church, Trinity Wesleyan (Allentown, Pennsylvania), where Rev. Gina Colburn is effectively leading a growing, disciple-making church. But Emily is also very intentional about ministry in the marketplace.

"When I recently started working at a new company, I wanted to be able to invest into my co-workers. One co-worker in particular was really struggling, so I started praying for her and that God would give me opportunities to show her what Jesus looks like.

"As the months went on, I made an intentional effort to get to know her and invited her to meet my friends. A few weeks ago, she started asking me about Jesus and what Bible verses there were to help with grief and anxiety. We started texting, and I began to share with her passages of Scripture.

"Two weeks ago, Brittany asked if she could come to church with me! I was so excited! She was asking me even more questions, so we are meeting weekly to go through the Bible together. This past Thursday, I had the opportunity to watch her accept Jesus into her life. The overwhelming peace and joy that came over her after she prayed was incredible! I am in awe of how God placed me exactly where I needed to be and completely prepared my co-worker's heart to want to learn more about the gospel."

Emily did something we all can do whether we are serving in North America or globally —

pray, be intentional, be alert to those struggling and wrestling with questions, invest in their lives. What opportunities is God giving you?



DR. WAYNE SCHMIDT
General Superintendent
The Wesleyan Church

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

Executive Editor Janelle Vernon

Creative Director Aaron Fussner

Assistant Editor Tricia Rife

Designers Trish Dubes, Lyn Rayn, Anna Stingley

Digital Curator Matthew Tietje

Video Production Aaron Fussner, Jackson Young

Cover Design Anna Stingley

Contributors

David Babb

Ron McClung

Jennifer Jones

Wayne Schmidt

Ethan Linder

Thad Spring

Sarah Linder

Kelly Yonce

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Correspondence

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

Mailing Address

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

Physical Address

The Wesleyan Church
13300 Olio Road
Fishers, IN 46037
Tel: 317.774.7905
Fax: 317.774.3870



www.wesleyan.org

communications@wesleyan.org

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Dear Jonathan



While watching my three-day-old grandson take an afternoon nap, I wrote him a letter. In one paragraph I said, “Jonathan, I pray that you will grow up to know the Lord, to surrender your life to him and to serve him. I would be so grateful if God chose to use you in some special way to minister to people in whatever way that may happen. I commit myself to be a faithful role model for you as a grandfather and to always pray for you.”

I signed, sealed and mailed the letter to my grandson who would never read it.

A few years later, Jonathan was diagnosed with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder), along with our second grandchild, Elizabeth. According to the Autism Society, ASD is “a complex developmental disability, typically appearing during childhood and affecting a person’s ability to communicate and interact with others.”

The ASD diagnosis has become a challenging and difficult reality for an ever-growing number of children, young adults and their families. A 2014 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report indicates about 1 in 59 children has been identified with ASD.

As I navigated this new world of autism along with my wife, Freda, and daughter, Michele, we discovered a community of abandoned and often forgotten people in desperate need for ministry within the local church.

We attempted to learn as much as possible about autism to serve Jonathan and Elizabeth and apply that knowledge within the church setting. We did so through written articles, published books, videos, professional seminars and communication with therapists. Too often, we met families within the autism community who felt the church was not adequately prepared to meet their needs or the needs of their child with autism.

In October of 2008, we launched the first Autism Ministries at Calvary Wesleyan Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Much preparation had gone into making certain the site was safe and secure for the children. Volunteers were educated and trained, and the

 **LEARN MORE**
about Hephzibah62:4.
hephzibah.org

congregation was educated about autism and embraced the new ministry. At the time, Jonathan was nine years old.

We did not want it to be a ministry brought into the church; rather, we wanted it to be a ministry of the church. So, before we started the ministries, we included several factoids regarding autism in the weekly bulletin. By doing this, the church became knowledgeable and supportive of Autism Ministries; families from the autism community felt welcomed and not rejected.

The Sunday program had to be more than just babysitting children with autism. We wanted to make their time with us in the classroom meaningful and special. We encouraged the parents to attend worship service, while we took care of their children with autism.

Over the next seven years, Autism Ministries at Calvary Wesleyan Church thrived, garnering attention from professors at several local colleges and universities, who eventually offered their services, expertise and students to assist the leadership team and serve the children. By 2015, the continued growth and success of Autism Ministries made it necessary to relocate to Bethany Wesleyan Church in Cherryville, Pennsylvania, to accommodate the need for more space and additional help.

During this transition, God blessed Autism Ministries with additional leaders and individuals having expertise and experience working with autism. Their assistance has continued to propel

the growth and enrichment of Autism Ministries.

The services our team offers have reached into the community. Through Saturday respite programs, children with autism participate in planned activities for four hours, while the parents get a well-deserved and much-needed break. More than 50 children are registered, and 70 volunteers respond to the call for help. It's a special time for these special children and their parents. We are currently planning an Adult Day Program for children like Jonathan (now age 20), who will soon be too old to remain in school but who still need support and assistance with day-to-day living.

I serve on the Hephzibah62:4 Board, a Wesleyan organization focused on "equipping and mobilizing local Wesleyan churches to transform the lives of vulnerable children." Autism Ministries is an official partner with Hephzibah62:4, and we are thrilled and honored to be in this partnership.

I could not have imagined where my prayer [for Jonathan] in that letter I wrote was going to take us. **But I have to say, if I had known, I can't imagine I would want it any different.** 🙌



DAVID BABB

is director of the counseling ministry and founder of Autism Ministries at Bethany Wesleyan Church.

GO INTO ALL THE WORLD

Mark 16:15 (NIV)



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“**G**od is teaching me that as a chaplain, I do not have to have all the answers,” said Melinda House.

House is an ordained minister and has served as a chaplain at Ascension St. Vincent’s Healthcare in Jacksonville, Florida, for seven years. Her chaplaincy journey began after being encouraged to take a class on clinical pastoral work. It was then, as she resonated with the chaplains’ way of stepping into people’s suffering, that God called her to be a chaplain. House later completed her board certification.

Her presence is in high demand between being present for a patient’s death, supporting family members, following up with staff, sitting with patients with a new diagnosis, helping patients process grief and building relationships with staff. Amidst this busyness, House has learned that people rarely want answers; they want a space in which to listen for God.


“I’m not here to fix but to be a presence and help them know they are not alone. Being silent, not only externally but internally, and creating a sacred space for them” are among the most important

aspects of her job. This availability also extends to fellow staff, who are frequently serving in traumatic circumstances.

She offers a monthly staff event, Tea for the Soul, at St. Vincent’s. Attendees enjoy tea, cookies and activities that promote honest self-reflection before God. In one exercise, staff wrote down thoughts, prayers and emotions on dissolvable paper. The disappearance of the papers, as they were dropped into the water, represented that each request was seen and heard by God.

House’s mind often turns to Isaiah 26:3 as a relevant verse for her personal soul care: “You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.” In ministering to individuals experiencing trauma, being rooted in God’s

presence helps her remain present to the needs, joys, gifts and losses of others.

House knows she is serving exactly where she needs to be for this season of her life. The peace which surrounds that knowledge spurs her on to continue fulfilling God’s call to chaplaincy ministry. 



Providing
SPACE
to hear God



SARAH LINDER
is a freelance author in Marion, Indiana.

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Wesleyan Chaplaincy Program
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FOSTERING A

KINGDOM FORGE

IN UGANDA



What makes someone qualified to train new pastors? When asked this question, Rev. Yusuf Oyo didn't list collegiate accolades, status or alma mater. His response was simple and threefold. The person must have a zeal for sharing God's Word, ability to give expository explanation of the Bible and be a living example of what they teach and preach.

Oyo is the principle of the Wesleyan Bible Institute (WBI) in Busia, Uganda, and leads the school's extension program, which sends graduated students to train rising pastors in local districts. Battling a rooster in the background for volume, Oyo energetically shared an update on the WBI's current victories and struggles.

"Students coming out of the program give us much encouragement, and we have seen great passion in them."

WBI classes begin with 15 to 20 students, but typically only 9 or 10 reach the finish line. Lessons and materials are prepared in English. Though the official language of Uganda is English, the country is multilingual. The extension program spreads to neighboring districts, and some students lack higher education and primary schooling. Some cannot write or read in English. To curb the language barrier, students can write and answer in their local languages. Long-term, Oyo plans to translate the materials into all local languages.

Uganda's poor economy, with minimal resources for travel and food, is another challenge common in landlocked countries where coastal export and import is impossible. Oyo is brainstorming resolutions, including a plan to grow food and raise chickens. Selling eggs and vegetables will raise money locally, as well as provide nutrition to WBI students.

One of Oyo's goals is to help the WBI staff continue their education. WBI is not registered or accredited with the local government and depends solely on church resources. Oyo wants to encourage the main campus staff to further their studies so WBI can become accredited. He also plans to open an account for continued long-term funding.

Rev. Fred Cromer and his wife, Carol, founded WBI in 2015. They started with Global Partners in 1991 and worked in Zambia for more than two decades before following God's call to establish the institute.



“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”

“When the Wesleyan Bible Institute (WBI) was established, we wanted to do something sustainable that would continue after we left,” said Cromer.

At the start of WBI, Cromer joined forces with some of his previous students from Zambia. Oyo, Rev. Benard Rotta and Rev. Patick Deo Sanya joined him providing leadership and preparing student manuals, exams, syllabi and teacher manuals for every course.

Missionary funding was used to help students commute and eat. However, Cromer was determined that WBI endure and scale without a missionary presence. Because the commute was too costly for many students, a property with a building was purchased. The building accommodates a library, office, apartments and a training center. Fifteen students started classes Mondays and returned home Fridays.

The commute was still unattainable for some, so Oyo, Rotta and Deo Sanya began travelling and teaching two-by-two, establishing learning centers in Kenya, Kyenjojo, Mayuge District and Mbale District. Each teaching team included one experienced lecturer and one trainer who worked to educate the next group of students. After teaching six courses, the trainer would be considered experienced and could bring along a new protégé, a new trainer.

Cromer’s life verse, 2 Timothy 2:2, has shaped his life’s work: “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”

Cromer’s legacy reverberates like a school bell, and Oyo echoes the sweet sounds of revival through education. When he’s not busy with his work at WBI, Oyo pastors a local church called Buwuni Wesleyan. His church regularly has 60 community members, and they will baptize nine people soon.

Within the last year, Buwuni Wesleyan gained a building, and Oyo’s plans for the space will not surprise anyone. He aims to institute a local primary school to boost enthusiasm for literacy amongst local youth and parents. Uganda has a 30 percent adult illiteracy rate, but **Oyo continues to answer God’s call to educate.**

Cromer’s strategy has been realized, as WBI continues sans missionary presence. Principal Oyo and staff work creatively through challenges and sprint toward long-term solutions to maintain a sustainable discipleship program. 🌿



KELLY YONCE

is the social media pastor at Providence Wesleyan Church in Summerville, South Carolina.



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~Deborah G., 2019 WHI Clean Water Team Volunteer, Bahamas

AUSTRALIA


worldhope.org.au
admin@worldhope.org.au
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CANADA

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THINKING Outside the BIG SKY BOX

“**A**ll I need is a little bit of coffee and a whole lot of Jesus.” It’s a good T-shirt slogan that makes us giggle a bit on the way from the coffee bar to our padded church seat, caramel latte in hand.

Under the big sky in Montana, Rev. Samuel Smith is using a different tactic, having traded in cappuccinos and Americanos for branding irons and cowboy boots, metaphorically speaking. Pastor of Joliet Wesleyan Church, Joliet, Montana, Sam is combining his unique skills for ranching and farming with relationship building and technology in an area where a low percentage of residents say they are churchgoers and a high percentage are atheists.

Undaunted, these statistics caused Sam to roll up his sleeves, look at what has not worked in the past and vow to find what would. This is why it is not unusual for the Joliet church to use branding or cattle vaccination events to reach the lost.

Assistant District Superintendent of the Northwest District Rev. Isaac Smith (Sam’s brother) said Sam is reaching ranchers in Montana because they can relate to him.

“He’ll open with something like ‘So, last week, I had this cow...’ and everyone gets the story! He speaks their language.”

He also speaks on their behalf. Sam is quick to plead the case for focusing attention on rural areas and on changing the misconception that rural means undereducated or poor. Montana ranchers own thousands of acres and go directly to Japan, for example, to do business. They are educated people who have adopted technology to survive.

And that is exactly what Sam is doing to reach isolated ranchers and farmers for Christ — using technology. Biddle, Montana, population 15, is made up almost exclusively of far-flung ranchers who watch downloads of Sam’s sermons on a big screen.

Twice a month, however, Sam and his wife, Dianne, preach and eat lunch in Joliet, drive three hours to Biddle,



preach and eat dinner there and return home at 11:00 p.m. The next day, Sam rises early for his day job as a school bus driver. Somewhere in between he manages his own small herd of cows.

“We have to innovate, to find ways to get the gospel here,” said Sam. To explain how ranch life in Biddle is different, he said that during lambing season, some ranchers don’t want to be gone for longer than an hour because “sheep are terrible mothers” and need constant attention. This means church may be cancelled for a few weeks in a row.

Sam has also taken on a church with an average attendance of 15 in Pendroy, Montana, that left another denomination. Pendroy lay leader Jon Stolz said he watched the movie *Heaven is For Real* and liked what he heard about The Wesleyan Church and how it lined up with what his congregation believes.

“To be honest, I hadn’t even heard of The Wesleyan Church before. So, I Googled it.”

Pastor Sam appears in Pendroy on the big screen every Sunday. A 30-minute drive for most residents, Sam makes the five-hour drive on special occasions.

Pendroy and Biddle are places people wouldn’t normally target for a church plant. “It just doesn’t make sense to do traditional church planting here,” Isaac said, because there are no jobs.

“Other denominations are running away from rural,” said Isaac. “If we don’t do it, nobody else will. We need people who speak the language of small rural places and who genuinely value these places. And that is Sam’s strength; he genuinely loves them and values them, and they know that.” Sam is thankful that his nephew, Rev. Wesley Smith, sees the importance of rural ministry. Wesley is the district superintendent of the

Northwest District and “is very passionate about small and rural places and getting us to innovate to find some way to get the gospel there.”

Sam credits much of his ministry spirit to his father. “My dad was a pastor, and he traveled as an evangelist. Wherever we stopped, if there was a place I could work on a farm, I did,” said Sam, who started preaching when he was 17.

Those early years instilled in Sam a love for rural areas and people. He believes pastors must be flexible and innovative — what works in rural Montana is not going to work in Upstate New York.

“I appreciate that our denomination allows us the freedom to experiment and implement what is needed,” said Sam. 🌿



JENNIFER JONES

is a writer, pastor’s wife and South Carolina District administrator.

“We have to
innovate to find
ways to get the
gospel here.”



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(H)ere & Now

*Serving around
the world and in
our backyards*




Ever since Jesus said, “Go into all nations,” discipleship has been a global thing. And yet discipleship is also relentlessly local — seeping into workplaces, neighborhoods, pews and gatherings of friends through people who listen, serve and embody the Good News about Jesus to the people God’s given them to love.

Churches, families and communities frequently struggle to discern how to hold this local-global emphasis in tension. In our churches and in our personal lives, it can seem like local and global expressions of church compete for time, finances and prayer. But what if our commitment to local-global discipleship helped us do both more fully?

For Josh Needler, a member of College Wesleyan Church (CWC) in Marion, Indiana, participating in global discipleship has raised his attentiveness to how God moves in his own community.





How can I put my *passion* for this kind of community into practice here in my own context?

 WATCH JOSH'S STORY
wesleyan.life/there-and-now



Needler's experience in global discipleship is rich and extensive, starting with Global Impact Trips through "Yes Ministries," the former youth missions arm of The Wesleyan Church, and then extending into Peru through connections he made while a student at Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU). Through those connections, Needler went to Peru and ended up living there once for an extended period of time while he was still a student. After his time as a student at IWU, Needler returned to live in Peru for another extended stay.

During this second stay in Peru — as Needler worked alongside youth and processed through his calling — he began wondering about God's way of calling him to missions. Needler's fluency in Spanish, love for people and passion for global ministry led him to expect that God would give him a long-term call as a missionary. But that specific call never came.

"There was never really a long-term call," said Needler. "The doors God called me to go through were always toward short-term."

Upon returning to Marion after an extended trip in 2014, Needler was tired and unsure of how God would use his call to missions. During that period, Rev. Chris Williams (then the executive pastor at CWC) approached Josh and invited him to go on a trip to CWC's sister church in Mexico City: Senda De Vida Church (SDV), pastored by Rev. Alejandro Sicilia.

"I said, 'No, I don't want to go.' But he kept reaching out, and I had several people encourage me to go, and I went." That trip to Senda De Vida became a turning point in Josh's posture toward God's calling to local-global discipleship. "The Mexico City trip was the way God basically spoke to me and said, 'Josh, there is a reason for this. Don't lose heart.' And that came through the relationship I have with a lot of the people in Senda De Vida."

Since that first trip, Needler has been to Senda De Vida eight more times and has cultivated relationships with Pastor Alejandro, his wife, Ruth, his children, Pablo and Alejandro, and countless lay members of the church who see -->



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Immigrant Connection
icwelcome.org

Needler's answer to that question has come in the form of launching Immigrant Connection at College Wesleyan Church, where he serves as an accredited representative. Working at the Immigrant Connection office has enabled him to serve a significant number of people who need legal help and has been a great outlet for building trust and relationships with the Spanish-speaking population in Grant County, Indiana.

"I don't know a business here locally that is managed by Spanish-speaking individuals whose employees don't know I speak Spanish when I walk through the door now. It's just created that connection here in the community that (although I've been living here my entire life) I never had until building trust these past years," said Needler.

This theme, noticing what previously went unnoticed, consistently emerges in the stories of those like Needler, who participate in local-global relationships. Something of God's character emerges more clearly when we see believers of another culture approach him. Overlooked needs, gifts and populations in our own communities surface more obviously when our discipleship has been shaped by listening to those around the world and in our own backyard. No matter what our job is, our calling is to make disciples in our neighborhoods, workplaces, churches and in "all nations."

Needler is doing just that: having an impact locally and globally that is aiding in The Wesleyan Church having a Kingdom-Force impact around the world. 🌿

Needler as an essential part of their congregation (even if from a distance). Needler mentioned that several members of Senda de Vida are among the people he corresponds with on a regular basis. "Technology opened doors for me to realize that these relationships can continue being nurtured. When I first started travelling, WhatsApp [an app for communicating] wasn't a thing, FaceTime wasn't a thing, and that's changed the way we build relationships." Part of the relational refreshment Needler has seen is in his own way of relating with God, community and the church.

"The most impactful thing for me about Senda de Vida was seeing the amount of time and energy their members put into their local communities."

Outreach runs through their veins; cell groups are their way of bringing people into the church," said Needler. "So after my first trip, I was really challenged to get more involved in a small group and then started to ask, 'How can I put my passion for this kind of community into practice here in my own context?'"



ETHAN LINDER

is the hospitality, college and young adult pastor at College Wesleyan Church in Marion, Indiana.



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BY A GLOBAL PARTNERS NEXT INTERN

I arrived in Eastern Europe in the middle of the night after one flight cancellation and multiple flight delays. I was too exhausted to unpack, so I dropped everything and went straight to bed.

The next morning, I was ready. I was excited to meet the other interns, join the rock-climbing community and start making an impact for the kingdom.

I had joined the NEXT internship initiative with Global Partners because I would have the chance to teach, lead and participate in rock climbing while pursuing Christ. Little did I know my expectations, which included serving with the perfect team of interns, were going to be far from my reality.

I quickly recognized that the climbing community was very small and consisted of only youth, and an evident community impact was not going to happen on the spot. As for the team of interns, I have never been a part of a group that was so vastly different from me. Our worldviews, backgrounds and personalities were quite diverse.

During the first few weeks, my initial expectations came crashing down. I doubted my choice in being a NEXT intern. I questioned my motives. I did not fully click with my team of interns. I was not climbing as much as I'd hoped, and I did not feel like I was making any impact in the lives of the people around me.

As time passed, though, God began to reveal to me the reality and beauty of seeing mission work results differently than I had anticipated. I learned that **it is through developing meaningful relationships, discipleship and God's hand that we see new believers come to know Christ.**

! LEARN MORE
NEXT
gponline.org/next

What I originally saw as a possible mistake began to make sense. I understood that when families and a community are as deeply rooted in Islam and cultural Catholicism as our community was, it may take many years to see relational outreach take hold. When it does, strongholds begin to fall and generational ties that keep people from knowing Christ begin to break.

As God continues to reveal these truths to me, it now seems that my time in Eastern Europe was too short. But as short as it was, my time there was not in vain.

Seeds were planted and watered. Some of us interns had the opportunity to discuss Islam and Christianity with one of our Muslim friends. These discussions led to reading the Bible with him at his request.

The *beauty* of the NEXT internship is that it prepares interns for what comes next.

We learned that a local imam was watching and continues to watch Christian church services online. My language partner and I were able to have encouraging conversations with our language tutor and her mother about God, love, marriage and purity.

And the interns and I made friends with a local group of high school students. We heard about their wounds from the church, what they believed and how family history plays a significant and binding role in why they belong to a particular religion or church.

Although my pride and desire for success wishes the multitudes had been saved during my internship, I believe God's work was done during my time in this country and is still being done today. It may not be evident at first glance, but I believe lives are slowly being transformed as the guarded walls of this community begin to crumble.

More so, the beauty of the NEXT internship is that it prepares interns for what comes *next*. I have never felt so confident in my calling. I have been equipped in disciple making and prayer.

I am a part of a Kingdom Force that consists of all generations, ethnicities and economic backgrounds, lay and clergy, male and female — people actively seeking to reach the lost and to bring God's kingdom to earth. With the Holy Spirit's direction, I can make an impact wherever he leads next. 🐦



GOD WILL PROVIDE

RON MCCLUNG

“**M**y God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

Those are wonderful words, written 20 centuries ago. But are they still effective two decades into the 21st century?

If you ask Alfredo and Silvia Barreno, they would say, “Yes, they are still true.” They know from experience God will provide everything.

Alfredo left Ecuador and came to the United States at age 19 to escape poverty. Two years later he met Silvia, and they married. Through his brother’s influence, Alfredo came to know Christ. When they visited Prince of Peace Wesleyan Church in El Monte, California, they met the Wesleyans.

In 1996, Alfredo planted a church in El Monte. Two years later, he was called to plant a church in Garden City, Kansas. While there, a farmer, for whom Alfredo and Silvia had been providing discipleship in his home, invited them to start a church in a vacant building the farmer owned in Deerfield, Kansas. For two years, they pastored both churches until they could secure a pastor for the Deerfield congregation.

In 2004, the Barrenos moved to Topeka, Kansas, to plant their fourth church. Seven years later, Alfredo became director of Hispanic Ministries for The Wesleyan Church, taking them to Indianapolis, Indiana. Meanwhile, both Alfredo and Silvia had been ordained. While Alfredo concentrated on duties at Wesleyan World Headquarters, Silvia became the pastor of Iglesia Wesleyana Amistad Cristiana (Christian Friendship Wesleyan Church) in Carmel, Indiana.

In 2016, they felt called to go to Florida, and Silvia said, “No more church plants!” Yet the invitations came to plant a church. The problem? No building or money.

When they talked to Florida District Superintendent Patrick Styers, he encouraged them as church planters to raise their own support from friends and former church members.

“That works in the Anglo community,” Alfredo said, “but in the Hispanic community, people are inclined to say, ‘I cannot give you money, but I can give you labor.’” Alfredo knew in the beginning stages of church planting, the money is more important than the labor.

As they met with the district superintendent, Alfredo received a text from a woman they knew: “I had a dream about you. You were considering a promising project to plant a church, and you were excited about it. You said, ‘Yes.’”

Before moving to Florida, Alfredo had been attending chapel at The Wesleyan Church Headquarters, listening to Dr. Ed Love, director of Church Multiplication, speak. Love, not knowing about the Barrenos’ pull toward Florida, said, “Trust God. You will plant that church. God will provide.” Alfredo looked around to see who Love was addressing. He concluded the Holy Spirit was speaking to him.

The Barrenos told Styers they would plant in Florida. But when they tried to buy a house, the bank turned them down because they didn’t have a stable job yet. Furthermore, in earlier church plants, their children were part of their launch team, helping with music and other tasks. But now their children were grown and planned to stay in Indiana.



THEY KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE GOD WILL PROVIDE EVERYTHING.

However, when they sold their Indiana home, they had enough to pay cash for a condo in Florida. Alfredo remembered: “God will provide.”

They both secured part-time jobs. The district provided some funds. Then Alfredo met the president of their condo community association. When he learned Alfredo was a minister, he said, “You are an answer to prayer! I was praying for a pastor for this community! My mother has been unable to attend church for a long time. Would you come and have a service and serve Communion?” So Conexión Cristiana started in 2017 in a home with a service in English. Eventually, the president suggested they use the association clubhouse. Once again, God provided.

When the president changed, the new president, an avowed atheist, did not want a church meeting in the clubhouse. Another obstacle. There was no place to meet and no sound equipment or chairs, because everything had been available at the clubhouse.

Then former pastor of Savanna Wesleyan Church (now Rise Wesleyan Church) in Wesley Chapel, Florida, Rev. Joe Jackson, offered the use of his church’s facilities — rent-free for the first three months. Once more, God provided, and Conexión Church is still meeting there.

Conexión Cristiana has grown to be a group of 60 souls. One recent Sunday, their attendance hit 73.

The Barrenos, 20 years into the 21st century, simultaneously testify and cling to Philippians 4:19 trusting God to provide. 🐦



! LEARN MORE
Conexión Cristiana
conexioncristiana.net

DIOS SUPLIRÁ

RON MCCLUNG

“**M**i Dios, pues, suplirá todo lo que os falta conforme a sus riquezas en gloria en Cristo Jesús.” (Filipenses 4:19).

Esta promesa escrita hace 20 siglos es maravillosa, pero ¿seguirá vigente en la tercera década del siglo 21?

Si se les preguntara a Alfredo y a Silvia Barreno, ellos responderían: “Sí, sigue siendo verdad”. Ellos saben por experiencia que Dios lo suplirá todo.

Alfredo salió del Ecuador hacia los Estados Unidos a la edad de 19 años con la intención de escapar de la pobreza. A los 21 años conoció a Silvia y se casó con ella. A través de la influencia de su hermano, Alfredo llegó a conocer a Cristo. Con Silvia visitaron la “Iglesia Wesleyana Príncipe de Paz” en El Monte, California, donde conocieron a los wesleyanos.

En 1996 Alfredo plantó una iglesia en El Monte. Dos años después recibió el llamado para plantar una iglesia en Garden City, Kansas. Allí, un agricultor a quien Alfredo y Silvia estaban dando clases de discipulado, los invitó a iniciar una iglesia en un edificio desocupado que él tenía en Deerfield, Kansas. Durante dos años, Alfredo y Silvia pastoreaban las dos iglesias hasta que se pudiera conseguir a un pastor para la congregación en Deerfield.

En 2004, los Barreno se trasladaron a Topeka, Kansas, para plantar una cuarta iglesia. Siete años después, Alfredo fue el director de Ministerios Mispanos para La Iglesia Wesleyana en Indianápolis, Indiana. Para entonces, tanto Alfredo como Silvia habían llegado a ser ministros ordenados. Mientras Alfredo se dedicaba a su nuevo trabajo en la sede internacional de La Iglesia Wesleyana, Silvia fue pastora de la “Iglesia Wesleyana Amistad Cristiana” en Carmel, Indiana.

En 2016 sintieron el llamado de ir al estado de Florida, y Silvia dijo: “¡No más de plantar iglesias!” Sin embargo, les llegaron invitaciones para plantar una iglesia. El problema fue que no tenían edificio ni dinero.

Al conversar con el superintendente del Distrito de Florida, Patrick Styers, éste les desafió, como plantadores de iglesias, a recaudar sus propios fondos de entre sus amigos y las iglesias que habían plantado.

Alfredo respondió: “Esto funciona en la comunidad anglosajona, pero en la comunidad hispana se suele decir: ‘no tengo dinero, pero te doy mi trabajo’”. Alfredo sabía que en las primeras etapas de plantar una iglesia, el dinero es más importante que el trabajo.

Mientras se reunían con el superintendente del distrito, Alfredo recibió el mensaje de una conocida que le dijo: “Soñé contigo; considerabas un proyecto de plantar una iglesia y estabas emocionado; dijiste que sí”.

Antes de trasladarse a Florida, Alfredo había asistido a un culto en la sede de la Iglesia Wesleyana donde oyó hablar al Dr. Ed Love, el Director de Multiplicación de Iglesias. El Dr. Love, no sabiendo del llamado de los Barreno a Florida, dijo: “Confía en Dios. Plantarás aquella iglesia. Dios proveerá”. Alfredo miró a su alrededor para ver a quién Love se dirigía. Concluyó que el Espíritu Santo le hablaba a él.

Los Barreno le dijeron al Superintendente Styers que plantarían una iglesia en Florida, pero cuando intentaron comprar una casa allí, el banco les negó porque aún no tenían empleo estable. Además, cuando plantaron las anteriores iglesias, sus hijos habían formado parte del equipo ayudándoles con la música y otros ministerios. Sin embargo, ahora sus hijos eran adultos y se quedaban en Indiana.



ELLOS SABEN POR EXPERIENCIA QUE DIOS LO SUPLIRÁ TODO

Pero, al vender su casa en Indiana, Alfredo y Silvia se encontraron con suficiente dinero para comprar un apartamento en Florida. Y se acordaron de la promesa: “Dios suplirá”.

Tanto Alfredo como Silvia consiguieron empleo de tiempo parcial y el distrito suplió algunos fondos. Luego Alfredo conoció al presidente de la asociación de su comunidad del apartamento. Cuando éste se enteró de que Alfredo era ministro, dijo: “¡Usted es una respuesta a la oración! Yo le pedía a Dios un pastor para esta comunidad. Mi madre no ha podido asistir a la iglesia por largo tiempo. ¿Vendrán a hacer un culto y servir la Santa Cena?” Así fue como la Conexión Cristiana comenzó en 2017 en una casa con un culto en inglés. Con el tiempo, el presidente les ofreció el uso del edificio comunitario. Otra vez, Dios proveyó.

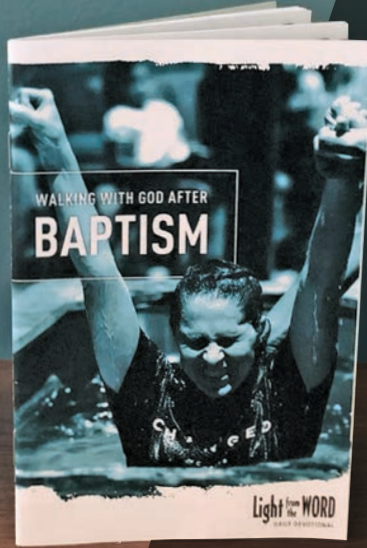
Pero cuando se cambió al presidente del edificio, enfrentaron otro obstáculo, pues el nuevo presidente, un ateo declarado, no quiso que una iglesia se reuniera en el edificio comunitario. De repente no tenían lugar donde reunirse, ni equipo de sonido ni sillas.

Entonces el Rev. Joe Jackson, pastor anterior de la “Iglesia Wesleyana Savanna” (ahora la Iglesia Wesleyana “Rise”) en la ciudad de Wesley Chapel, Florida, les ofreció el uso de las instalaciones de su iglesia gratis por tres meses. Una vez más, Dios había suplido, y hasta el día de hoy la iglesia “Conexión Cristiana” sigue reuniéndose allí.

La Conexión Cristiana ha crecido hasta ser un grupo de 60 personas, y hace algunos domingos la asistencia llegó a 73.

Los Barreno, comenzando la tercera década del siglo 21, se aferran a la promesa de Filipenses 4:19 y testifican de su vigencia, confiados que Dios suplirá. 🙌

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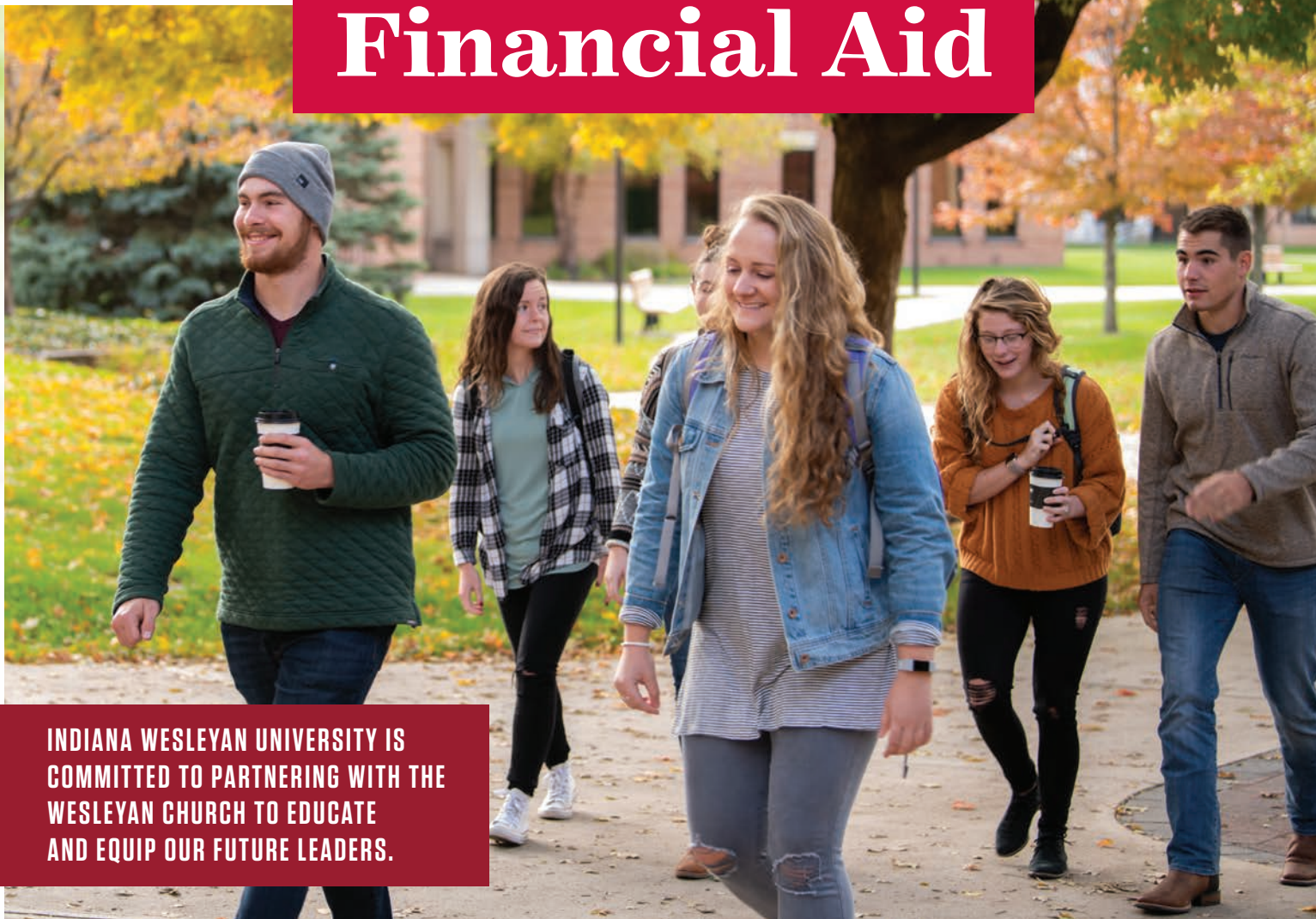
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Please visit indwes.edu/wesleyan for scholarship and other information specific to Wesleyan students.



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 FULL STORY
wes.life/reproducing-churches


 FULL STORY
wes.life/canada-national-conference


News

 GLOBAL

 GENERAL

 COLLEGE

 Stats reveal Wesleyans are making disciples

 FULL STORY
wes.life/stats


 Wrong assumption leads to unexpected blessing

 FULL STORY
wes.life/wrong-assumption


 FIVE CHURCHES LAUNCH IN TWO WEEKS

The new churches have an opportunity to have a Kingdom-Force impact in five different states.

 FULL STORY
wes.life/churches-launch

 DUNN INAUGURATED AS OKWU PRESIDENT

“OKWU’s message must be counter-cultural, not anti-cultural, so that we might win some for the cause of the Good News: that Jesus saves.”

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wes.life/dunn-okwu-president

 Mid-sized church packs an out-sized punch

 FULL STORY
wes.life/mid-sized-church

 Two churches plant another — together

 FULL STORY
wes.life/two-churches-plant

 Immigrant Connection receives Tyson Foods grant

 FULL STORY
wes.life/tyson-foods

Events

Following are events designed to help The Wesleyan Church flourish. Click each link to learn more about how you can increase your faith, knowledge and well-being.

2020

2-5
MAR

EXPONENTIAL
A Church Multiplication Conference

EXPONENTIAL EAST

Shoulder event: March 3

wesleyan.org/exponential-east

6-8
MAY

CAFO2020 (CHRISTIAN ALLIANCE FOR ORPHANS' ANNUAL SUMMIT)

Wesleyan/Hephzibah62:4 Shoulder Event: May 6

cafo.org/summit

31
MAY



CHURCH MULTIPLICATION SUNDAY

wesleyan.org/cms

31-3
MAY-JUNE



GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020

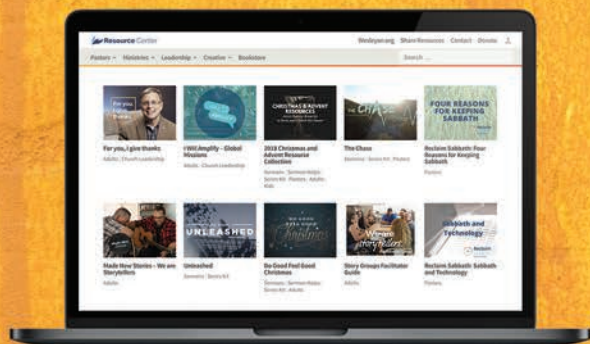
Unleashed so all can be made new

wesleyan.org/unleashed

21-24
SEP

IMMIGRANT CONNECTION CONFERENCE

icwelcome.org



Free media resources for
Lent and **Easter**

resources.wesleyan.org/lent

Remembered

REV. BLANCHE GILBERT (92) died October 26. She pastored in North Carolina.

DR. DAVID HURD (61) died September 13. He pastored in the Shenandoah District for 40 years.

REV. ORLAND JOHNSON (89) died September 24. He pastored in Iowa, South Dakota, Illinois, Alabama, Texas and Ohio and was district superintendent of the former Texas District.



REV. DAVID KUJAWA (56) died October 1. He pastored in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

REV. JAMES LONG (71) died April 4. He pastored in Ohio and Virginia.

REV. LLOYD MOORE (67) died September 14. He pastored in Canada, Florida and Indiana and served at Hephzibah Children's Home in Macon, Georgia.

SHARON PARMAN (75) died August 30. She served as a missionary in Mexico with Wesleyan World Missions (now Global Partners).

REV. RAYMOND POOLEY (70) died August 22. He pastored in South Carolina.

DR. CHARLES STEWART (89) died August 1. He pastored in Washington state.


REV. PAUL TITUS (88) died September 29. He pastored in Indiana and North Carolina.

REV. MILDRED TROYER (95) died September 25. She served as the first female athletic director at Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University) and later as alumni director. She also founded All Tribes Christian Camp in St. Joseph Island, Ontario, Canada.

REV. BILLY RAY WILSON (89) died October 5. He pastored in South Carolina. 

VISIT [WESLEYAN.ORG/REMEMBERED](https://www.wesleyan.org/remembered) TO READ A FULL LIST OF OBITUARIES.

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JOIN US MAY 31



UNLEASHED

Join us May 31, Pentecost Sunday, for the opening of **General Conference 2020 of The Wesleyan Church**. Don't miss the afternoon online preshow, evening worship and guided prayer service. Virtually, we'll gather the whole church in **ONE ROOM** as **ONE BODY**, calling out in **ONE VOICE** for a fresh pouring out of the Spirit of God upon us.

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