

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

A high-angle photograph of a large, multi-story brick building at Indiana Wesleyan University. The building features a prominent glass-walled section on the right side. In the foreground, there is a paved courtyard with a central landscaped area containing green shrubs and pink flowers. Several people are seen walking and sitting in the courtyard. The background shows more campus buildings and trees under a clear sky.

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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

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



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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





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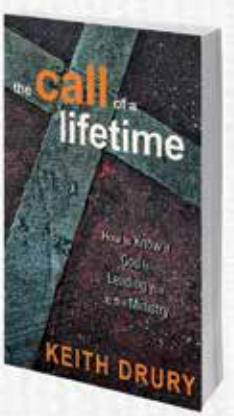
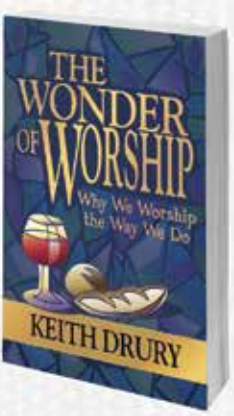
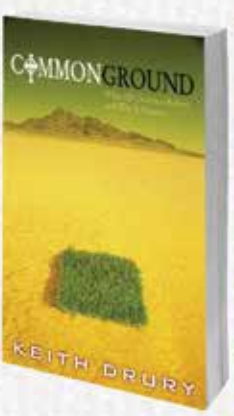
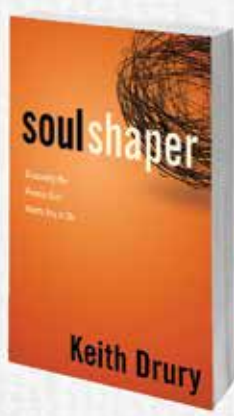
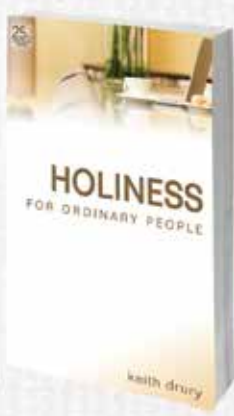
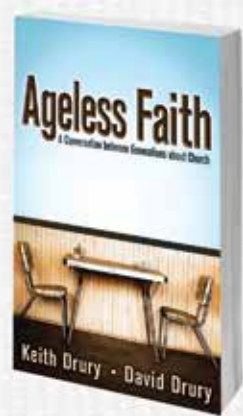


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DOS
PAST
ORES

Las Adversidades Se Convierten
En Bendiciones

¿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 calentarse. 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 Luis 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 Wesleyana 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 evangelísticos 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 Barreño es el Director del Ministerio Hispano de La Iglesia Wesleyana

Alfredo Barreño is Director of Hispanic Ministries for The Wesleyan Church





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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,



Photo Gallery

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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.

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.

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.

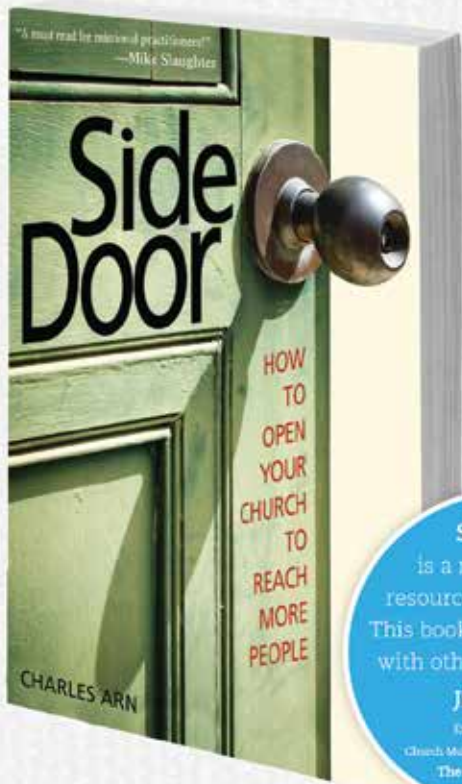
Then, the last thing they wanted was to amass a huge debt erecting a larger facility. They wanted to be relatively near their historic location, they needed a sanctuary that

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.

Bikers join “prayer rides” to pray God’s blessing over people and communities.



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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



Wonders in Nepal

By Kerry Kind

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.



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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!



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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.



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."



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.

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.



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.

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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 "ERDIE" (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.



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**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.

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.

***Finally Home* by Don Wyrzten**

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!



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.

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3. Help your church participate through a one-time contribution from your annual budget or missions giving

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Rhonda Moore – moorer@wesleyan.org
317-774-3900

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