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# A missionary's second chance

**A** ryanne Batista is an instant friend to many who know her. Her love for the Lord is contagious and her heart for people is apparent in everything she does.

Our paths first crossed in 2009, when I went on a short-term mission trip with my local church to Manaus, Brazil. Global Partners missionaries Tom and Grace Ensz intentionally introduced us, knowing we both sensed God's call to be a missionary. This was an exciting time for The Wesleyan Church of Brazil, as the church was growing and preparing to send one of its own in Aryanne (pronounced Are-E-ahn-E).

In 1959, North American missionaries were sent to Brazil to plant a church. Aryanne's parents were some of the first to place their faith in Christ through the new ministry. At the age of seven, Aryanne accepted Christ. She went on to earn a degree from the Wesleyan Bible College in Manaus, was active in her local church and participated in every outreach opportunity the church undertook. She was a rising leader in every sense of the word.

After graduating from seminary, Aryanne got married. At first, her husband supported her involvement in ministry and was seeking the Lord himself. But, soon, their relationship turned abusive.

"In 2013, I experienced the most

difficult moment of my life," said Aryanne. "After seven years, my marriage ended in divorce. I went into depression for almost a year. My main thought was that I was the shame of my family, my church and that God could never use me again. I had left God's call aside for marriage and now I had nothing. How could I ever serve or teach at the seminary after this?"

One evening after moving back in with her parents Aryanne told me, "I went into my room and told God that I had no strength and that if he did not take away my sorrow I would die. God directed me to Isaiah 54:1–8 and spoke to me through each verse, giving me new courage and renewing his call to me. God rescued me from depression and gave me another chance."

The year following her divorce, Tom Ensz invited Aryanne on a routine short-term trip to the interior of the Amazon. She questioned him, "Pastor, are you sure? You know my past." He immediately responded, "Has God not called you to be a missionary? God is not done with you!" It was at this moment that Aryanne understood God was still willing to fulfill the promise from Isaiah 54:4. "Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood."

Aryanne was ordained as a Wesleyan pastor in 2018 and is serving as the director of missions for The Wesleyan Church in

Brazil. Together with Ensz, Aryanne leads the Brazilian church in Transcultural Missions Training (TMT). This training consists of six trips to five continents to learn, practice and live on mission. As a leader, missionary, professor and preacher, Aryanne has inspired many people to consider missions, many of whom have heard God's calling and have responded by entering the TMT. Because of the new program, more than 60 Brazilian Wesleyans are participating in missions.

In the last four years, she has served on teams and individually in Mozambique, Haiti, Guyana, the United States and East Timor. While in East Timor for three months, she mentored and disciplined two Brazilians to explore their role in God's mission alongside her. Aryanne reflects on God's goodness in her life, stating that, "God redeems our past; he uses us despite our flaws. After my divorce, I had to again accept his forgiveness, his love and believe in his promises to me."

**God is moving to reach far and hard places throughout The Wesleyan Church of Brazil.**

The reality they are experiencing today started with one person who heard God's call and had the courage to follow it with perseverance. That was Aryanne. She is a pioneer and part of closing the Gospel Gap in our world. Her life inspires me and others to persist in the Lord, to push past feelings of shame and take hold of God's higher call. 🌿

**JACKIE FUSSNER**

is assistant director of Mobilization for Global Partners and co-directs the NEXT Program.







CELEBRATING **KINGDOM FORCE:**

# lay & clergy

**S**ome of my favorite moments as General Superintendent involve seeing the power and possibilities of a Kingdom Force in action — a multigenerational, multiethnic, multieconomic, women and men or lay and clergy, from everywhere to everywhere, movement.

I love seeing “lay and clergy” in full ministry partnership, each celebrating the contribution of the other:

- **LifePoint Church**, Washington, D.C., area. Pastor Michael Rogalski commissioned “everyday missionaries” sent into everyday places where they live, work and play. He said, “We are not calling you to leave it, but to be in it to win it.” Lay leader Earl McJett enthusiastically embodies that commission as he works in government.
- **Mosaic Midtown Church**, Detroit, Michigan. Avaney Brown is celebrated by Pastor Mick Veach as she spearheads church outreach and works in the hotel industry.
- **College Church**, Marion, Indiana. Pastor Steve DeNeff invests in Jeff Clark (basketball coach) and Trent Dailey (businessman), who intentionally steward their everyday contexts to make disciples.

- **Faith Legacy Church**, Sacramento, California. Jeff Jennings chooses to be co-vocational, fulfilling his pastoral calling as lead pastor and his marketplace calling through his architectural firm.
- **Trinity Church**, Indianapolis, Indiana. Yaremi Alicea-Morales is living out her faith as a global marketing brand manager with a pharmaceutical company, equipped to make disciples by pastors, Jon Wiest and Mike Colaw.
- **Heritage Church**, Quad Cities. Business owner Paul VanDuyne and Pastor Shawn Cossin collaborate to bring regional vitality through a transforming presence.

I love talking with individuals, just like those mentioned above, and celebrating Kingdom Force through their eyes and words.

I don’t like to refer to clergy and lay separately. We are equally Christian and equally called in the “priesthood of all believers.”

All and each disciple makers, we partner together for kingdom purposes! 🙌



**DR. WAYNE SCHMIDT**  
General Superintendent  
The Wesleyan Church

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## wesleyan life

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# Kingdom FORCE

*Give me one hundred preachers, who fear nothing but sin, and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen, such alone will shake the gates of hell, and set up the kingdom of heaven upon earth.*

Source: *The Life and Times of the Rev. John Wesley* (London, 1871), III:632



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*"How can God really use me in this position?"*

**T**he question completely caught me off guard. Julia Pyle had been a part of our ministry for years and is highly gifted. As her pastor, I had personally witnessed her serving and helping others many times. She has incredible wisdom and compassion, enabling her to speak the truth in love in such a way that even those she corrects know she has their best interest at heart. She sees the big picture clearly. She quickly identifies the giftedness of those around her. She is a leader of leaders.

But there she was, wondering if she could make a difference in the kingdom of God and the world.

For years, Julia has served God as a nurse. As she cared for patients, she would pray with and for them, offer them words of encouragement and point them to Christ. But she is no longer at the bedside. She is now the chief operating officer/chief nursing officer of a regional hospital.

However, the journey from serving as a nurse to hospital executive had left her wondering about her kingdom impact. Every time she took a step up in leadership, she found herself one step farther from ministering directly to patients. Each step felt like a step away from ministry.

That was three years ago. Today, Julia clearly sees how God has gifted her as a leader to make a kingdom impact both in the marketplace and in the church.

The journey began as Julia and I met weekly for coaching purposes. We read *The Executive Calling* by Roger Anderson and *5Q* by Alan Hirsch. We strengthened our biblical understanding of women in leadership within the body of Christ. And she attended Exponential, a conference for church leaders focused on multiplication. Julia discovered



The impact of Julia's leadership goes far beyond the hospital walls.

“

“I take great joy in helping others develop their giftedness and calling in the kingdom of God.”

”



# An Executive's *Kingdom* Impact



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that Christ had given her the giftings of an apostle. She was called by God to lead.

This was hard for her to accept at first. In her mind, Ephesians 4:11 (NLT) was about full-time pastors, not lay people like herself: “Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.” She discovered that God’s gifts of leadership and apostleship are for the whole body of Christ, not reserved for full-time pastors.

As an executive, Julia’s mission is to foster an environment that promotes optimal healing. “It is hard to care for others when your bucket is empty,” said Julia. “I use the opportunities God gives me to speak love and biblical principles into everyday life issues in the workplace. The goal is to strengthen people I work with and fill their buckets so they can serve others well.” She now understands that her position as COO/CNO is an opportunity to disciple and strengthen her leadership team. In many ways, she is a pastor to those she leads.

The impact of Julia’s leadership goes far beyond the hospital walls. When God called me to start a rural church planting and revitalization network, Julia quickly saw the vision. She took the lead in making the vision become a reality and now serves on the Board of Directors of Dirt Roads Network. She guides the direction of the ministry.

When Lamont Wesleyan Church and Dirt Roads Network felt called to start a new church in Emporia, Kansas, the city in which Julia works, she immediately jumped on board. She used her

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influence to place the planting pastor, Mark Adams, on the hospital’s ethics board. She began to coach him on organizational leadership and assisted in envisioning the planting plan. Julia has also connected Pastor Mark with community leaders and potential ministry partners. Most recently, she played a key role in bringing several leaders together to launch a new college ministry at Emporia State University. While she will not lead this ministry, she brought the leaders together and will coach and encourage them along the way.

“My role is to steward my influence to open doors for ministry,” said Julia. “I take great joy in helping others develop their giftedness and calling in the kingdom of God. Every believer is on a ministry career path. There is no separation between the secular and church worlds. All one has to do is listen to the Holy Spirit and obey what he says. When you do, you experience the joy of being used by God to change the world.” 🙌



**STEVE MCVEY**  
is lead pastor of Lamont Wesleyan Church in Lamont, Kansas, and founder of Dirt Roads Network.



# BELONG

BY LIZ RODRIGUEZ

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**I** was 14 when I moved in 2005 from my native Mexico to the United States. My mom and three younger sisters (ages 12, 8 and 8 months) accompanied me while my dad, a successful lawyer, stayed behind to work. I arrived in El Paso, Texas, knowing no English.

Three months later, my dad called. He was very sick and needed a kidney transplant right away. My mom asked me to take care of all of my sisters for a couple of weeks and returned to Mexico. The two weeks turned into three years.

I was a kid who still spoke no English raising three other kids in a foreign land. I endured bullying and persecution, even from people who had also migrated from Mexico to the U.S., because I did not know English. This made for many difficult days at school and in life — until an American classmate, who did not know Spanish, reached out. My new friend helped me learn English and do my homework.





***"I see God working in the hearts of these people and transforming them."***



Watch Liz's story  
[wesleyan.life/nothing-wasted](http://wesleyan.life/nothing-wasted)

After about a year, my sisters and I moved to Amarillo, Texas, to be near my mom's family. Grandma helped us sometimes, but we were still living on our own and I was still trying to figure out how to run a household. My grandma wasn't strict, but she did have one rule: attend church on Sundays.

I didn't have a relationship with God. He was just a figure that was sometimes talked about at home. My grandma had been a believer for decades, and she had occasionally taken us to Sunday school.

For me, going to church felt strange.

I never thought I'd have a real encounter with God. But I did. It was the first time I heard I could have a relationship with him. I completely fell in love with God, and surrendered my life to him. I was still a young teen.



I felt accepted and loved unconditionally. God didn't care where I came from or that I didn't speak English or had a thick accent. He loved me just as I was. He comforted me and gave me a joy that I had never experienced during one of the toughest times in my life.

Four months after accepting Christ, he called me to be a missionary. I wanted to share his acceptance and love with immigrants — people like me. I wanted to let them know, that even though it seemed like everyone around them didn't care about them, and were even mean to them sometimes, Jesus loved

them unconditionally — that Jesus didn't see their skin color, mother language or home country as something against them. He was the one who created them exactly how he wanted them to be. And he loved them the same as any other person.

***“I have seen how being hospitable and just opening the doors to my house has changed someone’s life.”***

After graduating from Oklahoma Wesleyan University in 2014, I was given an internship opportunity in Europe. I spent the summer working with immigrants with different backgrounds and beliefs — loving people who were going through what I had gone through — because they too were doing it alone. After that summer internship, I returned to the United States for a time and then was appointed to return to Europe, where I served again for two years.

Some locals disapprove of immigrants settling there, refusing to speak slower or clearer, giving disapproving looks or pushing them while walking on the sidewalk. Therefore, immigrants isolate themselves and create their own communities and businesses. They do not feel welcome in this foreign land.

I shared my story of love and hope with them, and they could relate to all those feelings of rejection, loneliness and being homesick. By sharing my journey of transformation and how God made me new through faith in Jesus, I see God working in the hearts of these people and transforming them.

During my time in Europe, it has been amazing to see how God brought us together just to be this community of believers. We have become a tiny family.

People don’t realize how hard it is to leave your country and leave behind everything that is familiar. I have seen how being hospitable and just opening the doors to my house has changed someone’s life.

I would go through everything again just to be where I am right now because God is using all of it to further his kingdom.

I celebrate that I am a Mexican who is able to reach out to other cultures from around the world wherever God leads me. 🙌





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**L**eadng marketplace discipleship can be challenging, because an organization's primary focus — for business, making a profit; for a basketball team, winning championships — often overshadows emphasis on the life of faith. Indiana Wesleyan University's (IWU) basketball coaches Greg Tonagel and Jeff Clark see discipleship as essential to their leadership and success in athletics.

IWU's basketball team is recognized nationally for winning championships. More noteworthy, however, is the coaching staff's approach to developing players who prioritize God first, others second and self third. Their coaching approach — denoted by the tagline "I Am 3rd" — focuses equally on cultivating proficiency in discipleship and excellence in basketball.

Players accustomed to functioning in the self-promoting culture often prevalent in athletics have a learning curve when transitioning into IWU's basketball program. "From a young age, athletics is a 'me-first' environment, where you're valued for winning or for your statistics," said Clark. "Identity is always given based on how you perform. For players to come in and have that flipped — to be told your value and identity come from God and your success is going to be evaluated by the growth of the people around you — it's not natural at first."

Helping student athletes with overcommitted schedules prioritize discipline in basketball and depth in their spiritual life seems like a lofty goal. But while cultivating an "I Am 3rd" rhythm, Tonagel and Clark have found attentiveness to the spiritual life often accompanies growth in basketball performance.

"There are times when we have sensed God calling us to fast from a practice session and instead seek him in prayer as a team," Tonagel said. "Taking away practice time means I am no longer in control. But when we have stepped out in faith and prioritized his kingdom, God has always exceeded our ability and shown up in ways unimaginable."

Remarkable to this "I Am 3rd" culture, and unusual in college athletics, is the long-standing coaching relationship between Tonagel, in his fourteenth year at IWU and Clark, his thirteenth.

"Jeff is a big reason of who I am today," Tonagel said. "He has helped disciple me in my coaching journey. What continues to amaze me about Jeff is that he has chosen to prioritize kingdom impact over





There are times when we have sensed God calling us to fast from a practice session and instead seek him in prayer as a team.



worldly status or recognition. I am not sure I know of anybody who is making a bigger kingdom impact.”

Clark says his ability to be effective emerges not so much from a calling to second-chair leadership, but faithfulness in fulfilling God’s calling.

“What college basketball values is position, but for me, following God’s call is where value has been found,” said Clark. “Greg is doing coaching and discipleship in a way that’s different and truly is God-first, which is exciting to be a part of.”

What neither could expect is how this discipleship-oriented approach to basketball would translate to other coaches, leaders and churches. IWU basketball recently invited every Indiana high school basketball coach to gather for a dialogue around coaching and discipleship.

Forty-five coaches responded.

Last August, Tonagel invited a few college basketball coaches to do the same. The few spread the word to more and 26 coaches gathered. “What surprised them was how primary discipleship was to Greg,” said Clark. “They thought they would hear a little about God and a lot about how we won championships.”

Tonagel and Clark have maintained monthly contact with the college coaches about what God’s doing in their communities and how they can support one another. Additionally, a national ministry that focuses on athletes is working to get IWU’s coaching staff in front of some of the highest-level college coaches in the U.S.

Clark and Tonagel are quick to emphasize the importance of the local church in their capacity for discipleship. “Even as I have moved into positions of lay leadership, our pastors at College Wesleyan Church [Marion, Indiana] have continued to challenge me to think more about the ‘sending’ into the world than the ‘gathering’ into the church. This has increased my vision

His ability to be effective emerges not so much from a calling to second-chair leadership, but faithfulness in fulfilling God’s calling.



LEARN MORE ABOUT “I AM 3RD.”  
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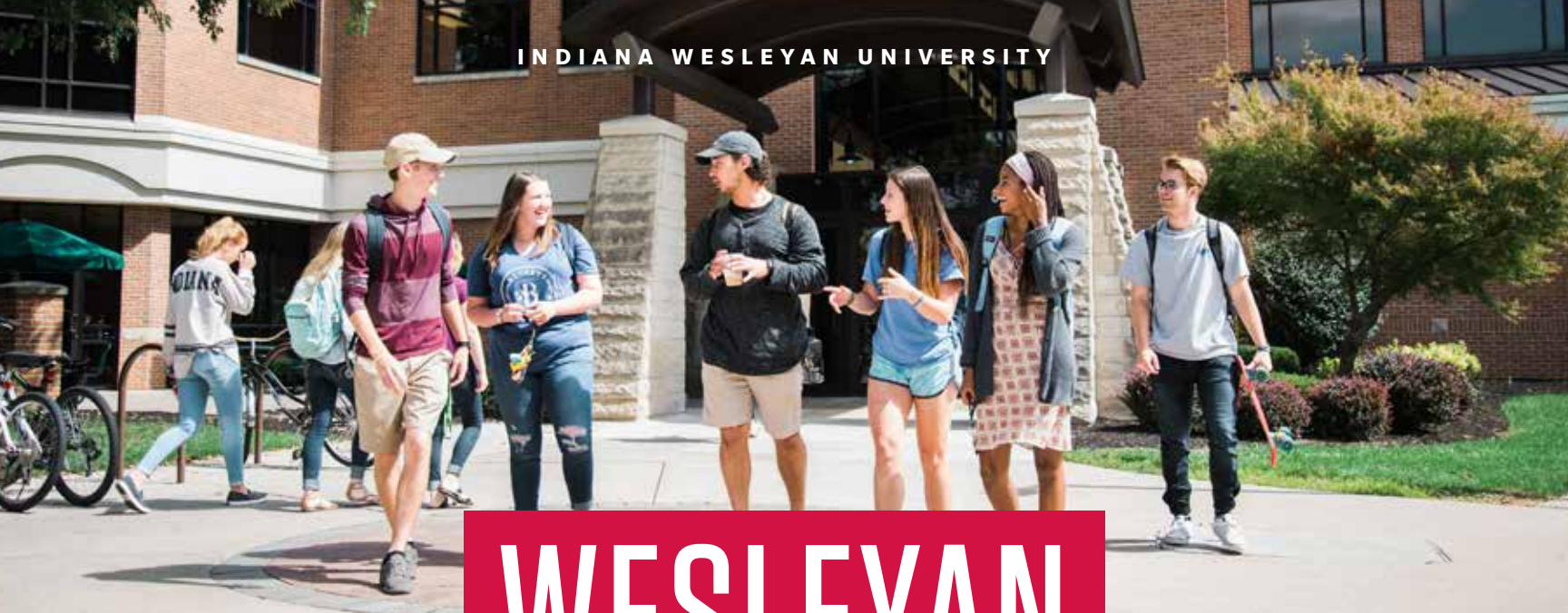
for what God can do through the marketplace and has led to discipleship movement in places our pastors likely could never have access to,” Clark said.

Tonagel encourages action for those hungry for this kind of discipleship movement in their workplace. “Don’t wait until you think you know enough or have it all figured out. **Take what you are passionate about and use it to connect other people to the life of Jesus,**” he said. “It’s really a fun way to live!” 🙌



#### ETHAN LINDER

is the college, young adult and connections pastor at College Wesleyan Church (CWC) in Marion, Indiana.



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## UNLEASHING THE KINGDOM FORCE

**J**oe was not happy with me.

For one thing, I had been using the New International Version of the Bible from the pulpit. There was more, though, with which Joe was upset. Sunday after Sunday he would find a way to corner me after the service to express his concern about something.

But each time Joe approached, Richard seemed to appear as well. Richard always had a disarming comment to say, satisfying Joe temporarily. After Joe moved on, Richard always gave me a word of encouragement and a nugget of wise advice.

Richard was just one of many lay leaders in that church who faithfully used their gifts to help me be a better pastor and advance the mission of the church they loved. I also think of Belinda, who rallied the congregation just when we needed a boost of camaraderie and enthusiasm.

Mr. Berry helped us avoid an international incident with a congregation that was considering sharing our facility. In response to a misguided concern about the potential smell of an unfamiliar food in the fellowship hall, he asked the group, "If we were all in their church in their country, wouldn't we want them to cook the food we like?" A few moments later, the motion to share our church building passed unanimously.

Then there's June, who quietly tracked our numbers and handled the books. And Nettie, who transformed our piano and our voices into a sound worthy of worship. The list goes on of those who faithfully ministered within and beyond the walls of that church.

It has been 30 years since these folks and so many others taught me the importance of a positive partnership between a pastor and church lay leaders. They helped both our church and me thrive.

That lesson is even more true today. Their generous partnership with me and the pastors who came before and have come since modeled more than just a church workforce. They lived as a kingdom force doing the transformative work of God in me as well as our church and our community. 🌿

## The importance of lay leaders

**RUSS GUNSALUS**

is executive director of Education and Clergy Development for The Wesleyan Church.



# Being Sent to Your Own ZIP Code



**F**or the VanDenTop and Van Otterloo families, checking mail has more meaning than before. It's a reminder that you never know where God might call you to go.

*And sometimes the ZIP code you're sent to reach is the one you're already living in.*

Dawn VanDenTop had heard about The Wesleyan Church's vision to multiply until there is a transforming presence in every ZIP code. The vision was powerful but didn't have anything to do with her, or so she thought.

Dawn and her husband, Mike, live in Rock Rapids, a small Northwest Iowa town. For years, they've traveled over 45 minutes one way to worship and serve at The Ransom Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Both are integral members. Dawn serves as an elder and on the tech team. Mike ministers in guest services. They had long





hoped someone would bring the gospel to Rock Rapids through a church similar to The Ransom, even praying for someone to plant there. They never imagined that their “someone” could be them — until their pastor started throwing around a now-familiar word: multiplication.

Dawn had for some time felt God prompting her to pray to “awaken the little church” but had no idea what it meant. Dawn prayed and shared the vision with others. As she eventually learned, there was already a little church that would soon be sitting vacant in Rock Rapids.

Today, the VanDenTops are preparing to bring a new congregation to Rock Rapids, planted as a campus for The Ransom Church. Dawn is seeking district ministry credentials and participating in Awaken, a year-long church planting residency recently started at The Ransom. She plans to remain working at her full-time job while preparing to plant. Awaken’s vision is to equip every kind of church planter leading to new ways of thinking about church. The future Rock Rapids church is viewed as both a campus and a church plant.

“I’m just excited to bring The Ransom to Rock Rapids,” said Dawn. “I’m praying that God’s plan is to start a revival in town, not just through The Ransom, but the surrounding churches. I heard once from a teenage girl that it’s sad that we have so many people who go to church, but not very many who look like Jesus. I’m eager to see if we can change that.”

The vision for Awaken began in 2017 when The Ransom’s Lead Pastor Phill Tague was haunted by two specific numbers: 32.5 and 58.2. The first number represented the percentage of Sioux Falls residents who were considered “unchurched” 10 years before when he planted The Ransom. The second number reflected the percentage of Sioux Falls residents who claimed no church affiliation in 2017. Even after a decade of ministry considered very successful by typical standards, there were significantly more people in Sioux Falls who didn’t know Jesus. Tague recognized that the traditional ministry approach wasn’t keeping up with city culture and knew a change was needed.

## The Ransom Church is reaching across district boundaries to launch a campus.

As details have come together for the Rock Rapids plant, the VanDenTops have been amazed at how well-equipped their small (and growing) community is for the task. “It’s crazy how the group has experience in most of the core service spots on Sunday. We have someone who works with kids’ ministry, a couple that works with guest services, a prayer team and one who helps with office tasks.”



Learn More About  
Awaken  
[awakenthechurch.org](http://awakenthechurch.org)

One thing missing was a worship leader. Several conversations led to a husband and wife prayerfully filling that need.

The VanDenTops have marveled at the enthusiasm and willingness of people to bring this new church to life in their small community.

“We have had positive reactions from the town, church leaders and several business people,” said Dawn. “We have had several people who either don’t attend The Ransom or don’t attend a church at all tell us that as soon as we get things started, they want to be a part of it.”

The Northwest District (where The Ransom resides) and the Iowa/Minnesota District are enthusiastic about what is happening in Rock Rapids and are eager to partner together.

“We are really excited that The Ransom Church is reaching across district boundaries to launch a campus in Rock Rapids, Iowa,” said Tim Purcell, Iowa/Minnesota district superintendent. “We look forward to partnering with them in this kingdom endeavor any way we can. May this be the beginning of a new movement of God in Northwest



A simple, yet courageous, “yes” to God was the beginning.



Iowa and the first of many partnerships that cross district lines!”

All of this change doesn’t come without a cost, but the VanDenTops see God working through it all. “The feelings of inadequacy keep popping into my head,” said Dawn. “I have a hard time grasping God wanting me to lead this group and this church. I keep reading and listening to a podcast on Esther. It’s a constant reminder that God has a plan and purpose for each and every one of us. No matter who we are, where we came from or what we are currently doing. He wants to use us for his beautiful plan.”

The VanDenTops’ vision for multiplication has already spread. Darwin and Wanda Van Otterloo, sheep farmers in a town near Rock Rapids, had been sensing God pushing them out of their comfort zone. When they heard about the Rock Rapids plant, they not only joined, but wondered if God might be calling them to someday plant a church out of the new congregation. Darwin remembers waking one day after a season of

discontent and frustration and sensing God telling him to go change lives. He finally surrendered to the Lord and is now preparing to plant a church through Awaken too.

God is moving. People who never imagined themselves planting a church are seeing God answer prayers. A simple, yet courageous, “yes” to God was the beginning. 🌱



**MEGAN KOCH & PHIL WISEMAN**

pastor at Table Church, a new church plant in Des Moines, Iowa. Table Church is one of the first plants to form out of the Awaken network.

Learn More About Table Church  
tablechurchdsm.org





Photo by Karena DeMerchant / WHI ETC Beach Day Volunteer

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# Following Jesus into *deep Water*

BY RON MCCLUNG

**M**any churches would be shocked and perhaps offended to hear their lead pastor say,

**“THIS PLACE IS  
FOR SCUMBAGS.”**

What the Deep Water Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia, has found is that the gospel not only changes the hearts of the “scumbags,” but also changes the hearts of those who are judgmental of those whose lives are less than perfectly put together.

AJ Thomas, founding pastor of Deep Water in 2007, has led the church since then except for a two-year stint in the United States. The congregation first met in an urban mall movie theater. In the fall of 2015, Deep Water bought a 100-year-old church building on North Street, in the heart of Halifax’s artistic community. With multiple services in a sanctuary that seats 200, Deep Water has grown to a congregation that averages 550 – 600 in worship attendance. On Easter Sunday, 772 people had attended. This makes it one of the larger evangelical churches in Halifax, whose population of 400,000 makes it the largest city in Atlantic Canada.

When asked about the church’s dramatic upswing in attendance, Thomas credited Alpha, a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Alpha includes food, a talk (live or by video) and discussion.

**It’s about  
more than  
conversion;  
it’s also about  
discipleship.**





He also credited Celebrate Recovery (CR) for putting them in touch with people who have hurts, habits and hang-ups. He cited a partnership with the Halifax Community Chaplaincy Society, which has referred a number of persons recently released from incarceration to Deep Water's CR program. These are people endeavoring to reintegrate into society, many of whom are sex offenders who want to change.

Thomas said he was proud of the Deep Water board who deliberated only a few seconds when opportunities for such a partnership arose. They made sure their Child Protection Policy and safety measures were in place, but through this partnership and CR, they have seen many lives transformed.

One formerly-incarcerated man has been "made new" and is serving as a worship service sound technician. In the same media booth is a policeman who serves as a projectionist. Not only do the men work together, but they have developed a friendship. "It has been amazing to watch the transformation. It was a joy to watch the formerly-incarcerated man running around, handing out Christmas cards to people who have been meaningful to his spiritual growth," said Thomas.

The policeman says it is easy to pray for "the guys," his term for those who are overcoming their backgrounds, because he sees their pictures on the wall of the squad room. It reminds him, "Oh, yeah, these are my friends at church."

Misfortune has also extended the church's influence. A young man, active on the worship team, got sick at church, was rushed to the hospital and died of a brain aneurism. He left a 27-year-old widow and a young daughter. This tragedy brought the church together, serving the widow and her family. More than 800 people attended the funeral, and some later began attending the church. Three other untimely deaths in the young congregation, including a

suicide and a cancer victim, have had similar results. It's because the church has learned to work with people who are profoundly broken.

Asked about the name, "Deep Water," Thomas said it's appropriate for Halifax, which is a major port city. It is also a way to emphasize that believers must follow Jesus into "deep water." It's about more than conversion; it's also about discipleship. He assures those who attend that it's okay to be a mess, to not

## The ripples from Deep Water's impact continue to expand.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT  
DEEP WATER CHURCH.**  
[www.deepwaterchurch.com](http://www.deepwaterchurch.com)



have it all figured out. Consequently, those who come from non-church backgrounds tend to feel comfortable there. The church also attracts those who have been "burned by other churches" and have fallen away.

With the expanding church, the staff has enlarged to eight persons, including the site pastor for a new location across the harbor in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, where Deep Water plans to begin services in the fall of 2019. So far, 100 people have signed up to be part of the new congregation, including some who were on the original launch team when Deep Water began 12 years ago.

In the spring of 2019, Deep Water adopted Metro Wesleyan Church, a struggling congregation in another part of Halifax. Ultimately, plans call for Deep Water to expand back into the community from which Metro came, with a new location and ministry.

Deep Water's culture of acceptance has brought healing to lives in Halifax. The ripples from Deep Water's impact continue to expand. 🌊





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# the Math of Rabbits & Rhinos

ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL SWARTZ

*Las matemáticas de  
conejos y rinocerontes*

Christ followers are commanded by the Great Commission to go into the world and make disciples of all the nations. What does the Great Commission have to do with rabbits and rhinos? Stay with me and you'll learn. ▶

La Gran Comisión ordena a los seguidores de Cristo que vayan por todo el mundo y hagan discípulos de todas las naciones. ¿Qué tiene que ver la Gran Comisión con conejos y rinocerontes? Sigue leyendo y lo entenderás. ▶





**In most instances, the Great Commission is interpreted as a directive for the individual. One-to-one discipleship is important. However, just as all Christ followers are expected to replicate, so is the church. A disciple that doesn't reproduce is simply not a biblical disciple. A church that is failing to reproduce is simply existing until it dies.**

All churches need to reproduce just as all disciples are expected to reproduce. Yet many churches do not multiply because they are blinded by a societal standard that says you must be a certain size before you

can multiply. Just as reproduction among organisms is not dependent on how other organisms reproduce (their size), nor should the decision for a church to reproduce be based on the standards of other churches (their size).

**Multiplication has to happen at every size of church. No exceptions.** ✕

Now for the reference to rabbits and rhinos. Let's compare the development and reproduction cycles of two mammals: rabbits and white rhinos. From conception to birth, the rabbit has a development period of 31 days with up to 14 rabbits being

born per litter. And a rabbit can become pregnant every month. This means over the course of seven years, one rabbit could have as many as 95 billion rabbits in its genealogy line.

On the other hand, when you consider the reproduction cycle of the white rhino, what you find is a much slower process. The white rhino has a conception-to-birth period of 16 – 18 months. Furthermore, they have single births (twins if they are lucky). This means it takes white rhinos much longer to develop and reproduce than rabbits. It does not mean the white rhino is better because more time is invested or the young are larger. The white rhino is simply different.

Similarly, the church plant that stems from a larger parent church will likely start off with enough people to have amazing worship, systems and frameworks in

**Generalmente la Gran Comisión se interpreta como un mandato para el individuo. El discipulado uno a uno es importante; sin embargo, así como se espera que todo seguidor de Cristo se reproduzca, también se lo espera de la iglesia. Un discípulo que no se reproduce simplemente no es un discípulo bíblico. Una iglesia que no se reproduce está existiendo, nada más, hasta que muera.**

Toda iglesia tiene que reproducirse así como todo discípulo. Sin embargo muchas iglesias no se multiplican porque son condicionadas por un estándar de la

sociedad que dice que una iglesia tiene que llegar a ser de cierto tamaño antes de que pueda multiplicarse. Pero así como la reproducción entre organismos no depende de cómo se reproducen otros organismos (su tamaño), la decisión de que una iglesia se reproduzca no debe basarse en los estándares de otras iglesias (su tamaño).

**La multiplicación, sin excepción, tiene que suceder en cada tamaño de la iglesia.** ✕

Ahora en cuanto a los conejos y los rinocerontes: comparemos los ciclos de desarrollo y reproducción de estos dos mamíferos: el conejo y el rinoceronte blanco. Desde su concepción hasta su

nacimiento, el conejo tiene una gestación de 31 días. Una coneja puede concebir cada mes y puede tener hasta 14 conejitos por camada. Esto quiere decir que en el transcurso de siete años, una sola coneja podría tener hasta 95 billones de conejos en su línea genealógica.

Por otro lado, al considerar el ciclo reproductivo del rinoceronte blanco, uno descubre que la gestación es de 16 a 18 meses. Además los rinocerontes blancos dan a luz a una sola cría (o a veces a gemelos si tienen suerte). Esto quiere decir que cuesta mucho más tiempo para el desarrollo y reproducción de los rinocerontes blancos que para los conejos. No podemos decir que el rinoceronte blanco es mejor porque invierte más tiempo o porque sus crías son más grandes. No, el rinoceronte blanco simplemente es diferente.

De manera similar, la iglesia hija plantada por una iglesia grande ✕



place to support itself. Carrying over the resources and leadership training from the parent church gives the plant a head start in many areas. However, the development and reproduction timeline to plant the new church is going to be long, like that of the white rhino. A large church is not planted overnight.

Multiplication from a smaller body will most likely look different. The standards for location, systems and size of the initial plant are less structured. These plants can exist in homes, local coffee shops or even community parks because fewer resources and a smaller infrastructure are required. Thus, the development and reproduction timeline is shorter and the rate of reproduction can more closely resemble that of the rabbit.

Both large and small mammals are important. Both are meant to influence

the world. Both are meant to reproduce themselves. But one doesn't expect a rabbit to birth a rhino or vice versa.

Likewise, all churches are important. All churches are meant to influence the world. All are meant to reproduce themselves according to what they have available. In the parable of the talents, the man gives to his servants according to their ability. Each is to invest and multiply based on what they have.

Multiplication does not have to look the same; it's about honoring God with what he has given you and multiplying based on your ability. The small house church does not need to produce a mega church to be effective, but the house church does need to multiply. The story of the talents teaches disciples about the stewardship of God's heart for multiplication.

## Here's the truth: if we don't multiply, we will die.

From the very first disciples, Jesus taught multiplication of the body. His challenge was to, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (NASB).

Your church body was created for multiplication. It doesn't matter what your church looks like. It doesn't matter the gifts, resources and talents present in your body. Release your people. Use what God has given you and go into the world and make disciples of all the nations.

The Wesleyan Movement was started with a horse, a Bible and a whole lot of faith. It's time for another movement to break forth. Why not us and why not now? 🐾

### DWIGHT NASH

is president of 1000 Churches.  
He served as lead pastor of  
Sent Church in Plano, Texas,  
for the last eight years.



probablemente se iniciará con suficientes personas para tener un grupo de alabanza maravillosa, sistemas e infraestructura para sostenerse. Los recursos y entrenamientos de líderes que recibe de parte de la iglesia madre le da a la iglesia hija una ventaja en muchas áreas. Sin embargo, la línea del tiempo para el desarrollo y reproducción de la iglesia nueva va a ser larga, así como la del rinoceronte. Una iglesia grande no se establece de la noche a la mañana.

La multiplicación que surge de un cuerpo más pequeño probablemente tendrá otro perfil. Los estándares de sitio, sistemas y tamaño del lugar son menos estructurados. Estas iglesias nuevas pueden existir en casas, cafés o aún en parques del vecindario porque se requieren menos recursos y una infraestructura más pequeña. Por esto, la línea del tiempo de desarrollo y reproducción es más corta y el índice de reproducción puede parecer más al de un conejo.

Tanto los mamíferos grandes como los pequeños son importantes. Los dos deben impactar al mundo. Los dos deben reproducirse. Pero uno no espera que un conejo dé a luz a un rinoceronte o viceversa.

De la misma manera, todas las iglesias son importantes. Todas son destinadas a influenciar al mundo. Todas deben reproducirse según lo que tienen disponible. En la parábola de los talentos, el hombre les da a sus siervos según su habilidad. Cada uno debe invertir y multiplicar en base a lo que tiene.

La multiplicación no tiene que tener la misma apariencia; es asunto de honrar a Dios con lo que Él le ha dado y multiplicarse según su habilidad. La iglesia pequeña en casa no necesita producir una mega iglesia para ser eficaz, pero esta iglesia en casa sí tiene que multiplicarse. La historia de los talentos enseña a los seguidores de Cristo acerca de la mayordomía del corazón de Dios en cuanto a la multiplicación.

## La verdad es esta: si no nos multiplicamos, moriremos.



Desde la llamada de sus primeros discípulos, Jesús enseñaba la multiplicación del cuerpo. Su desafío fue, "Vengan en pos de mí, y yo los haré pescadores de hombres".

Tu iglesia fue creada para multiplicarse. No importa su apariencia. No importa los dones, recurso y talentos presentes entre tu congregación. Suelta a tu gente. Usen lo que Dios les ha dado. Vayan al mundo y hagan discípulos de todas las naciones.

El movimiento wesleyano comenzó con un caballo, una Biblia y mucha fe. Es el momento de desatar otro movimiento. ¿Por qué no con nosotros y por qué no ahora? 🐾





INTERNATIONAL WESLEYAN YOUTH CONVENTION

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## OKWU ANNOUNCES PRESIDENT-ELECT DR. JIM DUNN

Dr. Jim Dunn has been named the sixth president of Oklahoma Wesleyan University.



FULL STORY  
[wes.life/dunn-okwu](http://wes.life/dunn-okwu)



## LILLY ENDOWMENT AWARDS A MILLION-DOLLAR GRANT FOR TWC PASTORS

The grant will fund the Thrive Financial Initiative, helping pastors who face financial challenges.



FULL STORY  
[wes.life/lilly-grant](http://wes.life/lilly-grant)

# News



GLOBAL



GENERAL



COLLEGE



Dirt Roads Network holds first rural church planting boot camp



FULL STORY  
[wes.life/dirt-roads](http://wes.life/dirt-roads)



Global Partners missionaries reflect on Haiti evacuation



FULL STORY  
[wes.life/haiti-missionaries](http://wes.life/haiti-missionaries)



## CENTRAL NEW YORK AND WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA TALK MERGER

The new district will include 76 churches and a worship attendance of nearly 10,000.



FULL STORY  
[wes.life/merger](http://wes.life/merger)



## HEPHZIBAH62:4 TRANSITIONS TO NORTH AMERICAN WESLEYAN CHURCH MINISTRY

Hephzibah62:4 continues to honor its mission to vulnerable children and families, led by newly-elected executive director Jodi Lewis.



FULL STORY  
[wes.life/hephzibah-transition](http://wes.life/hephzibah-transition)



Jersey City First celebrates 100 years of ministry



FULL STORY  
[wes.life/jersey-city](http://wes.life/jersey-city)



Wesley Seminary and Kingswood University sign articulation agreement



FULL STORY  
[wes.life/agreement](http://wes.life/agreement)



What's a church? Expanding discipleship and multiplication movements require a clear theology.



FULL STORY  
[wes.life/church](http://wes.life/church)



# Events

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

## 2019

9  
JUN



### CHURCH MULTIPLICATION SUNDAY

*Pentecost Sunday: Church planting offering*

[wesleyan.org/cms](https://wesleyan.org/cms)

24–26  
JUN

### AMPLIFY DISCIPLESHIP • *Wesleyan shoulder event*

[www.wesleyan.org/event/amplify-discipleship](https://www.wesleyan.org/event/amplify-discipleship)

1–31  
OCT

### PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH • *Celebrate our pastors*

[wesleyan.org/pam2019](https://wesleyan.org/pam2019)

5–7  
NOV

### MOSAIX CONFERENCE • *Multiethnic church pioneers and practitioners*

[mosaix2019.com](https://mosaix2019.com)

28–31  
DEC



### FOLLOW

*International Wesleyan Youth Convention*

[wesleyan.org/follow-2019](https://wesleyan.org/follow-2019)

## 2020

31–3  
MAY-JUN



### GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020

*Unleashed so all can be made new*

[wesleyan.org/gc20](https://wesleyan.org/gc20)

# Remembered

**REV. DOUGLAS BACHELLER (85)**

died October 19. He pastored in Washington.

**DR. ROBERT BENNINGER (97)** died March 16. He served as a missionary in Sierra Leone with Wesleyan World Missions (now Global Partners).

**REV. JOSEPH N. BLAZIER II (80)** died March 7. He pastored in Indiana and Florida.

**REV. STEPHEN BOARDMAN (66)** died November 8. He pastored in Indiana.

**PASTOR STEVEN BRANDENBURG (45)** died March 20. He was a ministerial student in the Tri-State District, preparing to plant a church in Springdale, Arkansas, at the time of his death.

**LOIS CURTISS (75)** died January 5. She served as a missionary with Wesleyan World Missions in Sierra Leone.

**DONNA MAE R. DEKKER (85)** died November 26. She served in Sierra Leone as a missionary.

**DR. MALCOLM ELLIS (89)**

died January 12. He served as a Bible professor at various Wesleyan colleges and universities, served as a missionary to Sierra Leone and pastored in South Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Indiana and Kansas.



**AYLO LIPPE (86)** died January 18. She served as a missionary with Wesleyan World Missions from 1963 – 1985 in Puerto Rico.

**REV. CHARLES MCCALLUM**

**(95)** died January 31. He pastored in Oklahoma, New York and Vermont and served as a missionary in South Africa. He also taught at Oklahoma Wesleyan University and on the mission field.



**DR. ROBERT "BOB"**

**MCINTYRE (96)** died March 20. He served as General Superintendent from 1973 – 1988. He served as a pastor, general secretary of Wesleyan Youth and general editor of *The Wesleyan Advocate*. See pg. 31.



**DR. DENNIS "ART" O'DELL (77)** died March 15. He served as a pastor in Michigan and Wisconsin and also served with Global Partners.

**DR. THOMAS E. PHILLIPPE**

**(89)** died December 22. He served as general secretary of Extension and Evangelism for The Wesleyan Church. He also served as a pastor, general evangelist and philanthropist.



**REV. JIMMY ROBBINS (81)** died November 3. He pastored in Indiana.

**REV. TIMOTHY "TIM" SATTERFIELD (63)** died November 28. He pastored in North Carolina.

**DR. MELVIN "MEL" SHOEMAKER DIED DECEMBER 17.** He pastored in Indiana, New York and Oklahoma.

**REV. JAMES SMITH (89)** died February 2. He pastored in North Carolina.

**REV. GORDON STRONG (83)** died January 16. He pastored in New York and also served as a missionary in the Philippines and Malaysia.

**PASTOR AARON TAYLOR (57)** died March 22. He pastored Taylorsville Wesleyan Church in Taylorsville, North Carolina.

**REV. WILBERT VANDERVORT (83)** died March 25. He pastored in Indiana. 🐦

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



# Remembering

## Robert McIntyre

### Esteemed former General Superintendent passes away

**R**obert W. McIntyre, General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church from 1973 to 1988, passed away March 20, 2019, at the age of 96.

He was born June 20, 1922, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and moved to South Dakota in 1935. He recalled in a book he wrote, *A Picture of Robert W. McIntyre: What My Kids Asked Me to Tell Them*, that he attended his first revival service that year at a Wesleyan Methodist Church. “It was then, when I was 13, that God spoke to my heart about surrendering my life to him. I didn’t respond immediately, especially weighing all the issues and making up my mind that if I did respond, it was going to be for life.” Soon afterward he felt a growing sense of a call to the Christian ministry.

Upon graduating from high school in Redfield, South Dakota, he enrolled at Miltonvale Wesleyan College, graduating in 1943. He continued his education at Marion College, Marion, Indiana, graduating in 1944, and marrying Edith Jones that same year.

He began his pastoral ministry in the Ohio Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, serving churches in Marengo, Columbus and Coshocton, Ohio. Edith became ill and passed away in Coshocton, at the age of 30, leaving Robert with four children, the youngest only seven weeks old. In November 1953, he married Elizabeth Norman, and their marriage produced a fifth child.

He served as an assistant in the Youth Department at the World Headquarters of The Wesleyan Methodist Church for a short time before being elected as general secretary of Wesleyan Youth in 1955, serving until 1968. At the merging General Conference in 1968, he was elected editor of *The Wesleyan Advocate*, where he served until his election as a General Superintendent in 1973, succeeding Dr. B. H. Phaup, who retired.



**During his tenure as General Superintendent, in addition to duties in North America, he made official visits to more than 15 countries. He also ordained nearly 300 men and women.**

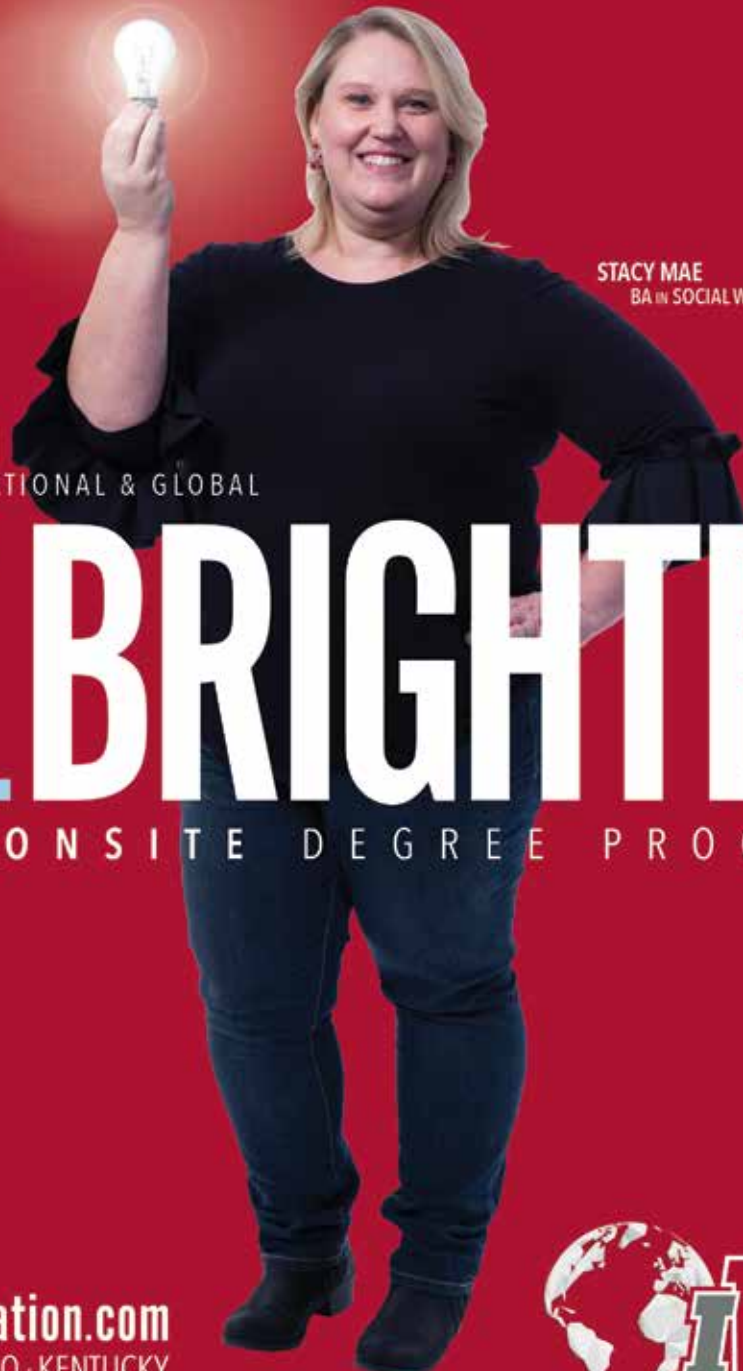
After his career at The Wesleyan Church World Headquarters, he worked as special assistant to the president of Indiana Wesleyan University. Later he accepted a portfolio of senior adults ministry for the denomination’s Department of Local Church Education.

He served as president of the National Association of Evangelicals from 1984 to 1986 and was on the national advisory council of the American Bible Society from 1984 to 1988. At various times, he served on the boards of trustees of Marion College, Houghton College and Asbury Theological Seminary. He was awarded an honorary doctorate by four colleges.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Harriet Elizabeth Norman McIntyre, four children, 11 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren. 🌊



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