





organizations, surely deserves this recognition.

She does not, however, give the pretense that deferential treatment is expected. Mullen is a consistent example of warmth, and her peers describe her as humble, considerate and gracious.

A 1976 Houghton grad, Mullen recounted that former professor Dr. Kay Lindley saw her potential as a leader during her sophomore year and asked her to run some review sessions for students in Lindley's western civilization class.

"Most of my early experiences in leadership roles were very task oriented — I think I got them because I was organized, but I was also deeply shy," said Mullen. "It was Dr. Lindley who encouraged me to move out of my 'comfort zone.' She was the one who said, 'Shirley, you really need to go to grad school — you really should pursue this." It was also Lindley who, years later, told Mullen that she should consider being a college president.

"She was always looking out ahead at what God might do with me. At many colleges, I might simply have disappeared into the woodwork," said Mullen. "But at Houghton, as a Wesleyan college, there were professors who were on the lookout for both women and men with potential."



"The gift of The Wesleyan Church is that it frames a theology that makes room for both men's and women's leadership and giftedness and calling."

That Houghton has been shaped as an institution of higher education in the Wesleyan tradition is part of what Mullen values most about the college and is what brought her back to serve there.

"The gift of The Wesleyan Church is that it frames a theology that makes room for both men's and women's leadership and giftedness and calling," said Mullen. "It never occurred to me that women were not supposed to be leaders because I had role models like Dr. Lindley, "Doc Jo" (Josephine Rickard, professor of English) and Dr. Frieda Gillette (professor of history and chair of that department for many years)."

After graduating from Houghton, Mullen's academic pursuits eventually led her to a position teaching history at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California. As a young faculty member, she discovered she had a knack for chairing meetings. "The people around me said, 'Oh, Shirley, you chair meetings really well — let's let you chair committees and task forces too!"

Mullen believes that leadership isn't about "being a leader" as much as it is about being faithful at each stage of the journey and responding to the needs of the community. "At Westmont," she said, "it was very clear that what the community needed was for me to be an academic administrator, more than it needed me to teach history. That was what the mission needed me to do, so I did it.

"I am, at the core, a teacher," she said. "I went into college teaching because I enjoy students of this age and believe that this is the stage when they are making the fundamental decisions that will shape the trajectory of their lives. I am

an administrator only so I can help institutions better serve these students and the faculty and staff who are key to their transformation."

Though Mullen misses the regular interaction with students that she had while teaching, she still makes time in her schedule to teach occasionally and to meet with and mentor students. Students, in turn, feel seen and heard by Mullen.

"As a mentee of Dr. Mullen, she made me feel that my input was as valuable as hers," said Olivia Flint, a recent Houghton graduate. "President Mullen always made me feel that she was open to learning from me as well."

No matter her role, Mullen's motivation has always been grounded in a willingness to do whatever it takes to make the institution better for the sake of the students. "I want them to know their value," she said.

And just as Dr. Lindley did for her all those years ago, Mullen wants students "to see their potential. I want them to know that importance of becoming the unique individual that God has made them to be."



SHELLEY NOYES is the marketing and communications storyteller at Houghton College.

Read the Christianity Today article. wes.life/50-women-to-know

LEARN MORE Houghton College houghton.edu



Overtime

very four years the General Conference of The Wesleyan Church meets, and 2020 was to be the year.

The coronavirus pandemic altered life and General Conference too. The quadrennial event was postponed until 2021. With postponement came unexpected, extended terms for the General Board and Executive Cabinet — an overtime in service, if you will. In the sports world, that's extra minutes or innings. We're staying with the game plan (mission, vision, strategic focus and values), counting on those who have been contributing all along. We're also making some adjustments and leaning into a sense of urgency to grasp fresh opportunities.

Overtime began with the TOGETHER global prayer meeting led by a "Kingdom Force" of anointed prayer warriors. On Pentecost Sunday (May 31), Wesleyans around the globe prayed to be filled and led by the Holy Spirit that we might be empowered witnesses, closing the Gospel Gap and reaching our Here, Near and Far — no matter how Hard. We asked God to make us a Kingdom Force — multigenerational, multiethnic and multieconomic, women and men,

lay and clergy, everywhere to everywhere. That prayer emphasis permeated the summer.

Wesleyan churches of all sizes and contexts are investing energy into "regathering" and responding to the racism and violence that grips North America with international ripples. In unprecedented ways, technology is being harnessed for our mission. Disciple-making is extending further beyond the church walls into homes and workplaces and community engagement. A spirit of generosity in the midst of adversity and a commitment to be "people of peace with prophetic presence" in settings of conflict are evident.

Struggles are real. Opportunities abound for love and kingdom impact.

What a time for every person to "be the church," transforming lives, churches and communities through the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ.



DR. WAYNE SCHMIDTGeneral Superintendent
The Wesleyan Church



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

Vol. 14, No. 2

wesleyan life

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DIGITAL MAGAZINE AT WESLEYAN.LIFE

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

Wesleyan Life is published three times annually, free to The Wesleyan Church schools and churches. Home delivery is available for a minimum donation of \$12 (U.S. dollars); \$15 (USD for Canadian); and \$25 USD for all other international addresses.

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Published by Wesleyan Publishing House

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

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"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ... "

Ephesians 4:11-12







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ORDINARY BELIEVERS BECOMING

Multipliers

aul Anthes wanted to be a successful businessperson first and a Christ-follower second. He was worried that if he surrendered to God fully, he wouldn't be successful in the marketplace, so he kept marketplace success first.

"It was scary for me to give that up," Anthes said. "But I now understand that the order of those two things is absolutely essential."*

An entrepreneur, Anthes was just learning how to really integrate his faith and work. He took a class at his church that helped him start to think of himself differently. The teachers had attendees repeat the phrase, "I am a minister," over and over.

"I'll be honest, it felt weird for me as a lay person to say that," said Anthes. "But then I began to see the truth in that statement. I don't get a paycheck from a church, but I'm in full-time Christian service, because I'm influencing the world around me for Christ full time. It's not a part-time Sunday thing for me anymore."

Anthes is an example of millions of Christians who are awakening to their sense of calling. Pastors and missionaries are surely called to something special and unique. But that doesn't mean those in other walks of life, often called "lay persons," are not also called.

Yaremi Alicea, global marketing director for a research company, recalls a time when she felt that call on her heart when a woman who didn't know her prayed over her:



the woman proceeded to pray about, Alicea experienced a special and unique, personal calling. "God really blessed me and helped reconfirm my calling and anointed me for the career he was tailoring for me."

In what seems like a lifetime ago for him at a Wesleyan youth conference in Urbana, Illinois, Phillip Farrell, scientist for the Canadian Department of National Defence, had a similar experience. "At the conference, they presented the opportunity for living a holy life and being sanctified," Farrell said. "I made a commitment to holy living, which I took very seriously. At that time, I surrendered everything to the Lord, and he gave me his heart for people in the marketplace."

We can each examine the circle of influence we have that others do not, no matter how small. We can each ask what God is calling us to in the same way he called those named above.





Being real about faith

Estherlita Griffiths is an information technology and project management consultant based in Calgary, Canada. Some Christians find it difficult to know how to share their faith, but for her it has become a simple matter of transparency. "I am merely sharing what is important to me, what is a part of me and essentially who I am." Griffiths wondered aloud how strange it would be "if someone had worked with me for years, only to find out that my faith had been a huge part of my life upon attending my funeral."

A calm confidence can come from believing God has placed you where you are for a reason. Rochelle Jenkins, a nurse in Indianapolis, Indiana, pointed out: "Trust the people God has placed around you. Pray you are given eyes to understand their lives. The first and easiest way to get started is to just interact. It really starts with 'Hey, what's going on in your life?" Jenkins built relationships in a way that birthed a new microchurch with no startup funds or much fanfare but with deep relational connections between people in the medical professions and their family members.

"I am actually paid for my work [in the hospital] in a way that facilitates ministry, even though the church doesn't pay me," said Jenkins. "So, it's a way to plant a church in a marketplace-connected setting, in a neighborhood and authentically cultivate community. I suppose the only cost for our church is baking some cookies for







Multiplying the kingdom of God
Carrie Whitcher began to think of herself as a "n

Carrie Whitcher began to think of herself as a "multiplier" in her role as a healthcare insurance executive in western New York. "In my capacity, I can equip Christians to influence their workplace and integrate their faith by making disciples and unleashing the kingdom of God, wherever they are."

For those who do have a leadership position in the workplace, this impact can be seen as an extension of their Christian leadership values. Julia Pyle, chief operating officer for a hospital in Kansas, puts a special emphasis on how leaders in the marketplace can empower those around them. "As leaders in the marketplace, we can be hero-makers. That isn't just good business; it's multiplying the kingdom of God." But, of course, it's not just those who think of themselves as leaders or who have hundreds of people reporting to them like Pyle. Whitcher makes it clear such influence is not just for elite Christians or those that have some special training, degree or status: "Any Christian can do this in whatever career or areas of influence they are led into. I have no doubt that God is always at work where we work, so we serve the higher interest of the kingdom while leading with excellence in the marketplace."

*The quotes in this article are taken from Marketplace Multipliers: Stories of Faith and Influence in the Workplace, coming in 2021 from Wesleyan Publishing House.

So, on what street has God put you? What apartment building? To what job do you go? With what family members and children has God blessed you? Over what group do you have influence? What career have you chosen?

What would it look like for you to multiply the kingdom in those places more intentionally? You don't have be overwhelmed with something too big — just start small. How could you be a multiplier in the coming year where



GO INTO ALL THE WORLD

Mark 16:15 (NIV)



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ADIFFERENT CHURCH

"From his church planting experience, Gudino knows well the importance of bringing the church to people."





f you're searching La Roca Church online, you'll find it under una iglesia diferente — a different church. Rev. Nestor Gudino and his wife, Keila, planted La Roca in 2011 to bring the church to people in a simple, relevant way. Today, La Roca's congregation is comprised of people from around 15 different nations worshipping together in one of the church's two North Carolina campuses.

"We want people to feel as a family and to help them little by little to know their Savior," said Gudino.

Gudino serves as the Hispanic multiplication catalyst for the Church Multiplication Collective (CMC), an initiative of The Wesleyan Church (TWC) designed to equip church planters with needed resources. By 2021, Gudino hopes his work collecting, analyzing and contextualizing existing church planting resources will produce a training program that can be used in many different districts.

From his church planting experience, Gudino knows well the importance of bringing the church to people. He became a Christ-follower after moving to the United States from Argentina, when some friends invited him to church. After giving his life to Christ, he asked God to use him.

"I remember seeing my pastor, Jose Miñoso, as he served with passion and gave himself completely to his congregation," said Gudino. "So, I 'followed' my pastor and accompanied him wherever he went." Gudino then attended FLAMA, TWC's non-traditional ministry training program specifically designed for Hispanic leaders.



i está buscando La Roca Church en línea, la encontrará en una iglesia diferente. El reverendo Néstor Gudino y su esposa, Keila, plantaron La Roca en el 2011 para llevar la iglesia a las personas de una manera simple y relevante. Hoy, la congregación de La Roca está compuesta por personas de alrededor de 15 naciones diferentes que adoran juntas en unos de los dos campus de la iglesia en Carolina del Norte.

"Queremos que las personas se sientan en familia, y ayudarles poco a poco a conocer a su Salvador," dijo Gudino.

Gudino sirve como catalizador de multiplicación Hispana para Church Multiplication Collective (CMC), una iniciativa de La Iglesia Wesleyana (TWC por sus siglas en inglés), diseñada para equipar plantadores de iglesias con los recursos necesarios. Para el año 2021, Gudino espera que su trabajo colectando, analizando y contextualizando los recursos existentes de plantación de iglesias produzca un programa de capacitación que se pueda utilizar en muchos distritos diferentes.

Por su experiencia en la plantación de iglesias, Gudino sabe bien la importancia de acercar la iglesia a las personas. Él se convirtió en un seguidor de Cristo después de mudarse a los Estados Unidos desde Argentina, cuando unos amigos lo invitaron a la iglesia. Después de entregar su vida a Cristo, él le pidió a Dios que lo usara.

"Recuerdo haber visto a mi pastor, José Miñoso, mientras servía con pasión y se entregaba completamente a su congregación," dijo Gudino. "Así que, 'seguí' a mi pastor y lo acompañé a donde fuera." Luego, Gudino asistió a FLAMA, un programa alternativo de capacitación ministerial de la iglesia Wesleyana diseñado específicamente para líderes hispanos.

Su pensamiento es "hemos levantado esta nueva generación de creventes. Vamos a capacitarlos." Y esa ha sido la clave de su éxito.

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN Colectivo de Multiplicación delglesias



According to Lumston, "His [Gudino's] wife will be ordained this year, and they work together. It's not uncommon for them to do a couple of services, then go over and do another campus ... They're always looking and saying, 'where is there a group of people that need the gospel and aren't being reached?"

Gudino is working on a discipleship system to help develop mature disciples for Christ at each La Roca campus. "In our church," he said, "we want to invest ... our resources, our money, in people — not just in places or in things but in people. They're going to make an impact in

more people. They have the gifts, and they want to learn more and practice more of those gifts."

A tireless love for others and a desire to try new things shows up in Gudino's work with La Roca and CMC. La Roca's new campus, "The Living Room," is focused on reaching second- and third-generation Hispanics.

"We have noticed that there comes a point where second-generation Hispanics move away from the Hispanic church because it is no longer relevant to their lives," said Gudino. "I say we are being innovative, because I have heard of many American churches starting a campus in Spanish but never heard of a Hispanic church starting a campus in English."

In many ways, the Gudinos' work in church planting begins with felt needs. When planting La Roca's second campus in Greensboro, Gudino said, "We started with a small Bible study with families who lived there, until God gave us the opportunity to start having services ... God has brought hundreds of people with different needs and has given us the resources to meet them."

Their mindset is a great example of taking kingdom risks for kingdom growth.

"I think The Wesleyan Church could learn from the hands-on ... support that our North Carolina West District gives our Hispanic ministry," said Miñoso. "And they can also learn from our Hispanic ministry about the importance of unity that is needed to be able to reach the least of the least of the Hispanic community."

Now, working with the CMC, Gudino is addressing another felt need: providing training materials to the Hispanic population of TWC. Though there are many church planting resources, they need contextualized to the culture of the people that will use them.

"My main advice would be to start now and don't wait until you have everything solved and all the answers to start multiplying," Gudino said. "I believe that the church can learn a lot from us Hispanics, that with very few resources we have been able to plant churches that flourish in the midst of difficulties and continue reaching thousands of souls."



ELIZABETH KING is a Ph.D. student studying linguistics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

LEARN MORE La Roca unaiglesiadiferente.com

El modelo de FLAMA de equipar a los ministros laicos para el trabajo ministerial ha sido fundamental para el crecimiento de la iglesia Hispana en el Distrito Oeste de Carolina del Norte. Según el reverendo Jerry Lumston, superintendente del distrito, su pensamiento es "hemos levantado esta nueva generación de creventes. Vamos a capacitarlos." Y esa ha sido la clave de su éxito.

De acuerdo con Lumston, "su esposa (de Gudino) será ordenada este año, y ellos trabajan juntos. No es inusual que hagan un par de servicios, y luego vayan y hagan otro campus. Siempre están buscando y preguntándose, ¿dónde hay otro grupo de personas que necesitan el evangelio y no están siendo alcanzadas?"

Gudino está trabajando en un sistema de discipulado para ayudar a desarrollar discípulos maduros para Cristo en cada campus de La Roca. "En nuestra iglesia," él dice, "queremos invertir ... nuestros recursos, nuestro dinero, en la gente - no sólo en lugares o cosas, pero en personas. Ellos van a tener un impacto en más personas. Ellos tienen dones, y ellos quieren aprender más y poner en práctica esos dones."

Un amor incansable por los demás y un deseo de intentar cosas nuevas se manifiesta en el trabajo de Gudino con La Roca y CMC. El nuevo campus de La Roca, "The Living Room," está enfocado en alcanzar a los Hispanos de segunda v tercera generación.

"Hemos notado que llega un momento en que los Hispanos de segunda generación se alejan de la iglesia Hispana porque ya no es relevante en sus vidas," dijo Gudino. "Digo que estamos siendo innovadores, porque he escuchado hablar de muchas iglesias americanas que comienzan un campus en español, pero nunca he oído de una iglesia Hispana que inicie un campus en inglés."

En muchos sentidos, el trabajo de los Gudinos en la plantación de iglesias comienza con necesidades que han sido observadas. Al plantar el segundo campus de La Roca en Greensboro, Gudino dijo, "comenzamos con un pequeño estudio bíblico con familias que vivían allí, hasta que Dios nos dio la oportunidad de comenzar a tener servicios ... Dios ha traído cientos de personas con diferentes necesidades y nos ha dado los recursos para proveerlas."

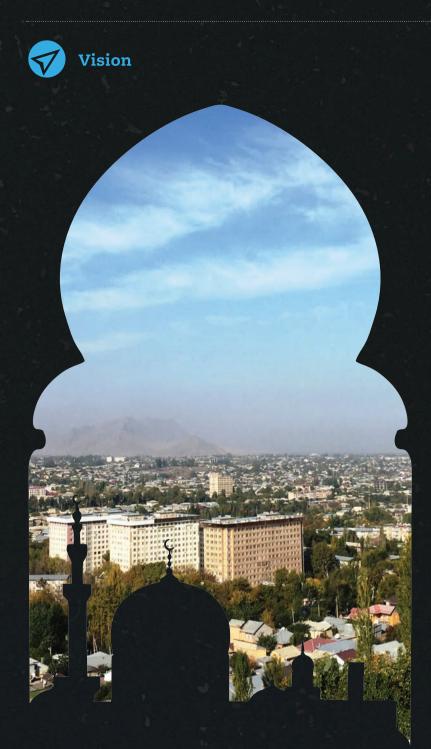
Su mentalidad es un gran ejemplo de tomar riesgos de fe para el crecimiento del Reino.

"Creo que La Iglesia Wesleyana podría aprender del apovo activo que nuestro Distrito Oeste de Carolina del Norte brinda a nuestro ministerio Hispano." Dijo Miñoso. "Y ellos también pueden aprender de nuestro ministerio Hispano sobre la importancia de la unidad que se necesita para llegar a lo más mínimo de la comunidad Hispana."

Ahora, trabajando con CMC, Gudino está abordando otra necesidad: proveer materiales de capacitación a la población Hispana de TWC. Aunque hay muchos recursos para plantar iglesias, necesitan contextualizarse a la cultura de las personas que los usarán.

"Mi mayor consejo sería comenzar ahora, V no esperar a tenerlo todo resuelto o tener todas las respuestas para empezar a multiplicarse," dijo Gudino. "Creo que la iglesia puede aprender mucho de nosotros los Hispanos, que con muy pocos recursos hemos podido plantar iglesias que florecen en medio de dificultades y continúan tocando miles de almas."





A CHURCH IN EVERY

MAHALLA

BY A GLOBAL PARTNERS MISSIONARY

The Nune people are unreached simply because there are not enough Christ-followers to communicate the gospel with their own people.

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aybe you have heard Americans say, "a Wesleyan church in every ZIP code," or Canadians say, "a Wesleyan church everywhere there's a Tim Hortons." Since 2008, the Global Partners' (GP) Nune team has been using the tagline, "a church in every Nune mahalla."

The Nune people are Muslims. They use the Arabic word "mahalla" to describe their neighborhoods within the city. One GP missionary has given the following reasons why a mahalla is a great level of society with which to share the gospel:

- Each mahalla is already set up as its own community government system.
- There is usually a mosque within walking distance of every home.
- Neighbors are invited to funerals and weddings — major events are celebrated in the home.
- Families often live in the same neighborhood their whole lives, passing houses to children. Therefore, people notice long-term changes in neighbors.

It was my first month living among the Nune people. Early one morning, I found myself eating fresh bread and hot soup with all the head

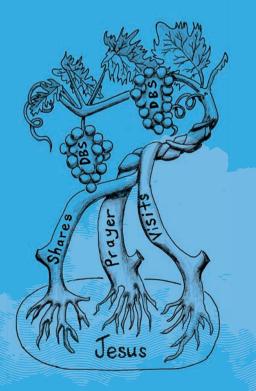


males of homes in the mahalla. The men knew each other well, and with that came friendly chatter. This was a "baby feast," which is what the Nune people call circumcision parties for their baby boys. Of course, the imam (priest) of the local mosque was there — and not just to perform the ceremony. At his speech's end, he took the opportunity to scold everyone who hadn't been attending prayer time at the mosque.

Residents in the mahalla know each others' business all too well. This is why we believe it is the ideal place in society to introduce the gospel.

The Nune people are unreached simply because there are not enough Christ-followers to communicate the gospel with their own people. As a whole, Nune people are very resistant to church and the Bible, but God has given our team a vision of seeing house churches within these mahallas.

This graphic of vines, drawn by another GP missionary on the Nune field, best illustrates our method of ministry. At the top of the clusters is "DBS" for the Discover Bible Study. This study is a simple method to see what the Bible says about "life's big questions." The aim is that these two Bible clusters help group participants grow from being curious readers to committed disciples, thus becoming a church.



Among the Nune people, we have seen a few Bible study groups start, but none have really taken off. For example, in 2018, one group of women gladly gathered to study a portion of the Bible with two GP team women. But after the first meeting, the husbands of these women refused to let them meet to read the Bible anymore.

The three stems on the graphic lead to the clusters of grapes. These three stems represent measurable goals as our team seeks to hold two Bible study groups in the coming year: 1,400 hours of prayer, 500 visits with people potentially open to the gospel and 500 spiritual shares (conversations) with anyone with whom we come in contact.

We pray for the local believers, the people in our own mahallas, people whom we have shared with and everyone else we can think of. However, sometimes we feel like a broken record because ministry is slow and hard in this Muslim country. But, overall, we believe in faith that God is taking our five loaves and two fish and multiplying them in ways we cannot yet see.



At the base of the graphic is Jesus since he is the source of all that we do and all that we hope for. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

Our lives and ministries must be founded in our relationship with the Lord in order to be effective in reaching the here, near and far places of the world. No matter how hard.

Imagine with us for a moment that, one by one, every Nune mahalla had a group of people reading and applying God's Word. Imagine how the Lord would use these people as salt and light in their communities. Imagine what kind of Kingdom Force this would be — not only in this one city or country, but in the entire Turkic world.

Imagine what role you could play in seeing a church in every Nune mahalla.





s a cough from early February worsened late into March, David Henry, a Sweetser Elementary School teacher in Marion, Indiana, checked himself into Marion General Hospital — only to be intubated a day later.

The previously diagnosed pneumonia was quickly understood to be COVID-19, leading David on a path of severe lung infections, kidney failure and dialysis, and near-death conditions.

His wife, Michele, who serves as pastor to families and children at Brookhaven Wesleyan Church, said, "We figured he'd be in 14 days or so and be out."

Within hours, health professionals grew increasingly wary of David's condition and issued a transfer request to Lutheran Hospital in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

But the transfer was initially denied by both hospitals, as David would not have survived it.

"My health deteriorated so quickly that within a day I was sedated and intubated, and I didn't wake up for 28 days," David said.

Recovering just enough for the transfer, David spent the next four weeks at Lutheran Hospital, where he could benefit from a wider range of medical resources. But optimism again waned, as doctors saw no possibility of recovery.

"The day following his transfer was the worst for me personally," Michele said. "It was also physically one of his worst days. The doctors called and told me there was really nothing that could be done for him.

He was not going to make it, and we had to prepare ourselves that he was not coming home.

"I had to have a conversation with my children that he very well might not make it. And we would have to believe that God is still with us and our faith is still strong, but that he's going to help us in a different way than what we thought. That was hard."

Michele and David have 11 children — biological, adopted and foster — and though he was largely unconscious, David sensed the extent of his sickness and pleaded

with God to prevent his adopted children from experiencing another loss.

"I remember telling the Lord, 'I feel like the best part of my life is coming right here soon. And I'd really like to be present for it. I want to see my kids marry, and I want to have grandkids," David said. "And I didn't want to let my kids have another loss, because as beautiful as adoption is it doesn't come without a

substantial loss for the child. They have lost and grieved a family, and I was asking the Lord not to make them grieve me."

Doctors urged Michele to consent to a do-not-resuscitate order, but she could not bring herself to do it. "Why would God go through all that trouble to transfer him, if he was just going to let him go?"

The community — church-goers, students past and present, families, Facebook acquaintances and strangers to the Henrys — began a fervent, month-long prayer marathon. Michele's Facebook updates garnered hundreds of responses and shares as the community and believers across the world prayed for David.

"The growth of support we were receiving was exponential. The whole school and community rallied: people from his corporation, former students, parents, people that just knew who he was, teachers and former teachers, our church family, they surrounded us," Michele said. "Every time we prayed for something specific, the very next day or even that night, it would happen. It was just incredible to see God begin to work."

One small miracle after another, David's health began to improve, baffling medical experts.

"The doctors couldn't deny he was getting better, but it didn't make sense to them as to why because there wasn't any good reason medically," Michele said.

On Easter morning, Michele and her kids were able to experience David's first moments of semi-consciousness, as doctors attempted to wake him up to allow him to try to breathe on his own. The fact that God began to wake up David on Easter, the day Christians celebrate Christ's resurrection, was not lost on her.

"We started to experience very minor improvements, but improvements nonetheless, which they said probably would never happen. So, every little thing was something I was able to cling to that God was working. God was doing something. It was just very, very, very slow," Michele said.







David recalls few moments from the early stages of his recovery, but he is certain of the interactions and conversations he had with God.

"I think there were three separate experiences for me: one my mind had, one my soul had and one my body had,"

David said. "There was a point where my spirit was very much present with the Lord. My soul was in this beautiful communion with God. And we had this amazing back and forth conversation and prayer.

"And I felt strongly impressed that when I woke, I was to declare, 'My name is David Henry, and I'm a child of the one true God."

In late April, David fully awoke with this declaration on his lips.

Met with a parade gathered outside the hospital as he was released, the Henrys were overwhelmed with the number of people who pled with God for David's health.

"People just came out of the woodwork. People that haven't prayed in a real long time. And God did that," Michele said. "So, if this was what it took for some people to wake up and realize that God is still active in our lives and he does care and he is God, then, yes, it was hard, but I would do it again."

The unity of Christ's body, revealed in the faithful prayers of hundreds and thousands, was what most astounded the Henrys.

"All of us, together, were on our knees, together, to the same God, together, and giving him praise, together," Michele said. She added that as much as they appreciate the dedicated work of the health professionals,

"Nobody could say that the doctors healed David. It was so evidently God who did that."







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s the pastors of Cloverport Wesleyan Church (CWC in Cloverport, Kentucky) and Kingswood Wesleyan Church (KWC in Harned, Kentucky) neared retirement, the churches' congregants faced uncertainty. Like many rural churches that are small in attendance numbers, the future was unknown for the committed few.

Rev. Darren Gillespie entered the picture as a potential pastor after Rev. Aaron Sherman, district superintendent of the Kentucky-Tennessee District, presented the idea to him. Gillespie, who had transferred into The Wesleyan Church from another denomination, sensed God was calling him to a shared pastoral role.

But could the two churches ioin mission efforts and be better together? The 22 miles separating the two congregations posed a challenge. However, they were united in mission: to have a transforming presence in their respective ZIP codes.

Given the tight budgets and limited resources of each church, a shared

pastor approach made sense. Gillespie stepped up to the challenge, committing to shepherd both congregations.

"The win is that each congregation gets to keep its personality but share its ministry," said Gillespie. "Given this was the first shared-pastor model for these churches and the district, they took the risk." Little did each church know they would gain much more than a pastor; they would gain each other.

And the churches have embraced each other and both their shared and unique ministry opportunities. Gillespie encouraged the two congregations to think about the "watering holes" in their communities — the places people gather to find life. While visiting one of the local congregants, Gillespie learned about a housing complex where people engaged in community.

While it's a "specific ministry" of CWC, congregants from both churches serve together at an outreach event at

the complex. According to Gillespie, "these apartments signify a community within a community."

Twice a month, a lunch and worship service are held at the complex, presenting organic opportunities for ministry and conversations to take place. This summer, a resident of the complex was baptized on his birthday.

Besides the apartment outreach, CWC and KWC also jointly began and continue to fund a radio show that reaches the surrounding area. "Onward and Upward: the radio ministry of Cloverport and Kingswood Wesleyan churches" airs weekly on an alreadyestablished station. Listeners hear the message of Jesus every Sunday afternoon.

Steeped in their own traditions, each church has sacrificed preferences so the other will thrive. CWC changed to an earlier service time, so Gillespie could then drive to KWC to preach at their service. Between the two

While this shared model is unique in his district. Gillespie believes it will become more common because "we are better together."

churches, there are four weekly services (two in person and two drive in). Both churches are flexible in Gillespie "sharing time" for needs that arise throughout the week. From the beginning, Gillespie did his best to lay the groundwork for congregants to understand that this is a shared pastoral role.

"Both churches remain very concerned with how one church's decision may affect the other," said Gillespie. "They look out for each other."

The spirit of both CWC and KWC has shown through, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for those who are searching in their faith. Many who attend the drive-in services are not regular attendees. Some local residents can hear the drive-in service from their front porches. Gillespie said he preaches outside "with a bullhorn and a big mouth."

Gillespie also told the story of a family that invited another family to church. The husband/dad of that invited family has since placed his faith in Jesus.

"It has been exciting to see God work and move in Cloverport and Kingswood and their surrounding areas," said Sherman. "These churches were willing to take a risk and change some traditional ways of doing ministry in order to more effectively reach their communities and thrive.

"Pastor Darren and his wife, Paula, have led well, and the churches and communities are reaping major blessings for taking steps of faith. I believe the current rejuvenation and growth experienced by these two



churches are the beginning of the multiplied impact they are going to have in their region in the years ahead."

While this shared model is unique in his district, Gillespie believes it will become more common because "we are better together."

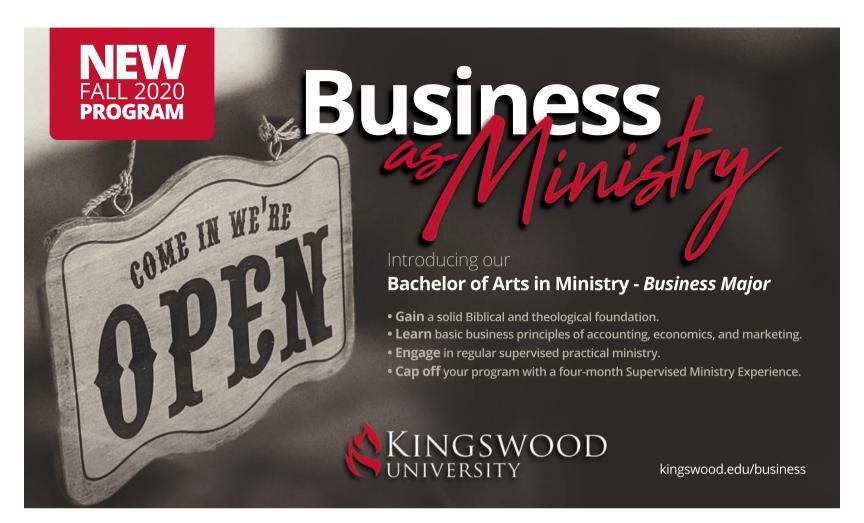
The two churches continue to seek more "watering holes" in western Kentucky so more people can meet Jesus. The people of CWC and KWC know they are building a lasting legacy — together. Their pastor is proud of them and knows they share something special that comes from God.

"This is a work of the Lord," said Gillespie. "Only he can do this."



GABRIELLE ENGLE
is a preacher, pastor and writer.







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Jumping In WHEN GOD CALLS

When God puts a calling on your life, you have to jump in with both feet," said Rick Payne. Rick and his wife, Brenda, are doing just that, fully immersed, at Christ Community Church (Crewe) in Crewe, Virginia.

Christ Community Church (Crewe) is the first official church adoption in the Shenandoah District. (An adopted church is when a healthy church comes alongside an unhealthy church and provides leadership, guidance and support as deemed necessary by the district.) The church had stalled, and its presence was no longer benefitting the community. Rev. Greg Reynolds, Shenandoah District superintendent, knew the church needed a change and felt it was the perfect opportunity to bring new leadership and new life into the small church.

Rev. Randy Garner, lead pastor at Christ Community Church (CCC), where Rick served on the church board as a lay leader, believed the couple would be the right ones to lead Crewe.

"I know we say this all the time, but God does equip the ones he calls," said Garner. "He has equipped those two to pastor and bring life to Crewe. Rick wants to see lives changed as his was, all for the glory of the Lord."

LEARN MORE Christ Community Church (Crewe) es.life/CCC-Crewe

Rick is a licensed minister pursuing ordination within The Wesleyan Church, and Brenda is obtaining a degree in psychology and Christian counseling. As Rick continued to serve at CCC, both he and Brenda recognized that God was calling them to Crewe.

"We just knew that God wanted us there," said Brenda. Rick agreed. "We felt God telling us we belonged at Crewe from the first moment we saw it."

Their transition to Crewe wouldn't be easy. The church building and property needed a renovation. The couple left a big city to move to a small town where they had no family or friends.

"I am excited to see a church that is excited about God."

doing, but God had different plans.

With blessing and support from CCC, the Paynes moved to Crewe (May 2019), where God began to write a new story for Crewe and its congregants.

Today, Crewe is a thriving church in its **community.** The building and property were completely renovated, but the most important transformation occurred in the lives and the hearts of church congregants and the surrounding community.

The renovation increased morale and encouragement for church congregants, which, in turn, impacted community morale. Church congregants and even those in the community who don't attend Crewe are connecting more. Some residents have shown interest in the church after attending Facebook Live services. Crewe's attendance has since quintupled.

"Not only does the church now have an outward-focused mentality for the community, but the community is also willing to help the church when it can, reciprocating that outward focus," said Rick. The couple believes the church cares because of the change in the property and the people and so now the community cares too.

God used the Paynes to restore church congregants' faith in their ability to impact those around them. God reminded Crewe that the size of their congregation was not a factor in their ability to influence and that staying within church walls wasn't their calling. Rick encouraged focused teaching on being community-oriented. "The hands of the

congregants must reach outside the walls of the church," he said, "even if there are only 10 hands doing the reaching."

"Christianity is not complicated," said Rick. "It's just a conversation." And that's exactly how Crewe has grown: one congregant having a conversation with another person and inviting that person to church. Before COVID-19 hit, Crewe had begun offering a Bible study for the residents of a local

> apartment complex, having a monthly movie night and delivering meals to the local fire department.

> Crewe service standards are having a transforming presence in the community, and

Serving at Crewe was not what they dreamed of residents have started to take notice. Surrounding churches have noticed too. Those churches are pooling their resources to provide financial support through food and clothing drives to those in community.

> Reynolds is ecstatic about the changes taking place at Crewe as the Paynes help Unleash a Kingdom Force one conversation at a time.

> "Rick and Brenda are doing a tremendous job, and the people of Crewe are proud of their local church and the difference it is making in the community," he said.

Rick is equally excited about the ministry happening with the church.

"I am excited to see a church that is excited about God."



TARA KLEIN is a licensed minister in the Mountain Plains District of The Wesleyan Church.







SEVEN **BASKETS:**

MINISTRY MULTIPLIED

s a district superintendent, Rev. Jeffrey Mansell was working on a plan for the Greater Ohio District to become involved in the denomination's emphasis on "urban urgency."

"As I worked on the plan," Jeff Mansell said, "God was working on me." Consequently, he resigned his position as district superintendent in order to lead, along with his wife, Cheryl, a ministry called Seven Baskets, a faithbased ministry weaving transformation in underserved urban neighborhoods.

In the neighborhood where they chose to begin, the Mansells bought a house adjacent to an elementary school and turned it into a community house. Did they have immediate acceptance as they began to offer their services for after-school programs and other mentoring opportunities? "We lost eight windows the first year," Jeff Mansell said, "but we have had no acts of vandalism for the past four years."





They had to earn the respect of the school administration and faculty. At first, some school personnel were unsure why the Mansells would do what they were offering — providing a safe place for the students, mentoring programs, after-school programs and spiritual guidance. But now their community house is considered a "third space" for students, in addition to the students' homes and school.

Seven Baskets is considered a community partner, not only with the adjacent school but with Columbus (Ohio) City Schools. The Mansells are considered "part of the team" and are sometimes included in hiring decisions. Rev. Mansell is referred by some as "Pastor Jeff," the school chaplain. Without being pushy, they have become accepted as people of faith who are often asked to pray with teachers.

After-school programs for fourth and fifth graders and middle school students are offered in the school and at the community house. Students receive a substantial snack when they arrive and have the opportunity for homework help and to learn life and social skills, as well as help with integrity issues, such as honesty. They learn money management and how to manage themselves on social media. The program also provides games and a devotional. Students are partnered with mentors. Sometimes presenters will talk about relevant issues.

Seven Baskets always has six or seven people on its payroll, with only one full-time employee. But volunteers (more than 120 throughout the year) provide additional help as mentors, some weekly, others more occasional. A group of volunteers puts together an annual Christmas pancake breakfast to benefit the community.

"It's all about people," Cheryl insisted, "so it has been rewarding to watch relationships develop and to see how people have grown and developed in their faith, learning more about depending on Christ."

A Thursday night "supper and Bible study" program offers help for children, teens and adults. "It has been interesting to watch their eagerness to learn. We have become their church for several families."

Summer camp had to take on a different format this year, due to COVID-19. The alternative program is called "Camp In A Box" and includes activities, academics and art projects to do at home. Typically, spiritual growth accelerates for those involved in summer camp.

Seven Baskets also provides a Tuesday morning Bible club, a Saturday event for high school and middle school girls and a Tuesday evening program for middle school boys in the school's gym. While many things have happened according to a well-developed plan, other ministries have developed organically through opportunities the leaders did not orchestrate.

When asked about obstacles they have had to overcome, the Mansells laughed and said, "The learning curve at the outset



LEARN MORE about Seven Baskets. seven-baskets.org

was one of the biggest obstacles. We were our own obstacles, because we had so much to learn."

While their humility is sincere, it is obvious God has favored them with acceptance in the school and the community. Many nonprofits cite lack of money as a big obstacle, but the Mansells insist that God has provided for every need, sometimes even before they ask.

"We are blessed by people who love God and who love our ministry." Jeff specifically mentioned two Hope and Holiness grants from The Wesleyan Church that were instrumental in providing initial funding.

Seven Baskets is eight years old. Students who began with them in first grade are entering high school. The investment in young lives is coming full circle as older students are becoming mentors to younger students. The multiplication miracle continues.



RON MCCLUNG
is an author, speaker and
retired Wesleyan minister.







News









Pandemic leads New York church to expand into other ZIP codes

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lowa mom spends her days investing in others

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Florida church launches amid pandemic

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Teenage boy steps into ministry leadership role

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A conversation on racism in Canada

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Remembered

REV. V. RUTH ANDERSON (82) died January 13. She pastored in Indiana and served as the district director of Wesleyan Women Missionary Association.

PASTOR GLORIA ANGEL (41) died July 18. She pastored at Iglesia Wesleyana El Alfa y Omega in Louisville, Kentucky.

REV. CHARLES L. BOSTON (92) died October 11. He pastored in Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

DR. DONALD CALHOUN (93) died November 12. He pastored in Iowa and Minnesota and served as the district superintendent of the Iowa-Minnesota District. He also served on the General Board of Administration for The Wesleyan Church.

REV. OLA CAMPBELL (99) died May 29. He pastored in Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota.

REV. WILLIAM "BUDDY" CAULDER, JR. (73) died November 18. He pastored in South Carolina.

REV. ELDON CRAIG (81) died January 23. He pastored in Ontario and Quebec.

REV. NELSON CROWELL (92) died January 14. He pastored in New York.

REV. DAVID DAIGNEAULT (67) died June 13. He pastored in Virginia.

REV. JOHN DAVIS (75) died February 28. He pastored in Wesleyan churches for more than 50 years.

DR. DONALD DAYTON (77)

died May 2. He was a renowned scholar, historian and theologian and served as president of the Wesleyan Theological Society.

REV. ORSON DEEMER (59) died May 26. He pastored in Michigan.

REV. ALLEN DOUGLAS (80) died May 3. He pastored in Maryland.

DR. JOHN DUNN (85) died February 3. He pastored in Arizona and Wisconsin, served as district superintendent of the Arizona-New Mexico District and served as executive director of the Wesleyan Investment Foundation.

REV. RUDYARD FAY (81) died May 29. He pastored in Michigan.

REV. ALBERT FLETCHER (94) died December 10. He pastored in Iowa and Nebraska.

REV. PAUL GAFFORD (89) died January 7. He pastored in Colorado, Indiana and Nebraska.

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

REV. PAUL GLINN (89) died March 22. He pastored in Missouri.

HELENE GORMAN (85) died December 19. She served with Wesleyan World Missions (now Global Partners) in South Africa.

DR. GEORGE HARRIS (91)

died May 1. He pastored in Pennsylvania and Florida. He also served as district superintendent for the Penn-Jersey District and assistant district superintendent for the California District.

REV. LESLIE HICKS (95) died January 6. He pastored in Maine and New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

REV. SAMUEL HORNER, JR. (75) died November 13. He pastored in Maryland and Virginia.

Remembered

REV. ROBERT (BOB) HUGHES (91) died February 16. He pastored in California and Oklahoma.

REV. ROBERT JAMES (79) died October 24. He pastored in West Virginia.

REV. ALVIN JOLLEY (67) died February 14. He pastored in California.

REV. DONALD KARNS (89) died January 30. He pastored in Indiana and served with Weslevan World Missions in South Africa, Guyana, Liberia and Zimbabwe.

REV. ALVIN JAMES "A.J." KENDRICK (94) died July 9. He pastored in North Carolina.

REV. JAMES LEININGER (76) died April 29. He pastored in Pennsylvania.

REV. GRAYSON LORENZ (24) died February 24. He pastored in North Carolina.

REV. CHAD LOWE (40) died December 22. He pastored in Texas.

REV. PAUL MARKELL (92) died April 15. He pastored in New York and served as assistant district superintendent and assistant district superintendent emeritus for Western New York District.

REV. LARRY MEEKS (75) died December 6. He pastored in Washington state.

PASTOR GUY PRIEST (81) died January 3. He pastored in Washington state.

REV. BURNELL PUDWILL (90) died May 2. He pastored in North and South Dakota. He also served with Wesleyan World Missions in Haiti.

REV. ROY ROGERS (75) died January 27. He pastored in Virginia.

REV. RAY SMITH (84) died June 13. He pastored in Michigan.

MARGARET SPANGLER (95) died May 21. She served with Weslevan World Missions in Zambia, Africa.

REV. GLENN STAEHLI (85) died May 11. He pastored in Maryland.

DR. DAVID THOMPSON (80) died July 4. He pastored in Kentucky and Maryland and was a renowned Old Testament scholar. He was professor emeritus at Asbury Theological Seminary. He also taught at Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University).

PHYLLIS VAN CLEAVE (81) died October 13. She served with Weslevan World Missions in the Philippines.

REV. GERALD WARE (72) died December 24. He pastored in Michigan.

FAITH WATKINS (77) died May 26. She served with Wesleyan World Missions in Zambia.

REV. GLEN WELLER (82) died January 9. He pastored in Indiana and Ohio.

REV. PURLIN WESSELING (81) died November 10. He pastored in Michigan.

CLARA WEST (73) died February 7. She served as a Global Partners missionary in Peru.

REV. CHARLES WINTERS (80) died January 28. He pastored in Mississippi.

REV. ALVIN YATES (76) died October 30. He pastored in Michigan.

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ROMANS 12:13

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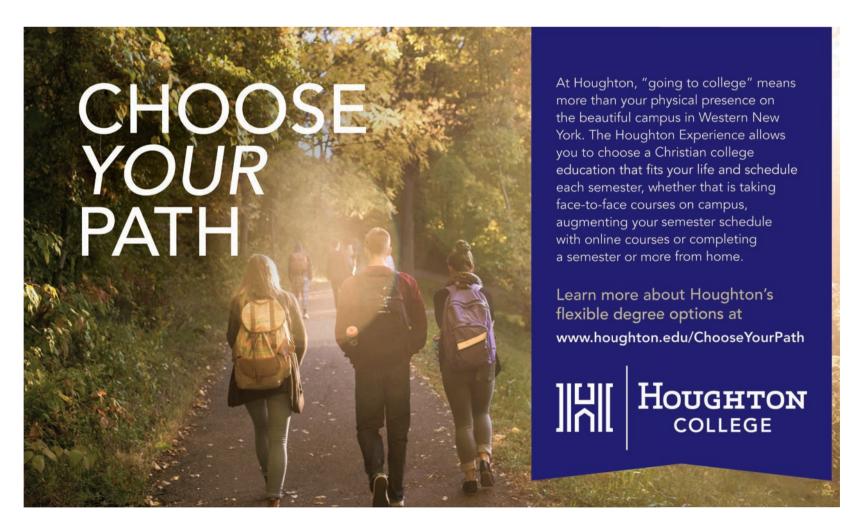
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