

# wesleyan life



THE MAGAZINE OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

ON THE COVER

## FOLLOW THE LEADER

Dan Reiland: 8 lessons on  
leadership from John Maxwell

COURAGE  
IN SIERRA LEONE

JOURNEY INTO  
SPIRIT-FILLED LEADERSHIP



# FOLLOW THE LEADER

## DAN REILAND'S 8 LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM JOHN MAXWELL

By Dan Reiland



**Patti and I met John and Margaret Maxwell in 1982.** We were attending Asbury Theological Seminary and soon to graduate. I was being considered for an internship at Skyline Wesleyan Church (San Diego, Calif.) where John was pastor, so he wanted to interview me. We drove from Wilmore, Ky. to Marion, Ind., to attend one of John's earliest leadership conferences. It was five days long and went from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (or later) each day and he never ran out of stuff to teach! I was amazed.

I'll always remember a special moment during the last day of the conference. John came up to Patti and me, gave us big hugs, encouraged us, and said: "Welcome to the team!" Then he slipped a twenty-dollar bill into my shirt pocket and said, "Take Patti out to dinner tonight!" There it was: my first leadership lesson. Leaders are generous. They are generous with their kindness, encouragement, and even money! And John has been coaching me as a leader ever since.

It is not possible to cover all I've learned from John through the years, but let me share eight of the most important and impacting principles.

### GREAT LEADERS MAKE MISTAKES

If you are casting vision, taking risks, and making progress, you will make mistakes. One of my favorite Maxwell leadership talks was titled "Flops, Failures and Fumbles." It was the most freeing message I'd ever heard. I thought leaders were in charge, knew all the answers, were always certain, and rarely made mistakes. After thirty minutes of John telling us about all the dumbest things he'd ever done, I had a different perspective. Not one of carelessness, but progress over perfection. Great leaders make mistakes, but they learn and grow from their mistakes!! Every one of John's mistakes contributed to helping him become the extraordinary leader he is today.

I've carried that principle to our staff at 12Stone® Church where we serve now. They've heard me say a hundred times: "Make mistakes, make lots of mistakes, even big mistakes, but never make the same mistake twice."



### JOHN C. MAXWELL

is an ordained minister in The Wesleyan Church. He has served as general secretary of extension and evangelism, as senior pastor of Skyline Wesleyan Church, and currently is a best-selling author and international authority on leadership.

## GREAT LEADERS SOLVE PROBLEMS

Anyone can spot a problem, but leaders solve problems. In many ways, problem solving is at the core of a leader's responsibilities. Good leaders see a problem and solve it. Great leaders often anticipate the problem before it happens and proactively get in front of it. Great leaders don't make excuses. They take responsibility for the big picture results, which always requires owning and solving problems.

In my thirty plus years of ministry leadership I've always served in a "number two" role. It is an honor and privilege to serve leaders who take ownership and responsibility rather than blame others.

I've learned that solving problems is fun. Don't let problems exhaust you; instead they need to energize you! The church is full of problems and that's okay. If the church didn't have problems, it wouldn't need you.

## GREAT LEADERS INITIATE CHANGE

Change is difficult for many church leaders, but not because they don't want to change. Change is difficult for three reasons. First, because ministry is relationally based and change ruffles people's feathers. Second, because change creates more work and the pastor is already exhausted. Third, because change creates fear in the heart of a leader who wonders if the change will bring failure or success. That's a lot to overcome. No wonder so many leaders are slow to change.

But when it comes to change, we don't have a choice. We change or the church gets stuck and eventually dies. If you do the same things with the same people over and over again, your church will not grow.

The goal is not to change things to make them different; it's to make them better. Whether it's your ministries, your staff, or your structure, change to improve or you are wasting time and energy.

CONTINUED  
PAGE 14



# Community & SOLITUDE



“Let him who cannot be alone beware of community... Let him who is not in community beware of being alone... Each by itself has profound perils and pitfalls. One who wants fellowship without solitude plunges into the void of words and feelings, and the one who seeks solitude without fellowship perishes in the abyss of vanity, self-infatuation and despair.”

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*.

I am fascinated by the power of both personal and cultural transformation that came out of the community of faith which Dietrich Bonhoeffer led. It seems to me that a person truly experiencing God in solitude becomes a source of immense cultural transformation through the body of Christ.

It makes me reflect farther back in history to the major cultural transformation that took place during the Wesleyan movement in England through what they called “class meetings” (small groups). The meetings represented a revolutionary way of living life in community and also valuing solitude.


Five penetrating questions were asked of each person at every class meeting:

1. What known sins have you committed since our last meeting?
2. What temptations have you met with?
3. How were you delivered?
4. What have you thought, said, or done, of which you doubt whether it be sin or not?
5. Have you nothing you desire to keep secret?

Today the world is hungry for community. It is a common theme among secular as well as religious people. Ultimately it is the church that must meet this need for care and interdependence.

You, leaders of the Church, are pursuing God’s mission in various corners of the world. *The stories of being the church expressed in the following pages are the outgrowth of community and solitude.*

At the General Conference of The Wesleyan Church in 2008 I delivered an address entitled “Holiness and the World.” I continue to rejoice at how The Wesleyan Church is boldly being the church, being holy in the world, and pursuing God’s mission in difficult places. Because of this we are seeing lives, churches, and communities transformed. That 2008 challenge concluded:


*“May it be said of The Wesleyan Church of the 21st century – they plunged into the world, restoring God’s kingdom and were kept from the evil one.”* 

**JO ANNE LYON**

General Superintendent  
The Wesleyan Church



# wesleyan life

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

Vol. 9, No. 1

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

**Executive Editor** Wayne MacBeth

**Editor** Kerry Kind

**Creative Director** Kory Pence

**Assistant Editor** Tricia Rife

**Designer** Julia Park

**Cover Photo** 12Stone Church™

**Contributors**

Joy Bryant

Anita Eastlack

Russ Gunsalus

INJOY (photos pp. 3, 14, 15)

Jo Anne Lyon

Kerry Kind (photos p. 8)

Ron McClung

Kory Pence (photos pp. 5, 7, 9)

Dan Reiland

12Stone Church™ (photo p. 2)

**Published By** Wesleyan Publishing House

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

**Member**

Evangelical Press Association

National Association Of Evangelicals



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

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

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

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

**Correspondence**

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

**Mailing Address**

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

**Physical Address**

The Wesleyan Church  
13300 Olivo Road  
Fishers, IN 46037  
Tel: 317.774.7907  
Fax: 317.774.3924



[www.wesleyan.org](http://www.wesleyan.org)

[communications@wesleyan.org](mailto:communications@wesleyan.org)

# wesleyan life



## FEATURED

06 Courage to lead  
in Sierra Leone



## VISION

04 Community  
and solitude

12 The mountain  
was moved

16 Leading and  
following



## STORY

22 Journey into spirit-filled  
leadership

26 Unsung servants of God



## TEACHING

02 Follow the leader



## NEWS

11 Ebola update

28 News & info



@WESLEYANCHURCH



FACEBOOK.COM/THEWESLEYANCHURCH



INSTAGRAM.COM/WESLEYANCHURCH

Look for these icons  
for bonus digital media



View Digital Magazine

WESLEYANLIFEONLINE.COM





*God wants me to be there.  
If we die, we die.*

**REV. USMAN FORNAH** was one of the younger pastors in the Makeni area when the rebel army reached the city. The Revolutionary United Front (R.U.F.) had the reputation for ruthlessly terrorizing people in areas they occupied, so Rev. Fornah felt he had no choice but to flee into the African “bush” with his family. For five days they hid in a remote location more than ten miles distant. But there was no safe location. After prayer, the Fornahs felt led to return to the city. “My people are there, and they need me. God wants me to be there. If we die, we die.”

Instead of hiding, Rev. Fornah began to move around the city to visit his members and encourage them. Several times he was arrested by the rebel soldiers. He was beaten mercilessly, and only God’s grace saved him from mutilation and death suffered by others.

On one occasion, Rev. Fornah heard that the rebels had arrested seven high school boys. The word came that the rebel leader, nicknamed Superman, had ordered the innocent boys to be executed. Rev. Fornah knew the families, and although they were not members of his church, he knew he could not stand idly by. He prayed, then marched to the rebel headquarters and asked for Superman.

He walked through the gates of the compound so boldly that the young rebel soldiers must have thought he was one of their own officers, and he was not even questioned. The same thing happened when he entered the large house where Superman ran his operations. Before he knew it, Rev. Fornah found himself in the presence of the terrible, ruthless man who had absolute power locally. The sadistic commander was surprised, though, and allowed Usman to speak.

Rev. Fornah explained that he was a minister of God and came to speak on behalf of the seven boys. He advised the commander not to make God or the population of Makeni angry by killing the innocent boys. Rev. Fornah knew there was a chance he would be executed along with them. But God had another plan. During the conversation, something that was said caused Superman to reconsider, and Rev. Fornah left the compound taking the seven boys with him. From that day forward, Rev. Fornah spoke openly and publicly all over Makeni and was never beaten or harmed again. He spoke like a biblical prophet, condemning the evil that he saw and calling townspeople and rebels alike to God. Even rebels began attending services.

Makeni is home to a Catholic cathedral. But no priest remained and the people were without a shepherd. During the rebel occupancy, Rev. Fornah met with the Catholics and offered to come very early every Sunday morning. He would preach God’s Word there just to keep the flock together and encourage and feed them. So all of the Catholics came to the cathedral each Sunday and it was always filled to overflowing.

The Catholic bishop returned to Makeni after the war and discovered all Rev. Fornah had done. He was so grateful that he took Rev. Fornah to the Vatican in Rome where he met and was blessed by Pope John Paul II. In addition, Rev. Fornah preached in Catholic churches all over Italy.

When asked how he summoned the courage to risk his life over and over again for the gospel during the war, Rev. Fornah simply says, “I was not myself. No one ever thinks they could do something like that. I didn’t either. But when placed in that situation, when you pray, God just takes over and you act in obedience to God, knowing that you are in his hands whether you live or die.”

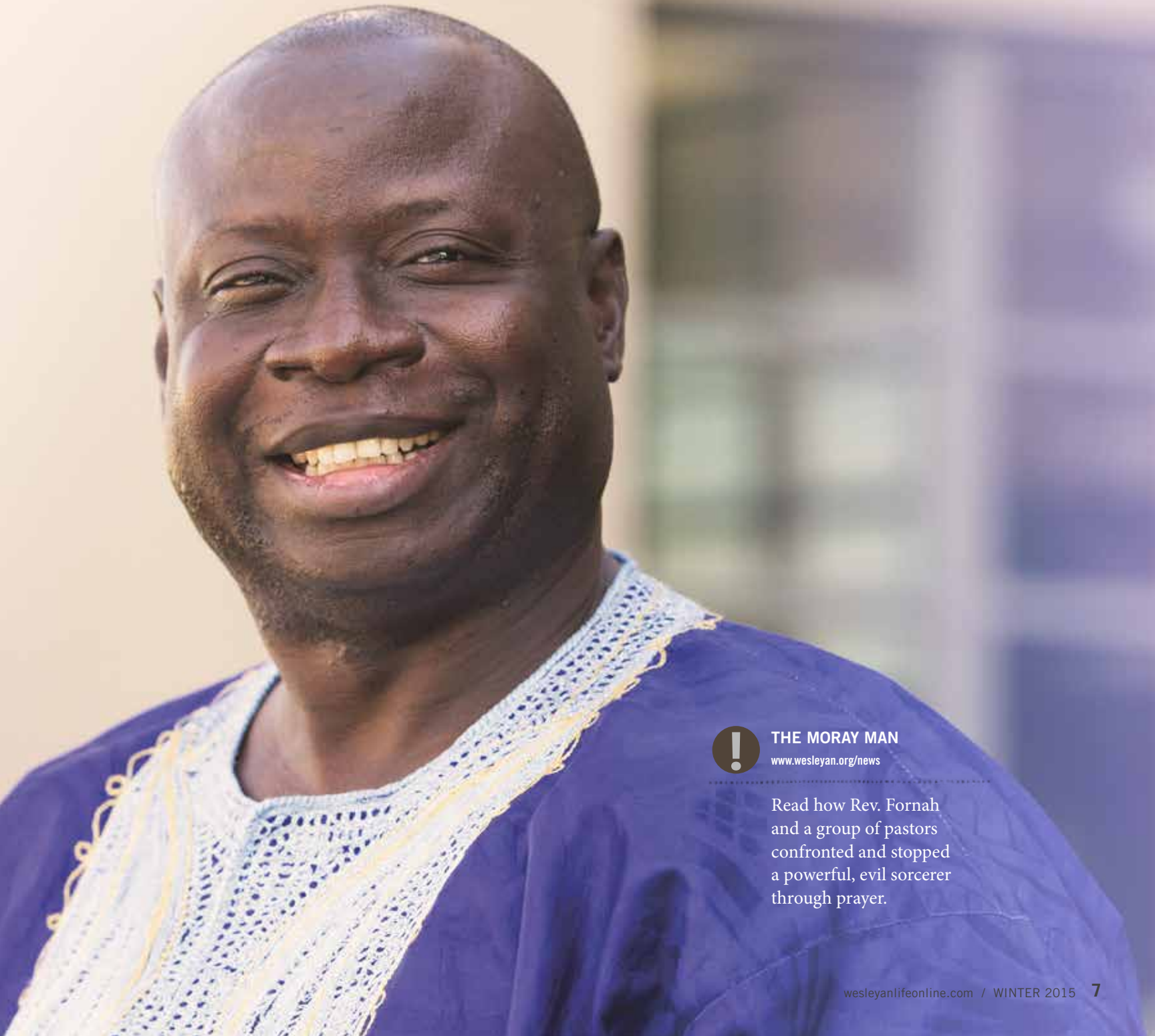
The Rev. Dr. Usman Fornah, as he is now known, is the most prominent Wesleyan minister in Sierra Leone today because he is the current national superintendent. But remarkably, his commitment and courage are not totally unique among our church leaders there. Desperate times have provided the context for greatness in godly leaders over and over again.



Watch Video  
[www.wesleyan.org/videos](http://www.wesleyan.org/videos)

# COURAGE TO LEAD IN SIERRA LEONE

*By Henry Wood*



## THE MORAY MAN

[www.wesleyan.org/news](http://www.wesleyan.org/news)

Read how Rev. Fornah and a group of pastors confronted and stopped a powerful, evil sorcerer through prayer.



**REV. JOSEPH Y. KONTEH** is another such leader. In fact, the Rev. Dr. Usman Fornah looks up to Joseph as the pastor who disciplined him and mentored him when he first converted from Islam as a teenager. Rev. Konteh also served as national superintendent, immediately preceding Dr. Fornah.



According to Rev. Warren Fornah [no relation], no Wesleyan leader in Freetown did more to encourage the Western Area pastors during the eleven-year war than Joseph Konteh. "Joseph said, 'Preach! Serve! Be Faithful! As I am!' And he was very motivating and comforting to all of us pastors."

During the war, and immediately after the war, the church was under threat. Rev. Konteh united the church. He is known as a deeply spiritual, humble leader, trusted by everyone. A pastor-leader, Rev. Konteh invests in people and leadership development more than projects. He is gifted at bringing peace through conflict resolution. At a time when great divisions threatened, he brought peace. His experience and trust were sought beyond The Wesleyan Church. During the same era, he helped chair and guide meetings for the United Brethren in Christ and the Missionary Church denominations. Today, many say that no more godly leader has led our church there.



*though humble and sweet,  
she preaches with power*

All of the church leaders mentioned here have outstanding Christian wives with leadership ministries of their own. But **REVERENDS SOLOMON AND BINTI SESAY** are a special ministerial couple: both are ordained and both are senior pastors of churches about three miles apart in Freetown. Solomon pastors Kissy Grassfields, one of the largest churches in the country. Binti pastors Kissy Dockyards, where the President of Sierra Leone is a member and worships.

Rev. Binti for eleven years led the World Hope International micro-enterprise program in Sierra Leone. During that time, she organized the Lookingtown Wesleyan Church and has also pastored the Goderich Wesleyan Church and was district director of Wesleyan Women. She has a humble, sweet personality, but does not hesitate when it comes to preaching God's Word with conviction and power. When asked what gives her the courage to lead in a patriarchal culture, she said, "When it comes to leading, God helps me so much. I can actually feel his pleasure in me, and I know I am in the right place and on course."

Binti's husband, Rev. Solomon Sesay, was eager for advanced theological training early in his career, but the needs of the church came first. According to others, he served in difficult, but important, assignments for nearly twenty years, solving huge problems and serving troubled churches with persistence, patience, prayer, and totally surrendered leadership. His close friend, Rev. S. D. Kanu, was national superintendent during part of that time, but he never asked him to be re-assigned or to be sent for advanced training. God had given Solomon a vision that his time would come. Indeed it has, for he now holds the Th.M. degree from Trinity Seminary in Accra, Ghana, so he can follow his passion and teach at TECT (The Evangelical College of Theology) in addition to his pastoral duties.

Solomon also served six years as the full-time national director of evangelism. He hesitated to accept the somewhat undefined role at first. Also it was during the war, and there were dangers. But he prayed, and the Lord gave him a vision which guided his decision. His vision was of Jesus saying, "Go, I am with you!" During Solomon's time in that office, they began the *JESUS* film ministry with the help of Global Partners, recruited students, trained the teams, and in three years planted seventeen new churches.





Watch Video  
[www.wesleyan.org/videos](http://www.wesleyan.org/videos)

In more recent years the *JESUS* film ministry has soared to new heights under the extraordinary leadership of **REV. WARREN FORNAH**. Rev. Fornah was already an experienced church planter, having planted the Brookfields Wesleyan Church and Ginger Hall Wesleyan Church. prior to taking over the position of national director of evangelism from Solomon. During the war, while many around him fled to Guinea for safety, he stayed and braved the dangers of rebel occupied Freetown to hold the church together and minister to traumatized families. It was during that same time that National Superintendent Rev. Y. M. Kroma was assassinated by the rebels in Freetown. Warren had 25-30 people whose homes had burned staying with him in his two-room apartment for many months at a time, with little food, and anarchy outside their doors.

Today Warren keeps at least two full-time teams fully trained, equipped, and operational for showing the *JESUS* film. He is passionate and directly involved in going into new, Muslim-dominated areas and seeing new churches planted. He is constantly amazed and touched by the power of the film to begin the process of transforming hearts and lives. In a recent, typical three-month period, a team in a Muslim area showed the film to over three thousand viewers and had seven hundred people come forward for counseling, prayer, and decisions. Warren has had other tempting life opportunities cross his path, but he is convinced he is exactly where God wants him right now—and he is so grateful to see the lives made new and the expansion of the church.

Christian courage is given deeper meaning for us, modeled by friends and leaders such as these! 🙌

*staying, he braved  
the dangers of rebel  
occupied Freetown*





**"I believe if John Wesley  
were alive in today's culture,  
he would be preaching with us  
at Victory Weekend events."**

*—Steve Wingfield*



**After 25+ years of traditional community-wide evangelistic events, SteveWingfield is now reaching the men, women, and young people who attend NASCAR races around the country through Victory Weekends.**

Victory Weekends are highlighted by family-friendly but relevant music, sports demonstrations, fun activities, and a moving tribute to service personnel who are suffering an epidemic of suicide-22 a day.

Please pray about sending a mission team to a Victory Weekend event to reach the lost!

**Victory Weekend**

a division of Steve Wingfield Evangelistic Association  
2389 Grace Chapel Road, Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
[www.stevewingfield.org](http://www.stevewingfield.org) • [www.victoryweekend.com](http://www.victoryweekend.com)  
(800) 729-2239







# Ebola

According to the most recent World Health Organization reports, Ebola Virus Disease transmission remains widespread in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea. The most intense transmission is currently taking place in Sierra Leone with 533 new confirmed cases reported in one week in late November. The new surge is in the Freetown area and the Northern Province, where most Wesleyan churches are located.

Because of your prayer support and financial support of The Wesleyan Church Emergency Relief Fund and our partnership with World Hope International, we continue the fight to address the most pressing issues in the battle against the deadly Ebola virus.

Ambulances, isolation units, community care centers, protective equipment, medicines and treatment supplies, water wells, filtering equipment, food for quarantined families, staff support, and other desperate needs are being provided and supported through the Wesleyan Emergency Relief Fund.

## Thank you!

Global Partners missionary Carrie Jo Cain is working on special assignment with World Hope in partnership with the church in the ongoing fight. She is training over 90 medical workers to staff and treat patients at 10 eight-bed Ebola holding centers.

The need has been great to prepare for the onslaught of this disease, but now it is upon our people, and **the need is greater than ever**, at Kamakwie Wesleyan Hospital, at community care centers, and throughout our region. Please continue to give and pray! 🙏



**Give to Ebola Relief**  
[wesleyan.org/relief](http://wesleyan.org/relief)



**Watch Video**  
[wesleyan.org/videos](http://wesleyan.org/videos)







# The MOUNTAIN *was* MOVED

**J** OY BRYANT LEFT THE NATIONAL GATHERING OF WESLEYAN WOMEN AT CYPRESS WESLEYAN CHURCH (GALLOWAY, OHIO) IN THE SUMMER OF 2011 WITH A SENSE THAT GOD WAS ABOUT TO MOVE THE MOUNTAIN WHICH HAD BEEN LOOMING FOR TWENTY YEARS.

A few months later she received a gift she would never forget. Her husband spoke to her on Christmas morning and said: "I know God has gifted you and called you to be ordained. I give you my 100% support." By the mid 1990's Joy had married and was blessed with two sons. But a call to be ordained was on hold because she did not yet have the needed support from her spouse. With all of her heart, Joy believed God would make a way. In the meantime, she did not stop serving, but found many ways to use her gifts both inside and outside the local church.

During the 2011 gathering hosted by Wesleyan Women, God used Rev. Patty Bray's message to speak clearly to Joy, promising that her wait was almost over. With Dr. Jo Anne Lyon praying over her, Joy clearly remembers sensing God removing the chains that were holding her back from being ordained.

By December 25, 2011, Joy's wait had ended, and on July 12, 2014, her husband knelt beside her as she officially became Rev. Joy Bryant.

John Wesley taught that spiritual formation is a lifelong process, but with supernatural moments of crisis along the way. While these moments cannot be manufactured, Joy is excited to see The Wesleyan Church create space for God to move mountains in women's lives.

Join Joy and hundreds of other women in Nashville, Tenn. on April 17-19, 2015. This will be the largest gathering of women The Wesleyan Church has ever seen. Expanding our reach using live simulcast technology, ALIVE will emphasize Wesleyan distinctives, call women to biblical justice, and create a space for God to move mountains! 🙌







# Alive

We  
gather  
to

{

grow  
enrich  
thrive


April 17-19, 2015

Nashville, TN  
(and simulcasting across North America)  
@LifeWay Conference Center

Conference Hotel:  
Millennium Maxwell House Hotel  
rate: \$115/night (1-4 occupants)

Registration NOW OPEN  
Registration price: \$139  
(until January 15, 2015, then it goes to \$159)


\*The first 50 currently-enrolled college  
students to register can do so at \$99



Powerful Preaching — Authentic  
Worship — Interactive Life Tracks  
John Wesley taught that Spiritual  
formation was a lifelong process. But he  
also believed that there were defining  
moments of transformation along the  
way. We can't manufacture these  
moments - but we will create the space  
for God to move.

[www.wesleyan.org/alive](http://www.wesleyan.org/alive)

A generation of women ALIVE in Christ.  
Let's meet Him there.



# FOLLOW THE LEADER

CONTINUED



## **GREAT LEADERS** GENUINELY CARE ABOUT PEOPLE

My mom died suddenly and unexpectedly of a stroke in 1997. John was across the country teaching leadership at a conference. As soon as he heard, he wrapped up what he was doing, flew back to San Diego, and drove to my home. He and Margaret offered words of comfort, but mostly just sat with us for the afternoon. He offered to preach at my mom's memorial service and with tears of gratitude I said yes.

You can't fake caring about people. You either do or you don't, and people know it. John has always cared about my family and me, and, yes, that makes him a better leader. The same is true for you and me. When you care about others, you demonstrate Christ's servant heart and people are drawn to that. When you give your heart, people can connect with you. When they connect with you, they trust you, and when they trust you they will follow you.

## **GREAT LEADERS** INVEST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER LEADERS

Jesus set the example as he poured into his twelve disciples. Jesus modeled three things: care about them, spend time with them, and train them. This pattern has been a hallmark lesson of my life from John. He poured into me for many years. I would not be the leader I am today without his investment. I'm grateful, and the best way for me to show my gratitude is to invest in others as I have now for more than 25 years.

Let me share my simple philosophy that is the foundation of all the leadership development we do at 12Stone Church. 1. Get a group. 2. Pick a book. 3. Ask two questions. That's it! Get a group of 5-7 leaders (maybe more) or potential leaders and meet once a month for two hours. Go through a leadership book together. When you meet ask: What are you learning? How are you applying it? You can get more sophisticated than that, but I would urge you to keep it simple and consistent! If you don't keep it simple, you'll quit. And if you don't remain consistent, you won't see the results you desire.

## **GREAT LEADERS** KEEP GROWING

You can't give to others what you don't have, and you've got to stay fresh to keep giving. From your walk with God, to studying other great leaders, keep learning!

You learn from the books you read, the places you go, and people with whom you spend time. These things in large part determine your experiences in life. They shape how you think and how you behave.



Here are some practical questions to help you keep growing. What was the last book you read that caused you to rethink something or change how you do something? What was the change? What was the last conversation you had that challenged or inspired you to take action? How did it stretch you? Who was it with and what action did you take? What new place have you visited, from a local restaurant to a foreign country, in which the experience caused you to make a change? What change did you make?

## GREAT LEADERS MAINTAIN INTEGRITY OF CHARACTER

No leader is perfect, but there is a simple test of good character: Do you trust him or her? I have always trusted John Maxwell, and he has always proven trustworthy. I know I can count on him. That is a powerful component of a leader's life.

Great character is also established by behaviors that very few people see such as acts of kindness, generosity, personal purity, etc. In the early days when John began teaching leadership lessons to pastors, he didn't want the church to pay for any expenses. So he bought the cassette recording machines, duplicators, and cassette tapes out of his own money. (If you are under thirty years of age, you can "Google" cassette tape.) He never made it a big deal; in fact, few people knew. The church would have paid, but he didn't feel that was right. That is character.

You can't fake good character, not for long anyway. The Holy Spirit whispers the right thing to do, and then it's up to you.

## GREAT LEADERS TAKE TIME TO PRAY

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed" (Mark 1:35). Jesus modeled prayer, great leaders do so as well.

There was a special place above the sanctuary at Skyline Wesleyan Church (before the relocation) that Pastor Orval Butcher, founder of Skyline, named "The Upper Room." It was truly a holy place. John would spend hours up there, studying the Word and praying. I would often go up there just to soak up the atmosphere; you could sense something different about that place. I wanted to be a man of prayer like Dr. Butcher and Pastor Maxwell, as we called them.

The older I get, the more I pray. It would have been better had I learned the power of prayer as a younger leader. I prayed, of course, but not enough. Now it's my great joy. It's my favorite thing to talk about with young leaders. Without the power of prayer, mere knowledge about leadership amounts to little. With prayer, your leadership has amazing kingdom potential.

**WHETHER THESE LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES I'VE LEARNED FROM JOHN ARE NEW TO YOU OR REVIEW, I PRAY THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL SPARK THE RIGHT ONE TODAY TO HELP YOU BECOME A BETTER LEADER! 🌿**

**DAN REILAND** for thirteen years has been executive pastor at 12Stone® Church in Lawrenceville, Ga., the flagship church of The Wesleyan Church. He previously partnered with John Maxwell for twenty years, first as executive pastor at Skyline Wesleyan Church in San Diego, then as vice-president of leadership and development at INJOY. Dan is one of the nation's most innovative church thinkers. His passion is developing and empowering leaders.



Watch Video  
<http://bit.ly/1vZCkyw>





# & LEADING FOLLOWING

**T**he light slowly deepened. First amber, then lavender, and finally a deep blue that hovered over the darkening earth. With the sun gone below the horizon, a gentle breath of air arose from the east. It barely stirred the leaves on the maple tree just beyond the end of the porch. The creak of two rocking chairs was the only sound as Thomas and Jesse sat together in the peaceful evening.

**Everything was so calm yet all Thomas could feel was the turmoil and frustration knotted in his throat.**

“Why do I constantly sense that I am disregarded by our leaders – just a subtle feeling that they don’t really want to follow me? I don’t understand it, Jesse. There are plenty of faithful followers and all the rest who come for this or that program. And of course there is a little group that considers grumbling an Olympic sport and won’t follow anybody. But the real leaders who have the greatest capacity and the most influence are hanging back. They seem unwilling to engage and make a difference in our church and community.”

Jesse listened closely to Thomas and rocked slowly back and forth on the porch. Even in the fading light, the pain was visible on Thomas’ face and was even more evident in his voice. Jesse chose not to answer quickly even though Thomas’ question hung heavily, like an apple bending its branch and about to drop.

Jesse Ruhark was a person with a rare gift from the Lord, a gift that was nurtured by a lifetime of good and faithful service. It was a

quality that made others feel safe, comfortable, and able to trust, be truly honest, and even be vulnerable. Jesse wouldn’t provide “pat” answers, but had the wisdom to help others discover the truth for themselves, even when a solution appeared more challenging than the problem it remedied. It was amazing that a leader could be so completely empathetic, yet always maintain an independent perspective, one that seemed to see what’s best for everyone involved. Those lucky enough to know Jesse always felt they had someone on their side, even though they always felt challenged to grow in Christ. Many others had sought the same comforting spirit and wisdom that would soon be evident on this back porch at dusk.

Thomas knew all these things about Jesse, and he had come to wrestle with his anxiety and bewilderment about who he should be as a leader, pastor, and person.

Only after the weight of a long silence had done its work did Jesse mercifully break the quiet. “Kind of frustrating, huh?”

“Yes!” blurted Thomas with a level of exasperation that surprised him.

The silence resumed except for the rhythmic squeaking of the chairs as they slowly rocked forward and back.



***Why do I  
constantly  
sense  
that I am  
disregarded by  
our leaders...  
they don't  
really want to  
follow me?***

living up to their potential, your church not making an impact, or people not following you?"

Thomas was shocked by hearing the options put that way. "It's not like we aren't making any impact, I mean, a lot of good things are happening, but I wish they would live up to their potential," Thomas insisted.

"Yup, that is important," Jesse mused. "Maybe you can help them find another church where they won't hang back and where they can more fully experience what God intends for their lives and their ministries."

Despite the cooling air, Thomas felt his face get

"It's frustrating when people won't do what we want," said Jesse in a steady soft voice.

"Well, it's not that.

I just wish they would live up to their potential. You know, help our church reach out and make an impact."

"Hmm, I see," said Jesse. "And if you had to choose?"

"Choose?" Thomas puzzled out loud.

"Choose which matters most. Choose which is most

frustrating: leaders not

warm, as he had to admit to himself what Jesse clearly knew, that he had been less than honest about his frustration. He swallowed hard in the quiet that enveloped them once again. Only it felt even heavier than before.

Thomas exhaled slowly. "I guess I do want to be their leader, and for us together to help our church make a bigger impact in our community for Christ. Maybe, honestly, I have wanted that more than for them to fulfill their potential," Thomas muttered with a tinge of embarrassment. "But," he said sitting up a bit, "isn't that why we exist, to reach people, to lead them to Christ?"

"Are you asking me if that is why we exist?"

"Well, no, but I think you know what I mean," Thomas said sheepishly.

"I think so. You want these leaders to reach people in your community and lead them to Christ," Jesse echoed.

"Yes, exactly," said Thomas confidently.

"Even if you don't feel like they are following you?" Jesse asked.

Thomas sighed, having come to the obvious realization that his personal desire to be followed might

***Choose which is more important:  
your church not making an impact,  
or people not following you.***



# *What if I just help leaders follow God's call into what they are already passionate about?*



be hindering his genuine hopes for his congregation and his community.

At that moment, Jesse's husband Eli came out onto the porch and poured three steaming cups of tea from a small teapot. It gave an opportunity for Thomas to think through what he really believed and what he really wanted to happen.

"And once you reach people for Christ?" asked Jesse.

Thomas sat still and quiet again. He could feel another gentle waft of air touch his skin. Then clearly and deliberately Thomas answered, "To let them know what it means to follow Christ and begin to become like him. To help them experience the love and joy and peace of Jesus and participate in his body and . . ."

"... and live up to their potential?" Jesse asked, with a twinkle in her eye.

Thomas paused before answering. "Yes," he said, and smiled. "And really experience what God intends for their lives and their ministries."

"That sounds like a better outcome than just having people follow your agenda," Jesse teased. "Hmm, I wonder how you would find out what your leaders would really love to do to build the kingdom?" said Jesse.

Thomas played along, smiling. "Oh, I don't know, maybe just ask them."

"Sounds like a good idea to me," Jesse said. "And I just bet God already has a fire smoldering in their hearts that might burst into flames if they are given room to breathe and even lead."

"And it makes sense that they would be more likely to realize their potential and reach our community if I would encourage them to simply follow God's call into what they are already passionate about," Thomas said, already imagining which leader in their church he was going to call for lunch tomorrow.

Thomas' mind raced with ideas about how he might humbly encourage and inspire and equip the leaders in his church to become who they really longed to be. His frustrations and fears about not being "followed" seemed to be carried away on the light evening breeze during his conversation with Jesse. And they were replaced by a renewed love for his church and hope for his community.

Thomas thanked Jesse for helping him.

"You're very welcome," she said with a warm smile.

Looking again to the horizon, which was speckled now with a few early stars, they began sipping the hot tea. As it warmed Thomas' throat, he not only felt more relaxed, but hopeful and inspired. He felt that a fresh breeze had not only touched his skin that night; the Spirit had touched his mind and heart. 🌿

## **RUSS GUNSALUS**

is the executive director of  
Education & Clergy Development







**DISCOVER YOUR CALLING.  
PURSUE YOUR PASSION.  
IMPACT YOUR WORLD.**

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

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

### **COMING FALL 2015**



**CHURCH  
MATCHING  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Southern Wesleyan University will match up to \$1,000 per year (\$500 per semester).

**TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CHURCH MATCHING SCHOLARSHIP  
VISIT [WWW.SWU.EDU/CHURCHMATCHING](http://WWW.SWU.EDU/CHURCHMATCHING)**

### **UPCOMING VISIT DAYS**

Monday, February 16, 2015

Friday, March 20, 2015

Monday, April 6, 2015

Friday, June 19, 2015

Register at [swu.edu/visit](http://swu.edu/visit)

**SOUTHERN  
WESLEYAN  
UNIVERSITY**

[www.swu.edu](http://www.swu.edu) • 877-644-5556



# KERN MINISTRY PROGRAM

**T**he Kern Ministry Program at Indiana Wesleyan University is designed to prepare pastoral ministry leaders in the church.

Students can earn a B.S. or B.A. degree in Christian Ministry and an M.A. degree in Christian Ministries in five years through the Kern Ministry Program. Program benefits include significant scholarships, weekly mentoring, hands-on practical ministry experience, a summer internship and a 12-month residency on staff at a local church.



**MORE HIRABLE  
BETTER-TRAINED  
GRADUATE WITH LESS DEBT**



**Dr. Edward Shigley**  
*Director*

"Do you have a heart for God, a compassion for people without Christ, and a commitment to the Church as the avenue to transform our culture? The Kern Ministry Program is the pastoral training model of the future. It combines a unique design of mentoring, leadership development and practical ministry experience with some of the foremost leaders, pastors and thinkers of our era. We have crafted a program that helps students become successful pastors for the long haul. We would love to have you come learn with us!"



**Elyse Garverick**  
*3<sup>rd</sup> year Kern Ministry student*

"The professors have been one of the greatest parts of being at Indiana Wesleyan University. I have been encouraged as a woman preparing for ministry in ways that far exceed my expectations. What a blessing to have professors tell you they believe in your life calling."

**APPLY NOW**  
[indwes.edu/kern](http://indwes.edu/kern)  
**866.468.6498 or 765.677.2248**

Two Degrees - Five Years  
**Kern Ministry Program**  
more hireable - better trained - less debt

INDIANA  
**WESLEYAN**  
UNIVERSITY

**KERN MINISTRY PROGRAM**  
**SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY**  
MARION, INDIANA 46953-4974  
866.468.6498 OR 765.677.2248  
[INDWES.EDU/KERN](http://INDWES.EDU/KERN) | [KERN@INDWES.EDU](mailto:KERN@INDWES.EDU)



# YOU DON'T HAVE TO LEAVE YOUR MINISTRY BEHIND TO GO TO SEMINARY



## **DEGREE PROGRAMS:**

- Master of Divinity
- Maestría en Divinidad en Español
- Master of Arts
- Master of Practical Theology

## **CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS:**

- Church Planting & Multiplication
- Church Revitalization
- Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Wesley Seminary's innovative approach allows you to stay in your current ministry setting while attending seminary. Assignments are linked to your individual ministry context, challenging you to apply what you are learning. Ours is a highly integrated approach where Bible, theology and church history are woven into every course, along with active, hands-on, practical ministry.

**877.673.0009 | [seminary.indwes.edu](http://seminary.indwes.edu)**



# JOURNEY INTO Spirit-filled Leadership

By Anita Eastlack



## SPIRIT-FILLED LEADER?

My journey with Jesus and his still small voice has fine-tuned my definition to include “joyful surrender” and “courageous influence.” It’s not enough to surrender. It can mistakenly have residues of martyrdom, control, and passivity. It’s not enough to influence. It takes a Joshua 1:9 kind of influence to coexist with being Spirit-filled. As I share four stories in my journey, reflect on your journey and definition of a Spirit-filled leader. For me, one unifying thread seems to be, “The position seeks the person. The person does not seek the position.”

## PRESCHOOL

“The board wants to start a preschool,” said my husband, Karl, as he returned home from a board meeting. What a great way to bridge into the fast-growing neighborhoods being built around the church. “They want you to do it, Anita,” he said. But I told him I wasn’t qualified.

I grew up in a family with over-achieving parents who received their GEDs, yet were natural teachers. My father used his creative teaching passion as the Sunday school superintendent, and my mother was the PTA president and on the school board. At the time the church asked me to do this, my children, Aaron and Bethany, were ages 5 and 3. I was in full-scale preschool mode at home, but I didn’t think the professional population around us would want what I could offer. While I was confident with my private leadership in the home, I was scared to stick my neck

out. Karl and the board persisted. I prayed, the Spirit pressed, and I surrendered. It was up to God to be with me through the process, but I had to be courageous.

I dug right into planning the philosophies of a loving classroom environment and curriculum. Within two years we quit advertising. The waiting list was too long. I was in my stride, directing and teaching children, and relating to parents in a Christian setting. I loved influencing whole families by serving them in the foundational years of their lives. It became part of my calling to “go and make disciples.”

**THE BOTTOM LINE:**  
IF COURAGE WAS EASY  
IT WOULDN'T BE CALLED  
COURAGE. FOR ME,  
IT WAS HAVING MORE FEAR  
OF THE LORD THAN  
FEAR OF PEOPLE.





## ADOPTION

On April 21, 1993, Karl and I attended the annual banquet for a Christian crisis pregnancy center, where he gave the invocation.

Minutes after a trip to the restroom, he returned, whispering about a lady holding a baby in the foyer. She shared a prayer request with him. As a pastor, did he know of a black professional couple interested in adopting a baby? I noted the urgency in Karl's voice and face. I knew he was not sharing this with me merely in the form of a prayer request. I was listening to a daddy talking passionately about *his* baby! Later, he told how he held out his finger to the 4½-month-old to hold, instantly bonding with her as the woman talked. At this time, Aaron and Bethany were 10 and 8 years old. The only baby item left at our house was a wooden high chair for future grandchildren!

For a month, we waited and wondered if the birth mother would choose us for her baby, going through all the necessary interviews, paperwork, and prayers. After that month, Rachel became ours. Karl often reminds Rachel yet today that the moment he met her at the banquet at 4 ½ months old was when she captured his heart.

I assumed I would quit my job and stay home with Rachel—just like I did when Aaron and Bethany were little. I was in my stride at church, but I was glad to give it up. However, a still small voice told me not to be so fast to assume I knew the mind of God. The more I thought about it, I debated what people would expect me to do. The more I prayed, read the Bible,

and listened to the still small voice, the more I heard God say he knew what was best for this little life. Ironically, it was an easier decision to adopt her than make the decision about employment. Ultimately, I chose to continue working after we adopted Rachel. God challenged me: Did I love him and want to do his will completely, or did I fear people more and want to please them? It was then he gave me the mantra, “please God, love people.”

Leaders influence more through our actions than through words. Rachel's adoption did influence some people—almost all for the good. She is currently finishing her college senior thesis on trans-racial adoption. Karl and I are committed to the call to “make disciples of *all nations*.” The bottom line: If courage was easy it wouldn't be called courage.

## LEAD PASTOR

The year 2009 held many surprises and transitions for our whole family. Bethany and Joe were expecting our first grandchild. Aaron married Lauren and moved to Charleston, S.C. Karl was asked to be the CEO of World Hope International (WHI), meaning Rachel would finish her last two years of high school at a new school. We would say good-bye to twenty-two years of fruitful ministry at Eastern Hills Wesleyan Church in Williamsville, N.Y. By then, I had been ordained and was part of the executive team, supervising senior level staff and directing the congregational care ministry with hundreds of volunteers. What would I do now?

One Saturday morning, my phone rang. The night before, the World Hope board had finalized the decision to hire Karl. Rev. Stan Hoover, superintendent of the Chesapeake District, asked if I would be willing to pastor a church in the district. I was ordained, but serving as a lead pastor had never been on my radar. I was caught off guard, as being the lead pastor had always been Karl's place. Did I want to put my neck out again in a brand new way? Only with a Proverb 3:5-6 prayer, along with a Philippians 4:13 promise, could I choose to joyfully surrender and be willing to lead.

I truly loved my congregation: the people, the vibrant ministry environment, and the influence of joyful surrender. On my last Sunday, Stephanie, a young teenager, thanked me and said God wanted her to be a pastor, and she would not



MY JOURNEY WITH JESUS AND  
HIS STILL SMALL VOICE HAS FINE-  
TUNED MY DEFINITION TO INCLUDE  
“JOYFUL SURRENDER” AND  
“COURAGEOUS INFLUENCE.”



## THE FURTHER OUT ON THE LIMB, THE MORE GRACE I HAVE EXPERIENCED.

have known it had I not been her pastor for three years. Her father was a board member who initially did not want a woman pastor, but who ended up telling me that I was the best pastor he ever had. Two people (de-churched and with a painful past) started attending because they said they felt they could trust a woman. Joyful surrender. Courageous influence. As a pastor it was a privilege to “teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.” The bottom line: courage is not courage because it is the easy way but because it is the only way to keep reaching “all nations” of Matthew 28:19.

### CO-DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Currently, we are in the Penn Jersey District because Karl was called to become the district superintendent in 2012. This past spring, we picked up Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church, from the airport, as she was in town for a meeting. We took her to dinner, and she administered Karl’s evaluation for his role. After all the affirmation and compliments, she suggested the vote of the district board the next day would probably be to recommend an extended call. But we were surprised when she asked us to pray about whether we would be willing to serve as co-district superintendents. We looked at each other. The question hung in the air.

You can imagine our conversation in the car on the way home after dinner. Karl had a headache, and I was flustered. We had been ministry partners for 30 years. But never “co.” What did that mean anyway?

The next morning, we agreed that Karl would tell Dr. Lyon that we would submit to whatever she and the district board of administration decided and receive it as the Lord’s plan. We were out of the room for only a couple minutes when we received a unanimous “yes.” Can you say *whirlwind*?

Karl and I spent the first two years in Penn-Jersey loving the people and churches as Dr. Harry Wood, former district superintendent, handed off a healthy, generous, and dynamic group of 76 churches. The last five months have deepened our love for the new journey God has surprised us with. We thought it was going to be harder than it really is. God miraculously gave Karl new grace for the growth that it called for. He was only familiar with the solo lead for all these years. And me? The further out on the limb, the more grace I have experienced. Do you want grace? It is most plentiful way out on the limb. I have certainly learned that Christ will be with me “to the end of the age.” The bottom line: the journey of a Spirit-filled leader requires joyful surrender and courage to influence.

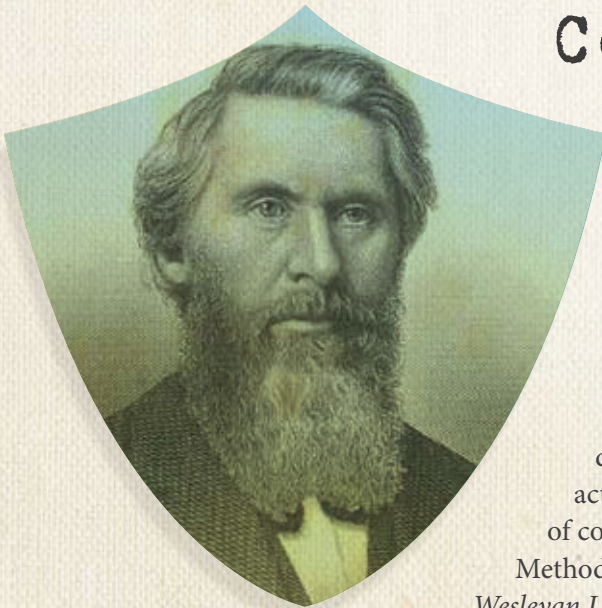
**ANITA EASTLACK** is the co-district  
superintendent of the Penn-Jersey District





# ADAM CROOKS:

## Courage & Commitment



In the 1840s, people in North Carolina wrote to the editor of *The True Wesleyan* to request an abolitionist minister. Leaders were reluctant to appoint someone to such a dangerous field, but young Adam Crooks from Ohio volunteered, saying, "Sustained by your prayers, and in the name of my Savior, I will go."

He founded Freedom's Hill, the first Wesleyan Methodist church in the slaveholding South, although he was dragged from his pulpit and thrown into jail for antislavery activities. He survived an assassination attempt and set an example of courage and commitment. He became a leader of the Wesleyan Methodists, including serving as editor of *The American Wesleyan* (now *Wesleyan Life*) from 1864-1875. Adapted from *The Story of The Wesleyan Church* by R. Black and K. Drury



Get the book  
[wphonline.com](http://wphonline.com)

Frustrated by unclear or untimely financial information, complex ever-changing regulations, or finance personnel changes?

Outsource your accounting headaches to the professionals at GuideServe®

GuideServe® is a division of Batts Morrison Wales & Lee, a national CPA firm dedicated exclusively to protecting nonprofits.

Outsource to our cloud-based accounting and financial advisory service, and your ministry could be making statements like these from our clients:

"The GuideServe® team takes care of all the financial details so I can focus fully on ministry."

"We feel protected."

Contact us today at 800.960.0803 or [GuideServe@nonprofitcpa.com](mailto:GuideServe@nonprofitcpa.com) to learn more about our special incentives or visit [www.GuideServe.com](http://www.GuideServe.com).



GUIDESERVE®

BETTER INFORMATION. LESS RISK™

# UNSUNG Servants of God

Compiled by Tricia Rife

**Servanthood is the hallmark of Christian leadership. Look no further than the character of Jesus: humility, love, service, and compassion. Christian leadership is selfless, other-centered, and bathed in prayer.**

Christian leadership is selfless, other-centered, and bathed in prayer. All across The Wesleyan Church, laypersons and clergy alike embody this lifestyle of serving as Jesus did—humbly putting others first. Most every local Wesleyan church has examples of unheralded heroes of faith, living lives of selfless service. Here is a snapshot of a few Wesleyans who serve their families, churches, and communities in this very way.

## Edith Orem

For 50 years Edith has been a member of College Park Wesleyan Church in College Park, Md. Edith has served the church in so many ways: district board of administration, local board of administration, Sunday school superintendent and teacher, children's church teacher, prayer ministry, and English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher. If one picks up a hymnal during a service, that hymnal was probably repaired once by Edith. In years past, Edith participated in what was termed a bus ministry. She traveled on Saturdays to hundreds of homes and specifically invited people to church. She would have an answer for any excuse:

*Don't have a ride?* We'll come and get you.  
*Have kids?* I'll watch them in the nursery.  
*Football?* Come on in and I'll tackle you for free.

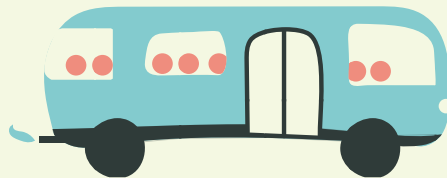


Photo Gallery

[www.facebook.com/thewesleyanchurch](http://www.facebook.com/thewesleyanchurch)

## SHE IGNORED ALL INQUIRIES ABOUT HER HEALTH UNTIL SHE HEARD WHO WAS TAKING CARE OF HER CLASS

Attendance reached a peak in those days and many of those were a direct result of Edith's efforts. Dozens of people came and found the Lord as a result.

Edith's greatest passion is teaching children. Her devotion to her classes is legendary. She was recently hospitalized for pneumonia and when the pastor visited, she ignored all inquiries about her health until she heard who was taking care of her class on Sunday. Edith also volunteers many hours privately tutoring at the local library. In speaking to people about her, the question was posed to describe Edith's character in one word. Everyone had numerous words: wisdom, strength, caring, and prayerful were often repeated. Edith's height has been referred to as "5 foot nothing." She is small in stature, but to those at College Park, Edith is the loftiest woman they know.





*Greg Pyles*

It had been 15 years since Greg Pyles set foot in a church after a “bad experience.”

Yet Greg showed up at The Grove, a church in Fort Collins, Colo., the day after Chris Carpenter, a member of the pastoral staff, felt led to approach him and introduce himself at a car show. Since that Sunday in September 2013, Greg has scarcely missed a service—even though he drives 45 minutes one way to church. Today he serves as worship team technical coordinator, requiring him to serve mid-week at rehearsals and on Sunday mornings.

Greg spends time at the church on Saturdays, too, throughout the month, helping take care of the building. Recently a mother in Fort Collins needed some help. Greg spent a good part of a day cooking and preparing frozen meals for that family.

Greg also opened his home, hosting a family in serious financial trouble until they were able to live on their own again.

Greg rededicated his life to Jesus and was baptized outdoors among the beautiful Colorado Rockies. But for Greg, he’s saved in order to serve. He “gets it.”

**GREG ALSO OPENED HIS HOME, HOSTING A FAMILY IN SERIOUS FINANCIAL TROUBLE UNTIL THEY WERE ABLE TO LIVE ON THEIR OWN AGAIN.**

“Greg’s leadership and sacrificial service toward others is part of the very fabric of who he is, a faithful man of God,” said Chris. “There is not a single life he hasn’t touched in our small Grove community.”



*Bev Woodcock*

Bev Woodcock spends much of her free time cooking and coordinating meals to feed strangers in downtown Kingston, Ontario. Bev attends Kingston Wesleyan Church and serves as the coordinator of ten teams that cook and serve meals each Sunday night at a church downtown.

Anyone can eat these meals—and for free. Bev doesn’t skip Sundays; she is there every Sunday to serve meals to those in need, making sure all is running smoothly to feed “the least of these” in Kingston. She has even organized the fundraisers

## HER AFFECTIONATE HEART AND DEEP RESPECT FOR EACH PERSON SHE IS HELPING SHOWS...

to purchase new stoves and other items needed for cooking for a crowd. She provides all the little extras on special days, like Christmas bags, Valentine’s Day, Easter chocolates (a big favorite), Mother’s Day gifts, Father’s Day gifts, and many other gifts of love.

Just as one decorates a home for holidays and special occasions, Bev decorates for every special day, even birthdays. If she knows it is someone’s birthday, a candle is placed in the dessert and the person is serenaded. She communicates to staff and all team leaders and members after each Sunday’s meal, reporting about the meal, the attendance, and if anything unusual or interesting happened—or issues that concern safety or logistics. Every Friday she picks up donations from a local store to use in the program and distributes the surplus to other ministries in the city.

The self-sacrifice of time and energy Bev gives leading this volunteer ministry is incredible. Her affectionate heart and deep respect for each person she helps shows in the loving way she cares for their needs and welfare. 🌿



## OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN ANNOUNCES RECORD ENROLLMENT, THREE NEW MASTER'S PROGRAMS

At the beginning of the 2014-15 school year, Oklahoma Wesleyan University announced its sixth consecutive year of record enrollment. Combined with returning students, total enrollment stands at 1,638 students for the 2014 fall semester.

For the first time OKWU offered three new master's programs, which include strategic leadership, nursing, and theology & apologetics. In the spring, OKWU will host its second annual Josh McDowell Institute for Christian Apologetics Conference featuring nationally and internationally renowned apologists. The university will also join the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference in the fall 2015 season.

## KINGSWOOD UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES 2015 RESIGNATION

Dr. Mark Gorveatte has resigned as president of Kingswood University, effective June 30, 2015. Citing a desire to serve the local church more directly, Dr. Gorveatte said he wanted to give the board of trustees time to conduct a presidential search.

Under his leadership, which began in 2010, the university has seen meaningful improvements, including completion of the library and the lower level of the chapel. Another great accomplishment was retirement of the debt on the iconic Saunders-Irving Chapel.

The board of trustees authorized the presidential search committee to seek a candidate who can guide the university to equip Christ-like servant leaders for global impact.



## IWU'S "ELEPHANT PROJECT" TO HELP TRAIN 260,000 TEACHERS IN THE CONGO

Indiana Wesleyan University, along with other educational institutions, has formed a partnership with the Association of Christian Schools International in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, entitled the "Elephant Project." They made national televised news in the capital city of Kinshasa.

IWU professor Dr. Brad Oliver said, "We looked up from eating in the hotel cafe and found ourselves on the national news. Millions of Congolese in Kinshasa are now aware of the Elephant Project."

The initiative is designed to train Christian primary and secondary school teachers on the proper way to integrate faith with education. The initial goal is to train 260,000 teachers serving 5.8 million children.

## HOUGHTON COLLEGE OPENS \$23 MILLION KERR-PEGULA ATHLETIC COMPLEX & FIELD HOUSE

Houghton College dedicated its \$23 million Kerr-Pegula Athletic Complex in October 2014. The 115,000 square-foot fieldhouse can seat well over 6,000, features an eight-lane track, six full tennis courts, weight rooms, locker rooms, offices, conference rooms, and more.

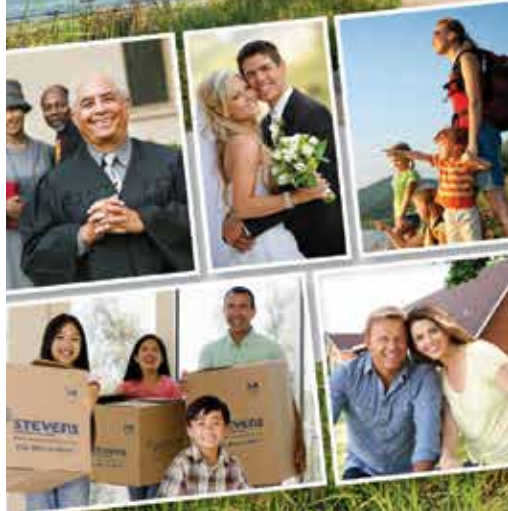
Terry Pegula, owner of the Buffalo Bills and Buffalo Sabres, and his wife, Kim, took part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Kim Pegula, a 1991 Houghton College graduate, is the daughter of Dr. Ralph and Marilyn Kerr.

Dr. Kerr, a local school superintendent, was asked, "What are your hopes regarding the new complex?" He answered, "The expansion of the mission and ministry of Houghton College around the world and here in America."





For where life  
takes you...



...Stevens is the  
way to move.

Through our Clergy Move Center,<sup>®</sup>  
Stevens Worldwide Van Lines is proud to  
deliver our relocation expertise and advantages  
to Wesleyan Members, Clergy and Employees:

- Personalized attention
- Discounted pricing
- Customized moving packages
- Top-rated drivers & crews
- Stevens Home Protection Kit<sup>™</sup>



Recommended by The Wesleyan Church  
[www.stevensworldwide.com/wesleyan](http://www.stevensworldwide.com/wesleyan)  
800.248.8313

US DOT 72029

## U.S. SENATOR LINDSAY GRAHAM HELPS SOUTHERN WESLEYAN DEDICATE NEW MEMORIAL FLAG PLAZA

Southern Wesleyan University dedicated a new memorial flag plaza on Veterans Day 2014. The plaza was dedicated to the late Col. Jimmy D. Sheriff, his widow, Gwen Anne Campbell Sheriff, and the soldiers and spouses of the S.C. National Guard, Battery C, 2nd Battalion (AW) (SP) 263rd ADA.

Col. Sheriff graduated from SWU. Also a SWU graduate, Anne is a retired educator who founded the Faith Clayton Family Research Center at Southern Wesleyan.

"This memorial today is one of the best in South Carolina," said U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, who was born and raised in Central.



## Obituaries



### Carpenter, Ruth Meeks (87)

Ruth Meeks Carpenter lived in Brooksville, Fla. The daughter of missionaries to India, she worked in various

full-time Christian service positions during her life. She taught at Frankfort Bible College and led the Women's Missionary Society at The Wesleyan Church World Headquarters. She was preceded in death by her husband, Preston Owens (P.O.) Carpenter, one sister, and a stepdaughter. Survivors include one sister, one brother, one step-granddaughter, and two step-grandsons.

### AVORE, REV. DR. DONALD (68)

Rev. Dr. Donald Avore lived in Greenville, Ohio. An ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church, he served as a pastor for 35 years. Survivors include his wife, Thelma, two sons, one daughter, seven grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and one brother.

### BARRETT, REV. JOE ALLEN (72)

Rev. Joe Allen Barrett lived in High Point, N.C. He was an ordained minister with the North Carolina East District of The Wesleyan Church. He is survived by his wife, Charlotte, two daughters, four grandchildren, and one sister.

### Fowler, Barbara (83)

Barbara (Suggs) Fowler lived in Mims, Fla. She served as a Wesleyan World Missions missionary to Puerto Rico from 1956-1970 and under the authority of the Puerto Rican Wesleyan Church continued to plant churches and train workers there until 1999. She was the second director of Wesleyan Academy and oversaw its growth from 40 students in a church basement to several hundred on a school campus. She was founder of Wesleyan Theological College and other training programs. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Ellsworth A. Fowler, five daughters, and ten grandchildren.



# Obituaries

## Galyon, Rev. L.E. (89)

Lonnie E. Galyon, Sr., lived in Rossville, Ga. He was district superintendent emeritus of the Tennessee District of The Wesleyan Church. A veteran of the U.S. Navy in World War II, he served in Christian ministry for 65 years. In addition to 16 years as district superintendent, he was a pastor and general evangelist of The Wesleyan Church. His wife of 68 years, Marell Galyon, preceded him in death. He is survived by one son, two daughters, six grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, 11 great-great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

## GERBER, REV. DANIEL, SR. (77)

Rev. Daniel Gerber, Sr., lived in Pottstown, Pa. Ordained with The Wesleyan Church he served as a pastor and also a chaplain for the Ringing Hills Fire Company. Rev. Gerber also coached high school sports and was co-owner of a family restaurant, The Cup. Survivors include Joyce, his wife of 59 years, two sons, two daughters, one brother, seven grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. A brother preceded him in death.

## HANKINS, REV. WILLIAM (85)

Rev. William Hankins lived in Princess Anne, Md. Ordained with The Wesleyan Church, he served various churches for 50 years. Survivors include his wife, Jessie, of 62 years, one daughter, one son, three brothers, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

## HOWELL, REV. KENNETH (79)

Rev. Kenneth Howell lived in Warrensville, N.C. The ordained minister pastored Wesleyan Methodist churches and later, after the merger, Wesleyan churches. He was preceded in death by his wife, Clarcy, whom he was married to for 57 years, two sisters, one brother, and one granddaughter. Survivors include two sons, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, three sisters, and one brother.

## Justin, Dr. Samuel (90+)

Dr. Samuel Justin served as emeritus national leader and founder of the Gujarat Regional Conference of The Wesleyan Church in India. He pioneered and took the Gujarat Conference from its humble beginnings to where it is right now—a strong, independent, self-sustaining conference led by committed pastors among one of the least-reached ethnic groups in the world. The Gujarat Wesleyan churches are reaching out to their Gujarati communities.

In recent years, the churches in this area of India have suffered persecution, with church burnings and threats of assassination. Dr. Justin lived openly, courageously, winsomely representing Christ to all. His example in the forefront of all the people of the Gujarat Conference will be greatly missed. Survivors include his wife, Pushpa, two sons, Rev. Joel Samuel Justin, who is district superintendent of Gujarat, and Rev. Linus Justin, two daughters (Irene Silvanice Tisbi and Caroline Sudhir Bhagat), two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.



## JONES, REV. LARRY (76)

Rev. Larry Jones lived in Hawk Point, Mo. He served as an ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church and pastored various congregations across the United States. He was preceded in death by a great-granddaughter. Survivors include his wife, Karen, five sons, two daughters, 28 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, one brother, and two sisters.

## NEDROW, REV. RICHARD (75)

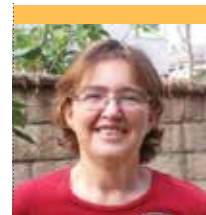
Rev. Richard Nedrow lived in Homosassa, Fla. He became an ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church through the FLAME program. He served as a pastor in West Virginia and supplied pulpits on an interim basis in various states. He and his wife, Patricia, founded First Baptist Church in Chassahowitzka, Fla., after retiring in 2011. He was preceded in death by a sister. Survivors include his wife, one son, and one daughter.

## POLK, REV. C. HAROLD (86)

Rev. C. Harold Polk lived in Columbia City, Ind. He was an ordained minister with The Wesleyan Church and served with churches in the Indiana North District. He was preceded in death by his wife, Donna, as well as a brother. Survivors include three daughters, one son, ten grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.

## RIFFLE, REV. DR. KEITH (60)

Dr. Rev. Keith Riffle lived in Hudson, Fla. He served as co-pastor at Hudson Wesleyan Church in Hudson, Fla. He is survived by his wife, Linda, three children, one sister, and his father.



## ROE, REV. LILLIAN (50)

Lillian "Lily" Roe lived in Yorba Linda, Calif. Ordained with The Wesleyan Church, she served as an assistant pastor and in various district roles in California. She assisted in planting Cherry Creek Wesleyan Church in Denver, Color. The youngest of 17 children, she was preceded in death by her parents, as well as some siblings.




View videos and bonus media in the digital magazine

DIGITAL MAGAZINE & ENEWS  
WESLEYANLIFEONLINE.COM







AT HOUGHTON COLLEGE, we ask you to rethink what you're looking for in a college education. Our vision for Christ-centered learning in an exceptional community will motivate you to develop as a whole person – mind, soul, body – and prepare you to make a lasting impact on the world.

# RETHINK YOUR FUTURE



[www.houghton.edu/rethink](http://www.houghton.edu/rethink)  
800.777.2556



*Serving Higher Interests®*

***Last weekend, I met a man who  
had not been to church in 17 years.***

After another service, I met a woman who was about to complete her 5th step of addiction recovery. After another service, I met a woman who had been rejected by a church when she was a teenager. Every weekend, there is story after story of people returning or coming for the very first time to hear about Jesus.

**Wesleyan Investment Foundation, thank you for investing in what God is doing in our region. Because of your support, over 1,500 people have been saved in the past year!**

**David Kinnan**  
Lead Pastor  
Fountain Springs Church



Wesleyan Investment Foundation | Craig A. Dunn, CEO  
Serving Higher Interests® | Call Today 317.774.7300 | [wifonline.com](http://wifonline.com)



SCAN WITH YOUR  
SMART PHONE