

wesleyan life

THE MAGAZINE OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH



WHY PRAY?

A fresh unfolding
of the mystery

Western PA
BREATHING NEW LIFE

Stanley Tam
PRAYER'S CUMULATIVE EFFECT

IF GOD
Cares ABOUT
Jars



My prayer journey began with my praying dad. As a young child, I would awaken early every morning during his long sessions of prayer. I was in my top bunk in our tiny house for a family of seven. Just on the other side of the thin wall, he was kneeling at his desk chair in his back-porch-turned-pastor's study. He met God on his knees at that chair, and I listened. I learned about conversational prayer.

In those early morning hours I began my own prayer journey with the covers pulled up over my head, a practice I still follow to this very day.

With prayer and a song running through my head every morning, I become ready to face the day. "Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take him at his word. Just to rest upon his promise, and to know, 'Thus saith the Lord!'"

It's all about a conversation. Jesus has always been the constant in my life and I have had this habit of talking to him about everything for as long as I can remember. People say, "You must have a direct line to heaven. God always hears your prayers." I agree, he does hear every prayer I pray. He is used to hearing from me, often. That does not mean he says, "Oh, it's her, I'll answer yes." Actually, it's not so much about the answers as it is the presence of God and peace that comes in the conversation.

A long time ago, I scribbled a quote from Oswald Chambers on a slip of paper and stuck it to my prayer wall in my study. It's still there. "Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; Prayer IS the greater work!" I consider prayer to be the greatest, the most important thing I do.

I am a busy woman. People wonder how I do all that I do. I wonder the same! But I know that my strength and

endurance come from Christ. Talking with him is the most important thing I can do. Chambers goes on to say, "There is nothing thrilling about a laboring person's work, but it is the laboring person who makes the ideas of the genius possible. And it is the laboring saint who makes the ideas of his Master possible. When you labor at prayer, from God's perspective there are always results."

I absolutely cherish my time alone in prayer, but also draw much strength from praying with others. Lately, God seems to have enlisted me to call others to prayer. It has been beautiful to watch him work and to see the faith that has blossomed in all of us in the process.

In early 2014, I was approached about leading a prayer initiative prior to the ALIVE 2015 Women's Conference. I sensed immediately in my spirit that the request was his. But I knew I had to seek from him the way to go about it. Soon he gave me guidance to gather at least 100 women to pray daily for the entire year leading to ALIVE. I sent out an invitation for women to join me, and the response was beautiful beyond my expectations. A total of 250 women from across North America and around the world became a powerful force of prayer.

Every day for a year a call to prayer was placed on the ALIVE Prayer Facebook page covering every detail. Because of that year of focused prayer, women showed up at ALIVE with an excitement and expectation that cannot be described. We had created space in our hearts, in our lives, and in Nashville for God to move. We had worked at prayer and we could feel his presence powerfully. Prayer truly is the greater work! This is what I love so much about the Lord. When he places something on our hearts and we are willing to listen, he is so faithful to guide and bless us in the process.

A long time ago, I scribbled a quote from Oswald Chambers on a slip of paper and stuck it to my prayer wall in my study. It's still there.

Prayer *does not* fit us for the greater work; **PRAYER** is the **GREATER WORK**



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The word prayer has become so diluted by popular culture that we have lost the power of prayer.

Even in the church we rarely pray bold prayers. In the back of our minds, we are thinking that if God does not come through we can probably figure it out.

I believe God is calling us to pray bold prayers. In John 14-16 we see Jesus repeatedly telling us to ASK, and he promises to answer. Prayer is work. **God does not magically respond to formulas; he responds to relationships.** He longs for us to enter into his presence.

Through prayer we can be made into what God has always had in mind for us. Through our relationship with God—praying without ceasing, which is an ongoing conversation with God—we are renewed and transformed daily.

In his classic, *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*, Richard Foster talks about the “prayer of relinquishment.” This is not an easy prayer because we give up control. “Lord, I am at my end, I can do no more, so here it is. I look forward to what you will do.” The key is faith to look forward. With open hands,

eyes, and heart we relinquish control to God and wait upon his plan.

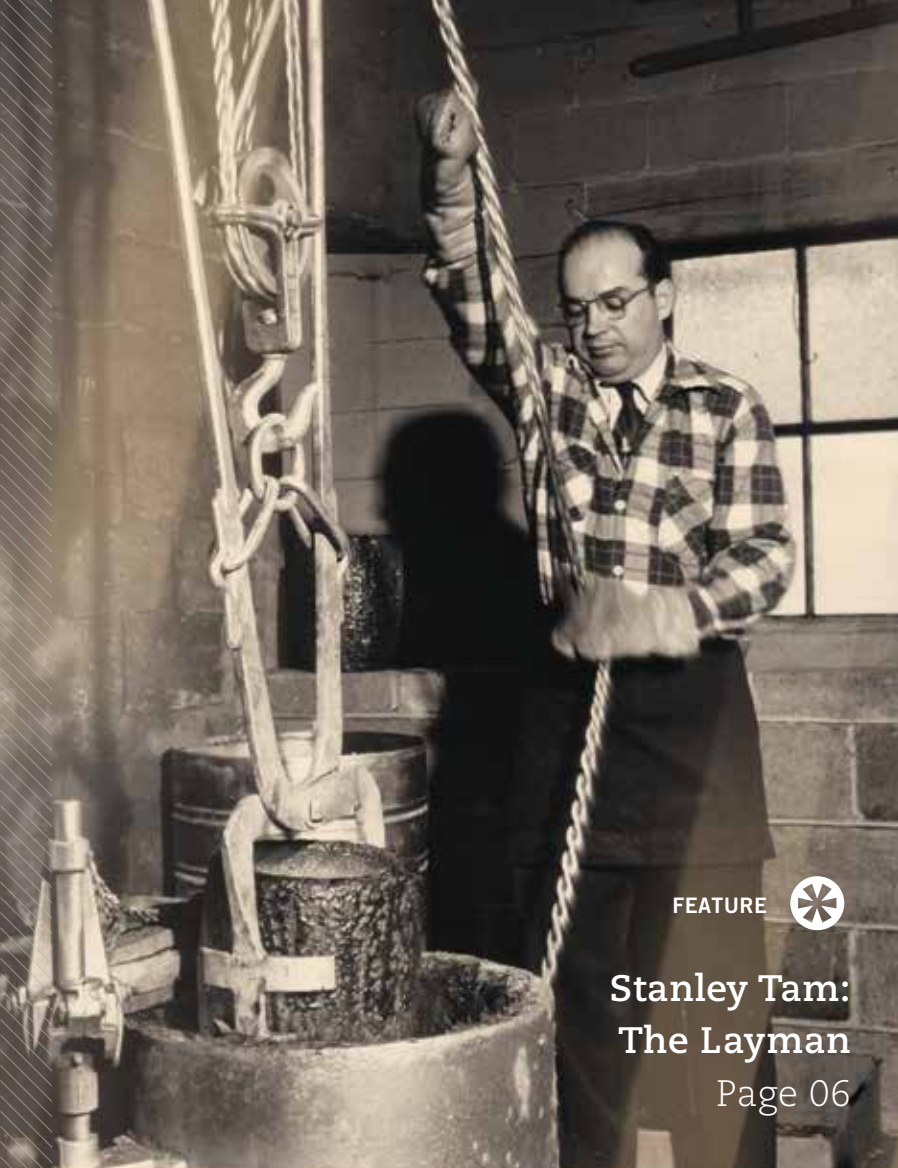
I have personal stories about the prayer of relinquishment. Perhaps the most dramatic is one involving our childlessness. For ten years Wayne and I had no children. We went through all the medical routes to no avail. I became angry with God. Then, after a baby dedication in an inner-city church in Kansas City, Mo., I repented to God for my resentment and literally prayed, “Lord, I no longer hold onto this and I will look forward to what you are going to do.” This cannot be a “magic” prayer or a selfish prayer that now you are going to get what you desire. It is truly emptying yourself (*kenosis*) to God.

Little did I know what God had in mind. Within a few weeks we had the opportunity to adopt a beautiful six-month-old daughter. In another seven months, we adopted a newborn boy. Three years later we welcomed a biological son and just sixteen months after that another biological son.

Prayer—living in constant communion with our Lord.

WHATEVER YOU *ask*
IN MY NAME, THAT I WILL DO,
THAT *The Father* MAY BE
GLORIFIED
IN *The SON.*

John 14:13 NKJV



FEATURE



Stanley Tam:
The Layman

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"God wants us to love refugees in our midst." A great first message in the Refugee Christmas series! #sketchnotes by Brad Gray. [Refugees news on page 27.](#)

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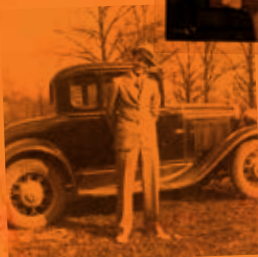
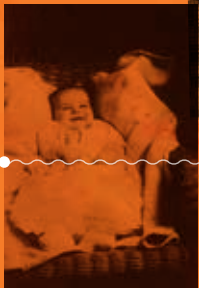
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Stanley Tam *the layman*



Stanley Tam's Story
<http://bit.ly/1TvmXWm>



BY KERRY KIND

Stanley Tam was twenty-one years old and trying to start a business on his own in the middle of the Depression. He was a hard worker and persistent, but he went broke. Driving down the highway with only \$33 left to his name, and ready to give up, he turned to his new-found faith. He pulled the car over and stopped to pray. God was waiting for him there. Stanley poured out his disappointment and frustration. Eventually, God whispered to him his answer, “Stanley, turn it over to me.”

Stanley has spent the rest of his life doing just that. He began by continuing to do the same things he was doing before, working hard, and doing his best. But this time he was doing everything for God, not himself. His business? It began doing well and gradually turned into a successful corporation, U.S. Plastic, that does over \$60 million in annual business.

But Stanley did not become wealthy, at least not in dollars. He took a salary and lived modestly with his beautiful wife Juanita and raised his four daughters in Lima, Ohio. **His company had been turned over to God, and over the years it provided over \$80 million to support spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ around the world.** This story is told in his book, *God Owns My Business*.



Stanley is quick to give God credit for anything he has accomplished

But it all began with a prayer, and an answer, by the side of the road. Hearing God speak to him in his car was a recurring theme in his life. He remembers the morning when God seemed to be speaking to him clearly again: “Stanley, you are never going to amount to much, unless you give me the first hour each day.” This was another moment with God that changed his life.

His daughter Candy remembers, “If I was up early, he would be in the living room, reading his Bible and praying, every day.” Prayer has been the foundation of God’s power in his life, and that is seen in his extraordinary giving and also his lifelong commitment to sharing his faith. He said he would be afraid to ever stop praying.





STANLEY HAS HELPED OVER 40,000 PEOPLE MAKE A DECISION FOR CHRIST.



In the 1940's, the Lord was impressing upon Stanley that he wanted him to go out into his community and talk to people who didn't know Jesus. But Stanley was shy, and didn't know how to do this. He got the idea of buying some Christian films and taking them to people's homes and showing them Christian movies. (This was before television.) For over seven years he went out two nights a week and spent those evenings in homes showing them gospel films and sharing his faith.

He also wrote a twelve-page tract sharing Scripture and testimonies and put it in the packaging of all the products that they mailed out: up to 1,200 packages a day. Over the years, this resulted in thousands of phone calls, letters, and emails from people who wanted to know more. **Stanley says that about 25 people a month have made decisions for Christ that in some way began with the tract.**

A crisis arose in Stanley and Juanita's lives in 1977 when he became sick. At first he just began to feel tired. For over 25 years he had been frequently travelling to churches on weekends. He would spend these weekends meeting laypeople and encouraging them to give their lives to prayer and to witnessing for Jesus. Now he could hardly make it through the day, let alone travel, and when he began passing blood, he went to the doctors. The diagnosis was metastatic bone cancer. His tests and scans showed tumors in at least three locations. The doctor was frank: he had, at best, two years to live.

Many people began praying for him, including thousands in all the churches and missions he had impacted. Stanley remembers the night in the hospital when he prayed until God gave him peace about it all. **He just asked God to help him be the best witness he could be before he died, if he chose not to heal him.** And he got great comfort from John 15:16 where Jesus taught his disciples in the upper room: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you."

That day, October 19, 1977, God touched Stanley. The next day the doctors were amazed to find no cancer at all, through exhaustive tests, and he was released. Was he healed? A few weeks ago, Stanley celebrated his 100th birthday by telling a large room full of friends some of the stories of God's miracles in his life!

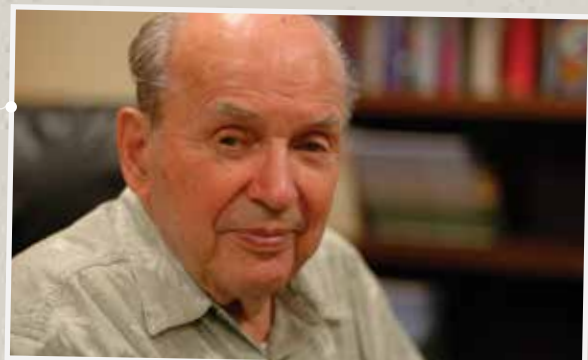
It was about three weeks after Stanley's healing that a missionary in the Philippines wrote to him: "What happened to you on October 19? God woke me up in the middle of the night and laid you on my heart. I prayed for you for about an hour with a deep sense of concern pressing on me heavily. Then the burden suddenly lifted, and I was able to go back to sleep." Stanley knows that God heard prayers like this one and answered.

He has not wasted the years since his healing. Since he is a businessman, he keeps track of records and numbers. According to those records, he has helped over 40,000 people to make decisions for Christ, apart from all of his support for missions. When asked about that, he quickly says, "That's a drop in the bucket. I think about the millions and millions that do not know they can be saved for eternity. That's what I pray about."

The great Dennis Kinlaw, iconic preacher and former president of Asbury University, said, "Stanley couldn't live without communication with God. For many Christians, God is a 'tack-on,' but time with God is the center of Stanley Tam's life. He knows what God's latest thoughts are about him. Most people don't!"

A few weeks ago Stanley finally moved into a rest home where he has his own apartment, but takes his meals in a dining room with the other residents. Asked if he was enjoying his new environment, he said, "Very much. There are 151 people living here besides myself. So far I've had the opportunity to tell 53 of them all about Jesus!"

Prayer has a cumulative effect. Stanley's life is a testament to what can happen if we steadfastly walk with God in prayer and obedience day by day and are blessed to remain and see the results. 🙌





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FOCUSED PRAYER CHALLENGE

BY GEORGE MARTIN

“THEN JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES A PARABLE TO SHOW THEM THAT THEY SHOULD ALWAYS PRAY AND NOT GIVE UP.”

(LUKE 18:1)



GEORGE MARTIN, JR.

is the senior pastor of The Sanctuary Church in Indianapolis, Ind.

Through the parable of the widow and the unjust judge in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus admonishes each of us to always pray and not lose heart. Throughout the gospels, he frequently made prayer his priority, at times praying all night. Although Jesus was extremely busy accomplishing all he had to do in a very short period of earthly ministry, he still made prayer the foundation of his life.

Life is demanding, complicated, with trying circumstances. I am compelled to draw frequently from the well of prayer, to refresh myself in communion with the Father, receive guidance, and seek his help. Although our Lord has commissioned us to always pray and follow his example, are our lives often too “busy”? Are we really consistent, intentional, and effective in our prayer?

Our church ministry calendars can be full with services and ministry activities. And our most willing workers are busy and often heavily obligated. I find it is necessary to place a corporate challenge within the church to carve out times as an entire congregation to offer effectual focused prayer. **Prayer in the church can easily be pushed to a secondary status by only offering brief prayers at public gatherings and assuming too much about our peoples’ personal prayer lives.** Thus we can lose the sense of urgency and fervency that time set aside for substantial corporate prayer can bring.

Our Lord declared, “. . . **my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.**” (Isaiah 56:7).

CHALLENGE

I would like to urge Wesleyan churches to be intentional about prayer during the upcoming Lenten season. **I would like to challenge any Wesleyan church during the weeks from February 10th to Easter 2016 to set aside an hour at least four times with the entire congregation for sacrificial, focused prayer, on specific urgent concerns for the congregation, community, and the world.** It is a sacrifice, but well worth it! God hears and the prayers will not go unanswered, and also, this has the power to transform the congregation. ✨

W H Y

PRAY

BY KEN SCHENCK



PAUL SUGGESTS THAT WE DO NOT KNOW HOW TO PRAY AS WE SHOULD (ROM. 8:26). THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS TO INTERVENE FOR US WITH GROANINGS THAT WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS. I'M SURE YOU HAVE SOMETIMES FELT THIS WAY.

There was a recent incident where a person was on life support, and I did not know how to pray. The ideal would be for a complete recovery. But I also knew that the person might not be themselves at all if they recovered. Would it be better for them to go to their eternal reward rather than be a complete invalid or have no presence of mind? I did not know how to pray. So I prayed for the Holy Spirit to intercede for me. I prayed that he would help the family and the person. I did not know what to ask.

In situations like this, you might ask why we pray at all. God knows far better than we do what the best outcome would be. Indeed, Jesus says in Matthew 6:8 that our heavenly Father knows what we need before we ask him. Why, then, do we need to pray at all? God has power to do anything, he loves us with an infinite love, and he already knows better than we do, exactly what we need!

I have pondered this paradox over the years. Why pray when God already knows? Why pray when we are not even competent to pray for the best? At least three answers have been helpful to me.

THE FIRST IS THAT OUR PRAYERS ARE NOT JUST ABOUT US MAKING REQUESTS. The most important part of prayer is simply praising God for who he is and thanking him for what he has done. God deserves our praise and thanks. If we think that prayer is just about getting things from God, then we have missed the point that prayer is most fundamentally about spending time with God in an intimate relationship that he desires. Prayer focuses us on God as the main thing.

A SECOND ANSWER IS THAT PRAYER CHANGES US WITHIN, FAR BEYOND SOME KIND OF TRANSACTION WE MIGHT THINK WE ARE MAKING WITH GOD. We do not pray because God needs information or advice. One of the main reasons we pray is because we are spiritually formed by a regular, personal connection with God. Many of our deepest needs, ones that we are not even fully aware of, are met by communion with God in prayer.

Prayer reinforces our dependence on God. We know that we need him, but we often forget. Prayer reminds us that we do not have the power to fix all of our own problems or even ourselves. One of the main reasons we need to pray without

ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17) is so that we are constantly reminded that God is the one in control, and we need him. Submitting ourselves to God and his will changes us and helps make us into who he has called us to be.

THERE IS, HOWEVER, A THIRD REASON THAT GOD CALLS US TO PRAY. Is it possible that God actually uses our prayers in order to decide when to act in the world? We Wesleyans believe that God has not determined everything that will happen in the world. He empowers humans to make moral choices if they are willing. Sometimes God intervenes in the world, and sometimes he does not. Could it be that in some cases God decides whether to intervene on the basis of whether we pray?

What a staggering and terrifying thought! What if my prayers sometimes make the difference between whether God allows evil to run its course or whether he intervenes to stop it? What if my prayers could make it more likely that someone would come to faith?

Faith is an individual decision and our prayers cannot directly cause someone to be saved. But what if God, because of his justice, gave a certain amount of grace to everyone to make it possible for them to be saved (prevenient grace)? But then, beyond this minimum amount of prevenient grace, what if our prayers could bring more and more grace around someone? What if everyone has the opportunity, but our prayers could bathe a person in opportunities?

In the end, we do not have to know exactly why God calls us to pray. We simply know that God does tell us to come to him. He desires us. That should be enough in itself. We who are in Christ will want to pray. We do not have to know all the whys in order to enjoy the blessings of the presence of God. What a tremendous gift that God has given not only to his people, but also to the whole world, "for everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rom. 10:13). 🌹

KEN SCHENCK

is Professor of New Testament, Indiana Wesleyan University. Former founding Dean of Wesley Seminary at IWU.



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*I am never amazed
that God does what
he does. I am always
amazed that he chooses
to work through me.*

Strength grows from sharing the stories of what happens when we pray. I get great joy from telling of his work in my life and the lives of those close to me. I love how it builds my own faith and the faith of others.

The past four years of our lives have taken my husband, Jeff, and me on a journey we could never have dreamed of at this stage in our lives. God called us to urban community ministry. We have done a lot of “listening prayer” as he guided us into ministries that we have never done before. There have been many, many conversations with him seeking his wisdom every step of the way. And he has been so faithful! On a hot summer day, I was preparing projects for an artistic expression class at the summer day camp we lead in our urban neighborhood. Since I pray about everything, this day I said, “Lord, I could use 45 jars if you know of any that might be out there.” Later that day, a nearby friend posted on social media: “Moving out west. Have some old canning jars if anyone can use them.” I picked them up and counted them. There were 43! When the children were making their beautiful art projects, one of the girls asked, “Ms. Cheryl, where did you get all of these jars?” I shared the story of my prayer and my friend. Then she said, “Well, if God cares about jars, he must care about everything!”

And that’s it! He does care about everything! He wants to hear about everything. He cares about the details that can be a catalyst to bring glory to his name. He wants to be in constant conversation with us. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 calls us to, “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

There are days when the enemy attempts to place distractions in the way. Prayer requires intentional focus.



For me, I often sit in one of my living room chairs and talk to the chair across from me as though God were sitting there. At other times I just go flat to the floor so that nothing gets my attention but the Lord. I imagine my neighbors might think me crazy if they witnessed me talking to an empty chair. But by now they know I pray about everything because I tell them the stories of God at work.

One of the most powerful ways for me to enter into moments of focused prayer is to begin with these beautiful lyrics:

*Father, I love you
I worship and adore you
Glorify Thy Name in all the earth
Glorify Thy Name
Glorify Thy Name
Glorify Thy Name in all the earth
Jesus, I love you
I worship and adore you
Glorify Thy Name in all the earth
Spirit, I love you
I worship and adore you
Glorify Thy Name in all the earth.*
- By Benny Hinn 🌿



CHERYL MANSELL
and her husband, Dr. Jeff Mansell, lead Seven Baskets, an urban revitalization ministry in the Greater Ohio District of The Wesleyan Church.



BREATHING

New Life

BY RON McCLUNG

**CHURCH
MULTIPLICATION
IN WESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA
has been simmering
quietly for the past
several years. But now it
is about to boil over.**

Churches come into existence in various ways. Some begin as a parachute drop, meaning that when church planters arrive in a community, they know almost no one else. Others begin as daughters of an established church. Still others may be planted through the cooperative efforts of multiple congregations.

In the Western Pennsylvania District, church multiplication has been simmering quietly for the past several years. But now it is about to boil over, resulting in a variety of new congregations as well as revitalized established churches. Veteran District Superintendent Rev. Randy Swink provides overall district leadership, and he is encouraged by the new and growing fellowships.



NEW LIFE IN THE “CHURCH GRAVEYARD”

There was a time in the history of the United States, if passengers wanted to travel west, they went through Altoona, Pennsylvania. Trains that converged on that area had developed a way to get over the mountains.

Trains are no longer as important to the economy of that region, but God has not forgotten Altoona. When Richard and Tonya Cox moved there three years ago, they knew only four other people. Richard became involved in Leadership Blair County, an arm of the County Chamber of Commerce. The connections he developed put him in touch with countless people in the area.

Some called the city of Altoona a “church graveyard,” since more than a dozen churches had closed in the past decade, including one with a 1,000-seat sanctuary.

Richard and Tonya spent the first fifteen months living as missionaries, focusing on building relationships and sharing the story of Jesus with those who would listen. In the months preceding the grand opening of Overflow Church in October 2013, fifteen district churches sent more than 200 volunteers who enabled them to begin reaching their city. The launch team comprised people from three district churches as well as people from the community. One congregation that had closed sold their building to Overflow Church for one dollar.



Fifteen
district
churches
sent more
than 200
volunteers
who enabled
them to begin
reaching
their city.

Since the grand opening, 60 people have made decisions for Christ, with 30 publicly declaring their faith in Jesus through baptism. Some had never before stepped into a church or heard the story of Jesus.

With the district’s blessing, Overflow is forming a network with district churches for the purpose of partnering together for multiplication. They are on target for their first daughter church to be launched in the fall of 2016.

FROM A MINE BUILDING TO A “CHURCH-RAISING”

One of the churches partnering with Overflow is Beech Creek Wesleyan in north-central Pennsylvania. The church has a rich history. In 1928, a new church plant purchased an old mine building, moved it off the mountain to the valley, reassembled it as a church, and used it for the next 80 years.

By the early 1990s, worship attendance had dropped to about 15. District leadership sent Rev. Luther Nelson Jr. to Beech Creek with the instructions, “Get it going or we’ll come in and close it.” When Rev. Nelson was called elsewhere in 2000, the church averaged 55.

The new pastor, Rev. Alan Eckenroad, was determined with God’s help to grow the church further. When they reached 120 in two services, the adjacent 4.5 acres became available. A Brethren in Christ Church in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, heard about their building plans and offered to bring 100 builders from their congregation to do a church-raising, similar to an Amish barn-raising. Beginning on

a Monday morning with a foundation that had been prepared, the building was under roof by Saturday, saving \$200,000 in costs. The new facility, seating 300, opened in February 2012.

At one time, Beech Creek had three churches, with the Wesleyan church being the smallest. By 2015, it was the only church left in the community of about 1,000. Now worship attendance averages 150. Recently, the church’s neighbor indicated he and his wife felt God wanted them to donate 6.5 adjacent acres, bringing the church’s total to 11 acres.

Meanwhile, the church is reaching out. A Community Connection Day features free food and games. An annual Thanksgiving dinner, in which the church takes over a local restaurant, ministers to about 200 people. For the past four years, the church has given a Christmas gift to each of 260 inmates in the Clinton County prison.

Now Beech Creek is partnering with Hyde Wesleyan and Altoona Overflow to plant a new congregation in Holidaysburg.



Beginning on
a Monday...the
building was under
roof by Saturday,
**saving \$200,000
in costs.**



Volunteer crew raising
Beech Creek Church



Beech Creek Church Auditorium

YOU CAN'T OUT-GIVE GOD

When Rev. Bob Croft assumed the pastorate of Hyde Wesleyan Church in north-central Pennsylvania 30 years ago, the church was almost ready to close. Humanly speaking, he did not want to go there.



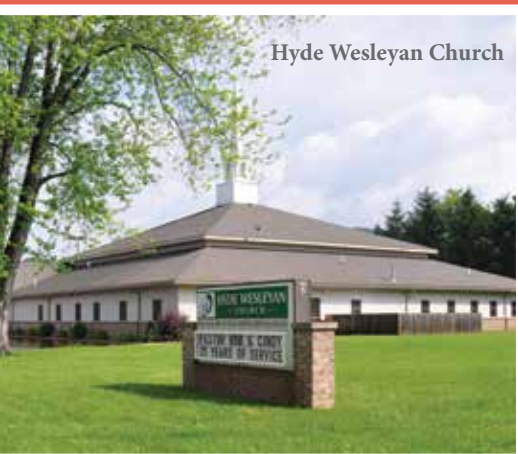
Family Fun Day
at Hyde Wesleyan

Hyde Wesleyan was a challenge. For the first seven years, attendance did not rise above 35. His father, also a minister, suggested that he adopt the faith-promise method to raise money for missions. Bob was reluctant. After all, the total contributions averaged only \$14,000 a year.

But the congregation took the challenge and set a goal of \$1,000 for missions, which seemed like a big stretch. The response totaled \$3,600. "From that point," Pastor Bob said, "our church began to turn around."

When they needed a new sanctuary, he told the congregation, "We will build as long as we don't short-change missions." As they raised money for the building, missions giving also increased. Today the congregation of 265 has a facility valued at \$1.6 million, on which they owe only \$16,000. Annually they give close to \$100,000 for local and foreign missions. They found that you can't out-give God.

Over 100 people have gone on mission trips. More than a dozen of their teens have gone into the ministry. A children's "penny march" occurs every Sunday morning, in which each child grabs a cup, circulates through the congregation, and collects loose change. In the past ten years, the "penny march" has netted \$52,000, which has gone to an orphanage in Swaziland, Africa.



Hyde Wesleyan Church



Today the congregation of 265 has a facility valued at \$1.6 million. Annually they give close to **\$100,000 for missions.**

MULTIPLYING CONGREGATIONS & DEVELOPING PEOPLE

Sandy Lake Wesleyan is a church that wants to multiply. When Rev. Jesse Pratt became the lead pastor in September 2013, he knew that former pastor Shawn Cossin had prepared the congregation to launch a daughter church in the near future. So Pastor Jesse was prepared to lead the church forward in a multiplication process.

By September 2014, Nate Alsdorf, a staff pastor at Sandy Lake, became the lead

planter for a new congregation called Oasis in Meadville, Pennsylvania, a half hour away. Sandy Lake gave away one of their most gifted leaders. "And because he was on staff already, people knew and trusted him," Pastor Jesse

50 people from the mother church were encouraged to help start Oasis.

said. Approximately 50 people from the mother church were encouraged to join Nate to help start Oasis.

The borough of Sandy Lake is a community of some 1,200 persons in northwestern Pennsylvania, but the church considers the school district to be its target area. So it is something of a regional church, with attendees coming from as much as 45 miles away. They are making the transition from a regional church to a missional church. Instead of expecting the region to come to them, they want to multiply churches in the region.

Usually new churches grow faster than established ones. In its first year, Oasis Church held four baptismal services.

Pastor Jesse says that one of the exciting things is to see the transformation taking place among those who left Sandy Lake to plant Oasis. "It is awesome to see them grow and excel and to see God use them in ways they never realized," he said. "Pastor Nate feels he has been set free to do things he didn't even know he could do."



OVERVIEW

Indiana Wesleyan University was pleased to receive a \$623,337 S-Stem (Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) grant awarded by the National Science Foundation in April 2015. The grant is being used to provide scholarships to 18 academically talented and financially needy students to pursue and complete undergraduate degrees in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The scholarship will support two student cohorts consisting of nine STEM majors each over a period of four years. The first and second cohort will begin studies in 2016 and 2017, respectively. Throughout their time at IWU, student cohorts will have the opportunity to collaborate on research, participate in student organizations and attend educational conferences, creating a powerful peer support structure.

QUALIFYING STUDENTS

Who is the ideal candidate?

- High School student desiring to major in Biology, Chemistry or Physics
- In financial need
- Demonstrates academic potential
- Of good character
- Students from underrepresented STEM groups, including women and minorities, are especially encouraged to apply

Applicants will also be asked to submit a letter of recommendation from their high school science teacher. This recommendation, combined with a personal essay and personal interview, will weigh heavily in the selection of scholars.

THE NUMBERS

Two different levels of scholarships will be available based on financial need. Recipients will receive the scholarship for all four years they are at IWU.



For more information and to apply, visit spas.cis.indwes.edu/sstem

For more about this scholarship opportunity, contact Dr. Matthew Kreitzer
765-677-2301 | Matthew.Kreitzer@indwes.edu



A “DRIVE-IN” CHURCH

A unique congregation in western Pennsylvania is Armbrust Wesleyan Church, located at a crossroads that was the end of the line for a trolley that used to come out from southeast Pittsburgh. A camp meeting was held in the area in the 1920s, after which a Sunday school class started. It became the congregation that is now Armbrust Wesleyan.

The church has a history of long pastorates. The two pastors preceding the current leader, Rev. Tim Stradling, served a combined total of 45 years. Rev. Stradling has been at Armbrust for eleven years.

In the 1970s, former Pastor Jay Clark began a Drive-In Church, in which cars drove into the parking lot facing the church in the summertime. It began by using loudspeakers. When neighbors began to complain about disturbing the peace, the church switched to an AM transmitter, by which worshipers could hear the service on their car radios.

The mission of the church is often better accomplished by **moving out** and **ministering outside the walls of their churches** in their communities.

When asked why the church continues a ministry that was something of a fad several years ago, he said, “We usually have 50-70 people in the outdoor drive-in service each Sunday morning and at the end of the summer season, we usually have some new families who begin worshipping with us year-round. It’s hard to argue with what is helping us reach new people.”

The total worship average attendance is about 250.

“We’re a family church,” the pastor said, “with a strong emphasis on discipleship for all ages.” The church also conducts a Christian school, preschool through twelfth grade, with an enrollment of 60.

The church sponsors a community meal every Wednesday evening, providing free food for anyone, including some low income families in the community for whom the free meal is very meaningful. “It’s also a great way to connect with some of our neighbors,” the pastor said.

The Western Pennsylvania District has discovered what so many other Wesleyan districts have learned, that the mission of the church is often better accomplished by moving out and ministering outside the walls of their churches in their communities. And they are working together with other churches to multiply and accomplish things that one church can rarely do alone.

BUILDING

“THE BRIDGE” TO THE COMMUNITY

Another church plant in western Pennsylvania is The Bridge, located in Penn Hills, a northeastern suburb of Pittsburgh. Upon returning to the States after working as Africa area director for Global Partners, Rev. Rick Cox had a strong desire to plant a church. Dr. Wayne Schmidt encouraged him to consider a multi-ethnic plant in Pittsburgh.

In January 2010, he and his family moved to Penn Hills and began to get acquainted in the community. They launched The Bridge a year later and are now beginning to see the multi-ethnic aspect occur.

On that one Sunday, **three persons received Christ, two were baptized, and 26 were filled with the Holy Spirit.**



They have attracted young families, their target group, and some older people as well. They have a strong children’s program called Bridge Kidz, which meets during the adult worship service. They currently worship in the ballroom of the 3 Lakes Golf Course, which will seat 250-300.

Several attendees have come to know Christ for the first time. Others who had been de-churched have started attending. On Pentecost Sunday, many heard for the first time about being filled with the Spirit. On that one Sunday, three persons received Christ, two were baptized, and 26 were filled with the Holy Spirit. 🌿

HE IS ENOUGH

BY LOGAN HOFFMAN

P rayer was hard for me after my dad died. I was only in my second year out of seminary, in my first full-time ministry position, and living in New Zealand on the other side of the world from my family. A lot of things were already hard; Dad's sudden accidental death made all of them much harder.

I didn't think prayer would be so difficult, though. People would ask me to pray for them, and I would, but I wondered how much good it was doing. To myself, I thought, "He didn't protect Dad, why would he answer these prayers? Worse, what would it mean if he answered these prayers and didn't answer the ones about my dad?" I remember sitting down in my office and thinking that I ought to spend some time in prayer, that I needed God in that moment. But when I closed my eyes I found that I didn't have the energy or the will for the conversation.

When I did pray, especially in the days just after Dad's death, it was with anger and demands. I let God know that I wasn't happy, but there are only so many ways you can say that. So, mostly I let God know what I wanted him to do for me. "You have allowed this to happen, so you better take care of Mom. God, I went back to my church on the other side of the world and left Mom alone because you have not released me from my call, so you better make it worthwhile. If I am faithful to you, even now, then I better start seeing some results in my ministry." They all boiled down to the same question, really: "How are you going to make this up to me? You owe me, so what do you have for me now?"

Of course, God doesn't owe us anything, and it felt as though my prayers fell on deaf ears. My ministry was still hard, with little tangible fruit. My family back in America still suffered, with no sense of soaring on wings like eagles or any other kind of relief or comfort. And so eventually I stopped praying, mostly. The conversation was too difficult and too repetitive. God knew what I needed, or at least what I was going to ask, and I knew that he wasn't going to suddenly fix this. What else was there to say?

The weeks lengthened into more than two years. Not that long, really, but it has seemed like an eternity. And I began to notice something odd: I missed him. It was a realization that I felt long before I put it into words. It grew slowly, a pressure building inside, until a thought reached the surface: "When was the last time I really connected with God? When last did I reach out with my mind, my soul, and feel him there, regarding me with love?" I had a hard time coming up with the answer. How could I be with him, connect with him, when I hardly even tried anymore?

So, I try; I pray. He is there, but it is still awkward. He never answered my question.

And then, I think I hear him say, "What do I have for you now, Logan? Me. I will give you me. It is not what you asked for, but I still love you, and that is enough."

I have come to him in prayer looking for many things, have not found them, and I have been disappointed. What I do find in prayer now is him, only him. Does that change anything? He is enough. 🌿





HOW ARE
YOU GOING TO MAKE
THIS UP TO ME?
YOU OWE ME,
SO WHAT DO YOU
HAVE FOR ME NOW?



LOGAN HOFFMAN

is a resident pastor at College Wesleyan Church in Marion, Ind. Former associate pastor at The Well, New Zealand.

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THE COVER:



▲
Underpainting of *The Lord's Prayer* by painter **Laurén Brady**, commissioned for the cover of the *Wesleyan Life*, winter 2016 issue on prayer. View more on Instagram @laurenbradyart.



THE PATERNOSTER

BY RICHARD J. FOSTER

We today call it the Lord's Prayer, though that distinction more rightly belongs to the high priestly prayer of Jesus in the upper room (John 17). The Paternoster is the prayer given by the Lord for disciples of the Lord, namely, you and me. Its concerns embrace the whole world, from the coming of the kingdom to daily bread.

The Lord's Prayer is essentially petitionary—asking. Adoration is present at the beginning and the end, but petition is present through the main body. Of its perfectly crafted requests, three relate to personal petition. These three entreaties can be gathered up into three words: give, forgive, and deliver.

Give. Try to imagine what our prayer experience would be like if he had forbidden us to ask for the little things. He welcomes us with our 1,001 trifles, for they are each important to him. We pray for daily bread by taking to God those trifles that make up the bulk of our days. Are we struggling? We ask for patience and wisdom and compassion—daily, hourly. This is how we pray for daily bread.

Forgive. [Our] debts are enormous indeed. The mountain of offenses grows too high for us—its very weight threatens to crush the life out of us. It is just when we are gasping for breath that Jesus invites us to pray. He knows how very much God loves to forgive. It is the one thing he yearns to do, aches to do, rushes to do. But . . . it is a conditional request. We are forgiven as we forgive. We must give in order to receive.

Deliver. “Lead us not into temptation” means: “Lord, let there be nothing in me that will force you to put me to the test in order to reveal what is in my heart.” Now . . . Jesus is urging us to pray for rescue not from evil in a generic sense, but from the evil one. This does not sit well in our modern and postmodern understanding, but it is there nevertheless. Have we not seen enough of . . . the horrible to speak without embarrassment the phrase of Martin Luther: “The prince of darkness grim/ We tremble not for him/ His rage we can endure/ For lo, his doom is sure/ One little word shall fell him”? This is the outcome of the prayer for deliverance.

Excerpted from the modern classic, Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home, by Richard J. Foster (HarperCollins, 1992).



RICHARD FOSTER

Best known for his monumental *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster is a beloved pastor and teacher from the Quaker tradition.

*Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our
daily bread.
And forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive
those who trespass
against us.
And lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us
from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory forever.
Amen*

According to **Mark Moore**, in *The Rhythm of Prayer*: Jesus gave us this prayer to exemplify the proper spirit to have in prayer. **It is a continual reminder against making selfish prayers.** First and foremost, he praised God. He asked only for sustenance, forgiveness, and the will of the Father. We do well to do the same.



Greenhouses bring food security

Agriculture is the primary source of livelihood for most Africans. In partnership with Pennsylvania State University, World Hope International's greenhouse project improves water sustainability to ultimately boost food security and help alleviate poverty. World Hope's greenhouses are portable, expandable, and cost less than \$800 per unit. Using World Hope's existing network in Sierra Leone, Mozambique and Zambia, farmers learn how to intensify their farms and grow more vegetables year-round.

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REFUGEES

A European Pastor's View

BY PIOTR GASIOROWSKI

As told to Global Partners
Europe Area Director Dave Horne

Jesus told us to go and make disciples. Today, with refugees, they are right here among us, seeking love, care, peace, and understanding. Who, if not the church, will love them?

- ▶ **As a Wesleyan European pastor how does your faith influence your perspective on the refugee crisis?**
God's heart is with those who are alone, who are persecuted, and who have had to escape from their own land. We all are refugees and have been accepted by God. So if I've been accepted and cared for and loved, my faith tells me that what I have received for free I should give for free.

We all are refugees and have been accepted by God.

- ▶ **Some people in Europe are fearful of Muslims destroying European culture. What is your response?**
We can't put our fear before love! I would say that the main reason we are afraid is that Europeans are not sure of our basic values anymore; we have lost our identity. When I am secure in my beliefs it makes it easier for me to welcome others. We need to be sure of our own faith and not be afraid of what someone else believes.

There is one more thing. Jesus told us to go and make disciples. Today, with refugees, they are right here among us, seeking love, care, peace, and understanding. Who, if not the church, will love them? And so we love them, care for them, in the name of Christ.



Learn more about refugee relief and how you can help.
donate.wesleyan.org/refugee-relief

- ▶ **What would you like to say to the church in other parts of the world?**
Our great task given by God is our mission to the world, to the "least of these." We have many reasons to be thankful. We have much to offer, but as a European I can see how important it is not only to support missions, but to BE missionaries. Missions is much more than charity, it is life-changing ministry. To change lives we need to give our lives. We need to become truly his and then we will have something to offer.
- ▶ **How should we be praying?**
The opposite of fear is trust! So I would like us to pray about trusting God and trusting him with whatever we have. Pray that we will trust him, let God's Spirit work within us, and be transformed.
- ▶ **Is there anything else we can do in a tangible way?**
Prayer is essential, but no excuse for not doing something tangible as well. We should give financially. We can organize groups of people who can serve in places where people are in desperate situations. And every one of us needs to turn to God, to his Word, making our churches more trusting and fearless!

Our great task given by God is our mission to the world, to the "least of these."

PIOTR GASIOROWSKI

leads a growing Wesleyan church in
Krakow, Poland.





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Lennox inaugurated at Kingswood

In its 70th year, Kingswood University inaugurated Dr. Stephen J. Lennox as its 12th president.

Dr. Harry Wood, a former General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church, presented the charge to President Lennox and the university. Lennox was called to ministry when Wood was his pastor. Dr. Jo Anne Lyon, General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church, spoke of Kingswood University's role in the face of today's global challenges.

Three former Kingswood presidents, Dr. David Medders, Dr. Arthur Maxwell, and Dr. Mark Gorveatte, attended and prayed over Lennox.

SWU presents a love story

Rev. Heath Mullikin, pastor at Oakway United Wesleyan Church in Westminster, S.C., met his wife, Karen, while both were students at Southern. But since Karen was unable to attend commencement ceremonies back then due to a family death, Heath had hurriedly proposed before she departed.

Now, 17 years later in a total surprise, SWU President Dr. Todd Voss formally presented Karen with her diploma, a special letter of commendation for extraordinary service, and other awards from campus organizations. Then Heath went down on one knee and presented Karen with a new ring.

Reflecting on Karen's battle with Huntington's Disease, a house fire, and their daughters' serious jet-ski accident, Heath said "Our life is not easy right now. I want you to know I will love you with all of my heart and I will be there with you until I can be there no more."

Karen was visibly moved and embraced Heath as their children and the chapel congregation shared their approval.



Houghton College ranked 7th best rural college

Houghton College has been ranked as the no. 7 top rural college in the country according to College Raptor's "2016 Ranking of the 25 Best Rural Colleges."

This distinction comes as part of College Raptor's 2016 college rankings, which ranked colleges nationally and regionally and by campus setting and enrollment size.

College rankings were determined by a combination of factors, including graduation rates, campus diversity, endowment per student and other data.

IWU recognized for helping low-income students

Washington Monthly ranked Indiana Wesleyan University third in the nation for institutions that have increased enrollment of low-income students over five years. IWU exceeded its predicted Pell enrollment rate (low-income students) by 17.1 percent.

IWU ranked alongside University of California and Florida State University as the nation's best in increasingly reaching out to this segment.

Not only is IWU recruiting and enrolling low-income students, it is also nurturing their success through multiple initiatives.

OKWU announces record enrollments

Oklahoma Wesleyan University announced a record-breaking year with nearly 1,700 students. Both the on-campus and Adult & Graduate Studies programs are at an all-time high.

OKWU has once again placed in the top 15 US News Best Regional Colleges West and was among the best in other categories such as Best Value College and Best Colleges for Veterans.

This year's numbers reflect a 43-percent increase in total enrollment over the last 10 years, and a 23-percent increase in on-campus enrollment.

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Obituaries

ALLEN, REV. DAVID S., SR. (81)

Rev. David S. Allen, Sr., died September 21, in White Haven, Pa. He served as pastor of Bethel Wesleyan Church in Harrisburg, Pa., for 22 years. He was preceded in death by Wilma, his wife of 45 years. Survivors include five sons, two daughters, 21 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

APPLE, REV. JUNIA (98)

Rev. Junia Apple died October 23, in Asheboro, N.C. She was the oldest living ordained minister in the North Carolina East District. She served alongside her husband in ministry in that district for over 60 years. One sister and three brothers preceded her in death. Survivors include her husband of 72 years, Rev. Charles E. Apple, one daughter, one grandchild, two great-grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, and six step-great-grandchildren.

BERTRIM, REV. MARILYN (61)

Rev. Marilyn Bertrim died April 30, in Whitby, Ontario, Canada. She pastored first in the Standard Church and then The Wesleyan Church. She ministered in her hometown of Kingston, Ontario, and later in the Toronto area. Survivors include Rev. Brian Bertrim, her husband of 39 years, one son, and one daughter.

BROWN, REV. C. LAMAR (73)

Rev. C. LaMar Brown died September 26, in Milan, Ind. He and his wife, Becky, were missionaries with Wesleyan World Missions to Peru, South America for eight years, then he pastored churches in Kentucky, Illinois, and Indiana. He was pastoring the Milan (Ind.) Wesleyan Church at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife of nearly 54 years, Becky, one son, one daughter, and one grandchild.

BROWN, REV. ROBERT (59)

Rev. Robert Brown died November 2, in Vancouver, Wash. He served as a pastor in multiple churches across the United States and Canada. He also served as dean of students at Bethany Bible College (now Kingswood University) and in the Sunday School and Discipleship Department at The Wesleyan Church Headquarters. He also taught Wesleyan FLAME courses. In 1993, he helped lead

a team to Russia with Global Partners, serving for five weeks in youth camp. Survivors include his wife, Karen, two sons, one brother, and one sister.

CHAMBERS, REV. JOHN (78)

Rev. John Chambers died January 27, in Pinellas, Fla. He was a pastor in The Wesleyan Church. A sister preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Sue, four sons, nine grandchildren, one sister, and one brother.

GOODELL, REV. LEE (86)

Rev. Lee Goodell died October 22, in Rapid City, S.D. Rev. Goodell pastored Wesleyan churches in Wyoming and Montana. He served on numerous boards and also served as a hospital chaplain. He was preceded in death by three sisters and one grandson. Survivors include his wife, Inez, one son, one daughter, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

HADSELL, REV. FLOYD (89)

Rev. Floyd Hadsell died October 27, in Salida, Colo. He pastored churches in Indiana, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. A Frankfort Wesleyan Bible college graduate, he met his wife, Myrtie, there. She preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife, Bonnie, three sons, one daughter, seven grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, one sister, and one brother.

HEER, JOHN FRANKLIN (87)

John Franklin Heer died March 25, in Hastings, Mich. He and his wife, Sallie, served as missionaries to Colombia from 1958-1968 with Wesleyan World Missions. In 1971, he became a teacher, principal, and president of Brainerd Indian School in South Dakota. The couple then served for a year in the Philippines in 1986. Survivors include Sallie, two sons, one daughter, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

HILL, ELLEN (83)

Ellen Hill died June 9, in Marion, Ind. She taught school both in the United States and as a missionary at Wesleyan Academy in Puerto Rico. Her husband, Rev. David Hill, preceded her in death. Survivors include one son, one daughter, six grandchildren, six step-grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, and one sister.

KINCAID, REV. BOBBY R. (B.R.) (87)

Rev. Bobby R. (B.R.) Kincaid died October 27, in Forest Hills, Ken. A U.S. Navy veteran, he served as pastor or lay leader in Wesleyan churches in West Virginia for 61 years. Survivors include his wife, Wanda, two sons, one daughter, eight grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and two brothers.

MCCLUNG, REV. THOMAS GLEN (83)

Rev. Thomas Glen McClung died November 13, in Parkersburg, W.V. He attended Frankfort Pilgrim College and pastored churches of several denominations, including Wesleyan. Rev. McClung also owned his own business, managed rental properties, and worked in the mental health field. He conducted a weekly radio program. Rev. McClung was preceded in death by six brothers, one son, and wives Naomi, Madeline, and Patricia. Survivors include two sons, two daughters, eight grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, one brother, and one sister.

MILLER, DONALD (76)

Donald Miller died May 8, in Goshen, Ind. He and his wife Carolyn served with Wesleyan World Missions in South Africa among the Zulu tribe from 1964-1980. He was preceded in death by two sisters and two brothers. Survivors include his wife, one daughter, two grandchildren, and one sister.

MILLER, DR. GORDON E. (95)

Dr. Gordon E. Miller died October 13, in Kernersville, N.C. An ordained minister, he served as president and professor of Southern Pilgrim College, music director at Christ Wesleyan Church in Greensboro, N.C., and on the Board of Aldermen for the town of Kernersville. His wife, Frances Mae, preceded him in death, as did one son, one brother, and one sister. Survivors include one son, four grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren.

EMERY, DR. O.D. (88)

Former General Superintendent (1980-1992), Dr. O.D. Emery died November 1, in High Point, North Carolina. A WWII Navy veteran, he served in pastoral ministries in Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Arizona. From 1952-1962, Dr. Emery served as district superintendent of the Wisconsin and Arizona-New Mexico Districts of the Pilgrim Holiness Church. He then joined headquarters as a general officer serving youth and Sunday school departments until, in 1980, Dr. Emery was elected to serve as a General Superintendent, a role in which he served with distinction until his retirement in 1992. An infant brother preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife, Ruthanne, of 69 years, six children, 19 grandchildren, 42 great-grandchildren, three sisters, and one brother.

**MITTEN, REV. TED (68)**

Rev. Ted Mitten died August 18 in Perrysburg, Ohio. He pastored Detroit Avenue Wesleyan Church. He also served three years in Africa as a missionary with other agencies. Rev. Mitten is survived by his wife, Etta Jane, three daughters, three stepchildren, 13 grandchildren, two brothers, and two sisters.

MCCALLUM, DR. FLOYD E. (96)

Rev. Floyd E. McCallum died September 6, in Archdale, N.C. He was an ordained pastor, evangelist, professor, and counselor. Dr. McCallum held faculty, staff, and administration positions at seven colleges, including Owosso College and Houghton College. He also served as a counselor at First Wesleyan Church, High Point, N.C. His wife of 75 years, Verona, preceded him in death. He is survived by three sons, five grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

**NELSON, REV. ELDON B. (89) AND WILDA (89)**

Rev. Eldon B. Nelson died November 9 and Wilda Nelson died on November 2, in Indianapolis, Ind.

They served for 11 years in the Caribbean Islands with Wesleyan World Missions and pastored in Michigan. After 16 years of serving at Trinity Wesleyan Church (now 37North Church) in Southgate, Mich., Eldon was named pastor emeritus. Serving alongside her husband, Wilda was also president of Wesleyan Women in the East Michigan District. They were married 67 years. Survivors include three sons, six grandsons, five great-grandchildren, and one sister.

NIXON, REV. NORMAN E. (95)

Rev. Norman E. Nixon died August 27, in Lion's Head, Ontario, Canada. A graduate of Owosso College, he pastored churches in Michigan and Central Canada. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Bernice, two daughters, three granddaughters, seven great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

THOMPSON, REV. DANIEL (DAN) (82)

Rev. Daniel Thompson died October 6, in Salisbury, Md. A U.S. Army Korean War veteran, he pastored several churches in Maryland. He was preceded in death by one son, five brothers, and three sisters. Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Ruth Ann, two sons, eight grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren.

VANSICKLE, REV. CLIFFORD K. (83)

Rev. Clifford K. VanSickle died September 17, in Saginaw, Mich. He taught at Bartlesville College (now Oklahoma Wesleyan University) for 29 years. He was preceded in death by one brother and two sisters. Survivors include one brother and one sister.

WALKER, REV. TIMOTHY (58)

Rev. Timothy Walker died October 21, in Lafayette, Ind. He served in the U.S. Navy as a submariner and later pastored Colfax Wesleyan Church in Colfax, Ind., for 20 years. He was preceded in death by a son, two brothers, and one sister. Survivors include his wife, Veronika, three sons, three daughters, three sisters, three brothers, 20 grandchildren, and 28 great-grandchildren.



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