

# wesleyan life

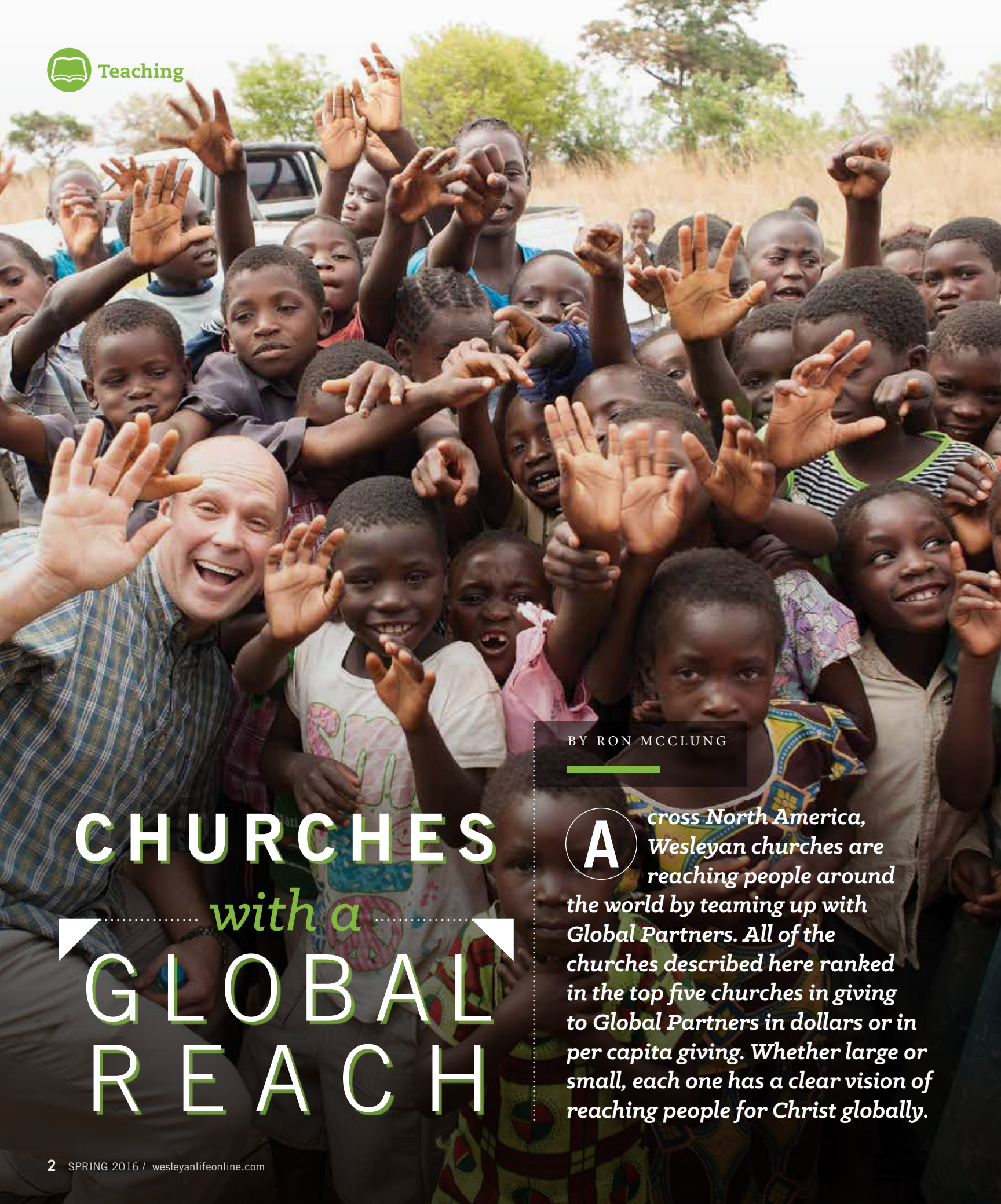
THE MAGAZINE OF THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

## BEING NEIGHBORS

WITH THE WORLD

The Forgotten ..... Uniting  
OF BANGLADESH ..... LATIN AMERICA





BY RON MCCLUNG

**A** cross North America, Wesleyan churches are reaching people around the world by teaming up with Global Partners. All of the churches described here ranked in the top five churches in giving to Global Partners in dollars or in per capita giving. Whether large or small, each one has a clear vision of reaching people for Christ globally.

# CHURCHES

*with a*

# GLOBAL REACH



## A CHURCH WITH A “MISSIONS HOT” TEMPERATURE

**Moncton Wesleyan Church**  
New Brunswick,  
Canada

Tim Guptill, senior pastor of Moncton Wesleyan Church in New Brunswick, Canada, says, “Under the leadership of former pastor Dr. Laurel Buckingham, who served the church for 44 years, the church has been ‘steeped in the culture’ of missions awareness and activity.”

Consequently, “Every Sunday is mission Sunday,” Pastor Guptill added. “There is a ‘mission-hot temperature’ present all the time. Our leaders are very intentional about making sure we don’t veer away from that.” Moncton Wesleyan, a congregation of 1,500, is a sending church and a giving church. “We have released many high-capacity people to serve as they feel

led.” Each year scores of people from Moncton Wesleyan go on short-term mission trips. From the pulpit, people will hear that “everyone should go at least once, and if you can’t go, send somebody else.”

The church has special, ongoing relationships in several locations overseas. For example, in Haiti, Moncton people found a struggling village that was receiving virtually no help. They began a feeding program where children can get a good meal as well as have their health needs met. Every Sunday, at the campus in Moncton, the church offers a pizza lunch after the morning worship. The proceeds from the lunch go to the food program in Haiti.

“Missions involvement provides long-term benefits for the church,” said Pastor Guptill. The congregation gave more than \$118,000 through Global Partners last year. Missions giving causes an increase in local giving. It helps raise up key leaders, and it results in growth in the youth ministry. “It adds value to our church. Without our missions emphasis, Moncton Wesleyan would be a weaker, more self-centered church.”

He advises other congregations, “Don’t make missions an after-thought. Don’t wait to see what is left over in the budget. Put missions on top of the list and see what God does.”

*“Without our missions emphasis, Moncton Wesleyan would be a weaker, more self-centered church.”*



CONTINUED  
ON PAGE 10

Top 5 Churches

**TOTAL  
GIVING**

**Skyline Wesleyan Church** (La Mesa, CA)  
**Heritage Wesleyan Church** (Rock Island, IL)  
**All Shores Wesleyan Church** (Spring Lake, MI)  
**Moncton Wesleyan Church** (Moncton, NB)  
**Central Wesleyan Church** (Holland, MI)

Top 5 Churches

**GIVING  
PER CAPITA**

**Parkway Wesleyan Church** (Staunton, VA)  
**Wesleyan Community Church** (Bird City, KS)  
**Warren Wesleyan Church** (Warren, PA)  
**Faith Wesleyan Church** (Terra Haute, IN)  
**Campo Wesleyan Church** (Campo, CO)



# THE DAY MY HEART BROKE

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT  
JO ANNE LYON

I am often asked, “Was there a moment that gave you a passion for the world?” I am sure there were many moments and of course the words of Scripture continually ring through our hearts and minds. But perhaps for me there was a catalytic moment in Ethiopia. I was invited to go with an ABC news team in 1985 to do a report on the famine claiming thousands of lives. As a faith leader I was to give my view of all this. We entered one of the first feeding stations at a center where there were already 250,000 people on the edge of starvation. I had heard stories of mothers burying their children and people dying at the gate unable to take the next step inside.

A nurse asked me to go with her “out to the field” to a place where people in extreme condition were waiting to be served. I was overwhelmed by the crowd and immediately thought of Jesus’ words, “The harvest is plenty.” Then I realized how few workers there were who were capable of helping the thousands sitting in the field. I was not counted “capable” as I had no medical

training. Jesus’ words came to me again, “The laborers are few.”

**I watched a woman die in my presence. My heart broke.** A mother just like me, and I could do nothing! Then it was that I grasped in some measure the meaning of the Bible revealing that Jesus saw the crowd and “had compassion on them.” **This was far beyond a moment of emotion. It was an experience that continues to guide my soul.**

Compassion is more than just feeling bad at the moment. It is the very heart of God. It calls for things to change. It calls for redemption. It calls for healing. It calls us to reach a broken world that can only be redeemed through Jesus Christ.

A verse in the great song, “Rescue the Perishing” by Fanny Crosby continues to challenge me:

*“Deep in the human heart, crushed by the tempter, feelings lie buried that grace can restore. Touched by a loving heart, wakened by kindness, chords that were broken will vibrate once more.”* May we live this daily. 🌸



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

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## wesleyan life

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## AMPLIFYING MISSION: STORIES WITH OUR NEIGHBORS AROUND THE WORLD



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“And now these three remain Faith,  
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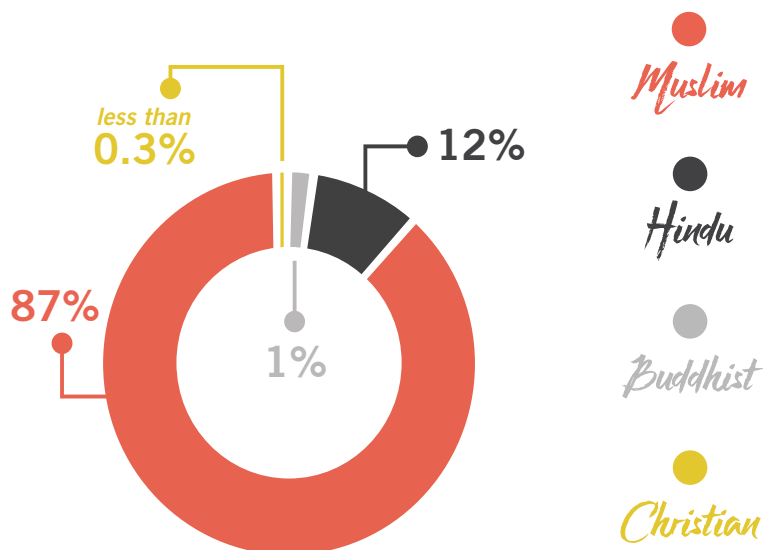
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BY RICHARD SCHENCK  
& ROMEO CARINGAL

# THE Forgotten OF Bangladesh

## Religion in *Bangladesh*



**B**angladesh is the eighth largest country in the world with a population of 169 million people. Part of India before 1947, Bangladesh is the fourth-largest Muslim nation, and is very densely populated. God has called The Wesleyan Church to serve people who need his light and hope in Bangladesh.





## The JESUS film

There are 46 Wesleyan churches, while three years ago there were only 14. More than 95 percent of the members are new believers. The JESUS film (portraying the Gospel of Luke in the Bengali language) has been an effective means of introducing Christ here and has been greatly blessed of God. Evangelism often seems to bear more fruit among the poor, and that has been very true here.



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

**“Living in abject poverty, they subsist in shacks on undesirable land, dangerously near the railroad.”**



## The “rail track” people

Early in 2014, the Wesleyan JESUS film team in Bangladesh came upon a group of people isolated from the rest of the population in Jessore, a southwest Bangladeshi district of about three million people. Living in abject poverty, they subsist in shacks on undesirable land, dangerously near the railroad. This rail track group functions with a social status at the bottom of the caste system. None of them can associate, let alone develop friendships, with people of middle or higher caste.

In order to meet the needs of their families, most of the rail track people work in dirty and undesirable jobs. They clean toilets, remove and dispose of human waste, or sweep filthy streets. These poorest of the poor survive with incomes below \$2.00 per day to support families of 4-6 people.

Landlords refuse to house them due to their dirty jobs. **Sadly, the children have even been deprived of education.** They are prohibited from attending any public schools in Jessore, and they may not mingle with children of higher status.

When the JESUS film team met the people by the rail track, they connected with them, cultivated meaningful relationships, and found them to be responsive to the gospel of hope. In fact, **in May 2014, 121 people from this community were baptized!**





## The Jessore kids

Today, there is a thriving children's ministry in Jhikargacha, which is the name of this town in the district of Jessore. The Wesleyan Church has opened a ministry called the Center for Children's Transformation (CCT). Right now, 72 children are nourished with warm meals served to them daily at the Center, and they are also being provided the basics of education: reading, writing, and arithmetic. Most important of all, they learn about the good news of Christ.

The transforming power of the gospel is so clearly seen at the Center for Children's Transformation. Energized and jubilant children recite Bible verses by heart and sing at the top of their lungs about Jesus Christ and his great love. It is so moving to see lives that lacked hope so transformed in an otherwise dark and lonely place on the other side of the tracks. Trains go by the thatched-roof, bamboo structure, and one could almost reach through the holes in the bamboo wall and touch the trains. **But these forgotten, "dirty," and "undesirable" people have the joy of Jesus Christ shining in their faces, and a brighter hope not only for the future but for right now.**

There are many more Jessore kinds of places throughout this huge nation, where children and families need the truth that can only come through those who will reach out to them with the love and hope of Christ. Those who fund the *JESUS* film ministry, and those who give sacrificially to support places like the Center for Children's Transformation, make it possible for hope to be realized. The same bold steps could be taken in many other cities across Bangladesh. 🍃

### RICHARD SCHENCK

has served as a field contact person for Bangladesh for Global Partners since 2012. He is also a Wesleyan pastor in Noblesville, Indiana.



### ROMEO CARINGAL

serves as the Asia area director for Global Partners.



"Energized and jubilant children recite Bible verses by heart and sing at the top of their lungs about Jesus Christ..."

It is so moving to see lives that lacked hope so transformed in an otherwise dark and lonely place on *the other side of the tracks.*







## A Legacy of **Living Generously**



To learn about the simple and easy way to include a ministry gift as part of your estate plan contact the **Generous Living Office** of The Wesleyan Church.

**Len Brownlow** was a humble, hard-working man who loved his wife, loved to fish with his kids, and loved eating regularly at Costa's Family Restaurant in his town of Covina, California.

**Most of all, he loved Jesus** and the ministry of his local Wesleyan church where he was a founding member of Neighborhood Christian Fellowship. He remained faithful to NCF till his death, even during the radical demographic change of their community.

Len died in 2002, so this is not an obituary. This is Len's legacy of generous living. Over the past few years, he continues to reach out to people in need in his community through his generosity. Here are a few examples:

- He helped a young man buy a car so he could get a job.
- He paid to fix a car for a woman needing transportation to her cancer treatments.
- He paid the rent for a senior citizen who had been robbed.

Len can still leave this legacy because before he died he chose to make a charitable bequest\* to support the future ministry of the church he had spent so many years serving.

It wasn't complicated. Before his wife died, they established a revocable trust and chose to tithe their estate. Len was never a wealthy man, but he was prudent and the Lord blessed him with increase, especially on his home.

Len gave faithfully during his life, and he chose to give faithfully at the end of his life. Because of his quiet faithfulness, Len continues to make an impact through the ministry of his local church to this day.

**\*A bequest is a gift made from your estate plan. All that is required is including bequest language as part of your will or trust, so you direct gifts at the end of your life to the ministries you loved during your life.**





## REAPING A GENEROUS HARVEST

### Wesleyan Community Church Kansas

Meanwhile, in northwest Kansas, a much smaller church is having an effective outreach. Wesleyan Community Church in Bird City is a farming community, but it has been planting seeds of a different kind and the investment has resulted in huge dividends. The church, which ranked second in per capita giving to Global Partners, invested in two *JESUS* film teams in Zambia recently. Those teams showed the film to 60,000 people over the course of a year, resulting in thousands of conversions.

“We can’t reach thousands in Bird City,” said Rev. Dan Carson, who has served as pastor for the past ten years. “The population is about 450 in this town, and it’s less than 3,000 in the entire county.” With an average attendance of about 100, but with a growing emphasis on missions, this church in a remote county is having a global impact.



The Wesleyan Church team with their friends from Zambia as they prepare to teach at the *JESUS* film training conference.



Lonnie Willis giving a Bible and sharing the plan of salvation to one of the people in church in Zambia.

*“A text message from a pastor in Africa requested prayer... Pastor Carson sent the request to his congregation and was later able to report that God had answered prayer with 175 conversions.”*

Pastor Carson says people have taken mission trips to places like Zambia and Haiti, and that has encouraged the church’s ever-increasing involvement in outreach to the world far from Kansas. When a team of eight went to Zambia to assist with the *JESUS* film training, members of the team—mostly farm-connected—talked to local Zambians about agriculture and how to better maintain their machinery. It was a natural connection.

Ten years ago, the church gave less than \$1,000 to missions. Last year, their investment in the *JESUS* film alone was \$50,000, in addition to support of missionaries in Macedonia and Asia. Technology enables them to keep in touch. A text message from a pastor in Africa requested prayer for a recent weekend of evangelism. Pastor Carson was later able to report that God had answered prayer with 175 conversions.

## A CHURCH WITH A MISSIONS DNA

### Parkway Church Virginia

Nestled in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia is Parkway Wesleyan Church in Staunton, Virginia. The region is saturated with early American history. But the history of Parkway includes a strong emphasis on missions. “It is in the DNA of this church,” said Dr. Barry Lawson, who is in his eleventh year as senior pastor.

Last year Parkway was the number one per-capita giving church to Global Partners in North America. Averaging 82 in worship attendance, they gave more than \$51,000 to Global Partners missions and missionaries.

At last fall’s annual missions conference, the congregation exceeded their faith-promise goal by more than \$15,000. In addition, about one-third of their people have been on a missions trip. Among countries visited are Guatemala, El Salvador, Haiti, Russia, and Zambia. The church has adopted a sister church, the Jiquilisco Wesleyan Church in El Salvador. Parkway congregants who know a little Spanish also keep in touch through emails and Facebook. Prayer partners in Jiquilisco pray for Parkway and vice-versa.

*“About one-third of their people have been on a missions trip to Guatemala, El Salvador, Haiti, Russia, and Zambia.”*

Once a month, Parkway features a missions moment in the worship service. When missionaries they support are home for partnership development, Parkway hosts them for a service. Occasionally, they have Skyped with a missionary during the worship service.

Supporting local outreach ministries, such as the food bank, responding to Wesleyan Emergency Relief Fund appeals, and investing in World Hope International’s micro-enterprise emphasis are other ways the church extends the love of Christ outside its walls.







*They partner with a village in Ethiopia, where, together with the local church, they are doing Christian community development for evangelism and self-sustaining development.*

## A “SEASONED” APPROACH TO MISSIONS

**All Shores Wesleyan Church**  
Michigan



Church members and leaders in Gachurt, Mongolia.

*All Shores has a vision to help missionaries who serve in challenging locales, like the Turkic-Arabic, European, and Asian areas.*

All Shores Wesleyan Church in Spring Lake, Michigan, is an example of a church that has a “seasoned” approach to missions. Nearly 25 years ago, when doors began to open in countries once closed by the Iron Curtain, Ron Dawson (with wife, Barbara), left his CEO job and went to Russia, while another family went to Slovakia. Ron Dawson died in Russia, giving his life for the spread of the gospel there. Dave Horne, who spent more than a decade as the outreach pastor at All Shores, and his wife Dina, now live in Vienna, where he is Europe area director and she is the Austria field director for Global Partners.

Speaking recently about All Shores, Dave Horne called it a church that has a “great vision for both local and global ministry and is extremely loyal to Global Partners.” He continued,

“I am very thankful for a church that is still committed to supporting missionaries and yet is also very progressive and creative.”

All Shores has a vision to help missionaries who serve in challenging locales, like the Turkic-Arabic, European, and Asian areas. They mobilize teams to support the missionaries. For instance, a team went to Europe to serve during an area conference for missionaries by ministering to children and youth so all the adults could focus on the conference. Local “growth groups” adopt missionaries. All Shores promotes generosity. Last year they gave nearly \$119,000 to Global Partners; it is one of the top three giving churches. They also help support the national church in Mongolia, the [Wesleyan] Church of Eternal Light. They partner with a village in Ethiopia,

where, together with the local church, they are doing Christian community development for evangelism and self-sustaining development.

All Shores, a congregation of 1,100, has a residency program for ministers-in-training. This year, one of those is a young couple doing a missionary residency. In collaboration with Global Partners, All Shores is working with them for two years, giving them opportunities in local and global outreach. The church already has in mind a missionary resident to begin this summer, when the first young couple completes its residency.





# Village Partnerships empower communities to end poverty.

World Hope International's Village Partnerships connect US-based churches, schools and organizations with a specific village to address multiple needs and act as a comprehensive response to the cycle of poverty. Village Partnerships train and empower community leaders, focusing on supporting sustainable activities that result in economic stability and enhanced livelihoods. Spiritual growth, food security, education, agribusiness and community health are addressed in a coordinated way to bring lasting improvement.

Focused on the Mission



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**WorldHope.org**





## ANYONE CAN DO WHAT WE DO

**Faith  
Wesleyan  
Church  
Indiana**



“Anyone can do what we do,” says Philip Gormong, assistant pastor at Faith Wesleyan Church in Terre Haute, Indiana. While his statement is modest, the record shows that not many are doing it so well. Giving to Global Partners from this church that averaged 267 in worship last year topped \$109,000, placing it in the top five churches in per capita giving.

Obviously, one thing Faith Wesleyan does well is to make missions a priority. “It is built into the culture of our church,” Pastor Philip said. “It is at the very heart of what we do; it is not just a side program.” Their commitment to missions giving comes at the climax of an annual missions conference, at which time people are encouraged to make their Faith Promise to God. “We encourage people to pray and to think beyond their means to all that God

*People gather in smaller groups in homes, where missionaries share what is happening in their lives and on the field. They learn that we love them.*

can do. Missions giving is more than a ‘money thing.’ It’s entrusting more of our lives to God and being faithful to who we are called to be.”

Another thing that Faith Wesleyan does well is to build relationships with the missionaries they support. “Having missionaries at our conference is key,” Pastor Philip said. “This creates an environment for relationships to be built.” People get connected, like gathering in smaller groups in homes, where missionaries share what is happening in their lives and on the field. “The missionaries learn that we love them and welcome them as part of the Faith Wesleyan family.”

Faith’s leadership is strategic about supporting missionaries all across the world in various locations,

working with different people groups. Because they support Luis and Dinora Martinez in Guatemala, for instance, the church has sponsored several short-term trips to that country. Faith Wesleyan workers have built homes there, conducted a VBS training, distributed shoes, and ministered to children.

“God has been faithful to us,” said Pastor Philip, who, along with his wife Kara and their children, spent a term as missionaries in Russia. “As a church we want to be faithful to God and to the Great Commission.” 🙌



**Your church roadmap:**  
5 steps to an impactful  
global partnership  
[www.globalpartnersonline.org/coaching](http://www.globalpartnersonline.org/coaching)

As your international mission organization, **Global Partners** is committed to helping your church reach its full potential in fulfilling the Great Commission.





# FAR & HARD

## Haitians called to Africa

BY JOY IRVINE



**When the country of Haiti is in the news, one often hears the phrase, “the poorest country in the western hemisphere.” Small wonder that the people of this island nation struggle with inferiority. But some recent developments indicate that **GOD IS WRITING A NEW TAG LINE FOR HAITI.****

**T**he ultimate measure of success in missionary work is not total independence. Rather, international relationships should become dynamically and mutually interdependent. The younger, maturing churches can develop a willingness and capacity to lock arms with the international church to carry out the unfinished work of the kingdom of God. Here’s an exciting story illustrating this new dynamic in Haiti.

### THE CHALLENGE

The national superintendent of Ghana, Joe Ocran, posed an unexpected question to Caribe Atlantic Area Director Dan Irvine in 2005. Rev. Ocran simply asked, “**When are you [the Haitian church] going to send missionaries to Africa?**” Ghana is English-speaking but many of the countries surrounding Ghana are French-speaking, making it more difficult for The Wesleyan Church in Ghana to evangelize across the borders into these more Islamic nations.

However, French is the educational language in Haiti and the culture of Haiti is similar in some ways to West Africa. **Who better to evangelize French-speaking West Africa than Haitian missionaries?**

### THE CALL

**God was already working out his plan.** Bright young Haitian Wesleyans began to express a clear call to the continent of Africa. People in Haiti became more expectant, waiting for God to open a door. In 2011, Rev. Ocran and Africa Area Director Bob Bagley contacted the leaders in Haiti. The Wesleyan Church of Ghana, utilizing a tribal language, had crossed the border into Burkina Faso with the gospel. Now was the time for French-speaking missionaries to help develop and disciple a community of new believers.

**Three young Haitian men were chosen and commissioned for a three-month initial experience.** Before they left, Rev. Joe Ocran and Global Partners missionaries Carl and Maya Gilles and Dan Irvine provided necessary training in cross-cultural living and also some discipleship materials. The young men visited churches in their home districts to tell their story. They requested prayer, as each young man was required to have 200 prayer partners. And they asked for financial partners. Like North American missionaries, each



French-speaking Burkino Faso church.





WINDEL, EDWIDGE, AND EMILIO (HAITIAN MISSIONARIES TO AFRICA)

was required to raise the salary portion of their budgets.

Airfare from Haiti to Africa is no small thing. Africa Area Director Bob Bagley received word from The Wesleyan Church in Papua New Guinea saying the church wanted to give an offering to Africa. Bob immediately thought of airfare for the three new missionaries to Africa. The offering was enough for approximately half the airline tickets for the men. Not long after, Global Partners Executive Director Dr. Dennis Jackson told the story of the Papua New Guinea gift to a group of North American pastors. In a matter of seconds the balance of the funds was raised: a wonderful answer to prayer and an incredible illustration of dynamic interdependence!

**The generosity on the part of the Papua New Guinea church on the other side of the world did much to build the faith of three young men who would soon leave their homeland to travel into the unknown.**

### THE SACRIFICE

Imagine the joy, pride, and great sacrifice of The Wesleyan Church in Haiti in sending Windel, Emilio, and Edwidge to share their training and knowledge with the fledgling church plant in Burkina Faso. The Wesleyan Church in Haiti had now joined the sending ranks of The Wesleyan Church in such countries as Peru, the Philippines, Canada, the United States, and Australia, which over the years had sacrificed to send missionaries to establish daughter churches in far away and hard places.

### THE IMPACT

**How did the first three months in Burkina Faso impact Windel, Emilio, and Edwidge?** It heightened their desire for ministry and mission, they learned to live

with culture stress, they taught and disciplined, they established lifelong friendships, and they left a part of their hearts in Africa. One of the young men went as an educator and returned with a shepherd's heart.

### THE VISION

The church in Burkina Faso continues to call. What's the next missionary adventure for The Wesleyan Church in Haiti? There are new chapters to be written in this story, and God will help The Wesleyan Church of Haiti to be ready to fulfill his mandate. Is the goal of sending 20 missionaries from The Wesleyan Church of Haiti by the year 2020 unrealistic? And perhaps The Wesleyan Church of Haiti could also partner with the General Conference of the Caribbean to send missionaries to French speaking islands of the Caribbean! God is doing new things, and he's only just begun.

**And let's acknowledge God's new tag line for Haiti:** sender of kingdom builders to the far and hard. 🙌



**JOY IRVINE**

is a Global Partners missionary to the Caribe Atlantic area, which includes French Guiana, Guyana, Haiti, and Suriname.





# WES- LEYAN LATIN AMERICA UNITES

BY RICK WEST & JARVIS FERGUSON

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THE **TRACK RECORD** OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES HAS INDICATED THAT THE MORE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION THERE HAS BEEN IN LATIN AMERICA, THE FASTER CHURCH MULTIPLICATION HAS TAKEN PLACE.

## 1995-2008

**It is expected that uniting the national churches in a regional conference will greatly enhance mutual strengthening, sharing of vision and resources, and aligning together in the common task of fulfilling the Great Commission, resulting in further acceleration of church multiplication and global outreach.**

**With beginnings as early as 1904**, Wesleyan North American missionaries had been sent to Peru, Mexico, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Honduras, and Brazil in this area of the world. In 1995, for the first time, this was designated by Global Partners as an administrative area, and Rick West, veteran missionary to Latin America, was the first Ibero-American area director.

Also in 1995, a leading Puerto Rican pastor was raising the vision of international missions. Rick West worked with the Puerto Rico Wesleyan Church to hold a missions conference, and they invited participation from all the countries in the newly formed area. Held in January, 1996, in San Juan, P.R., the first international conference shattered all expectations.

It was a shock when people from 14 nations paid their own way to come, and a total of 52

leaders attended. Costa Rica, which had just launched Wesleyan church ministries through the influence of the Pacific Southwest District, sent 14 representatives. The Holy Spirit's presence and power were felt in a mighty way. These conferences have continued in Costa Rica; Pasadena, Calif.; Bogota, Colombia; Brazil; Chile; Mexico; Peru; Panama; Medellin, Colombia; and in 2015 in El Salvador.

Several countries caught the vision to reach out internationally. **Today, Wesleyan Ibero-American ministries are present in 20 countries, even across the Atlantic Ocean to Spain and Spanish-speaking Equatorial Guinea, Africa.**

In the last 20 years, Latinos have led the expansion from six to twenty countries through the mission movement known as JIBACAM. JIBACAM is a Spanish acronym that stands for the "Ibero-American and Caribbean Mission Board."



**The first Latin American international conference shattered all expectations**



Worship at JIBACAM  
<https://youtu.be/5yyGd75B4aY>





INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY  
DIVISION OF MUSIC PROUDLY  
INTRODUCES ITS

*Newly*

# SONGWRITING MAJOR

**BEGINNING SPRING 2016**

IWU's lyric driven Songwriting Major blends the disciplines of music, writing, literature and theology and is geared towards the foundational creation of songs, building them from the lyric up.



INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

The Indiana Wesleyan University Division of Music seeks to develop students in an awareness of accountability to God and the importance of a personal commitment to Christ. It is the faculty's strong desire that this commitment become apparent in the student's attitude toward his or her music. We believe it is vital to recognize that all gifts and talents are given by God, to be cultivated to their highest potential for his glory and service.

As a part of the new Songwriting Major at IWU...

- students will hone their artistic gifts and skills through the Songwriting program and will receive formal guidance and critique in a safe environment prior to launching works into the marketplace.
- students will be equipped with tools to create songs – whether music, lyrics or both – that impact culture through church music, Christian/gospel music, pop music or musical theater.



IWU is proud to be partnering with Gloria Gaither in the development of curriculum for the songwriting major. Gloria's contributions to the process and program development of this exciting new major have been significant and we look forward to her ongoing involvement in addition to other visiting instructors and industry professionals.

For more information, visit [indwes.edu/music](http://indwes.edu/music)





**Yesterday's mission fields are truly today's missionary force.**

In 2006, the international cooperation had so matured through JIBACAM, that it was time to form a broader international church structure. There was a desire to harness greater cooperation not only in missions, but in evangelism, church multiplication, pastoral training, women's ministries and youth ministries. The Ibero-American Wesleyan Fellowship was created. The purpose of the Fellowship was to link all Wesleyan ministries in Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries in a step toward fuller internationalization of the area. Rev. Benjamin Galarce of Puerto Rico has served as the Fellowship's board president since its beginning.



**2008-2016**

In 2008 Rick West was called to focus full-time on JIBACAM and to coordinate ministries in countries where JIBACAM had initiated missions, namely in the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Spain, and Equatorial Guinea in Africa. Jarvis Ferguson, veteran missionary to Peru, was appointed to continue in the role Rick West had forged as area director.

A healthy cross-pollination had already begun. The Puerto Rico Church entered into partnership with the Dominican Republic Church. Leaders from El Salvador began working with the church in Honduras. The Colombian Church partners with the Venezuelan Church. The next step was for the whole area to come



together as one. Was it even possible? Even though for the most part there is a common language, there are great differences historically, regionally, and especially culturally. **Only God's mission had the capability of uniting everyone.**

In Orlando, Florida, in January, 2015, representatives of 19 countries came together and signed a formal agreement petitioning for uniting. Rev. Benjamin Galarce presented the proposal to the General Board of The Wesleyan Church of North America during the November 2015 session. It was approved there and now awaits the next step at the North American General Conference in Buffalo, N.Y., in June, 2016. Final approval would be possible at the next International Wesleyan Conference in 2019.

The Ibero-America Established Regional Conference will include ministry in the countries



of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea (Africa), Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Spain and Venezuela. (Mexico, with its 157 local churches, will work alongside the Ibero-American Established Regional Conference, but plans to seek Established National Conference status in the near future.)

The new Ibero-America Established Regional Conference will consist of more than 300 churches, 170 preaching points, nearly 300 ordained and licensed ministers, 1,000 lay ministers, 30,000 members and attendees, 17 Bibles schools, and over 500 people being trained for ministry. Once truly united, this region is poised to become an even greater force in reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ! 🌿



**RICK WEST & JARVIS FERGUSON**

serve Global Partners in Ibero-America as coordinator and area director, respectively.



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# Miracle of the Karis prayer walk

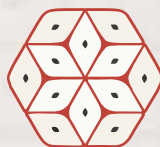
BY KERRY KIND

**For 20 Years,** Global Partners has had ministry among the Karis people (a pseudonym). They number about 30 million and 4 million of them reside in this central Asian capital city which our short-term team visited.

On one day, we carried out a “prayer walk” in groups of three, strolling past businesses, mosques, and homes for hours. No doubt we appeared to be talking to one another, but in reality we were taking turns talking to God. With eyes wide open, we prayed about everything and everyone we saw. We asked God to deliver his truth and pour out his love upon the city and its people. Even while pausing to eat, drink, or rest at sidewalk cafés, we never ceased praying.

On the very last street we visited, we paused below the balcony of a 400-year-old apartment, praying for the single missionary who lived there with a local family. We were told that Vincent was doing a year of intense language and culture immersion and needed our prayers.

***A robed gentleman with a long white beard was watching us from across the ancient, narrow street.***




Before long, he beckoned for us to join him. After introductions and friendly conversation, he exercised the well-known hospitality of his people and implored us to join his family for supper. We had no choice but to leave soon for our rendezvous appointment elsewhere, but we left a detailed gospel booklet in his hands, in the local language. He accepted the tract from us with both hands, as if it were a precious gift.

We paused at the end of the street, at the top of the hill, and turned back to pray over the area once more. We prayed that the gospel booklet would be read and understood by at least 100 people before it fell apart or was discarded.

The next day our large team crowded into an apartment with resident missionaries to worship, debrief our experiences, pray, and eat together. When I spoke to Vincent about praying under his balcony, he asked, “Did you leave a gospel tract with a man there?”

He soon explained that at about 9:00 that evening, three men appeared at his door, one of them holding the tract. Distinguished heads of families, they were welcomed in. The one we had met asked Vincent if he believed all of the message in the booklet was true. And he asked if Vincent had copies of the Injeel (represented today by the New Testament) in their language, which had been recommended by the tract. Vincent happened to have three copies, which he gave them.

Immediately, they opened the New Testaments and began reading and asking many questions. Vincent had the help of a family member for translation at times, and did his best to answer their questions. He was greatly encouraged, because often heads of families are the most difficult men in that culture to reach with the gospel.

Twenty years ago there were only a few hundred protestant Christians in this overwhelmingly Islamic nation of millions. Today, those numbers have multiplied into many thousands and there is a significant witness in the culture. No force has been more powerful than prayer in advancing the gospel among the Karis people. Have you considered a prayer walk? 



..... BEING .....

# NEIGHBORS

WITH REFUGEES IN EUROPE

BY DINA HORNE

**H**ow can the gospel reach people from Syria, Afghanistan, and Iran? One open door that presents an amazing opportunity is the flood of refugees into Europe. We are compelled by the compassion of Christ to reach out in love to the victims of war and persecution. This brings many refugees into contact with loving Christians for the first time.

The global Wesleyan church is partnering

The Refugee Relief Fund assists Wesleyan missionary teams in Europe to provide for the needs of refugee families. With tens of thousands of dollars in assistance already received, we rejoice that the North American church has begun to make a huge difference. This includes not only immediate relief but also ongoing development to help with longer-term solutions.

The Wesleyan churches in Europe are helping as well. The British Isles Wesleyan Holiness District made a donation of over \$5,000 to the Refugee Relief Fund. The Brno, Czech International Fellowship, with Wesleyan missionaries Matt and Crystal Blake, collected and delivered a van full of water, blankets, and supplies to the desperate refugee camp at the Slovenia/Austria border.

Very recently, a team of 10 from Remedy International Church [Wesleyan] in Poděbrady, Czech Republic came to Austria to see firsthand and help prepare a transition facility for refugees. Remedy Church is a growing group of young first-generation Christ-followers that meets each Sunday in a coffee shop near Prague. Barča Vanišová, one of the Czech young adults, helped coordinate the details of the experience with the Global Partners team in Vienna. “We at Remedy Church have been praying about going on a



People are responding to the hope and freedom that Jesus offers.





Team Austria with the Czech Team at the Refugee Home



## The crisis is serving to strengthen the ties of Wesleyan churches all across Europe.



Watch team update  
<https://youtu.be/fV51hZxqPjs>

mission trip. We know that many people need help and even more importantly need to see the love of God.”

The Czech Remedy Church and Austrian Wesleyans worked side-by-side preparing lodging for refugees who have applied for asylum in Austria. The expectation is that it will take four years to receive asylum. Over 200 people now live in the temporary facility: families and individuals, including minors who have made the journey alone. It was a dream fulfilled for Tomáš Mojzsis, Remedy Church pastor, and Dave Horne, Global Partners Europe area director. The crisis is actually serving to strengthen the ties of Wesleyan churches all across Europe. Barča explained, “For me, it was also a great time of building relationships with friends from another country and feeling great being a part of The Wesleyan Church.”

The Refugee Relief Fund is also benefitting the Global Partners team in Macedonia. In partnership with the Macedonian Evangelical Church, Wesleyans Joel and Tiffany Toonstra are making weekly trips to the Macedonia/Serbia border delivering clothes, gloves, and socks to refugees as they pass through on trains in groups of 500-1,500 at a time. Some of the church’s volunteers are not yet believers, but the opportunity helps them experience

God’s grace and presence. This weekly ministry gives the Toonstras the chance to not only be the hands of Jesus to the passing refugees, it also provides them the opportunity to encourage others in their own church to serve in the name of Jesus.

Weekly trips serve the Macedonia/Serbia border refugees

The need for men’s shoes at the refugee camps is staggering; 1,000 pairs of shoes are requested every week at the refugee camp on the border of Croatia and Bosnia alone. Fortunately, Global Partners is partnering with sister agencies and has made connections with a large shoe distributor who is giving deep discounts to help.

This summer Wesleyan missionaries, Rick and Jonell (last name withheld), and their children, plan to transfer to Vienna to join the Global Partners team in Austria and begin working at Oasis, a refugee ministry center run by a sister organization. The Oasis ministry center shares the love of Jesus through meeting practical longer term needs as well as offering a safe place to discuss Christianity and the hope that Jesus offers.

Redemptive relationships emerging in crisis

Churches in Austria are finding that German courses are a wonderful way to meet refugees’ needs for integration

and employability and also are great venues for them to develop relationships with Christians. Churches are reaching out to the Muslim world that is now living almost on their doorstep. The Refugee Relief Fund has provided German language materials as well as discipleship materials for ongoing ministry.

**Global Partners Europe would like to thank the North American Wesleyan Church for your generosity** to make possible Wesleyan ministry in Europe to people fleeing war and persecution. The humble, tired refugees thank you. We are seeing people respond to the hope and freedom that Jesus offers. The need for resources continues and we ask for your prayers for wisdom in fostering further partnerships. Thank you for investing in long-term missionaries as well, who will continue to develop these ongoing partnerships. 🙌



Support Global Partners Refugee Relief Project  
[donate.wesleyan.org/refugee-relief](https://donate.wesleyan.org/refugee-relief)



**DINA HORNE** is the Global Partners Austria mission director. Dina’s husband Dave has been Global Partners Europe area director since 2012.



# THE WORLD ACROSS THE STREET

*“He . . . loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners . . .” Deut. 10:18-19*

**M**any North Americans no longer need a passport to experience the globe;


they simply can walk through their changing neighborhoods or drive across their cities and see a multiplicity of different cultures and people groups. Immigration is not new. In a world that is ever-changing, people relocate seeking safety, freedom, or a better life, just as we or our ancestors did. But the scale of the ministry opportunity is on the increase. A grass-roots movement of local Wesleyan churches has answered God’s call to this global mission field that exists in our own backyards. **Immigrant Connection is a network of Wesleyans responding to the Spirit of God, bringing churches and immigrants together to cultivate relationships, share resources, provide legal services, and share the love of Christ.**

Currently nine Immigrant Connection (IC) offices are open in local Wesleyan churches with another 11 slated to open in the next six months. The first three Immigrant Connection offices to open (The Bridge in Logansport, Ind., Olathe Wesleyan in Kansas City metro, and City Life in downtown Grand Rapids, Mich.) have served 1,023 different individuals and families in just the past 12 months. **The immigrants helped at just these three centers came from 57 different countries around the globe.**

**While the numbers are staggering, the transformative impact comes from each individual story.**

- A Liberian refugee was not allowed to attend school because she is female, but with our help, she is now studying to become a U.S. citizen.
- An Arabic-speaking church that consists mainly of new believers from Muslim countries struggled to find a pastor. Through IC assistance, a pastor from Egypt is now helping shepherd them.
- Several children from Central American countries who had been abandoned or abused by their parents now have hope and healing.
- A Honduran mother was reunited with her daughter after being separated for 10 years.
- Countless Latino/Latina high school students are now able to attend college or get their first jobs after getting Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) approval.
- A beleaguered Afghani immigrant family has found peace and safety.
- Several survivors of domestic violence have had Jesus redeem their worst experiences.
- A Nigerian woman sought to protect her young daughter from the tribal ritual of FGM (female genital mutilation) and has found a haven.

**Wesleyan Immigrant Connection churches are a growing part of our Church’s global ministry, offering truth and love in the midst of a system plagued by lies and hostility. What better place for the immigrants already in our communities to find redemption, hope, and a future that is “made new”?**

**“... for you yourselves were foreigners...”** 



**ZACH SZMARA**

leads The Bridge Community Church in Logansport, Ind., and launched the first Immigrant Connection site in 2014.





# BEST PRACTICES IN IMMIGRANT MINISTRY

BY DINA HORNE & TEAM AUSTRIA

Not everyone can work with immigrants overseas or set up an Immigrant Connection center in North America. But any Wesleyan member can more intentionally build redemptive connections with immigrants near our own churches. **The following are a few good practices for reaching out to immigrants.**

- Recognize that immigrants are people. Each has their own very human experience.
- Admit that racism exists. Ask God to reveal any unintentional barriers within us. And there are societal barriers that must be overcome.

Our awareness of this establishes a foundation of humility in beginning relationships.

- Build a bridge. Don't underestimate the power of hospitality. Invite someone to your home for a meal. Be sensitive toward possible dietary restrictions. Simply ask.
- Read a book. Among many resources, consider *Bold as Love* by Bob Roberts.
- Learn a few words of your immigrant friend's language. Greet her in her language, pay her a compliment, and especially learn how to say her name correctly!
- Ask your immigrant friend for help. Ask your friend to explain his culture to you or how to make a favorite dish or piece of artwork. Your worldview will be enriched.

- Remember the important holidays in your friend's home culture. Call and wish your friend happy Ramadan, happy Independence Day, etc.
- Do not let fear inhibit you. You may be intimidated to ask an immigrant to coffee or dinner, but they will be grateful. They need relationships!
- Be yourself. Invite them into your normal life. Invite your new friend to your normal activities and holiday activities.

Do you like hiking?  
Basketball games? Coffee shops?

- Research where immigrants live, work, and play. Spend time there. Get a haircut, do business with immigrants, go to parks, and eat meals in restaurants where you could strike up conversations and very likely have opportunities to share your faith.
- Commit to praying for an immigrant friend, family, or people group. Pray for their physical needs and salvation regularly, and watch God go to work. 🙌





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**BUILDING,  
BRIDGING,  
& BREAKING  
THE CYCLE**  
SWU Partnership  
Fosters Haitian  
Economic  
Development

- by *Ethan Linder*

Wesleyan colleges' international classes enrich both students and their host community. Southern Wesleyan University's (SWU) partnership with a professional cooperative exemplifies SWU's commitment to global engagement. Joshua Paul—SWU graduate and native Haitian—formed a cooperative called Build and Bridge, aimed at fostering connections between professionals from a variety of vocations and nationalities. This isn't just a business network, though; Build and Bridge is working to achieve sustainable economic solutions for the recently earthquake-ravaged Haiti.

After the earthquake a few years ago, Haiti was inundated with monetary aid. While this aid helped with recovery efforts, it did little to improve the economic well being of the Haitian population. By partnering with Build and Bridge, SWU faculty and alumni continue to make meaningful steps in developing long-term economic solutions for Haitian communities.

This partnership included the formation of a vision team comprised of SWU faculty, SWU alumni, and Build and Bridge members. To further understand Haiti's economic need, this vision team embarked on a listening tour, learning more about the current structure

of Haiti's local economy, infrastructure, and people. The vision team had the opportunity to tour Côtés-de-fer, Haiti to meet with government officials, educators, and businesspeople. During their time in Haiti, the vision team also met with local Wesleyan clergy, attending church services with the Wesleyan congregation in Côtés-de-fer.

SWU is excited about how the partnership will help develop sustainable businesses in Haiti and facilitate meaningful relationships between students and Haitian communities. "Consistent with our Christian mission, this will open the doors to offer the opportunities for business students to go beyond theory and make a real difference in the lives of our Christian brothers and sisters in Haiti," reflected Business Professor Charlotte Houke.



HAITI



# WESLEYAN HIGHER EDUCATION

## Global Impact

*The Wesleyan Church is committed to transforming lives, churches, and communities through the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ. Our five Wesleyan institutions of higher education—Houghton College, Indiana Wesleyan University, Kingswood University, Oklahoma Wesleyan University, and Southern Wesleyan University—educate students who embody this whole-life transformation. Wesleyan students, faculty, professors, and alumni engage in this mission and spread the gospel at home and around the world. Here are two examples of Wesleyan higher education’s global mission.*

### FROM THE MIDWEST TO SYDNEY

IWU’s Australian  
Campus Partnership  
with Excelsia College  
Fosters Global  
Christian Learning  
Community

- by Gabriela Garver

Indiana Wesleyan University (IWU) is taking Wesleyan education abroad by partnering with Australia’s Wesley Institute. On August 5, 2014, President David Wright announced IWU’s new partnership, aimed at taking steps toward President Wright’s long-term vision of creating an international Christian education network. This network would connect local churches and communities with the diverse global body of Christ.

“We hope to create a truly global Christian learning community where faculty and students can benefit from collaborating with peers, exchanging knowledge and sharing resources,” explains Bridget Aitchison, vice

chancellor for Asia-Pacific and professor of education at IWU. “We live in a globalized world and that is a reality we need to prepare our students to live and work in.”

Located in Sydney, Australia, Wesley Institute operated for over 30 years as one of Australia’s top Christian colleges. In January 2015, the Institute gained college status and changed its name to Excelsia College, expressive of its pursuit of excellence in academic, artistic, and professional pursuits.

The partnership between IWU and Excelsia College enhances the educational capabilities of both, increasing the diversity of academic programs and students who have access to Wesleyan education.

“With Christian schools being the fastest growing school sector in the country (Australia), there is an opportunity in the higher education market for students to continue holistic education in a Christian environment,” shares Excelsia College Chief Executive Dr. Greg Rough. “We intend to fulfill that need to assist students to realize their purpose.”

Through the new partnership, IWU and Excelsia College hope to establish campuses across the Asia-Pacific region, further increasing scope and diversity of the global Wesleyan learning community.



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## OKWU ORANGE MOVEMENT VISITS RAHAB HOUSE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

! Full story  
[wesleyan.org/4548](http://wesleyan.org/4548)

The Orange Movement (named for Wesleyan Church founder and abolitionist Orange Scott) at Oklahoma Wesleyan University serves to raise awareness and fight against modern-day slavery. The movement has created a partnership in Southeast Asia. Rahab House began with a pastor and his wife bringing young girls—victims of sex trafficking—out of brothels to safety in their home. Today, this has become a home for over 30 rescued girls who have a new chance at life.

The Orange Movement helps provide food, supplies, education, and other needs leading to a sustainable future for the girls. A team of three women from OKWU, led by First Lady Marci Piper, made a visit to Rahab House. They remarked that, with phrases like “27 million modern-day slaves,” the fight can seem hopeless, but it’s not. Actions of just a few can make a profound difference.

## Community health evangelism in Haiti



Global Partners missionaries and Haitian leaders partner to minister on the island of La Gonave. The Village Health Initiative teaches evangelism, nutrition, and water treatment on the island of 120,000 inhabitants. So far, while helping meet the health needs of island communities, more than 3,000 have made first-time commitments to Christ.

! Full story  
[vimeo.com/149505325](http://vimeo.com/149505325)

## FOLLOW

### Wesleyan Youth celebrates 50 years of changed lives for students

December’s International Wesleyan Youth conference “Follow,” had 5,000+ in attendance. It was a 3-day spiritual awakening that engaged students in finding life’s purpose in communion with Jesus.

- Hundreds of students made first-time commitments to Jesus and hundreds more rededicated their lives to him.
- Hundreds of students came forward to “leave all and follow him” while hundreds more answered the call of God to full-time ministry.
- With partnership from Wesleyan Investment Foundation, a convention offering of \$46,000 was received to help sponsor Bread for the World and Urban Youth Ministry.

“In addition,” said Scott Simmons, director of youth ministries, “Follow celebrated the denomination’s 50th anniversary of Wesleyan youth conferences by honoring past leaders who paved the way.”

! #Follow15  
[instagram.com/explore/tags/follow15](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/follow15)

! Full story  
[wesleyan.org/4503](http://wesleyan.org/4503)

## WORLD HOPE: 55 WELLS IN 55 SCHOOLS

World Hope International reports a successful “55 Wells in 55 Schools” campaign.

With help from Wesleyan churches and matching partners, 120 percent of the financial goal was reached. These wells at schools in Sierra Leone, Africa, will provide more than 38,500 children with clean water and sanitation, improving the quality of their lives, health, school attendance, and preventing disease.

World Hope International is the official relief and development partner of The Wesleyan Church.

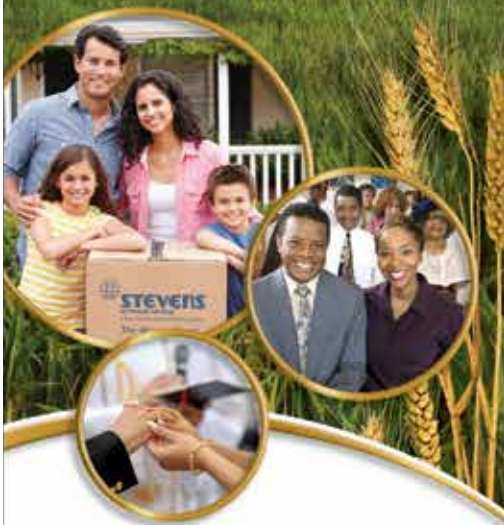
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The Flint Grassroots Initiative is organizing large weekly events to meet a variety of needs.



Your help is needed  
[wesleyan.org/relief](http://wesleyan.org/relief)

## Flint humanitarian crisis

**T**he East Michigan District Wesleyan churches have taken on a humanitarian challenge which is also a tremendous ministry opportunity in Flint, Michigan.

Flint's water supply became dangerously contaminated with lead, with residents advised not to drink or come into contact with their tap water indefinitely. The contamination is especially dangerous for children, and many thousands have already been exposed. Government action switching the water source from Lake Huron to the Flint River resulted in the more acidic river water eroding lead water pipes throughout the city. It will take years and major effort to repair the system. Meanwhile, much of the city is using emergency water supplies. But that is not enough.

Unfortunately, thousands of people were initially being left out of the government and major agency responses. For example, there were people lacking proper ID or transportation that could not be served. The National Guard deemed some neighborhoods too unsafe, so they were bypassed. Families and elderly with no social media, Internet, or TV are often uninformed on the crisis and precautions.

East Michigan Wesleyan leaders not only found this unacceptable, but determined immediately to do everything possible to serve the marginalized, poor, and under-

resourced. Through the CCDA (Christian Community Development Association) they identified churches in neglected neighborhoods in addition to churches that Wesleyans could partner with to meet the need.

They formed the Flint Grassroots Initiative, a branch of the East Michigan CCDA, and have developed a comprehensive response to the immediate needs of marginalized victims. Every Wesleyan pastor and church in the entire district is on board helping in some way. They are also working with other denominations and multicultural groups who are now deeply connected by the tragedy.

Immediate, practical needs and long-term concerns are both being addressed: drinkable water, hygiene (showers), physical and mental healthcare, nutrition, education, job training and assistance, and reconciliation services, among others.

Others across the church are standing with the Wesleyan churches in East Michigan as they minister to the poor and marginalized who lack access to water, food, and health care. They are working to establish and rebuild trust among people in Flint and to bring reconciliation and hope in the name of Christ. For more information, see [www.wesleyan.org/4716](http://www.wesleyan.org/4716). Volunteers are needed.

Please consider helping through the Wesleyan Emergency Relief Fund at [www.wesleyan.org/relief](http://www.wesleyan.org/relief). 🕊





# Obituaries

## ANDREWS, REV. G.K. (78)

Rev. George "G.K." Andrews died February 11 in High Point, N.C. He served as a pastor within The Wesleyan Church for 55 years, pastoring churches in North Carolina. He also served with the district board of administration, as district youth president, and in various district roles. Survivors include Evelyn, his wife of 56 years, one daughter, one son, four grandchildren, and five sisters.

## APPLE, REV. CHARLES (92)

Rev. Charles Apple died January 7 in Asheboro, N.C. He served as a minister with The Wesleyan Church for 70 years. The Charles E. Apple Legacy award was created in his honor in 2005 and is presented annually to a Wesleyan pastor. He was preceded in death by Junia, his wife of 72 years, one brother, and one sister. Survivors include one daughter, one grandchild, two great-grandchildren, three step-grandchildren, six step-great-grandchildren, three sisters, and two brothers.

## COCKERILL, REV. WELBY LEE (96)

Rev. Lee Cockerill died December 25. He served The Wesleyan Church for more than 60 years in various roles. He pastored Wesleyan churches in Virginia, where he planted Aldersgate Wesleyan Church, and North Carolina. He also served as assistant district superintendent in three districts and developed the North Carolina East District youth camp. His wife of 67 years, Virginia, preceded him in death as did an infant grandson. Survivors include three sons, six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, one brother, and two sisters.

## FINCH, DR. DANIEL (79) !

Dr. Daniel Finch died January 9 in Duluth, Ga. Dr. Finch was an ordained minister of the South Carolina District of The Wesleyan Church. He served as district superintendent of the West Virginia District and was instrumental in facilitating the merger of the West Virginia and Virginia districts into the Shenandoah District. He also served as a staff pastor at 12Stone Church in Lawrenceville, Ga. One brother preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife, Carol, one son, one daughter, two sisters, one brother, and six grandchildren.

## HALVORSON, REV. JEAN (59)

Rev. Jean Halvorson died December 27. She served as pastor at Living Springs Wesleyan Church in Spring Lake Park, Minn. Survivors include three sisters and one brother.

## KEYS, REV. PAUL (76)

Rev. Paul Keys died January 19 in Jasper, Ind. He pastored several Wesleyan churches in Indiana. Survivors include his wife, Norma, mother, two daughters, one son, eight grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, one sister, and two brothers.

## JOHNSON, REV. HAROLD (91) !

Rev. Harold Johnson died February 5 in Fort Wayne, Ind. Rev. Johnson and his wife, Edna, served as lifelong missionaries to Japan with Wesleyan World Missions (now Global Partners) for 37 years. They taught at the Bible college, engaging in sought-after music evangelism, and led other ministries. He also had pastored Wesleyan churches in Wisconsin and Michigan. Two brothers and two sisters preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife, Edna, of 67 years, two daughters (one of whom serves in Japan as a missionary), two sons, 15 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and three sisters.

## MEEKS, REV. PAUL (86) !

Rev. Paul Meeks died January 16. He was a retired minister in the Shenandoah District. He and his wife, Darlene, served with Wesleyan World Missions (Global Partners) in the Philippines for 22 years and as missionaries-at-large for nine years. He also served in pastoral roles in Wesleyan churches in Illinois, East Michigan, Indiana North, and Shenandoah District. His wife preceded him in death in 2010. He is survived by three sons, one daughter, and 11 grandchildren.

## ROBBINS, DR. HAL (86)

Dr. Hal Robbins died January 24 in Seneca, S.C. An ordained minister, he pastored churches in Virginia and South Carolina and was a professor emeritus at Southern Wesleyan University, as well as pastor emeritus of the South Carolina District. Dr. Robbins also served in South Africa as a short-term pastor and teacher. He was preceded in death by two sons. Survivors include Lillian, his wife of more than 60 years, one daughter, nine grandchildren, and sixteen great-grandchildren.

## STRAIT, REV. LEONARD (81)

Rev. Leonard Strait died December 31 in St. Johns, Mich. An Owosso Bible College graduate, he pastored Wesleyan churches in Indiana, Iowa, and Michigan, serving for 50 years. Rev. Strait was instrumental in developing Sunday schools within The Wesleyan Church and also served as a district Sunday school secretary, as well as on other church-related boards and committees. Eleven siblings preceded him in death. Survivors include his wife, Dorine, two sons, three daughters, 15 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

## WISSBROECKER, REV. EDWIN (91) !

Rev. Edwin Wissbroecker died February 13 in Brooksville, Fla. A U.S. Air Force veteran of World War II, Rev. Wissbroecker served as a missionary to Zambia with Wesleyan World Missions alongside his first wife, Phyllis, for more than 30 years. After her death, he returned to Africa to serve. Later he married Wilma Cheney, a fellow missionary, and they served in Zambia together. After retirement, Rev. Wissbroecker worked at Wesleyan Village in Brooksville, and over those years, he and Wilma took seven mission trips back to Africa, each lasting six months to a year. He was preceded in death by Phyllis, his first wife, seven siblings, and three grandchildren. He is survived by his wife, Wilma, one son, two daughters, five grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

## YADLOWSKI, REV. LAWRENCE (68)

Rev. Lawrence Yadowski died November 30 in Redwater, Alberta, Canada. He pastored at Wesleyan churches in Canada. Survivors include Glenys, his wife of 48 years, three daughters, nine grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and four sisters.



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