

April, 2017

Bits & Bytes for Bagley Backers



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

BARBADOS - We spent a week in January meeting with other leaders from Global:Partners as well as participating in the Barbados District Conference. The International Conference of the Wesleyan Church will meet here in 2019 and this meeting was in part to lay the foundations for that important conference.

GHANA - At the end of January we participated the biennial National Conference of the Wesleyan Church of Ghana. Prior to the conference Bob met with the National Board as they began learning how to develop and implement an annual budget for the National Church. Exciting steps of growth and development!

ZAMBIA - In February Bob attended a meeting of the principals from the Wesleyan Bible colleges from across Africa. Under the direction of Randal Cheney, the principals began a process of establishing standards for Wesleyan ministerial training for Africa.



SWAZILAND - Most of March we were in Swaziland where we were teaching at Emmanuel Wesleyan Bible College. Bob taught first-year students the course on "Bible Study Methods" while Brenda taught the upper level students "Understanding Other Faiths." What a joy for both of us to be back in the classroom where we began our missionary journey over 35 years ago. (The photo at the top of the page was taken while we were there.)

FAMILY FUN

In February our daughter Mary Beth came from central Asia and visited with us for a week. We made a quick to Kruger National Park to see the animals and had fun times together laughing, playing games, and helping her stock up on all the South African goodies she had been missing.

COMING UP

AFRICA AREA MISSIONARY RETREAT - The second week of April all the Global Partners missionaries in Africa will be gathering in Cape Town for our annual retreat. The week will combine times of training, worship, fellowship, and fun and is always one of the highlights of the missionary team for the year.

LEADERSHIP MATTERS COURSE - Early in May Bob will be one of the trainers at the LMC to be held in Ghana. About half of the participants will be Wesleyan leaders from that part of Africa. Bob will be joined on the training team by Dr. Alfred Kalembo, National Superintendent of Zambia, and Rev. Thabsile Thwala, National Superintendent of Swaziland as well as leaders from several other mission-oriented organizations.

SIERRA LEONE NATIONAL CONFERENCE - May ends with the quadrennial National Conference in Sierra Leone. Their current National Superintendent, Dr. Usman Fornah, will be stepping down after eight years in office and the church will be electing a new national leader to take his place.

MISSIONARY TRAINING INSTITUTE - The trip to Sierra Leone will be followed by a quick trip to the US where Bob will assist in GP's training course for new missionaries. It's always exciting to have a part in helping to prepare men and women who have committed their lives to global ministry.

PRAYER & PRAISE REQUESTS

1. Thank God for safety in travel over the past few months.
2. Please pray that our application to have our residence permits restored will be approved. (We lost our permits a few months ago when we had our passports stolen.) The applications were submitted about two months ago.
3. Praise God for His help in the meetings of the Bible College principals.
4. Pray for a special sense of the Lord's presence at the Africa Area Missionary Retreat in Cape Town April 10-14.
5. Pray that the African church leaders at the Leadership Matters Course will be challenged and transformed by their participation.
6. Ask God to guide the Wesleyan Church of Sierra Leone as they select their leaders for the coming four years.
7. Pray that newly appointed missionaries at the Missionary Training Institute will develop the skills and attitudes needed to be effective in their missionary service.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We are able to serve because of your faithfulness to give. We are deeply grateful for your faithfulness and generosity.

Donations and new faith promises can be sent to: Global Partners, P.O. Box 50434, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

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