

## IEW-LA Executive Coordinator News

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During his studies Johnny will continue part-time as Executive Coordinator of IEW-LA, and work in partnership with Arturo Vega, the Administrator of IEW-LA in Lima, Peru. We will maintain a minimum staff in Lima, sufficient to continue our ministries of translation and publication and short-term residential and on-line courses and seminars.

While at Duke, Johnny will share an office with WHF at the Asbury United Methodist Church across from the east campus of Duke University. We are thankful to Asbury UMC for their continued support of our ministry. In addition to providing us office space, they also print our newsletters.

Again, our congratulations to Johnny! Johnny is a very gifted lay theologian and will continue to contribute in very important ways to our ministry among Spanish speakers, throughout the Americas. Please pray for Johnny and his family as they make this challenging transition. □

**I wish to help the work of The Wesley Heritage Foundation. Enclosed is my contribution of:**

\$50  \$100  \$500

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Designation:  General Gift

Theological Education Fund  Mercy Fund

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## WHF Founders

Many of you who have been supporters of WHF over the 27 years of our ministry frequently ask “how are Elbert and Lois doing?” Elbert and Lois chartered the Wesley Heritage Foundation, Inc. in 1990 during their early retirement years, initiating the first major project of WHF: the translation, publication and distribution of Obras de Wesley.

Elbert and Lois, who will be 95 and 94 in about a month, reside together in their 72<sup>nd</sup> year of marriage at the Croasdaile Retirement Village in Durham, NC (A123, 2600 Croasdaile Farm Pky, Durham, NC 27705). We know they would enjoy hearing from you.

Please keep Elbert and Lois in your prayers as they move through some of the challenges of living a long life, but also give God thanks for the blessings of life in which they have shared. We are extremely grateful for their vision of ministry and for all the ways in which they have supported and continue to support the work of the Foundation. □



## Methodist University Mission Team

In March of this year a mission team of nine persons from Methodist University in Fayetteville, NC visited the Institute for Wesley Studies in Lima. This trip was arranged by the Wesley Heritage Foundation. The team was led by Dwayne Stinson of the Religious Life Office of Methodist U. As part of their experience in Peru they worked for several days in giving a “facelift” to the front of the house of an elderly single woman who lives beside the Institute. Her house was very much in need of this work. Thank you Methodist University! □

# The Wesley Heritage Foundation

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



Bringing the Thought and Spirituality of the Wesleyan Revival to Latin Americans

PO Box 76 Henrico NC 27842 USA

SPRING-SUMMER 2017

## NEWSLETTER

### IEW-LA Executive Coordinator News

Johnny Llerena, the Executive Coordinator for the Institute for Wesley Studies – Latin America (Instituto de Estudios Wesleyanos – Latinoamérica; IEW-LA) has served as the only director of this ministry since its inception, four years ago. He has done an outstanding work. Not only has he guided the translation and publication work of IEW-LA, but he has also guided the formation and accreditation of the Comunidad Teológica del Perú (CTP) and the E-Comunidad Wesleyana para las Américas (ECWA), the online seminary for all of Latin America.

Now a new opportunity for Johnny has arisen, one which is fully supported by the Board of Directors of IEW-LA and by the Wesley Heritage Foundation. Johnny has had a developing call to study for a Master of Divinity degree and to seek ordination within the Methodist Church. He has been accepted into the Master of Divinity program at Duke Divinity School (Durham, NC). Congratulations Johnny!

Johnny will begin his studies in August. His wife, Claudia, and their two young daughters, will join Johnny in North Carolina in January 2018. The Foundation is assisting them in finding financial support, housing, etc. Johnny has received a 100% tuition scholarship from Duke.

## From the President:

### “A Living Hope”

On the Second Sunday of Easter one of the scripture readings from the common lectionary was I Peter 1:3-9. This passage begins with the words, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.”

I Peter offers a strong affirmation that the hope we have been given in light of the risen Christ is not just future but also present. We have a “living (present tense) hope”! Our hope is being realized. Already in this earthly life we are partakers in Christ’s resurrection life. This is a reality that is not only future (after we die or when Christ returns) but it begins here and now during our earthly life. In the present time we receive a foretaste of the eternal life to come.

This is a truth of our Christian faith that makes all the difference how we live day by day and how we react to things which are happening to us or in situations around us. Where we may encounter illness, loss of job, a broken relationship, or some other negative event, **because of the “living hope”** we can live in the assurance that Christ’s Spirit is working within and around us to bring new life out of any circumstance of despair. In the resurrection of Christ the victory has **already** been won; perhaps not yet in its fullness, but it is breaking in and signs of the victory can already be witnessed and experienced.

A few months ago I was struggling with a lot of worry about how we were going to sustain some of the ministries we had initiated in Latin America, in particular the Institute for Wesley Studies – Latin America, the residential seminary (Comunidad Teológica del Perú, i.e. CTP), and the online seminary for all of Latin America (E-Comunidad Wesleyana para las Américas). The seminary has received government accreditation and the Institute has been very productive in developing new Wesleyan resources in Spanish. However, financial resources are not always sufficient to support these ministries.

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## From the President

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One night a couple months ago I had a “vision”, or more like a “voice”, which came to me, saying “sell it.” When I awoke I asked myself, “sell what?” Then it came to me, “sell the residential seminary, sell CTP.” Fairly quickly a plan came into formation and it was done! The Institute for Wesley Studies, which had developed the residential seminary (CTP) worked out an agreement by which another educational entity (based in Peru) is buying CTP over a period of two years. CTP will continue to hold courses at our building in Lima; and even though CTP will maintain its government recognition with the purchase, our online seminary will be able to offer accredited courses through CTP. In this way the Institute and WHF will not sacrifice the hard work and resources we put into acquiring the accreditation for CTP. CTP will be fully ecumenical but will retain a Wesleyan emphasis. The new director, Tomás Gutierrez, is a well known Protestant scholar with wide relationships among evangelical churches throughout Latin America. He has published a number of books on Protestant Christianity in Latin America, including one which our Institute for Wesley Studies published about a year ago (*Ciudadanos de Otro Reino – Citizens of Another Kingdom*). He has a creative and energetic spirit.

With the sale of CTP, the Institute for Wesley Studies will be able to reclaim its original vision, which is the same vision as our Foundation: “to promote the thought, spirituality and practice of the Wesleyan revival among Spanish speakers.” The Institute is primarily doing this by producing new resources in the Wesleyan tradition in Spanish. In addition, the Institute will offer short-term courses online with emphasis upon Wesleyan themes.

When the future was somewhat uncertain about these ministries, a “living hope” brought forth new life. With the sale of CTP the Institute will receive financial payments over the next two years which will sustain its ministry. That does **not** mean that the payments will cover all the financial needs of the Institute. WHF will continue to seek donations to support the Institute work, along with the work of WHF. I hope that you will see what we have done as a work of grace and that you will continue to support the work of WHF as we seek to sustain these ministries in Latin America.

May you experience the resurrection hope throughout these 50 days of Easter!

Grace and Peace,

Mark

## COVENANT DISCIPLESHIP

One of the commitments of the Institute for Wesley Studies in Lima, Peru has been to inform Wesleyan churches about the history and importance of the Class Meetings of early Methodism. These classes were a vital and central way that John and Charles Wesley guided and grew the revival of the church in 18th century England. They put strong emphasis upon the balancing of works of piety (corporate worship and personal devotion) and the works of mercy (acts of compassion and acts of justice).

David Lowes Watson, a retired United Methodist clergyman and Wesleyan scholar, and a member of our Board of Directors, was the key person who “brought back” the Class Meeting to contemporary Methodism, in what has become known as Covenant Discipleship.



Rev. David Limo

In recent months, the Institute for Wesley Studies, under the guidance of WHF, added a part-time staff person whose responsibility is to educate and develop Covenant Discipleship among Wesleyan people in Latin America, beginning in Peru. This person is the Rev. David Limo, an Anglican priest who is strongly grounded in Wesleyan history and theology. Rev. Limo has already started 26 CD groups in Peru, a remarkable beginning! We thank David for what he is doing in promoting this Wesleyan thought and practice among Spanish speakers of the Wesleyan tradition. □

## Publications

The publication of WHF's two volume sermons of John Wesley in Spanish (*Sermones de Juan Wesley*) has been completed by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church and is available through Cokesbury online. We are thankful for this vital partnership with GBHEM and look forward to other such partnerships.

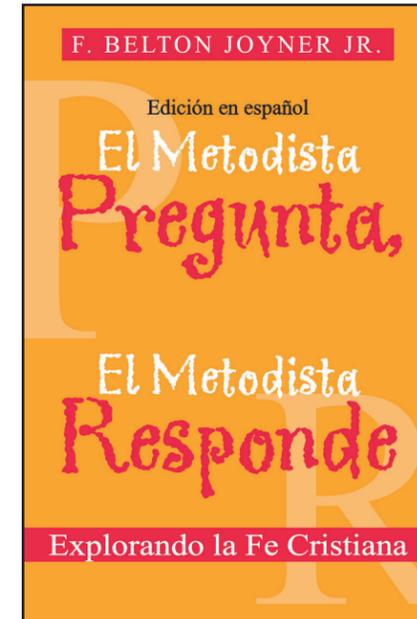
The translation and publication of the Rev. Dr. Belton Joyner Jr.'s book on *United Methodist Questions and United Methodist Answers* has been completed and is now available by contacting WHF. In Spanish it is entitled *El Metodista Pregunta, El Metodista Responde: Explorando la Fe Cristiana*. The book is available for purchase by going to our website at: [www.wesleyheritagefoundation.org](http://www.wesleyheritagefoundation.org) and using our PayPal purchase option.

Also recently completed is the translation of Wesley's *Treatise on Baptism* (never before in Spanish). Thank you to Will Faircloth of the Methodist seminary in Costa Rica who translated this very important work. Randy Maddox has written a Preface to the Treatise and Mark Wethington is contributing an Introduction. We are also asking three different persons to write brief commentaries as an addendum to the Treatise. We hope to complete this booklet by the summer 2017.

Work is under way in the translation of commentaries on Charles Wesley's hymns by S.T. Kimbrough. These commentaries will accompany 20 hymns of Charles which have been translated. These will be assembled and published together.

In addition, WHF plans to translate and publish a third volume of John Wesley's sermons, sermons never before translated in Spanish. These will be about 25 - 30 in number and published with the same look as the paperback volumes 1 and 2 which we recently published (also published by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the UMC).

Finally, WHF is beginning to translate the Rev. Dr. Dennis Campbell's book on *The Yoke of Obedience* (on ordination in the Methodist tradition). We hope to have this published by Fall 2017, if not before. □



## WHF Mercy Fund

Several years ago, WHF began a Mercy Fund. The purpose of this Fund was to collect donations for various mercy/compassion ministries in Latin America, usually those associated with Methodist Churches. We have not advertised this Fund recently because most of our resources have been used for the development of the Institute and the seminary programs. However, we would like to revive this Fund.

Central to the Methodist revival was an emphasis upon compassion and justice ministries. John and Charles Wesley, and the Holy Club to which they gave leadership, were very involved in feeding the hungry, caring for widows and orphans, prison ministry and the formation of medical clinics for the poor. These works of “mercy” were at the heart of the revival and were a key part of what identified persons as “Methodists”.

Several weeks ago, WHF contributed \$500, and channeled another \$200, to relief ministry in Lima when Peru was inundated by unusual rains and persons died and lost homes due to flooding and landslides. This crisis was featured on the national news. WHF contributed to a relief fund of the Lima/Callao District of the Methodist Church of Peru to provide potable water.

We would like to have this Fund available for such circumstances. We find it to be very important to not only “educate” and offer resources, but also to be engaged in the very practical ministry of compassion. If you would like to contribute to the WHF Mercy Fund simply make your check to WHF and note “Mercy Fund” in the memo line. Thank you!