

## Projects Needing Support (continued from page 2)

The second project is to translate and produce the same 27 sermons, which we published in Quechua, in the language of Aymara, another dominant language of the Andean region. This has been strongly requested and encouraged by such church leaders as Bishop Rojas of the Bolivian Methodist Church. The estimate of this project is \$10,000.

The third project is the production of a “popular” edition of the first four volumes of *Obras de Wesley*, which are sermons of John Wesley. This material over the past years has been the most requested and is now available only in electronic form. Many people still want the “hard copy” which they can read, write in the margins of, etc. The proposal is to put the four volumes into two volumes, and publish it in paperback with a colorful cover (perhaps of John Wesley preaching). The estimate for this project is \$10,000.

If you as an individual or your congregation would be interested in any of these projects please be in contact with Mark ([markwhf@gmail.com](mailto:markwhf@gmail.com) or 910-295-7720)

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## Update on the Instituto de Estudios Wesleyanos — Latinoamérica

Johnny Llerena, Executive Coordinator

By the grace of God the Institute (IEW-LA) continues expanding in ways we did not at first imagine. I will mention just a few of these.

In September IEW-LA will be hosting a roundtable discussion on “The Evangelical Church’s Response to Homosexuality.” We are grateful that Dr. Mark Wethington will help to offer some leadership for this program. In addition, a leader in the Anglican Church in Peru is working with us to develop a certified program of education for persons called to serve as chaplains in hospitals, prisons, etc. Also, we will be supporting the recognition of the Church of the Nazarene’s 100th Anniversary in Peru, to be held in November of this year. Furthermore, IEW-LA is creating a program of “immersion” for teams from the US who desire to come and learn more about Latin American culture, issues and the nature and ministry of the church in Latin America.

Of course a good portion of our time and energy has been spent and is being spent in the development of the online and residential seminary programs, under the strong and creative leadership of Roxana Spelucin.

I remain amazed at the ways in which God is working in our midst to strengthen and grow the ministry of IEW-LA. We are very grateful for the support of WHF and the Foundation’s confidence in our leadership. For all of those in the United States who support our ministry we are most grateful. May God’s grace and peace be always with you.



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# 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

FALL 2014

## NEWSLETTER

### A Word from the President:

#### Mark W. Wethington, Ph.D.

Next year, in 2015, the Wesley Heritage Foundation will recognize its 25th year of ministry. I believe that all of us who were a part of the Foundation’s beginning would agree that we could never have imagined where we might be 25 years later. While I could use this article to summarize these 25 years, I will refrain from doing so and instead center on a particular truth which has become obvious throughout these years of ministry: *we Christians learn that the best designed human plans often don’t turn out the way we envisioned or even hoped; but when we allow God’s Spirit to be an active participant in those plans, the ministry ends up being more fruitful and faithful than when left to our own making.*

As I write this message my wife, Beth, and I are preparing to travel to Peru to do some work in the Foundation’s office in Lima as well as to share in a couple of educational seminars. One of the seminars is one in which I have been invited by the Institute for Wesley Studies – Latin America (*Instituto de Estudios Wesleyanos—Latinoamérica*) to speak on the topic of “John Wesley and the Bible,” and how Wesley’s use and understanding of the Bible might shape the church’s mission.

Part of my presentation will focus on Wesley’s three-fold emphasis upon reading the Holy Scripture, meditating upon it, and, thirdly, hearing what it has to say. This third aspect, the hearing of what God’s word has to say, is often the most difficult part. It’s relatively easy to read the word (and Wesley suggests that we need to do that several times a day), and we should meditate on the word by centering our minds and hearts upon it; but there are often many obstacles to our hearing of God’s word. Some of these obstacles include our wanting to hear only what we want to hear, or simply not taking the time to hear. There is certainly much in our lives which keep us from hearing what God is saying to us.

But hearing is key. It is only in the honest and open hearing of God’s word that the word of God will transform us and move us closer to inward and outward holiness. This must certainly be why our Lord Jesus, after teaching by means of a parable, would say at times, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.” Wesley rightly understood that hearing God’s truth in God’s word only happens

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### Church of the Nazarene

The Foundation has had a long relationship with the Church of the Nazarene. The Church of the Nazarene is deeply rooted in the Wesleyan tradition, and that tradition has historical grounding in the United States holiness movement of the 1830’s. That Protestant movement placed strong emphasis upon the Wesleyan doctrine of sanctification and the central role of the Holy Spirit in bringing about inward and outward holiness in the lives of believers.

The Church of the Nazarene was officially organized in 1908 and now has about 2.2 million members worldwide. On its website the Church states its mission: “to make Christlike disciples in the nations.” The spiritual vision of the early Nazarenes was derived from the doctrinal core of John Wesley’s preaching. The holiness movement of the mid to late 1800’s began to splinter in the early 1900’s and the Church of the Nazarene was formed, embracing seven previous denominations and two other holiness groups.

When the Foundation was working on its first major project, the translation, publication and distribution of Wesley’s works into Spanish, known as *Obras de Wesley*, the Church of the Nazarene was one of the most enthusiastic supporters of this project. The Church of the Nazarene was the only Wesleyan denomination which had published a few sermons of John Wesley translated into Spanish. Therefore, when WHF took on this project they were tremendously welcoming of our ministry. When it was completed the Nazarenes

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## Word from the President

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when we allow God's Spirit to open our minds and hearts to a deeper comprehension.

I want to relate this back to the thought I opened the article with, namely, that “we Christians learn that the best designed human plans often don't turn out the way we envisioned or even hoped; but when we allow God's Spirit to be an active participant in those plans, the ministry ends up being more fruitful and faithful than when left to our own making.” This thought is my way of acknowledging that some of our Foundation's plans don't always turn out the way we designed them or hoped they might. One realizes that at times this is the case because we can too easily get caught up in our plan to the point that we are not able to “hear” God's input! Therefore, sometimes when we allow ourselves to hear rather than just plan things out we are amazed at how God enters in and redirects our attention and actions into places which turn out to be much better and certainly more faithful.

Time and again I witness this happening, and often it requires that we welcome the Spirit's mystery, listen to the work of the Spirit through others, and then discover that the greatest hope and joy is in the recognition that when we allow God to work in and through us that things turn out more fruitful than what we could have ever accomplished on our own.

This truth has been apparent frequently in our 25 years of history, time after time, and in recent times once again. To God be the glory! I give thanks for God's gracious presence in the midst of the Foundation's ministry. May God's grace and peace be with all of you. Please know that we have great gratitude for your continued interest and support.

Mark\_

## Church of the Nazarene (continued from page 1)

purchased and distributed many of the 14-volume sets of Obras de Wesley throughout Latin America. In fact, I would venture to say that you can find Obras de Wesley in the libraries of Nazarene pastors, seminaries and churches more than any other church in the Wesleyan tradition.

Because the Foundation's relationship and commitment is with the multiplicity of churches in the Wesleyan tradition, particularly with those of the Spanish language, our Institute for Wesley Studies, headquartered in Lima, Peru, is always looking for ways in which we can be involved and supportive of the various “faces” of Wesley throughout the world. In early November of this year the Church of the Nazarene will be celebrating its 100th year of ministry in Peru. We rejoice that the Foundation and our Institute in Lima will be present and will be offering support for this anniversary. We will be hosting a dinner which will include a national government recognition of the Church of the Nazarene in Peru. We rejoice in their faithful ministry throughout the Americas.



**Ruthie Cordova**

Ruthie is a native of Peru who is serving as a missionary of the Church of the Nazarene. She teaches in the Nazarene seminary in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Ruthie will also be part of the faculty for the E-Comunidad Wesleyana para las Américas, the global online seminary of our Institute for Wesley Studies in Peru.

## Projects Needing Support

WHF and our Institute for Wesley Studies (*Instituto de Estudios Wesleyanos - LA*) are frequently being approached with project ideas and requests. In addition to some of our larger initiatives in theological education, such as the *Instituto* and *E-Comunidad*, we are seeking support for three smaller but very important projects related to the development of new Wesleyan resources.

The first project is a follow-up on our translation of 27 of John Wesley's sermons into the language of Quechua for the Andean region. This book of sermons has been enthusiastically received by various Wesleyan churches. However, because of the way of life of many Quechua people there has come the request to produce an audio version (as one Cusco Methodist pastor said, “So we can hear Wesley preach while working in the fields or even broadcast Wesley on popular religious radio stations.”). The estimate for this project is \$6,000.

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## Update on the E-Comunidad Wesleyana para las Américas

Roxana Spelucin, General Director

It has been a special joy and privilege to direct the development of the online seminary, *E-Comunidad Wesleyana para las Américas (ECWA)*, since October 2013. Because the vision for this theological education program is to be both ecumenical and global it brings great challenges but also tremendous opportunities. It also challenges us to utilize and develop all the new computer and internet technologies which support learning and research through online education. There is without a doubt an urgent need to train both pastors and lay leaders in theological education and discipleship formation.

We began six 8-week online courses this past June. We are developing six new online courses right now.

Students and faculty come from a variety of denominations, mostly in the Wesleyan tradition. In part because of the accreditation requirements of the Peruvian Ministry of Education, we also started this past July four residential courses, all being held in the IEW-LA (*Instituto de Estudios Wesleyanos—Lationamérica*) building in Lima (see the picture above of one of those class meetings). We have faculty who are teaching in both the online and residential courses. The residential seminary name is *Comunidad Teológica del Peru (CTP)*. Both the online seminary (ECWA) and the residential one (CTP) will become fully accredited programs under the non-profit status of IEW-LA.

We always welcome more teachers and students and we invite you to become our recruiters. You can teach from anywhere! We will train you to be a teacher online. If you have interest in teaching online please contact me to discuss this ([rspelucin@e-comunidad.org](mailto:rspelucin@e-comunidad.org)). Also, please encourage any Spanish-speaking persons whom you encounter with interest in theological education and/or discipleship formation to contact me at this same email address.

I am very grateful for all the ways in which you support this very important ministry. May God continue to give us the wisdom, strength and growth.

### Our Sympathies

WHF extends its deepest love and sympathies to Roxana Spelucin and her family because of the recent death of her nephew Sebastian. Sebastian had been struggling with leukemia for about a year. Roxana is General Director of our online seminary program (*E-Comunidad*) and works in our Institute office in Lima, Peru. Roxana and her family are part of our Foundation family.