



President's Report:

Mark W. Wethington, Ph.D.

It is a joy to continue to serve as the President of the Wesley Heritage Foundation. Our Foundation chose to delay the issuing of this summer newsletter until after our July 7 meeting so that we might bring our supporters up to date on the work of the Foundation. We have much to report that is contained herein. I will restrict my President's report to two items. First, I am pleased to announce that at our July Board of Directors meeting the Board passed two resolutions. They are as follows:

1. With this resolution, the Board of Directors of the Wesley Heritage Foundation, Inc. hereby recognize and place on record this acknowledgement and statement of tremendous gratitude for the ministry of L. Elbert and Lois Wethington, hereby also establishing them as the "Co-Founders" of the Wesley Heritage Foundation, Inc. through their financial generosity as well as tireless labor not only in the formation of the Foundation but also in the development of the first major work of the Foundation, namely, the translation, publication and distribution of *Obras de Wesley*. This day 07-07-07.

2. With this resolution, the Board of Directors of the Wesley Heritage Foundation, Inc. hereby recognize and place on record the election of Dr. L. Elbert Wethington as President Emeritus of the Wesley Heritage Foundation, Inc., from this date forward and for the fullness of his earthly life, noting with the deepest of gratitude his unselfish and generous willingness to faithfully devote almost the whole of his retirement years to the formation and work of the Foundation. This day 07-07-07.

It was with great joy and deep appreciation that these two resolutions were unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board recognized and elected a transition in the Board of Director membership. We express gratitude to Dr. Roger Loyd, Dr. Edgardo Emeric-Colon, Mr. Steve Taylor, and Rev. Judy Davis for their years of service to the Foundation's ministry. We elected the following new Board members: the Rev. Dr. Daniel Flores, the Rev. Luis Reinoso, Dr. Kristin Herzog, and Mr. Wesley Wethington (a third generation of Wethington leadership!). Dr. Flores is Senior Pastor of the La Trinidad United Methodist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, Adjunct Professor at the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, and President of Sociedad Wesleyana. Rev. Reinoso is pastor of the Red Oak United Methodist Church in the North Carolina Conference and a consultant to the National Hispanic Plan of the General Board of Global Ministries of the UMC. Dr. Herzog is a member of the United Church of Christ, specializes in Women's Studies related to Latin America, and has been actively involved

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Seminary Project in Peru

The Methodist Church of Peru (IMP – Iglesia Metodista del Peru) has asked the Wesley Heritage Foundation to partner with them in the development of a theological education program in Peru. Although there is a very small seminary program in Huancayo, in the highlands of Peru, it does not have any credentials and relies on volunteers to come teach (our President, Mark Wethington, has taught there in past years and will do so again this October 2007). The desire of the IMP is to open a seminary in Lima with satellites in other places around the country. Previously there was a Methodist seminary in Lima, but it closed in 1996 due to the war with the Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso) and because of the economic crisis in the country as well as the church. There still exists a seminary building that is being rented out in a premier area of inner city Lima. The Foundation has already met with the IMP and has assisted them with the writing of a proposal. The request is that the Foundation assist the IMP in the financial development of this project, in the writing of curriculum for the seminary, and eventually in the renovation of the building and the recruiting of faculty.

At our July meeting, the Board of Directors endorsed this project and relationship and in October will meet again with the Bishop of the IMP and the IMP's Theological Education Commission to further develop the proposal and begin the financial development work. The next couple of years will require substantial work on this project by our President and will also require an estimated minimum of 1 million US dollars to get off the ground. The President will be seeking major donations for this major effort in helping the IMP to build its theological education program. Because theological education in Peru has been lacking over the past 12 years, less than a handful of new pastors have been ordained into the church; the church is at present heavily dependent upon lay pastors with minimal theological education. The Board believes that God is calling us to this challenging work. The larger vision of this project is that the seminary in Lima might become a Center for Wesley Studies which could serve the church throughout Latin America. Persons who have particular interest in this project or who might know of such persons who might make major donations are encouraged to contact our President.

in theological teaching in Peru for many years, including the leading of Duke Divinity School student teaching-teams. Mr. Wethington has been involved for a life-time in mission work related to the North Carolina/Peru Methodist Church Covenant and is a Junior at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. We welcome these new members to the work of the Board of Directors. I am confident that their leadership will contribute greatly to our labor in the year ahead.

The Foundation is grateful to all of you who are receiving this newsletter and who have been generous and interested supporters of the mission and labors of the Foundation. Grace and peace.

Completion of Obras de Wesley CD

We are pleased to announce that the Foundation has completed the transfer of Obras de Wesley (14 hardback volumes) onto CD-ROM. We have already fulfilled orders for some seminaries as well as individuals. Knowledge of the CD is at present primarily through our web site, but we are in this time developing a marketing plan to announce its production and availability to the wider church; this will include distribution offers to publishing houses. Mr. Jonathan Scott, our Communications Designer, produced the CD on our behalf, and it is a work that has been very well done and has been very gratefully received by those who have ordered it and reviewed it. The CD will allow the Works of John Wesley in Spanish to be even more available to persons in the Spanish-speaking world and at a much reduced cost; not to mention the ease of shipping! We also believe that the availability of Obras de Wesley in this form will encourage greater scholarship among Hispanic persons.



Republication of Obras de Wesley

The Foundation entered into a five-year copyright agreement with CLIE, a Christian publishing house in Barcelona, Spain, to have Obras de Wesley reproduced in a one volume hardback edition, at a marketed price that would make the full set of Obras available fairly economically and all in one book. We are grateful to CLIE for desiring to do this. Believe it or not, the book will be of reasonable size and of very legible font; CLIE has produced other such works of "Great Christian Theologians." This republication of Obras de Wesley should be available in early 2008. The Foundation has in archives only 12 complete sets of the original 14 volume production of Obras de Wesley. All the rest of the original production has been distributed around the world.

Wesley's Sermons in Quechua

For the past year, the Foundation has been working on the translation of 29 of Wesley's sermons into Quechua, the language of many indigenous people of the highlands of Peru and Bolivia. The Methodist Church and other churches of the Wesleyan tradition are continuing to be founded and to grow in these areas and there is a hunger for reading and knowing more about their Wesleyan roots. A retired missionary of the Wycliffe Bible Translators, Conrad Phelps, who lives in Cuzco, Peru, has been guiding this project. To date the translation of 15 sermons has been completed. We anticipate the translation work to be completed in the spring 2008 with desktop publication immediately to follow. Our hope is to make the book of sermons available for \$1 a book (it was suggested to us that Quechua church people would feel very good about paying a little bit in order to acquire this much desired work).

New DVD to be Released

The Foundation has been working on the production of a 50-minute DVD on "The Journey of Methodism to Latin America." Dr. Mark Wethington has been working on the script (in part based on an English text from a video on John Wesley) and has edited quite a bit to include larger portions on Charles Wesley as well as the continuation of the story of Methodism's missionary movement into Latin America. The DVD contains both historical as well as theological material. It will be an important resource for theological education in seminaries, for the formation of lay leadership in congregations, and for newcomers to Methodist churches throughout Latin America, as well as Hispanic congregations here in the United States. We are grateful to Jonathan Scott for his creative work on this project. The Rev. Luis Reinoso provided the Spanish translation and served as narrator. We are anticipating its completion and availability by the winter 2007. We are grateful to the General Board of Global Ministries of the UMC for their assisting in the financial support of this project.

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

- \$50 \$100 \$500
 Other _____

The Wesley Heritage Foundation is a non-profit 501c3 organization. All contributions are tax-deductible.

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If so, please give us your e-mail address:

Mail contributions to L. Elbert Wethington, Ph.D., Treasurer, 4309 Sunny Court, Durham, NC 27705