



FORWARD

The FOUNDATION for
EVANGELISM

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Dr. Robert Tuttle, Jr. Retires After 25 Years As Professor

By: Barbara Bowser, *The Foundation for Evangelism*

This year, Dr. Robert Tuttle, Jr., retires from his position as E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Asbury Theological Seminary, in Orlando, Fla. Yet, he is not so much retiring as shifting focus. Tuttle still plans to teach, including intensive short learning experiences, an online class to 27 students with 20 more on a waiting list, and the Festival of Faith weekend in local churches once a month. He also plans to teach internationally.

In retrospect, Dr. Tuttle feels that God was able to use his experiences in teaching to help him think theologically, from a behavioral perspective, and to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit. For over 25 years, he has served as educator to countless individuals whose passion for evangelism lead to a higher calling. Dr. Tuttle began his tenure as E. Stanley Jones Professor at the Garret-Evangelical Theological Seminary in 1985, and since 2000 has been an E.S.J. Professor at Asbury's Orlando Campus. When asked what his most rewarding moment as a professor has been, Tuttle responded, "I've loved every minute of it!"

To his students, Tuttle teaches three critical points
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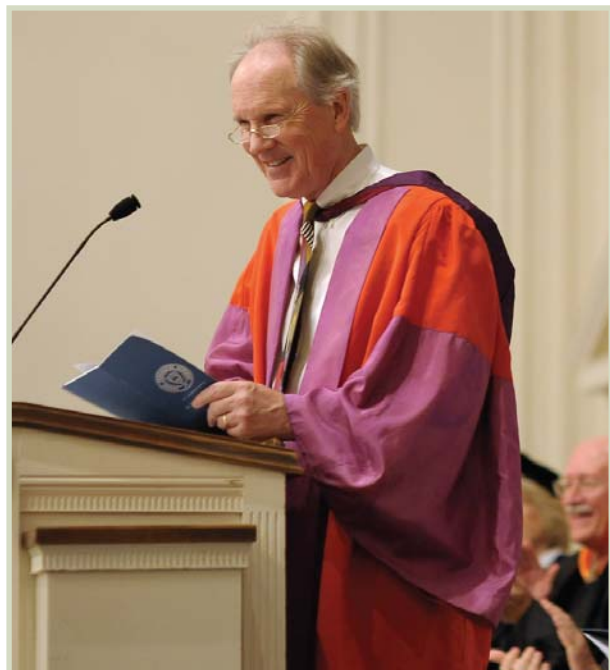


Photo Courtesy of Asbury Theological Seminary

Swartz Creek United Methodist Named First "Culture of the Call Church"

By: Mary Burgin, *The Foundation for Evangelism*

The Foundation for Evangelism is pleased to recognize the first-ever recipient of the Culture of the Call Church Award - Swartz Creek United Methodist Church, in Swartz Creek, Michigan. This annual award recognizes one local congregation of The United Methodist Church with a history of helping young people 35 or younger experience God's call to full time Christian service as a result of affiliation with that church. The award was presented May 23 at the Detroit Annual Conference held at Adrian College in Adrian, Mich.

Swartz Creek United Methodist Church has a history of sending people into the ministry. The pastor and church leaders help to identify young people with gifts for min-

istry and empower them by placing them in positions of learning and leadership in order to experience what ministry in the church is like. The pastor, Rev. Dr. John Landis and church leaders follow candidates for ministry through their candidacy process and ordination or consecration. Service to sister churches, district, and conference

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Our Vision
is to raise up generations of leaders
with a passion for evangelism.



Followers and Leaders (Leaders Who Follow)

Letter from Dr. John L. Ewing, Jr., Executive Director

The 2008 General Conference of The United Methodist Church affirmed four areas of focus for the future of the church. The first listed is “developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.” We were thrilled to see this focus for it strongly affirmed our long-standing vision at The Foundation for Evangelism. It is wonderful to see how this focus has been embraced by the whole church.

Leadership is central to the revitalization of our beloved denomination. This is reinforced over and over again as we observe thriving congregations. Strong pastoral leadership and empowered laity are always present when churches are growing and are helping others to experience God’s transforming love through Jesus Christ.

Recently, I have been reminded by Dr. Leonard Sweet, our E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Drew University, that leadership alone is not enough. It must begin and end with “followership.” We are first and foremost followers of Jesus Christ. If we try to lead outside of being a follower of Jesus our efforts will be in vain. Jesus calls us to be a follower of him.

Some in the church believe that local congregations can be revitalized through process and technique alone. Many Conferences and workshops are organized and carried out with this belief in mind. The assumption is that if only we can be better at the process of “doing ministry” it will result in vital congregations. We do need to get better at the process of ministry. This is one area where we can learn a lot from our colleagues in the for-profit world who survive and thrive on consistency and process -- even though they are motivated by something other than Kingdom building.

Others, who dismiss the focus on process and technique, argue that the only way to revitalize congregations and to reach more people for the Kingdom is by focusing on our personal relationship with God. If only we had more revivals and altar calls, they might say, we will turn this church around.

We do need more responding to God’s amazing gift of grace, however, we can be more effective in helping them become disciples of Jesus following transformative experiences.



Dr. John L. Ewing, Jr.
Executive Director

From my observation of congregations that are thriving, neither of these two approaches works alone. I agree with Len that ministry must begin and end with being a follower of Jesus and, as such, developing a deep personal relationship with God through Jesus. But, this spiritual focus is foundational but not terminal if we hope to help more people experience God’s transforming love through Jesus. We have to combine the spiritual with an effective process of ministry

The Foundation for Evangelism has been promoting this “both/and” approach for the last thirty years. Because we believe that helping people do ministry more effectively is important, we fund the E. Stanley Jones Professors of Evangelism and future professors through support of doctoral education. These programs are based on the assumption that learning about how to do ministry does matter. However, we have always promoted the Wesleyan model that begins and ends with a right relationship with God.

Leadership is essential for the revitalization of our church. We must find more persons with exceptional leadership potential, support them as they become better equipped to use the gifts that God has given to them, and ensure there is good alignment between their gifts and the needs of the ministry they are leading. But leadership alone will not succeed. We are helping leaders to be followers of Jesus, to develop a deep personal relationship with God, and to lead their congregations to do the same. The order matters – we need to be followers first and then to lead and lead well.

E. Stanley Jones Professors Gather in Chicago

The Foundation for Evangelism helped sponsor a first-ever consultation between United Methodist Professors of Evangelism and United Methodist Professors of Missions June 15-17 at the Techny Towers Retreat Center in Chicago. Nearly twenty participants gathered including the following E. Stanley Jones (ESJ) Professors of Evangelism: Bryan Stone (Boston), Leonard Sweet (Drew), Stephen Gunter (Duke), Tumani Nyajeka (Gammon), Achim Haertner (Germany), Joon-Sik Park (MTSO), Sergei Nikolaev (Russia), Doug Powe (St. Paul), and Drew Dyson (Wesley).

The event preceded the meeting of The Academy for Evangelism in Theological Education (AETE) held June 16-20 during which more than 150 professors of evangelism and mission from many denominations gathered to share research and discuss evangelistic and missional strategy.

Professors Dana Robert (Boston University) and Stephen Gunter were the planners and co-conveners of the Foundation-sponsored Methodist consultation. Nearly fifteen years ago, Professors Robert and Gunter wrote essays for a book called, *Evangelism - The Heartbeat of Mission* and this perspective guided the discussions.

Although all of the professors were United Methodist, teaching in a U.M. context, many had never been together for a meeting. New friends were made and old acquaintances were renewed. The gathering was characterized by a high degree of enthusiasm as convergences and divergences of teaching practices were



discussed. The results of these discussions were both inspirational and insightful. Plans were made to work together to shape the formal General Board of Higher Education and Ministry guidelines for teaching evangelism and mission, which in the past have been worked out in a piecemeal fashion. It is anticipated that as a result of this gathering, that will change.

This consultation is the first of what the Foundation hopes to be a biennial event in which the ESJ Professors will convene in conjunction with the meeting of AETE. Plans are underway for the meeting of AETE to be held each year at the same time and venue with the American Society of Missiologists. It is expected that this gathering will strengthen the bonds of fellowship and consultation. As evangelistic and missional strategies come together, the Church can move forward with a stronger vision for God's work in the world.

Swartz Creek

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ministries are encouraged. In addition, over 25 persons from the church have gone through lay speaking training and seven persons have gone into the ministry.

District Superintendent Eugene Blair's nomination praises the Swartz Creek UMC culture where, "young people continually see ministry as a positive and viable option for their lives because of what they see and experience in evangelism and discipleship ministries."

The Culture of the Call Church Award is part of the vision of The Foundation for Evangelism to raise up generations of leaders with a passion for evangelism. We are pleased to join Bishop Keaton and Dr. Blair in recognizing the 2010 Culture of the Call Church, Swartz Creek United Methodist Church, for intentionally equipping young people to fulfill the call to make disciples to transform the world.



Swartz Creek UMC Youth Group
Photo Courtesy Swartz Creek UMC

Our Mission
is to promote, encourage, and provide
resources for responsible evangelism, enabling
The United Methodist Church
to bring persons into a personal relationship
with Jesus Christ and help them grow
as His disciples.



Youth Denman Award Winner Shares God's Transforming Love

A Special Article by Laura Holderfield, 2008 Denman Evangelism Award Recipient

"I want to help these kids. I don't want to live my life secluded in America not knowing what's going on outside of my nation's borders. I can't live like that. Not after seeing this. People pray for experiences to stick with them and to never forget them - but I don't have to with this one because I am certain it will. Nicaragua has completely wrecked my life in the most amazing way possible. It's a bittersweet feeling that I can't put into words. I don't know what's going to happen. I don't know what's going to change. I just know that it will...because it already has."

I wrote this in my journal during my first trip to Nicaragua. At that point I didn't realize what a large impact that experience would have on my life. It has since changed everything about me. I talk about it so much that my friends probably get sick of hearing stories and seeing pictures of my kids! Not a day goes by that it doesn't come up in conversation. God had big plans for me that year. He worked on my heart more that week than I could have ever imagined and taught me so much about life, love, faith, and happiness. It's so hard for me to put into words the way I feel about this special part of my life and to explain to you just what God has done. I pray that you can feel the passion between the lines of this text and the joy these beautiful children bring to my life. They have wrecked my life, and stolen my heart. And now, I wouldn't have it any other way.

A little background info: Nicaragua is the poorest Spanish speaking country in the world. The majority of Nicaraguans live on less than \$2 a day. 1 in every 3 children has some degree of malnutrition. On average, Nicaraguans complete less than 5 years of schooling. The area where I have worked for the majority of my times spent in Nica[ragua] is a community called "Nueva Vida," meaning "new life."

Nueva Vida is a community outside the city of Managua that was originally established in 1998 after the 10 long days of wrath that came from Hurricane Mitch. The hurricane caused Lake Managua to overflow its banks, forcing residents to flee to higher ground. Displaced families were sheltered in a refugee camp, which later became Nueva Vida. Today, more than 3,000 people live in the community,



and because of its original purpose of a temporary location, they are faced with very poor infrastructure of roads, water systems, electricity and sanitation. Most people in Nueva Vida are unemployed and are forced to rely on other sources for their life necessities.

Sometimes I wonder what it would be like to be living a miracle like these people are. I've grown up in an amazing family and I've always had everything I needed. When I was younger, I may have complained about not getting a certain toy on my wish list, but there was never a single day where I didn't have everything I needed. For the people in Nicaragua, not having what you need is a lifestyle. They fully rely on God for everything from water, to money, to clothes, to food. They believe it comes directly from the Father. I wonder what that would be like? Why aren't we living a miracle? Because we don't allow ourselves to. We don't have the need for God's miracles in our life. Everything is NOW NOW NOW. When we get sick? We go to the doctor. When we need money? We charge with our credit card. When we have a headache? We take a pill. We may call these simple solutions "miracles," but I think that is only because we have a misunderstanding of the term. Everything that we need in our lives is at the tip of our fingers. It's the exact opposite for the people of Nicaragua. They literally rely on God for their every need on a day to day basis. We met a pastor in Nicaragua needing funds to run the feeding center for the children. For most of the children in the community it was the only meal they would be eating the entire day. They didn't have enough money for the day's tasks. That afternoon he found 20 Córdoba on the side of the street. You never find money in Nicaragua. On the side of the street there is usually just trash, old papers and extremely toxic water. 20 Córdoba made all the difference to him. He was able to operate his feeding center and go another day. To see the passion and sincerity in his eyes when he said "That was a miracle" was overwhelming. (20 Córdoba is equivalent to a little over 1 dollar in US



money.) That is living a miracle. Everything they own is God's. Everything they have comes from God. I have watched an offering plate passed around a group of 40 or so Nicaraguans who make less in a year than we have as spare change in our cars. I've seen them place whatever they could into that offering plate - not because it was the right thing to do, or because the church told them to - but because they honestly believed that whatever they had...was God's.

I realized, in Nicaragua, that the key to true happiness is being in the center of God's will. I've always done things that I 'thought' God would like, or I 'thought' was good, but I've never felt the overwhelming presence of God more than I did back in March of 2009, singing Hosanna in an outdoor church with barefoot children dancing through the aisles and clapping vigorously. I knew at that moment that I was exactly where God wanted me to be at that exact moment in time. I'm hungry for that feeling again. Happiness outside of God's will is a false sense of hope, an intangible misunderstanding that we're content. I had that. I thought it was happiness, and I couldn't have been more wrong. The only way to find true happiness is to completely surrender your every thought, decision, action and attitude towards that of glorifying The Father.

We worked in another place called La Chureca. You can Google the name to get pictures of it. But let me prepare you: it's not what you'd expect. La Chureca is the city dump in Managua. There is a community of people who actually live there and make money by sifting through the trash every day. The children spend 15 hour days in the toxic fumes exposed to bacteria, sickness, and disease. It's so hot there that fires will spontaneously start, filling the air with smoke and pollution. We were only allowed to stay for 3 hours because of the toxic fumes. The children's teeth are rotting and their bodies aren't getting enough nutrients to be strong. But they have so much joy! Look at the smile on this child's face [at right]. He lives in La Chureca. I read a quote once that said "A true atheist looks in the eyes of the poor and still denies God." I don't know how anyone can look at that adorable face and not see the joy of Jesus Christ in his smile. All of the children in Nicaragua are like that. They

have nothing - no material possessions of importance, yet they have everything because they are SO full of joy and so full of the faith in Jesus Christ!



"Anielcka is such a special girl. All of these kids are. When I look at them, all the dirt, all the grime, all the scars, bruises and pain...when I see the problems they carry on their shoulders and the maturity behind their smiles...I see Jesus. I see a glimpse of heaven every time I look at their grinning faces and bright smiles. They are examples of pure joy. Joy in hardship. Joy in pain." (my trip journal, 2009)

Right now I guess I'm just trying to figure out what exactly God wants me to do with my passion in Nicaragua. He's put them on my heart for a reason - I know that much. I'm just trying to figure out exactly what that is. I'm focusing on educating people back home about the issues in Nica[ragua] and finding ways they can help. I'm also trying to plan a trip from my home church very soon. I can't wait for Anielcka to meet my momma. Not a day goes by that something doesn't remind me of the children. My heart longs to be with them again. I'm praying for God to provide the funds and make a way to take my church family down there.

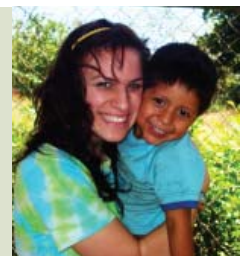
My challenge to anyone reading this is to take a step outside of your comfort zone. If God is placing an opportunity in front of you for international missions... take it. If He's calling you into missions down the street... do that too. John 12:8 says, "You will always have the poor among you." The poor will be among you. How many of us can say we are actually among the poor? There's no real way for me to explain Nicaragua to you. The best way for you to understand is to just go. Many of you reading have been on mission trips before - met someone who pulled at your heart strings and changed your life, so you know exactly what I'm talking about. Don't ever forget that. Don't let it be another memory. God sent you there for a reason.

Shane Claiborne says, "When statistics have a face, and poverty becomes real, that's what messes with you. It's a beautiful thing when people are no longer just a missions project, but become family and friends with whom we laugh, cry, dream and struggle."

I left my heart in the hands of orphans. The most beautiful, dirty, scarred...most perfect hands of children are now holding my heart, and that's never going to change. To God be the glory!



Laura Holderfield is a 2008 Graduate of Carroll County High School in Hillsville, Va. She is currently studying at Virginia Tech and will graduate in 2011 with a degree in Marketing Management. She was honored with the Denman Evangelism Award by the Holston Conference.



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around evangelism: how to share their faith story, what evangelism is and how to approach it, and that God has more invested in evangelism than we do – He is in control. To many students, the word “evangelism” brings about distorted definitions of the true meaning. In order to dispel those false notions of what evangelism is, he asks students to provide words that come to mind when they think of the person who has had the most impact on their faith journey. This, he says, is what the students’ ministry of evangelism should resemble. As a further challenge, he asks his students “Do you love the people in order to evangelize them, or do you evangelize them because you love them?”

This has not merely been a teaching position for Dr. Tuttle. Most students he has taught would agree that Dr. Tuttle “practices what he preaches.” He seeks prayer everywhere he speaks, and has even helped young children to experience their first time praying for others. Each semester he covenants with a small group of students and laity to read four chapters of the Bible daily, journal the day’s events, and discuss what God is teaching them in the world. He also shares God’s Word in the most physical sense by pur-

chasing a new Bible each year, reading and marking it carefully, then giving it away. He has given away 35 personalized Bibles so far!

Tuttle credits The Foundation for Evangelism’s E. Stanley Jones Professors of Evangelism program with “[giving] students alternatives. This allowed us to get on campus and to receive the respect of colleagues.” He expressed his thanks for the work of the Foundation in endowing these chairs of evangelism on United Methodist Seminary campuses.

During his time as a professor, Dr. Tuttle has written over a dozen books, three of which probe areas of Wesleyan theology, tradition and history. His most recent book, *Shortening the Leap, From Honest Doubt to Enduring Faith* was published in 2007. Tuttle is a member of the American Academy of Religion and the Academy of Evangelism. He is an ordained elder in the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and prior to his professorship, pastored churches in Colorado, North Carolina, Illinois and England.

The Foundation for Evangelism Website Receives Redesign

By: Barbara Bowser, *The Foundation for Evangelism*

The Foundation for Evangelism launched a newly redesigned website on June 1 at www.FoundationForEvangelism.org. The new website, designed by the in-house communications team, aims to make information on the Foundation’s initiatives more accessible and appeal to a broader audience of donors; grant recipients; local church, district, and annual conference evangelism chairs; and trustees. Visitors to the new website will notice a more streamlined structure, links to the Foundation’s social networking sites, and information on grants, resources for evangelism, and award recognition programs.

Visitors are welcomed to the websites’ home page with a news slideshow which highlights the recent work of the Foundation and its grant recipients. The site’s design maintains the familiar color scheme, but provides a cleaner look for easier viewing. Content and information has been revised to more fully embody the Foundation’s mission to promote, encourage and provide resources for responsible evangelism, enabling The United Methodist Church to bring persons into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Mobile device users will notice increased flexibility in viewing content on the website with the addition of automatic device detection.



Nearly 15,000 unique visitors come to The Foundation for Evangelism’s website each year to download grant information, award recognition materials, and evangelism resource information. Development for the new website began in 2009. The Foundation hopes that the new website will continue to serve current constituents and encourage new and more frequent visits to the website.

Support Our Work Through Planned Giving

The first recorded Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) was issued by the American Bible Society in 1843. Over the years it has become one of most common planned gift instruments in use today. It's popular with many donors of The Foundation for Evangelism because the concept provides valuable financial and tax benefits along with the satisfaction of helping to advance the mission and vision of the Foundation. In a time of uncertainty, a gift annuity is one of the most secure and prudent ways to achieve a charitable purpose while maintaining—even enhancing—financial security.

What Is a Charitable Gift Annuity?

A charitable gift annuity is a fairly simple agreement whereby a donor makes an irrevocable gift to The Foundation for Evangelism and in return receives a regular income for as long as he/she lives. The Foundation will pay a fixed income each year for the donor's lifetime (and a survivor's if desired), based on the amount of the gift, the donor's age (and, if applicable, the age of the survivor beneficiary) and according to the rate offered at the time the annuity begins. Many institutions use rates determined by the American Council on Gift Annuities.

At the time of the annuitant's death, (or at the time of the second person's death in joint and survivorship annuities), the portion of the donation remaining becomes available for the work of The Foundation for Evangelism.

The plan allows a donor to make a substantial gift without losing the benefit of the income the capital is earning. In fact, when the tax advantages are considered, many donors find their net return is higher through a gift annuity.

Who Benefits from a Gift Annuity?

Most gift annuity donors are retired, want to increase their cash flow, seek the security of guaranteed payments, and would like to save taxes. A charitable gift annuity is an attractive option for people in the following circumstances:

- **Underperforming Investments:** The interest rates on their CD's and other fixed-income investments have declined, and they would like to increase their cash flow.
- **Capital gains taxes:** They own appreciated stock or mutual fund shares and have considered selling some of the shares and reinvesting the proceeds to generate more income, but they have hesitated because they don't want to pay tax on the capital gain.



- **Guaranteed annual income:** They would like to count on fixed payments, which are unaffected by interest rates and stock prices and which they can't outlive.
- **Survivor benefits:** They want to ensure continuation of payments to a surviving spouse without the delay of probate proceedings.
- They would like to provide financial assistance to an elderly parent, a sibling, a special needs child, or other person in a tax-advantaged manner.
- **Immediate charitable deduction.** They would like a charitable deduction for Federal income tax purposes in the year the gift is made to establish the annuity.
- **Reduced annual Federal income taxes.** They would like a large portion of their annuity payment exempt from Federal income tax. The amount is determined by the donor's life expectancy based upon the donor's age at the time the gift is made.
- **Reduced estate tax liability.** They want to remove assets from their taxable estate which may result in lower estate taxes and reduced probate costs.

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*Our Passion
to help all persons experience the transforming
love of God through Jesus Christ.*





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