



The Future is Bright

Greg H. Parsons, Guest Editor



This is the first issue of *Mission Frontiers* without Ralph Winter's involvement. I've pondered what to focus on in this space, which he filled so many times from 1979 till early 2009. Dr. Winter would not have wanted us to focus on him, so throughout this issue, we decided to emphasize what God has done through the life of one man, multiplied to so many.

If nothing else it reminds us that our lives do make a difference—one way or the other. The more intentionally we pursue the Lord and seek to influence others, the more fruit God produces, even if we can't always see it clearly.

As I've thought about what to include here I could mention some of Winter's major contributions, such as:

- *The Theological Education by Extension movement*, which helped bring training to proven leaders in their location of ministry.
- The presentation at the *Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization in 1974*, which raised awareness of unreached peoples or cultures, and the value of mobilizing engagement with them.
- The discussion of *sodalities* (mission structures) and *modalities* (church-type structures) to help us rethink how God works through his people in the Bible and in history.
- His emphasis on the *wartime lifestyle* to focus resources of any and every kind on the task to which God has called us.
- His concern that the gospel be *de-westernized*: removing Western forms and



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views of Christianity that aren't in the Bible and yet are often communicated as part of the gospel.

We could also talk about the arenas of his involvement, some of which might surprise you—as it often did me! But actually that is what you will find in many of the reflections and tributes in this issue, so I won't repeat these.

Perhaps then, it would be best to share a few of the burdens on Winter's mind—some of which had been in his writing for many years. These are not in any order. Others who knew him might have chosen different issues or said these in different ways.

1. *Long-term Gospel Impact*: It is thrilling to look around the world at the places where the gospel has spread and seems to have taken root. Yet in some places, it looks as though this impact has failed to make a sustained difference, such as in post-Christian France. As Dr. Winter might have said, "If modern-day France is the future of the gospel, we're kidding ourselves to think our missions efforts today will endure tomorrow."
2. *The Influence of Culture*: This concept seems to have grown out of lessons Winter learned long ago from historian Kenneth Scott Latourette. Latourette noted that as Christianity spreads, two things happen: a) it impacts the cultures into which it is going; and, b) it is impacted by those cultures. Christianity has been shaped by culture, be it Jewish, Greek, Roman, German, English, Russian, American, etc. The question we need to grapple with as we take it to still new frontiers is: How can I be sure I am communicating a biblical message to this people or culture?

3. *Kingdom Perspective*: Winter was also moving from the language of "church planting" to *Kingdom Mission*. It isn't that church planting work isn't a crucial part of the process, but as far back as the 1960s, he was concerned that it was easy for missionaries to let their "activities" become the focus of their work, forgetting the bigger picture of what God desires to do among people and communities. Kingdom Mission looks at what it is that God may want to accomplish, as best we understand it, and pursues that, all the while looking to the Bible to determine how we "do" church or missions. Winter defined Kingdom Mission as that which includes and also goes beyond the church itself to see "God's will done on earth as it is in heaven."
4. *Focus on Frontiers*: Winter was always looking for new frontiers of the gospel. In the last few years, he was not talking about Unreached People groups as often, not because the job to reach them is finished, but because that task had become a well-known focus (at least in mission circles). So, he was looking for things that the mission world or the church world had overlooked. These frontiers represent barriers that need to be crossed, but which may not be easily or clearly identified. Some may even say that these new frontiers don't exist or they may resist efforts to cross these boundaries. Winter never did this as a way to be trendy. He knew that trends come and go and often they over-emphasize or overstate the new idea, and can thus misdirect people who hear later in the communications loop.
5. *Fighting Evil*: Over the last eight years, Winter began to seriously examine Satanic evil which, from his perspective, is both an affront to God and a hindrance to the spread of his fame and glory. As he observed major global problems that are dragging down the human race, he was both challenged and frustrated. Challenged—as he began to develop theories about how Satan's work is distorting creation right under believers' noses. Yet frustrated—that it was hard to find Christians who cared enough to give their lives and careers to combat them. He was convinced

that committed believers should be fighting evil at any and all levels. Normally, we think of this kind of warfare in mainly “spiritual” terms, dealing with sin in people’s lives and the more obvious impact of Satan. And, we deal with those in mainly spiritual ways: by praying, teaching or giving counsel. Winter would say we should go beyond all that. If something is attacking people’s view of God’s goodness and glory, we should counter-attack by figuring out what is happening at, for example, the biological level, and find a way to correct it. We shouldn’t stand by and suggest that if God wanted to, he would take care of it.

Naturally, other items could also be listed, but we will leave that for a future issue or other forums. For Winter, all of this was a walk of faith and obedience.

What’s Next for the USCWM?

When a supporter of one of our staff heard about Dr. Winter’s death, they wondered if the USCWM would close down. In a word: NO!

Our team has been shaped by Dr. Winter, and one of the things that he has instilled in us is the idea of continuing to look for new frontiers, for new ways of communicating. We have a passion and a desire to advance God’s Kingdom any way possible.

So what are we going to do? Well, we’ll continue much of what we have been doing: producing *Mission Frontiers*, running 200 *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* classes around the U.S. and helping others do that around the world, publishing and distributing books through William Carey Library, producing training resources we (and others) can use to prepare future workers in Kingdom Mission, launching the Roberta Winter Institute and so on.

But we are looking into new things, such as having a Ralph D. Winter annual lectureship or strategy events to draw together people engaged with core issues in global mission. We’ve dreamed about starting a 3-month pre-field missionary internship—in conjunction with pioneering agencies and as a follow-up to *Perspectives*—to

develop and mentor the next generation of workers.

And we want to launch programs that have been on the drawing board—or which we tried, but didn’t have enough resources to pull off right. One example is what we used to call the “Million Person Campaign.” This was designed to raise awareness on the part of one million people to the plight of the unreached peoples. We’ve had various plans on the drawing board, but haven’t launched more than a few trials. We still believe we need to continue to mobilize.

We’ll keep other programs moving forward such as INSIGHT, World Christian Foundations, and the production of such resources as the *International Journal of Frontier Missiology* and the *Global Prayer Digest*.

Finally, during this season after Dr. Winter’s death, we are seeking the Lord’s wisdom. As our leadership team adjusts to Dr. Winter’s death and the appointment of Dave Datema as the next General Director of the Frontier Mission Fellowship (see pages 56-57), we are praying, studying the Scriptures together and building relationships with each other (and people we’ve known through the years). This task-oriented community is strong. We will build on that as we seek the Lord for the future.

Lastly, thanks to many of you who have prayed for us over these years. We need that now. Because we believe the Lord still has much for us to do, we also want to ask many of you (in the U.S.) to consider joining our team at some level. We are putting the finishing touches on a trial plan to encourage people like you around the country to volunteer in your own area. And, we hope that many will join our team here in Pasadena or in one of our other offices here in North America.

Yours for bringing about the obedience of faith among all peoples for his name (Romans 1:5),



Greg H. Parsons
General Director
U.S. Center for World Mission

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CELEBRATING THE WORK OF GOD THROUGH THE LIFE OF AN INNOVATOR RALPH D. WINTER (1924–2009)

GREG H. PARSONS

GENERAL DIRECTOR, USCWM

Introduction

Creative approaches to life and work seem too rare. All of us can think of people we know who are “a little different” in a creative way. Sometimes they are a bother. Why don’t they just do it the acceptable way everyone else does? Why do they always come up with another, different idea? Sometimes, when we are around them, we are tempted to utter those seven words that can kill any new idea: we have never done it that way before.

I’ve wondered what it is that makes some people think differently. As believers, we realize that they

RALPH AND PAUL WERE ALSO INVOLVED IN SOME EARLY DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS STARTED BY A NEW MINISTRY CALLED THE NAVIGATORS.

can be a part of what God uses for his purposes in history. He moves in certain ways and times to do what he desires in and through the lives of his servants. One of those servants was Ralph D. Winter, born December 8, 1924.

I’ll focus this biographical sketch on Winter’s earlier life and on aspects of his story that our readers may not know.

Upbringing

Ralph Winter’s grandfather was a butcher who had emigrated from eastern Germany in the 1860s. His father, Hugo, was a self-trained engineer. Hugo worked his way through the ranks of the City of Los Angeles Planning Department, eventually having 1,200 engineers working under him in the Rapid Transit and Design Division. He was the one



person to get approval from more than 70 cities in the L.A. region for the routes of a

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Hazel and Hugo Winter, Ralph’s parents

freeway system, which, even now, is only two-thirds completed. Hugo came to Christ as a result of the preaching of Billy Sunday.

Ralph’s mother, Hazel, was the daughter of an engineer. She strongly desired to go to college, but was never able. While Hugo was quiet, Hazel was outgoing. Both were deeply involved in the Christian Endeavor youth movement, where they met. They were also “members” of a China Inland Mission (now OMF International) prayer meeting, which met in their home.

Christian Endeavor was a significant factor in the maturing of Ralph and his older brother Paul. It helped to teach them leadership, because it required young people to run and lead their meetings. Ralph and Paul were also involved in some early discipleship groups started by a new ministry called The Navigators. Their first ministry headquarters was



Ralph in his navy uniform, pictured front, far right

just one mile from the Winter home. The “Navs” not only sought to reach out to sailors on Navy ships, but also started groups for high school students called “Dunamis” (the NT Greek word for “power”). One of those groups met in the home of Hugo and Hazel, and was led by Lorne Sanny (who would later take founder Dawson Trotman’s place to lead the Navigators). Dan Fuller, son of famous radio evangelist Charles Fuller, was also in the group. Together, they all learned discipline and love for God’s word—memorizing hundreds of Bible verses, some of which Ralph quoted throughout his life, such as: Mark 9:24b, “I believe, help my unbelief.” Or Galatians 6:9a: “And let us not be weary in well doing.”

Ralph and Paul were close in age and temperament. Paul majored in engineering and became a respected structural engineer, able to work through difficult calculations on unique structures. The third son, David, was six years younger. David majored in anthropology and later focused on education, serving as the President of Westmont College from 1976 until 2001.



Education: Formal, Non-formal, and Informal

With the onset of World War II, everyone’s life, including Ralph’s and Paul’s, were impacted.

Because he was too young to join the Navy right away, Ralph began studies at the nearby California Institute of Technology (Caltech), following his brother in

engineering studies. He finished his first year and heard about the Navy’s need for engineers in the Pacific theater. But the Navy sent him back to Caltech to complete his training so he could be of more help. He finished in a year and a half (a total of 2.5 years!). As the war progressed, the U.S. was in need of pilots, so, when he finished at Caltech, he signed up for the Navy pilots’ training program. Before he finished the training, the war ended and he was discharged quickly.

Winter was especially impacted by his time at Caltech. It was a place that was conducive to tinkering and problem-solving, which fit Ralph. He noted that, “They look at things with brand-new eyes to try to invent solutions to engineering problems...”¹ At Caltech, Ralph was also exposed to world-class professors such as Linus Pauling, who was “the best

teacher I ever had. He prepared so thoroughly, he had everything worked out in advance, he was a brilliant, brilliant guy.”²

Abruptly returning from pilots’ training, there was not a lot of time to plan what was next. Ralph attended Westmont College for a year to study NT Greek. There he was first exposed to Inductive Bible Study (IBS). Desiring to study IBS more deeply drew him to Princeton Theological Seminary. He “recruited” Dan Fuller to go with him so they could study under Howard Tillman Kuist, who wrote, *These Words Upon Thy Heart* (1947). After studying there for a year, meeting the likes of Bill Bright and J. Christy Wilson, Ralph and Dan returned to Pasadena (along with Bill Bright) to attend the opening year at Fuller Theological Seminary in 1947.

In 1948, Ralph attended the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Norman, Oklahoma and returned to Fuller for another year. Then he heard that Prairie Bible Institute in Canada taught the Bible combining inductive study with an interesting “search question” approach, so he attended Prairie for one semester.³ A burden for Afghanistan had grown, and Ralph used the next “off” semester to further a project to help develop a Caltech-type school in Afghanistan called the Afghanistan Institute of Technology. He also saw the need for teachers of English there, which he responded to by recruiting dozens of volunteers. As he began to prepare to go as one of those teachers, he enrolled at the Columbia Teachers College and received a TESOL certificate there in 1951.

That summer, he met a nurse, Roberta Helm, who had just graduated top of her class from the USC Nursing School. Five months and one week later, they were married in December 1951.⁴ Ralph had planned to return to study anthropology at Columbia, but heard about the faculty at Cornell University doing



some creative, cutting-edge thinking related to linguistics. So, just before he was married, he enrolled in the Cornell Ph.D. program, finishing in August of 1953. He realized that if they were going to serve in missions, it might be best if he completed a recognized theological degree, so he re-enrolled at Princeton and received a Bachelor of Divinity degree there two years later (two daughters were born during this period).

In the midst of these seven schools, mobilizing for service in Afghanistan and plans to serve there,

Winter's inquisitive mind approached every subject with interest and curiosity. Often, he would ask the question Dawson Trotman asked, "Why am I doing what I am doing the way I am doing it?"

A few books and authors also impacted Winter, including *This Freedom Whence* by John Wesley Bready (1942). Bready outlined the impact of the Great Awakening in the UK on society in general. Winter first saw Bready's book in the late 1940s and learned from it the power of the gospel to transform society and to right social ills. While Ralph knew some about John Wesley and the results of his ministry, he commented that he "knew Wesley as an evangelist. I had no idea that the whole country would change because of his preaching."⁵

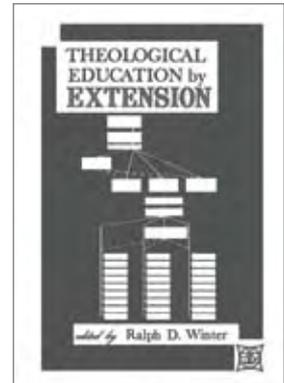
Ralph also remembered the book *The Missionary and Anthropology* by Gordon Hedderly Smith (1945, Moody Press), which was one of the first works out about the subject. Approaching a wide range of subjects from an engineering perspective allowed Winter to consider various angles when looking to solve problems. But later, he would realize that identifying the right problem was, at least initially, more important than solving the problem.

To the Field: Guatemala

When Ralph, with Roberta's help, finished his studies at Princeton, a request from the Presbyterian Foreign Mission Board came to their attention for an ordained minister with training in both linguistics and anthropology. They also wanted a spouse who was a Registered Nurse. It seemed to fit well, so they applied, were accepted and entered into six weeks of pre-field training. Then it was off to language school in Costa Rica for a year.

They arrived on the field in 1957. They began to observe and to learn the Mam language of the Indians in the area. This region, above 10,000 feet, was a reached area with many churches and ministries already there. Later, Roberta Winter wrote about the Mam:

They were—and are—very poor . . . Thus, missionary outreach to them had to combine not only evangelism and church planting but also agricultural, medical, economic, and educational work. Since none of them had more than three grades of school, there were no ordained Mam Indian pastors at this point, nor was there any way that they could get the necessary entry-level education . . . Their one-room huts were made of mud with dirt floors and three stones strategically placed in the middle of the floor to serve as a fireplace-stove.



Their clothes (of which they had only one change) were patched and repatched; in fact, where the women carried their babies on their back, the patch itself was very often patched. The Mam diet was almost completely corn with a bit of black beans once a week perhaps and a tiny bit of meat for a very special and somewhat rare occasion. They had no milk, no eggs, no other vegetables or fruits—there was just no money for these. They raised chickens but could not afford to eat either their eggs or the chickens themselves. (p. 24)⁶

The Winters worked to help raise the living standard of the people. Because the Mam were so poor, and since there were no natural resources in the region, Ralph sought to connect them to resources and to give the pastors the skills they needed to be able to work in various kinds of businesses. These included things such as a photo shop, weaving for the women, dental work, the first ambulance service for the region, as well as businesses that were not as mobile including a wood-working shop and a print shop.

Missionary James (Jim) Emery, with his wife Genet, preceded the Winters to the field. Together, Ralph and Jim noticed that they were not really training leadership fast enough to supply the existing churches. Jim had worked for a few years in a residential seminary that only had trained ten active pastors after 25 years. Something had to change.

Many late nights of discussion between Winter and Emery (who were later joined by Ross Kinsler)

began what became known as Theological Education by Extension (TEE). The core idea was to get the training to the natural leaders rather than bringing unproven young men out of their churches into a centralized seminary. TEE spread around Latin America and many places in Europe, Africa and Asia. It is still used in a number of locations, the largest of which is India, where The Association for Theological Education by Extension currently has 13,000 students (as of February 2009).

To the Fuller School of World Mission

Winter's work with TEE as well as some of his writing got the attention of Donald McGavran, who was just starting the School of World Mission (SWM) at Fuller Theological Seminary. McGavran and Alan Tippett had started the specialized



training school only to serve furloughed missionaries. Ralph was the third faculty member; although he was not planning on teaching beyond one semester when he first arrived.

Over the ten years at the SWM at Fuller, Winter had some 1,000 missionary students in his classes. He taught "Church History" but didn't call it that or see it traditionally. Instead of focusing primarily on individuals or doctrine, he looked at the expansion of Christianity. Here the perspective of former missionary, prolific writer and Yale church historian, Kenneth Scott Latourette, profoundly impacted him. Winter loved the fact that Latourette concluded each section of his major work with an essay on the impact of Christianity on the cultures where it was spreading and a section on the impact of those cultures on Christianity.⁷

But as Winter heard about the lives and the reports of ministry from those 1,000 missionaries, he began to see a pattern. In Winter's classic style, he would say things like, "None of these missionaries came back from fields where no missionaries had gone." In other words, there were "fields" from which no missionaries could return, because none had been sent. As he began to look into this further, he discovered major blocs of cultures, or people groups, where there was no viable church

presence. Fuller's SWM had an increasing focus on the church growing where it existed; the Winters' increasing focus was on the Church going where it had not gone.

Many discussions and brainstorming ultimately led to Winter's presentation at the Lausanne 1974 Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization. A number of Fuller professors were involved in the event. Winter's presentation, "The Highest Priority: Cross Cultural Evangelism," was given on Saturday morning, and Winter claimed that the place was half-empty from people needing a break during the 10-day event. He and Roberta were not sure that anyone there "got it." But it was a watershed for them, and would become one for the mission movement in North America, and, ultimately, in many other places around the globe.



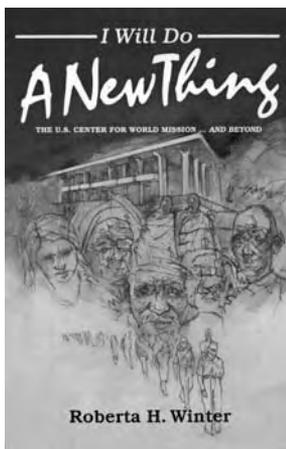
What Winter was saying in his Lausanne presentation was that if the church around the globe were to reach out in evangelism as far as it could, in every direction, more than half the world would still be unreached. We could no longer look merely at *countries* where the gospel had gone. We needed to look at *people groups* or cultures where the gospel had not yet penetrated. The strength of the church was crucial.

It was simple: Figure out what was left to be done and inform and motivate people to do it. The ministry of mobilization was a crucial element.

The USCWM

The Winters returned from Lausanne believing that God was moving them again. This time it was out from under any kind of "support" from a mission structure or seminary. Just three miles away, just north and east of Fuller, another campus was for sale.





The Pasadena Nazarene College had relocated near San Diego, after a history on the Pasadena property dating back to 1910. The campus was a bit run-down, and hadn't attracted any offers. It was occupied by an eastern, mystical cult that had rented most of the main campus, which led to a multi-faceted story for which we don't have space here. For more details on the founding of the U.S. Center for World Mission, see *I Will Do A New Thing*, by Roberta H. Winter.



There are many twists and turns in Ralph and Roberta's story. At this point, it might be helpful to comment on just a few of the ideas, which are part of the history of the USCWM, the William Carey International University and their ministries. I'll focus here on a few things that are not referenced in others' comments in this issue of *Mission Frontiers*.

When Winter was still at Fuller, he had heard that there was a great increase in the number of students who responded positively to the commitment cards at the triennial InterVarsity Urbana convention in 1973. He proposed that they endorse

a follow-up course that would help students more clearly understand the biblical, historical, cultural and strategic dimensions of world evangelization. The early course, called the Institute of International Studies, is now known as *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* and has 80,000 alumni in North America alone.

Organizational Impact

Winter worked through the establishment of organizations to accomplish various purposes. This was true in Guatemala, though much more so during his tenure at Fuller, when, for example, he was asked to start William Carey Library. He worked, leveraging his Presbyterian ties, to help found a number of organizations including Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship, the Presbyterian Center for Mission Studies and the Presbyterian Order for World Evangelization. Where possible, these were tied into official denominational approval, allowing for faster acceptance of these unknown projects in large circles.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find information with regard to his involvement in starting the American Society of Missiology and its associated journal, *Missiology*. Many readers are already familiar with a number of ministries within the USCWM and the WCIU, such as this magazine, the *International Journal of Frontier Missiology*, *Global Prayer Digest*, and various university programs such as the World Christian Foundations. You can see the attached list of some of the other organizations he had a part in starting or assisted in some way.

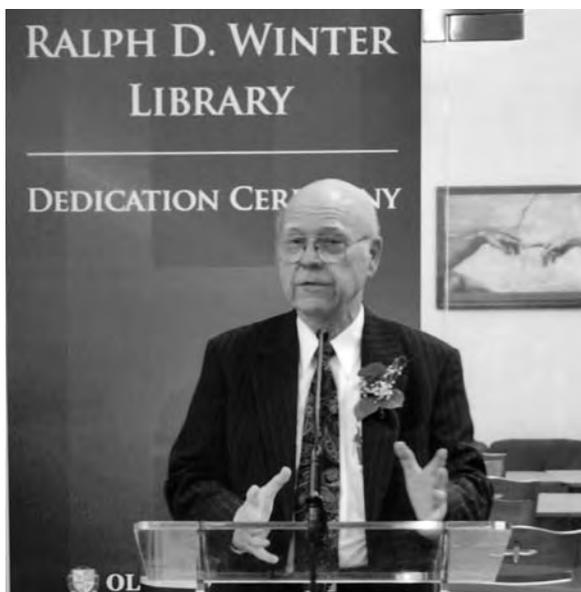


Funding the Facilities

Characteristically, Ralph tackled the funding of an \$11 million campus (\$15 million including the housing “endowment”) and housing with a different twist. He believed that he needed to raise the awareness of this task and of reaching unreached peoples to a new level. Why not seek to mobilize and inform a million believers by sharing the vision of the unreached, the purpose of the campus and the idea of mobilizing their friends toward involvement? While various campaigns to accomplish these goals have not yet met the goal of a million small-gift donors, several hundred thousand have been engaged at some level through the ministries of the USCWM since it was founded in 1976. There is a renewed campaign in the works to spread world mission vision and extend this mobilization effort, not to pay for the campus, but to fulfill our desire to continue to spread the word and mobilize people toward involvement in prayer, resources, sending and engagement in Kingdom advance.

Loss and Remarriage

Roberta, after struggling with multiple myeloma for nearly six years, died in October 2001 just weeks shy of their 50th anniversary. When Barbara Scotchmer, one of the Winters’ friends from a long-time supporting church, wrote to them at Christmas the same year, Ralph called to tell her about Roberta’s death. In ensuing correspondence to all of his donors, he explained that he was an “unemployed husband.” He had never lived alone in all of his life. He asked for suggestions as to how he should go about finding another wife. He liked



Barbara’s suggestions as well as her response to a paper, which he sent with the same letter. They talked, emailed, visited the four daughters and were married five months and two weeks (July 6, 2002) after their first official dinner date in St. Louis, MO in January! Their courtship was one whole week longer than Ralph and Roberta’s!

An Engaged, Passionate Life

There were many other areas of interest that Winter might mention when you talked with him: from defective Western views on the family, to pre-Genesis theologizing, to almost any area of science, to how to view the Bible. Many have read his work in areas such as the wartime lifestyle and can see his life was an application of a man who was focused and engaged with almost any issue—if it related to clearing the way for God to be known more fully and His Kingdom to come.

He saw things differently, but not just to break away from tradition or to exercise his own freedom to do what he wanted. His perspective on God, His Kingdom and His call on our lives harnessed Ralph Winter’s mental and physical being throughout his life up to his death on May 20, 2009. 🌐

End Notes

- 1 Interview with Ralph Winter by the author on August 14, 2006.
- 2 Interview with Ralph Winter by the author on July 31, 2006.
- 3 This became a pattern Winter used in his teaching at Fuller, in the design of the “Perspectives” course and in the “World Christian Foundations” course, of which he was the editor.
- 4 You can read of this story in the booklet Roberta Winter wrote, named *Five Months and One Week*.
- 5 Interview with Ralph Winter by the author on August 14, 2006.
- 6 *Initiatives*, an unpublished paper by Roberta H. Winter, 2000.
- 7 *A History of the Expansion of Christianity*, seven volumes, 1937–1945, Harper.

RALPH D. WINTER: A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

Education

- Ph.D. in Linguistics, Anthropology, Mathematical Statistics, Cornell University, 1953
- M.A. in TESL, Teachers College, Columbia University, 1951
- B.S. in Civil Engineering, California Institute of Technology, 1943
- B.D., Princeton Theological Seminary, 1956

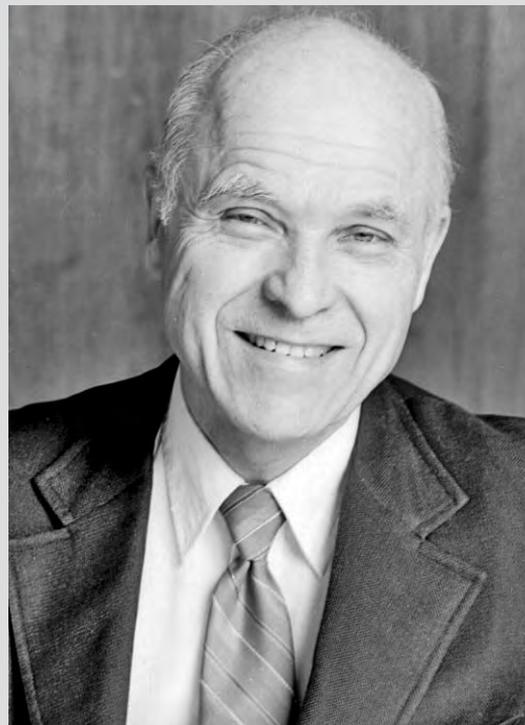
Experience (Selected)

- 2005 Co-founder, Global Network of Mission Structures
- 2001 Founder, Roberta Winter Institute
- 2001-2008 Editor, *International Journal of Frontier Missiology*
- 1999 Founder, Institute for the Study of the Origins of Disease
- 1997-2009 Chancellor, William Carey International University
- 1992-1999 Vice President for the Southwest, Evangelical Missiological Society
- 1990-1997 Director, Institute of International Studies, U.S. Center for World Mission
- 1990-1997 President, William Carey International University
- 1985 Founder, International Society for Frontier Missiology
- 1979-1980 President, American Society of Missiology
- 1979-2009 Editor, *Mission Frontiers* Bulletin
- 1976-1990 General Director, U.S. Center for World Mission
- 1976-2009 Founder, General Director, Frontier Mission Fellowship
- 1975 Founder, Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship
- 1975 Co-founder, Association of Church Mission Committees
- 1973 Founder, Presbyterian Center for Mission Studies
- 1972-1975 Co-founder, Secretary-Treasurer, American Society of Missiology
- 1969 Founder, William Carey Library
- 1966-1976 Professor, Historical Development of the Christian Movement, Fuller Seminary
- 1965-1966 Executive Director, Asociacion Latinoamericana de Escuelas Teológicas, reg. norte
- 1961-1966 Professor of Anthropology, Landivar University, Guatemala
- 1961-1966 Founder, Director, Union Abraham Lincoln (adult education extension program), Guatemala
- 1958-1966 Founder, Director, Industrias Técnicas (industrial training for Guatemalan Indian pastors)

- 1956-1966 Rural Development Specialist, Guatemala, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- 1953-1956 Student pastor, Lamington Presbyterian Church

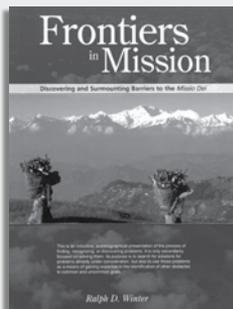
Board Experience (Selected)

- 1985-2009 International Society for Frontier Missiology
- 1977-2009 William Carey International University
- 1976-2009 U.S. Center for World Mission
- 1976-2009 Frontier Mission Fellowship
- 1975-1999 Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship
- 1975-1981 Association of Church Mission Committees
- 1973-2009 Presbyterian Center for Mission Studies
- 1972-1979 American Society of Missiology
- 1970-1974 Faculty Senate, Fuller Theological Seminary
- 1967-1973 Editorial Caribe (publishing arm of the Latin America Mission)
- 1962-1964 United Church of Christ Board of Higher Education, Honduras
- 1961-1966 Universidad Mariano Galvez, Guatemala
- 1961-1966 Colegio La Patria, Quezaltenango, Guatemala
- 1961-1966 Interamerican School, Quezaltenango, Guatemala



Books written or co-edited by

Ralph D. Winter, plus "I Will Do a New Thing"



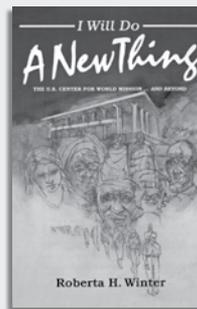
Frontiers in Mission

Ralph D. Winter
ISBN: 978-0-86585-0101

2005 WCIU Press | 340 pages | retail \$19.99

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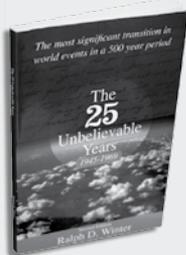
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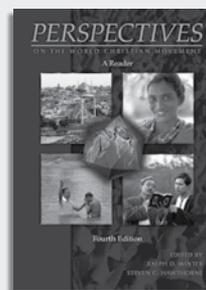
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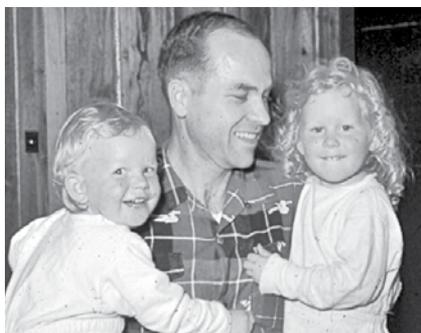
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FAMILY TRIBUTES



Just My Dad

Beth Gill



To me he was just my dad. Not a missiologist. Not a professor. Not a missionary nor a minister. Just the loving daddy who would scoop us up in his arms, take us individually on his trips up into the Mayan villages in the mountains of Guatemala, whistle hymns in ways that sounded like birds' songs, insist that we learn double-entry accounting before he would give us an allowance, or teach us the Greek alphabet when we were learning to read! Just the creative father who was never stumped by an impossibility or an insurmountable problem. There would always be another way around. Surrender or defeat weren't in his vocabulary. Possibilities, hope, faith, optimism—his life seemed to brim with scintillating ideas and innovative breakthroughs. Just the dad who involved all of us in each of his countless new projects—even when it meant at least two of us

SURRENDER OR DEFEAT WEREN'T IN HIS VOCABULARY. POSSIBILITIES, HOPE, FAITH, OPTIMISM—HIS LIFE SEEMED TO BRIM WITH SCINTILLATING IDEAS. —**BETH**

daughters already in college waking up at 6 a.m. morning after morning to call Urbana students back East, inviting them to the first Summer Institute of International Studies. Just the father of four girls who advocated that we learn skills and professions we could juggle as mothers in our own homes without sacrificing the ability to personally raise our children. He was ahead of his time in so many ways.

More than this, he was a father who was devoted to his Lord and who loved the Word of God. Raised in a devout Christian family, his life was irrevocably changed by his time in the Navigators. Just last week I found in his garage a box stuffed with his cards of Navigator memory verses, saved all these years. Maybe that explains why he was so passionately committed to the translation of the Scriptures into the indigenous languages and the translation of the Church into the indigenous cultures. Or why he and his colleagues took theological education to the mountain villages of Guatemala, envisioning a distinctively Mayan presbytery with Mayan pastors, at a time when, in that area, even the men had at best only a third-grade education.

Even in his waning years, he tackled yet another frontier: the origins of disease and its devastating effect on people and the spread of the Kingdom. As the grandfather of a boy with autism (our oldest), my dad was constantly on the lookout for new

books with cutting-edge treatments. Several times a year I would receive a package in the mail with five to seven of the latest groundbreaking books on autism. Just last month, from the hospital, he dictated an email response to our son's "Get Well" card. He wrote: "I'm so proud to have you as a grandson. Both you and I are struggling to make progress with health issues for which we are not responsible. It's good to have a fellow traveler in that process. Every advance you make delights my heart..."

I'm proud to have been one of his daughters. I will miss him dreadfully but I look forward to seeing him again some day soon. 🌐

He Shaped a Younger Generation

Brad Gill



Some of my early impressions of my father-in-law have returned in force to me since his death. In 1976 I married into the Winter family, just a few months before he would take on the purchase of the Pasadena campus. As a missions professor he had managed to spawn numerous mission organizations by moonlighting after hours and each of these was screaming like a little

FOR HIM ANY GREATER AWARENESS AND INSIGHT WAS FUEL FOR ACTION, FOR RESPONSIBILITY, FOR PERSONAL RELINQUISHMENT AND SACRIFICE. —BRAD

orphan for a home. I worked alongside a good number of them, which were then housed in office space a couple of miles away on Walnut Street, desks backed against each other, six organizations to a room, and hardly elbow room or space to think. In the excitement of being around this “watchman” of global missions, there were two things which I have always cherished.

The first was his posture towards me and my colleagues. He never let his elite gifting and brilliance puff him up and distance him from us. He was astonishingly willing at all times to include anyone and everyone in what he saw as necessary for the cause of Christ. It was a wonder for me to sit at his dinner table in those early years and to watch him painstakingly map out, for my uninitiated mind, some aspect of the mission before us. He might blow apart my assumptions in a single statement, but he was committed to my understanding of what he himself could see. I’ll be ever grateful for the place he gave me, his willingness to stoop, to include, to nurture and shape a young mind for the frontiers of God’s mission.

But, secondly, to any young mind his thinking was intrepid and seemingly dangerous—anything but tame. His bold step from cramped offices and a tenured professorship to establish a mission community that would house multiple mission organizations made that ever so clear. For him any greater awareness and insight was just fuel for action, for decision, for responsibility, for personal relinquishment and sacrifice. Underneath all the strategic reflection was a heart of obedience, a radical commitment to give from all he had received from His Lord. It’s what drew many of us to his side, to join his mission community, to model our lives after his. 🌐

Learning All the Time: Lessons Learned from My Father

Becky Lewis



Tim and I were in Texas when we heard that the health of my father had taken a significant turn for the worse. We got up at 2 a.m.

and drove virtually non-stop back to Pasadena, where I was able to spend the last 50 minutes of his life with him. I was singing around his bed with two of my sisters, Linda and Beth, and my step-mom Barb, when his spirit peacefully departed. And what a great spirit he had! I smiled to think that at last he would be able to understand all the mysteries of God, life and the universe that he had speculated about for so long.

My father never lost his enthusiasm for learning, reading voraciously right up to the week he died. Growing

up, we were surrounded by piles of interesting books and magazines. If I happened to wander into his office (a room in our home), my father would sit me on his knee and excitedly explain his new insight for the day. Whether I could understand it or not, his delight was contagious. Some of his innovations were small, like figuring out how to get the wheel of our car to churn our ancient ice cream-making machine. Some were large, like devising a plan to get theological education to the poorest of pastors in the smallest of villages in Guatemala. I remember him explaining to me some of the micro-businesses he was helping pastors there set up to help support themselves, and how they had to be low-investment, meet local needs, etc. Even in grade school I would pore over books he had bought on homemade renewable power or early American frontier inventions, “helping” him think up things that would be useful to the Mayan Indians in our remote mountain valley.

Greatness was not important to my father. He was never seeking a name for himself or a position of power or fame. But he was deeply interested in the problems of this world and what God would have us do about them.





Before I was born, my father persuaded his older brother (also an engineering grad from Caltech) and his father, a top engineer with the City of Los Angeles, to help found an Institute of Technology in Afghanistan, to help the country solve its problems. What he couldn't persuade others to do, he would do himself. Because of him, I always believed that "loving our neighbor" meant living among the poor and helping them solve the problems of their daily lives. But more than that, he taught me that any solution needs to be broadcast widely so that it can help as many people worldwide as possible, not just our immediate friends.

HE WAS DEEPLY INTERESTED IN THE PROBLEMS OF THIS WORLD AND WHAT GOD WOULD HAVE US DO ABOUT THEM. —**BECKY**

When I was in college, my father studied the state of Christianity worldwide, and was shocked to discover that some 17,000 people groups did not have anyone from anywhere to tell them about Jesus Christ and the healing, transforming salvation he brings into our lives. He knew from experience that the most important things in life—honesty, love, peace, forgiveness, goodness,

etc.—only come from a restored relationship with God. He gathered my mother and us girls around the kitchen table and we discussed the enormity of this problem. We concluded that, as a family, we would set out to do what was needed to persuade some believer from somewhere to bring an understandable, holistic, and gracious witness to each of these people groups, as best we could. "If it is worth doing, it is worth doing poorly," my father always said. Thirty-five years later, only 8,000 unreached people groups are left. Not too bad. He taught me so much more: perseverance and grace in the face of opposi-

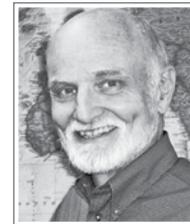
tion or mockers; seeing beyond the obvious problem to the root issues; the importance of encouraging everyone to seek the best they can do for God's purposes; getting my direction from the concerns of God's heart. Phrases he quoted that I won't forget include: "You can get a lot done if you are willing for someone else to get the credit"; "God doesn't need money, He needs people" (hence the Million

Person Campaign to raise lots of awareness and small gifts, instead of a traditional fund-raising campaign); "Don't do what others can and will do, if there are important things that others can't or won't do," (from Dawson Trotman).

I am grateful to God that, though my father's spirit has departed to live with God in eternal realms, the spirit of what he stood for lives on in his children and grandchildren and thousands around the world. 🌐

Learning to Think from Dr. Winter

Tim Lewis



I would say, "Dr. Winter was one of the three most influential men in my life," because it is true. But, I have heard so many others

say similar things. Along with all of them I could point out how he transformed my understanding of the world and of God. I could show how the entire trajectory of my life was radically altered.

However, he changed not only what I thought about, but how I went about "thinking" itself. "Thinking outside the box" for him was not a game or a claim to fame. It was a way to see where the problems really originated, to recognize unseen factors, and often to redefine the problem itself. Coming out of the context of World War II, he had seen how clear focus and big strategic thinking are fundamental to winning a war. There is little point in winning a battle if it does not strategically lead to winning the war.

I learned from Dr. Winter that often the most important battles are battles of perception. If we cannot perceive what is actually going on, all solutions are irrelevant and

ineffective. The true disciples of Dr. Winter are not just those who carry on with his ideas, but those who have learned to carry on with his way of figuring out problems, issues, and solutions. They are those who step back long enough to consider what God is trying to accomplish in this world, and what we must fully understand in order to help devise real solutions.

Finally, I am grateful to Dr. Winter for giving me one of his best creations, his daughter Becky. She, like him, attended Caltech and thinks in profound and surprising ways. I look forward to seeing how God continues to work through our lives, and those of others, as we strive to apply what we have learned about thinking and living from Dr. Winter. 🌐

Thoughts on My Dad

Linda Dorr



My dad was a lot of fun to play with. He always had time for us. He never shooed us out of his study or away from him. No matter how trivial

the question or the problem we brought him, he always treated it seriously. He liked to play soccer. I remember him playing on the field outside our home in Guatemala almost every day with some of the Indian men with whom he worked. He also would play soccer with us four girls. Tricia, the youngest, was always his goalie and the other three of us would work our hardest to somehow best him, but with a mischievous twinkle in his eyes and a chuckle (and some fancy footwork), he always managed to get the ball past us into our goal.

In those days the conventional model for missionary kid schooling would have required sending us

four girls away to a boarding school several hours away. Unwilling for us to be separated from our parents for months at a time, he helped to found a school to which we could commute on a daily basis. (This school is still in operation today.)

He was always good at recruiting help from whoever was there, and many times this was us. In the first years of William Carey Library Publishers, when it was still being operated from our home in South Pasadena, I remember helping to stamp a one-paragraph “errata” in the back of one of the booklets that had been printed. (He, of course, rigged up a contraption involving the dining room chandelier, a large rubber band and the stamp to help us do it more easily.) Later, we spent several weeks of our vacation reading out small numbers from one book and writing them into another in the process of producing the *Word Study Concordance*. What is most amazing is not that he solicited our help (no matter how young we were, he could figure out some way we could help), but that he always made it seem fun!

Family gatherings that included my father’s brothers were punctuated with

funny tales of the exploits he got up to as a boy, including shooting out a street light with his slingshot (and it taking him years to pay the city back for the cost!) and telling another student how to build a bomb (not realizing the young man would actually build it!).

By the time I was a high school student, most dinnertime conversations at home revolved around world events or were brainstorming sessions on how we could impact the world. It was during this time while attending a student mission conference that I first heard his impassioned plea for people to focus on the unreached people groups. Just back from Lausanne, he shared his early “pie chart.” The phrase “do what others can’t or won’t do” echoed in my head. Like thousands of other young people, this clarion call was to change my life in such a way that I could never be content to be an “ordinary” Christian again.

I know that many people will comment on his problem-solving approach to life, his willingness to attempt the improbable and even the impossible, his willingness to suffer

HE LIKED TO PLAY SOCCER. I REMEMBER HIM PLAYING ON THE FIELD OUTSIDE OUR HOME IN GUATEMALA ALMOST EVERY DAY WITH SOME OF THE INDIAN MEN WITH WHOM HE WORKED. —LINDA



ridicule and contempt in order to follow a worthy goal, and his passion for the completion of the Great Commission. But, I will always be grateful that though my father was well-known, fame was never of value to him. Rather, he loved his family and he loved His Lord and sought to serve Him as best he could. He never stopped loving us, and we knew it. 🌐

Illustrating “Design Thinking” for Mission Purposes

Darrell Dorr



Many of the accolades of Ralph Winter rightfully focus on his creativity and innovation. But those who praise him can

miss the mark if they shake their heads in admiration at his genius and leave it at that, for Dr. Winter illustrated approaches to “design thinking” that others can imitate. In particular, he viewed the challenges of world mission and international development through a series of “lenses” through which we, too, can choose to “re-frame” the challenges we face:

- *The Bible:* Dr. Winter shared the evangelical emphasis on the authority of the Word of God. But he also promoted a healthy awareness of how our cultural and historical conditioning often makes us highly selective in how we interpret and obey the Bible. Hence our need for other lenses.
- *World history:* This discipline is the “zoom lens” that allowed Dr. Winter to see deeply, to look beyond the artificial constraints of his own era. For us, too,

history is a treasure trove of transferable insights.

- *Cultural anthropology:* This is the “wide-angle” lens that provides breadth of perspective. More than once Dr. Winter observed that anthropology “loosened him up.”
- *Statistics:* As with William Carey and others before him, Dr. Winter put mathematics to sanctified use, especially to break up large challenges into “do-able” pieces. In the hands of the right man, mathematical statistics is the art of the possible.
- *Alertness to vested interests:* Dr. Winter had a keen sensitivity to how vested interests can distort decision-making. Taking a cue, I have advised my own students, “You can better understand where a man *stands* if you first recognize where he *sits*.”
- *The “Navy way”:* Dr. Winter often quoted, “There is the right way, the wrong way, and the Navy way.” Navy service in WWII left a deep impression on a young man who thereafter applied purpose-driven thinking to other mobilizations for urgent goals.

Mark Dziersek, a prominent industrial designer today, observes, “Before setting off on any mission, design thinking protocol asks us to step back for a moment and begin by challenging the problem to be solved in the first place. Is this the right way to frame this problem?” This is the protocol Ralph Winter applied again and again, utilizing his series of lenses to “re-frame” problems and propose innovative solutions. 🌐

Growing Up with My Dad

Tricia Johnson



One of the most common questions I’ve been asked through the years is “What was it like growing up with Ralph Winter?” Even

though I feel such loss now, a rush of happy memories floods my mind as I consider this. Today as I think of him, I smile, remembering the deep impact that his humor, patience, idealism and love has had on each of us girls.

My family had some of our best discussions around our dinner table. I can remember the time when my





dad felt that his teenage daughters needed to understand boys better. We all listened and asked questions as if we were anthropologists and it was a foreign culture we were studying. Invariably, we would end up laughing so hard that our neighbor would call and ask us to be more quiet. Over the years her calls became so regular that if the phone rang during dinner we

opinions. As I grew older, I participated in family council meetings where we discussed important decisions like whether my parents should start a publishing company (William Carey Library) or take the risky step of leaving Fuller Seminary to start the U.S. Center for World Mission. It was a family decision every time.

Standing on the Shoulders of a Giant

Todd Johnson



Ralph Winter passed along to me two things that clearly transformed his own view of his responsibility in the world. First,

he embraced the study of the history of Christianity and found it impossible to remain small-minded in the light of the broad canvas of God's initiatives across the centuries. As a young man he was a Presbyterian who loved John Wesley and whose favorite historians were Baptist and Roman Catholic. I have endeavored almost from the day I met him to follow in his footsteps in this discipline. Second, he had extensive contact with Christians from around the world. As a result, he gradually released himself from the bonds of American culture and thought of himself as a citizen of world Christianity. He built this desire deep into all he touched, including me. It was from those two vantage points that he looked out

I CAN REMEMBER THE TIME WHEN MY DAD FELT THAT HIS TEENAGE DAUGHTERS NEEDED TO UNDERSTAND BOYS BETTER. WE ALL LISTENED AND ASKED QUESTIONS AS IF WE WERE ANTHROPOLOGISTS. —TRICIA

would stop laughing and say "Oh no! It's Mrs. S. again!"

I also remember that, a few times a year, my mom might say with a sigh, "You know, we haven't been to the movies in a long time." Almost without a pause, my dad would reply, "Let's go right now!" Once or twice we even left our plates on the table and walked right out the door.

When I was small, my dad made me feel like he was interested in talking about anything, whether it was moths, or bird's nests or magnets. I felt my confidence grow because he sought and valued my

Two years ago our extended family went back to Guatemala to visit many of the people my dad and mom had ministered to almost 40 years earlier. I was glad to see how many were still deeply grateful for my parents' work and lives. But I was especially touched to see how much my dad still cared for those he had worked with so many years earlier. He spent the next year or more wrestling with the grinding poverty these Mayan Indians faced. To the end, my dad never rested in his quest to help everyone he met to live as God intends. 🌐

on the world and saw with razor-sharp insight where reformation was needed.

Consequently he was a man who was “wide awake” to what was going on around the world. He had an uncanny ability to think clearly about not just what was happening, but why it was happening and what might be done about it. Having detected both problems and potential solutions, he immediately went to work on waking up others to this larger reality. In fact, one of his favorite metaphors was that of “sleeping firemen” who needed to be woken from their slumber in order to “put out the fire.” He constantly challenged me to stay awake and to expend my energy waking up others. Perhaps one way we could best honor his legacy is to join him in his desire to get to the root problems in order to help those who cannot help themselves.

As an alert Christian he was painfully aware of the distractions most of us face. Although he spent decades establishing a \$15 million campus, he knew that evangelicals here in the United States, the primary group he was addressing, spent much energy on less important matters. I was thinking about him the other day when I worked out the fact that evangelicals in the USA spent that same amount of \$15 million on candy in the past 16 hours. Somewhere, likely to the consternation of other celestial inhabitants, he is probably still making such calculations.

My own feeling is that it is impossible to consider his legacy without thinking about our own. His life’s work is unfinished, and we are left here today in the same troubled world that he so clearly interpreted. I feel a deep sense of sadness in losing one of the Christian world’s clearest prophets, but I have an equally deep sense of responsibility to take



forward his agenda. That shouldn’t be too great of a burden for any of us if we remember Isaac Newton’s aphorism, “If I have seen so far, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants.” 🌐

My Life with Ralph

Barb Winter



Our “love story” still amazes me whenever I consider how God brought us together in five months and two weeks though we were

2000 miles apart! July 6, 2002 began nearly seven good years of marriage. I treasure a myriad of wonderful memories of our life together both at home and in many places around the world. It was my privilege and joy to adapt my life and be a helpmate to this warm, loving, affectionate sweetheart who was so affirming and appreciative, a gentleman at every turn. He was generous with his compliments about meals I served and made

me feel like a queen in his “castle.” Ralph loved to tease and make me laugh. A few days before he died, while helping him button his short-sleeved shirt, he said with the glint in his eye, “I’ll get the cuffs!”

Always self-effacing and often shy in public or with guests, he did enjoy having company that brought meaningful, substantive conversations, especially with the INSIGHT students. In the later years of his marriage with Roberta he said 1469 Bresee (our home) was a hospital and a library. But he often expressed gratitude that now we had a home which accommodated gatherings of all sorts. And he helped with preparation and clean-up afterwards.

Ralph had great admiration and respect for the contributions of women. We based our marriage on Psalm 34:3, “Glorify (magnify) the Lord with me; let us exalt His Name together.” He valued my opinions about many issues and decisions he was required to make, and solicited my input on his writings as he dictated or as I proofread. In fact, that was his “hook” when he initi-



ated our relationship. He asked if I would be willing to give him feedback if he sent a paper. Little did I know that he also sent it to eight other donors! However, he claimed that my response was the most intelligent! So he pursued!

Life with Ralph was never dull. I have been privileged to meet so many beautiful folks, both in the Frontier Mission Fellowship and around the world: Korea, Guatemala, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Budapest and Amsterdam, plus the many places where he spoke in the U.S. It never ceased to amaze me how he was able to pull a message



WITH GOD'S ENABLING, WE WEATHERED HIS LYME DISEASE DIAGNOSED BEFORE OUR WEDDING, AND HIS MULTIPLE MYELOMA DIAGNOSED JUST A FEW DAYS AFTER OUR WEDDING, SURVIVED A HOUSE FIRE SIX MONTHS LATER, AND FACED OTHER PHYSICAL CHALLENGES ALONG THE WAY. —**BARB**

together as we drove or flew to our destination. He could jot down a few words on a card and speak for an hour! His knowledge and memory of historical and biblical details, as well as his ability to relate current missiological data using applicable analogies to which his audience could relate, were astounding. He always left his hearers with a potent challenge.

Ralph wrestled with the fact, and was the first to admit, that he was not a good administrator in following day-to-day details as the FMF General Director or when president of the University. This was perhaps his greatest weakness and disappointment since it left many of his ideas unfinished or incomplete. He himself had more proverbial plates spinning than he could manage at one time.

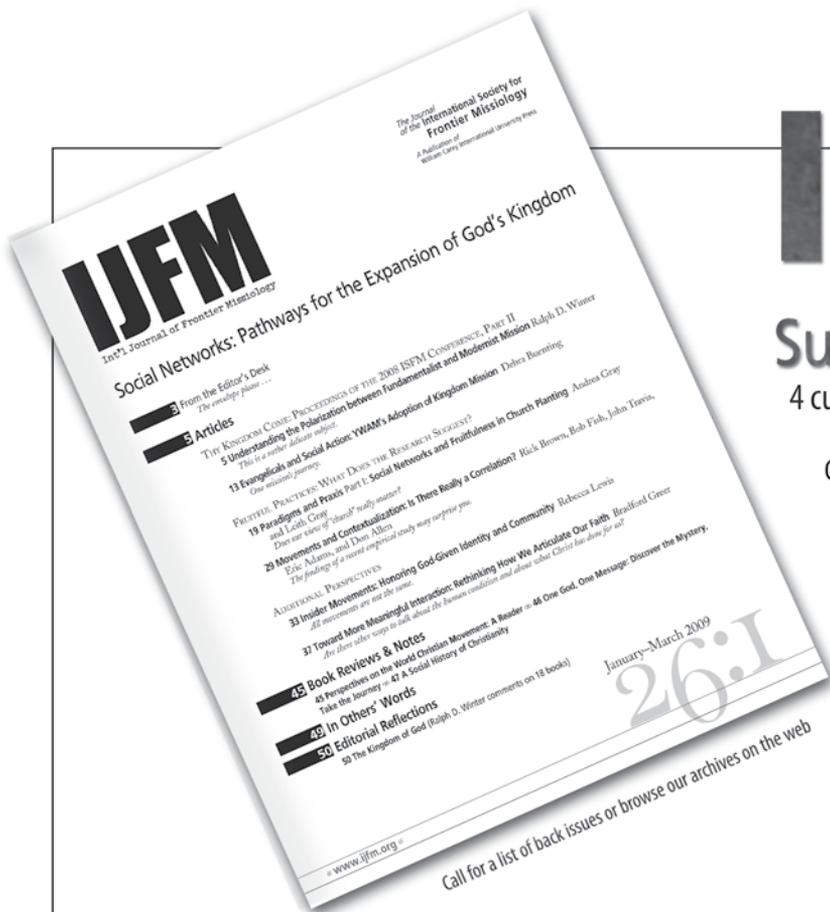
But his calling and passion for the cause of Kingdom Mission was evident right to the very end of his life. Two verses that fueled him were 1 John 3:8b—"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." And from Jesus' prayer to His Father in John 17:18—"As You sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world."

Ralph always had time for folks who wanted his wisdom or advice. He found it difficult to refuse a call or an appointment. And he always made time to talk with one of his daughters or grandchildren. Many a dinner was reheated! Unfortunately, many promises to send a paper, to write a foreword or a blurb for a book jacket, or to read and respond to a paper, etc., remain unfinished. His administrative assistant and I will do our best to deal with what we find on

his desk and on the notations on back of business cards he liked to collect.

In hindsight, would I accept Ralph's invitation to marry him? Without hesitation! With God's enabling, we weathered his Lyme disease diagnosed before our wedding, and his multiple myeloma diagnosis just a few days after our wedding, survived our house fire six months later, and faced other physical challenges along the way. But as the hymn writer, Thomas Moore, said, "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal."

I am so grateful that I could care for him and experience the love that God placed in our hearts for each other, honoring the vows we made "til death do us part." I have been blessed with a husband who loved me deeply but more importantly loved and served the everlasting God with all his being—mind, soul and body. What more could I ask? 🌍



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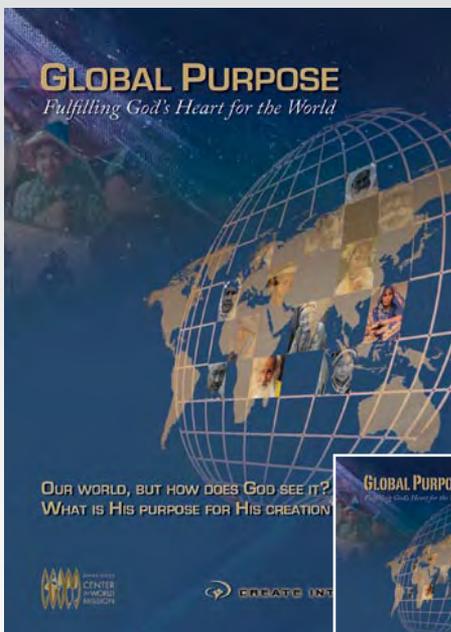
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AN EXAMPLE OF LOCAL CHURCH IMPACT

TOM STELLER

PASTOR OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT,
BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

Editor's note: The following is a good example of the impact Dr. Winter had on local churches.

It is hard to overstate the influence that Ralph Winter has had on Bethlehem Baptist Church. During the summer of 1983 both John Piper and I were confronted with the “statistics of missions” as outlined in the Hidden Peoples Pie Chart. We were thinking of adding another full-time pastor to our staff when a young couple from Bethlehem sent us a letter challenging this decision. They wrote in the letter, “How can you justify adding another full-time Christian worker in a church that already has two in a city that has a thousand churches?” They then proceeded to lay out the statistics of missions and encouraged us to consider that when the Bible uses the word “nations” it doesn’t mean countries, but ethno-linguistic groupings of people. This pesky letter was part of what God used to wake up John Piper and me to the reality that if we love the glory of God we will not be content until His glory in the face of His Son has been proclaimed to all the nations and worshippers have been won from every tribe and tongue and people.

A “Frontier Missions Prayer and Study Group” began that summer. In October while I was listening to John Michael Talbot sing, “All the nations on earth will adore you...”, this new understanding of what nations meant sunk into my worshiping heart and I was converted to World Christianity. A few weeks later John Piper preached his now famous sermon, “Missions: The Battle Cry of Christian Hedonism” which is contained in chapter 9 of *Desiring God*. The fire for missions and reaching the unreached peoples of the world was ignited and it continues to burn with great heat more than 25 years later.



Tom Steller is pastor of leadership development at Bethlehem Baptist Church and academic dean at the Bethlehem Institute.



A crucial foundation stone in this on-going missions renewal has been the *Perspectives* course. I became missions pastor in April of 1984 without any missions experience and having successfully avoided the one missions course required by my M.Div. program at Fuller Theological Seminary. What joy to have a job description that matched my passion, but what terror to realize I had no missions training to help me carry it out. Someone told me about

an amazing introduction to missions course being offered at the USCWM in Pasadena. My wife and I and over twenty others drove our old cars across the Great Plains and over the Rocky Mountains to spend five weeks on the campus of the USCWM. The combination of the *Perspectives* course, the Frontier Fellowship meetings and personal time with Ralph Winter changed us all forever.

We brought the *Perspectives* course to Minneapolis for the first time in the fall of 1984. Over 120 signed up! The *Perspectives* course has been offered every year in the Twin Cities since then and continues to touch countless lives for the sake of God’s glory among the nations.

Dr. Winter spoke in our first *Perspectives* course and was the keynote speaker for our Missions Conference. Over the years we have had many interactions with him. We will miss him deeply. But we will be forever grateful for the impact he has had on our lives, on the people of Bethlehem Baptist Church and on lives that only the Lord can count! 🌐

BIRTH OF A MOVEMENT TEE

ROSS KINSLER

CO-DEVELOPER, TEE

Ralph Winter played a key role in the birth of Theological Education by Extension (TEE), while on his first assignment as a Presbyterian missionary in Guatemala (1956–1966).

He and his family were assigned to a post among the Mam Indians, one of the poorest of the Mayan people groups in the highlands. He saw that the predominant Western pattern of ministry and mission based on highly trained, paid, ordained leaders did not function there or even more widely among most congregations. He spent long hours reflecting with James Emery and other colleagues about this situation, and at a critical moment, when he was a member of the board of the Presbyterian Seminary of Guatemala, he was able to put in

motion a simple but radical proposal, to take the seminary to the natural leaders of the churches instead of sending young ministerial candidates of less experience to the seminary.

The response from some of the older pastors was very critical,

but among the natural leaders it was very positive. Soon the seminary's extension program enrolled 150 to 250 instead of the former average of 10 to 15. These students were part-time, responsible for congregational ministries, employed in "secular" jobs or small farming, with families, so they brought to the study process a wealth of real, ongoing experience. They needed access to substantive biblical and theological materials that they could

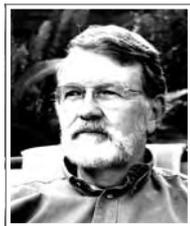
work through on their own in preparation for weekly seminars held nearby with a visiting faculty member or local adjunct professor.

The word soon got out, and key persons across Latin America and elsewhere immediately saw the potential of this new model of theological education, which was able to enroll women as well as men, older as well as younger leaders, indigenous as well as dominant culture representatives, of higher as well as lower academic levels. Beginning in 1967 Ralph along with others led consultations in Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, and elsewhere, and he mobilized a major sector of the

THE EXTENSION SEMINARY



missionary movement for a large workshop on TEE in Wheaton, Illinois in December 1968, under the sponsorship of the Committee to Assist Missionary Education Overseas. In 1969 Ralph published an influential 600-page collection of articles about TEE under the title, *Theological Education by Extension*. In following years many workshops and consultations were held around the world; many associations of theological education joined the movement; and thousands of TEE programs have emerged, some of them with hundreds or thousands of students. Some have said that this is the most important development in theological education over the last 40 years. (Editor's note: For more on TEE, see *Diversified Theological Education: Equipping All God's People*, Ross Kinsler, ed., WCIU Press, 2007, available at missionbooks.org.)



Ross Kinsler was a missionary colleague of Ralph Winter in Guatemala, who, along with Jim Emery, worked to develop TEE in Latin America in the early days of the program.

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THE U.S. CENTER FOR WORLD MISSION



GREG H. PARSONS

GENERAL DIRECTOR, USCWM

Ralph Winter's vision for the U.S. Center for World Mission was to create a forum in which mission leaders and agencies could collaborate together in the advance of God's Kingdom. It was also a laboratory for experimenting with new structures, projects and movements, as well as an incubator for nurturing these new beginnings into effective tools for global mission.

A number of organizations, which later rose to prominence, were started or held offices on the Pasadena campus in their formative years. A good example is Frontiers, which began as a one-room-office operation in a building called Hudson Taylor Hall. Over the years, as Frontiers grew it was able to expand into even larger facilities as required. As a new sending structure with a unique focus on the Muslim world, they were able to benefit from the dozens of other groups undergoing similar foundational formation on the Pasadena campus. Next to Frontiers was the Zwemer Institute, which did research and training for ministry in the Muslim world. Across the campus was Global Mapping International, gathering data on the progress of the gospel among all the world's peoples and presenting research in a useful format for mission leaders and planners. Downstairs from GMI was DAWN Ministries, which became instrumental in forming national saturation church-planting strategies in almost every country in the world. Across the way was Global Opportunities, which was cataloging "open doors" for "tentmakers" in restricted access nations. And then there was Caleb Project, organized to see a new generation of young people raised up to fill these new organizations with the required manpower to move forward in finishing the task.

Linking many of these ministries together, not only in Pasadena but also around the world, was AD2000, chaired by Thomas Wang, whose goal it was to facilitate the vision of a "Church for Every People by the Year 2000." The AD2000



Greg H. Parsons is the General Director of the U.S. Center for World Mission.

and Beyond Movement became a global network, linking thousands of mission organizations around the world with one common goal—bringing the gospel to every "nation, tribe, people and language."

In order to achieve significant inter-mission cooperation, the Center was (and is) divided into four major divisions: Strategy, Mobilization, Training and Services. This four-fold division encompassing the major mission components required to reach the final frontiers has become a model for many mission networks, structures and related centers around the world. The U.S. Center model has inspired the formation of such groups as the Singapore Centre for Evangelism and Mission, COMIMEX in Mexico, and Vision City (part of the India Mission Association) in India—all of which are, or are becoming hubs of the missions movement in their country. Such centers are linked together by the Global Network of Centers for World Mission, which is now led primarily by non-Western mission leaders.

Today, the U.S. Center for World Mission continues the legacy of its founder by serving the missions movement with such programs and ministries as the course, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, Adopt-A-People, Joshua Project, William Carey Library, *Mission Frontiers*, the *Global Prayer Digest*, the World Christian Foundations curriculum and the *International Journal for Frontier Missiology*. And through its sister centers around the world, these ministries are now taking on a global impact, having been adapted in multiple ways to serve numerous national missions movements (the Korean edition of the *Global Prayer Digest* is now the fastest-growing with over 40,000 subscribers!).

We look forward to participating and leading in a new era of inter-mission cooperation that will move the gospel forward into the remaining frontiers of Kingdom advance. What Donald McGavran said many years ago remains true, "We are not in the sunset of missions, but the sunrise." There is still much work to be done in the harvest fields of the world, in prayer, in learning, in engaging the peoples of the earth. Our prayer is that God would continually enable us to play a strategic role towards that end, to see His Kingdom come and will be done here on earth, as it is in heaven. 🌐

INSIGHT IN AN AGE DEVOID OF DISCERNMENT

BECKY LEWIS

FOUNDER, INSIGHT PROGRAM

“This is a one-in-thirty-years idea,” my father, Dr. Winter, responded when I told him that my sons needed the content of his World Christian Foundations Master’s Degree *before* entering college, not after.

“It does no good to hope they will take the WCF Master’s *after* they have lost their faith in a barrage of academic myths and skepticism at a university,” I explained.

In his typical fashion, my father said, “OK! It badly needs to be done. So *you* do it! You have my full support. Take the WCF curriculum and cut it down to one year’s worth of college-level work. Focus on the things that college students need to understand

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to intelligently and confidently defend their faith in the university context.”

Within months we were running a pilot program with one of my college-age sons, two of his friends and the two sons of college friends of mine,

rewriting the WCF curriculum as we went along. The curriculum was geared to get college students to re-think all their worldview presuppositions, test their assumptions against Scripture, and prepare them to face a variety of perspectives, including militant atheism.

We came up with the name “Insight,” standing appropriately for “Intensive Study of Integrated

Global History and Theology.” And it was intensive—like its WCF predecessor, a sweep



Becky Lewis is a daughter of Ralph Winter and the founder of the INSIGHT program.

through global history from beginning to end, incorporating the Bible, philosophy, anthropology, theology, and more. Students got the big picture view of what God was doing at every point in history. Soon the same universities that gave credit for our graduate program signed on to offer a year’s worth of college credit for the two-semester Insight Program.

Eight years later, the Insight Program is now offered at sites all over the United States for 36 semester credits from Trinity International University, with over 100 students (ages 17-27) who have graduated just from the Pasadena program. Small discussion-based classes allow students to wrestle through questions of faith in a context that supports “loving God with all your mind.” Prices in the range of most state junior colleges make it accessible to mission-minded students who desire to graduate debt-free.

In an age where discernment is increasingly called “intolerance,” the Insight Program helps students learn to discern between the truth and spin, deceptive arguments and unsubstantiated assertions. They also gain the insight they need to see what God is doing in the world and how they can become a part of it. For more information see www.uscwm.org/insight. 



PRESBYTERIAN FRONTIER FELLOWSHIP



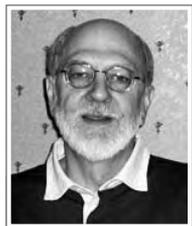
BILL YOUNG

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PFF

After founding the Presbyterian Center for Mission Studies in 1973, Dr. Winter saw the need for another organization that could be more focused on mobilizing members of the United Presbyterian Church, USA for frontier mission.

In 1975 he started the Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship (PFF). In the beginning it was more informal, but by 1981 he and John Shindeldecker had developed enough structure to win the General Assembly's approval of PFF as an officially recognized organization. In the early days the focus was on developing groups in local churches who took their loose change offerings and gathered regularly for prayer for the unreached.

Then in 1983, Dr. Winter approached former Ethiopian missionary Harold Kurtz, a close friend and early Fuller SWM student, to direct PFF. As Harold loves to describe it, "Ralph pinned me to the wall at my kitchen table!" (an event captured in the photo, top right). Dr. Winter gave Harold five reasons why he should take the job. Two of them especially show his own self-awareness and quirky character: "The job needs to get out of my hands because I have rubbed too many New York people the wrong way over the years" (at the time the denominational offices were in New York City); and "The organization needs to get out of California because too many 'kooky' things go on in California and the organization will be looked on with suspicion if it is headquartered there!" Dr. Winter also challenged Harold to consider whether he was using his gifts and experience well as "just" a pastor, when



Bill Young is the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship.



he was needed for a bigger vision. Harold took the job, leading PFF until 2000.

Dr. Winter continued to chair PFF's board until responsibilities caring for his first wife, Roberta, required him to resign in 1999. During those days he continued to influence its work. I began meeting with the board in 1998 and saw his typical way of challenging people to get outside their boxes of thinking. For example, at one meeting he said, "You don't have to be a Christian to go to heaven—you can be a Muslim or a Hindu!" Of course he was referring to the growing movement of followers of Jesus who remained in their Hindu or Muslim culture rather than being extracted. Today PFF is related to those believers in several places!

Today PFF has 14 staff around the country. Presbyterians give several million dollars annually for frontier mission. Frontier mission is an integral part of the mission work of the Presbyterian Church, USA mission work. The legacy of Dr. Winter lives on! 🌐

AS HAROLD LOVES TO DESCRIBE IT, "RALPH PINNED ME TO THE WALL AT MY KITCHEN TABLE."



PERSPECTIVES

STEVE HAWTHORNE

FOUNDER, WAYMAKERS

Ralph Winter has significantly shaped the priorities and practice of many mission agencies and even more local churches around the world. One of the well-known avenues of influence for Winter's ideas has been the *Perspectives* course.

Everyone is Called: Advanced Missiology Informing Strategic Obedience

What is often overlooked about Ralph Winter's invention of the *Perspectives* course is the audience that he was aiming for. Winter was determined to make advanced missiology available and meaningful to university students and lay people. By the time he first experimented with the course, he had already re-shaped field approaches to education for ordained pastors with what came to be known as Theological Education by Extension (TEE). Once the initial content of the *Perspectives* course had taken shape, Winter insisted that it be refined and simplified in order to multiply as an extension course. He did this in order to influence life purpose, not of ordained clergy, but of university students and lay people.

It may seem incredible to us now, but during the sixties and seventies, missions was commonly presented as an all-or-nothing issue for evangelicals. The mission decision seemed simple: Either God was calling me to a high calling of being a missionary overseas, or God was calling me merely to support missionaries by giving and praying. The *Perspectives* course introduced the amazing notion that God was calling *every* Christian to live with the same level of commitment, fulfilling diverse but nonetheless critically significant roles in pursuit of one great global purpose.



Winter made advanced missiology not only available, but even necessary, if one was

Steve Hawthorne is the founder of Waymakers, and the co-creator of the Perspectives course.

going to live faithfully and strategically for God's purposes. He often used this audacious statement to enlist students: "Every major decision you make will be faulty until you see the whole world as God sees it." It had become traditional to honor missionaries for their uncommon dedication. Winter introduced the idea that it was every bit as important to be strategically aware and historically informed as it was to have a high level of personal commitment.



God's Story is Our Mandate: Our Task as a Crucial Part of History

Another significant contribution of Winter was to frame the mission mandate as a long, unfolding story of God working with His people to fulfill His purposes on earth. For years before the course was first developed, Ralph Winter had been teaching the history of the advance of the Christian movement at Fuller's School of World Mission (SWM). The four sections of the course (Biblical, Historical, Cultural and Strategic) were drawn from four of the five core courses of Fuller's SWM. His approach to integrating the ongoing story of mission advance was to blend insights from social sciences with the powerful theological idea that God was steadily at work to advance His mission even when His people were disobedient. The biblical portion of the course traced the story from Abraham to the present day. The sense of being in a larger drama, filled with precedents and pressing toward a culmination, has brought a sense of destiny, clarity and urgency to our task in the present hour. 🌐

WILLIAM CAREY LIBRARY PUBLISHERS



JEFF MINARD

GENERAL MANAGER, WILLIAM CAREY LIBRARY

Founded in 1969, William Carey Library (WCL) celebrates this year its 40th anniversary of ministry. In the late 1960s, the faculty at Fuller Seminary's School of World Mission saw the need to start a publishing function, in order to make the school's steady stream of theses available to a wider audience. They asked Ralph Winter to figure out how to do that. Dr. Allen Swanson, one of Dr. Winter's students, recalled: "One day he [Dr. Winter] came into class waving a thesis manuscript in hand (mine) and announced what a tragedy it is to leave such writings to collect dust in library archives, and thus was born "mini-publishing" and the William Carey Library...."

The School of World Mission became a model for dozens of graduate-level missions programs around the world, and William Carey Library played an important role in getting out into the hands of missionaries and missiologists the incredible research and new insights that the school was producing. Students (who were called "associates" at that time) were instructed to prepare their dissertations in "print-ready" format so they could be immediately ready for publishing through WCL.

Before long, the whole Winter family was running a publishing house, which evolved into a major contributor to the global church growth and frontier mission movements. Scott Moreau, professor of intercultural studies at Wheaton College and editor of the *Evangelical Missions Quarterly*, commented, "They have been instrumental in keeping things in print that otherwise would have gone out of print, because the heartbeat was a missions framework."

Over the last 40 years, WCL has published some 700 titles and sold over one million mission-related books. Today, WCL carries on the vision of its founder to "publish, at reasonable cost, the best in current thinking on world mission." It continues to produce in short print runs, valuable books that other publishers might not find feasible. It



Jeff Minard is General Manager of William Carey Library.

especially seeks to assist the work of mission executives, the field missionary and his or her home church, and the student of world mission.

Ralph Winter once made the observation that WCL is not in the book publishing business but in the information business. In that regard, over the years it has become the major distributor for a variety of resources produced by the U.S. Center for World Mission and its collaborating organizations. From the influential unreached peoples "pie-chart" poster, to short booklets and pamphlets, to video curricula, WCL has sought—and will continue to seek—to be on the forefront of disseminating the essential knowledge the global Church requires to finish the task of world evangelization. 🌐

A Sampling of Books

published by WCL over the years

- Communicating Christ in Asian Cities
- Peoples of Southwest Ethiopia
- Principles of Church Growth
- Manual for Missionaries on Furlough
- Aspects of Pacific Ethnohistory
- Spiritual Gifts and the Great Commission
- The Birth of Missions in America
- The Indigenous Church and the Missionary
- Frontier Peoples of Central Nigeria
- The Navajos Are Coming to Jesus
- Gospel and Culture
- Ethnic Realities and the Church
- Christ and Caesar in Christian Missions
- Challenge & Crisis in Missionary Medicine
- The Missionary Family
- Introduction to Missiology
- Helping Missionaries Grow
- Dawn 2000: 7 Million Churches to Go
- On Being a Missionary
- Following Jesus in the Hindu Context
- Ministry to Muslim Women
- Church Growth in Japan
- Sharing Jesus in the Buddhist World

RALPH WINTER

& THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MISSIOLOGY

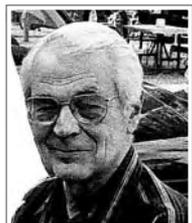
WILBERT R. SHENK

PRESIDENT, AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MISSIOLOGY

Ralph Winter undertook many strategic initiatives during his eventful life. One of these was the founding of the American Society of Missiology. By the 1960s, mission studies in North America were in transition. Mainline Protestant missions were declining as was mission studies in their seminaries. Evangelicals had depended on Bible institutes and colleges to train most of their missionaries in non-accredited programs. Indeed, the term “missiology” was largely unknown in North America.

Winter joined the Fuller School of World Mission in 1966, a year after its founding. Fuller Seminary President David Allan Hubbard was concerned that the SWM be recognized academically; but missiology lacked academic credibility. In a conversation Hubbard told Winter that for missiology to gain academic respect, missiologists needed a professional society that sponsored regular meetings, published a scholarly journal, and promoted publication of monographs in the field of mission studies.

In 1970 Ralph Winter and Gerald Anderson, who had recently returned from ten years of missionary service, began discussing the urgent need to organize a missiological society. *Practical Anthropology*, the primary missiological journal for many missionaries and professors for nearly two decades, was about to cease publication. The Association of Professors of Mission never functioned as a full-fledged professional society and was uncertain about its future. At the same time new missions were being established and the number of North American missionaries was growing. The time seemed



Wilbert Shenk is the current president of the American Society of Missiology.



ripe for strengthening missionary training and mission studies.

After consulting various colleagues, in June 1972 Winter and Anderson convened a meeting attended by 45 persons to test a proposal for a new professional society. Its membership would include professors of mission studies and cognate disciplines, mission executives and missionaries. It would be ecclesiastically comprehensive—mainline Protestants, Roman Catholics and Independent/Evangelical Protestants. The new organization would meet the requirements of a professional scholarly society. The founding meeting of the American Society of Missiology was held June 1973. Gerald Anderson was elected president and Ralph Winter was secretary-treasurer. Winter negotiated with the publishers of *Practical Anthropology* to take over their mailing list and incorporate into the new journal the main purposes of *PA*. *Missiology: An International Review* began publication in 1973. Winter negotiated ASM membership in the Council of Societies for the Study of Religion.

Dr. Winter faithfully attended each annual ASM meeting. He frequently raised probing questions and offered suggestions. We salute him as a founding father of the American Society of Missiology. 🌐



A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE NEEDED IN MISSIONS EDUCATION

BETH SNODDERLY
PROVOST, WCIU

Ralph Winter believed that ministerial schools both at home and abroad tend to go wrong in three ways. First, they attract the wrong students. Second, they offer the wrong curriculum. Third, they present their course work and diplomas in the wrong package.

He saw that the real leaders, the gifted people that God could readily utilize in a pastoral capacity, are right there in the churches. This reality birthed his vision for extension education, or that form of education which does not disrupt the student's productive relation to society. Early on he challenged our growing staff, "If there is a pressing need for fundamental re-engineering in our inherited schooling patterns, we had better look into it." Thus from the beginning, getting the right training to the right people was a founding principle of William Carey International University (WCIU).

WCIU was born as a corporation on February 25, 1977. Within a year, it was authorized to grant a Ph.D. degree, and, about five years later, gained the highest State distinction, "Full Institutional Approval." Dr. Winter designed WCIU as a "laboratory university," the goal of which was not to attract as many students to itself as possible, but to hammer out the most flexible graduate programs that would serve the mission community, and to demonstrate to existing Christian graduate institutions both at home and abroad how they might do likewise. One of the first projects tackled by WCIU was the development of a mission-oriented graduate level TESOL program (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), which was eventually handed over to Biola.



Beth Snodderly is the Provost of William Carey International University.

In his later years, Dr. Winter's biggest project was the development of a complete off-campus curriculum that radically integrates both college and seminary studies into a single 32-semester-unit M.A. degree program, which he called World Christian Foundations (WCF, see worldchristianfoundations.org). This curriculum has now been re-packaged as a freshman year of Insight (see Becky Lewis' article in this section). A "taste" of these study programs has also been encapsulated in a 3-unit course, Foundations of the World Christian Movement, which Ralph Winter considered to be a summary of his missiology, and which represents his latest thinking in this field. (For information on this course go to www.uscwm.org.)

One or more of these curricula, offered through the Training Division of the U.S. Center for World Mission, are being used by groups like Trinity Evangelical University (Deerfield), Northwestern College (St. Paul), Eternity Bible College and Philadelphia Bible College in India. A North American agency or church can now train their people using older and more experienced staff as mentors to guide students through the program without having to create their own curricula or administer complex programs. Over forty agencies have signed Memos of Understanding with WCIU, agreeing to recommend their workers for WCIU study programs. When accepted as students, their workers, in turn, receive tuition discounts.

These are just a few of the innovative ideas Ralph Winter dreamed up to move mission education forward into the 21st century. He came up with so many incredible ideas, it may take us twenty years just to implement them all! As we look to the future, we envision more and more partnerships with agencies and educational institutions around the world to further the cause of the Kingdom in every people, as was the vision of WCIU's founder and former president, Dr. Ralph Winter. 🌐

THE PROBLEM SOLVER

DAVID TAYLOR (COMPILER)

STAFF WRITER, MISSION FRONTIERS



Editor's note: The following is excerpted from Dr. Ralph D. Winter's (RDW's) "Problem-Solving" database. Included here are his comments on 15 problems (out of 28 in the database), which he sought to address over the past forty years. They offer a glimpse into the thinking of a "Kingdom engineer" who was constantly pursuing better ways to move the Church forward in its mission to reach and impact all peoples with the gospel.

A Mission Media Publishing Capacity

Date Conceived: 1968

The Problem: The need for a specifically mission-oriented publishing company.

RDW's notes: Many publishers simply select books they think they can sell 5,000 copies of or more. That means smaller groups of people, no matter how important, are not well served by the traditional publishing process. In 1969 the WCL was founded to support the research of people at Fuller Theological Seminary. They

IT IS ALSO A CASE OF
HOISTING THE FLAG OF THE
MISSION MOVEMENT AND
GAINING VISIBILITY WITHIN
THE SCHOLARLY WORLD.

were producing at least 40 books a year which weren't getting published and thus weren't able to be shared around the world with others facing similar problems. So Roberta

and I established the William Carey Library—not just to publish books but as our first letterhead had it, "media software." WCL was established first of all as a short-run publishing company that would publish books others couldn't figure out how to publish, serving both the builders and promoters of mission as well as missionaries around the field.

Whole-Bible Mission

Date Conceived: 1972

The Problem: The need for insight into the missional nature of the entire sweep of God's work on earth, from Abraham to the present.

RDW's notes: This need has substantially been approached in the *Perspectives* materials. That idea just barely made it in to the 1981 text. There was a strong feeling that we shouldn't go out on that limb but it

got in there due to Dr. Walter Kaiser's backing, and it has been a key emphasis in the *Perspectives* course. I am sure that there are other ways we could get this idea out and around, but at least *Perspectives* is one of the ways we have done it. It would be very helpful to produce a Mission study Bible.

A Missiological Society and a Scholarly Journal of Missiology

Date Conceived: 1972

The Problem: The need to establish missiology as a recognized scholarly discipline.

RDW's notes: It would appear that graduate degrees in the field of missiology were impossible until the appearance of the *Missiology* journal and the linked American Society of Missiology. This is in part a matter of establishing an academic discipline thus allowing a more precise focus on mission problems for people who are doing graduate degrees. It is also a case of hoisting the flag of the mission movement and gaining visibility within the scholarly world. Having these meetings allows the sharing of perspectives and insight. This is a very significant contribution to the cause of missions.

A World Consultation on Mission Frontiers

Date Conceived: 1972

The Problem: The need for a global-level meeting on the subject of mission frontiers, and the establishment of an ongoing global coordinating office.

RDW's notes: This need began to be met when in 1972 a proposal was made at the American Society of Missiology to celebrate the 70th anniversary of a famous 1910 Edinburgh world-level meeting

of missionaries and mission leaders. At that 1972 meeting the idea of frontiers was brought up in a proposal which we didn't make. We simply got behind it and actually sent 50 of our staff to the 1980 meeting in Edinburgh. It had the largest number of mission agencies represented ever on the world level and the largest number of third world agencies ever meeting on a world level. A major novelty of that consultation was the youth parallel meeting which represented an awareness of the intergenerational nature of the cause of missions. It was here at Edinburgh where our slogan, "A Church for Every People by the Year 2000" gained world-level attention.

The Case of the Bypassed Peoples

Date Conceived: 1974

The Problem: The need for an awareness of bypassed subgroups on the mission field.

RDW's notes: This is the classic unreached peoples need and is probably one of the most communicable problems to face. Almost every mission agency now is attuned to different people groups, not just countries or languages. So much has been made of the identification of the problem that the problem itself has almost completely disappeared. It is also true that headway has been made in reaching out to these groups and we now know that the residual unengaged groups, are almost all smaller peoples. The breakthrough to these groups is still difficult, whether large or small, and still needs to be done.

A Major Mission Center

Date Conceived: 1974

The Problem: The need for a major cooperative mission research center.

RDW's notes: This point was a need that arose during the time I was at Fuller, and as the limitations of a school as a contribution to the cause of missions became more evident. We were churning up ideas that needed to be implemented. To establish an implementing annex to the Fuller School of World Mission seemed to be reasonable. This project to some extent has been fulfilled, although the original idea of opening an opportunity for the secondment of people from a number of mission agencies has not worked out as well recently as it did earlier. We desperately need more people with field experience seconded to work with us in this Center.

Global Strategic Collaboration

Date Conceived: 1975

The Problem: The need for a global-level association of mission agencies, and the organizing of a 2010 meeting at the 100th anniversary of 1910.

RDW's notes: Today, more than ever, although clear back in 1980, an ongoing global-level association of mission agencies was proposed, but it was not effectively led. The leader dropped out without telling anyone as a result of his agency requiring him to do so.

More recently, the Global Network of Mission Structures (GNMS) has been formed and is now trying to do that job. The job is that of tracing migratory peoples around the world so that when you talk about Turkmen, for example, you will find only about half of them in Turkmenistan and the rest in 13 other countries. We need to know where these people are. There has been no one agency, national or regional, that can track peoples on the move on a global level—call them "Global Peoples."

This is one of the primary reasons for the GNMS. Another reason is to be able to compare notes with each other and to know and learn from what others are doing.

The GNMS would include meetings of all the leaders of regional and national groups, as well as mission agencies on the global level. This will be a very strategic organization. Finally, there is an urgent need to organize a 2010 global meeting commemorating the 1910 meeting, and the 1980 meeting, focusing on the frontiers and gathering agency leaders from around the world, especially from non-Western countries.

THERE HAS BEEN NO ONE AGENCY, NATIONAL OR REGIONAL, THAT CAN TRACK PEOPLES ON THE MOVE ON A GLOBAL LEVEL . . .

Ethnic Data Gathering

Date Conceived: 1975

The Problem: The need for strategic study of the ethnic realities of the entire globe in order to understand more objectively and statistically where the most crucial needs are.

RDW's notes: This is what we would call a strategy concern, not mobilization. We can be very proud of the fact that Joshua Project is very extensively into that sphere, but Joshua Project is not the only answer to that problem. It seems necessary for mission agencies especially to know that, and the hope is that churches would not decide on a group to go to without working through a mission agency. Thus, one of the problems in solving the problem is that we could easily give people the wrong idea.

A Mission-run University

Date Conceived: 1975

The Problem: The need for a secular university adapted to missions.

RDW's notes: When I taught at Fuller for 10 years I

could see again and again how limiting and difficult it was to be tied to a larger institution that was not primarily interested in missions. For 10 years Fuller postponed the idea of anyone getting a Ph.D., contrary to the promises made to the founders of the School of World Mission. Furthermore, it seemed that a seminary would not be the proper source of a degree for a person working in a country that is antagonistic to Christianity. So the need for a secular university that is nevertheless owned and operated by missionaries seemed to be a very crucial thing.

A Popular Mission Periodical

Date Conceived: 1979

The Problem: The need for a pew-level mission periodical.

RDW's notes: This is something that would not just be a promotional bulletin from a mission agency, but would talk about the cause of missions more than just about one agency or one person. This is being met partially by *Mission Frontiers*.

Another Missiological Society and Journal on Frontiers

Date Conceived: 1982

The Problem: The need for a more specific focus on frontiers in mission.

IT WOULD NOT FOCUS SIMPLY
ON THE WORK OF THE FMF
BUT ON THE ENTIRE RANGE
OF ACTIVITIES ENVISIONED IN
THE LORD'S PRAYER.

RDW's notes: The *International Journal of Frontier Missiology (IJFM)* and the associated International Society for Frontier Missiology (ISFM) are both the initiative of people at the

USCWM. The intentional intergenerational nature of these two entities sets them off from all others, as well as their intentional focus on barriers, problems or frontiers in the Christian mission.

Accessible, Revised Foundational Education

Date Conceived: 1990

The Problem: The need to integrate and condense the liberal arts/seminary curriculum into a single year off-campus.

RDW's notes: A large percentage of key leaders both in the USA and overseas can only be reached outside of the usual classroom situation. Thus, both liberal arts and seminary content need to be integrated and condensed into a program designed for independent, off-campus study.

Restore Liberal Arts Curriculum

Date Conceived: 1990

The Problem: The need to combat the extensive secularization of the liberal arts curriculum as described in Stark's *For the Glory of God*.

RDW's notes: It is apparent that when mission agencies recruit people who already have a college education, no matter whether they come from a Christian college or not, their understanding of God's hand in history is very limited and biased. Thus, we see the need to rewrite the entire college and seminary curricula correcting the secularization perspective. There are various ways that this can be attacked, but World Christian Foundations (WCF) and INSIGHT are the main ways we have done it. We also have conceived the need for supplementary booklets for specific secular texts as another way of dealing with this problem.

Ph.D. Foundation Curriculum

Date Conceived: 1990

The Problem: The need for a solid liberal arts/seminary curriculum as a basis for all Ph.D. degrees.

RDW's notes: This is the double value of the WCF curriculum: not only to rewrite from a different perspective the entire college/seminary experience, but to provide it as the basis of all our Ph.D. degrees since 1990. In this way doctoral associates build on a solid, wide foundation.

Associate Members of the Frontier Mission Fellowship (FMF)

Date Conceived: 2006

The Problem: The need for a disciplined part-time lay and clergy membership of the Frontier Mission Fellowship.

RDW's notes: This would be similar in some ways to the monthly meetings of the China Inland Mission (OMF) and the Church Mission Society (CMS) of the Anglicans. It would not focus simply on the work of the FMF but on the entire range of activities envisioned in the Lord's Prayer. A new push in this area of Regional Offices is necessary to our future. There is a huge amount of human energy to be harvested once we reach out into the realm of part-time lay and clerical people—probably ten or twenty times what our full-time people can handle. 🌐

REMEMBERING A LIFE WELL-LIVED

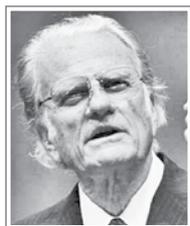
TRIBUTES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

FRIENDS OF RALPH D. WINTER

Editor's note: We have received hundreds of tributes, stories and reflections on Dr. Winter's life from those who knew him well or were impacted by him in some way. Of course not all could be included here, and some of those selected had to be edited for space. Many more tributes will be posted online at www.ralphwinter.org, and there you can also write your own reflections as well.

Billy Graham

Evangelist



Ralph Winter was a man of God who gave a vision to many Christians of a world in need of the gospel. I used to meet with him on

many occasions, often in small group prayer. Some of my vision for world evangelization came from my interaction with him, and I am grateful.

David Ruiz

*Associate Director,
Missions Commission, WEA*



As I learned of Ralph's passing, a lot of personal memories of my long-term friendship with him came to mind—his

lovely help for me during my time in COMIBAM, his counsel during my time in GCR (the Great Commission Roundtable), and his challenging writing. But the most special time was a "heavenly appointment" in Guatemala's Airport when he was

surrounded by his grandsons coming from Xela. He was full of joy, especially when he mentioned to me that one of his disciples was now the mayor of the city. I was astonished by the sensibility of Ralph that, in the midst of the major issues he continued developing, he kept a clear focus on people instead of programs, and he made it the measure of success in his ministry.

Please receive and share my feeling to his family and my personal gratitude for a life invested in my country, COMIBAM, GCR and my personal life.

John Dawson

*President, Youth With A Mission
International*



On behalf of our founders, Loren and Darlene Cunningham, and the whole international family of ministries associated with

Youth With A Mission, I join with followers of Jesus worldwide in honoring the life and work of Ralph Winter.

I was present when Ralph introduced his revolutionary ideas during the historic Lausanne Congress in 1974 and personally witnessed the pioneer-

ing of the U.S. Center for World Mission in Pasadena. I have also observed the profound influence of his life and teaching on the work of YWAM missionaries worldwide.

Many years ago during a time when Ralph faced seemingly insurmountable difficulties, I told him I thought he was a prophet disguised as an academic. He dismissed such an idea but my reason was simple. I could see the Holy Spirit at work. A man of humility and diligence was being graced with revelation. Ralph's ideas were much more than the educated hunches of a brilliant mind. His ideas were refined in prayer and bore a weight beyond reason. They became the effective strategies of a generation of missionaries.

Just a few weeks ago, Ralph and Barbara visited our campus in Kona. He was as brilliant as ever and gave context to our whole journey. He validated so much of what is happening among us by giving an historic overview of our efforts and looking far into the future. He had particular praise for Jim Stier's compilation on the discipling of nations. Ralph profoundly strengthened our commitment to a missionary university that penetrates all spheres.

Years ago, Ralph stepped onto the international stage as a pioneer and innovator, however he walked among

I TOLD HIM I THOUGHT HE WAS A PROPHET DISGUISED AS AN ACADEMIC. —JOHN DAWSON

[RALPH] CONCLUDED WITH WHAT I HAVE COME TO TERM A "PEDAGOGICAL HYPERBOLE" . . . HE SAID, "AS I THINK ABOUT THE PROBABILITY OF YOU MISSION EXECUTIVES ADOPTING THIS IDEA, I THINK IT WILL BE ABOUT AS DIFFICULT AS CHANGING THE TIRE ON A MACK TRUCK WHILE IT IS ROLLING DOWNHILL!" —MIKE POCOCK

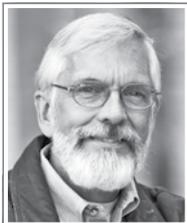
us in Kona as a father of fathers surrounded by the evidence of a fruitful life. We love this man. He taught us, and he served us, and we owe him a great debt of gratitude.

As I contemplate his recent passing, I am overwhelmed with a sense that his life was a completed life. Through unrelenting diligence, he walked all the way out to the boundaries marked out for him.

Thank you Ralph. You are an inspiration. Thank you Jesus, for taking a comfortable civil engineer and building him into a blessing to the whole earth, a man who laid foundations in time and eternity.

Mike Pocock

Missions Professor,
Dallas Theological Seminary



I have nothing but great memories of Ralph Winter.

In 1978, Ralph and Roberta were considering the purchase of the Pasadena property to begin what they would call the U.S. Center for World Mission. Ralph came to the annual meeting of the IFMA, now CrossGlobal Link in Dallas. After laying out the proposal for the center and why there needed to be a focal point to study and engage unreached peoples, he concluded with what I have come to term a "pedagogical hyperbole" (of which Ralph was the master!). He said: "As I think about the probability of you mission executives adopting this idea, I think it will be about as difficult as changing the tire on a Mack truck while it is rolling downhill!"

We were a bit stunned. When those of us from TEAM got home, some of them asked me: "Mike, Ralph Winter is your friend. Was he trying to say that we agency guys are a stick-in-the-mud?" I replied that he probably was, but in any event his proposal was the only thing we were discussing after we got home to Wheaton!

That was the way Ralph was. He goaded mission leaders into making the main thing the main thing. As a result, countless agencies and individuals have reoriented their work toward reaching unreached peoples, and that is principally why by God's grace we have identified, engaged and begun to see fruit among Muslim, Hindu and Buddhist peoples in the past thirty years.

Don Richardson

Missionary, Author



Some leaders reach their maximum potential while subordinating the talents of others. A winsome aspect of Dr. Ralph Winter's personal greatness

was his penchant for freely inspiring others to maximize their potential. *Peace Child* and my subsequent books might never have been written, let alone published, had not Ralph looked this young missionary in the eye back in 1973 and said confidently, "Write that story, Don! I guarantee its publication!" And that is exactly what he arranged (without requiring an agent's fee!). How many thousands of other Christians younger and older has Ralph encouraged as his co-editors for USCWM publications and as managers, co-ordinators, teachers and graduates of USCWM's worldwide course called *Perspectives*

on the World Christian Movement? How many new frontiers has the Church bridged with the gospel due to Dr. Winter's persuasive focus on reaching "unreached peoples"? Only in eternity will the full range of Ralph Winter's influence become known. To know Dr. Winter was to be awed by his intellect, charmed by his candor, enriched by his flair for analogy and swept up with zeal to see God's kingdom come!

John Piper

Pastor of Preaching and Vision,
Bethlehem Baptist Church



Nobody in the area of missions had a greater impact on me. Others, like Jonathan Edwards, had a greater impact on

me in the area of missions, but no one actually in missions affected me more than Ralph Winter.

First, he was a professor of mine at Fuller Seminary and introduced me to the stunning works of God in missions in the last two hundred years. His vision of the advance of the gospel was breathtaking.

He wore a bow tie in those days, iconoclast that he was, and was fined by the seminary for not returning our papers on time. None of us begrudged him his scattered approach to life. It was thrilling in those days.

Second, in 1974 at the Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization, Winter reached up and pulled the unseen rope called "unreached peoples" that rang a bell that reverberates to this day.

ONLY IN ETERNITY WILL THE FULL RANGE OF RALPH WINTER'S INFLUENCE BECOME KNOWN. —DON RICHARDSON

This concept, and the subsequent emphasis on unreached peoples (as opposed to unreached "fields") has been globally seismic in the transformation of missions. It gripped me and shaped all we have done in missions at Bethlehem ever since the mid 1980s.

Third, in the 1980s he bought a \$15 million college campus with virtually nothing in his hand to start the U.S. Center for World Mission; and he paid for it by persuading enough of us (thousands) to give "the last thousand." Brilliant! I think I sent \$2,000. Couldn't resist the vision.

The point of the U.S. Center was to trumpet the vision that there are unreached peoples in the world, and then equip the church to reach them.

Fourth, Ralph Winter was probably the most creative thinker I have ever known. I mean, on any topic that you brought up, he would come at it in a way you have never dreamed of. He saw all things in relationship to other things that you would never think of relating them to.

This meant that stalemates often became fresh starting points. If you were struggling with a tension in your church, he might say: "Well, think about the Navy." Or if you were having a marriage problem, he might say, "Did you notice how that bridge was built?"

Fifth, Ralph Winter befriended me. He encouraged me. In my most restless early days, he would tell me to stay at Bethlehem because I could do more by sending than by going.

Finally, he did not waste his life, not even the last hours of it. He was busy dictating into the last days. He taught me long ago that the concept of "retirement" was not in the Bible.

What a gift he was to the church. To the world. Thank you, Father, for the legacy of this visionary, risk-taking,

creative, encouraging lover of unreached peoples who lived unstopably for the glory of God.

Chuck Colson

Founder, Prison Fellowship



The Church on earth recently lost a great visionary. If you've ever heard the terms "unreached people group," "frontier missions," or "10/40 window," it's because of Ralph Winter's catalytic effect on the Church to fully embrace the Great Commission.

Winter burst onto the international stage in 1974 at the Lausanne Conference on World Evangelization. There among Christian leaders like Billy Graham, Bill Bright, and John Stott, Winter blew the lid off some of the most pernicious misconceptions of the day. Because the gospel had gone to every continent and nearly every country, many people had begun to assume that the work of missions was over. They thought that the only thing now was for local Christians to engage in evangelism.

In a paper circulated prior to the gathering, Winter wrote, "The awesome problem is . . . that most non-Christians in the world today are not culturally near neighbors of any Christians, and that it will take a special kind of 'cross-cultural' evangelism to reach them."

Winter knew that if every Christian in the world shared the gospel with his neighbors, only half the world would hear it.

To illustrate his point, Winter explained the case of the Batak church in Indonesia, where the gospel had taken root and people were ac-

tively evangelizing. But because of Indonesia's mosaic of languages and people groups, for the Batak to reach others—even in their own country—they would have to engage in cross-cultural missions.

With America becoming more and more multicultural, and with our secular neighbors not even speaking our language, we would do well to see our evangelism at home as Winter taught us to see it around the world.

Ralph Winter's strategic emphasis on reaching not simply every nation with the gospel, but every people group, dramatically altered the strategies and budget allocations of missionary organizations around the world. In fact, Billy Graham wrote, "Ralph Winter has . . . accelerated world evangelization."

A few years later, Winter founded the U.S. Center for World Mission and soon after the William Carey International University. He had no financial backing at the time, and only \$100 to begin with. Audacious? Yes. But as Winter wrote, "We were willing to fail because the goal we sensed was so urgent and strategic."

But the center did not fail. Since then the center has not only trained thousands of missionaries and support personnel, but also has worked tirelessly to bring the vision of reaching hidden peoples to the wider Church. In 2005, *Time* magazine included Winter as one of the top 25 most influential evangelicals. Last year, the North American Mission Conference gave him the lifetime service award. But no doubt Winter will take greater pleasure in meeting the men and women from every tribe, tongue and nation who praise the name of Jesus in glory—all because of his passion to spread Christ's message.

RALPH WINTER'S STRATEGIC EMPHASIS ON REACHING NOT SIMPLY EVERY NATION WITH THE GOSPEL, BUT EVERY PEOPLE GROUP, DRAMATICALLY ALTERED THE STRATEGIES AND BUDGET ALLOCATIONS OF MISSIONARY ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE WORLD. —CHUCK COLSON

Chulho Han

Director, Mission Korea



All mission leaders and *Perspectives* graduates in Korea, including those of us with Mission Korea, are deeply

sorrowful over Dr. Winter's passing away. While his influence on world missions was extraordinary to everyone in the world, his impact on Korean missionaries and Mission Korea was truly remarkable. Dr. Winter was one of the first persons to introduce the concept of missions mobilization to the Korean Church as he spoke about Unreached People and missions mobilization at the Mission Korea conference in 1992. And his perspectives played a crucial role in the rapid growth and development of the Mission Korea movement for the past two decades. When I met Dr. Winter in 1998, he suggested to me that an umbrella organization like Mission Korea should introduce the *Perspectives* program to Korea. As a result, nearly two hundred *Perspectives* classes have been held in Korea for the past eight years and about ten thousand Christians have effectively been trained and challenged for missions. Dr. Winter had fully understood the importance of mobilizing young adults. He had always been proud of the Mission Korea conferences as a collaborative missions mobilization effort for Korean young adults and he encouraged me whenever we met.

For decades, Dr. Winter's wisdom on non-Western missions provided much encouragement and challenge for the newly emerging missionary-sending nations like

Korea. Nobody could deny the fact that Dr. Winter had a special love for the future and development of non-Western missions, although he himself was a Western missions leader. He persevered and endured to finish the unfinished task through his creative thinking and many practical recommendations. He was an excellent example for any missionary. I personally experienced my thinking and perspective changing each time I met Dr. Winter. He visited Korea two years ago and he spoke to a group of *Perspectives* graduates. When someone asked how he could remain so successful in his ministry, Dr. Winter replied, "Everything depends on how consistently USCWM partners and I are connected to God on a daily basis." Now, Dr. Winter is at home with the Lord at all times. May the Lord bless his soul!

Paul Pierson

Mission historian, Author, Former Dean, School of World Mission, Fuller Theological Seminary



I first met Ralph when we were students at Princeton Seminary in the early 1950s. Our paths crossed again in the mid 1970s when he was at Fuller and I was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Fresno, CA. When I became Dean of the School of World Mission at Fuller in 1980, I was also appointed Professor of History of Mission and Latin American Studies. So I inherited the course on the History of the Christian Movement that he had taught. Ralph had not been trained as an historian. He was an engineer, anthropologist and linguist. That was probably an advantage because he examined

the history of mission through a different prism. His insights were fresh and different from any other mission historian I had known. He spoke of the "Christian Movement" and sought to discover the dynamics that were important in producing that movement. One of his most important insights pointed to the crucial role of mission structures, committed communities of what he called "second decision" people. Using anthropological terminology, he called those structures "sodalities," in contrast to "modalities." (I have preferred the simpler terms, "mission structures" and "congregational structures.") But the importance of his insight can scarcely be overestimated. Cross-cultural mission has rarely been carried out effectively without such "sodalities" or mission structures that mobilized, trained, sent, and nurtured men and women in mission. And he brought that insight just as the older "mainline" denominations, including the Presbyterian Church under which he and Roberta had served, were disbanding their mission structures and focusing primarily on interchurch relations and other programs. That erosion of focused mission structures, along with the loss of conviction about the absolute need of men and women everywhere to hear the gospel, led to a disastrous decline in personnel and financial resources devoted to world mission by those denominations.

Secondly, Winter's term, "second decision people," pointed to the need for multitudes in the Church to experience a double conversion, similar to that of Paul of Tarsus. In his encounter with the risen Christ, Saul the Pharisee not only recognized Jesus as Lord

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SOME PEOPLE SEE THINGS AS THEY ARE AND ASK, "WHY?"; DR. WINTER DREAMED THINGS THAT NEVER WERE AND SAID, "WHY NOT?" —**BOB BLINCOE**

and Messiah, but heard His call to take the gospel to the Gentiles. There were many logical results of that insight. One of the most important was the creation of the course, *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*. That course has been used to bring about that "second decision" in the lives of thousands of men and women in the United States and now in two dozen other countries.

Bob Blincoe

U.S. Director, Frontiers



In October 2007 I sat with many others who had gathered to hear whatever Dr. Winter would talk about. We would have heard him speak on any issue, but when he had been introduced Dr. Winter said, "If you have a burning question, I'd like to hear it; I may not be able to help, but I like to work on burning questions." The reason I wrote his words down and am looking at my note today is because I think this was the essential Dr. Winter. So often, such as in Guatemala when Dr. Winter proposed what became known as Theological Education by Extension, he was a social engineer offering solutions to problems that everyone around him was facing.

As there were no burning questions that day, Dr. Winter proceeded to wow us with his prepared remarks. But the tribute Dr. Winter would like is not that we would be wowed, but that we would follow him, follow him in being students of the Bible as though we could change the world. Some people see things as they are and ask, "Why?"; Dr. Winter dreamed things that never were and said, "Why not?"

Bob Creson

*President,
Wycliffe Bible Translators USA*



Dr. Ralph Winter was a man whose convictions and passions reflected the heart of God as expressed in Luke chapter 15 for the least, the last and the lost. His words and life challenged the rest of us to open our hearts to love and our lives to serve the often ignored unreached and unengaged people groups of the earth. Because he shared our commitment and pioneering spirit, it was natural for Wycliffe USA's Board of Directors to extend honorary membership in Wycliffe to Ralph more than a decade ago—he was, after all, an extraordinary champion for Bible translation and an enthusiastic missionary for those who are marginalized and still waiting for Scripture. We will miss his insight and vision.

Greg Livingstone

Founder, Frontiers



Who can measure the influence of Ralph Winter on the 8,000 disciple-makers in residence among Muslims in some 50 Muslim majority countries plus India, China and Russia?

Before I met Ralph at Penn State University in 1980 (where we shared the joint missions weekend of CCC, IVCF, and Navigators), I hadn't heard a fresh thought in missions for years! It was his vision

and encouragement that sowed the vision of birthing Frontiers.

He invited me to the USCWM, where I devoured every fertile thought-provoking idea coming out of the Zwemer Institute, WCIU and the Center. Very quickly, we saw what seemed to be impossible becoming open doors.

Jack Frizen

*Former Director,
Inter-denominational Foreign
Mission Association (IFMA)*



I have been a friend and admirer of Ralph for some 45 years. Our first encounter, that I can remember, was a 1964 IFMA meeting of pastors and church mission chairs held at Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena. (I don't recall there being mission pastors at that time.) Charlie Mellis, president of Missionary Aviation Fellowship, was the leader of the IFMA Southern California Group. He and his committee had arranged the meeting. Since I was the newly elected Executive Director of IFMA, Charlie asked me to come to the meeting and serve as emcee. As I remember, there were well over 100 attending this successful interaction between pastors, their mission committee leaders and mission agency leaders. Among the interested participants were Drs. Ralph Winter and Peter Wagner.

During the following months, Ralph and Peter set up a meeting to be held the next year (1965) for church leaders giving between \$100,000 and \$200,000 to missions in their annual church budget.

HE WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY CHAMPION FOR BIBLE TRANSLATION. —**BOB CRESON**

Wade Coggins of EFMA and I attended this meeting held in a hotel just outside of LAX Airport. At this meeting APMC (Association of Church Mission Committees) was born. Wade and I were named as advisors to the new board of directors.

Another brainchild of Ralph's was a series of summer programs, again coordinated by Charlie Mellis. These sessions were held at Wheaton College for several years. Again Wade and I served on this committee. This program developed into the mightily blessed *Perspectives* course.

Toward the end of one of these sessions in Wheaton, Grace and I invited the leaders to our house for fellowship and refreshments. The group included, as I remember, Ralph, Peter and Doris Wagner, Charlie and Claire Mellis and several others. As we interacted around the table, Ralph pulled an envelope from his coat pocket and started to diagram the vision he had for what became the U.S. Center for World Mission.

Jack W. Hayford

President, International
Foursquare Churches, Founding
Pastor, The Church On The Way



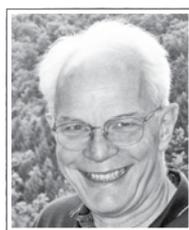
Personally, I am touched deeply by Ralph's homegoing. I have never known a more diligent servant of the gospel; one so marvelously wrapped in the gift-packaging of a profound scholar, missionary, pioneer thinker and friend. The imprint his footsteps have left in the sands of Church history will not wash away with time, for the impact of his life has

literally become an engraving in the minds and souls of a host of pastors and Christian leaders just as truly as they have my own.

In behalf of Anna and myself, as well as my fellow-laborers across the global body of the Foursquare Church, we rise to say, Thank you, Lord for Your servant and our brother, Ralph Winter.

Patrick Johnstone

Author, *Operation World*



How can one portray in a few sentences all that this remarkable man has meant for world evangelisation? We praise God for his many unique contributions.

It is hard to over-estimate the impact of his plenary presentation at the Lausanne Consultation in 1974. Unreached peoples became mainstream in missiological thinking and mission practice after decades of being a fringe concern of a few. If this were all he achieved in his ministry, this alone would have accorded him a place of honor in God's Kingdom!

I think of all the challenges and obstacles he went through in ministry and in the launching of the USCWM. Nothing deterred him. It would be a long list if a heavenly survey were done of all individuals and agencies deeply impacted because of his faith and tenacity in pushing the message of missions. I think of TEE, *Mission Frontiers*, the unique *Perspectives* course.

He saw the possibility of great turnings to God among followers of the major non-Christian religions long before many others had realized that this was a possibility! Today contextualization, Messianic believers, Jesus mosques, and Hindu followers of the Lord Jesus

Christ are concepts being pursued, and millions of new believers have emerged from these cultures with a non-traditional Christian expression.

I remember some 12 years ago, Robyn and I travelled by car from Pasadena to San Diego with Ralph. We were talking as we travelled. Ralph came out with a range of statements about Islam and portraying it as a Christian sect. We expostulated that going public with such views would cause upheaval in the Christian world. His comment, "I can now say what I like, I am now over 70!" I think this independent thinking preceded his passing that age frontier! He bowed to no man, but sought to honor his Lord! So much of his ministry left us a legacy of gems and nuggets—even if a few of those nuggets were flammable coals!

I want to close with this beautiful characteristic which so impacted me. In the 1970s I was a missionary evangelist in Africa, and part-time world researcher. We had just printed our first full *Operation World* to help African Christians pray for the world, but found too late we could not sell it in South Africa because it had not been printed by a press with union workers. Ralph obtained a copy and asked to publish it through the William Carey Library—the first marketable edition of *Operation World* (under the title *World Handbook for the World Christian*). Several years later we were based in the UK at our WEC International headquarters, and we were struggling to print successive editions of *Operation World*. Ralph was concerned for us and our lack of resources. He wonderfully gifted me with one of those first laptops (a Tandy, I think!), which showed 8 lines of text on a small LCD screen. This I used all over the world in my travels, and was a vital part of my

ministry. Thank you Ralph for your concern, care and generosity to a young missionary not yet known on the world missiological stage.

Paul McKaughan

Former Director, Evangelical Foreign Missions Association



In the fall of 1966 I was first captivated by what I was to later recognize as the genius of Ralph Winter. It was his first teaching assignment at Fuller. I was a young missionary completing my first term in Brazil. Dr. Winter was in the midst of a career change. From many years of creative missionary service in the mountains of Guatemala, he was transitioning to become a professor and world-renowned Church and mission historian. Our classes were a “Winterian” stream of consciousness on *The Training of Leadership*, but embedded in each class was a totally brilliant new idea or concept that defied my previously fixed categories.

Over the 35–40 years of our association, I found that his original and fertile mind would regularly challenge the thinking of those of us in mission leadership. There were, however, attributes that made Ralph Winter’s thinking even more powerful than its creativity. That was his firm commitment to the trustworthiness of Scripture and his unwavering passion for reaching those with no access to the Good News.

When with very primitive, unpretentious diagrams in hand at the first Lausanne Congress, Dr. Winter challenged those of us present to reach the hidden, unreached

peoples of the planet, the paradigm of modern mission changed forever. Winter had given voice to what would become the driving force in missions for the next 30 years.

In the audacious move of founding the U.S. Center and the Frontier Mission Fellowship, Ralph Winter made sure that unreached peoples remained on all our agendas. His creativity and U.S. Center platform made sure we continued to be challenged as to our focus and methodologies. The *Perspectives* course, of which he was the principal architect, has built a foundation of common understanding of our task among mission people of all evangelical persuasions.

As a champion of majority-world cross-cultural missions, Dr. Winter used his writing and influence to make sure that unreached peoples occupied a priority place on the agenda of emerging missions. He also made sure that the leaders of these new movements became known and respected in the West.

An indication of Dr. Winter’s influence was the degree to which missions leaders across the world were obligated to respond to his views on the task and our methodologies. At times one might argue about the novelty or applicability of Winter’s approach, but never with the fervency of his Christian faith or his commitment to extending the Reign of Christ among all peoples.

Fred Heeren

Day Star Ministries

I had the longest phone call of my life when Dr. Winter called me shortly after the publication of my book, *Show Me God*, when we spoke all afternoon about strategies for

reaching unbelieving skeptics. The things I was just discovering were things he had been dealing with for many years, not only about what it takes to get science readers to listen to Christ’s voice, but about the many specific challenges in science/faith dialogue. Dr. Winter encouraged me to spend my time where it would count most for the Kingdom, in original research and writing. I’ve often reflected how encouraged and renewed I felt in my own calling to do the work of an evangelist from that phone call and others with him since. Praise the Lord for Ralph Winter’s life of selfless obedience to his own calling! What a discipler and vision caster!

K. Rajendran

General Secretary, India Missions Association



I led a team of 10 people, from several countries, in a discipleship group to study *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*. Our study group read a chapter a week and met to discuss our discovery on that chapter. We shared many great perspectives, which we richly learned, and we missed almost nothing. Then we prayed for missions across the world. All our books were marked with highlighters of the things that affected us. I believe that eventually our *Perspectives* books were perhaps the most highlighted books in the world. We were affected much by the thoughts in the articles, especially Dr. Winter’s. I ended up quoting them in many of my writings. Almost all the people in that study group ended

I FOUND THAT HIS ORIGINAL AND FERTILE MIND WOULD REGULARLY CHALLENGE THE THINKING OF THOSE OF US IN MISSION LEADERSHIP. —PAUL MCKAUGHAN

up as missionaries or great mission mobilizers and great friends across the world.

Subsequently, the article on Sodality and Modality, the connection and balance between mission organizations and the churches made much sense. The thoughts on the insider movements and Hindu Christians made much sense. I was nourished on many of his revolutionary thoughts and grew to appreciate his writings as an admirer, even before I met him personally.

I found Winter was creating more thinkers by his books, articles, the William Carey International University, the U.S. Center for World Mission, and by his influencing, enthusiastic talks, both in the lectures and also in individual conversation. After speaking to him, I found my thoughts provoked and it always took time to digest.

Hosting cutting-edge missionaries and mission organizations in the USCWM campus allowed multiple thinkers and practitioners to meet and sharpen each other. I found that people can never be indifferent to many great mission thoughts after being in the USCWM or reading Winter's thoughts in all his writings or speaking engagements. This was a real inspiration for me.

Meeting and dialoguing with him on several occasions as an evangelist, a mission leader, and as the leader of the Indian Missions Association brought many subjects to be discussed. He genuinely admired and encouraged the emerging missions in the Global South. He always openly said, "What the Western Protestant missions have done in 300 years, the Indian missions (and other non-Western missionary sending nations) have done in 30 years." Whenever he said that I squirmed, as I was aware of the many

difficult issues we were grappling with. Of course, he was also aware of them too as similar issues were dealt by the Western missions in their eras.

He was one of the first individual donors to give a sizable gift to the Vision City of India Missions Association, which is designed with a similar purpose of the USCWM to stimulate missions thinkers for Asia and eventually for the globe. He understood the direction of the Vision City, and whenever we met, there was warmth of appreciation for each other.

He also encouraged his other disciples to interact with each other and learn. He continuously listened and learned and created a culture of learning. I, personally, will miss a great friend and a thought provoker. Though I will not be able to attend all the great gatherings, I will listen and read his thoughts being quoted by many of his beneficiaries, as the greatest spokesman for mission in this century.

Our deep condolences to all his family members and co-workers in the USCWM. May his vision continue to grow in many ways. Amen.

Paul Eshleman

*Jesus Film Project,
Campus Crusade for Christ*

Just wanted you to know that we will be praying for you and the whole family during this time. Ralph was a tremendous encouragement to me from the time I came on the Lausanne Committee at 30 years old. When I asked him for endorsements for the JESUS Film and many of the other projects I was involved in, he was always very gracious. I continue to feel the impact of his life. My own personal commitment, if the Lord permits, is to see every people group in the world engaged with evangelism and church planting in the next 10 years.

Wonsuk Ma

*Executive Director,
Oxford Center for Mission Studies*

On behalf of the OCMS family and particularly for the Korean mission community, I would like to convey the following thought: When western missionaries worked hard to plant and strengthen national churches, they often forgot that these new churches were to become missionary churches. Only a few believed otherwise, and Dr. Winter was one of them. What the Korean church is today in Christian mission owes greatly to his firm belief in the new churches in mission, and more importantly his action to advocate, educate and prepare them as early as in the 1960s in Korea. Dr. Winter, you have seen only a tiny beginning. I am proud to be part of this great new missionary movement, and I want to thank God for your prophetic life.

Malcolm Hunter

*Founder,
Nomadic Peoples Network*

I had heard about him and read some of his always-original articles, but it was only when I first saw him at the Edinburgh '80 Conference that I appreciated what a unique genius was this man. I understood this gathering was at his initiative as a platform to present his latest assessment of the unreached peoples of the world. These happened to be the focus of my young life from the rather different perspective of a pioneer field practitioner called to Africa to find the ethnic groups who would be the last and least likely to hear the gospel. At that time we called them unevangelized tribes. After 17 years of cross-cultural exploration I had come to the

DR. WINTER ENTERED MY WORLD AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME TO ENCOURAGE ME ALONG THE ROAD THAT LED ME TO FOUND THE NOMADIC PEOPLES NETWORK. —MALCOLM HUNTER

conclusion that, certainly in Africa, these included all the nomadic and most of the semi-nomadic peoples. I was wondering whether this situation was found on other continents and what I could do next with this conclusion.

Dr. Winter entered my world at just the right time to encourage me along the road that led me to found the Nomadic Peoples Network with global coverage. He stood on the old-fashioned stage behind a small table, on the edge of which stood a stack of tractor feed computer paper. He began to talk in his gentle, undemonstrative style about the huge number of what he called “Hidden Peoples” in the world who were not being targeted or engaged by any Christian witness. I found his delivery all the more striking to me because it was so quiet and even contemplative. At the same time I could not help thinking about the many missionary efforts I knew of where there was a witness being made but it was so inappropriate to the host culture as to be ineffective, if not a negative communication of Christianity.

My discouraging thoughts were suddenly interrupted when Dr. Winter tipped the top pages of the stack of computer paper off the table and we all watched mesmerized as the concertina of pages slowly moved from the top of the table to the floor whilst he quietly explained that these pages contained the names of all the known unreached peoples on earth at that time. In those days when there were no PowerPoint presentations this was probably the most unforgettable means of conveying the scale of the task that confronted the global missionary enterprise.

It was some years later that my wife and I were very surprised to be asked

by the SIM, our main mission agency, to go to the U.S. Center for World Mission “on loan” for a period of two years. Dr. Winter had apparently been to visit the SIM, amongst other mission U.S. headquarters, in his quest to find some proven mobilizers to add some field experience to his mobilization division. SIM decided that we were amongst their most effective recruiters and “rabble rousers”; we were available due to the Marxist revolution in Ethiopia, so we were assigned. I was invited by Dr. Winter to accompany him on many of his teaching seminars to illustrate his missiological principles from my field experience. That was a high privilege which allowed me to get to know Dr. Winter on a different level of personal friendship.

Some ten years later we came to another turning point in our lives at which Dr. Winter became the guiding light. I had been wondering on how to expand my vision for ministry to the unreached nomadic peoples after we reached retirement age and were released by SIM with their blessing to “go global.” Dr. Winter got in touch with the SIM leadership again with the proposal that we should establish the Institute for Nomadic Studies at the USCWM, and together an agreement was reached that has proved to be a great blessing to my wife and me and the wider Nomadic Peoples Network, which we established in England twenty years ago.

Dr. Winter may never have met a real nomad, but he showed that he certainly understood their worldview. In one of the lead articles he wrote in *Mission Frontiers* entitled “Nomads to the Rescue” (March/April 2002), he declared that they have much to teach our Western churches. We thank the

Lord for the life and work and every personal memory of this “gentle genius of the Kingdom.”

James Dobson

*Founder and Chairman Emeritus,
Focus on the Family*



Dr. Ralph Winter is being remembered as a pioneer of the modern world missions movement, and indeed, he was. I

remember being moved and inspired by the courage he demonstrated when he purchased the old Pasadena Nazarene College campus back in the 1970s. We all knew at the time that Dr. Winter was faithfully following the Lord’s leading, but we were also aware of the serious financial obstacles that seemed to stand in the way of his dream.

But with every financial challenge that arose, the Lord made a way around them. God’s people caught the vision and responded generously, and the U.S. Center for World Mission and William Carey International University were born. The establishment of these institutions represented a tremendous answer to the prayers of many people, as well as a significant advancement to the cause of world missions. I did what I could, but it was Dr. Winter who led the charge in those days. Everyone who cares about the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ—and who is passionate about the salvation of lost souls from every tribe and tongue and nation—owes Dr. Winter a debt of gratitude. He was one of a kind, and he is sorely missed. But his legacy lives on.

I REMEMBER BEING MOVED AND INSPIRED BY THE COURAGE HE DEMONSTRATED. —JAMES DOBSON

Vonette Z. Bright

Co-Founder, Campus Crusade for Christ, International



Ralph Winter and Bill Bright were classmates at Fuller Seminary. Ralph was a full-time student and Bill attended as his

business would allow. The two remained friends and consulted each other on occasion. Bill's questions for Ralph consisted of more theological matters and Ralph's questions related more to business management and personnel concerns. There were few men in whom Bill had more confidence. We enjoyed Ralph and Roberta's company on many occasions. After Roberta passed away, Barbara and Ralph visited in our home and were among the last couples we entertained before Bill became bedridden.

I often used a quote Ralph made at a gathering of classmates at the home of Dan and Ruth Fuller. It was certainly a statement of which my husband and I agreed. Ralph was concerned that so many of their classmates and colleagues were beginning to retire at the ages of 55-65. He elaborated that if a person begins his ministry at the age of 30 (ages of Ralph and Bill) and lives to the age of 90 he is only half through at the age of 60. Ralph pointed out some of the most significant work accomplished in ministry and in the secular world is accomplished by persons in their seventies and beyond. Dr. Donald McGavran, at the age of 80 with the Church Growth Movement, is an example.

Ralph and Roberta invested their lives in missions and the education of young people. They have been stalwarts in maintaining conservative points of view of theology. Their brilliance and zeal will be missed. Their example and influence, however, will live on in countless numbers in whose lives they have invested. Ralph set a standard of achievement for which young theologians will desire to achieve in the future. It will be exciting to see how God leads others who will stand on the shoulders of this great man.

Bill Taylor

Global Ambassador, World Evangelical Alliance



This week the full team of the Mission Commission, WEA, were meeting in my home for our biannual week

of prayer, evaluation, planning and projection. In the very middle came the word of Ralph's "permanent address change." We simply register our profound gratitude for his contribution to the global church of Christ, especially in that cutting-edge venture of mission from everywhere to everywhere.

He and I both served in Guatemala, though we did not overlap in those years, as it was later that we met. But I was at Lausanne '74, and, along with the thousands of others present, was challenged to the very core to see the entire world with new mission lenses. Since then his contribution is without parallel in so many ways.

David J. Cho

Founder, Asian Missions Association

It was 1971 at the Green Lake Conference; I met Dr. Ralph D. Winter to invite him to Seoul for All-Asian Mission Leaders Consultation, 1973. Since then, I was associated with him and constantly kept up until he was called to his heavenly home. He was my mentor and consultant for network development of missionary leadership in the non-Western world. He was always with me to form AMA (Asia Missions Association), TWMA (Third World Missions Association), and the establishment of the East-West Center for Missions Research & Development. He even played an important role to build a bridge between the United States and North Korea for my Peace Mission to North Korea. In 2006, he was with me at the Ephesus Conference of AMA and in 2008 at Bangkok Forum of the Asian Society of Missiology with his wife. His prophetic voice was always amazing, so creative, and unforgettable. He was really my giant hero.

John Fletcher

International Director, Pioneers



On behalf of the international leadership of Pioneers, I want you to know that we share in the sorrow of the passing of our brother, Dr. Ralph Winter. At the same time, we give thanks for his incredible life of dedicated service in the Name of Christ and on behalf of the gospel which has

HE EVEN PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO BUILD A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND NORTH KOREA FOR MY PEACE MISSION TO NORTH KOREA. —DAVID J. CHO

DR. WINTER LEFT A LEGACY OF REMEMBRANCES . . . BEYOND THE BOW TIES, THE BALDING HAIR, “GLUED SHOES” STACKS OF PAPER, ARTICLES, FILING CABINETS AND BOOKS. —**BRUCE GRAHAM**

inspired a generation and movement of the Global Church to focus on unreached peoples—to send and be sent. Among those so influenced were my parents Ted & Peggy Fletcher, the founders of Pioneers, who were living in Southern California near the newly established U.S. Center for World Mission, immediately prior to starting Pioneers. Both Ralph and Roberta Winter were a source of steady encouragement to them, to “reach the unreached” and to stay focused on those places and people of greatest spiritual need and least opportunity to hear and be saved.

We will be praying for the Winter family, as well as the fellowship of the U.S. Center for World Mission, as you grieve this immense loss and continue wholeheartedly in the challenge of your on-going work as single-minded advocates for the unreached.

Max Chismon

*International Director,
Kairos Course*

Dr. Winter was introduced to me through the *Perspectives* course in 1992. My life has not been the same since! To say that Dr. Winter was a modern-day prophet would not be an exaggeration—his ministry has realigned the Church to her central calling (world missions) and his strategic thinking has placed the Church once again at the cutting edge of achieving closure to Christ’s “all nations” commission.

Since that “introduction” in 1992, my wife and I, together with our Filipino team, have dedicated our lives to seeing the Church capture a vision for world mission. Through the generous endorsement of the

U.S. Center we have seen our Kairos Course travel to more than 30 countries around the world and translated into 14 languages!

May Dr. Winter’s legacy live on through the multitudes of mobilized believers, for the years remaining prior to the Lord’s return where He will claim the “reward of His suffering”—multitudes from every tribe, language and nation!

Our love and prayers to Dr. Winter’s family and all at the U.S. Center for World Mission!

Danny Martin

*Founder,
Mission to Unreached Peoples*

I first met Dr. Winter in 1980 in Scotland where he introduced the concept of Hidden Peoples based on Matt. 24:14. I went back home to my newly-created mission agency and re-named it Mission to Unreached Peoples in light of God’s perspective on the “nations” of the world. Since that time, our focus has been to take the gospel to every nation through every means possible.

The *Perspectives* course that came out of the USCWM has also had a profound impact on my life. I have used it in several of its versions to impact the countries in which I’ve lived and the churches I have attended.

Dr. Winter was a humble man of God who changed the focus of missions in our generation. We started with 16,750 unreached people groups and we’ve checked off many of those peoples in the past 30 years. May God give us the grace to finish the job so we can all go be with Jesus just like our dear brother is doing right now!

Bruce Graham

*Associate General Director,
Frontier Mission Fellowship*



Dr. Winter left a legacy of remembrances . . . beyond the bow ties, balding hair, “glued shoes,” stacks of paper, articles, filing

cabinets and books. I’m grateful for the remembrance of one who sought to make decisions that would benefit a greater cause, a cause beyond one’s own personal welfare or organizational benefit; for the remembrance of one willing to risk failure for sake of that greater cause; for the remembrance of one who took personal or organizational problems and sought solutions on a macro level for many others.

I’m grateful for the example of one who modeled life-long, intergenerational community learning; from morning devotions to the development of a university that would explore the glory of God in our world—not only in the book of Scripture, but the book of Creation. I’m grateful for one who sought to disciple through work assignments, “birthing” new teams and organizations, involving those who could “stay beside him” in finding new solutions to significant unmet challenges and problems. I’m grateful for the open office, the personal touch, the humility of mind—accessible to the ordinary, the young, the one of little reputation as well as the “great.”

I’m grateful for the family ties, the humility in prayer, the pie charts portraying unreached peoples, the example of serving in spite of one’s

HIS MINISTRY HAS REALIGNED THE CHURCH TO HER CENTRAL CALLING (WORLD MISSIONS). —**MAX CHISMON**

ability or gifting when necessary, the faithfulness in financial accounting, the wartime lifestyle, the inexhaustible new perspective that constantly envisioned and motivated us into attempting greater things for God, and expecting great things from God. Lord, help us, help me remember for the sake of your Son's Name in all the earth.

Steve Strauss

U.S. Director, SIM



Ralph Winter's impact on the World Christian Movement has probably been greater than any other person in our generation,

with the possible exception of Billy Graham. He shaped and popularized some of our most basic missiological ideas. For me personally, my life was changed when I heard him speak at Lausanne 1974. His presentation of unreached peoples and E-1, E-2, E-3 evangelism challenged me to think about the direction of my life and to elevate reaching the unreached to the top of what I wanted my life to be all about. I'm sure Dr. Winter's impact on my life has been repeated thousands of times over. The World Christian Movement will miss Dr. Winter's creativity and ability to popularize and communicate core biblical and missiological truth. We praise God for allowing us to have experienced the life and thinking of Ralph Winter.

Allen J. Swanson

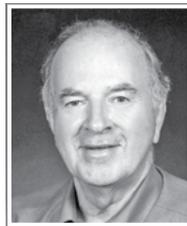
Missionary

A giant in Missions has departed to be at last with his Lord. In all the schools I attended since high

school (7) no professor left a greater impact on my life and mission work. I was in the first class Dr. Winter taught at Fuller in the fall of 1967. We were only 17 students back then, and he was fresh from the field. I had just concluded five painful years of work in Taiwan and was determined to find answers—or remain home. Dr. Winter was the one I was looking for. Never a class went by without him spinning new ideas from his keen mind. He would arrive in class to teach a course on mission history carrying a huge load of books he had researched the night before to find “Epochs of Mission History,” and he kept coming up with new ones. For his first time at teaching this subject his creative insights were brilliant. One day he came into class waving a thesis manuscript in hand (mine) and announced what a tragedy it is to leave such writings to collect dust in library archives, and thus was born “mini-publishing” and the William Carey Library movement. He was a light among lights, a leader among leaders. He will be sadly missed by all. I will forever cherish my year with him.

Donald McGilchrist

*International Consultant,
The Navigators*



I would like to express my sadness at the loss of Ralph Winter. This leaves a huge gap in the fabric of evangelical missions. He was

a leader of immense stature. Earth is far poorer and heaven is richer.

The Navigators' connection with Dr. Winter goes back a long way. He participated in Lorne Sanny's Bible Study at Fuller Seminary and spoke with affection of the powerful

influence that Dawson Trotman had on his life in the 1950s. More recently, Jim Downing used to visit the USCWM Campus to interact with Dr. Winter at his request.

I first heard Dr. Winter at Lausanne '74. I was at once convinced by his remarkable analysis of *The Highest Priority*. Later that year, he gave four challenging lectures at Glen Eyrie, the notes of which I've just reviewed again! Ever since, I've read anything by him that comes to my notice and admired how fertile his mind was until the end. What a convincing advocate for worldwide missions!

On several later occasions, he invested time and energy to participate in gatherings of our Navigator leaders. He was unfailingly gracious, patient and incisive. We learned much. We were challenged to work all the harder at advancing the gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom.

My last exchange of letters with him was last year, concerning a small point in the new *Perspectives* course. As usual, he was open and warm. I'll miss him greatly.

Yong J. Cho

*International Director, Global
Network of Mission Structures*



When I came to prepare for the AMA Convention in Pasadena in 1986, I met a man with a giant heart. Although

I knew about Dr. Winter before, I came to know a true man who lived with his words in a wartime lifestyle. He wholeheartedly understood the position of non-Western mission

HE WAS UNFAILINGLY GRACIOUS, PATIENT AND INCISIVE. WE LEARNED MUCH. WE WERE CHALLENGED TO WORK ALL THE HARDER AT ADVANCING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS AND HIS KINGDOM. —DONALD MCGILCHRIST

THE STATUS QUO WAS ABHORRENT TO THIS VISIONARY. HE WAS CALLED TO DRIVE THE MISSIONS MOVEMENT INTO NEW FRONTIERS. —PHIL PARSHALL

leaders and supported them by any means. When I was asking permission to make a Philippine edition of the *Global Prayer Digest*, he was so happy about it and gave a full right to use it without asking any copyright. Recently, when I was considering accepting the role of International Director of Global Network of Mission Structures, Dr. Winter persuaded me to take the position because it would be historically significant. When we visited Japan together to promote the Tokyo 2010 Global Mission Consultation and Celebration, he clearly presented the significance of the conference to the Japanese Christian leaders and they agreed.

Dr. Winter's thoughts were always challenging, his ideas were brilliant, but more than that his heart was always with the non-Western Christians for the cause of global mission. He will be really happy to see Tokyo 2010 going well.

Phil Parshall

Missionary, Author



In 1978, while pursuing study at Fuller, I first met this unpretentious genius of the discipline and practice of missiology. I was

awed by this rather frail-looking man who seemed to come up with an innovative and often startling new postulate each class period. The status quo was abhorrent to this visionary. He was called to drive the missions movement into new frontiers.

Ralph was a restless person. His mind never seemed satisfied. Often he would lose us with his statistical overload. But slowly we of more

ordinary intelligence would catch up to Ralph and have an eureka moment. Then off we would go back to our mission outpost to seek to implement some of our guru's insights.

So much from one man! His accomplishments are legion and legendary. The mission enterprise bows, not in worship of a hero, but in love and gratitude that a man such as Ralph Winter has walked among us.

David Hennigh

Director, TIMO, AIM International



I received your note of Dr. Winter's promotion through my connection with CrossGlobal Link. I just wanted to mention that we, as the TIMO

(Training In Ministry Outreach) program of the Africa Inland Mission, are deeply indebted to Dr. Winter. It was at a "World Consultation on Frontier Missions" in Edinburgh in 1980, Dr. Dick Anderson, then the International Director of AIM, met with Dr. Winter and basically asked him, if he were starting a strategic outreach to the unreached, how would he do it. Dr. Anderson took his ideas and TIMO has come out of that. Today, TIMO is being used of God within AIM as its main means of getting in amongst the unreached across the African continent, while effectively training new workers (both African and international) to effectively impact their host communities with the gospel message. Beyond AIM, TIMO is partnering with other mission organizations as well as indigenous African churches and missions to run teams. As well as being blessed by his writings, we exist, partially because of his input. We are grateful to God for his life!

Frank Severn

Former General Director, Send International



A giant of the missions movement has been promoted to glory. No one, over the last 50 years, has done more to bring

the focus of the mission world on the unfinished task than Dr. Winter. His contributions are too numerous to list. I counted Ralph as a friend, mentor, educator, brilliant missionary statesman and at times antagonist (I really think he enjoyed a bit of controversy). My mind, heart and ministry were enriched by his writings, and our limited but significant personal interactions. We shall all miss him!

Pete Holzmann

Founder/Exec Director Int'l Christian Technologists' Association

Dr. Winter was a great gift to the Body of Christ, and always full of surprising insights. I can never forget when we first heard reports of the messianic mosque movement. In a hallway discussion afterward, he paused, tipped his head, and said "Y'know, throughout history every major move to Christ began as a heresy!" Dr. Winter is the only person I've known with the background to develop such an insight, let alone know it off the top of his head. A man inspired by God for His Kingdom. A man we'll all surely enjoy spending more time with, once we go home as well.

HE SAID, "THROUGHOUT HISTORY EVERY MAJOR MOVE TO CHRIST HAS STARTED AS A HERESY." —PETE HOLZMANN

Gavriel Gefen

Founder, Keren HaSchlichut



In the late 1970s, Dr. Winter had a profound impact on my father, inspiring him to go back to school to train for world mission. In 1983,

our whole family emigrated to Israel with a vision of the restoration of mission work from Israel to the nations. In 1997, Dad died in a plane crash in D. R. Congo, together with 20 African pastors. In 1999, we founded Keren HaSchlichut, the first Israeli world mission agency.

I finally met Dr. Winter myself only in January 2004. Yet, he quickly became a significant mentor to me. We met during each of my visits to the U.S. Center, usually including a meal. Throughout the rest of the year, we would brainstorm over the phone and exchange each other's writings for feedback. Dr. Winter was an incredibly creative and prolific thinker, and he influenced me far more than he probably realized. In our discussions, there were so many eureka moments when multiple incomplete thoughts and ideas would click into place and become whole. There were other moments when he would verbalize things I already knew in the back of my mind, but had not been able to express. He served to refine and make more relevant what we do, propelling and accelerating much of our work. I will remain forever grateful for Dr. Winter's friendship.

In his remembrance, I recite a phrase from Kaddish, a Jewish prayer of mourning. "Blessed and praised, glorified and exalted, raised and honored, uplifted and lauded is the

name of the Holy One, blessed be He, beyond any blessing, song, praise and consolation uttered in the world."

May the Holy One, blessed be He, comfort you.

Geoff Tunnicliffe

International Director/CEO,
World Evangelical Alliance



On behalf of the World Evangelical Alliance and our entire global family, I want to extend our deepest sympathy to the Winter

family, friends and colleagues in ministry. I first became aware of Dr. Winter in the fall of 1974 during my missionary training in Chicago. I had the privilege of having Paul Little, the program director of the Lausanne '74 Congress, as one of my trainers. Through Paul's teaching, the content of the historic congress, including Dr. Winter's landmark speech, were outlined to us. However, as a young missionary I was not fully aware of the impact that Dr. Winter would make on the late 20th century mission movement.

In the years that followed I became more aware of Dr. Winter's teaching through his provocative and mind-stretching writings. I watched with amazement the vision, the purchase and ultimately the development of the U.S. Center for World Mission. I was deeply inspired by his audacious faith and trust in God.

Dr. Winter profoundly impacted my thinking about the task of world evangelism and my work as a missionary, a mission mobilizer and a mission agency executive.

In my current capacity as the International Director of the World Evangelical Alliance, I travel to many countries and meet with hundreds of leaders. It is very evident that Dr. Winter has influenced the thinking of much of the evangelical world.

(I am writing this report from Korea, which now has the second largest mission movement in the world. It is clear that the global strategies of the Korean church have been strongly influenced by Dr. Winter's insights.)

In recent years, my personal interactions with Dr. Winter revolved around the integral nature of the gospel and how it is needed to transform every arena of society. I was deeply enriched by these conversations.

I will miss the prophetic voice of Dr. Winter. However, his impact for God's Kingdom will continue through the thousands of people he has influenced throughout his lifetime.

It is my prayer that the Church around the world will continue to be inspired to see the gospel taken to all peoples and transform the nations.

David Hesselgrave

Author, *Missiologist*

I want to acknowledge that God has graciously privileged me to know, think and work with several truly great Christian leaders of my day. Ralph D. Winter was one of them. The writings and doings of this man of God constitute a rich treasure trove, which women and men of missions will explore for years to come. Without question, scholars and practitioners alike will give careful consideration

IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED I BECAME MORE AWARE OF DR. WINTER'S TEACHING THROUGH HIS PROVOCATIVE AND MIND-STRETCHING WRITINGS. —GEOFF TUNNICLIFFE

to Ralph D. Winter's numerous contributions for many years to come. They will constitute an abiding legacy. Without question, they will give praise to God and voice to his thinking both in halls of learning and in fields of labor. That will constitute a continuing tribute.

Thomas Wang

Founder, Great Commission Center

I thank God for the life of Dr. Ralph Winter. His life in pioneer missions has inspired countless young people to devote their lives for global missions.

Ralph was always my big brother in Christ in terms of both age and wisdom. He was a few months older than me and was my "coach" in global missions.

Time magazine honored him as one of the 25 most influential evangelicals. For me, he was the leading mission strategist in our world. His thinking was ahead of his time. I remember in the early 1990s when I was in a meeting at the U.S. Center for World Mission and shared with the audience, "If you do not agree with Ralph today, you will five or ten years from now."

He was the one who awakened mission leaders of the world to the awareness of unreached people groups and frontier missions in his address to Lausanne '74. That changed our mission strategy from geographical concerns to the people group concept and thus ushered in a new era in global missions.

I am grateful for Ralph's support to the AD2000 and Beyond Movement. He and his staff kindly helped to compile the Compendium of the first Global Congress on World Evangelization (GCOWE), which was held in January 1989 in Singapore. It was before brother Luis Bush joined

the AD2000 and Beyond Movement. It was a great encouragement to me as the movement was facing difficulties in the beginning. In fact, Ralph was the one who gave birth to the idea of "A Church for Every People Group by the Year 2000" and used this as the sub-title for the 1980 Edinburgh Mission Conference. Luis and I merely added the words "And the Gospel for Every Person" in front of his phrase. Frankly speaking, Ralph was the forerunner of the AD2000 and Beyond Movement.

We will miss Ralph and his prophetic insight. But I am sure his writings and the U.S. Center for World Mission will continue to inspire churches and mission leaders around the world for years to come.

Rodolfo J. Girón

*Executive Director, IJET
Former President, COMIBAM*

On behalf of the Instituto Iberoamericano de Estudios Transculturales (IIET), based in Granada, Spain, all its leadership and personnel, and on behalf of myself, we extend our condolences for the departure to his home of dear Dr. Winter. Institutionally, we at IJET recognize the great contribution Dr. Winter made to the very reason of our existence, namely, to reach the unreached among the Muslim peoples and train the workers on the field, a passion that dominated Dr. Winter's life and ministry.

On a personal level, since my days at COMIBAM Int'l. as member of the executive committee and as International President, I will never forget the humble and encouraging attitude of Dr. Winter toward us, new Turks in the world of missions. His example, passion and mentorship was

always a source of encouragement to me. In particular, I will never forget the simple lifestyle of Dr. Winter, his classic soft, simple shoes that had the honor of moving one of the most influential persons in the world of missions, and in particular in my life and in the life of many, many other emerging leaders in the world of missions.

Could you please extend to Dr. Winter's inner family circle and to his extended family, and especially his great family at the USCWM, our prayers and desires that Dr. Winter's example and life will always be a source of encouragement to follow in his steps. Always sharp, always visionary, always passionate, but extremely rational and calm.

George Verwer

Founder, Operation Mobilization



We as a movement, Operation Mobilization, are so thankful that Ralph came into our lives. His love and esteem

and willingness to sit down and talk was a blessing and encouragement. We will never forget his visit to our International Offices, which at that time were where I live in London, England. He came like a tornado out of heaven in his unique style and message. He was so ready to think and pray out of the box and his contribution to reaching the unreached is beyond calculation. To our God be the glory. 🌐

A TIMELY AND PROVIDENTIALLY GUIDED TRANSITION

RICK WOOD

EDITOR, *MISSION FRONTIERS*

On May 5, 2009, just two weeks before he went to be with the Lord, Ralph D. Winter, Founder and General Director of the Frontier Mission Fellowship (FMF), named his successor. The Frontier Mission Fellowship is the evangelical missionary order which oversees and staffs such projects as the U.S. Center for World Mission and William Carey International University.

Dave Datema became the second General Director in the order's history, with the full approval of the FMF General Council. Dave has been a member of the Frontier Mission Fellowship since the year 2000. He is the son of missionaries to Sierra Leone, and has served as a pastor in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. He is a graduate of Winebrenner Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree. He and his wife Cathie have four children: Cuyler, Callie, Jill and Julie. Since coming to the FMF, Dave has been involved in the development of the INSIGHT program, which is designed to provide a biblical and missions-centered worldview to high school graduates.

Shortly after taking the leadership of the FMF, Datema issued a statement saying,

We will remain anchored in the missiology and values that Dr. Winter has bequeathed to us. There will be continuity with his life's work emphases and concerns. At the same time, there will also be creativity and change. Missiology and methodology can never remain static, because the world doesn't remain static. We will not only see ourselves as stewards of our FMF



Ralph D. Winter's last public appearance

heritage, we will also launch out into the great unknown with the same drive and courage that is part of his legacy. We will absolutely continue to be focused on the frontiers of mission, the boundaries and barriers of which, although hard to see, must be navigated.

This will call for risk, and risk will inevitably in some cases lead to failure. This will NOT be a time to fall back on past laurels. This will NOT be a time to catch our breath. This will NOT be a time to flee from the uncertainty and complexity of frontiers to the safer waters of established theory and principles. The greatest testimony of Dr. Winter's legacy will not be what he has accomplished; it will be what we accomplish in response to his leadership and concerns.

There has been a general sense among the staff of a special outpouring of God's grace during this transition and the final two weeks of Dr. Winter's life. One of the earliest staff members of the FMF, and an Associate General Director of the order, Bruce Graham, commented on this reality:

Dr. Winter had been preparing for a number of years for the transition. Returning home from the hospital for the last time, he decided it was time to designate the next General Director. The FMF General Council met a few days later and affirmed his choice. A special meeting of FMF staff was called to welcome Dave and Cathie into this new role. Shortly afterward, Dr. Winter's family felt it was time to call for hospice care. Several staff and friends were able to visit Dr. Winter over the next few days. Dave called for a day of fasting and prayer as the leadership team went on a one-day retreat on May 20th. The retreat was a special time of testimony, reflection, and relationship building. Dave closed the retreat with a prayer for Dr. Winter. The leadership team returned home encouraged and ready to break the fast with the rest of the staff who had been praying. At the end of that meal, around 9:00 p.m., we got word that Dr. Winter had died. It all seemed so "orchestrated by the Lord."

A new era has begun. 🌐

May 8, 2009



Dear FMF staff member (and others who read this):

As you know, the FMF executive team has wisely urged me to indicate in writing what should happen if I unexpectedly die or am suddenly incapacitated. Also, as you know, an order of the type we are in is one in which a successor is chosen by the incumbent, and that in the case of a new General Director there is no automatic succession according to seniority. For this reason it is important for the choice to be made in advance of any unexpected event, thus preventing confusion.

I may observe that to name a successor in the present circumstances is much easier than it would have been some years ago. Every year that goes by, the increasing maturity among our leaders enables greater and greater confidence in apparent qualifications. At this point, I could hardly go wrong in whom I choose since I feel confident that whoever that person is will be welcomed by the others and supported, the very function of "leadership" being considerably a team reality, as it already is extensively. A key factor is durability of present goals and perspective, not to be confined to them, but not to lose sight of them either. To leave them is possible if their original purpose is reviewed and is clearly understood.

Meanwhile, it seems unwise for an outsider to be chosen over long-term insiders. It might work for continuity, ideally, to find a person with roughly my qualifications, however, as important as those may seem, I believe God can better guide our community if vision and faith are held to be primary.

In this light I sense it is God's will that David and Cathie Datema should be the couple that would carry on (with the help of others) the role of General Director of the FMF, basically as a team in the way that Roberta and I and Barbara and I have functioned. Dave's steady involvement, his pastoral experience and his scholarly emphasis, and not least his concern for the FMF as a fellowship, all equip him and are factors in this decision. While he and Cathie may lack some abilities, they possess others I do not have. It is not a case of trying to find someone exactly like I am.

I earnestly trust that this succession will not be like the four generals who took Alexander the Great's place, and could not get along, nor like the ill-fated "troika" in the former Soviet Union. Even now, our strength lies considerably in the team-complex of capable and willing servants who make up our leadership, as well as our larger membership. I am immensely proud of our people. I believe our fellowship is stronger than ever and will continue to grow stronger, and that its best days are beyond my lifespan—if you are willing to work as a team, rather than a clutch of terrific individuals.

Upon the Datemas and this continuing team I pray God's manifold blessings.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ralph D. Winter".

Ralph D. Winter



David and Cathie Datema

TAKING INVENTORY OF YOUR LIFE

It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart (Ecclesiastes 7:2, NIV).

Ralph Winter's death has been the occasion for me to reflect more deeply on my life, to take inventory with a series of questions. You may wish to take a similar inventory of your life.

- **Am I prepared to die?** Am I afraid of death or of suffering before death? Am I eagerly anticipating heaven? Do I have any unfinished business on earth? Have I prepared my family to do well when they gather around my deathbed?
- **Am I ready to live?** Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and may have it in all its fullness" (John 10:10). Where is my life still lacking fullness? Where are my experiences and expectations feeble or attenuated? Where do I need to trust God more fully, to live life more deeply, to take more risks, to open my arms and my heart more widely?
- **What has captivated my heart?** Do my affections and ambitions need refreshment or realignment? Do I care about what God cares most about? Am I moving out into the broad, deep current of God's purposes, or am I splashing around in puddles of my own making?
- **Whose approval am I seeking?** Am I living primarily in the fear of God and before the Audience of One? Where and when do I care too much about the approval of others?
- **Am I a good steward of what God has given me?** Do I understand what I have and hold in trust? Am I walking confidently in my calling, recognizing more clearly that place where "your deep gladness meets the world's deep hunger" (Frederich Buechner)?
- **Am I aging well, and will I finish well?** Who am I becoming? Am I a joy to those who know me best? Where have my coping mechanisms become calcified or counter-productive? Am I becoming more mature in my character while remaining childlike in my spirit? 🌐



Darrell Dorr, a son-in-law of Ralph Winter, has served with the Frontier Mission Fellowship since 1980. The following is adapted from a letter he wrote to his ministry support team in the week following Dr. Winter's death.

HEART Obedience

From working closely with Ralph Winter as his assistant over 16 years, I recall him as a humble man whose deep love for God stirred him to multiply heart obedience among all nations. Of his many outstanding qualities, what I found most significant was Dr. Winter's example and insight regarding the nature of true heart obedience:

Heart Obedience, rather than worship . . .

- is the highest demonstration of love for the King.
- is the primary goal of Bible reading.
- is a group activity (not an individual pursuit).
- seeks God's kingdom (not comfort and security).
- resists the enemy's work (rather than embracing it as God's initiative).
- does the most important things (rather than the most convenient or enjoyable).
- does what God has led and empowered us to do (instead of asking God to do it for us).
- asks why we do what we do the way we do it (not whether everyone else does it this way).
- walks forward in faith (rather than waiting for full revelation).
- measures risk by kingdom value (not by the likelihood of success).
- enlists others in God's purpose (rather than being satisfied with personal obedience).
- equips others for obedience (instead of only looking to others for help).
- seeks God's glory in everything (rather than settling for mediocrity).
- pursues the impossible through God's power (instead of what we can accomplish in our own strength).

May we all draw inspiration from Ralph Winter's example of demonstrating his love for God by multiplying heart obedience among the nations. 🌐



Robby Butler is the founder of Mission Network, a mission mobilization organization focused on bridging the gap between pre-field missionary candidates and the mission field.