

The Wesley Heritage Foundation

www.wesleyheritagefoundation.org



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

PO Box 76 Henrico NC 27842 USA

WINTER 2009-2010

NEWSLETTER

A Word from the President:

Mark W. Wethington, Ph.D.

“Glory to the Newborn King!”

Charles Wesley was co-founder with his brother, John, of the revival movement which became known as “Methodism”. He expressed the theology of the revival best through his poetry, and, over the course of his life and ministry wrote over 5500 pieces. A portion of his poetry was put to music and is sung by those of the Wesleyan tradition throughout the world; some of these hymns have been translated into other languages, including Spanish. Tomo IX (Volume 9) of *Obras de Wesley*, which the Wesley Heritage Foundation published in 1998, contains 65 hymns of Wesley in Spanish.

Among Charles Wesley’s hymns, one of the best known and most sung during Christmas is “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”. He wrote this hymn in 1739. The tune with which this poem has been sung for over 150 years is one written by Felix Mendelssohn. It is a tune which dates from 1840 when Mendelssohn wrote a cantata entitled “Festgesang” to commemorate Johann Gutenberg and his invention of the printing press. It is a tune which is much more festive than Charles Wesley or the Anglican Church would have used in the 1700’s. Also, Wesley would probably be quite intrigued to know that this hymn is sung by the Peanuts gang at the end of Charles Schultz’s *A Charlie Brown Christmas!*

In most modern hymnals one finds three stanzas to this hymn. However, there are two other stanzas which are part of this poem by Charles but which are seldom included or sung. This is unfortunate because they are stanzas which “complete” the Wesleyan theology. The fifth stanza goes like this:

Adam’s likeness, Lord, efface, stamp Thine image in its place:

Second Adam from above, reinstate us in Thy love.

Let us, Thee, though lost, regain; Thee, the Life, the inner man:

O, to all Thyself impart, formed in each believing heart.

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory, to the newborn King!”

(continued on back)



Some of the students and faculty of the new Peru seminary

Update on the Seminary in Peru

The Foundation is continuing its consultative and financial support of the new Methodist seminary in Lima, Peru (Seminario Teologico Wesleyano). The first semester of classes began in August of this year and will conclude during this month of December. The second semester will begin on March 1, 2010. Dr. Mark Wethington will begin a course at the seminary on March 1, and will conclude it through the seminary’s Distance Learning. The Distance Learning Program allows faculty to teach via computer technology and also enables the seminary to provide courses to its two extension programs in Cuzco and Huancayo. Persons can support the new seminary in Peru (STW) either through contributions directly to the Foundation or by designating your gift to the Peru Scholarship Fund (which goes directly to student support).

The Mercy Endowment

The Mercy Endowment of the Foundation was developed in 2008 in order to accumulate funds for compassion and justice work among Methodists in Latin America; works of mercy were an essential component of the Wesleyan Revival. While these funds may not be drawn from for several years, persons are encouraged to give to this designation. For example, Dr. and Mrs. Mark Wethington anticipate leading a medical team to Guatemala in April 2010 to assist an existing children’s medical clinic located in a shanty area near Antigua.

("Glory to the Newborn King" continued)

This stanza reminds me of a phrase from another Charles Wesley hymn, "Finish, then, thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be" (Love Divine, All Loves Excelling). The one whose birth we await in these days of Advent, Jesus the Christ, is the one who "reinstates us in [God's] love" through the imparting of himself to us, "formed in each believing heart". We are made holy in this life only by the grace of God in Jesus Christ, not by our own doing. The justifying work which Christ has done FOR us is worked out IN us through the sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit which "stamps" Christ's image within us.

May the Love which comes down at Christmas indwell your life with grace and peace.

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

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Mercy Endowment

Peru Scholarship Fund

May we send you updates on current news of the Wesley Heritage Foundation by e-mail?

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

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

Work Team Opportunities

Beth B. Wethington, Volunteer

As part of its support of the new seminary in Peru, the Foundation is organizing work teams for the renovation of the Miramar Methodist Church in Lima into the seminary dormitory. Already in the past year several teams have converted two former Sunday School rooms into living quarters. Two more church teams are scheduled for February and March 2010: Southern Pines UMC and Davidson UMC, both in North Carolina.

Following a call to the ministry is challenging in the best of circumstances. Answering the call in a Latin American country presents greater logistical barriers. Many of those who seek to study in a theological seminary are limited by lack of financial resources and the inability to structure courses around a need to continue employment. About twelve years have passed since the closing of the former seminary in Lima. Now, through the collaborative efforts of the Wesley Heritage Foundation and the Methodist Church of Peru (Iglesia Metodista de Peru), the Seminario Teologico Wesleyano opened in August. The students comprise a group from the far reaches of Peru including men and women of varying ages and backgrounds. Those coming from remote areas find lodging in the Miramar dormitory in Lima. While providing a roof over their heads, the structure provides little else in the way of comforts or needs. Efforts are underway to renovate this structure into a better living and study environment. We are grateful to the North Raleigh team who initiated the process last January by replacing the floor, windows and doors in two rooms which were then finished off with a new coat of paint. The teams going in the Spring 2010 will do renovations to the kitchen/dining area. The bathrooms and water lines need work, the parsonage has fallen into disrepair, and more rooms can be converted into study space; the list goes on and includes the need for beds, dressers and other furnishings.

If you would like to be a part of a mission team to do some of this work, contact Beth Wethington at 252-536-1040 or at beth@wethingtons.com.

Primitive Physic

In 1747, John Wesley wrote a book on medical cures called **Primitive Physic** which subsequently was republished numerous times. Wesley wrote it at a time when medicine was becoming "professionalized" and many of the common people of England were being "left out" or "priced out" of health care (sound familiar?). Francisco Mendoza, a physician and Bishop of the Methodist Church of Venezuela, will soon complete the translation of this work into Spanish. However, the Foundation is seeking funds to publish it. We estimate that a "desk-top" publication of about 2000 copies can be accomplished for \$5000. If you are interested in supporting this particular project please contact Dr. Mark Wethington at 910-295-7720 or at mark@wethingtons.com.

Please Remember: *Obras de Wesley* in all 14 volumes is available on CD at a reduced price in quantity through the Foundation office; or at regular price through the website. The DVD "La Historia del Metodismo" is also available through the same means.

