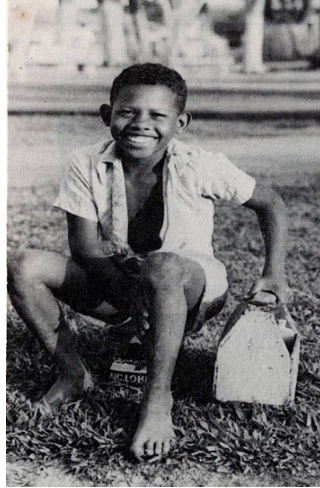




VETERANS OF  
**globalmissions**  
ASSOCIATION

The Vanguard - Fall, 2022

“The Vanguard”



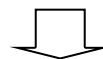
## JANDRO

It was a hot day as usual in Monte Plata, a little pueblo in the interior of the Dominican Republic. Occasionally a little whirlwind would pick up dust from the street and hurl it with a vengeance against the weather-beaten adobe houses.

I was deeply engrossed in thought as I slowly walked across the little central plaza, and he had to speak several times before his pleading penetrated my subconscious. “Limpia bota, limpia bota?” Turning towards the voice, my eyes fell upon a raggedly dressed boy with a little box that obviously contained some shoe shining materials. “How much?” I asked. “10 centavos” was the reply. He wasn’t wearing any shoes of his own that would testify as to the quality of the service he was offering, but the price was more than reasonable. So, I found a shady spot on a nearby bench and he began to industriously clean the dust from my shoes.

“Como se llama?” I asked. What is your name? “Alejandro” he said, “but my friends just call me Jandro.” “How old are you?” I inquired. “Twelve years old,” he proudly stated as he enthusiastically, if inexpertly, smeared the polish. It was then that I noticed his eyes. His eyes were those of a person much older. They lacked the innocence that a twelve-year-old’s should have had.

“Why aren’t you in school today?” I probed. —partly scolding and partly teasing. “I don’t go to school. My Mom can’t afford to buy me any books.” “What about your Father?” I asked. “Where does he work?” Once again, avoiding my steady gaze he replied, “my Dad left us a long time ago. My Mom can’t work because I have five little brothers and sisters. So, I go out in the morning until I earn enough to buy some food and then take it home so we can eat. Then I go out in the afternoon until I make enough for supper.” He stopped his labor, reached deep into his torn trousers, pulled out a few coins and began to laboriously count them. At last he said, “I’ve made 65 cents this morning —pretty soon I’ll be going home for lunch!”



Jandro (Continued)

As he resumed his task I retreated back into my thoughts as the meaning of what I had just been told unfolded before me. Here was a twelve-year-old boy with the full responsibility of supporting a family of seven persons on \$1.50 a day. I then understood the lack of innocence in his eyes.

My thoughts traveled to Santo Domingo where my own precious children were undoubtedly eating a delicious meal prepared by the very capable hands of my wife. I was abruptly brought back to reality by his announcement “Ya terminé.” All finished. There stood Alejandro looking proudly down at my vastly improved shoes.

I wanted to talk more, but soon he was on his way with a healthy tip to go along with his 65 cents, calling out, “limpia bota, limpia bota!”

It was just as well that he was gone—for you see, he wouldn’t understand.....No, Jandro just wouldn’t have understood the tears.....**my tears!**



## Honoring our Veterans!

Veteran Missionary Daniel Scott just turned 90! He is still active in Ministry and even contemplating starting another Spanish Language Church in the St. Louis Metro area! Recently, a large contingent of Family and Friends gathered to celebrate the Life and Times of this great Veteran Missionary.

Congratulations Bro. Scott!



## Honoring our Veterans! *(Continued)*

### Gary and Linda Reed

Recently, Pastor and Sister Kenneth James, and the Members of True Life Tabernacle in Columbia, Missouri, honored Veteran Missionary Gary Reed and his late wife Linda for their long and storied career as UPCI Missionaries to Jordan.

This well-deserved "Tribute Week-end" was attended by several of our Global Missions' Officials including General Director Bruce Howell, Regional Directors Robert Rodenbush, The Michael Tuttle's and The Adam Hunley's.

Representing the VGMA were Chairman Jerry and Beth Burns, Vice-Chairman Garry and Victoria Tracy and past Chairman Dorsey Burk.

Congratulations Bro. Reed on a job well done and a life well lived!



The Extended Reed Family



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Check out the  
new Videos  
posted on the  
**VGMA  
Website!**

[www.vgmaupci.com](http://www.vgmaupci.com)

Many new  
“Tributes”  
have been  
added, includ-  
ing one focus-  
ing on the Life  
and Legacy of  
**Audrene  
Scism.**

**Save The Dates!**

**2022 VGMA Annual Banquet and Business Meeting**  
**October 7, 2022**  
**Orange County Convention Center—Room S210A**  
**@ 2:30PM**  
**Orlando, Florida**


**RSVP for Business Meeting required by September 15,  
2022!**

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**2023 VGMA Retreat**  
**April 25-27, 2023**  
**Lodge of the Ozarks, Branson, Missouri**

**Welcome to our Newest Members!**

**Dwayne and Linda Abernathy**



The VGMA extends their sincerest and heartfelt  
condolences to the Families of the following  
Members who have been recently promoted to their  
Heavenly Home:

**Mervyn D. Miller**

