



VETERANS OF
globalmissions
ASSOCIATION

The Vanguard - January, 2024

James and Martha Burton inducted into the UPCI "Order of the Faith."



James and Martha Burton were married in 1951 and appointed as UPCI Missionaries to Venezuela, South America in 1962. When they arrived on the Field there were only 3 Apostolic Churches in the country. Today, there are more than 1500 Churches and 1700+ licensed Ministers.

The Burtons later served in Uruguay, South America for 3 years and as Regional Director for South America for 5 years. They officially retired from Foreign Service in 1999 after having served for almost 4 decades.

James Burton became the first religious leader of any organization to receive the prestigious "Medal of Honor" from Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. Only eternity will reveal the Burton's ministry's far-reaching effect on the "The Kingdom!"

The Burtons were not self-promoters and the Venezuelan Church seemingly burst suddenly onto the scene after one of our notable leaders visited and spread the word about what a dynamic church the UPCI had in Venezuela. Someone called it "South America's best kept secret!"

This correspondent and his wife had a "front-row seat" to watch the Burton's ministry in action. We served alongside them from 1973 to 1977. The lessons learned served us well as we later moved on to raise up a Work in another Spanish-speaking country.

"The Vanguard"

Sis. Burton was an amazing cook and put her skills to good use feeding her husband and children. Her “Sloppy Joe” and “Venezuelan Arepas” were a couple of our favorites.

Traveling with Bro. Burton was an adventure and we always returned with an outrageous and humorous story to share. Like the time Bro. Burton, myself, and a National Pastor traveled for several hours in a canoe to reach our Church in La Victoria de Apure. At that time, traveling by canoe was the only way to reach the Church.

Being next to the river, this jungle place was horrendously saturated with bugs, mosquitos, spiders and snakes. Bro. Burton was preaching the evening service in candle light, when all of a sudden, the congregation began to laugh and point. Hearing a commotion behind him, Bro. Burton turned around to find that the National Pastor was dancing around without a shirt on. It seemed that a Tarantula Spider had fallen down from the roof and taken shelter under the Pastor’s shirt!

Bro. Burton had an amazing and disarming sense of humor and we loved to listen to his never-ending supply of missionary stories. He was able to laugh at himself and that endeared him to us. He loved to tell the following story:

The Burtons owned a dog named *Porque*. The dog loved to dash out of the house and roam the neighborhood whenever he had the opportunity to escape. One day a Venezuelan Pastor came to the door while Bro. Burton was away on a trip. The Pastor asked Sister Burton if he could visit with Bro. Burton.

After being told that Bro. Burton was not home the Pastor turned to leave. Just at that moment, *Porque* (the dog), dashed out the door, and Sis. Burton yelled out in a sharp loud voice “*Porque, Porque!*” (Well, “*porque*” just happens to be the Spanish word for “**why.**”) The Venezuelan Pastor, shocked and startled by Sister Burton’s “question,” turned around and quickly said, “*It’s OK Sis. Burton - I just wanted a moment of his time!*”

It was a joy to see, visit and reconnect with Sister Burton at the Indianapolis General Conference. We will always cherish the memories we share with them!



If you “copy and paste” the link shown below into your Computer Browser you can view the Burton’s UPCI Official “Order of the Faith” Induction Video.

<https://youtu.be/z-95HJ9QA84?si=o6EWFdlhVHdz-fit>

The VGMA Can Impact Bible Schools Worldwide



Assistant GATS Coordinator
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Global Missions' Bible Schools need you! No one has the experience and knowledge for training national teachers and working with global Bible Schools like veteran missionaries. This is an invitation for you to consider becoming part of the ever-growing team of Global Educators and to help in Bible School training globally.

Several veteran missionaries have already joined the Global Educator team and are actively being a blessing to Bible Schools around the world.

Did you know that Global Missions now has over 530 Bible Schools in 147 nations? More than 10,000 students are being trained for ministry every year.

The main focus of the Global Educator team is training and equipping national Bible School teachers and administrators to be more effective and productive. As you well know, the vast majority of our Bible School teachers around the world have very little training as educators. Every nation with a Bible School program is encouraged to hold annual faculty development seminars to grow and equip their faculty to be more effective in the classroom. The results have been incredible. GATS provides lesson material, and the Global Educators provide the instruction and expertise.

Global Educators are also active in writing Bible School textbooks, writing lessons for the Faculty Development seminars, helping in the administration of the GATS program, teaching advanced Bible School classes where needed, translating materials, creating PowerPoint presentations, promoting GATS at events, and developing answer keys and resource materials. There are so many ways you can continue to invest in Bible School training.

Global Educators come under the umbrella of Short-Term missions and GATS (the Global Association of Theological Studies). A Global Educator is assigned a PIM account number and can raise funding for their overseas travel.

Reach out to GATS@upci.org or call Brad Thompson at 321-360-9557 to learn more about the Global Educator team and to see how you can help us continue to raise the level of Bible School excellence worldwide.

**Some of the Veteran Missionaries who are currently involved in GATS and the Global Educator team:*

Darline Royer
Dorsey Burk
Darrel Giessler

Gerald McLean
TJ Marshall
Yvonne Nix

Jerry Burns
William Turner
Garry Tracy

Ed Tilley
Steve Nix
Don Hanscom

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Check out the
new Videos
posted on the
VGMA
Website!

www.vgmaupci.com

Just added:

**A Memorial
Tribute to Rev.
Lloyd L. Shirley.**

Find it, in alpha-
betical order,
under the
"Tributes" Tab.

www.vgmaupci.com

Newly Elected VGMA Secretary!



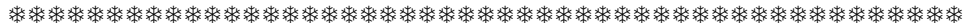
Vicki Simoneaux - VGMA Secretary

Vicki and her husband Tremayne served as Global Missionaries in Europe (Military Ministries Europe) and Africa (Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique) for over 20 years.

Vicki is First Lady of Victory Worship Center in Houston Texas and currently serves as Ladies Ministries President in the South Texas District.

She is a mother to 3 wonderful children (Micah, Lauren, Timothy) and "Mamaw" to 6 amazing grandchildren.

Vicki loves life, family, and serving in the Kingdom.



The VGMA welcomes New Members:

Bruce A. Howell
Mike and Dianna Tuttle
Jeremy and Khrista Favors



The VGMA Membership extends its heartfelt condolences to
the extended families of

Lloyd Shirley
Frances Cupples—Holland
They will be greatly missed by all of us!

