

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN SPECIAL MISSION
2010

IN 2005 UNITED METHODIST WOMEN DECIDED TO RECOGNIZE A MAN IN OUR CONGREGATION ON FATHER'S DAY BY AWARDING HIM A UMW SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION AWARD FOR HIS HARD WORK, VOLUNTEERISM AND DEDICATION. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF DEDICATED MEN CURRENTLY IN OUR CHURCH WHO SPEND NUMEROUS HOURS VOLUNTEERING THEIR TIME TO MAKE OUR CHURCH THE BEST POSSIBLE PLACE IN WHICH TO WORSHIP. THEIR MANY AND VARIED GIFTS ARE APPRECIATED AND WE SAY THANK YOU TO EACH ONE OF YOU.

THIS IS THE SIXTH AWARD UNITED METHODIST WOMEN HAVE MADE. OUR RECIPIENT FOR THIS AWARD THIS YEAR HAS DEDICATED HIMSELF TO THE WORK OF THE LORD FOR MANY, MANY YEARS.

THIS YEARS RECIPIENT WAS BORN IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS. THE FAMILY THEN MOVED TO OREGAN LIVING THERE FOR A FEW YEARS. SUBSEQUENTLY, HIS PARENTS, SISTER AND TWIN BROTHER SETTLED IN SANTA MONICA WHERE OUR RECIPIENT GRADUATED FROM SANTA MONICA HIGH SCHOOL IN 1942. THIS WAS A TIME WHEN THE CLOUDS OF WAR WERE GATHERING. OUR RECIPIENT ATTENDED OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE. WHILE AT COLLEGE HE JOINED THE ARMY RESERVE. HE SPENT TWO YEARS IN COLLEGE WHEN HE WAS CALLED TO JOIN THE

ARMY ENROLLING IN THE ARMY SPECIALIST TRAINING PROGRAM. HE WAS A PART OF THE 71ST INFANTRY THIRD BATTALION.

OUR RECIPIENT SAILED TO ENGLAND ON THE QUEEN MARY AND THEN WAS DEPLOYED TO THE FRENCH GERMAN BORDER. AFTER SERVING FOR ONLY A MONTH AS A RADIO OPERATOR HIS UNIT WAS CAPTURED AND SHIPPED TO A PRISON CAMP IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. SIX MONTHS LATER THE WAR ENDED. RETURNING TO THE STATES HE RETURNED TO OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE TO FINISH HIS EDUCATION AND THERE HE MET HIS FUTURE WIFE WHEN BOTH OF THEM WERE RUNNING FOR THE SAME OFFICE IN THE STUDENT BODY ELECTIONS.

THEY MARRIED IN 1947 AND MOVED TO DAVIS, CALIFORNIA WHERE OUR RECIPIENT ATTENDED VETERINARY SCHOOL. THEY EVENTUALLY RETURNED TO THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AND SETTLED IN CANOGA PARK, RAISING THREE SONS. HE DECIDED TO SET UP A VETERINARY PRACTICE IN AN OLD HOUSE ON CANOGA AVENUE WITH THE HELP OF ONE OF OUR CHURCH MEMBERS. EVENTUALLY A NEW HOSPITAL WAS BUILT ON THE SPOT AND FOR YEARS WAS THE MAIN VETERINARY HOSPITAL SERVING THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY. THE WIFE OF THAT CHURCH MEMBER WHO HELPED OUR RECIPIENT WORKED AS ITS OFFICE MANAGER. HE WAS WELL KNOWN IN THE VALLEY FOR HIS PRECISE SURGERY ON

DOBERMAN'S EARS. THE BUSINESS SERVED THE PUBLIC FOR 35 YEARS. SOME OF THE CLIENTS WERE PEARL BAILEY, SEVERAL OF BING CROSBY'S SONS, ROY ROGERS AND DALE EVANS. ONE OF HIS PATIENTS WAS A MOVIE LION THAT HE TREATED IN THE DRIVEWAY OF THE HOSPITAL. OUR RECIPIENT SOLD HIS PRACTICE IN 1986 BUT FILLED IN FOR OTHER VACATIONING DOCTORS UNTIL FINALLY RETIRING IN 1989.

WHEN THE CHILDREN WERE YOUNG OUR RECIPIENT WAS HEAVILY INVOLVED WITH THE YMCA AND WORKED WITH THE "Y" FOR 35 YEARS. VACATION TIME WAS SPENT BACKPACKING WITH THE ENTIRE FAMILY. FOR 31 YEARS HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BARBERSHOP QUARTET. IN ADDITION, SINCE 1955 HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF OUR CHURCH CHOIR. OUR RECIPIENT ENJOYS WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND AS A RESULT HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN THE ORGANIZATION AND WORKING WITH THE PUPPET MINISTRY FOR 25 YEARS. HE HAS SERVED OUR CHURCH IN MANY CAPACITIES OVER THE YEARS AS A MEMBER OF THE PARSONAGE COMMITTEE, THE PROPERTY & UPKEEP COMMITTEE, LAY LEADER, SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER, ETC. AS YOU CAN SEE HE IS VERY DEDICATED AND LOVES TO SUPPORT HIS GRANDCHILDREN BY ATTENDING THEIR SOCCER GAMES.

**WE ARE HAPPY TO AWARD THIS SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION TO
FRANK WILKEN. FRANK PLEASE COME FORWARD.**