

African missionaries to speak at Nazarene church

Monday, Sept. 24, at 6 p.m. Heppner residents will have the opportunity to hear missionaries Wellington and Hellen Obotte speak at the Heppner Church of the Nazarene. According to Wanda Lee, this is a special opportunity to hear about overseas missions from a different perspective. Unlike many visiting missionaries in American churches, the Obottes are not American. Rather, the couple is from Kenya, Africa, working as global missionaries with the Church of the Nazarene and currently assigned in Malawi, Africa.

Wellington is a mission coordinator in Malawi, overseeing all the work of the Church of the Nazarene in the country. Among many other duties, he mentors and trains five district superintendents and other key leaders, does leadership development and empowerment, works with church growth strategies, coordinates WWT teams, oversees church constructions, teaches at a theological college, and conducts pastoral workshops, trainings and revivals.

Hellen is the country coordinator for the child sponsorship program, works with pastors' wives and ladies' ministries and speaks at marriage seminars, among other duties.

Wellington was born in western Kenya to a peasant farmer. He received Christ in his senior year in high school. Following his conversion, he went out and started witnessing to some young people about Jesus Christ. While doing this, he said he felt God calling him to ministry. He began as a missionary under the



Wellington and Hellen Obotte

mentorship of Dr. Harmon Schmelzenbach in 1988. As a missionary, he oversaw the planting more than 600 viable churches, developed and organized these churches into three districts in Tanzania, and pioneered church work on Zanzibar Island, which is 98 percent Islamic, by planting 10 churches.

Hellen was born in western Kenya to parents who never believed in Christ. Hellen accepted Jesus at a high school Christian Union meeting. She had always wanted to serve as a Roman Catholic nun but, when she got saved, she started to witness to her friends who were influencing her to be a nun.

Wellington received a bachelor's degree in theology from Canadian Nazarene College and a Master of Arts in religion from Africa Nazarene University. Hellen received her degree in library science in Kenya.

Prior their missionary assignment, Wellington was a pastor and district superintendent of Kenya's southeast district from 1990

to 1995. During that time, Hellen took care of their three small children, Jimmy, Juliet and Jerald. She also worked at Africa Nazarene University, Nairobi, Kenya as a librarian. Now, Jimmy is grown up, Juliet is an Olivet Nazarene University (ONU) graduate hoping to start work on her MBA and Jerald is a junior at ONU, pursuing a Bachelor of Science in computers.

The Obottes were first appointed as missionaries in 1996. They served in Tanzania until October 2007. While in the field, their primary ministries were church planting, growth, leadership development, WWT coordination, pastoral training leading to ordination, mission coordinator for all church activities, holding revivals, and more. Hellen was in charge of nine Jesus Film teams, planting more than 60 churches every month, training pastors' wives how to read, and empowering women in small-scale businesses to supplement their livelihood, among other things.

Marriage Licenses

The Morrow County Clerk has issued the following marriage licenses:

September 13: -Joseph Howard Fischer, 21, Heppner, and Megan Ann Orr, 22, Heppner.

Obituaries

Edward Paul Hiemstra

Edward Paul Hiemstra, 92, died August 28, 2012 in Bozeman, MT. A celebration of Ed's life will be held Saturday, September 22, at 3 p.m. at Sunset Memorial Gardens, Richland, WA. There will be a graveside service followed by a time of fellowship at the Country Gentlemen in Kennewick, WA. A second memorial service will be held in Kellogg, ID sometime in October.

Ed was born March 8, 1920 in Columbus, MT to immigrant parents from Friesland, Netherlands. While just a small boy, he developed a strong work ethic from his hard-working farming parents, which he carried throughout his life. The family of nine moved to a dairy farm in Nampa, ID in 1929. Ed completed his schooling there, competing in football and track. Sterling College in Kansas then welcomed him to their athletic program, where he excelled in football, basketball, baseball and track. His performance in the Kansas All-Star game brought him a contract to play for the New York Giants in 1942. He was a stellar rookie and planned on a long career in pro ball, but Uncle Sam had other plans. He was drafted into the Army Air Corp in 1943, where he directed physical training programs and coached the Troop Carrier football team in 1945.

His hometown of Nampa garnered his teaching and coaching services for football and track but, after one year, he had an itch to move along. The little mining town of Kellogg caught his eye. There, he coached football, basketball and track along with teaching wood shop and United States history. In basketball, his teams won five district, three regional and three state titles. His final years of coaching and teaching found him in Oregon, where, after 39 years in total, he retired in Heppner.

Ed always found time to work within areas of community service, no matter what the project or program to be completed. He worked summers, not only to augment his teaching salary but also to expand his horizons. He always gave 110 percent

to the job, be it logging, driving ore truck for the mine or running recreation programs for the YMCA. One summer, upon hearing a voice holler, "Thar's gold in them thar hills," he and a fellow teacher borrowed two burros from the local Shriners Club and headed for the Bitterroot Mountains in central Idaho. Weeks later, they dragged in with a load of, you guessed it...tall tales. He did take a couple of summers off to complete his master's degree in education. Ed was a life-long learner and teacher, as well as an avid athlete and outdoorsman. He relished the telling and re-telling and re-re-telling of his exploits.

Coach Hiemstra lived a full and accomplished life. Joining him on his roller coaster ride were his high-school sweetheart and wife, Marylee, who passed away in 2002; his two daughters, Patricia and Theresa; and numerous students whom he took hunting and fishing, as well as feeding, clothing and transporting them. He also relished the many family reunions where he would catch up on their comings and goings.

In 2003, Ed returned to his beloved Montana, where he married Clara VanDyken. They enjoyed nine years of scenic drives, visiting friends and relatives in the Dutch community, playing Mexican Train, working crossword puzzles and of course, watching sports on TV, along with game shows and shopping channels. They would attend various functions with retirement-home friends, riding on a bus. He would always break out into song five district, three regional and three state titles. His final years of coaching and teaching found him in Oregon, where, after 39 years in total, he retired in Heppner.

As Ed's health began to decline and he couldn't drive anymore, he spent countless hours, calling friends and relatives. He was at his best when regaling one and all with his deeds. Thank you to everyone who heard a story ten times over and still listened with rapt attention. You did

make an old coach very happy.

Ed's failing health and loss of independence did not define the man. He can be remembered as a perfectionist who demanded no more or less from others than he did of himself; as a man who was undaunted by challenges of any kind; as a defender of right and of those who were wronged; as a jack-of-all trades and master of many; and as a prideful



Edward Paul Hiemstra

man...proud of his own prowess, yes, but also extremely proud of his athletes, students, friends, relatives and especially of his kids, grandkids and great-grandkids. He was most proud, perhaps, of his Friesian heritage. He came from good solid stock, he would say. This gives his family comfort, knowing he's in his heavenly home with his parents, Taeke and Fanny; his siblings, Harry, Arthur, Hilda, Nellie, Helen and George; in-laws, Leonard and Edna; sister/brother-in-law, Anna Mae and Harlan; and niece/nephew, Paula and Ted. He also joins his beloved granddaughter, Trisha and her husband, Len Lemire; favorite dog, Duke and kitty, Blue.

Ed leaves behind a host of friends and family including wife, Clara; daughters, Patricia (Bob) Frick and Theresa (Hershel) Griggs; stepson, Will (Ruth) VanDyken; step-daughter, Karen (Les) Postman; grandchildren, April (Josh) Artzer, Wendy (Greg) Wardlow, Scott Frick, Becky (Dan) Haverfield; great-grandchildren, Jordyn and Scott Artzer, Sierra, Savanna, Chyenne and Caden Haverfield; sister-in-law, Merrydell (Hiemstra) Morris; Clara's grandchildren and great-grandchildren; special nieces, nephews, greats and great-greats; and long-time fellow crony, Ray Faraca. "Go Wildcats!"

Memorials may be made in his memory to any local hospice or food bank.

Go in peace Ed, Daddy, Granddad. Your worldly work is finished; rest in the Lord.

J. Benham Malcom

J. Benham Malcom, 56, Science degree from Eastern Oregon University. He was married in 2005 to Melissa Southern; they celebrated the birth of their only daughter, Elly, in 2007. Benham enjoyed his 56 years in Oregon, Washington, San Diego, CA and Phoenix, AZ. Professionally, he had an accomplished career in finance and commercial real estate. He was self-employed as a broker at the time of his passing.



J. Benham Malcom

He was born in Washington State on September 12, 1955. He graduated from Heppner High School and then continued on to get his Bachelor of

Science degree from Eastern Oregon University.

He was married in 2005 to Melissa Southern; they celebrated the birth of their only daughter, Elly, in 2007.

Benham enjoyed his 56 years in Oregon, Washington, San Diego, CA and Phoenix, AZ. Professionally, he had an accomplished career in finance and commercial real estate. He was self-employed as a broker at the time of his passing.

In his free time, he enjoyed traveling, running,

and flying and hanging out with his family. He particular loved his Oregon Ducks.

He is survived by his wife, Melissa; daughter, Elly; sister, Camille Peck; brother-in-law, Steve Peck; their children; and the Van Winkle family, who helped raise Benham as one of their own after his parents passed away.

In lieu of flowers, an educational fund for his daughter has been established at the Arizona Bank and Trust. Checks can be written to Elly Malcom and mailed c/o Arizona Bank & Trust, 7910 S. Kyrene Road #108, Tempe, AZ 85284.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A FAIR WRAP-UP POTLUCK DINNER

We will also be planning the Centennial Fair (next year).
October 3, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.
at the Morrow County Fairgrounds
POTLUCK=last name A-L bring a salad, M-Z bring a dessert.

This is a meeting to discuss and/or complain about fair. It's also a chance to get to know everybody involved in the Fair
Please RSVP by September 21 by 11:00 a.m. @ 541-676-9474

MORROW COUNTY FAIR BOARD SEEKS MEMBERS-

Board member requirements include attending monthly meetings, working during fair time and going to convention, if possible, in addition to other times of the year when members may be asked to volunteer or help out. The term is for three years. To become a member just send a letter indicating such to the Morrow County Court, P.O. Box 788, Heppner, OR 97836.