

Missionaries

The theme “**Where He Leads Me I Will Follow**” naturally leads one to think of missionaries, and so this volume of *The Chronicle* concludes with two articles about missionaries. Both stories involve assignments to China and the unexpected hardship of war and internment by or fleeing from enemy forces. Both stories also involve lives of following before and after the periods of missionary service.

Woodrow (1913-1997) and Sara Schilling (1912-2000) Bartges were missionaries within the Evangelical tradition of United Methodism who followed God’s leading first to China and then back to United States, where they were instrumental in establishing the denomination’s Albright Memorial Church in Washington DC as a flagship church with sound finances and a fully integrated congregation.

Rufus (1895-1974) and Mary Daugherty (1894-1963) Lefever were missionaries to China within the United Brethren tradition of United Methodism. Rufus’s sister Myrtle (1898-1977) Lefever followed in his footsteps and also served in China. Each of them returned to China following their official missionary service there to continue academic capacities.

Both stories involve undergraduate training at their denominational colleges and seminaries (Albright College and the Evangelical School of Theology for the Bartges family, Lebanon Valley College and Bonebrake Seminary for the Lefever family) and continuing friendships formed at those institutions. Whether one is serving as a missionary in a foreign land or in a secular vocation at home, the persons in these articles would strongly affirm that God can best use those who prepare themselves academically and have the support of family and friends as they seek to follow where God may lead.