Class Notes

Linfield Magazine Staff

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Recommended Citation
Available at: http://digitalcommons.linfield.edu/linfield_magazine/vol3/iss1/14

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# Mideast: finding signs of hope

A 25-foot, graffiti-scared concrete wall adorned guards at crowded checkpoints. Silent, black-clad women stood in the rain. Bereaved families. These are images Jim Ledbetter `51 can’t shake from his childhood in Israel and the West Bank.

But he also witnessed both Palestinians and Israelis working for peace in the region.

Ledbetter spent two weeks in November traveling in Israel and the West Bank with a 13-member delegation, Interfaith Peace Builders, organized by the Fellowship of Reconciliation-U.S.A. Ledbetter said he joined the delegation “to meet people in Israel and Palestine, hear their stories and give my support in their struggle.”

Ledbetter, a retired executive minister of the Fellowship of Reconciliation-U.S.A., was inspired to get involved after attending the North American Baptist Conference of Portland. Mike is vice president and general manager for Gentris Corp.

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Mideast: finding signs of hope

A 25-foot, graffiti-scrawled concrete wall. Armored guards at crowded checkpoints. Silent, black-clad women in long robes, their wigs hidden by mantles. Bereaved families. These are images Jim Ledbetter ’51 carried home from Israel and the West Bank.

But he also witnessed both Palestinians and Israelis working for peace in the region.

Ledbetter spent two weeks in November traveling in Israel and the West Bank with a 13-member delegation, Interfaith Peace Builders, organized by the Fellowship of Reconciliation-U.S.A. Ledbetter said he joined the delegation “to meet people in Israel and Palestine, hear their stories and give my support in their struggle.”

Ledbetter, a retired executive manager of the American Baptist Church of Oregon, was inspired to get involved after attending the McMinnville Baptist Peace Fellowship conference last summer in McMinnville.

Ledbetter saw women in Black standing silently in the rain, holding their anti-war signs at Jerusalem’s busiest intersection, as one or two members do every Friday in the peace movement that has spread across the globe.

“The most disturbing thing we saw was the Israeli wall” being built by Israel inside the West Bank, Ledbetter said. “It controls its gates, where there are bottlenecks and long delays, which are added.”

In one town, he said, a Lutheran school sits on the one side of the wall, and the children who live on the other side cannot attend it. “One side of the wall, and the children who live on the other side cannot attend it.”

Lederbetter said the Mideast trip deeply touched him. “My whole soul has been changed,” he said. “It’s get along great.”

Michael Ledbetter ’51

2010-2011 Annual Report to Alumni and Friends

**25-for-25 Challenge**

If 25% of alumni (that’s 392 more) give by June 30, Linfield will receive an additional $25,000 to support academic opportunities for students.

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Ardent traveler, adventurer, and global citizen: Fischel is a citizen of the world.

Joshua Fischel ’98

Joshua Fischel ’98 is a citizen of the world, an adventurer, a diplomat, and a problem-solver. He is completing a two-year stint as consular officer in the U.S. Embassy in Luanda, Angola. This fall, he will move to Algiers to assume a similar role at the American Embassy there. Although he will miss Luanda’s mild climate and the friendly Zambians, Fischel said, he is looking forward to Algeria, where he can speak French.

“When I was at Linfield, I went to Paris for the fall semester any sophomore year, and that made me choose French as my major,” said Fischel, who grew up in Pocatello, Idaho. He later spent a year studying in Avignon, France.

Unsure of his goals upon graduation, Fischel joined the Peace Corps and served from 1998 to 2000 in Japan. He then earned a master’s degree in international affairs at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., in 2002. That’s where he met Mikiko, who shares his love of climbing, kayaking, mountain biking and skiing. They married in 2003 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where Fischel was temporarily assigned.

As chief of the embassy’s consular section, Fischel provides services and aid to the 2,000 American citizens there, and handles visas for foreign citizens planning to enter the United States.

In Zambia, he also deals with refugees from Congo, Somalia and other parts of Africa, he said. Fischel also reports on refugee issues in Zambia and helps to administer assistance programs. “I travel to the refugee camps, meet with the people providing aid and make sure they’re spending our money wisely,” he said.

The Fischels recently bought a home in Driggs, Idaho, where Joshua’s parents live. They will spend several weeks there before moving to Algeria in late September.

Fischel said he has been fascinated by Algeria since studying Albert Camus at Linfield and writing his final paper for French on the Algerian-French author.

— Beth Rogen-Thompson

Class Notes

Adventurer, diplomat, and global citizen: Fischel is a citizen of the world.
Adventurer, diplomat, conservationist, novelist, naturalist, and historian: Fischel is a citizen of the world.

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Amanda Marsh ’04 of Portland, May 17.

Britany Mock ’05 of Cascade, May 17.

Douglas Perry ’55 of Cascade, July 12.

Kristin (Russell) Teater ’04 of McMinnville, Jan. 18. Survivors include his wife, Marjorie (Kendrick) ’45 and brother, Donald ’60.

Leland Edwards ’43 of Portland, April 4.

Audrey (Flye) Lippens ’43 of Salem, May 25.

David Rozovski ’05 of Beaverton, Dec. 8. Survivors include his wife, Jane Roach ’01, and granddaughter Dara Jester.

Heidi Ferner ’05 of Lincoln City, Feb. 27.

Donald ’46 of Lincoln City, Feb. 27.

Phyllis ’41 of Portland, May 17.

Heidi Courville ’04 of McMinnville, April 16.

Stefanie (Jones) Van Dyke ’04 of Shasta Lake, Calif., April 17.

Morgan McKay ’04 of McMinnville, April 6.

Kidney transplant patients and their families or friends.

Ronald Roach ’77 of Beaverton, May 17.

Judy Roach ’76 of Beaverton, May 17.

Esteban (Gonzalez) Melendez ’04 of Newark, Calif., April 25.

Sara Shields-Priddy ’84 of Beaverton, May 17.

Margaret (Parent) ’43 of McMinnville, Jan. 25.

Claudia (Kimball) Dreiling ’67 of McMinnville, Jan. 25.

Sara (Effinger) Anderson ’40 of McMinnville, Feb. 19. He received an honorary doctorate at Linfield College.

Harold Burch ’46 of McMinnville, Feb. 20. Survivors include his wife, Marion (O’Rourke) ’39, and brothers Ken ’55 and Bruce ’57.

David Baca ’78 of McMinnville, Feb. 14.

Jonathan Erickson ’94 of Portland, May 17.

Ruth (Davenport) Preston ’50 of McMinnville, Jan. 18.

Kathlyn (Black) Chambers ’48 of McMinnville, May 17.

Ruth (Lambright) Martin ’48 of McMinnville, May 17.

Mary (Quesenberry) ’47 of McMinnville, May 17.

Bill Roach ’76 of McMinnville, May 17.

Audrey (Flye) Lippens ’43 of Salem, May 25.


Martha (Stewart) Wheeler ’31 of McMinnville, May 17.

Ruth (Lambright) Martin ’48 of McMinnville, May 17.

John Paul Creasman ’59 of Portland, May 17.

John Paul Creasman ’59 is a miracle worker to the thousands of people whose eyesight he has helped restore.

Cora (Steele) Creasman ’30 of McMinnville, April 24.