



FROM THE DESK OF
Bishop J. Talmadge Gardner

President Kevin Sneed
Holmes Bible College
4901 Old Buncombe Road
Greenville, SC 29617

Dear President Sneed:

Congratulations on your installation as the eighth President of Holmes Bible College. My Father and Mother both graduated from Holmes, so this historic Bible College holds a special place in our hearts and heritage. We will be praying for you and your family as you step out in faith, once again, to envision the future of this institution.

Thank you, and Holmes, for recognizing the significant contribution Joe and Maggie Delpont made as IPHC Career Missionaries during their 35-year tenure of service on the Continent of Africa by presenting them with your prestigious "Missionary of the Year" Award.

Joe and Maggie were born and raised in Zimbabwe and accepted the Lord as their Savior in the Pentecostal Holiness Church in Harare, Zimbabwe in June 1977. A year later, they received God's call to full-time ministry at a Reinhard Bonnke Crusade in Harare. In preparation for ministry, they attended Holmes Bible College from 1981 through 1985. They received clergy credentials with the Appalachian Conference in 1983 [License] and 1985 [Ordination].

Joe and Maggie joined WMM in August 1987 as career missionaries and began their first missionary assignment to Zimbabwe in 1988, where they served until 2002. During those 15 years, they were especially instrumental in establishing new ministries and in church planting. Joe trained and equipped national leaders, served as pastor of a local church in Harare for several years, and assisted in building six churches and a preschool. He also served as an advisor to the national conference board of Zimbabwe and established the beginning of the Pentecostal Holiness Church in Central Mozambique.

Maggie birthed two high-quality preschools in the city of Harare. Bible Temple Preschool, situated in the Waterfalls suburb, held an amazing daily attendance of 175 children. The school was known for its quality of education for children and attracted government ministers, doctors, and lawyers who wanted to provide something better for their kids. The second school, Ebenezer Preschool, excelled as well in the township of Highfields. In addition, Maggie worked with and ministered to the women in Zimbabwe.

In 2001, Joe assumed directorship of the Advance School of Ministry (ASM), a modular two-week training program primarily directed towards training pastors and leaders throughout Africa, which has been highly effective in equipping leaders. Joe was appointed Regional Ministry Coordinator for Southern Africa in 2002, overseeing six countries. This appointment required them to move to Krugersdorp, South Africa.

WMM's regional realignment in 2018 expanded Joe's responsibilities as Regional Director to serve 16 countries, which included the countries formerly under Central Africa. Maggie's ministry role expanded as she became responsible for the administrative work of the Krugersdorp Regional Office for Southern Africa, ASM training, and management of the compound facilities. Over their years of service, Joe and Maggie have been God's gifts to the ministries in Southern Africa. God has ministered through them with excellence in the transition of field leadership responsibilities to national governance.

The Deports were also instrumental in assisting World Missions Ministries in transferring ownership of its property in Wentworth Park, Krugersdorp, South Africa, to the Pentecostal Holiness Church General Conference of South Africa in February 2023 before they officially retired as Field Missionaries in March 2023.

In my opinion, the Deports have been some of the most effective Field Missionaries the IPHC has had on the Continent of Africa. Stephanie and I also consider Joe and Maggie to be treasured friends.

Thank you again for honoring this most deserving couple.

Respectfully yours,



J. Talmadge Gardner
Executive Director, IPHC World Missions Ministries