

Theological Education in a CROSS-CULTURAL CONTEXT

Essays in Honor of
John and Bea Carter

A. Kay Fountain
Editor

John and Bea in...



1963



2014

Theological Education in a Cross-Cultural Context:
Essays in Honor of John and Bea Carter
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A Tribute to John and Bea Carter

John and Bea Carter have been consistent mentors and friends. As young missionaries we were often welcomed into their home and shared as co-laborers in their ministry. As veterans, they continued to partner in creating structures for training worldwide, including Africa.

In over three decades of friendship, our respect for them has grown. Few missionary educators have left a more lasting mark on their mission's philosophy of training or touched the lives of so many, including ours.

Carl and Terri Gibbs



INTRODUCTION

by A. Kay Fountain, Editor
Academic Dean
Asia Pacific Theological Seminary

It is both a pleasure and a privilege to introduce this volume of Essays in honour of John and Bea Carter. I have known the Carters for about 30 years, and have appreciated their gracious and forthright approach to both ministry and the Christian life. Friends and colleagues have contributed to this volume, with the underlying theme of Christian Education specifically in an intercultural environment. The first two articles reflect the close association that the Carters had with the International Correspondence Institute (now Global University) in the earlier days of their missionary service. The remaining seven articles are indicative of the wider influence they have had since their appointment to Asia Pacific Theological Seminary. The authors of these articles come from different streams within Pentecostalism, and from differing ethnic backgrounds. This is a fitting testimony to the influence that John and Bea have had in their ministry. They are truly global citizens and have shown an ability to work not only cross-culturally, but also across the spectrum of Christian theological education. John's influence in the development of the Asia Pacific Theological Association and, in latter years, in the World Association of Pentecostal Theological Educators, has been both visionary and significant in encouraging high academic standards in Pentecostal Education around the world. Bea's constant support, encouragement and hospitality has facilitated this ministry. They have been a great team, and will be sadly missed in Asia and the Pacific, now that they are retiring from the constant travel that this work has involved. It is my hope that this

festschrift, produced in their honour, will be a fitting reminder of the global influence they have had on Pentecostal Theological Education, and will inspire others to continue with the work that they have begun.



JOHN AND BEA CARTER: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

By Dave Johnson

Introduction

John and Bea Carter¹ have made an indelible impact on the Asia Pacific Theological Seminary (APTS) and many Assemblies of God theological institutions throughout the region. In 1991 John became APTS's academic dean and continued on in the capacity of president and later chairman of the APTS board of directors until March, 2016. During these years John and Bea ministered to seminary students, faculty and families from all over Asia and beyond. This short biographical sketch tells part of their story. It includes their early years with families who were not living for Christ and the story of the effect of the gospel on their lives, including their decisions to become missionaries. Through that decision and God's guiding them to pursue a somewhat unusual doctoral degree, God set John and Bea on a special life course. The result was years of fruitful ministry equipping ministers, missionaries and Bible school faculty to proclaim the gospel and train others to proclaim it to numerous people groups and nations in Asia and beyond to the glory of God.

¹Since this sketch involves telling both John's and Bea's stories, I will forgo the normal academic tradition of referring to a person by their last name and simply refer to them by their first names or simply as "The Carters."

Background and Testimonies

John's Story

John was adopted into the home of Sydney and Florence Carter in Washington D.C. in 1942. About 30 months later, however, his parents divorced and he and his mother moved west, eventually settling in California.² His mother, although a nominal Methodist, had little Christian influence in her life and, over the course of the years, married and divorced several times as well as having common law relationships with a number of men. Despite these difficulties, God had planted a seed of faith in young John's heart. John explained how he came to faith in Christ in his own words:

I never attended church on a regular basis, but did go to the Methodist church Sunday school in Fairfield, CA from time to time. Unfortunately, I never really heard the Gospel in those meetings. But I did have some degree of faith in God and can remember very clearly two times when God intervened in my life to provide an answer to prayer.

The first occurred on a Friday night when I was thirteen. It was my mom's habit to "go out" on Friday nights. I knew that this meant she would return home drunk in the middle of the night, often accompanied by some man who would spend the night. On this particular evening, she had already been drinking and announced that she was "going out." I can clearly remember going into my room and in a prayer of desperation praying, "Dear God, don't let her go!" Within a few minutes I heard her calling, "Fred,³ come

²Email from John and Bea Carter to the author, September 9, 2008.

³During those years and until I went to graduate school, I was known by my middle name "Fred."

here and help me get undressed. I'm going to bed." I can still remember feeling overwhelmed by the idea that God had actually answered my prayer!

The second instance came about a year later after we had moved from Fairfield to Vallejo, California and I enrolled in a new junior high school at mid-year. The first day, as I was opening my locker in the hall, I bumped the boy next to me, resulting in an altercation with someone whom I later learned was known as the school bully. Later that day, I went to my first gym class and, when I located my gym locker, I discovered that it was next to his. I remember breathing a prayer, "Dear God, move my locker." Without saying anything about this or mentioning it to the gym teacher, the next day when I came to gym class, the teacher, said, "Carter, come here, we've moved your locker!" Amazing. . . !

One morning a short time after we moved to Vallejo, and just a few months before I turned fourteen, my mother went to a small neighborhood grocery store and met a lady named Catherine there who struck up a conversation with her. Learning that we had just moved to the city, Catherine invited my mom and me to go to church with her the following Sunday. Mom agreed and that morning Catherine came by and picked us up to go to First Assembly of God in Vallejo. There, I joined a junior high Sunday school class taught by a man named Tommy Tucker. Tommy was a WWII veteran who peppered his Sunday school lessons with stories of the war, which kept all of us boys intrigued. Several times a month, he would also come by on Saturdays and pick-up the boys from his class to play ball or do other fun things. In many ways, I found in Tommy the father-figure I never had at home. Every Sunday, Catherine would faithfully come by to pick us up, although my mom did not always attend with me.

One Sunday morning the following summer, someone at the church approached me and asked if I would like to go to Junior High youth camp the next month, saying that the church would pay my way. I had never even heard of youth camp, let alone attended one, so I excitedly agreed. . . . The days were filled with sports and games, and the mornings and evenings with youth-oriented evangelistic services. After listening to the speaker for several nights, on Thursday, August 9, 1956 after hearing a sermon on Hell, and deciding that I didn't want to go there, I came forward and gave my life to Christ. The next night, the speaker talked about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and that sounded pretty good too, so I responded again and was filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues for the first time.⁴

Bea's Story

Bea also was born to parents who were not living for Christ in her early years. Her father's miraculous healing turned her family around. Bea told her story this way:

I am the daughter of a Missouri share cropper named Elmer Burleson who moved his family to California to pursue better employment opportunities. Both my mom (Martha) and dad were backslidden Pentecostals. . . .

However, as a child, I had a friend who invited me to Sunday school. Her mother would let her go with me to the movies on Saturday, if we would promise to attend Sunday school and church the next day. At one point, I responded to an altar call and gave my life to Christ, but lacking any Christian influence or nurturing at home, my Christian life did not flourish. I did not consider myself a Christian, but also did not get involved with the "vices" of so many of my friends.

⁴Email from John and Bea Carter to the author September 10, 2008.

In 1956, my dad had two gall bladder surgeries that went badly because of the extensive scar tissue that had developed over the years from passing gall stones. Being too weak for further surgery and running out of insurance coverage, he was sent home to “get better” so they could do another surgery. However, it was clear that he was wasting away in bed at home and that he had been sent home to die. He had tubes that came from his side to drain the bile from his liver. When he ate, he had to swallow a tube to pour the bile into his stomach to digest his food. The acid from the leaking bile had caused open sores on his side where the tubes exited and he was too weak to get out of bed without help. Clearly he was dying. . . .

One morning my friend’s mother called to talk with my mother and found her distraught because of the deteriorating condition of my dad. She asked if she could have her pastor come by to pray for him. My mom agreed, and the pastor of Hollister Assembly of God dropped what he was doing to come over about 10:00 am that morning. He prayed for my dad and comforted my mom, but nothing dramatic happened.

At noon, I came home for lunch and while my mom and I were eating in the kitchen, my dad came running into the kitchen, pounding on his side, saying “I’m healed. I’m healed. Praise God, I’m healed.” The tubes came out of his side that night, the open wound closed up and within a week, he was back at work. What we didn’t know was that while in the hospital a Bethany Bible College student who worked as an orderly had witnessed to my dad and led him in the sinner’s prayer. As a result of seeing my dad’s dramatic healing, both my mom and I began to go to church and within several months gave our lives to Christ. . . . A few months later,

in July 1956, my mom and I both received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit on the same night.

The doctors tried to determine how my dad was living since his internal ‘plumbing’ had been disconnected. He drank barium so they could trace it through to his stomach with a fluoroscope. But they could only follow it so far when it disappeared, only to appear again in his stomach! They never did determine how he could be alive. Even our atheistic doctor began to go to church because of my dad’s miracle. I enrolled in Bethany the next year to study to be a missionary.⁵

Education, Marriage and Children

Bethany Bible College and San Jose State University

In early 1962, while John and Bea were both attending Bethany Bible College, John began serving as the youth pastor and choir director at the church Bea attended. Even though they had become casually acquainted at school, they did not begin to really get to know each other until John began serving at the church. At one point in their dating, they began to discuss a possible future together. John recalled:

Bea was a missions major at Bethany, so she actually had a call to missions before I did. On one occasion while we were dating, I casually asked her if she had ever thought of being a pastor’s wife? Having attended a small church that tended to be hard on its pastor and his wife, her response was ‘No way!’ A few minutes later, she asked, ‘Have you ever thought of being a missionary’s husband?’ Obviously she prayed harder than I did.⁶

They were married about three months after they first started dating.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Email from John Carter to the author November 15, 2015

As often happens, marriage and additions to the family interrupted their educational plans. John did not finish his degree in Pastoral Theology until 1967 and Bea finished her degree in missions in 1969.⁷ During this time, Bea worked in a department store and John in several jobs as a salesman and for four years as a deputy sheriff. While John does not feel that this position helped in shaping his professional career, perhaps it taught him how to discipline those who err—a vital asset to an academic dean! During this time, their children, Kim and Steve, were also born, adding great joy and responsibility to their lives.

In researching this article, I asked John to reflect on how his past assignments had prepared him for the leadership roles that he would assume at APTS with the understanding that God prepares people at every level in life for future responsibilities. John related two noteworthy lessons he learned outside the classroom during his Bible school days. While in school, he worked as a salesman to support his family. Rather than focusing on the sales themselves, his manager taught him to focus on what he could control, such as making contacts with people, knowing that if he did that, he would make the level of sales expected of him. Later on, he would apply this to goal setting to his academic career knowing that if offered a quality program, something he could control, the students they wished to train would be drawn to the school.

The second lesson he learned in this time period was patience. When his church got a new pastor, he once explained to John that there were many things in the church that he wished to change, but that he needed to wait a year in order to learn why things were done the way they were. In applying this to APTS, John observed that this was a wise course of action. Another Bible college president once mentioned that making changes at a theological institution was like trying to bulldoze a cemetery; there were memorials to the past everywhere!⁸ Waiting also afforded him time to build the needed relationships with his co-workers in order to foster the trust, understanding and cooperation needed to make necessary changes.

⁷Ibid.

⁸M. Wayne Benson, personal conversation with the author, n.d.

John studied Pastoral Theology at Bethany under the assumption, which was quite common at the time, that he would join most of his classmates in pastoral ministry. He also became interested in psychology.⁹ When doors to possible pastorates closed following graduation, John and Bea felt led by the Lord that he should enroll in a bachelor's degree program in psychology in nearby San Jose State University where he graduated in 1969.¹⁰ It would be this degree, more than the pastoral degree from Bethany, that would define their future.

Graduate School at the University of Illinois

Only months after graduation, the Carters loaded up the kids and moved to the Champaign-Urbana, Illinois area, about halfway across the continent, for John to pursue doctoral studies at the University of Illinois (U of I). He had looked at several schools but concluded that Illinois was the best place for them because this university had one of the most highly rated programs in educational psychology at the time. They also offered him a full ride scholarship plus a small monthly stipend for living expenses.¹¹ There he pursued studies in the Psychology of Classroom Learning with a minor in Experimental Psychology of Human Learning, finishing a master's degree, with thesis, in 1970 and a Ph.D. in 1972.

While at the U of I, he had an opportunity to see behind the scenes at the inner workings of a department at a major university, another step in God's preparation for leadership at APTS:

During my third year of graduate study at the University of Illinois, I was invited to participate as the graduate student representative on the administrative committee of the Educational Psychology Department. This committee was involved in every aspect of the department, from reviewing programs to determining

⁹Email from John Carter to the author, November 15, 2015.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Ibid.

the salaries of professors. Through this I learned a great deal about the administration processes of an academic institution.¹²

Meanwhile, Bea, whom John described as “The consummate partner and ‘helpmeet,’” worked to support the family, well earning the commonly given unofficial but time honored degree of PHT (Put Hubby Through).¹³ She also bore the brunt of raising Kim and Steve, providing the stability they needed, particularly as John was focused on the demands of his developing academic career. While he was at U of I, Bea also found time to complete the coursework for a master’s degree in Educational Psychology, although she did not write the required thesis. Since her main goal was to understand what John was doing to give them something to connect on besides family matters, she achieved her goal without the degree.¹⁴ She would have many opportunities to discuss this subject with her husband in the years that followed.

John’s Academic Career

In The Secular Arena (1972-78)

Following his Ph.D. graduation in 1972, the family moved even further east to Syracuse, New York, for John to teach at Syracuse University. He had offers from three different schools but chose Syracuse because it offered a better salary and provided an atmosphere that was conducive to research and writing, which John relished.¹⁵ Here, he also had an opportunity to see the inner workings of a university, this time from the perspective of a junior faculty member:

. . . I was asked to be one of the members of the Dean’s Advisory Committee for the School of Education. This

¹²Email from John Carter to the author, September 7, 2015.

¹³Email from John Carter to the author, September 14, 2015.

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵Carter, November 15, 2015

committee involved representatives from all the departments of the School of Ed and included professors from all ranks, from Assistant Professor to Full Professor. Again, it provided many insights into the operation and administration of a major academic institution.¹⁶

Many lessons in administration at Syracuse would prove to be beneficial in his service at APTS. For example, his department chairman understood and valued teamwork in accomplishing goals, going to great lengths to include both faculty and graduate students in decision making.¹⁷ John applied this lesson early in their tenure at APTS when seminary president Bill Menzies (1984-85, 1989-95) asked him and Bea to organize and host the annual faculty Christmas party in their home. At first, he planned to invite only the faculty members. Menzies asked him to consider inviting the other missionaries on campus and his initial reaction was to not do so because they weren't faculty. Then, thinking of the value of inclusivity and collegiality, he changed his mind and invited the others. This was a wise move considering the organic nature of APTS where all faculty and other missionaries serving the school in other capacities lived on campus and excluding the others could have easily led to hurt feelings.

In 1974, the Carters moved back to California for John to serve as a civilian research psychologist for the United States Navy. Here, he gained experience as a team leader in conducting academic research, which no doubt contributed to his outstanding ability to help students develop and execute behavioral sciences research, which included research design and statistical analysis. I myself benefited from John's expertise in these areas. The research design for both my master's thesis and doctoral dissertation were done under his excellent tutelage. Like others, I found studying under him to require discipline and be demanding, but he was also fair and helpful. The result was that I learned much in the process.

¹⁶Email from John Carter to the author, September 7, 2015.

¹⁷Carter, September 7, 2015.

One of John's doctoral degree students at Syracuse was from Iran. John received an invitation from this student, who had since been called home, to move to Tehran and lead a team in developing Educational Radio and TV for that country. Sensing that this would give them their first opportunity to live, work and teach cross-culturally, John and Bea accepted a two year assignment. Here, John served as the team leader for eight American consultants who were training Iranians in instructional development, course evaluation and career counseling. He also managed a project staff, conducted education research and oversaw the development of teaching materials for a continuing educational program. In addition, he supervised a program in educational development that allowed the students to gain credits from Syracuse University.

Life outside the job also offered numerous opportunities to experience other cultures. At the time, the Shah offered at least minimal religious freedom and the Assemblies of God had an international church that met in the capital, not far from Tehran University, that the Carters attended along with many Armenian and Assyrian believers. Kim and Steve attended the Tehran American School with several thousand other American children whose parents were living in Iran and working for American companies doing business there.¹⁸

Looking back on this time nearly forty years later, the Carters believe that God was preparing them for missions from the beginning.¹⁹ Before they went to Iran, the Lord began to draw them into missions through an invitation from the International Correspondence Institute, (ICI), now known as Global University. At that time, ICI was located in Belgium and had thousands of students scattered all over the world. John explains:

In late 1975, we received a letter from Dr. George Flattery [the founding president of ICI] about writing a course for ICI in Brussels. As we learned more about ICI, we became convinced that God was leading us

¹⁸Carter, November 15, 2015.

¹⁹Ibid.

toward missionary ministry with this new educational ministry. In fact, it was obvious that all of John's academic training and experience was ideally suited for the work of ICI in developing courses for distance education.²⁰

Sensing that this might be the Lord's leading, they began inquiring about applying. The local Assemblies of God church leaders in Southern California encouraged them to apply and took the lead in contacting the national office of the Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM) in Springfield, Missouri. When they did so, however, they identified John as a "practicing psychologist." The AGWM leadership politely responded that no such personnel were needed in missions!²¹ Then Flattery intervened, explaining to the leadership that John was an educational psychologist and that they did, in fact, need someone with John's qualifications in their innovative ministry. Due to the great respect the leaders had for Flattery, they reversed their opinion and encouraged the Carters to apply.

Ministry at ICI and Southern California College (1978-1991)

When they first arrived at ICI Brussels in 1978, John's first position was that of the Director of Course Development. This entailed managing a staff of about twenty career and short-term missionaries who developed education courses for various levels of ICI programs in several media formats such as print, audio and video, gaining experience that would be valuable in his role of the academic dean at APTS. While the core curriculum development team were all AG missionaries, the authors of the various courses came from all over the world, giving him valuable experience in cross-cultural ministry.²²

When the Carters arrived, there were about sixty-five courses that were in various stages of development. Once an author finished writing the course materials, the process of

²⁰Email from John and Bea Carter to the author, September 9, 2008.

²¹Ibid.

²²Carter, November 15, 2015.

editing the course, writing and editing study guides, exams and other items took time. During their four years there, his team completed all of these courses and many others that were constantly being created.²³

Beyond this, however, he also learned some key lessons that would influence his leadership style at APTS:

I continued to gain experience in administration and team building. One of the things I learned from ICI President, Dr. George Flattery, was the importance of a compelling vision in motivating exceptional commitment to a purpose. Everyone who worked at ICI in those days had a sense that what they were doing was contributing significantly to a Kingdom purpose.²⁴

He also learned a few lessons of what not to do. At that time, ICI did not allow missionaries assigned there to have significant ministry outside of ICI, such as teaching at the nearby Assemblies of God Continental Theological Seminary. By nature, most missionaries are capable of successfully juggling a number of responsibilities simultaneously and many have a bit of an independent streak when it comes to hearing the voice of God directing their lives and ministries. Therefore, many did not receive this restriction well and as a result, some left ICI to pursue other ministry.²⁵

At APTS, John adopted the attitude that the faculty were welcome to pursue whatever outside ministries they wished to do as long as they also fulfilled their responsibilities at the seminary. He also believed that when faculty members exercised their gifts in outside ministries it actually expanded the influence of the seminary in sharing its resources with the local and national church ministries of the region.

John also noted that “competence is more important than agreeableness” and noted that some of the best workers there

²³Ibid.

²⁴Email from John Carter to the author, September 7, 2015.

²⁵Ibid.

could be hard to get along with.²⁶ He came to the conclusion that giving such people some liberty to pursue their work as they saw fit led to high productivity. That does not mean, however, that relational tension should not be addressed. John noted that a number of missionaries left ICI because of relational breakdowns where leaders did not intervene.²⁷ He would have ample opportunity to apply this lesson at APTS, where the multi-cultural faculty and students all lived and worked right on campus.²⁸

While John was executing his responsibilities at ICI, Bea was busy on the home front raising the children, a daunting task for any parent that is even more challenging in a foreign context. The situation was made even more complex given that Kim and Steve attended a variety of schools during this time, the limits of a missionary budget being a primary consideration in school selection.²⁹ She also provided hospitality for their many guests, something she had also done in Iran, as well as assisting from time to time at the ICI office when they needed an extra hand.³⁰

By the time John and Bea completed their three year term and returned to the States, Kim was ready for college and Steve was going into high school. This is a difficult point in life for most missionary families, who love their families and also value their ministries. Many families opt to remain on the field, but some feel the need to look for a stateside assignment to help their children through the transition from adolescence to adulthood. This is the route the Carters felt led by the Lord to take, at least for a time.

John was offered a position as an associate professor of psychology at the Assemblies of God's Southern California College (now Vanguard University) in Costa Mesa, California and taught psychology. A year later he also became the

²⁶Ibid.

²⁷Ibid.

²⁸For a broader discussion on the challenging of living on a multi-cultural campus, please refer to my book, *Led By the Spirit: The History of the American Assemblies of God Missionaries in the Philippines*, (Mandaluyong City, Philippines: ICI Ministries, 2009), 336-40.

²⁹Carter, November 15, 2015.

³⁰Email from John Carter to the author, September 14, 2015.

chairman of the Psychology Department. In this capacity, he was responsible for the overall administration of the department, which consisted of four faculty members, curriculum and budget planning. While their time there was probably enjoyable, God wasn't finished with them in missions.

At the end of John's contract with Vanguard in 1985, God spoke to him and Bea to return to ICI in Brussels, which they did after a period of itineration. They arrived back in Brussels in 1987. This time, John became a professor of Education and Dean of the ICI College program. In this capacity, he was the chief administrator of a college of over 9,000 students enrolled through national offices in 120 countries all over the globe. The college offered bachelor's degrees in Bible, Theology and Church Ministries. In this capacity he planned curriculum, recruited faculty and planned, monitored and evaluated course development.³¹

In 1991, as they completed this term of missionary service, ICI moved its headquarters from Brussels to Fort Worth, Texas, mainly for financial reasons. The Carters, however, felt that their time overseas was not yet complete and accepted an invitation from Bob Houlihan, the regional director for AGWM in the Asia Pacific from 1987-1998, to fill an unexpected vacancy as the academic dean at APTS.

The APTS Years (1991-2016)

Academic Dean (1991-1996)

Because John's predecessor had vacated the position unexpectedly, the Carter's availability was a godsend to APTS. Despite the lack of opportunity for a smooth transition, John found the situation in the dean's office to be in good order, with one exception. The school was in the process of preparing for an upcoming official visit by ATESEA (Association of Theological Education in Southeast Asia), a major accrediting association. Though the visit was scheduled for soon after the Carters'

³¹John and Bea Carter, September 7, 2015.

arrival, nothing had been done to prepare the faculty for this event. That year, as one faculty member noted, the annual faculty retreat was dedicated to finalizing a self-study of the entire school in preparation for the visit.³² The fact that APTS continues to be accredited with ATESEA suggests that the visit went well.

John brought a wealth of experience to his new position. In his own words:

By the time I arrived at APTS, I had already had a 20-year career in various aspects of higher education including the U of Illinois, Syracuse, ICI and SCC/Vanguard . . . so my philosophy of Christian higher education was already well in place. I have always considered myself more of an implementer than a visionary. I've often seen "visions" fall by the wayside when the "visionary" lacked the skills to organize and implement the vision, so both at ICI and at APTS I took it upon myself to get the things done that were considered important to the school.³³

During John's tenure as dean, APTS completed phasing out the bachelor's degree programs that had been part of the school since its founding in 1964. The phase out had been planned from the beginning, correctly anticipating that the Bible schools in the region would then be able to upgrade their programs to include a fourth year once their teachers had completed their master's degrees, which many did at APTS. This phase out, then, suggests that APTS was well on its way to achieving their goal of providing qualified Bible school instructors for the Bible schools in the Asia Pacific part of the world. Doing away with the bachelor's programs enabled APTS to focus on its master's degree programs, with several more disciplines being added during John's tenure.

³²Email from John Carter to the author, September 14, 2015.

³³*Ibid.*

President (1996-2004)

The Carters served under the leadership of Dr. Bill Menzies, who was president of APTS (1984-85, 1989-95). In August, 1995, the entire campus was saddened when Doris Menzies, Bill's wife, suffered a heart attack and they had to go to the States for treatment. Within months it became obvious that they would not be able to return, forcing Bill to resign as the APTS president. With no time to form a search committee and look for a successor, the board appointed John to fill the remainder of his term in March, 1996, and gave Menzies the honorary title of president emeritus as well as chancellor. John would prove to be a wise choice.

Since John's replacement as the academic dean, Wonsuk Ma, would not arrive until August, he was forced to handle both roles. When the business administrator left in June, John picked up that assignment as well, simply because there was no one else to take the job until January, 1997. Bea's unwavering support, along with that of the faculty, staff and students, who rallied to the occasion, helped lighten his load.³⁴

Asia Pacific Center for the Advancement of Leadership and Missions (APCALM)

When John became president, the board had been discussing building a missions center on campus for several years. Being, by his own confession, an implementer more than an innovator, he asked the board to either move forward with the project or take it off the table.³⁵ By this time, the school was also developing a number of summer institute programs for various ministries such as youth and media. In 1997, APTS hosted a summer program for training Asian missionaries through the now defunct Assemblies of God Asian Missions Association (AGAMA). In 1998, they began the Institute for Islamic Studies in cooperation with the Center for Ministry to

³⁴John Carter, *President's Report to the Board of Directors*, Asia Pacific Theological Seminary, March 19, 1997, 1.

³⁵Carter, September 14, 2015.

Muslims (now Global Initiative), a program that has now expanded to more than twenty locations around the world. Also, the school was receiving numerous requests from outsiders to use the campus for retreats and seminars. John himself saw APTS's role in training missionaries not only as a fulfillment of the one of the mandates for the school's existence, but also in keeping with "the growing involvement of Asian churches in missions," which he saw as one of the most "significant trends of the late 20th and 21st centuries."³⁶ The board agreed and decided to move ahead with the project because they believed that bigger facilities would address the growing need for space.³⁷

In March, 1999, ground was broken for a 5,200 square meter (55,000 sq. feet), seven story building on the lower part of the campus that involved as many as 250 construction workers.³⁸ This was a tremendous challenge for John, who had never built anything larger than a tool shed in his own backyard in California.³⁹ The building was dedicated at graduation in March, 2001, although the construction was not completed until later.

While this was going on, the Carters went through some personal trials. Bea became seriously ill and had to return to the States alone. For some time, the question remained if they would even be able to continue in missions. Despite this situation, however, both the board and the Carters were adamant that they were following God's leading and pressed ahead. In time, Bea recovered and rejoined her husband in the Philippines.⁴⁰

Academics

In July, 2000, the school opened its first post-graduate program, a Master of Theology degree, under the leadership of Wonsuk Ma. In February, 2002, the school opened a doctorate in ministry program, the first doctoral level studies in the

³⁶John Carter, *The APTS Missions Training/Conference Center Project*, n.d., 1.

³⁷Carter, March 19, 1997, 2.

³⁸John Carter, *President's Report to the Board of Directors*, March, 2001, 3.

³⁹John Carter, "Fulfilling Your Vision," *The Courier*, Vol. 9. No. 3, December, 2000, 1.

⁴⁰*Ibid.*

history of the school. The next month, John could report to the Board of Directors that the school now had a “Full range” of academic programs.⁴¹

Wonsuk Ma fully agreed with John’s assessment, but concluded that additional academic programs also placed greater stress on the faculty, which was amplified by the unexpected loss of two Asian instructors in the same year that the D.Min program began.⁴² Nevertheless, Ma emphasized APTS’s bright future stating that the school was continuing its “‘ascending thrust’ impacting not only Asian Pentecostals and the international Pentecostal world, but also the Asian Evangelical World.”⁴³

Part of the reason that Ma felt that APTS was increasingly making an impact in Asia was due to the intentional moves the school had made to Asianize the faculty. In the mid-1980s, the school began a Faculty Development Program that provided financial resources for potential faculty members to get their post-graduate degrees, Ma himself being among the first to do so. Ma felt that the addition of the post-graduate programs, which would make it possible for more Asians to obtain post-graduate degrees, would also “improve the ‘Asian’ image of the seminary.”⁴⁴

No one summed up John’s tenure as president better than Wonsuk Ma who, perhaps worked with John more closely than any other individual:

The era of his presidency saw a significant leap in seminary life, reputation and influence. The construction of the massive conference building (now called the Global Missions Center) is only a small part of his accomplishment. The school reached its peak in faculty strength. Once I counted 12 full-time faculty members from 8 countries, approximately 10 had PhD degrees and 50% of them were Asian, maintaining an

⁴¹Carter, March, 2002, 1.

⁴²Wonsuk Ma, *A Report to the APTS Board of Directors*, March, 2003, 1.

⁴³Ma, *A Report*, 2.

⁴⁴Wonsuk Ma, *A Report to the Board of Directors*, March, 2004, 1.

ideal balance. The seminary added post-graduate programs: a Master of Theology, a Doctor of Ministry and the Wales Ph.D. program hosted by the seminary. Academic activities increased in frequency and impact: through an increase in enrollment, extensive on-site programs, the publication of a journal and monographs, an annual lectureship and occasional lectures, the school became a premier institution in advancing Pentecostal studies in Asia. The seminary also led several regional networks: the Asia Pacific Theological Association (APTA) and the Assemblies of God Association of Mission in Asia (AGAMA). With its accreditations by the Asia Theological Association (ATA), Association of Theological Education in Southeast Asia (ATESEA) and APTA, the scope of engagement was broadened. Under John's leadership, APTS was an active member of Asia Graduate School of Theology-Philippines (AGST-Phil), often providing valuable contributions.⁴⁵

Bea's Activities and Ministries

While John went about his duties in the office, Bea was busy at home and on campus. Throughout their APTS years, she became well known as a great hostess, performing her role as the dean's and, later, the president's wife, with excellence. She was particularly known and loved for her great cooking. She also taught in the English Language program and, over the years, edited hundreds of term papers for students struggling to express themselves in English. When their son, Steve, came to APTS to work on his master's degree, he lived with them and she enjoyed having him "home" again.

Early in their tenure, Bea hired a maid named Juliet Pascual, a local Filipina who was a new Christian. Pascual worked in their home for several years and described both Carters as kind people who treated her well, making sure that she was paid fairly and on time. The relationship reached such a depth that

⁴⁵Email from Wonsuk Ma to the author, November 17, 2015.

she came to see them as her adopted parents, which was especially meaningful to her since she did not grow up in a Christian home.⁴⁶ Later, Bea encouraged her to apply for a job on campus, which she got and has been a valuable part of the APTS team ever since.

Kay Fountain had fond memories of both Carters. Speaking of Bea she related:

Bea is the perfect partner to John. She is a people-person, and she is intuitive in her awareness of the feelings of others. She is hospitable and caring, and also very intelligent. She also makes a great cup of tea. In their years at APTS she was the perfect entertainer, and she cared for all faculty, their spouses, and very specially, their children.

I was personally really helped by them both when I had a series of incidents with heart palpitations as a student. They had me stay in their home until I could get down to Manila for a check-up, and then Bea accompanied me to Manila and back again on the bus!!! One very funny thing happened on the bus on the way back - we were sitting in the very back seat - high up over the back wheels, and higher than the seats in front of us. The bus stopped very suddenly and we fell forward collapsing the backs of the seats in front of us, so that those sitting in them were kind of squashed under us!⁴⁷

Tham Wan Yee,⁴⁸ current APTS president, and Alex Fuentes⁴⁹ also agreed that Bea was the perfect partner, stating that she kept him grounded, providing balance in his relationships with others.

⁴⁶Email from Juliet Pascual to the author, November 10, 2015.

⁴⁷Email from Kay Fountain to the author, November 18, 2015.

⁴⁸Yee, November 16, 2015.

⁴⁹Email from Alex Fuentes to the author, November 24, 2015.

A number of students and colleagues saw Bea as a second mother. Former faculty member Bob Menzies, a former faculty, remembered that Bea “adopted” younger faculty members and their children into her own extended family.⁵⁰ Joel Tejedo mentioned that Bea’s spirituality was noted in her faithful chapel attendance.⁵¹ Steve Fogarty remembered Bea as both “intelligent and articulate.”⁵² Perhaps no one summarized Bea’s role better than long time faculty member and former dean, Wonsuk Ma: “Bea was a catalyst of the community life, especially supporting ladies (including spouses of students) and children. In spite of the physical challenges she endured, she gave herself freely to the community. In fact, how she and John dealt with life’s challenges, including her illness, became an important inspiration to many on campus.”⁵³

Continuing Service to APTS (2006-)

After vacating the presidency, the Carters went to the US for a year of itineration and then returned to campus for two years while John continued to teach. He purposely moved into a new, smaller office in the APCALM building (now GMC) and when someone would come to him with a problem that the president would normally handle, he simply sent them to see the new president, Dr. Wayne Cagle. There was never any question of his support for the new president or for Rev. Tham Wan Yee, who succeeded Cagle in 2009.

In 2006, the Carters decided to return to the US so Bea could have needed back surgery. However, upon learning of their intention to leave APTS, they were invited to go to Australia to work with Southern Cross College, the Assemblies of God National School, to assist in their development towards becoming a Christian university. After determining that Bea could obtain back surgery in Australia from a highly regarded neurosurgeon, they agreed to move there in early 2007. They

⁵⁰Email from Bob Menzies to the author, November 17, 2015.

⁵¹Email from Joel Tejedo to the author, November 16, 2015.

⁵²Email from Steve Fogarty to the author, November 17, 2015.

⁵³Email from Wonsuk Ma to the author, November 17, 2015.

subsequently moved to the US in late 2008 in preparation for their eventual retirement, although John continued to serve as APEO Director until 2010 and continued to return to campus to teach block courses. In 2012, he accepted a two year appointment as chairman of the board and, in 2015, accepted the board's request to extend his term until March, 2016. At the time of this writing, it appears that his departure from the board in March, 2016, will likely end their formal involvement with APTS. We will be sorry to see them go.

Other Opportunities and Responsibilities

Throughout their tenure at APTS and beyond, John has served the broader movement of the Assemblies of God education in several significant ways. For many years, he served in various capacities for the Asia Pacific Theological Association (APTA), the Assemblies of God accrediting agency for theological institutions in the Asia Pacific Region. This critical organization provides for a school accrediting process, teacher certification and an annual theological symposium that has brought greater stability to the schools it serves. John headed the Accreditation Commission for fifteen years and served two terms as the chairman of the board. He also lent his considerable administrative skills to many APTA committees to help ensure that things ran smoothly. In addition, John served from 2005 to 2010 as the head of the Asia Pacific Education Office, another AGWM ministry to Bible schools, as a consultant for the Bible schools in the region.⁵⁴

Beyond this, John has served as a consultant to the AGWM's Bible school efforts in other regions of the world, specifically in Europe and Africa, in launching organizations similar to APTA. He was also the founding chairman of the World Alliance of Pentecostal Theological Education (WAPTE) from 2009-13. WAPTE, according to its website, is a "A global cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal and Charismatic theological

⁵⁴Dave Johnson, *Led by the Spirit: The History of the American Assemblies of God Missionaries in the Philippines*, (Mandaluyong City, Philippines: ICI Ministries, Inc., 2009), 327.

associations, denominational offices, and missions agencies that provide educational services to theological and/or ministry training schools.”⁵⁵

Conclusion

God’s hand has obviously been on both John and Bea over more than fifty years of marriage, education and ministry. Both of their children are also serving the Lord faithfully in their chosen lifestyles and locations, Kim with her family in Southern California and Steve with his family in his wife’s native Sweden. While their family is their greatest legacy, they have also left behind a legacy of integrity, compassion, kindness, and excellence in education. Through this legacy they have provided precious tools for spreading the gospel and maturing the church to thousands of students and many colleagues from numerous nations throughout the years. To God be the glory for the lives and labors of John and Bea Carter!

⁵⁵The World Alliance for Pentecostal Theological Education, www.wapte.org accessed 24 November 2015.