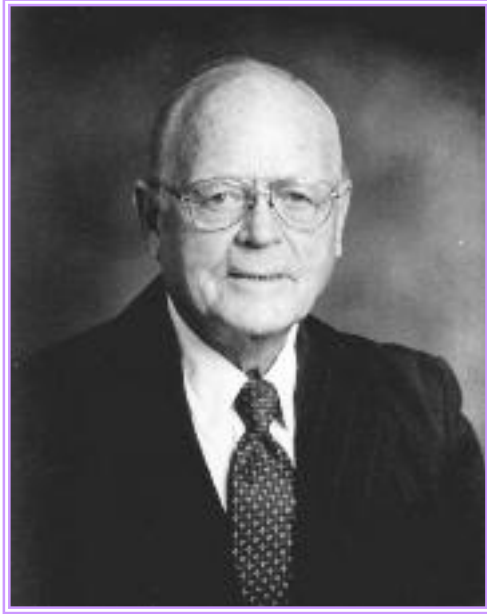


Westminster Biblical Missions, Mexico

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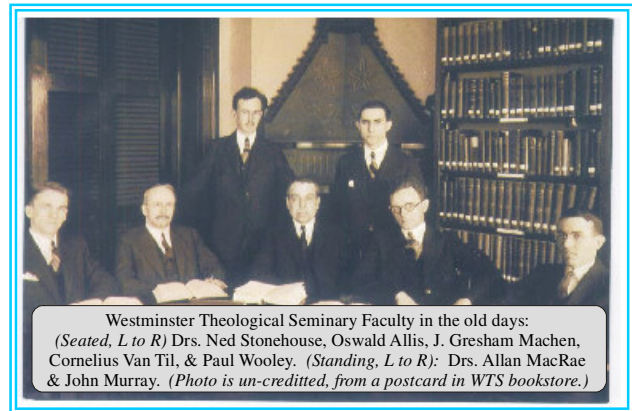
## Farewell Max -

If there was anyone whose life and teaching embodied that foundational principle found in the answer to the first question of the Westminster Shorter Catechism, it was Dr. Maxwell Lathrop. "Tata Max," as he was known, lived every day in conscious realization that his chief end was "to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever."

So when Max went to be with the Lord earlier this year, there is a profound sense in which he went finally to that place where he could accomplish his life's mission without impediment or frustration. He now looks face-to-face at that glorious Lord whom it was his delight to serve.

The accomplishments of "Tata Max" are truly legion among the Tarascan peoples of central Mexico. The devotion he had for this people was truly profound and moving.

Dr. Lathrop was one of the first translators to serve under Wycliffe Bible Translators, laboring for 45 years among the P'urepecha he loved so much in central Mexico. Dr. Lathrop, a native of Pennsylvania, received an undergraduate degree from Lafayette College of Easton, Pa, and a Bachelor of Divinity from Westminster Theological Seminary of Philadelphia. It should be noted that Dr. Lathrop was a member of the third graduating class of WTS, having studied under such great men as J. Gresham Machen, Oswald T. Allis, Ned Stonehouse, Paul Wooley, and Cornelius VanTil. He received an honorary doctorate from Juan Calvino Seminary of Mexico City in recognition of his many years of service in missions and his contribution to the field of linguistics.



Westminster Theological Seminary Faculty in the old days:  
(Seated, L to R) Drs. Ned Stonehouse, Oswald Allis, J. Gresham Machen,  
Cornelius Van Til, & Paul Wooley. (Standing, L to R): Drs. Allan MacRae  
& John Murray. (Photo is un-credited, from a postcard in WTS bookstore.)

Although never ordained, Dr. Lathrop did an outstanding pioneer work among the Tarascan speaking people. He provided them with their first written alphabet and then, in cooperation with his wife, produced a Tarascan language primer which enabled them to teach the Tarascan people to read and write. He next developed an extensive vocabulary of the Tarascan language and produced the Tarascan translation of the entire New Testament.

In addition, Dr. Lathrop worked to help improve the Tarascan way of life in so many other areas. He was personally commended by the President of Mexico for his outstanding contribution to the improvement of agriculture, education, economics and health of the Tarascan people.

Because of certain policies that Wycliffe Bible Translators maintained, he believed it necessary to leave Wycliffe in order to continue his language work with the Indians. Dr. Lathrop then established the Tarascan Missionary Society and continued the work. However, due to his increasing age and ill health, by 1990 this agency ceased to operate, although he continued to receive a little financial support from a few churches and individuals in the United States.

In 1992, Dr. Lathrop came to Westminster Biblical Missions for help. Rev. Dennis Roe, general secretary of the mission, visited him at his home in McAllen, Texas and reported to the board. Subsequently, in the fall of 1992, Dr. Lathrop was warmly

received and approved as a missionary of WBM.

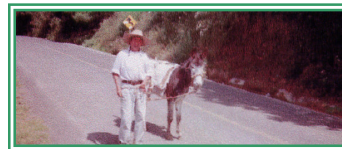


## Items for Prayer

Rejoice with us in Bill's continued recovery, and yet please continue to pray for his increased strength and health. He received a good report from the doctor when he went in July 1.

Please pray with us again for Bill's mom, Ellen Higgins. Her protein levels are elevated again, and it looks like the cancer is returning. The doctors are considering what course of treatment to follow now. Pray for the Lord's hand of comfort, for His healing hand, for the doctors' wisdom, and that the Lord would glorify the greatness of His mercy during this time.

And please continue to pray for the Lord's work among the Tarascans in Mexico. Thank you so much for your faithfulness in Christ's Kingdom.



The *Higgins' Herald* is published as often as we can get to it. The opinions expressed herein are those of the Editor-in-chief, and/or its Editorial staff, unless we didn't really mean to put it just that way.

For any blessing you may receive from this publication, we give all glory to our Lord. For any blame, it lies with me. *sic biscuitus disintegrat, cum grano salis.*

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