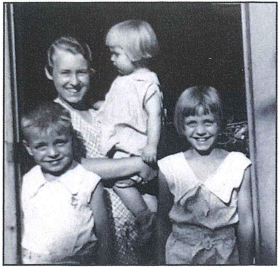


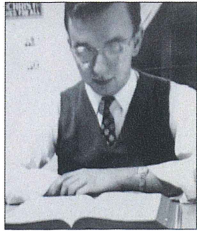
Detroit Born and Bred

Born at home “in the shadow of the Ambassador Bridge” and “north of Canada” to the home of Pauline and Wilson Barker, Dad was brother to Virginia, Joyce and Julia. The family was very active in the life of Preston Methodist Church, where Dad formed life-long friendships with his peers.



Lifelong Student

Dad was a determined student. He attended Kentucky Mountain Bible Institute, Taylor University, Marion College, Asbury Theological Seminary, and Garrett Theological Seminary. In addition to this formal education, he was an avid reader and developed a significant library of works that served him well throughout his life. Assigned to a pastorate in Grand Rapids, Michigan, he often commented that this was a Christian publication “heaven” with Baker Book House, Eerdmans Publishing, Kregel Bookstore and Zondervan Publishing all in one town. In recent years, he and Mom were enthusiastic members of the Wilmore Book Club.



Musical Side

Dad loved music and loved to sing. He was part of a men’s quartet in his home church, and also a quartet while in Bible school. He was a strong tenor married to a talented musician and singer and they made a great team. Dick and Barb “brought the ministry in song” in the U.S. and Japan. When we traveled long distances by car, Dad would often get us singing together as a means of coping with the long hours in the car together.



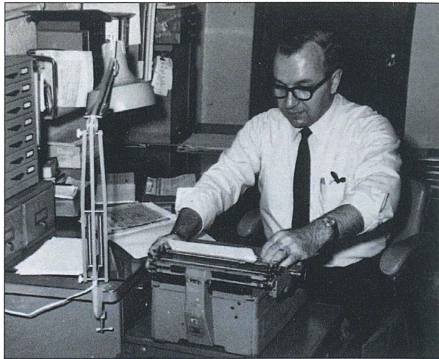
Enthusiasm for Technology

He grew up surrounded by the promise of technology in the 20th century. He was drawn to gadgets and new tools — tools that could help in new and sometimes unimagined ways. Tools to achieve a purpose. That interest continued and in Bible

school, he worked at the radio station. Being in Tokyo he was in the international center for many technological advances. In 1984, he was one of the first people in the community to purchase a Macintosh computer and in so doing he discovered a powerful tool for communication, organization, creativity and productivity. He introduced scores of people to computer technology so that they could achieve their goals and purpose, too. He patiently answered their questions and helped them troubleshoot issues they encountered. If only he could have gotten a commission from Apple Computer for the sales he generated.

John Wesley

Dad believed strongly in the unique perspective of John Wesley and the holiness movement. He taught theology in the Immanuel Bible Training College in Japan. He spoke in many churches about this message and collaborated with Japanese pastors and leaders to promote it. In the 1970s, he saw the need for providing a strong theological basis for holiness and the Christian life among Japanese pastors. He co-founded the Wesley Book Club, which initially worked to import significant Wesleyan theological works from overseas, but from there they worked to get these materials translated into Japanese. The ultimate goal was to get Japanese pastors and leaders to write their own works and commentaries.



Missions

Dad was very missional in his thinking. His pastor at Preston Church, Rev. Chester Stockinger, stoked in him and his buddies a passion for ministry. He was captivated by Dr. Lela McConnell and her vision for ministry in the mountains of Eastern Kentucky, which led him to enroll at Kentucky Mountain Bible Institute. His roommate in seminary, a young Japanese pastor named Minoru Tsukamoto, shared with him about his homeland, Japan, and God continued to fire his imagination, which then became his calling. Then as a missionary in Japan, he was invited to collaborate with the Immanuel General Mission, a Wesleyan

holiness denomination that was started by a dedicated group of Japanese pastors after WWII. Their sacrifice and dedication blessed and challenged him. After leaving Japan and returning to the pastorate, he found that he needed to be a missionary to his own denomination. He was always on mission.

Dedicated Pastor

Dad pastored three churches in the West Michigan Conference of the Methodist Church (eventually the United Methodist Church). His parishioners in DeWitt, Grand Rapids and Wayland, Michigan remember him with fond admiration. He impacted the lives of many who had never heard the Good News or who never knew what it meant to truly be a Christ-follower. Even though he never pastored a church in Japan, he interacted with countless people and walked with them in their pursuit of the Truth. He and Mom “pastored” many during their 11-year tenure as directors of the WGM Student Center for those enrolled at Asbury College (University) and Seminary in Wilmore. Their impact on the lives of many of those students can be seen today.

Family

In June of 2021, Mom and Dad would have celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary. They have five children. Les (Annette), Martin (Juliana), Norm (Sherri) and Keith (Bethany) were all born in Michigan. Cheryl (Paul) was “made in Japan.” To date, there are 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The family has scattered in various locations in the Midwest but have enjoyed gathering for “Thanksmas” and other occasions.



1928
Born in Detroit



1947
Graduation from
Western High School
(Detroit, MI)
1953
Graduation from Marion College (IN)



1957
Marriage to Barbara Adkins
1956–1963
Pastorates in Michigan
1956
Graduation from Asbury Theological Seminary



1964–1978
Missionaries to Japan with WGM

1979–1982
Pastorate in Wayland, Michigan



1982–1993
Dick and Barb are directors of
WGM Student Center at Asbury



1993–2001
Return to Japan with the Wesleyan Mission

2001
Retirement to Wilmore

CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
Richard Wilson Barker

Friday, March 12, 2021
Free Methodist Church
Wilmore, Kentucky

Welcome Martin Barker

Opening Prayer

Letter from Immanuel
General Mission in Japan Mami Tsutada

Words of Tribute Rev. Terry Faris

Hymn *Living For Jesus*

Scripture Reading Norm Barker

No One Ever Cared
for Me Like Jesus Tim Johnson

Words of Tribute Dexter Porter
Paul Blair

Scripture Reading Austin Barker

Hymn *I Would Be True*

Pastor's Words Rev. Daryl Diddle

Thy Perfect Will Karis Barker

Closing Prayer



Richard Wilson Barker

NOVEMBER 1, 1928 – MARCH 3, 2021