

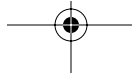


Preface

AS I ARRIVED AT MANCHESTER AIRPORT TWO WEEKS AGO I caught the front page headline in *The Times* of London: “Students sue over Christian rights at colleges.” The article described how university Christian unions are being discriminated against “by student associations because they refused to allow non-Christians to address their meetings or sit on ruling committees.” Christian unions, according to the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship (UCCF), “faced a struggle ‘unprecedented’ in their 83-year history.” Learning something of that eighty-three-year history never seemed more urgent. InterVarsity started as a group committed to evangelize the university.¹ In a postmodern, politically correct era the biography of someone who was first and foremost InterVarsity’s “evangelist to the campus” provides useful background information to a contemporary struggle.

Learning about C. Stacey Woods has been a preoccupation of mine since Laurel Gasque suggested to me that his biography needed to be written, and that there was no better occasion than to have it in time for the sixtieth anniversary of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) when the IFES World Assembly meets in Ancaster, Ontario, July 11-20 of 2007. In this yearlong journey of discovery I have been aided by Yvonne Woods, whose indefatigable spirit, unflinching prayer support and gracious willingness to share her life with Stacey Woods with me, have been a daily source of strength. I am also grateful to Stacey’s three children, Stephen, Geoffrey and Jonathan, who have been true sons to their remarkable mother.

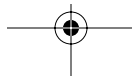
In Australia I found many individuals anxious to provide background for Stacey Woods’s heritage. I single out my friend Stuart Braga of Sydney, who has been a veritable research assistant. How it never occurred to us fifty-six years ago—as we sat in

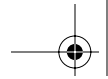




adjacent desks in Form 2A of King George V School, Hong Kong—that we would be lifelong associates and our lives would run on parallel tracks. Stuart opened many doors for me: to Rev. Dr. Bruce Kaye, Rev. Dr. John McIntosh, Sir Marcus Loane, Archbishop Donald Robinson, Professor Stuart Pigginn of Macquarie University, and Professor Hutchinson of South Cross College. In Ocean Grove I spent time with Stacey's cousin and look-alike, Charles Stilwell. In Bendigo, I met with the folks at the Bendigo Regional Genealogical Society, where they spent an afternoon digging up more material about the Stilwells than I could possibly use. I also met with the Right Reverend Andrew Curnow, bishop of Bendigo, and with Rev. Dr. Ken Cole and Ian Smith of St. Andrew's Cathedral. In Geelong Tanya Assender was most helpful. In Auckland I appreciated time given me by Professor Peter Lineham, head of the School of Social and Cultural Studies, Massey University. Since returning from “down under” I have had help from Dr. Kenneth John Newton, Brisbane; John Prince of Perth; and Garry Warren, St. George Christian Church, Hurstville.

Archives have been my most useful source. The largest cache of material about Stacey is in the Billy Graham Center, and after four visits there I record my gratitude to David Malone and his staff. Professor Tim Larsen of Wheaton was able to track down copies of the *Christian Beacon*. In the Canadian Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) office there is a rich lode of priceless (and uncensored) archival material that, alas, is in precarious condition. I thank Geri Rodman, CEO, for permission to use it. The Bouma archives at Calvin Seminary were useful, and I thank Richard Harms. At Dallas Theological Seminary, Lolana Thompson has been exemplary in her diligence. At Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary my former parishioner Garth Rosell opened the Ockenga papers for my inspection. At Westminster Theological Seminary, Grace Mullin was, as always, helpful in piloting me through the Machen and Stonehouse archives. John H. Lutman of the University of Western Ontario archives provided access to the Rowland Hill diaries, again a useful tool. Surprisingly it was at Bible Society of Australia that I first encountered Charles Troutman's diaries through Stuart Pigginn, and they gave me free access to a photocopier. And at the John Rylands University Library, of the University of Manchester, the Christian Brethren archives provided insights into Fred Woods's career. The National Library of Ireland in Dublin helped illustrate J. N. Darby. Rose Carleton of the CIM/OMF (China Inland Mission/Overseas Missionary Fellowship) archives in Mississauga, Ontario, was most thorough in her research. Hugh Rendle of the Horsey Library, Tyndale University College and Seminary,



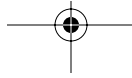


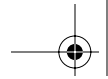
where I am research professor, has delved into our archives for me. His staff have been most cooperative and patient.

My administrative assistant at Tyndale, Dahlia Fraser, has kept the ship on course when I was preoccupied. I thank my colleagues at the seminary for their patience, and I'm grateful for the support of our dean, Dr. Janet Clark, as well as President Brian Stiller. A generous research grant from the John Bolten Sr. Foundation has funded this project and was disbursed by the Tyndale Foundation. I acknowledge with thanks the support of John Bolten Jr., Osorno, Chile.

In Canada there still are many who knew and loved Stacey Woods. In Vancouver I interviewed Ruth Oliver Cummings and her brother Fred Rich, as well as Fred Lang and Rev. Dr. Ian Rennie. In Ontario, the A. J. Stewart siblings—Muriel Beatty, Pat McCarthy and particularly their brother David Stewart—assisted with memories and photos. My near neighbor Robert O. Stephens had many anecdotes. I visited former IVCF-USA staff along the Eastern seaboard, including Barbara Boyd, Peter Haile, Anne Childs Hummel and Ruth McKinney. Keith and Gladys (“Rusty”) Hunt put me up at their beautiful cottage close to Cedar Campus. I spent time with Jim and Ruth Nyquist in Downers Grove, Illinois. Bob Fryling and Andy Le Peau of InterVarsity Press (IVP) reminisced, and Andy shared the first chapter of his IVP story. I also contacted Ned Hale, Pete Hammond and Peter Northrup. Helen Hammond Baldwin, Hollis, New Hampshire, was a fund of information about her mother and her grandmother, Mrs. F. Cliffe Johnston. Tim Bayly represented his family and that of the Taylors, his in-laws. Bob Baylis and Neil Rendall also sent me material from their years on staff. Gina Lamb of Toronto provided information about her father, E. G. Baker.

In England I had the full cooperation of the IFES office and the outgoing general secretary Lindsay Brown. Kirsty Thornburn in the office I single out for her cheerful helpfulness. Oliver Barclay, Elizabeth Catherwood, Michael Griffiths, Iain Murray and John Stott all responded to my queries. Reverend Peter Guinness of Lancaster took me through photo albums of his father Paul. Felicity Houghton Bentley-Taylor helped as did Myfanwy Bentley-Taylor of Toronto. On the continent I had a pleasant weekend in Lausanne with Frank and Anne Horton, as well as at the church Stacey pastored. Jennifer Johnston Favré was delightful in reminiscing about the IFES office. Intimate family correspondence from her predecessor, Phil Van Seters, was generously shared with me by her brother Arthur of Toronto. At Mittersill all the files were open to me thanks to Carl Armerding's preparation,





and I am grateful to Isabell Wagner in the office and Hans Brennsteiner in the kitchen. Alex Williams was also available for questioning.

I am greatly indebted to Samuel Escobar, my immediate predecessor as General Director of IVCF-Canada, on IFES staff for twenty-seven years. I spent a day with him at his son's home in suburban Washington, D.C., and he has shared letters and invaluable memories.

I thank InterVarsity Press and my copyeditor, Drew Blankman, for many courtesies. My own editor, Colin Duriez, formerly of IVP-UK, moved recently from Leicester and, fortuitously, is now in Keswick. I am thankful to him for many insights and for his helpfulness in preparing the manuscript.

In a work covering so much detail there will inevitably be slips and omissions. If there are errors, I would be grateful if these were drawn to my attention. Due to size concerns, I was unable to use all the material I was given, nor could I include even a fraction of the memories shared. There is a whole canon of Stacey lore. As an academic historian by profession and instinct, I set out to chronicle not only the man but his huge legacy. I did so in the hopes that his accomplishments and vision will be retained for generations yet unborn. Stacey was very human, very fallible and very broken, but he was also a man whom God used mightily. I loved him personally and without qualification. But I write with objectivity since he asked that his biographer paint his portrait "warts and all."

Finally, thanks to my family. My son Alex has followed in his father's footsteps as Presbyterian minister and campus worker. My other son, Kenneth, provided technical help, which was essential. I hope that the dedication of this book to my wife will indicate some of the debt I owe her. It is almost forty years since, on the eve of Ascension Day 1967, I crossed the threshold of 39 Bedford Square, the IVF (Inter-Varsity Fellowship) headquarters in London, and was ushered into a whole new world of marvels and adventure. She has been, as Yvonne was to Stacey, my tower of strength over these years, particularly during the five when I was IVCF general director in Canada.

God, whom Stacey Woods loved and served, still reigns. *Sola gloria deo.*

A. Donald MacLeod
The Ghyll, Applethwaite
Keswick, Cumbria, England
St. Andrew's Day, 2006

