

**ANDERSON, REV. DR. SIDNEY R.
AND ANDERSON, MRS. OLIVE**

Olive Lipscomb Anderson

Olive Lipscomb (Mrs. Sidney R.) Anderson, 87, retired missionary from China, died January 4, 1978. She went quickly and quietly, as she had wished, after a brief illness at DeKalb General Hospital, Decatur, Georgia.

She did not believe in large or commercial funerals, and had expressed her desire for cremation with only a simple memorial service. Such a service was conducted January 8, by her minister, the Rev. Sammy Clark, at the regular morning worship at Trinity United Methodist Church, Atlanta. A feature of the service was the sharing of thoughts and memories by old and new friends.

Born October 8, 1890 in Greenwood, Mississippi, she was the eldest of three daughters of the Rev. George Lipscomb, Methodist minister, and Bessie Watkins Lipscomb, teacher and lifelong leader in Methodist women's work. Olive went to school in Booneville, Mississippi, joining the church there in 1896. The family moved to Winona where her father died in 1899. To support the three little girls, her mother taught, moving to Whitworth College in 1901, living in Brown House, later becoming college president. Olive went to boarding school (Brookhaven) in Columbus 1910; Scarritt College 1912-13; and Vanderbilt, 1914. Here she met her future husband, Sidney R. Anderson, student minister from Rising Star, Texas. Both headed for China as Methodist missionaries.

She taught at Laura Haygood School, Soochow 1915-19. She and the Rev. Mr. Anderson were married December 17, 1920 in Nashville, during their first furlough, returning to Shanghai in 1922. Olive sang solos during these years, but her singing was quieted by tuberculosis in 1924. There were two years when she was flat on her back, and then came recovery in Albuquerque, New Mexico 1926-7. Returning to

Shanghai (1928-40) her lifelong love of music grew, giving support and encouragement to many groups, including the large Moore Memorial Church choir, and finding jobs for refugee music teachers from Europe.

In 1942-3 she worked at Bethlehem Center in Nashville. Then during 1944-5, when her husband returned from internment camp in Shanghai, they both studied at the New York School of Social Work, going back to Shanghai 1946-7. After the Communist take-over they worked with a growing refugee church in Hong Kong 1950-55-63.

Delaying retirement, the years 1964-71 were spent at Methodist headquarters in San Francisco, and as active members of Glide Memorial Methodist Church. It was in Hong Kong that Dr. and Mrs. Anderson ministered to the Chinese refugee family of Paul Luk, one with three sons and three daughters. The mother died, and the father eventually moved to San Francisco where he died, leaving the six orphan children. The Andersons continued their ministry to them, so endearing themselves to these children that they adopted the two benefactors as their grandparents. On through their growing years they assisted and counseled the Luk children, and rejoiced to see them supportive of one another, active Christians, and all graduated from college.

Retirement years in Atlanta have been shared with friends from around the world, at Wesley Woods Towers, and Trinity United Methodist Church. Olive's lifelong love of reading was shared with all who knew her. During 1977 she had read 95 books covering a wide range of interests. She never stopped learning.

As a Wesley Woods Towers resident her ministry continued as a volunteer hostess, as faithful member and leader of a prayer circle, as visitor and counselor of residents, particularly the lonely or disheartened. Olive Anderson was frail in her latter days, but what strength she had she used for the glory of God. She did not consider herself to be on the downward slope of life.

Olive Lipscomb Anderson is survived by her sister, Mrs. Ben S. (Talullah) Beall, Jr., Lexington, Mississippi; her husband, the Rev. Dr. Sidney R. Anderson, Wesley Woods Towers, Atlanta, son, Sidney R. Anderson, Jr., and two grandchildren, Bryn 13 and Craig 11, New Milford, Connecticut.

J. Marvin Rast
Wesley Woods Towers
Atlanta, Georgia

Handwritten signature:
J. Marvin Rast
1/11/78

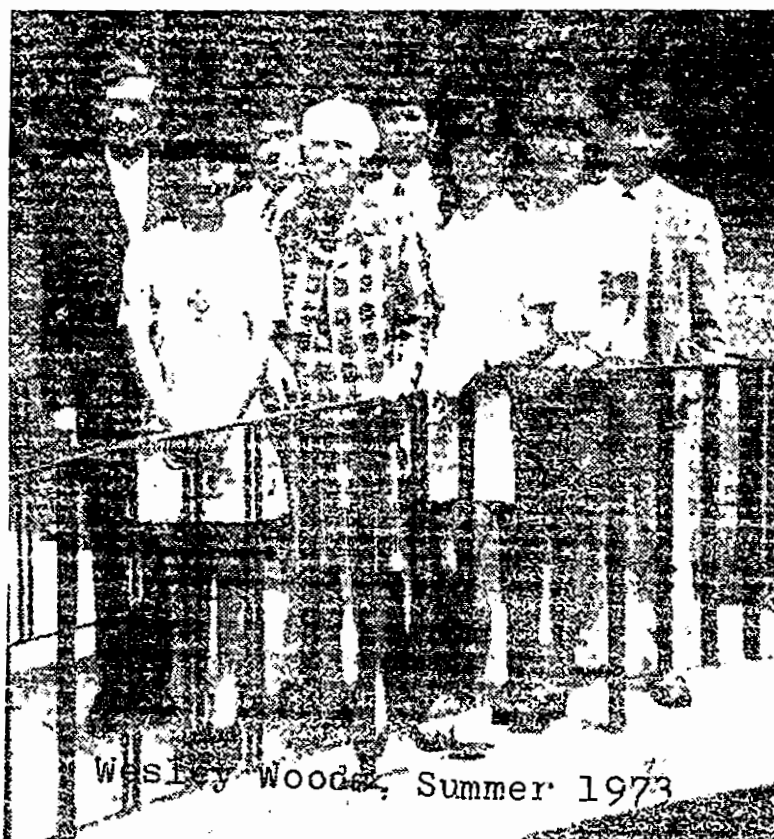
March 4, 1978, Atlanta, GA

Dear Family and Friends
of Sid and Olive Anderson,

主之家我為督基

Mother's and Dad's lives were long, and full of wonderful experiences - shared by each of you. Their photos include student conferences beside the beautiful hills and seashores of China, baptisms and weddings, growing families, building and growth of new churches, choirs, many groups meeting and working in fellowship - and children. They would not have wanted us to be sad at the end. Unknown to most, they had quietly weakened during recent months, and by December, as friends at Wesley Woods confided, were "nursing each other along", never asking for help as long as they could walk to meals.

Mother died quickly Jan. 4th after a few days at DeKalb General Hospital. She had made a "Living Will", not wanting her life to be prolonged by artificial means, requested cremation, and did not believe in fancy or commercial funerals. Dad visited her daily and attended the Memorial Service Jan. 8th at the regular morning worship, Trinity Methodist Church, where they were members in recent years. Friends old and new spoke informally of her life. Hilda Keng, friend from Soochow days, spoke "for the people of China." From her Mississippi birth (Oct. 8, 1890), her minister-father and teacher-mother (Bessie Watkins Lipscomb, who became a college president and leader in Methodist women's missionary movement) Mother's interests in every aspect of life never stopped growing. She searched out the best she could find in music, poetry, philosophy, and science - always seen through the eyes of a follower of Jesus - and shared her insights with all she knew. Her yearbook-notes show that she read 95 books during 1977 covering a wide range of interests.



Dad, who had been walking two miles a day till recent weeks, was now barely able to make it to meals, not knowing how sick he was. Weakening rapidly, he died Feb. 28th at Wesley Woods Health Center, following Mother's lead as to "Living Will" and cremation. At his Memorial Service March 2nd, Wesley Woods, two close friends spoke of his life, Rev. Sammy Clark of Trinity and Rev. Marvin Rast, Wesley Woods. The simple "worship center" included a cross, a globe of Earth turned to China, their favorite Chinese characters (above) which had hung in their living room, hand-lettered for them by a refugee minister - "Christ is the Lord of this House" - and this photo with the six LUK family children, who, after their own parents died, had adopted Mother and Dad as Grandma and Granddad. Dr. Rast spoke of the joy it had brought to them over the years watching these six each completing college and building new lives. Rev. Leroy Smith, blind resident of Wesley Woods, played the organ as his wife, Mary, sat nearby in her wheelchair. My parents had shared many pleasant walks with them on Wesley Woods trails, as Leroy pushed and Mary guided. Flowers were from Texas and Calif. Andersons, including Dad's sister, Etta (Mrs. Fred Higginbotham of Dallas), who had come to Atlanta to be with Dad for Mother's Memorial Service; and from Dr. Morris and Katherine Paty, friends for over 40 years and fellow China missionaries. Dad always cherished memories of his Texas boyhood (born Dec. 7, 1889), family general store and farm in the small western town of Rising Star, and college days in Nashville, Tenn. where he met Mother. Never much

concerned with theological doctrines, not endeavoring to point out a person's "Sins", and probably not believing in Hell, he did not exhort, but always saw the best in people and their potential, unswervingly dedicated to the simple Faith that Abundant Life is found through the Way of Love as exemplified by Jesus. All who knew him felt his sincere acceptance and boyish goodwill towards them, and sensed a happy and contagious desire for more Abundant Life.

The heart of their lives was 49 years in China, Dad starting in rural villages, Mother at Soochow, then building Moore Memorial Church amidst the 7-millions of Shanghai, a 7-day-a-week program where some 2,000 came daily, not only for worship but for activities touching every aspect of life - shoeshine club for homeless street boys learning to be self-supporting, several choirs, clubs for students and young adults finding new directions in their lives (one called "Nine-Naughty-but-Nice-Girls"). I remember a student conference, which was one of many, held at a Buddhist Monastery on the island of Poo Too.

With changing politics their final China days were in Hong Kong with refugees and as part of the growing North Point Methodist Church, celebrating its 25th Anniversary this year. Then a few years with missionary and Chinese travelers in San Francisco and as part of Glide Memorial Church, and seven retirement years at Wesley Woods and Trinity Methodist Church, Atlanta. Though they were active affiliate members of Glide and Trinity, they noted in their personal papers that they kept their membership in North Point Methodist Church, Hong Kong - and with the Church in mainland China. A plaque will be installed at North Point remembering their lifetime love for the people of China. Copies of the LUK family picture will be hung there, at Glide, Trinity, and Wesley Woods. A marker will be placed by the Gingko tree (a type first brought from China) which they planted a few years ago at Wesley Woods. Mother loved ocean voyages and often spoke of wanting to be buried at sea. Their ashes will be scattered at Sea off the coast of New England, March 12th. They always thought of the Earth and all its lands and peoples as interconnected and interdependent, just as the oceans and all their creatures are. A favorite poem was "The Chambered Nautilus."

Sid Anderson, Jr. New Milford, CT

Leonard M. Perryman
George M. Daniels
Board of Missions of The Methodist Church
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for immediate release

The Rev. Dr. Sidney R. Anderson, who has completed almost 50 years of service as a Methodist missionary including 12 as a worker among refugees in Hong Kong, will speak at

on

Dr. Anderson, whose American home is Rising Star, Texas, has returned to the United States to retire after giving most of his life in ministry to the Chinese people. He was in active missionary service longer than virtually any other person who has served under The Methodist Church.

Almost a half-century ago, in 1914, Dr. Anderson went to China as a missionary and served seven years as district superintendent in Sung Kiang and Soochow. In 1921 he was appointed pastor of the Moore Memorial Methodist Church in Shanghai and began one of the noted Christian ministries in Asia, serving until 1950. Under his leadership, Moore Memorial Church carried on a large program of social service and education. Its activities included a Bible school, an evening school for workmen, a hostel for young business women, a reading room, a vacation Bible school, and clubs and classes for men and women. For a time, Moore Memorial was believed to be the largest Protestant congregation in Asia.

In 1950, with the Communists occupying mainland China, Dr. Anderson returned to the United States on furlough and in 1951 was appointed to Hong Kong to work among refugees and to help in opening Methodist work there. In his work with refugees, he carried on the type of work he had done among Chinese refugees during World War II in Shanghai. Dr. Anderson conducted evangelistic services and relief work in newly-established Methodist churches among the refugees; in Wesley

village, a village for refugee fire victim families, with chapel and community center for Christian education and service; and at Chung Chi College, a Christian college in Hong Kong. He worked extensively through the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief.

Dr. Anderson is a native of Rising Star, Texas. He received his B.A. degree from the former Polytechnic College in Fort Worth, Texas (now Southern Methodist University in Dallas); his B.D. from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.; and D.D. from Texas Wesleyan College at Fort Worth.

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(release prepared in November, 1963)

Photographs from this
file have not been
included but are
available upon request.
For more information
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