

Rosalie Hunt



WMU-FILLED DNA

A love of WMU must be in my DNA. My mother, Alice Wells Hall, went to seminary on a WMU scholarship. She was appointed as a missionary to China in 1929, but the Great Depression hit, and the International Mission Board, then known as the Foreign Mission Board (FMB), regretfully said it couldn't send her. There wasn't enough money to do so. WMU volunteered to cover the cost of her salary, and she was able to go.

My mother met my missionary father in China. And for me, growing up in Zhenjiang, China, meant I was the only Baptist missionary kid (MK) girl in our city of half a million people. My Girls' Auxiliary (now Girls in Action) group had one member, and Mama was my leader! I loved the Forward Steps program and can still quote the pledge.

My husband, Bob, and I were appointed by FMB in 1961 and served in eight Asian countries until we retired in 1995, the same year the WMU Foundation was born. However, I really didn't understand the wonderful work of the WMU Foundation until I became a board member in 2008. I learned of one endowment after another. These funds help educate MKs, fight human trafficking, support fair trade, strengthen international WMU groups, and more. On our 65th wedding anniversary last year, our children set up the Bob and Rosalie Hunt Missions Endowment to support both national WMU and its work in every state. We are overwhelmed with the thought this gift will keep on giving, even when we are in glory.

Bob and I have found a special way to support both the WMU Foundation and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Twenty-five years ago, I wrote a book about Ann and Adoniram Judson, nineteenth-century missionaries to the country then known as Burma whose work contributed to the creation of the first Baptist association in the United States to support missionaries. We wanted all proceeds from the book to go to missions. Little did we realize that in a few years, the giving through that book and the nine that have followed would amount to several hundred thousand dollars. We could never be able to give like that on our retirement salary.

Last year, I began writing a book of mission stories for older children. I wanted each chapter to feature a missionary hero—and ordinary missionaries too. It didn't work quite as planned! I tried writing one chapter on Lottie. Not enough. By the third chapter, I knew Lottie needed her own book. Thus, *Lottie Moon and the Silent Bell* was born. I also discovered that Lottie is not just for children but for all the young at heart. I like to think of it as Lottie still giving, both through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and through the book's proceeds to the WMU Foundation.

Visit wmufoundation.com to learn how you can contribute to the legacy of missions work with a one-time or recurring donation or to integrate missions giving into your estate planning.

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ROSALIE HUNT, missionary emeritus, is an author and former WMU Foundation board member.