

@theorchard

THANK YOU, DAVE & DEBBIE

*Celebrating 34 years of ministry
at The Orchard Evangelical Free Church*

Over the course of 34 years, Dave Wardle has served The Orchard capably in a myriad of positions. But his first title—*Pastor of Personal Ministries*—seems to summarize best the great heart and passion that both Dave and his wife Debbie have always brought to their ministry.

Through the years, Dave's influence has been significant for many families of our church. He smiles as he reminisces about counseling with a couple in preparation for their marriage, performing their wedding ceremony, officiating at the dedication of their children—and then counseling and officiating at the marriage of those children. And that story was often repeated.

As the church grew, Dave served in roles ranging from *Director of Children's Ministries* to *Coordinator* for all-church events. He was often the staff person charged with starting a project or ministry and then passing it on to others. He was instrumental in initiating home Bible studies and provided oversight for men's ministry and men's retreats. He launched Adult Bible Fellowships and played a key role in starting the New Beginnings class.

In his work with the membership classes, Dave guided people as they confirmed their faith; some even came to know Christ through the classes. And he assisted new members in their assimilation into the life of the church.

This area was so challenging and rewarding for Dave that he chose it as the topic for his advanced degree work, writing his dissertation on *Assimilating People into a Large Church*. He received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Trinity in 1985.



When the church suffered the devastation of a major fire in 1982, Dave was our liaison with Hersey High School. During the two-and-a-half years the congregation met there, Dave coordinated and organized the rooms

we used at the school. Dave developed deep relationships with the Hersey staff, to whom he became the face of the church. He ministered to them while enlisting and engaging them for the service of the church. Through the following years, he also filled the same role as the church retained Sunday teaching space at both Olive and Thomas schools.

In his past five years as *Associate Pastor of Missions* at The Orchard, Dave has helped to increase the visibility of the missions outreach of the church. He and Debbie have poured their lives into the work and have provided care and support for more than 65 missionary individuals and families. Under Dave's leadership, the church completed two model World Impact Projects: The Elikya Project in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Village

Reading Posts project in Indonesia. As the entire church has become involved in these major efforts, everyone—from little children to older adults—has gained a greater understanding of the needs of people in other parts of the world. All have become engaged in spreading the Gospel to those without Christ.

In the end, as Dave and Debbie move to the next phase of their lives, they will be remembered at The Orchard not so much for the tasks they accomplished as for the lives they affected. So many people will mark their encounter with the ministry of Dave and Debbie Wardle as the point from which they began their Christian walk. Countless others will thank the Lord for bringing the Wardles into their lives at a strategic moment to offer love, counsel, care and spiritual direction.

God bless you, Dave. Thank you for your significant ministry for Christ at The Orchard.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND

A reception *honoring*

Dave and Debbie Wardle

In the Douglas Room,
Arlington Heights Campus

August 28, 2011, 3-5 PM

DEBBIE WARDLE

Several months ago, a tall, attractive American woman approached a customs officer in India. The officer gasped and exclaimed, "Are you Lady Diana?"

With her signature infectious smile, Debbie Wardle kindly said she was not. Actually, she is an attentive wife, mother and grandmother who has helped hundreds of people in many ways.

For 15 years, Debbie taught ELL (English Language Learner) classes, equipping non-English-speaking children with the tools they need to communicate and learn. While employed as a teacher, Debbie continued a ministry she had begun years before as a neighbor, PTA member and pastor's wife.

Through a remarkable sequence of neighborhood Bible studies, Debbie had been instrumental in leading many women to faith in Jesus Christ. As a public school teacher, Debbie reached out to her colleagues in love and concern and ministered to them through Bible studies. Each Friday before school for more than 10 years, Debbie led a Bible study at Olive School. Many women saw God intervene in their lives as they studied His Word and put their faith in Him.

Recently, after retiring from teaching, Debbie has used her English language learning skills for outreach, helping to develop programs and materials for the village libraries supported by The Orchard's World Impact Project in

Indonesia. As our high school students got ready to go to Hungary, where they would use English as an outreach, Debbie stepped in to prepare them for their classes. And she has assisted Shohei Suzuki, developing the curriculum and program for the English Café.

During Dave's years as Associate Pastor of Missions, Debbie has attended to the concerns of missionary wives, listening to them and encouraging them in ministry. The Wardles have often hosted families on furlough with a meal and a place to stay. As she has traveled overseas with Dave or by herself,

Debbie has continued her compassionate ministry of teaching and care.

Thank you, Debbie, for your ministry, which has been such an important part of God's work at The Orchard and beyond.



IN GRATEFUL TRIBUTE...

From Julie Anderson

Three years ago, God brought Debbie and me together in a most unique way. He laid a neighborhood Bible Study on both of our hearts at the same time. Lots of prayer and planning went into who to invite and how to make it warm and inviting. We let God do the rest. Debbie led the group as we studied Old and New Testament women and went through the Unlocking the Bible study. Last year we explored many basic Christian principles and memorized verses together. God's Word has transformed many of these women's

lives, and as one member said, "I feel like my eyes have been opened."

Debbie has been both a mentor and friend and an example of who Jesus is. Her sweet spirit, her love for Jesus, and her life of service for Him have had a powerful effect on me. She loves the Word of God and desires to share it with others, and this is one way that God has used her in our neighborhood!

From Sue Ryl

I have been privileged to call Debbie Wardle a close friend for many years. I have been in many Bible studies with Debbie. I have seen her quietly reaching out to staff members in the school where she worked for many years and in her neighborhood. Women who have been part of Bible studies led by Debbie have come away knowing the Lord and understanding the Bible better. Debbie's leadership style is not the only thing that brings women to attend these studies. Her actions and life example attract women to want to study and know more about our Savior. She is intentional about the studies she chooses, and she prayerfully considers the people that should be invited.

Debbie always takes the "scariness" factor out as she lets new people know that this is not a threatening situation; we are all learning—even those of us who have done Bible studies for years. Ask the women Debbie has led, and they would say it is a privilege to be able to be involved in Debbie's groups.

THE WARDLE FAMILY

When Dave and Debbie Wardle arrived in Arlington Heights, they were the proud parents of two young sons, Tim and Jeff. Two years later Steve arrived, making it a trio.

Being sons of a pastor at The Orchard offered great advantages for Tim, Jeff and Steve. They grew up in one place, their best friends were from The Orchard, and they were surrounded by people who supported and loved them. Their first opportunities for service were here, and they have continued those patterns in their careers and family life.



Tim earned a PhD in New Testament from Duke University. He is presently teaching at Wake Forest. Tim and his wife Cherie have three daughters.

Jeff is the Math and Science Chairman at Hersey High School. He and his wife Laura have two boys and a girl and are expecting their fourth child in September.

Steve and his wife Leah are involved in the field of microfinance. They met while both were serving in Haiti. At the present time, they live in Washington, DC, but in September they will be moving to Kenya to continue their work with the Grameen Foundation.



*From John Clarkson
Church Chairman, The Orchard*

I first met Dave at Winnetka Bible Church when I was 15 years old—that means I have known Dave longer than I have known my wife! He came to Winnetka to assist in the high school ministry. He was a Wheaton College track star, so he quickly earned my respect and the respect of my aspiring athlete friends as well. Dave and I reconnected more than 30 years ago, when Jan and

I began to attend church here. Over the years, my teenage admiration for Dave's physical prowess has changed into a deep appreciation for Dave's spiritual gifts and passion for doing the Lord's work well.

Dave has had a role in many ministries during his tenure at The Orchard, and God has used him to touch the lives of many and enrich each ministry that he has been a part of. I have had the privilege of serving with Dave on two differ-

ent mission teams to Haiti, where under extreme conditions Dave's temperament and disposition never changed. He was kind and gracious to our Haitian hosts, a great leader and organizer to our team, a model of consistency and compassion.

And how can you not love Debbie Wardle! She has been nearly as involved in the fabric and the life of our church as Dave has been. Wherever she has served, she has done so quietly and very effectively.

I certainly hope to continue to see both of them on a regular basis around church, but I'll miss having Dave be the face of the missions program at The Orchard! Thanks, Dave, for a job well done.

*From Colin Smith
Senior Pastor, The Orchard*

Dave's outstanding contribution to the ministry of The Orchard has been his special ability to connect with one individual or family and draw them into the life and service of the church.

Hundreds of people hold Dave in the highest affection and esteem because he made them feel at home in the church, got them connected with others, and helped them find a place in ministry.

Thank you Dave and Debbie for all you have done in your 34 years of service at The Orchard.

*From Bob Warren
Campus Pastor, The Orchard, Gym*

"Greater love has no man than this—that one lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) That's it! Nothing more needs to be said! You have been that kind of colleague and trusted friend, not only to me but also to Nancy and our family. THANK YOU, Dave.



*From Ted Olsen
Pastor to Seniors, The Orchard*

After 34 years, it is hard to imagine our church without the presence of Dave and Debbie's active leadership. No pastor has served longer or in more diverse roles than Pastor Dave. The Wardles have faithfully led us, taught us, and persuasively modeled the Christian life for us in their home and community as well as in the life of The Orchard. Thanks, Dave and Debbie, for the richness of your friendship from the first day—in 1975—until now.

*From Mike Densmoor
Missionary*

Dave and Debbie have embraced their role as pastors to the missionaries with the same level of excellence and godliness that they have shown in their other pastoral assignments at The Orchard. They are performing one of the most needed roles in missions today—that of incorporating the mission field into the daily life of the local church. Dave's years of pastoral work have

allowed him to integrate missions into the church in ways that I have not seen done before.

*From Eri Heck
Administrative Assistant, The Orchard*

"...what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8) Dave lives out this verse. He is always grateful, never demanding, and serves with a humble heart. He trusted the Lord and worked tirelessly to care for the needs of our missionaries. He read every missionary newsletter, update and prayer request and often responded to them personally. He also cared about his coworkers and his neighbors—kindly offering to help, even volunteering to take my family to the airport at 3 AM! I love his sense of humor.

I have gained much joy working as his assistant for the past five years.

*From Bjorn and Trisha Olsen
Missionaries*

Dave and Debbie Wardle have both been strong role models in our lives since childhood and have turned into

spiritual giants in our lives. Debbie led Trisha to the Lord in Awana when she was in 4th grade, and Pastor Wardle did our premarital counseling over eight years ago. We have been greatly impacted by their leadership in ministry, their heart for others, their gift of hospitality, personal encouragement and counsel on the mission field, and their dedication to the Lord.



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