

Stump, Lawrence M. (1898–1988)

JUDSON CHHAKCHHUAK

Judson Chhakchhuak is from Mizoram, Northeast India. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Religion degree with an emphasis in the New Testament from the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, the Philippines. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology degree from the Adventist University of the Philippines.

Lawrence Murphy Stump was an Adventist missionary, educator, and administrator for more than 40 years.

Early Life

Lawrence Murphy Stump was born November 27, 1898, in Falls City, Richardson County, Nebraska, U.S.A.¹ The second child of Washington Clement 'Clem' Stump (June 4, 1865-January 28, 1934) and Abigail Martin Stump (October 1866-January 3, 1917), he had four siblings: Francis Manley Stump (August 13, 1892-January 29, 1962), Jesse Patrick (Jess) Stump (August 2, 1900-July 18, 1990), Robert Mac Stump (May 30, 1902-February 17, 1989), and Alfred O. Stump (May 9, 1904-October 27, 1991).² Stump spent most of his early life in Falls City, Nebraska and Phoenix, Arizona.³ Raised in an Adventist home, he was baptized by Elder G. Wheeler in 1912 at Phoenix, Arizona.⁴

Education and Marriage

Lawrence studied for two years at Cartwright School, Phoenix, five years in the Phoenix Seventh-day Adventist school, two years at San Leandro Academy (1915-1917), and one year at Southwest Junior College (1919-1920). He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Pacific Union College in 1924.⁵ Later he earned a Masters of Arts degree from the University of the Philippines in 1932.⁶

Lawrence married Irene Julianna Ljuitjens (January 20, 1903-November 1, 1992), a home economics teacher and a cook, on April 23, 1919, in Glendale, Arizona. The couple had two daughters, Lois Margarete Stump (September 24, 1921-October 29, 2017)⁷ and Betty Louise (September 8, 1924-November 22, 2008).⁸

Ministry

A many skilled individual, Lawrence had worked as a farmer, contractor, painter, and literature evangelist.⁹ He began his career as an educator at Arizona Academy where he served as a teacher, dean of men, and cafeteria and farm manager¹⁰ between 1920-1923.¹¹ After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from Pacific Union College in 1924,¹² he served as the principal of Humboldt Academy in Eureka, California 1925-1930.¹³ While at Humboldt

Academy, a school where he had been a principal and manager since its establishment in 1925, Lawrence responded to a call to be a missionary in the Philippines. Stump, with his wife, Irene, and two daughters sailed on August 21, 1930, from San Francisco to the Philippines.¹⁴ There he became president of the Philippine Junior College in Manila, Philippines (now Adventist University of the Philippines). As enrolment grew steadily and the city became busier, church leaders in the Philippines and the Far Eastern Division felt a need to relocate the college to a site away from the city and moved it to Silang, Cavite. In the early part of 1931, Lawrence supervised the construction of the new school buildings on the new campus in Baesa, a then forested section of the town of Caloocan, Rizal.¹⁵

In 1932, the church upgraded Philippine Junior College to a senior college and renamed it Philippine Union College. In the same year, Lawrence received his Master of Arts degree from the University of the Philippines.¹⁶ In 1934, leadership ordained him as a minister in Manila.¹⁷ In 1935, through Lawrence's efforts, Philippine Union College earned government recognition as an educational institution. In the same year, Philippine Union College conferred the first baccalaureate degrees to three graduates: O. A. Blake, an American citizen; L. L. Pan, a British citizen from Singapore; and R. R. Senson, a Filipino.¹⁸ During Lawrence's tenure (1930-1936)¹⁹ the college experienced growth in terms of buildings and infrastructures as well as in enrolment.²⁰

His experience in the Philippines had its disappointments and hardships. During World War II, he suffered under the Japanese occupation at the Los Banos concentration camp,²¹ where he lost 55 pounds in weight and nearly starved to death.²² The paratroopers of the Eleventh Airborne Division rescued the interns of the Japanese camp in 1945.²³ After the liberation, Stump returned to the United States where he would complete his Ph.D. at the University of Arizona.²⁴

In 1946, Lawrence accepted a call to serve in the South American Division as the secretary of the education and Missionary Volunteer departments.²⁵ Four years later, he again returned to the United States as principal of Lodi Academy in Lodi, California.²⁶ Then in 1953 the board of trustees of Atlantic Union College (AUC) elected him president and business manager of Atlantic Union College.²⁷ During his tenure, AUC experienced great growth²⁸ in enrolment,²⁹ infrastructure,³⁰ financial stability,³¹ and faculty.³² After seven successful years in Atlantic Union College, he resigned at the annual college board of trustees meeting on March 6, 1960.³³

Lawrence then became principal of San Pasqual Academy in 1960.³⁴ The school enjoyed several developments during Lawrence's tenure, including a new swimming pool, several new faculty homes, new chapels, redesigned and redecorated lobbies and parlors in the dormitories, a new sewerage system, and a new gymnasium.³⁵

Later Life and Contributions

Lawrence served at San Pasqual until his retirement in 1965.³⁶ He died on October 28, 1988, in Sonoma, California.³⁷

Lawrence had more than 40 years of denominational service. His administrative gift of increasing student enrolment in Adventist educational institutions was a blessing to the church. Recognizing his contribution and accomplishment as an educator, the editorial board of *Who's Who in America* selected him to be in its twenty-seventh volume.³⁸ In addition to information about his life and family, *Who's Who* mentioned that Lawrence had been a prisoner of war during the Japanese occupation of Manila and that he had received a special citation for bravery.³⁹

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