

2006 Service Award Recipients

Phil & Lotella Cole



In 1969 after having served as teachers for over a decade, Phillip and Lotella Cole were appointed by the Southern Baptist Mission Board as missionary educators to West Africa at Ricks Institute in Liberia. (The missionary educator appointment required experience and a masters degree.) After their arrival in 1970 Mr. Cole served as a teacher of geography, history, and Bible, while Mrs. Cole as a business teacher taught typing, accounting, business law, and shorthand. Both were Sunday School teachers at the Washington Chapel Baptist Church on the campus. Among their joyous memories of their service at Ricks Institute were the revival services, baptism in the creek toward Massaquoi town, Sunday School class parties, and the mini Olympics (despite the hard work weekend).

In May of 1990 when the civil war was approaching Ricks, the Coles evacuated to Togo where they served almost one year in the West Africa Conference Center and as Bible teachers to pastors in the villages around Moretan awaiting to see if they could return and serve again at Ricks. Then they were appointed to serve as teachers at Mombasa Baptist High School in Kenya. Their Southern Baptist service as missionary educators ended in 1995. In retirement the Coles returned to Southern Illinois to care for Mr. Cole's aged father until his death in 1997. The Coles now live in his family home in Harrisburg, Illinois.