

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
LEISURE WORLDER OF THE MONTH
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JOSEPH HARRY HAINES

Dr. Harry Haines, who prefers to be called Harry, arrived in Leisure World twelve years ago from eastern Pennsylvania with nine other families he influenced to retire in the community.

That is but one of the reasons he merits the reputation as Leisure World's "Ambassador of Good Will". He is a guest speaker in clubs and organizations in Leisure World sharing his knowledge of life in eight countries in which he and Loma, his wife, have been residents. He has actively been involved in directing emergency relief operations in seventy-nine others. He refers to himself as a "ecumenical gypsy", as he talks about the midnight telephone calls received requesting his presence half way round the world.

When asked about his motivations, his response describes his early years in China and Malaysia where he witnessed the despair of people struggling for the necessities of life. He was moved to dedicate and devote himself to helping restructure the lives of victims of war, and of depravation and homelessness.

A theologian for more than fifty years, his call to the ministry brought with it a qualification; a purpose in life to assist others in countries over the world to develop a better quality of life, to "instill the gift of dignity" in those who were stripped of this quality by hunger, strife and natural disasters.

Harry's devotion to people is evident to his friends and acquaintances in Leisure World.

When requested to give a summary of his life, Dr. Joseph Harry Haines provided the following quote: "Most important and personally satisfying has been forty-one years spent involved in reaching out to the destitute and displaced, in international institutions fighting world hunger, attacking the root causes of hunger, aiding in development needs, the resettlement of refugees and in building hope and dignity. In all of this the support and loyalty of my life partner, Loma Ruth, to whom I have been married for fifty-three years, contributed strength and love. The World Council of Churches and the Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church provided motivation and support which made me always conscious of the strength of the World Church, established and surviving throughout wars and famines, floods and efforts to destroy".

The Leisure World Historical Society is pleased to present Dr. Harry Haines as Leisure Worlder of the Month for October, 1997.