

Fellowship International  
555 South 24 Street  
Allentown, PA 18104-6666

Robert and Susan Lawton

Rev. Robert (Bob) Lawton

I was born in Evanston, IL, and lived there until age 5 when my family moved to Parsippany, NJ, where I spent the rest of my childhood and teenage days until graduation from high school. My father and mother are both retired and have moved to Florida. I have 2 brothers and a sister. My older brother, Rich, lives in northern New Jersey and works for Verizon. My sister Barb is single and lives in Washington, DC, where she works in computer systems. My younger brother Steve is married and living in Winona Lake, IN.

As children, we grew up attending a church where the gospel was not clearly presented. Thus while, from about as early as I can remember, I had believed in God and prayed, yet I did not have a personal knowledge of the Lord through Christ. During my high school days, I began to search for answers to questions that began to perplex me. I began to read the New Testament and upon coming to the Sermon on the Mount, was convicted that I was a sinner. I even shared some of my concerns with friends at school, but none of them seemed to have the answer. Upon completing high school, I entered Princeton Univ. to study Aerospace Engineering, though I had my doubts as to the seriousness of my interest in that field, and was more concerned about the spiritual questions that were in the back of my mind. At the end of my first week on campus, finding myself sinking deeper and deeper into sin, I prayed and asked the Lord to show me if there was another path that He would have me to follow. The next day a couple of upperclassmen knocked on my door and began to tell me how Christ had changed their lives. (One of the 2 students was to become a COD missionary, Woody Lewis). As they spoke, inviting me to a Bible Study on the campus, I recalled what I had prayed the night before. It was through attending the Bible study to which they invited me that I met Dr. Donald Fullerton, a former missionary to Afghanistan seeking to reach university students for Christ. As I shared some of my concerns with Dr. Fullerton, he invited me to his home for an afternoon of one-to-one Bible study. It was on that first afternoon that I received the Lord as my personal Lord and Savior. He explained that receiving Christ as Lord means that we obey Him, like soldiers in any army. As I learned in subsequent days of discipleship, the last great order which the Lord gave us is the Great Commission, which has not yet been fulfilled. I became increasingly committed to missions from the day of my conversion. Dr. Fullerton, by example and precept, urged us to begin by reaching our fellow university students for Christ.

Sensing the Lord's leading, I decided to major in Civil Engineering and graduated in that department at Princeton with a B.S. in engineering in 1972. Going on to Grace Seminary in Winona Lake, IN, I graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 1976.

We are thankful to the Lord for our 2 children: Becky (now married) and Rondi (20) who both profess faith in Christ. Rondi is now a junior at Cedarville University.

Prior to our marriage in 1975, Susie had spent nearly 10 years as a missionary to young people under the Bible Club Movement (now BCM Int'l.) in the Princeton/Trenton, NJ area. She found during that time that her real burden and fruit was in the area of discipling older teenage girls. By our Lord's grace, two of the girls whom she led to the Lord and disciplined during those years are now missionaries. With this same vision in mind, after our marriage and completion of seminary for me, we participated in a two-year internship in the campus ministry through which I had been led to the Lord in Princeton. Our activities included evangelistic dormitory visitation, Bible teaching, discipleship, counseling, outings. A special interest to us was outreach to the international students. Upon completion of our ministry on the campus, we spent 7 or 8 months in deputation and packing and arrived on the field in Chile in 1979.

Our first year on the field was spent primarily in language and culture study. We then moved south to fill a need at the mission's Bible Institute in Temuco. Our duties included Bible teaching, administration, bookkeeping and general oversight of the live-in students and physical plant. With the help of your prayers with us, the Lord blessed abundantly. The enrollment in the institute more than doubled during our time there, for which we give the Lord all the praise. We also served in a number of ways in the local churches.

I was installed as interim pastor in a middle class residential church in Temuco, which, by the Lord's grace, we saw planted with its own national pastor a little over a year later.

As our time of furlough approached, the Lord brought a replacement couple along to assume our responsibilities, in a number of ways even better suited to the circumstances in Temuco than ourselves. Looking to the Lord as to our future assignment, our burden for reaching international university students was rekindled when visiting with one of my seminary classmates now serving as a pastor near the Ohio University campus. He had begun a ministry to international students (Ohio University having students from some 90 countries, some of which are closed to missionaries) but explained that he had little time to do an adequate job. Seeing the open door before us we felt the Lord was leading us to undertake our current ministry to international students beginning in January 1984. Our activities include an evangelistic book table, visitation, small group and individual Bible studies, dinners, outings, etc. By the Lord's grace and with your help through prayer we have been thankful to see a number of students from Mainland China and other lands pray to receive Christ as Savior. Our prayer is that students may be discipled and return to their countries as lights to their own people.

Most recently the Lord has led us to relocate to the greater Washington DC area where our ministry includes evangelism and discipleship among international students at the University of Maryland, Prince Georges Community College and Bowie State University. Bob also has the privilege of teaching Introduction to Missions at Washington Bible College. This strategic location also gives us opportunities for continued fellowship with international contacts we have made, by God's grace, over the past years.

Mrs. Susan (Susie) Lawton

Susie was born in New York City (Bronx) but spent most of her childhood in Princeton, NJ. Susie's dad worked as a mechanical engineer and was unsaved until about 2 years before his death in 1980. Susie's mom had been a believer for 51 years before her death in March, 2000. Susie's sister, Sandy, and her husband, Kent, now live in New Hampshire.

Susie believes that she trusted the Lord as a small child but came to a real assurance of salvation in her late teens. While a student at Moody Bible Institute, she committed herself to a willingness to go anywhere for the Lord. After graduation from high school, Susie attended the Westminster Choir College in Princeton where she majored in organ for 2 years. She then transferred to Moody Bible Institute in Chicago where she was graduated with a B.S. in 1966.

Where currently serving: Greater Washington, D.C./Baltimore area

Date of present assignment: January, 1984

Date of next scheduled furlough: N/A

Date of COD's beginning support: January 1979

Birthdates:	Bob	September 30, 1950
	Susie	June 15, 1942
	Rondi	March 20, 1980

Wedding Anniversary: June 7, 1975

October 2000