

Faith In Action

A new series profiling members and friends of SMCC

John and Maxine Rollins

John and Maxine Rollins, long--time San Marino Community Church members and retired Presbyterian missionaries, were high school sweethearts in Minneapolis where they were inspired to lead a life of Christian service following a visit from a traveling evangelist, Bill Piper.



Following college, where John studied hospital administration and Maxine nursing, they applied and were accepted into missionary training by the Presbyterian Board of Missions. Upon completion in 1960, the Board, noting John's education and experience, assigned them to the Francis Newton Hospital in Firozpur, northern India, very near the border with Pakistan. This was a 250 bed teaching hospital, and while John was busy building hospital programs and creating accounting methods manuals, Maxine was teaching student nurses to be anesthetists.

In 1965, when the second Pakistani--Indian war broke out, the first having been in 1947, the Rollins were caught in the middle of artillery shelling. Always firing at night, so the explosions could be tracked, the two sides lobbed shells over the Rollins' heads, the Pakistanis trying to hit the railway station across the street from where John and Maxine were living. Finally, they succeeded, causing a horrible racket and also causing concerned friends to ask why the Rollins were staying. John said they never considered packing up and fleeing to safer ground. Their work was there, their friends were there, and God was there with them.

Ten years later, John took charge of Brown Memorial Hospital, a 700 bed teaching hospital in Ludhiana, State of Punjab. Attached was the Ludhiana Christian Medical College, where Maxine taught the skill of anesthesia to 180 nursing students. After three years, they returned to the USA, where John became the Administrator of Westminster Gardens. During this time they came to know SMCC, becoming members in 1984. Originally drawn by the music program, both singing in the Chancel Choir for 19 years, John also served 2 terms on Session and was Clerk of Session for 3 years.

In 1994, John and Maxine were again called to serve internationally. This time, the locale was Katmandu, Nepal. John worked as Administrative Officer at Patan Hospital, where Maxine worked, part time, as a nurse anesthetist. She also was a volunteer hostess for the foreign visitors to the hospital through September of 1997. Toward the end of this time, a group from SMCC visited John and Maxine in Nepal.

John and Maxine have more stories than there is space here to tell. In talking with them it is easy to sense their willingness to share their inspiring story. Catch them in the courtyard and become a part of the wonderful outreach they have been blessed to provide. We are all blessed they are part of SMCC.

San Marino Community Church 1750 Virginia Road, San Marino, CA 91108
(626) 282-4181 • Fax: (626) 282-4185 www.smccpby.com • smcc@smccpby.com