

Dr. David Hilton – The 2004 HMA Wilkerson-Droege Award Recipient...

Dave Hilton grew up in Rochester, Minnesota, the son of a Brethren pastor. He earned a BA degree from the church's college, Named Indiana Central at that time. After getting his medical degree (MD) at Indiana University in 1957, Dave served an internship in the Panama Canal zone and completed a year of training in Texas, before going as a medical missionary for the Evangelical United Brethren Church (now the United Methodist Church) to a remote rural area of northern Nigeria. For ten years he practiced surgery, obstetrics, tropical medicine, general medicine, and hospital administration.

From 1969 to 1975, Dr. Hilton practiced Family Medicine in Wisconsin. Then he returned to Nigeria as a medical consultant to the Church of the Brethren's community-based health program until 1979 when he became the physician for the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

In 1986, Dr. Hilton joined the staff of the Christian Medical Commission, World Council of Churches, in Geneva, Switzerland, consulting on health for a number of churches around the globe for the next six years. He was also editor of *Contact*, a bi-monthly religion and health publication published in six languages for over 35,000 readers in 130 countries. He has done consulting in 58 countries on five continents.

Since April 1992, Dr. Hilton has been a consultant internationally on faith-based health programs for local churches, denominations, mission boards and other Christian agencies. At Emory University he is adjunct professor of International Health and special assistant to the university chaplain, working with international students and students in the schools of Medicine and Public Health. He teaches elective courses in "Health as Social Justice" and "Spirituality and Medicine".

In the United States, he has been a member of the governing boards of three national health networking organizations: Health Ministries Association, INC.; Christian Community Health Fellowship; and Christian Connections for International Health. He was certified as a Family Physician three consecutive times by the American Board of Family Practice and is a Life Member of the American Academy of Family Practice. He has spoken and written extensively for professional journals on the topic of community-based healthcare, the role of the church in health, the congregation as a healing community, justice and health, and the future of medical mission. His vision was for the church to be a healing community, bringing fullness of life (whole person health) to all.

Dr. Hilton lived in Clarkston, Georgia with his wife, Laveta, a pianist and international musicologist. The couple had two daughters and one son. Dr. Hilton died in August, 2008 of complications of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma at the age of 76.