

This Week in Eden History

February 16 | Frederick A. Goetsch



Frederick A. Goetsch's Eden senior class photo, 1908 | Eden Seminary Archives

Frederick A. Goetsch, missionary and mission administrator, died Feb. 16, 1947 (born Dec. 7, 1882, in St. Louis). After attending Washington University, he completed his pastoral studies at Eden in 1908 and was ordained at St. Peter's Evangelical Church, St. Louis (his home congregation), on July 19. Goetsch served as pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Church, Toledo, Ohio, until his commissioning as a missionary on Oct. 10, 1909. He served in India from December 1909 until April 1927, stationed at Raipur, Mahasamud and Bistrampur. He was Associate Executive Secretary, Board of Foreign Missions, Evangelical Synod of North America, 1928–1934, and Executive Secretary, Board of International Missions, Evangelical and Reformed Church, 1934–1947. After the Evangelical Synod's merger with the Reformed Church, Goetsch served as co-secretary with A.V. Casselman, until Casselman's retirement.

While serving the Evangelical & Reformed Church, Goetsch administered a world-wide mission organization with efforts in India, Honduras, China, Japan, Ecuador, and western Africa. He travelled to these mission fields and to Europe so frequently between 1928 and 1941 that the U.S. military inquired if he had photographs that might be useful in the government's war preparations.

The middle decades of the 20th Century were the peak of Western Christianity's efforts to convert the world to Christianity. Goetsch was heavily involved in many of the interdenominational

Eden Theological Seminary Archives
475 E. Lockwood Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63119
(314) 252.3141

<https://www.eden.edu/the-archives-at-eden-theological-seminary/>

organizations guiding this work, including the Foreign Missions Conference of North America, the Committee of Reference and Counsel, the Committee of Cooperation in Latin America, and the International Missionary Council.

Eden Theological Seminary recognized Rev. Goetsch's long and successful work in international missions by naming the newly constructed apartment buildings on the east side of campus after him in 1954. Four furnished apartments in the building were set aside for furloughed missionaries.

Eden Theological Seminary Archives
475 E. Lockwood Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63119
(314) 252.3141

<https://www.eden.edu/the-archives-at-eden-theological-seminary/>