I. Dorothy Nelson's Drama Over Greenland

Don A. Roth <donaroth@verizon.net> July 16:
Former FED worker Dorothy Nelson has written a fascinating new book that describes her adventures in flying a single-engine aircraft over the wilds of the Arctic region while on a mission flight. "Mayday Over the Arctic" is the name of the book that was published by the Pacific Press Publishing Association. I obtained this book after it was recommend to me by Jerry Bruce and I could hardly put it down after I started reading it.

Dorothy Nelson is a registered nurse and a pilot with commercial, instrument, multi-engine land and sea, and flight instructor ratings. She holds master's degrees in public health and music. She was married to another former FED worker, Dr. Wilbur Nelson, now deceased, and she has five children and eight grandchildren.

Her adventures in the Arctic came when she flew her own Lake Amphibian aircraft from the USA to the Philippines where it was destined to be used in fulltime mission service. She was accompanied on the trip by her trainer. It was while flying over Greenland that she lost essential engine oil and soon the engine stopped. They landed safely on an huge ice flow. They were eventually rescued by a helicopter but the plane was never flown again. She has woven in the story of her life as a flyer throughout the 160 pages of the book.

Dorothy and her husband are best known in the FED world during the time they served in Hong Kong where Bill taught at the college at Clearwater Bay. They started out in Taiwan where he also taught and later they went to the Philippines where they were active in medical evangelism.

A forward to the book was written by a former General Conference president, Neal C. Wilson, still alive today and living in Maryland, who at one time conducted a major evangelistic series in Manila with the help of Dorothy and her many health helpers. "The book," he writes, "comes to me with special meaning."

Dorothy's contribution to the work of the church was huge and involved airplanes a good deal of her service time. The manuscript for the book was completed while Dorothy was on a teaching assignment in Riyadh where two of her sons, Richard and Ken were faculty members of Loma Linda University--Saudi Arabia.

For all interested Far Easterners, this is recommend reading. Contact your local Book and Bible House or go to your computer and order by Internet.

II. G. T. Ng, New Secretary of GC

1. Ralph Neall <RalphNeall@aol.com> July 13:
G. T. Ng was in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in the SDA English Language School when I was sent to hold evangelistic meetings there in 1974, before my wife and I come home on PR. He was chaplain of the church and chaplain of the language school.

There were four or five student missionaries teaching at that time, one of whom should never have been sent there. He was anti-social and not getting along with the other SMs. Pastor Ng Gan Theow, as I knew him, was doing an excellent job pouring oil on the troubled waters, and I respected him highly for the work he was doing. Fortunately the offending SM reached the end of his term and went home while I was holding my meetings. Gan Theow and his wife, Ivy, with the last of the SMs, escaped with only their suitcases when the Communists took over in 1975.

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2. Penny Shell <oregonrancher@usfamily.net> July 13:

How delighted I am to hear of the election on Ng Gan Theow as World Secretary. Although he is now an older, experienced, and wise administrator, I still think of him and Ivy as young college students at Southeast Asia Union College. Gan Theow was a quiet, thoughtful, gentle young man who helped to make my time as a volunteer teacher of psychology and English in 1970-1971 so rewarding. May God bless Gan Theow and Ivy in this new role and give them continued strength and health.

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III. APIU Gets New ESL Coordinator

The Asia-Pacific International University welcomes Mrs. Forsythia Galgao <fgalgao@apiu.edu> as the new ESL coordinator. Mrs. Forsythia has a Master's degree in English as a Second Language from the University of the Philippines. She has more than 35 years of teaching and administration experience in the Philippines, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Thailand.

Her husband, Mr. Gabriel is here and their sons, Gabby and Jun, are studying at Asia-Pacific International University. They come from Cebu, the Philippines.-- APIU's July 8 "Newsbyte"

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IV. Regaining Church Properties in China

"Before 1949 the General Conference of SDA owned 285 properties in [mainland]China, including churches, hospitals, schools, and staff dormitories. These properties were confiscated after the Korean War broke out.

"Since China has opened up, many church properties have been returned. Adventists in China are also actively seeking the return their properties. An enormous amount of information has been collected from historical records and many other sources. In recent years, the Chinese Union Mission has helped regain some of these lost properties." -- from the Chinese Union Mission's booklet handed out at the GC

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V. New Aircraft for Philippines

Wendy Harris <wrguptill@gmail.com> July 19:

Many of you have been anxious to hear how things are going with a second helicopter and we finally have some news to share. Soon after we got to the States, Dwayne talked with the owner of the MD500 in New Zealand (that we still have a small down payment on). We prayed that God would close the doors or show us His will and so we continue to be content as the doors have stayed open even as the deadlines passed without sufficient funds. The owner decided to put it back on the market but he has been sympathetic and seems to still really want things to work out for us, because he said he would still honor our down payment if we came up with the rest of the money before someone else bought it.

Another exciting opportunity has opened up for us lately. Dwayne has been talking with some friends who are in the helicopter business and has been sharing with them what God has done for this project. To our surprise they offered us their R44 for a minimal amount! They are just asking from us the amount they will need to put a down payment on a replacement helicopter.
We praise God for this huge answer to prayer and we pray that you will join us in prayer about this opportunity. Ideally we could use this helicopter right away, but we trust God will bring it in His perfect timing.

While Dwayne was discussing details with them the other day, they also gave us some great news that soared our spirits. They have decided to help us purchase a new vehicle for our Luzon project! This will help us out greatly, since we need a vehicle before we can do anything else. God is so good and he knows just what we need and when we need it.

Another quick update on the Cessna 180 airplane we've been planning to purchase from another mission agency in the Philippines: We recently received an email from them stating that they no longer wish to sell it to us . . . so we are back to square one on that. We will be looking for another fixed-wing airplane to purchase for inter-island travel and between our two projects.

Thanks so much for keeping all this in your prayers. We hope you are encouraged in your faith as we have been the last few months as we see God answer prayers.

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VI. "Loving the Truth" -- a Philippine Mission Story
by Lysa Salina

"My name is Lysa, and I live in the Philippines. But while I still lived in Malaysia, a friend gave me a Bible and invited me to her church. I went and found a group of loving people who drew me to God. I read the Bible and joined a small-group Bible study. I surrendered my life to Christ, and joined the church. I felt fulfilled and blessed.

"Then my father died, and my mother felt all alone. She called me back to the Philippines to live with her and help care for my disabled sister. I returned to the Philippines and began attending a church of the same denomination as the one I had left in Malaysia, But it wasn't the same. I missed the close fellowship of loving friends who had been closer than family to me.

"Then one day a man came to our house selling books. I wasn't interested in what he had to say, but my mother invited him in and they talked for a long time. Finally I began listening to them. I asked what church he belonged to, and he told me he was a Seventh-day Adventist. I hadn't heard of Adventists before, and I asked him many questions.

"He couldn't answer all my questions that day, but he promised to return. The next day the man came back with his Bible. Again I began asking questions and he answered each one from the Bible.

"He invited me to evangelistic meetings that were being held in a church not far from our home. I went because I was thirsty for God's Word. I attended the meetings, but the Sabbath was too strange for me to accept. I wondered why these Adventists worship on Saturday when other churches worship on Sunday. But I was determined to study the issue for myself. If the Sabbath was true, I needed to know so I could tell my spiritual brothers and sisters in Malaysia.

"I asked God to show me the truth in this Sabbath issue. I visited the library of a religious university in town searching for a book on the history of Christianity. I prayed again and opened my eyes. There was the book I was looking for. I checked it out and started reading it. Sure enough, it said that the Bible Sabbath was Saturday; man had changed the day of worship to Sunday.

"I began attending the Adventist church, and in time my daughter and I were baptized. I pray for my family and for my Christian friends in Malaysia who don't yet know this wonderful truth." -- Lysa Salinas shares her faith in central Philippines. The above is from the current senior Sabbath School quarterly.

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VII. A Mid-Summer Reporting

Dorothy (Minchin-Comm) <dotmcomm@msn.com> July 20:
Dear Family and Friends: A Generic Message to All
Enough time has passed so that I now face a monumental case of neglect. Therefore, I shall apologize once and then fill cyberspace with a single message to one and all. Considering the stand I take at the end of this letter, you'll find my technique contradictory. It can't be helped.

In order to enable you to read faster, I shall itemize the information.

1. With the fall I had at the end of January, I lost ground. I am now adjusting an anti-inflammatory drug (Diclofenac) to be able to cope with the arthritis that's eating me alive (in all of the old surgery sites). Thus I (mainly) keep off of pain medications and preserve whatever mental powers I have left.

2. I spent a king's ransom on a (double) Tempur-pedic bed. It has the heaviest, densest foam mattress you ever saw. I cannot fall now. (Twice, I rolled off the bed and had call the paramedics to pick me up! Once I am on the floor I am down for the count.) So, I do my reading, editing, telephone calling, and TV-watching in the horizontal. The rest of the time I am in my wheelchair, at the computer.

3. Vic and Gem Fitch, my dear friends have gone their health crisis and maintained communication better than I have done. Thankfully, they have survived that long journey that we were all praying them through. I don't have any such excuse, however, for my extended silences. Sorry!

4. I now have a live-in caretaker, Cindy de Mille. A cheerful person, she seems to like both me and Bugsy (my dog). We're all compatible.

5. Because I have this present living arrangement working for me, I am postponing my efforts to get rid of my house for probably another year. (Maybe the real-estate market will improve. Maybe not.) Wisdom: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." At least, don't mess around until circumstances force you to do so. Besides, I just love my little house here in the mountain pass.

6. I daily labor with "garage debris." Majority of my books are gone now, and, file by file, my teaching stuff is going through the shredder and out. At least I don't to be in a panic and rush the job. At the same time, my life as I have known it, walks out of the door, day after day.

7. Ideally, I get to a swimming pool three times a week. I spend an hour walking in the water and kicking at the side. Actual swimming still eludes me. To stand up and walk is, however, quite an intoxicating experience. Believe me. When you have to be lowered into the pool by a hydraulic life, you may assume that you have (hopefully) overcome your last bits of vainly.


9. Son Larry has given up his big house and moved his family into a two-bedroom apartment in Ontario, CA. Lorna maintains herself in her apartment in Riverside, CA. I talk to both of them on the phone every day but do not see them often.

10. I get to church most weekends. Also, to my book club. Otherwise, Cindy runs the errands and keeps fuel in the car. I have always hated shopping, so it's very liberating not to have to go out now.

11. It's important to stay connected with you all. Such an essential of old age, wouldn't you say? I have had sundry invitations to Facebook, etc, and, indeed, my name does float about somewhere within that morass. Be informed, however, that I do not, cannot, use any of it. I don't know how it works, and it scares me. (Mass movements, herd activity, mob noise, rallies, and gangsterism in general always put me off. In my working days I had to force myself even to go to committee meetings!) Besides, it would all take too much time.

Moreover, I now find people I don't even know wanting to "get in" at me from cyberspace. By the same token, I don't twitter, tweet, text, blog, bleep, bop, snoop, snipe, or snot. None of those things. Forgive me my backwardness.
On the other hand, I am always here, at the end of a simple phone call (951) 845-3266 or an email (dotmcomm@msn.com). Waiting to hear from you. Indeed an old-fashioned letter might almost move me to tears.
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