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~~~~~~~~~~~~ I. Letters & Seasons Greetings
   1. Maurice Bascom, January 4:
      The Lord has blessed us with health, and we thank Him for it. If anyone would like to communicate with us our email is maurib@verizon.net.
      Your friends,
      Mauri and Dottie
   2. Dick & Jean Hall <DicknJeanH@cs.com> January 9:
      The mail has brought us some very interesting "Christmas" letters, and we have so thoroughly enjoyed them that we want to write one too, to make sure we won't be crossed off the lists!
      As for us, we didn't take any cruises, didn't go overseas after we got back from Thailand and Laos in January, (and we wrote after that) and haven't had any health problems worth talking about, so what is there to write about? The Lord's blessings that fill our lives.
      We had a beautiful garden, got lots of squash, both summer and winter, and beets, and tomatoes, beans, and all that sort of thing, and the roses filled our hearts with beauty. We don't grow them around our house as it is too shady, so we have to go out where there is sun.
      We had a flood which originated in the master bathroom while we were gone on a RV club outing, and had to empty the bedroom, bathrooms, and hallway of 'things' and dry the floors out, so with the loud noises of the fans and heaters, we slept in the motor home for what seemed like a long time. We got new carpet and vinyl over new boards, but still have not put everything back, and can't find things we need. We had stored things in every conceivable place in the house and garage. Guess we have too much stuff, but memories are tied to so much of it. I have taken several bags full of stuff to the thrift store, and still have more I could take, but don't have time to go through more before we leave for the desert and sunshine, which hopefully is in a couple days.
      We have lost several cousins, and miss them a lot, and are so very thankful that my brother John's family had a large reunion to celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary and our 60th, at a time when we could enjoy all the relatives. This was held on Vashon Island where they live, in a lovely spot that overlooks the bay.
      Christmas letters are for telling the accomplishments of wonderful children and grandchildren, so we must update you on these. Janice and John are still living in Gladstone near Portland, and working at Portland Adventist Hospital, he in X-Ray as a CT specialist, and she in Day-Stay (one-day surgery). Their two kids, Mandy and Eric still live at home, Mandy is in her third year of Naturopathic medicine and spends much of her time studying as it is a very intense program and she is a very dedicated student. Eric was in a bad accident and injured his femur and still suffers pain from this, and is not working, but hopes to continue studying.
      Mark's girls are adventuresome, so lead interesting lives. Heather is in transition from California, to Arizona, to Washington, then on her way to her mother's in Calgary. Katrina went to Turkey and on to Italy where she is studying the language.
Riki and her husband Yik are still working in the same places in Bangkok. He at the Royal Palace grounds; she at a local stock brokerage, as editor in their research house. We enjoy visits from them here at least once a year, and Riki tries to come more often, as she can work on line for her company.

Our cat still is faithful to us and so are the chickens. We get 5 or 6 large brown eggs daily. They love to come up on the back porch and eat the cat food if we leave it out. The bandy chickens don't give us any eggs, but they are pretty and we enjoy watching them.

Dick and I are in good health, and still go out to churches in Oregon, and tell what ADRA is doing, and now have taken on the Quiet Hour as well, and it is amazing what they do around the world, with medical projects, well-drilling, evangelism, flying programs. Now the big project is to get God Pods: into the places where there is no written language and the people are hungry for the word from God. Amazing what a change comes on them when they listen to God's word on the God Pods, that are powered by the sun!

God bless you all, and thank you for your messages to us. Happy New Year to all, Dick and Jean

II. Good News on Mary Wong's Health
Dayton Chong <Daytonch@aol.com> December 29:

Happy New Year! Praise the Lord for His benevolent love and mercies! My sister, Mary's surgeon told her yesterday afternoon in a post-surgical conference with her and her family, that the surgeons were able to remove all the cancer from her ovary, and that all the biopsies of the other organs and lymph nodes of her body indicated no cancer has spread to them at all.

They are totally cancer free, and that if she were to receive at least a course of chemotherapy, she will not suffer from cancer again for many years to come. Isn't that wonderful news for our new year? Thanks so much for caring and praying earnestly for her during these past few weeks! We, as a family, truly appreciate your love and concern for Mary! Please continue to pray for her. She currently has no pain whatsoever!

III. Remembering Benjamin Bandiola
1. Otis Edwards <ocedw@aol.com> January 3:

I was on the faculty at Philippine Union College when Ben Bandiola was a professor there. We all had tremendous respect for him. He was an excellent teacher, leader and friend and an outstanding Christian. God used him in many ways while he was there! Our sympathy goes to his family and friends during this time of sorrow!

2. Jonathan Ng <jonndong@gmail.com> January 3:

Dr. Bandiola was one of my teachers at Philippine Union College from 1966-1968. He was a great teacher and a good friend. I have fond memories of him. May the Lord's grace and comfort be with Mrs. Bandiola and the family.

Jonathan Ng
Retired Pastor

IV. Rudi Maier New ADRA President

The following is from Andrews University's current alumni magazine, FOCUS:

"The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International Board of Directors appointed Rudi Maier as the agency's new president and executive director during the board's regular autumn meeting. Maier most recently served the Church as professor of mission in the Department of World Mission at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. His ADRA appointment became effective October 12, 2010.

"Maier, who has extensive experience in international development, becomes the fourth ADRA International president since its founding in 1984. He takes over the helm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's global humanitarian agency at a time of increased need for development and relief interventions.

"We are pleased to announce Maier's appointment to this vital position,' said Dr. Ella Simmons, vice-chair of the ADRA Board of Directors.
'We congratulate him and wish him success in this new leadership.'

"Maier's long career in academia has been complimented by an ongoing involvement in international development. Between 1981 and 1988, he worked for ADRA, building the agency's monitoring and evaluation capacity, and implementing community-based programs. For more than 20 years Maier taught at Andrews University, and consulted for numerous nongovernmental organizations in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the former Soviet Union.
"Born in Germany, Maier served in various professional capacities in Pakistan and Sri Lanka. He holds a doctorate in Sociology and International Development from American University, and Master of Arts in South Asian Languages and Culture from the University of Chicago.

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V. Obituary of Janet J. Miller

The following is from the current alumni magazine, WESTWIND, of WWU

"Dedicated Musician and Librarian

"With a lifelong love for music and books, Janet J. Miller spent her life devoted to both. In 1940 Janet graduated from Walla Walla University with a major in music. Later she completed masters degrees in music and library science.

"Janet began her teaching career at Mt. Ellis Academy in Montana and Lynwood Academy in California, which led to an invitation to teach piano at her alma mater. For seven years, from 1947 to 1954, she taught not only piano lessons, but music education, history of the arts, and music history and literature.

"Janet was one of four piano teachers in the Department of Music at that time, and quickly earned the respect and admiration of faculty and students for her qualities as a person and for her thoughtfulness and knowledge as a teacher.

"In 1954, Janet returned to her childhood home in Spokane, Wash. where she worked for 25 years as the department head of the city's public library. Following her retirement in 1979, Janet traveled to the Philippines where she became the director of the Graduate School Seminary Library of Philippine Union College and Far Eastern Theological Seminary.

"Janet was born Jan. 10, 1916 and died July 18, 2010. She will be remembered for her beautiful touch on the keyboard, her extensive knowledge of books and music, and her warm hospitality and culinary arts."

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VI. Paul Jensen Memorial Date Changed

Mel Lyon <LyonMel@wmconnect.com> January 6:

The following word has now been released by Connie Beckworth, Secretary in the Southern Union Conference Publishing Department office:

"The memorial service for Paul Jensen (as earlier scheduled for February 6, 2011) has been canceled until further notice. Shirley and Julie are overwhelmed with the many things to finalize. Please remember them in your prayers."

Note: Shirley's health challenges of the past year have been daunting, and now she has injuries to contend with arising from the tragic December 20 auto accident which took Paul's life. We are sure that all who knew Paul (and Shirley) as wonderful friends, and who would want to honor his life by gathering together for a memorial service, are understanding of the family's need for more time and space under the circumstances. The family funeral that was held the day after Christmas at Crossville, Tennessee was a warm and sacred occasion. Indeed let us remember this family in our prayers at this trying time.

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VII. Southwestern A. U. Plans Taiwan 2011 Study Tour

The following is from the current alumni magazine, SOUTHWESTERN SPIRIT, of SWAU:

"Summer 2011 Taiwan Overseas Study Tour

*See famous international landmarks.
*Teach English as a student missionary.
*Gain international business experience.
*Earn class credit.
*Learn Chinese!!
*For more information, contact the business department at Southwestern Adventist University; 800-433-2240 or 817-645-3921 or on the web at wwwswauedu"

[Readers will be interested to know that Dr. Jook Ting Shim joined the faculty at SWAU last year. He is the son of Dr. & Mrs.(Rose) C. P. Shim who were teachers at our colleges in Hong Kong and Taiwan.] ~~~~~~~~~~ VIII. Gerald Christo's Memoirs: Return to Mongolia, Part 2 of 2

[ Gerald J. Christo, retired former president of the Southern Asia Division, volunteered for pioneering work in Mongolia. The following is from the last chapters of his book, "Out of the Clay Pit," which is being serialized in the SUD e-News, a letter similar to this for those interested in the old Southern Asia Division. Perhaps readers of this newsletter will find points of interest in the work in Mongolia which is now a part of what used to be the Far Eastern Division.]

The highlight of our second trip to Mongolia was the weekend we visited Darkhan and Edernet with Byra and Enkhebayar. We spent the Sabbath at Edernet, a mining town where two thousand Russians worked and lived. We saw an enthusiastic Nyamdava ministering to a group of young people. We left after Sabbath and reached Darkhan at midnight. Bold met us at the railway station. Not wanting to wake his little family, Birol slept on a sofa and I slept on the
carpet. In the morning we were delighted to see Otguh and the baby. Otguh gave us a hearty breakfast. We had a service with a few members on Sunday morning and in the afternoon we returned to Ulaanbaatar by car.

Our second love affair with the young Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mongolia was coming to an end. Winter had set in once more. The Tunnels were scheduled to arrive before we left, but their daughter Jessica was a freshman in high school, so she was not returning with them. We were happy that their cats had survived their absence. Birol readied the house for their arrival. She put clean sheets in the master bedroom, made Ashley's bed, and we decided to sleep on Jessica's double-decker bunk beds. I asked Birol, "Why are you getting the beds ready so early?" I knew the answer. She doesn't ever leave things till the last minute, except her own grooming and dressing! The metamorphosis from her work clothes to a butterfly takes just an instant.

The telephone rang. It sounded far away, yet I detected an American accent. "Do you understand English?" the caller enquired. "I sure do," I replied. "No wonder the voice seemed distant. Whoever was calling, was calling from Russia, just beyond the Baikal Lake area. The voice continued, "Can you make reservations in a hotel? Three of us will be arriving from Russia tomorrow." Knowing that the beds were all made up, I said in my best English, "You can stay with us." The next day, Bob and Brenda Robinson accompanied by a Russian pastor arrived. Thinking that there was a shortage of food in Ulaanbaatar, they had brought a lot of food-Worthington canned goods, dry fruit, and dried bananas. They enjoyed Birol's rice and curry.

They talked with Munk about the possibilities of sending a Russian missionary to take the gospel to the Russian communities residing in Mongolia. In the evening, the Russian pastor took us to a Russian Club where the chef prepared delicious salads and vegetarian entrees.

Bob had been treasurer of the Euro-Asian Division. At the recent Toronto General Conference Session, the delegates had elected a Russian to be the treasurer and Bob was currently without a job. I had been a member of the General Conference committee when the transfer from expatriate to indigenous leadership began, so I understood his predicament and his emotions. The day of the expatriate missionary seeking a role in leadership in the mission field is coming to an end. Nationals are rightfully taking their places in leadership roles in their own areas. The Robinsons left with the Russian brother. I thought to myself, this is the last time I will meet them. A few months later, however, we welcomed the Robinsons as members of the Southern Asia Division family. They are filling a need in Southern Asia that very few could fill.

I washed the sheets. Birol made the beds up once again. The Tunnels returned from their well-earned furlough. We moved into Dayan and Hannah Eager's apartment for a few days while they were away on a trip as we were scheduled to leave the next week for South Korea. Elder Chun wasn't in Seoul, but he had made arrangements for someone to meet us, put us up in a hotel, and treat us to a traditional Korean meal. The next morning, we were on our way home. Our driver to the airport was playing a CD that we liked very much. When we reached the airport, he very kindly took the CD out of the player and gave it to Birol. We appreciated his kind gesture.

Our flight from Seoul to Bombay on our return journey to Bangalore was uneventful. If our return flight to Bangalore was uneventful, what followed was certainly not. A popular Bangalore-based Bollywood actor Rajkumar had been kidnapped earlier in the day. Rioting and arson followed and the entire city observed a bund (shutdown). As we got out of the airport we were greeted with a cloudburst. We found a taxi whose driver was willing to take the risk of driving us to Hosur. A few minutes down the road he changed his mind and asked us to get out of the taxi with our baggage. He said that he would send another taxi. It was midnight. The otherwise busy airport road was deserted. We were nervous and afraid. Fortunately the torrential rain had changed to a light drizzle. We were stranded in the middle of nowhere, twenty-five miles (40 km.) from home. We had no mobile phone. We couldn't call John to tell him of our predicament. Then God provided another evidence of His constant care for His children as a red car screeched to a halt. After hearing our story the gentleman warned us of the danger of being on the road at that time of the morning and said he was going to stay with us till we found a vehicle to take us home. Fifteen minutes or so later we noticed a pair of headlights of an oncoming vehicle. As the vehicle slowed to where we stood we recognized a Maruti Omni whose driver offered to take us to Hosur. We thanked the owner of the red car for waiting with us. As soon as we got inside the van another a rainstorm hit us. We had to keep moving inside the van to keep from getting drenched. We don't know how the driver kept on the road in the blinding rain. The driver slept in our home till the morning and after breakfast he returned to Bangalore. We won't know till we get to heaven whether angels were commissioned to protect us. All we know for sure is that it was more than mere coincidence that the drivers of two vehicles intervened in our behalf that fearful and stormy night.

God's promises fail not. "For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes." 2 Cor.1:20 (NAS). He had kept us from serious illness.

At our age and with the history of our medical problems our loved ones had every reason to be fearful during our trips to remote and isolated Mongolia.

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Birol has had allergic reactions since childhood, had asthma attacks throughout much of her adult life and ever since my nephrectomy I have repeatedly had urinary tract infections and been under medication for chronic heart disease. But our God whom we trust has promised he will cover us with His pinions. "You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day; or of the pestilence that stalks in darkness."

Psa.91:5,6. (NAS) Thus episode two of our "Mission to Mongolia" came to an end. Mission accomplished.

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