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I. Death of Sherry Norton

Word was received by our FEDite neighbor, Barbara Keyes, today, January 23, of the death of Sherry, wife of Ken Norton, of cancer. The Nordons are remembered by many missionary kids of the FED: they were on the faculty/staff of Far Eastern Academy. For the past several years they have lived in Collogedale and have been on the staff of Southern Adventist University. A life sketch will be sent when available.

II. Letters

1. Marvin Wray <marvinwray@sbcglobal.net> January 18:

I can't help but respond when I saw the item about the need for a pastor in Hong Kong. Believe me, I am not applying for that spot as I am fully engaged in Napa, California and have been for over eleven years, but it brought back so many wonderful memories of time gone by. We think back on our Hong Kong pastorate, in many ways, as the highlight of our ministry as we served there from 1979-1985. I would just like to encourage anyone thinking of responding to do so. Hong Kong is one of the most magical places in the world. We still have so many friends there from outside the church family. It sounds like the church and its location now is even better suited to meeting the needs of and providing outreach to the community at large. I found support in the community that allowed us to do things that you could never do in another church. We will pray for the right person to come forward and I am sure that they will receive blessings far beyond their imagination. --

Marvin and Ingrid Wray, Napa, CA ~~~~~~~~~~~ III. Remembering Jerald Christensen

Julie Sanders Keymer <juliesanders@keymer.net> January 18:

Robert, we were SO sorry to hear about the passing of your father. Our prayers are with you & your family. We pray that memories of your father will bring you all peace as we all wait for that Great Day when the Lord returns! Now it's up to us to continue to share Jesus' love with others just as your parents did in China, Taiwan & America.

It was a privilege to live down the street from your parents when they retired to the island where I grew up. I will always have fond memories of your parents, your Dad's smile, your Mother's grace & fun Saturday nights of playing games together at their house. Stories were always told about China & Taiwan which I loved to hear & caused me to be called to be a student missionary in Taiwan. I even got to see your Dad in Taiwan when we both lived there in 1990! A neighbor from home! Sometimes life comes full circle!

After hearing the sad news about your father, many former FED workers were gathered for lunch last Sabbath & we all remembered your parents. God blessed your parents as they shared the Lord's love with so many. Peace be with you.

Julie & Marshall Keymer

IV. Death of 1950s Missionary Roy Andrew Wolcott

"Roy Andrew Wolcott was born March 11, 1921, in Bryan, Ohio. He passed to his rest on October 19, 2010 at his home in Lyles, Tenn.

"Adventist education was always a high priority for the Wolcott family. Andy, with all his siblings, attended SDA schools, working for most of their high school and college tuition costs.
"In 1939 Andy graduated from Mt. Vernon Academy in Ohio, and in 1945 received his BA degree from Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in Berrien Springs, Mich. with a major in religion and minors in education and English.

"He married Nancy Louise Bartlett on August 12, 1945, and they began their life together teaching in the Adventist church school in Grand Rapids, Mich. After two years Andy was asked to enter pastoral ministry in Detroit.

"In 1950, Andy and Louise accepted a mission call to teach in the Adventist Seminary in Seoul, Korea. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry just before leaving for Asia. The Korean War erupted while they were en route to Korea, so Andy pastored a Korean congregation in Osaka, Japan, for nearly two years while studying the Korean language. Eventually, Andy was reassigned to the British crown colony of Singapore, where he taught in the Malayan Union Seminary and pastored the campus church for the remainder of their five-year mission term.

"After returning from the mission field in 1955, he pastored in Regina, Saskatchewan, for three years before returning to the classroom teaching at Mt. Aetna Academy in Maryland while earning his master's degree in education at Potomac University located at that time in Takoma Park, Md.

"He taught Bible and other subjects at Golden Gate Academy in Oakland, Calif. 1960-63, then returned to pastoral work and spent the remainder of his ministry as a pastor-evangelist in the Northern California and Washington Conferences. . .

"Following his official retirement in 1986, Andy and Louise moved to Tennessee to be near their son Alvin. Andy was asked to pastor in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, first at Kingfield, Tenn. and then for nearly 10 years in Colomba, Tenn. . .

"Andy is survived by his wife of 65 years, Louise; his three sons and their spouses: Dale & Nancy Wolcott, Alvin & Linda Wolcott. Glen & Roberta Wolcott; his youngest sister, Merita Gavin; 11 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren."

-- from the Southern Union's January, 2011, SOUTHERN TIDINGS ~~~~~~~~ V. Len Tolhurst Pays Nostalgic Visit to Land of His Birth

Len Tolhurst <lpltlrst@bigpond.net.au> January 6:

I would like share with you a little about my recent very nostalgic visit to Tonga and New Zealand. I asked my son Ewan to travel with me, and my daughter Sharon looked after wife Val while we were away.

We left on December 23 and returned on December 31, so we were gone for about eight days only.

The reason for this trip involves some family history. My father, Hubert Tolhurst, and his first wife, Pearl (nee Philips), graduated from Avondale College in 1914, and were married soon after, and in early January, 1915 sailed to the Tongan Islands as missionaries. He was to teach in a small school on the island of Foa in the Ha'apai group, in the village of Faleloa.

He did this work for about four years, when the Spanish influenza epidemic that swept the world arrived in Tonga. It has been claimed that this pandemic killed more people in four months, that World War I did in four years. Millions died world wide including 1200 in Tonga.

Both my father and his first wife contracted this 'flu, and nursed each other as best they could. He eventually survived, but she died just four days after her 28th birthday. The island on which they were stationed had no doctor, no nurse, and no clinic, so medical help was not available to them, and no boat arrived to provide transport for them to get help.

My father had to task of conducting the funeral for his own wife, as there was no one else to do so.

When he returned to Australia some time later, he worked in the Victorian Conference for about 18 months, and courted and married my mother, who was a younger sister of his first wife. He knew a good family when he found one! Then he with her returned to Tonga. When a sick kitten was brought to him he tried to feed it some milk, only to have it bite him on a finger which then brought him down with blood poisoning. The doctor then ordered him to New Zealand for medical help, and again he survived, and after five years in New Zealand returned to Tonga again. Of the seven children in his family (one being an adopted daughter) five of us were born in Tonga during the subsequent years of his service there.

Over the Christmas break in 2010, the Tongan conducted a Youth Congress in the village of Faleloa, and decided that they would put a new plaque on the grave of my aunt. I was contacted and asked what wording the family would like put on the plaque, and they also wanted a photograph of her.

These were supplied to the organizers of this project, who were mostly Tongans living and working in New Zealand. They put the photo into a computer, and added coconut trees and a seascape as a background, and then coloured everything to look like a natural coloured print. This was then placed onto a ceramic tile so that it would last for years, and added to the plaque. They also took from New Zealand 21 floral arrangements mostly in artificial flowers, which they placed on the grave.

My task was to unveil the new plaque in a special service at the grave side. The Beulah Brass Band was present and played music for the occasion.
There were speeches of course and Ewan had the task of carrying a special floral tribute to the grave representing the Tolhurst family. The ceremony was follows by a feast in the Tongan cultural way, and there was so much food on the table that the plates were two or three deep on top of each other. There was hardly any room for your plate on the table, so we often had to place it on our laps. Of course Tongan culture requires that speeches be made during feasts, so I too had to make one, and even Ewan got up and made one too.

While we were in the village, we stayed at the Sandy Beach Resort, near the northern end on the island, right next to the beach. It was a delightful spot.

Our trip to Tonga was a direct flight from Sydney to Tongatapu, and we flew to Ha'apai the next morning. On our return we flew to Auckland, and spend two and a half days in New Zealand. We hired a car, and visited many places connected with our earlier days in that country, visiting South Auckland areas, and Hamilton. We then went to the Glow Worm Cave at Waitomo, then visited with Ross and Val Goble in Cambridge, and then went to Te Aroha and saw our old home there. We also visited with Mrs. Latimer who still lives in her house opposite the one in which we lived.

On Thursday December 30 we took a ferry trip to the bird sanctuary of Tiri Tiri Matangi Island near Auckland, on this trip we were joined by Dr. Robert Johnston and his wife Madeline who is a bird watcher. They both were students with me at Pacific Union College in California in 1953-54, and he was in the Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. with me in 1954-55. He has been for years a lecturer in the Seminary at Andrews University.

We had a wonderful time and really enjoyed ourselves, and will long remember the kindness and hospitality of the Tongan people.

VI. Korean Health Worker Holds Myanmar Seminar

Saw Thein <sawthein2009@gmail.com> January 20:

A Big Thanks to Dr. Sang Lee

Praise the Lord our Mighty God! I had the privilege of attending a training seminar provided by Dr. Htway Lay, Myanmar Union Health Department, on January 9-15, 2010. I must give thanks to Dr. Htway Lay and to Lilly Kip Lee who brought and introduced a special person to present a very precious health message to us.

Our very special visitor, famous Korean T.V. speaker, Dr. Sang Lee, comes from the country of South Korea. I must give a big thanks for his seminar and presentations. Each day he lectured on "Scientific Understanding of Divine Healing" in the Healthy Lifestyle Training Seminar. The evening presentation was "Know Your Gene and Be Healthy." About 150 union-wide candidates and many of our church members with visitors from around Yangon attended the meeting. As for me I decided that the health knowledge and understanding what I've received from that seminar will extend and my ministry. I am sure that Myanmar Union Mission and Myanmar people will never forget him. We hope and pray for his next coming to Myanmar later this year. May God's mighty glory be upon him wherever his ministry.

VII. APIU Science Students Visit Sarawak

by Dr. John Perumal, Faculty of Science

About ten students along with two faculty members from the Faculty of Science at AIU flew to Malaysia on the 23rd of December 2010 for a mission trip and a visit to a Borneo longhouse. The first night was spent at the Petaling Jaya English SDA church in Kuala Lumpur and the group had the opportunity to go around and see the beautiful city of Kuala Lumpur. On Christmas Eve, the group flew to Kuching and presented a Christmas program at the Kuching English SDA church. On Christmas day, the group was able to participate in a Malaysian tradition known as "open house" where people visit different houses of church members, having fellowship and eating together.

On the next day at around 6 am, the group got into 3 vehicles and headed on a long road trip to Julau village longhouse, a 6 to 8 hour drive from Kuching. Along the way the group stopped at Bunga village to visit a former student (Candece Josiah) and had breakfast at her house. The main objective of the trip was to get to know the villagers, share different health messages with them, and get an opportunity to experience life in a long house. The students spent time with the villagers, helped with some chores, played with the children, and also picked wild vegetables for cooking. This was a good experience and everyone learned a lot. Evening meetings were held at three different longhouses where health lectures were given followed by question-answer times. In the mornings there were health clinics set up where the villages came by to get their blood pressure checked followed by health counseling.

Overall it was a very worthwhile trip; talk to any of the students that went and you will get a picture of the trip. On the way back from Julau to Kuching the group stopped at the Semokgok to see Orangutans, an endangered species of apes. After arriving in Kuching the group went on a day trip to Bako National Park to see the Proboscis Monkey.
A good trip it was, the experiences and memories are something everyone will remember forever. It was a wonderful way to end our year and gave everyone the encouragement to begin another year.--APIU's Newsbyte, January 13

VIII. "Year of the Rabbit" Celebration
    Cho Paul paulcho99@yahoo.com.hk January 22:
    "Chinese New Year of Rabbit is Feb. 3, and there will be a Chinese New Year party on Feb. 5 in the Social Hall at 5:30 pm. We would like our members to bring their favorite dish for this occasion. We also encourage everyone to wear Chinese costume or jacket to church and the party to provide the CNY atmosphere." --Weekly Newsletter and Church Bulletin for Hacienda Heights Chinese Seventh-day Adventist Church - January 22, 2011 ~~~~~~~~~ IX. Teachers Needed in Taipei Adventist School
    David Robinson <taasprin@gmail.com> January 20:
    Taipei Adventist American School is in need of teachers for 2011-2012. First grade, middle grade teacher, 8th grade teacher for homeroom and grades 6-8 science. We also need a PE teacher. We use the American text books and our teachers are mostly from the US. Teachers need to have NAD, State, or some other kind of certification. Teachers with experience are preferred. We first came to Taipei Adventist American School in 1980, built a new school and stayed until 1991. We are back at the same school. I am the principal and my wife is teaching grade 1.
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    Fax:   2861-5121
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