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I. Life Sketch of Jerald Christensen

Don A. Roth <llugeneralconference@llu.edu> February 1:

Pastor Jerald Christensen died peacefully at his home in California on January 13; just two weeks shy of his 97th birthday.

Elder Christensen was only one of four former China workers who labored in China before World War II who are still living. The three remaining are as follows: Dr. Thomas Geraty, a resident of Loma Linda, California; Helen Lee of Yountville, California, retired and widow of Milton Lee; and Mrs. Eva Curry, widow of Carl Curry, resident of Yucaipa, California.

According to his son, Robert Christensen, his father represents an age now past when missionaries dedicated their lives to the service of the church. His father worked for Chinese missions from age 27 to age 84.

He was one of the few remaining missionaries who had lived through World War II and the Communist Revolution in China. He then went on to serve for almost 40 years in Taiwan.

Memorial services will be held in Hong Kong and in Walla Walla, Washington. Pastor Christensen was born January 30, 1914, in Winner, South Dakota, and had his elementary and secondary education in his home region.

He graduated from Walla Walla College in 1938. A year later, in June of 1939, he married Rose Madonna Merth, and within months they were on their way to China in response to a call given to them by the General Conference.

They started missionary service in China in August of 1939 in Shanghai.

After language study, he was made president of the Hunan Mission in Changsha where he served for four years.

And then in 1945 the old China Division asked him to become Publishing Secretary of the Division. At furlough time he worked on his master's degree and received this from Andrews University in 1947.

Upon his return to mission service he was asked to be president of the Yunnan Mission in Mojiang. He returned to America in 1950 and then started work among the Chinese in the USA and began a Chinese church in San Francisco, California.

However, in 1953 the Far East beckoned once again and he became director of the Voice of Prophecy Correspondence School in Taiwan. For seven years he was engaged in working among indigenous tribes of southern Taiwan, and from 1963 to 1969 he was president of the South Taiwan Mission. For five years he became president of the Mountain Mission, and in 1975 became business manager of the Taiwan Adventist College.

He retired and returned to the state of Washington, but from 1981 to 1983 he became a volunteer worker at Taiwan Adventist College. He returned once again in 1986 where he became a volunteer worker at the East Asia Association, a predecessor of the Chinese Mission as it is known today.

His wife, Rose, died in 1989 in Oregon, and two years later he married Phyllis Davis-Edwards who survives him.

He once again returned to Taiwan in 1991 and for seven years served as a volunteer worker at the Adventist College in Taiwan. Upon his return he was a volunteer worker at the Weimar Institute in northern California.

The Christensens were evacuated three different times when they were in China because of political and military emergencies. He was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1940.

Thus, Pastor Christensen came up with an enviable record of missionary service to the Chinese for over 70 years. He was able to work in Taiwan and establish Seventh-day Adventist presence among four different tribes in Taiwan during the period that he was there. He participated in the founding of over 30 churches, and while he was at the college he oversaw the construction of all the major buildings of the college and the landscaping of the campus.
Pastor Christensen will be well remembered by Chinese and non-Chinese alike for his dedication to giving the gospel message to this part of the world.

II. Letters

1. Robert Grady <bobbgrady@hotmail.com> January 24:

Many must have seen the interview of Chet Damron on Hope channel's "Really Living" program. Apparently Don Schneider and Chet did the interview some time back. I sent Chet a message telling him how interesting the interview was. He said he did not get to see the program aired as he is in Thailand at our SDA college at Muak Liak where he is giving a seminar for the graduate ministerial students with pastor Sim Chior Kiat.

The past three weeks I had the privilege of leading another SAGE [senior retirees] group on a mission trip to San Cristobol, Mexico. We fully built a beautiful Maranatha church, painted six other SDA churches in the area, held numerous daily VBS’s and medical clinics. But to me the highlight of this year’s mission trip was to take four teenagers from the Washington Conference to preach at least every other night in the four series of evangelistic meetings we were holding in the city. This is the first time we have taken the youth of the church to be mentored in doing evangelistic preaching. They did a marvelous job. Besides the conversion of souls in the meetings it had a profound impact upon the speakers. One young lady said, "I have come from a long line of Adventists in my family but I had never fully firmly up my own faith until this series of meetings. Praise God! I now fully understand and my faith in God is confirmed for life!" Another one of the young preachers who came from a non Adventist home was a new convert herself only a year ago. SAGE is determined to continue this experiment with the youth by taking them on future SAGE mission trips to be mentored by our experienced lay evangelists. What better way could we find for seasoned senior Adventists to have a lasting impact upon the youth of our church?

[Too bad the word had not gone around that Chet would have an hour to tell his story on Hope Channel last week which included his time in Thailand. Indonesia and Singapore. It was our privilege to move into the house on the Mt. Klabat campus that the Damrons had occupied and which was always referred to as "The Damron House." The natural swimming pool in the back yard which he described in his interview was still there and was used over and over again as the spot for on-campus baptisms.-- CHT/sr]

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2. D. L. Ebenezer <dlebenezer@gmail.com> Letter to Jan. 27th "REVIEW":

Focus on Education

Kudos to Carlos Medley! In "A Temple Reborn" (Dec. 16, 2010) he succinctly states what it would take to strengthen the mission of our schools.

From my travels to about 70 countries in all six continents of the world, and having worked in Bangladesh, Canada, India, Jamaica, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and the United States, I could say "amen." A great deal of dedicated work must be done.

George Sweeting, a philosopher of uncommon magnitude, gives this philosophical position: "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing."

To all who work hard for spiritual values and reflect the blueprint God has provided through the Bible and the writings of Ellen G. White, I recommend that we keep our focus on Jesus. Simply put: be careful, be vigilant, and watch with utmost diligence what you do. --D. L. (Eb) Ebenezer Detroit, Michigan ~~~~~~~~~ III. Memorial Service for Sherrie Norton

Barbara Keyes <bkeyes@southern.edu> January 24:

The memorial service for Sherrie Norton, who passed away January 23rd, will be held Sabbath, February 5, at 3:00 p.m. in the Southern Adventist University's Collegedale Church.

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IV. "The Skype Baptism"-- Macau & Korea

--from the current issue of Adventist Mission's FRONTLINE

"The members of the Macau Happy Church in Macau, China, lean forward in their pews, eager and smiling. As part of a church plant, they’re used to watching baptisms. But this is different. In fact, they’ve never seen anything like it before.

"They hear the gentle splashes made by Sívia's feet as she steps into the baptismal tank. They feel the warmth of the radiant expression on her face as she emerges from the water. They talk to her as if she's in the same room. But she's not. She's hundreds of miles away in Korea, and they're sharing her joyous event on Skype.

"Sívia's journey to this moment has been one of struggle. In 2008 she attended a series of evangelistic meetings presented by Han GhilKoh, a Pioneer Missionary Movement pastor from Korea who planted Macau Happy Church. Silvia attended Happy Church and even became a student at the local Adventist school. But she didn't feel ready to become a Christian then. 'I wasn't able to sense God in my life or believe in Him,' she says."
"Fast forward to 2010. Pastor Joshua Shin, former youth director for the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, has come to Macau to conduct meetings with Pastor Han. Again Silvia attends. But this time, as she listens to the messages and beautiful music, her heart is touched. She wants to be baptized right away, but the pastor encourages her to join a Bible study first so that she can gain a better understanding of God's Word.

"Silvia studies with Pastor Han for four months, then travels to Ilsan English Church in Korea. There she meets with Pastor Shin and the Golden Angels, the volunteer musicians whose singing touched her deeply at the meetings. She asks Pastor Shin to baptize her, and he contacts Pastor Han in Macau to make the necessary arrangements. Then, through Skype, her entire home church witnesses her commitment to Jesus.

"As Silvia breaks through the water into newness of life, she is enfolded in the warm smiles of both congregations. With tear-filled eyes, she thanks God and her two church families for helping her find the joy of her life."

V. News from "Prayers Among Buddhists"

Scott Griswold <prayersamongbuddhists@gmail.com> January 22:

Next week on January 25-27, 2011 we will hold the 9th annual Ministry Among Buddhists Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. Normally we have a very full schedule with lots of speakers and topics. This year we are doing something ENTIRELY different. We need your prayers! The topic is "Revived and Re-Formatted for a Finished Work." We are asking each attendee to come prepared with what God has done through them—special insights and success with which God has entrusted them. They will share enthusiastically with the rest of us.

Secondly we are asking them to bring their current challenges and obstacles in their ministry to Buddhists. We will pray earnestly together for God to give them power, new insights, just what they need to see their ministries move effectively forward. We expect God to do very special things.

We will set up various station points across the meeting hall to visually highlight the power of the Holy Spirit and how God intends to finish His work through reviving and re-formatting us. We will also highlight our resources for evangelism among Buddhists.

There are thousands of seminars happening all around the world. Please pray with us that this will be a true meeting with God, a solid bit of Pentecost experience, true praise and honor to the God who gave us His Son Jesus to die for all people including a huge number of precious Buddhists.

An update on Khun Muy:

Last week was a difficult week for Khun Muy. She barely had enough time to do all that needed to be done in her garden. She had so many people stopping at her house to say, "I want to know what it's like to be a Christian. I don't want to be one, but please tell me what it's like." A former teacher that she highly respects came to talk to her and after listening to her story said, "It's fine if you really feel like you want to be a Christian, but don't lead others to leave Buddhism otherwise you will be betraying your country." This left her shaken emotionally for a few days, but her commitment to Jesus remains strong. Thank you for your continued prayer support for her and her children.

VI. Report from APIU's Bangkok Hospital Campus

Update on Mission Faculty of Nursing, Bangkok Campus, Asia-Pacific International University:

After decades of its same old exterior look, the Bangkok campus dormitory finally has a new refreshing look that brings joy and a welcoming spirit to the building. The exterior painting of the Bangkok campus dormitory started in the beginning of November 2010. This phase includes only the painting of the outside of the building along with the reception area inside the dormitory. However, with this change, it has uplifted the residence look for our Bangkok campus nursing students.

Bangkok Campus nursing students and its Nursing Student Council team participated in several important events:

**June 18-19: Volunteer Project to help with the Disabled Community at Prince Palace Hotel

**July 29: National Thai Language Day at PraRajawong, Payathai

**August: Global Warming Strategies Project

**October 21: National Nursing Day

Bangkok campus Student Council (SC) team participated in a Leadership/Bible Camp Retreat from September 9-11 at Pattaya Baptist Camp.

Not only they attended the seminar of "Effective Leadership Skills" & participated in various religious activities, but they also reached out to the local community in Chonburi province.

On October 28, Bangkok campus celebrated the Thai Cultural Festival where faculty and students dressed up in Thai national costumes. The students presented various Thai folk tales and set up booths for food sales along with fun activities and games.
On November 19, Thanksgiving Dinner was hosted by the students for the Bangkok campus faculty and staff along with the local community on campus.

On November 21, Sports Day was held for the third & fourth year Nursing students where they were able to take their minds off of Nursing Care and studies and just focus on sports and physical activities. The nursing students were glad for this opportunity to release the stress of studies.

On December 3, Father’s Day was celebrated at the Bangkok campus where several fatherly elders were invited. They are those who play important roles to the Mission Faculty of Nursing. It was also a day where the kind deeds and wonderful role model of His Majesty the King was remembered.

On December 15, Christmas and New Year’s Celebration was held by the Mission Faculty of Nursing for the third & fourth year Nursing students. This event was held at the basketball court of the Bangkok Adventist Hospital campus. The food served was delicious vegetarian Chinese food. At this occasion, the students were given a chance to portray their gratefulness to their faculty and advisors who have made a significant impact in their lives and studies.

The different activities were organized by the Nursing SC Advisors and supported by the Dean and Associate Deans of Mission Faculty of Nursing in Bangkok Campus. They worked hard with the SC Nursing team to organize these important events for the students at Bangkok campus.

-- Mrs. Rajdeep Takeuchi, Associate Vice President of Student Administration, Bangkok, -- APIU’s Newsbyte, January 28, 2011 ~~~~~~~~~~~ To remove your name from the mailing list of this newsletter, simply reply to this e-mail and put "REMOVE" in the Subject line.

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