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I. Death of David Lin
   Don A. Roth <donaroth@verizon.net> February 13:
   An ethnic Chinese, just four days shy of age 94, a longtime resident of Loma Linda, David Lin, died on Thursday, February 10, after a long illness.
   Lin spent 15 years in political incarceration during the years of severe Communist rule in his home country of China, all because of his faith.
   He served the Seventh-day Adventist church in ministerial or administrative work for more than 50 years, most of it in China.
   He was born in 1917 in Manila, Philippines, the second son of a Chinese diplomat, a graduate of Columbia University in New York City. During his childhood years, David lived in the Philippines, Canada, Shanghai, and Jakarta, Indonesia, all places where his father served as a diplomatic consul for the Chinese government.
   During this period he not only learned his mother tongue but also English and Bahasa Indonesian.
   In 1927 when Chiang Kai Shek came to power in China, his father lost his official position under the defiant Peking regime. The family then moved back to Shanghai where David and his brother attended a school operated by British educators. Three years later they moved to Peking where the brothers attended the American school.
   In Shanghai, as a youngster, David decided that he want to become a minister, a statement that stunned all of his classmates. At that time the family attended a Methodist church.
   In 1932 family moved to Hankow to work in the Bureau of Internal Revenue and it was there that the family came in contact with a Seventh-day Adventist member who arranged for them to attend Bible lectures in a local Adventist church.
   Upon graduation from high school, David went on to attend an Adventist college, the China Training Institute, where he majored in Bible. When war interfered with the school program, David went to Hong Kong where he was able to arrange to go to the United States where he attended the Pacific Union College, Angwin, California. He graduated from this school in 1941 with a major in theology and then went to the church's seminary in Takoma Park, Md., a course that he did not complete until 1946.
   In the fall of 1942, in the middle of World War II, he was called to teach Chinese at his alma mater. After a year of teaching, he went to Honolulu where he served as a literature evangelist, selling Bibles and religious books. He returned to the west coast in 1944 where he coordinated the Chinese Bible Correspondence school of the church's radio ministry, "The Voice of Prophecy." He printed all of the lessons by hand because there was no Chinese type available.
   At the end of World War II he returned to Shanghai with a group of American missionaries and immediately started working with the church's radio department. In 1949 the provisional office of the China Division of the church turned overall duties to Chinese staff in Shanghai and he then became secretary of the church's China Division.
   Because of the war situation, the Adventist mission had its assets frozen in December,1950. For two years, without a job with the church, David made slide rules for a living. He spent his spare time translating an Adventist book, "Desire of Ages," from English to Chinese. Over a period of years he translated many books into his native language.
In April, 1958 David was arrested by Chinese authorities on a counter-revolutionary charge because of his faith and in 1950 was sentenced to 15 years in prison. He spent this time at a water conservatory where he pushed wheelbarrows, operated a power winch, and served successfully as an x-ray technician, a power station switch operator, and a tractor electrician on a state farm.

Fortunately in the years that he worked for the state he received human treatment but spent these many years with little contact with his family, his wife, children, and mother.

On March 28, 1991 David was fully exonerated and the record of his imprisonment was erased from his be record. During the years that he was incarcerated, the family faced financial problems. But their needs were supplied. When his 15-year term was over, he was transferred from a state farm to a mining establishment where he translated technical literature. He was employed there for five years, received regular wages, and was able to enjoy church privileges.

When he retired, he moved back to Shanghai and served as pastor of one of the largest Adventist churches in China. When he once again retired from this assignment, David followed his children to the United States where he has been a resident. He spent many of his retirement years doing translation work as well as providing educational facilities for Chinese home country of China.

His children are all located in the USA. They are Flora, a nurse in the Washington, D.C. area; Roger, of Seattle, Washington, an employee of Microsoft; Ruby, of Highland, CA; and Angelina, a physical therapist. His wife, Clara, resides with her family.

Funeral services for the Chinese leader will be held at the Loma Linda Chinese Adventist Church on Sunday, February 20, at 4 p.m.

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2. Death of Mrs. Kunihira

Don A. Roth, February 13:

The Loma Linda Filipino Church was packed with friends and relatives of Mrs. Satsuki May Kunihira as memorial services in her honor were held on Saturday night, February 12.

Nearly her entire family as well as long time Japanese associates from Japan and her USA homeland were on hand as they said farewell to "this quiet lady of distinction," as she was called several times during the service.

The following former workers took part in the program: Shigenobu Arakaki, Timothy Iwashashi, Richard Hamamura, and Dean Horinouchi. Special messages from Japan were read by Pastor Iwashashi.

A touching part of the program was when the deceased's grandchildren came to the platform and all gave tributes to their grandmother. The family included husband Shirou Kunihira, sons Daniel, Richard and Dale, daughter Linda, seven grandchildren, Mark, Angie, Jonathan, Christina, Karissa, Kyle, and Kallan.

Music was given by two different choirs of the Loma Linda Japanese church. The homily was given by Pastor Horinouchi.

The Kunihiras served two different periods of service in Japan. Although born in America, they went to their home country to serve as missionaries.

The first term was shortly after the close of World War II and the second time was in the 70's when the work had a need for a Japanese-speaking president of the Japan Union Mission, now a conference.

Mrs. Kunihira was buried the next morning at the Montecito Cemetery in nearby Colton.

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II. Marvin Wray Remembers Hong King in New Book

Marvin T. Wray <marvinwray@me.com> February 10:

It may be of interest to some that I have just published a book entitled, "Journeys." It came out in December and I'll be doing some greater advertising for it soon.

It shares the findings of a sabbatical project I completed in 2009 where I traveled 11,393 miles by motorcycle around the U.S. to visit over 70 churches to see what was and wasn't happening and what were the challenges and opportunities that pastors were encountering. I share those experiences in six chapters, each dealing with a week of the journey. I alternate those chapters with six more sharing my own spiritual journey through six (+) decades. I am getting a lot of positive feedback as the readership has grown. Of course there are some stories in there of the Hong Kong days.

This adventure was a full year in planning, two months in carrying out, and another year in getting it into book form. I believe that the information found, while connecting with only one church that was not Seventh-day Adventist, is applicable to all churches in general. There may be some aspects that are unique to Adventists, but for the most part people are people and issues of control, resistance to change, and the need to connect with today's young families are more general in nature.
If any are interested they can find the book at barnesandnoble.com, amazon.com, and borders.com. It comes in paperback, hardback, and eBook formats. Or they can get it from me directly and have it personalized and signed. Write me at the above e-mail address.

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III. Remembering Sherrie Norton

The following were included with the February 5th Memorial Service hand-out:

1. Jonathan Fisher, former FEA student:
   Mrs. Norton was an angel, so kind and caring, always giving, and making me feel wanted and appreciated. In all the years I knew her, she never made me feel like I was good enough; she just always was the nicest and most Christ-like person I know...

2. Lisa Prowant Ingelse, former FEA student:
   Mrs. Norton was so sweet to me at a tough time in my life. I remember her walking with me in the moonlight, her hand tucked thru my arm, holding me close...then her sitting on the guest room bed, tucking me in, praying with me. She was Jesus with skin on when I needed to feel Him close. I will always treasure her. I can’t wait to hold her in my arms and rejoice with laughter and joy together in heaven when Jesus comes. I thank Him for her often...

3. Jeannine Bovero, former FEA student:
   She was one of my favorite people and I will always hold her in my heart as one of those very special ones that I will always miss! She helped me through my tough spot! The amazing impact she had on my life will be with me always. She was a remarkable person!

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IV. Dorothy Minchin Comm's New Book

Don A. Roth, February 13:

A former FED missionary/teacher, Dr. Dorothy Minchin-Comm, is ready to publish her 21st new book.


In announcing the publication of her new book, Dr. Comm said that the book manuscript came from her longtime acquaintance with Dr. Andrew Nelson, a Seventh-day Adventist missionary who served in the Philippines and in Japan.

"For many years the Andrew Nelson story has been waiting in the wings to be written," says Dr. Comm. "Details of a life so well and so enthusiastically lived should not be lost."

A gifted linguist, Dr. Nelson worked first as a translator in the US War Department and in General Douglas MacArthur's forces in post-world War II Japan. Afterward he served as a chaplain during the war-crime trials in Manila, Philippines. He went on to become an educator and college administrator.

The "An Ordered Life" is part of the post-teaching activities of Dr. Comm who retired several years ago as a professor in the English Department of La Sierra University in Riverside. She works out of her comfortable, but small retirement home in Sun Lakes, surrounded by her books and attended by her dog.

The book is already available at the Trafford Publishing House website and will be available in the near future on Amazon.com. It is possible that it will be available in the Adventist Book Center in Loma Linda in the future.

Many will remember her for the fame she received in 1997 when she won an online contest "Excite" to discover the "real Dot Comm." She was featured in People Magazine, appeared on the Rosie O'Donnell Show, and was interviewed on a number of news shows and by many newspapers, several of them international.

Many think of Dorothy primarily as a writer, but she is also a public speaker. For many years, Dorothy, along with Allan Collins, sculptor and former Professor of Arts at La Sierra University, presented a series of multi-media programs that she wrote and narrated.

During her first year of teaching Dorothy met Walter Comm, a young minister who would become her husband. The couple worked in Newfoundland, the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Canada, and the Philippines. They then returned to the USA and La Sierra University. Walter died in 1984. Dorothy has two children and two grandsons.

During her teaching career she was especially fond of her Biblical Literature, World Literature, and Creative Writing classes. She edited "Adventist Heritage" for 14 years.
Because of major medical problems Dorothy is confined to her wheelchair, but this does not reduce her busy retirement life. Although she occasionally misses teaching, she says that as long as she has her music, her books, her computer, and her writing, she has no problem with retirement.

She was given the distinguished "Charles E. Weniger Award" at a ceremony held at La Sierra University in Riverside. The "Weniger Award" is given to persons in Seventh-day Adventist education who best exemplify the professional excellence in Christian commitment of its namesake, Dr. Charles Weniger.

Dr. Weniger served as dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, and later chaired the English Department at Pacific Union College, Angwin, California.

Her most significant book, she says, is her adult devotional book called "Glimpses of God." It had wide circulation and has been translated into several foreign languages. In between editing assignments, book collaborations, and essay writing, she has already completed her three-part autobiography, "Paper House" that was first published ten years ago.

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V. Report from Northeastern Mindanao Mission

Fred L. Webb <sulads@sulads.net> February 12:

I arrived in Butuan at the Northeastern Mindanao Mission on Sunday, February 6. They gave me a few hours to rest and revive after my trip from Iloilo that morning. At 3:00 pm, they took me to a restaurant for my mid-day meal and we sat and talked for 4 solid hours with Mission President, Solomon Mongaya, SULADS coordinator, Russ Dawis, and SULADS Engineer, Jerry Belmonte. They told me many stories that thrilled my soul. Some indicated divine intervention in the lives of villagers.

One datu (chief) received a vision of an angel telling him to worship God on Sabbath and not to eat pork. Further, he was told that he should not accept anyone who came to teach them about God if they did not keep the Sabbath. Sometime later, a Pentecostal missionary came to their village.

When the datu learned that they worshipped on Sunday, he told the missionary that he was not the right church. The missionary told the datu that Sabbath was OK on Saturday and they could do that. The datu then accepted the Pentecostal mission to his village. Several of the village boys went to Pentecostal seminary and are now pastors of other churches but they worship on Sunday. This makes the datu very unhappy and is now thinking that perhaps the Pentecostals are not the right church after all.

***Kidehay

When Gospel Outreach approved four workers for Northern Mindanao Mission, one was sent to Kidehay, the village with the "Seventh-day Pentecostal Church". At first, Brother Larry Mata was not well accepted. He is not pushing our religion on the people but is quietly making friends with all. His wife, Erlinda is doing her part as well in being friendly to the ladies.

The datu has said that Larry could have his church meetings in the church built by the Pentecostals but Larry feels that would be a compromise we cannot make. He has requested a plot of ground. At first, the datu said "No" but more recently, he has given permission for Larry to purchase a 400 square meter lot for P7,000. I think that is possible. Then he will need perhaps P100,000 to build a church. The total of these two figures comes to about $2,500-a figure that seems doable. I will urge the mission to move forward in faith and build this church so we can convert these "Seventh-day Pentecostals" to Seventh-day Adventists.

***Tagkiling

Brother Tertoliano Haslasgo and his wife Vasitacion have been assigned to Tagkiling near Padiay. He has not yet gone to the village as just as he was being assigned to go, his wife was diagnosed with a goiter and told that they needed surgery right away. They did not have the funds to pay for a surgery because they have been working as lay workers with no stipend for several years and just survived on what they could earn form a small garden.

They went for a second opinion and were told that while she needed surgery, she should begin a herbal treatment whether she had the surgery or not. They began treating with a medicine obtained from a medicinal tree in the forest. Now four months and many prayers later, her goiter appears to be gone. They are now ready to go to their village to bring the urgent message of the gospel to the people of Tagkiling.

***Minbahandi

Ruel and Gennylay Rojas have been assigned to Minbahandi village. Ruel was raised as an Adventist but during his teenage years, he wandered away and fell away from the church. He was out of the church for seven years and lived a very profligate life. Eventually, he came to his senses and returned to his childhood church. Pastor Mongaya was the one who re-baptized Ruel.

Ruel has now been working as a lay worker since 1999. He is thrilled to be assigned to a work with Gospel Outreach funding. The village of Minbahandi where he is assigned is populated by indigenous tribal people. He has begun his work by making friends in the village and winning their trust. We believe he will be successful.
***Coro***

Coro in the township of Jabonga is a resettlement village for the Mamahawa people. These people are quite black with very curly hair. They trace their ancestry to a shipwreck where slaves were being transported. The slaves escaped to the mountains of Surigao and have lived there ever since. Now they are intermarrying with the Manobo tribe that is nearby. They are a neglected people group that had to be relocated from their forest home because loggers destroyed the area they had inhabited for generations. Now they are located near a river where a settlement has been created for them.

Perfecto and Ermelyn Tecsun have been assigned to Coro. Perfecto built a neat little nipa hut that is just across the road from the tribal village created for the Mamahawa. They were not trusted by the tribal people when they first arrived. They have been winning the confidence of the people and are now trusted. The Northeaster Mindanao Mission has provided emergency supplies when natural disasters hit. Just recently, it rained unceasingly for a number of days causing the nearby lake to rise several feet. This not only cut them off from help but many of their homes were inundated.

The mission rushed in emergency supplies when the roads were still flooded and could not be seen. We visited the area today and the road is a concrete strip that sits on a very narrow levee. When it was covered with murky water, it would have been very easy for the driver of the vehicle to wander off the concrete and fall into the water. Fortunately, they made it safely to Coro and donated the needed supplies. Now the villagers trust our workers completely.

Soon, Perfecto and Ermelyn can begin to reveal the plan of salvation to these trusting folks. This challenge is not new to Perfecto and Ermelyn. They have already raised up four churches in the Surigao del Sur region while they were unpaid lay Bible workers. I am confident they will establish another church in this village as well.

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