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I. Letters
   1. Paul Emerson <emersonpb@juno.com> March 7:
      We, Paul and Betty Emerson, are returning to Toraja View Academy in Indonesia with 5 volunteers to begin building 2 urgently needed teacher homes. We are also going to build our own portable well drilling rig. We need 2 wells at the school and wells are needed on the island of Nias and other places. We also have $400 to buy End Time paperbacks in the Indonesian Language for students to share in villages near the school. Please pray for these projects. Thank you!

   2. Max Hammonds <Sailor43@aol.com> March 9:
      In noting the memorial service for Jerold Christensen -- if anyone has access to an "old" SDA library, look up the book "Invisible Escort" by Rose Christensen. It is a biography by the daughter of Jerold and Rose Christensen of their experiences in China -- with pictures. --Max Hammonds, author of "The Indomitable Gertrude Green"

   3. Art Bell: A Seasons' Letter
      Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Valentine's Day--All Belated
      Believe it or not, I started this letter the first of November, but then things got hectic.
      Vi decided to have surgery on her left hip since the cartilage had worn out and she was having a lot of pain in just walking. The doctor said she would be hospitalized for three to five days and then she would be home. Since it was six weeks before we were scheduled to be in Lake Tahoe for a Bell reunion, we chose to have the operation on November 8.
      The operation went fine, but Vi was sensitive to the anesthetic and she was so groggy that they sent her to a rehab facility for four days, November 15, three days later and still groggy, she let her leg slip into the wrong position, and the hip dislocated. I met her at the ER and they tried to put it back in place but could not. Back under anesthetic in order to replace it. Six days in the hospital and she was so out of it, she was babbling. On November 21st, back to the rehab facility. She stayed for two weeks until she woke up enough to come home. That was December 7th.
      On December 9th she was sitting in her wheel chair and the hip dislocated again. I was so glad that Jared and Tonya Wright were here from India. We got Vi comfortable, then called 911 which took her to the hospital and back into surgery. I talked the anesthetist into adjusting the anesthetic. Thirty minutes later the hip was in place and she was wide awake. They even let her go home the same day.
      Sabbath, December 10th, Vi went to church. That afternoon she didn't wait for someone to assist her from the potty chair to the bed. When she sat down on the bed, it bounced, and she went off onto the floor. She snapped her left arm bone so we took her to Urgent Care. They gave her pain pills and out her arm in a sling.
      December 16 Vi was sitting on the potty and her hip dislocated for the third time. We got her on a chair and put her in the van and took her to the ER. It took all day to get her scheduled for surgery, but she came through fine. They did keep her in the hospital for observation. The doctor called me on December 18 and said he put a special brace on her and said she would be able to go with us the next day to Lake Tahoe. I was about to go pick her up and the phone rang. It was the doctor. Vi had stood up with the brace on and the hip dislocated, for the fourth time. He said, "You go on to Tahoe, but
Vi is going into surgery to replace the cup." I hated to go without her, but all our immediate family, their children and their spouses were scheduled to be there. We had a great time but sure missed Vi. Came home on December 29th and Vi seemed fine. The next day she was in the ER for breathing problems, but it ended by being nothing. On January 21st she fell out of her wheelchair; back to ER but all was well. She came home on January 24. She has continued to make progress.

Now you know why this letter is late. But have a great year.

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II. Death of Dr. Ralph M. Truitt

--from The Turlock Journal, Turlock, California, March 4:

Dr. Ralph M. Truitt -- March 1920 - March 2011

Dr. Ralph Truitt, 90, of Turlock, was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico to missionary parents, Earnest and Bertha. His parents' godly example led Ralph to choose a career as a medical doctor and to actively lead his family, serve his church, perform missionary service, and serve many families in the community.

A very bright young man, Ralph graduated from Loma Linda University Medical School at age 23. His internship and internal medicine was completed at White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles, a hospital founded by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Three weeks after completing medical school he married the love of his life, Norma Joyce Pote. After serving two years in the Army, Ralph completed his medical board requirements and, in 1950, he joined the staff of Turlock Medical Clinic, where he served the families of Turlock first as a corporate partner and doctor of internal medicine and later as a cardiologist until his retirement in 2001.

Dr. Truitt was the first internal medicine board physician in Turlock, and the first charter member of the Stanislaus County Heart Association. He officiated the first pacemaker surgery in this area with Dr. George Paullus and phone instructions from Dr. Norman Shumway. He diagnosed, treated and referred the first heart transplant patient in Stanislaus County; he personally commuted monthly to Stanford to aide and educate the medical doctors and nurses of Turlock in order to assure the latest and best medical practices for our area. He also was a vital part of the development and establishing of the Critical Care Unit (CCU) at Emanuel Medical Center and later the opening of the new CCU and emergency departments which opened in 2007. In addition, Dr. Truitt volunteered in campaigns through Legacy Circle and personally helped raise over $300,000 for the Emanuel Hospital Legacy Circle.

In addition to his storied medical career, Dr. and Mrs. (Joyce) Truitt have been active leaders in their church. He has served as an elder, Bible Teacher, Men's Support Group Leader in both the Turlock and Ceres Seventh-day Adventist Churches and board chairman of the Modesto Adventist Academy for several years. Ralph and Joyce spent five years in medical missionary service from 1957-1962 in Bangkok Sanitarium in Thailand, a highlight of their lives.

He enjoyed gardening as a hobby and beautified the church landscaping, as well as his home, to provide a celebrative welcome to those places. In addition, Dr. and Mrs. Truitt travelled to or lived in every continent and all 50 states. He had no regrets for his active life and career. He could say like the Apostle Paul to Timothy, "I have fought a good fight. I have finished the course. I have kept the faith."

Dr. Truitt was preceded in death by son, Mark Steven Truitt in 1973. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Norma Joyce Truitt; children, Richard (Marilynn) Truitt of Riverside, Ardeth Mattison of Turlock and Barbara (Dr. Edward) Holm of Turlock; six grandchildren; and six great grandchildren. . .

Memorials for Dr. Truitt are encouraged for the Legacy Circle Heart Center of Emanuel Medical Center, the Loma Linda University Medical School for scholarships, or the charity of your choice. Please leave memories and condolences at <www.altenmortuary.com>.

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III. The YAPI Orphanages in Indonesia

Romie Gainer <rigainer@verizon.net> March 8:

The YAPI Orphanages in Indonesia, assisted by Reaching Hearts for Kids (RHK), mentioned in the March 7 FED e-News is due in a large part to the dedication of Jonathan Kuntaraf, Director of Sabbath School and Personal Ministries at the General Conference. The Kuntaraf's have long been involved in assisting those in need in Indonesia. When I was the Treasurer of the FED, also for a couple of years I carried the FED ADRA responsibility. Dr. Kathleen Kuntaraf, who is now an Associate Director of the GC Health Department, was at that time the ADRA Director for Indonesia, and she and Jonathan were very dedicated to helping the needy in West Indonesia.

When I retired from being the Vice President of Finance of ADRA International in 1997, the ADRA Board asked me to take over a humanitarian organization that was donated to ADRA, which was no longer operating, named HELP International, Inc. HELP has been chaired by Ralph Watts Jr. since it was received by ADRA and has done fundraising in
Europe and Asia and has funneled many millions of dollars of funds and supplies to mostly ADRA projects in nearly 100 countries around the world.

HELP has been able to partner with Jonathan, RHK, and Indonesia in helping to fund the YAPI Orphanages in Indonesia. Many orphans have been helped and a number of them have been baptized since coming to the orphanages.

IV. Update from David Gouge

David Gouge <grandpag30@yahoo.com> March 10:

Just a short update on the happenings over here in Thailand.

In April last year Leona's brother, Olin Peach, was killed in a freak snowmobile accident.

We celebrated the 4th of July in Vietnam attending one of our Vietnamese granddaughter's wedding. While there we visited Ba Lam, our helper when we lived in Vietnam. We had not seen her for 35 years.

Soon after our return, Leona fell and hurt her back. A doctor gave her some medication that didn't agree with her other medications so she spent several days in the hospital. This prevented her from going to the States early so that she could attend Victor's daughter wedding.

We spent half of September and October in the States. We took time to visit all 4 of our children and my living brother and sister as well as some of you while we were there. It was a great time. We spent some time sorting things at the cabin.

I am the director of the Master Guide Club for the church and university. We spent the first semester working toward an investiture. On November 20, 26 were invested and most received the Silver Award, a medal for physical, spiritual, and leadership achievement.

The next day we went to buy some plants. As I was preparing to make a u-turn, a bus hit us from the rear and pushed us into another vehicle. Leona died about 2 hours after the crash. I was rushed to a hospital with the right femur, seven ribs, and the pelvis broken. The right lung was punctured and there was two bad cuts on the back of my head as well as other cuts and bruises. Later it was found that 2 vertebrae had been damaged as well.

We did not have proper identification with us, so it was the next day before the people here knew what had happened. As soon as Victor learned of the accident, he started making arrangements to come to my aid. It took him several days to get out of the snow in Montana and reach Korat where I was.

As soon as I was coherent, we made arrangements to transfer me to Bumrungrad Hospital in Bangkok.

There the doctors set my leg and put a steel plate in to support it. I spent over 12 weeks in Bumrungrad Hospital and the Adventist hospital recuperating and receiving therapy. Now I am home. I have improved to where I get around with only one support on my left arm to help my right leg.

The first things Victor had to do when he arrived was to take care of Leona's body, get it cremated and then help set up three memorial services for her plus the services for the cremation. He will take her ashes back to the States and in time we will take them to the cabin where she wanted them put. She is well remembered for her spiritual leadership and generosity.

Victor will be with me until March 16. I plan to be able to take care of myself by then. I may have a college student live with me so that I won't be too lonesome.

Praise God for His goodness and mercy. I pray that we will all be ready to meet Leona when Jesus returns and that that event will be real soon.

V. The Heinrichs Visit Myanmar

Keith Heinrich <kheinrich@ssd.org> March 12:

Myanmar Evangelistic Meeting

Yvonne and I traveled to Yangon Myanmar on February 11. The purpose of our trip was to conduct a series of evangelistic meetings in the city of Pyin Oo Lwin. The meetings were held in the church located on the campus of the Upper Myanmar Mission.

Pyin Oo Lwin is located about 410 miles north of Yangon. On Sunday February 13 we drove all the way there. It was a long drive. We left at 7:00 am and arrived at the mission at 8:00 pm. It was cold when we arrived. By cold we mean it was about 58 degrees. Remember we live in the tropics and 58 is cold.

Our meetings started on Monday evening. We arrived at the church at 6:00 pm and found the school children singing. This they did each evening for about a half an hour. It was great to hear them singing songs in English and Burmese. The mission has a boarding school there for children from grades 3 – 8. This gives the children the opportunity to go to a church school and not have to deal with problems of school on Sabbath!

Throughout the meetings different individuals presented health talks.
Even though I could not understand the oral presentation, I found the power point presentations quite interesting. Following the health talk there was a bible quiz with 6 or 7 questions over the topic from the night before. By the time I began speaking it was getting close to 8:00 pm. I used the presentations from the Revelation of Hope series.

Each evening when we arrived several of the students would come running to the vehicle and want to carry my computer case into the church. At first I was a little nervous about letting them do this because my case is very heavy and I really didn't want them to drop it, because if my computer failed me I would have been in trouble without a power point presentation to use.

One evening a student by the name of Isaiah came to carry my case. When I handed it to him I could see that he had an extra thumb on his right hand. The next day we went to the boy's dorm to visit with the dean, see the students living conditions and find Isaiah and check on his hand. Sure enough he did have an extra thumb of which he was very shy about. It was of no use as there was no bone attaching it to the hand, just a section of skin. From the last knuckle to the tip of the thumb there was bone and it had a fingernail on it.

When we got back to the hotel I told Yvonne that she should work with the boy's dean to see if Isaiah would like to have the useless thumb removed. After discussing this with him and his parents, he said he would like to. Yvonne went along with the boy's dean and a nurse when they took him to a clinic to have his hand examined. The doctor took an x-ray and said that he could do the surgery. The surgery was preformed on Friday, two of his older sisters came to be with him, and Isaiah is doing fine. He came to church on Sabbath to see one of his sisters baptized.

The dean also mentioned that Isaiah has some kind of eye problems. They can't let him leave the campus as he has almost been run over by a vehicle a couple of times. Yvonne also took him to an eye doctor and it appears he has a very bad case of tunnel vision. So far the doctor isn't completely sure of the cause. She thought that maybe he was suffering from a vitamin E deficiency and gave a prescription for vitamin E for a week and then asked that he come back for another exam. He was to go back to the doctor on Monday. No improvement was observed and the doctor is continuing with him on Vitamin E for another month. Our daughter Cherrie Heinrich also talked to an ophthalmologist who suggested some eye exercises to do, this information was passed on to the nurse so she could explain it to Isaiah and his mother.

This was our little missionary work while we were in Pyin Oo Lwin. The moral is you never know what blessing may come your way if you are willing to help someone else i.e. like caring a heavy computer case. Yvonne noticed another little girl with an extra thumb as well. Hers is attached by a bone and is directly on top of her normal thumb. This child we didn't get a chance to help and it will be a more difficult surgery. When I travel in these countries I always find those who have some kind of need. [ Part 2 in next issue] ~~~~~~~~~~ VI. Wendy's Romance Re-visited

Romantic me, I have pulled the middle paragraphs from the cover article of ADVENTIST WORLD, March, 2011, "Go Forward!" by Wendy Guptill Harris, to bring you the story of her romance with Dwayne. You will want to read the entire wonderful account of her previous work in the Philippines and the broadening of her outreach since their marriage.

"For five years I had been working as a nurse in a remote clinic in the mountains of Palawan, Philippines. It was a privilege having a part in saving lives, and though challenging, it brought great fulfillment. I loved living in my little bamboo hut and being able to help people who had so little. Although treacherous, the three-hour hike on the steep trails to our village was refreshing. I loved the beauty and peacefulness. The experiences I had dealing with the poorest people I had ever met--both physical and spiritual--would shape me forever and prepare me for the future. . . ."

"As time went by, my friends and relatives began to show concern about my being single, nearing 30. The chances of finding a soul mate in the middle of a jungle seemed impossible. I found it humorous when people tried to discretely hint that maybe it was time for me to come home for a while and 'find someone.' However, I trusted God's promise in Matthew 6:13 that when we put the Master first, all other needs will be supplied. I knew that God did not need me to return to an Adventist community to find the companion He had for me. My mother finally came to the same conclusion and quipped one day, 'If God wants you to have a husband, He'll have to drop one out of the sky.'"

"I had no idea of the amazing things God had in store for me in the following months. In May, 2008 I met Dwayne Harris, a pilot/aircraft mechanic who had recently left all to pioneer a new work in the Philippines with a small helicopter God had provided. Having worked in the village for several years, I could see the distinct advantages of having helicopter assistance with our medical evacuations. I was pretty excited when I heard that he was seriously considering basing the helicopter near our village!"

"Dwayne hardly knew a soul in the Philippines upon arrival and had used up his own resources just getting himself and the helicopter into the country. God led someone to help him get the helicopter through customs without a hitch. Then various people of all types and religions had stepped in and provided a place for Dwayne to stay, food to eat, and fuel for the helicopter during the six months he was in Manila!"
"My parents, who lived outside of Manila, opened their home to Dwayne every weekend during this time. The chance to get out of the city and fellowship with other Adventists on a beautiful campus was welcome, especially since he came from the wide open spaces of Montana, a far cry from the 15 million people living in Manila! Even though this time in the city was a time of waiting and character building, God continued to demonstrate His love and care for Dwayne.

"As I continued my work in the mountains far from Manila, God provided several more opportunities for Dwayne and me to meet. I began to highly respect Dwayne and his simple but confident trust that God would provide for His work. As I realized that this was a truly genuine man, I couldn't help wondering what God had in store for us.

"Four months after I met Dwayne he was able to get the helicopter cleared, registered, and ready to fly from Manila to Palawan. And yes, much to my delight, God dropped my future husband out of the sky (somewhat literally) and into my jungle home without my having to set foot out of the Philippines! One year after we met, Dwayne and I were married."

[It scarcely seems possible that it has been some 30 years since we first met Wendy; she was a very little girl when her parents, Steve and Peggy Guittill & their two children, joined our staff at South China Union College (now Hong Kong Adventist College).--cht/sr] ~~~~~~~~~~~~~ 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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