I. Tragedy Strikes in Cambodia

II. Death of Bessie Siemens Lobsein

III. Needs of Micronesia Schools

IV. Work Among the Karens--Part 1 of 4

V. The Heinrichs Visit Myanmar--Part 2

VI. Life Sketch of Victor Adelbert Armstrong ~~~~~~~~~

I. Tragedy Strikes in Cambodia

Franklin Allan Inayat <franklin.inayat@gmail.com> March 21:
Tragedy struck a Pakistani family in Cambodia on Sabbath, March 19, 2011.
Neha Khan, daughter of Pakistan Adventist Seminary & College alumni Akram and Alia Khan, currently serving as SDA missionaries in Cambodia, died in a motorbike accident. Mrs. Alia Khan was involved in the accident too and is admitted in the hospital in an unspecified condition. Special prayers are requested for this missionary family. E-mails of encouragement and support can be sent to Mr. Akram Khan at the following address:
<akramalia@cambodiaadventist.org.kh>
The PASC Alumni Association also offers its condolence and sympathy to this greiving family. May God give them the comfort, courage, and strength to bear this great loss.
-- Franklin Allan Inayat, Vice President, Pakistan Adventist Seminary & College Alumni Association International

II. Death of Bessie Siemens Lobsein

On March 19th Bessie Siemens Lobsein lost her battle with cancer. She was living in Redding, California since the death of her husband. She had served in three world divisions as a volunteer missionary as a trained and experienced librarian: Pakistan in the old Southern Asia Division, Hong Kong in the old Far Eastern Division, and Mexico in the Inter-American Division.

III. Needs of Micronesia Schools

JoAnne Lafever <ymscsprin@gmail.com> March 17:
Some readers of this newsletter may have served in Micronesia and particularly in Marshall Islands on Majuro. The Majuro SDA Schools need replacing their two vehicles. I have ridden in both of these. I find it amazing that they still run! Incredibly rusted and falling apart.
Unfortunately, the Marshall Islands will not let their people import good used, cheap vehicles from Japan because they are right hand drive. All the rest of Micronesia can import vehicles from Japan even though the vehicles are opposite driving. If anyone has a heart for helping the Majuro SDA Schools, it would be a real blessing to the schools. There are two schools on Majuro, Delap and Laura. These two schools are 30 miles part and there needs to be good transportation between them. The following are the needs:

***a. School Van - this is used as the school's main transportation for teachers. Currently, the school has no functioning vehicle to accommodate our teachers, students, and guests. The van is 12 years old and is not functioning. Our mechanic is trying very hard to keep the only vehicle running.

Cost: $20,000.00 Raised: $0.00

*** b. School Pick-up - a much needed part of the school for small to major transport of different items. The school is struggling to currently maintain the running condition of a 1998 model Mitsubishi Pick-up that the school share with every need and is currently the only vehicle in running condition and could die out at any time.

Cost: $18,000.00 Raise: $0.00 Thanks for sharing the needs.

JoAnne Lafever
909- 362- 3659

[The above was summarized from their newsletter: Majuro SDA School System - Delajewoj Chronicles Issue #1]

IV. Work Among the Karens of Thailand--Part 1 of 4

Phamor Poopichitpra (Aw Gaw Paul) <mmteop@yahoo.com> February 28:
The Macedonian call from No Man's Land.

I would first like to give you a brief description of what I'm calling No Man's Land. I gave it this name because it is describing a place where there are villages on the other side of the border in an area where no one is allowed to live. But the people who were born there and have always lived there, even though the authorities don't allow them to stay, they stay on because it has always been their home. So when the soldiers come up to these villages and burn their houses they run away into the bush and then when the soldiers are gone they come back and rebuild their houses and live on in that area. We at EOP have provided teachers and schools in the villages in this area so that we can evangelize them. We can help the children to read and write. Every year we need to rebuild our schools because they are burned down by the soldiers. But we also are evangelizing this area. We have about 18 schools in No Man's Land.

In No Man's Land we have a group of people that we call IDP-- Internal Displaced People. These people are refugees in their own land. They cannot stay in their villages but they gather in many places in the jungle and stay together. Their villages are deserted because of the soldiers that come in every now and then and destroy their crops and houses. These people need your help. This is the Macedonian call. Brothers and sisters, please do something. But if you can't help with means please pray for this EOP school and teachers.

The financial situation of the world affect KED, Karen Education Department in No Man's Land. They provided some support - yearly subsidies for the village schools in No Man's Land but now they have no funds to continue doing the work. They have made an offer for EOP to carry on this work. There's a man coming from No Man's Land who requested that if we can take over one of the middle schools that has about eleven teachers we can run this school as we like. We can provide lay pastors and teachers to give them a Christian education; to teach them to study the Bible and prepare them for the soon coming of Jesus. This area that is calling us to come and run the school used to be an area where they didn't want any Christians involved at all but now they welcome us because they want this school to continue on. To pay these eleven teachers we will need about 100,000 Thai baht per year which is equal to approximately US$ 3,500. If we look at US$ 3,500 a year it is not a lot of money but when we look at the economic problems in this world it can make it seem hard but there is nothing hard for our God. Friends and supporters please pray for us so that a way will open up for us to take over this school. They are waiting for our answer, whether we are going to accept the Macedonian call or not. So I asked them to wait. Pray hard, pray to the Lord God that He will provide us with sufficient means so that we can run and take over this school in No Man's Land.

In addition to this we have another 28 schools both in no man's land and in the refugee camps that we need to support. Please pray that the Lord will supply the needed means so that we can support all these schools, pay all of the 209 teachers as well as the eleven more teachers in this new school that is calling us to take over. If it is the Lord's will everything is possible. So brothers and sisters, pray; pray hard that we can take over this school and give people the blessed hope to prepare themselves for the soon coming of Jesus. Pray. [End of Part 1 of 4] ~~~~~~~~~ V. The Heinrichs Visit Myanmar

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

[In the dorm]The living conditions of the boys is not exactly first class. They are living in a building which was built as a gym/multipurpose building. They have used tarp to rope off a part of the room and there the boys sleep on a thin wicker mat on the floor. There were only 2 beds to sleep in and about 4 or 5 small wooden chests where they could put some clothes. They have very few things to store anyway. There is not one chair or table in the place. Currently there are 40+ boys staying in this make shift dorm.

The girls are living in an old wooden house. Again there is no furniture and they spread their mats and bedding on the floor. During this time of the year it gets quite cold there. In the morning it was in the upper 40's, we could see our breath when we walked, so that is pretty cold to sleep on either a cement or wood floor and have to bathe with cold water, but the children are happy and were not complaining.

The children eat two meals each day, one at 8:00 am and the second at 5:00 pm. They are served rice with a sauce on it. The sauce is mostly liquid with some type of beans, onions and cabbage in it. I don't know if they ever put any other vegetables in the sauce but Yvonne was told they eat this twice a day. It definitely makes me thankful for the food I have to eat each day and all of the many blessings I enjoy every day. One day we bought an ear of sweet corn for each of the children for their breakfast. They were very thankful for a menu change.

We had a very good series of meetings. Each night the church was full of members and visitors. During the week the pastors and mission workers went to the homes of those who were interested and gave many Bible studies. On Sabbath a baptism was held where 32 individuals were baptized and one person was taken in by profession of faith. It was very rewarding to listen to the testimony of Daw Khin who was a Buddhist and said that she had visited many different churches and was never completely satisfied with their teachings until she attended our meetings and found the eternal
truths as recorded in the Bible. She joined the church on profession of faith and is currently sharing the Good News with her relatives and friends.

On Sunday it was time for our return trip to Yangon. It was a long ride, however we were grateful for those who had chosen to follow Jesus and join our church. We will miss Elder Mona Paul the mission president and Gin Lam Cin the mission treasurer along with Nang Do Dal the MYUM treasurer. These men treated us very well. The food that was prepared for us each day was excellent! Mrs. Paul is a wonderful cook.

Please pray for those who have made a decision to accept Jesus into their life and for those who are still considering the offer of salvation from our wonderful Savior.

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VI. Life Sketch of Victor Adelbert Armstrong

Kathy Coffin Phillips Marshall <colorcat3@comcast.net> [Part 1 of 4]

I have been reading your newsletter with interest since it began, as I grew up as an MK in Singapore and later served in at Guam SDA Clinic. I noticed that you have included several longer obituaries/life sketches. I thought you could use at least some if not all of this life sketch put together by various family members, since my uncle passed away last May, 2010. Some of the material in the life sketch was taken from a 1.5 hour video tape of an interview of my uncle by a Marine base historian.

Victor Armstrong will be known to many of the old timers on your list as well as his parents, Lily and Victor T. Armstrong who served Japan Union President and then in Singapore at the FED headquarters at 800 Thompson Rd. which Victor T. purchased back in the 1930s as a location for the FED headquarters.

--Kathy Coffin Phillips Marshall, Salem, Oregon; 503-577-0804 ==========

Victor Adelbert Armstrong, Major General, USMC

His heart was racing, his knuckles were white as he gripped the seat in the auditorium upstairs in the old wooden administration building to keep from bolting from his first assembly as a Freshman at Walla Walla College. At the first rattle of the windows, vibrations of the floor under him and loud rumble in his ears, the voice in his head began screaming, "Jishin, Jishin, Jishin, Jishin -- 'earthquake' in Japanese!" As a child of 5 he and his family had survived the 1923 Great Kanto earthquake, magnitude 7.9, the resulting 39.5 foot tsunami and its 57 aftershocks that killed more than 140,000 people and destroyed 570,000 homes in Tokyo, Japan. After that he was the first one in the family to sound the alarm and bolt from the house.

But the assembly speaker droned on and no one moved. Slowly it dawned on him that it was just the morning train thundering by on the tracks at the back of the campus. How glad he was he hadn't sounded the Jishin alarm!

Victor Adelbert Armstrong was born at Mt. Ellis Academy in Bozeman, Montana in 1918 where his father, Victor T. Armstrong (WWC), was the Principal and his mother Lillie McCune Armstrong (WWC) was music teacher and his 4 year old sister, Marie, had already pressed her little hand print into the wet cement of a new sidewalk on campus.

At age three his family were the new missionaries on the Ogikubo, Tokyo, Japan mission compound where his father became mission President.

Vic's childhood was anything but dull. A favorite family story is about him falling off his bike into the 'honey bucket' pit. His mother told him to strip down in their yard before she hosed him off with the garden hose and let him in the house to really clean off the stench. Another time he and his buddy, Richard Nelson, 'borrowed' the Nelson family car for a joy ride in the country. The car ended up in the rice paddy and the boys had to sheepishly interrupt a committee meeting for their fathers' assistance.

Lillie and the children spent the stifling hot summers at one of the mission cabins at Lake Nojiri with the other mission families which was as much fun as a summer camp especially when Vic senior joined them on weekends. While still a youngster, Vic, was bitten by the flying bug and built a 6' wing span glider that he flew in the rice paddies.

In 1934 he enrolled as a Junior at Far Eastern Academy in Shanghai, China. He pooled all his resources to purchase US dollars in Shanghai hoping to exchange them in Japan at a much better rate and pay for his tuition. If he traveled by train he could arrive in Japan with the US dollars undetected. So at the age of 16 he spent most of his summer vacation traveling alone from Shanghai to Nan king, Peking (Beijing), Harbin, Mukden (Manchuria), Korea and finally home to Japan.

Northern China was already occupied by Japanese forces. He watched as they stopped the train and began systematically searching the fleeing Chinese passengers. Many of them escaped the search by climbing out the windows and doors to the platform. In fluent in Japanese, Vic explained who he was to the Japanese troops and avoided their search and looting.
While in Peking with missionary friends he experienced his first airplane ride. The crew took him up in Madam Chiang Kai Shek's private 12 passenger Boeing aircraft while awaiting her arrival from Tienshin. The flying bug had bitten Victor again.

In 1936 he graduated from Far Eastern Academy and arrived at Walla Walla College - a very long way from his family in Japan. During college he was a valued member of the paint crew and bussed tables in the cafeteria for $.35 an hour to help with his expenses.

In 1942 he graduated with a B.A. and wasted no time joining the Navy Aviation Cadet Program in Pascoe, WA. By December 1942 he was flying PBY ("P boat amphibious planes") in Corpus Christi, TX. May 1943 he made the cut into the Marines and was busy flying 12 hour submarine patrols in the Gulf.

[End of Part 1 of 4]

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