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   1. Bob Manners <mannersbob@gmail.com> September 26:

   Dave [Dennis],

   You have really made my day. What a fantastic report you shared on the positive effects of durian. I love durian and remember well the durian parties we had when I was doing some studies in Indonesia. I was serving as Union President in Bangladesh at the time and studying for the MA in Leadership with AIIAS. You had given one of the locals some money to buy durian and he came back with a large sack full. I now buy durian in the supermarkets here in Australia for 3-4 dollars a kg.

   Robert (Bob) G. Manners
   President
   South New South Wales Conference

   2. Carrol Grady <phillnat@bigpond.net.au> September 26:

   We were in Singapore with Sharon and Byron Scheuneman. Byron and some of the other guys sometimes came up to our house in the evening to play games. I remember Trevor coming along sometimes, and he would mimic the guys when they'd get a bad hand or whatever and exclaim, "Oh, NO!" (I think he was three or four then.) I was happy to hear about his recent marriage, and I understand he has already make a big name for himself at the Metropolitan Opera!

   3. Dean Tidwell <deantidwell@yahoo.com> September 27:

   I appreciated the article David Dennis shared on durian and its health benefits. It all makes perfect sense, although I had the impression I was reading an advertisement paid for by the Durian Growers' Association. The article stated, "Research has proved that just two servings of durian..." I got to wondering exactly what constitutes a serving of durian. The way I have seen durian loves eat the fruit, my guess is one fruit might be considered one serving! If one serving is good for you, imagine how much more benefit two durian would provide! I am convinced. Bring them on!

   Adds Lila: Wow, it sounds like durian is the fountain of youth that we are all looking for, or perhaps the fruit that will be on the tree of life!

   4. Saw Thein <sawthein2009@gmail.com> September 29:

   We would like to express our appreciation to all who are helping our ministry in Myanmar. We believe that your gifts are great blessings to you and to Myanmar people.

   The MFM office rented an apartment for a year in Ahlone township in Yangon. The contract will be expired at the end of April 2012. And we have opened a new school in a rented apartment in Yangon in Thakayta township at View Point
Quarter and the contract will be expired at the end of January 2012. We believe that the school may become self-supporting by the mid of coming year. We need to extend the rent on the apartments at a cost of US$1,000 each for a one year contract.

We are asking help because we are not able to stand on our own legs yet. We are raising fund for evangelism work to plant seven churches in our targeted areas in the next three years. As we have accelerated our evangelism work for planting churches; we’ve trained some young people in the service of God. In order to reach our goal we set up a total budget of US$10,000. Please extend your gift for the MFM ministry for this year.

Our regular mailing address is 68 U Wisara Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

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5. Don Aldridge <don@alleta4you.com> October 4:

Ode to the Durian
The Durian is the King of Fruit
With taste and smell that is acute.
There is none that can compare
To even try would not be fair.

Like putrid onions is the smell
Some constitutions do rebel
When London sewer hits the nose
Immediately their minds do close.

The first and second time it's bad
But try again for you'll be glad.
In time you'll think it is the best
And you'll be glad you passed the test.

For when there's no more sin and strife
Twelve kinds will be on the Tree of Life!

---Don F. Aldridge, FED '63-'68

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II. Dan Smith & Big Group Visit Chiang Mai Academy

-- from "Whispers from the Hills" --September 2011

The last three months have been very busy here on campus; we had a large group of 78 people led by Pr. Dan Smith come to our campus. Pr. Dan and five other pastors led out in evangelistic services every evening on campus and in five other churches in the area. Every morning the two youth pastors from Garden Grove SDA Church led out in worship on campus at the pratom and with the matayom. On the final Sabbath we had a baptism of 22 students and some adults from the village churches nearby.

Then, during the day some of the group helped teach English, some conducted a VBS program for the pratom children. Many helped finish two staff houses that had been started. They finished the concrete work around the houses and painted them inside and out. The group also brought enough money to build another house which has been completed now. You will notice there is one more space left for another house in this area. We’ve run out of money for this school year, but still need at least one more staff house to care for our staff. We thank you for your interest in CAA.

Thursday evening the village churches joined us in our worship which was followed by a cultural program and ended with hot-air balloons.

Mothers' Day is very special in Thailand and also on our campus. The day began with a special program for the mothers that could come.

This was followed by demonstrations by the students of how to use recycled materials to make shopping bags, hats, chairs, etc.

Then after lunch everyone went down to the rice paddies to plant rice.
This year it only took about 45 minutes to plant 8 rai (4 acres) of rice.

This past weekend we were pleased to welcome Dr. Jon Dybdahl to our campus. He along with Pr. Rungsit and Pr. Sopon were the people that God used to begin this school almost 40 years ago.
Once again we want to thank all of you for your support in prayer and finances so that this school can continue to spread God's word to the youth of Thailand. What a great task lies before us. What a short time is left to do the work.

III. Gil Valentine in Andrews Alumni News
   --from the Summer issue of "Focus"
   "Gilbert Valentine (MA’79, PhD’82) and Kendra Haloviak (MA’91), associate professor of New Testament Studies at La Sierra University, where she had been teaching since 2001, were married in Riverside, Calif., on April 4, 2010. They met in Australia while Kendra was a visiting teacher at Avondale College, and they now have settled in Riverside. Gil was serving as an associate in the South Pacific Division Education department, following a return from mission service in 2007. In August 2010, he was appointed as professor and chair of the Department of Administration and Leadership in the School of Education at La Sierra University. . . .
   "In May 2011, Pacific Press published Gil’s latest book, 'The Prophet and the President,' which is a study of the exercise of Ellen White’s influence on and her interaction with the leadership of the Adventist Church. . . ."

IV. Paul Cho & Evangelism in Tokyo
   Pastor Paul Cho be conducting an evangelistic effort in Tokyo, Japan in October Please pray for Pastor Cho and the evangelistic meetings in Japan. --from the October 1 Newsletter for Hacienda Heights Chinese Seventh-day Adventist Church ~~~~~~~~~~~ V. Sri Lanka’s Bethel Chapel to Celebrate 90th
   Cheryl Howson <<howsnen@gmail.com>> September 24:
   Next year on 7 July, 2012, Bethel Chapel will celebrate her 90th Anniversary. It is with great pleasure that I bother you to see if you can be present at our celebrations. As Pastor Anthony told us on our 89th Anniversary, a church is not about the building or the land, it’s all about the PEOPLE. I know that not everyone will be able to make it on July 7, so we thought we would take a vote on the most appropriate date for those who are planning to make the long trip to Colombo. We will have a thanksgiving service on July 7 anyhow, but the exciting programs and major catching up on news will be on a more convenient date depending on each of you.
   I am not sure about accommodation yet, but if you need us to arrange something, please do let us know in advance.
   At any rate, if you cannot make it, we would like you to scan and send us any old, old pictures of Bethel Chapel and the members (please tag them, as some of us may not have been born back then and wouldn't know the people) We are planning to do a criss-cross string timeline on the rear wall of our church during the years that our members were present. (we will not use scotch tape on the walls, don't worry) So please send us your pictures, with your name and the years that you were present, and once again, a memory of a funny incident involving you.
   The celebration weekend will probably include:
   Friday - Musical Program and Drama
   Sabbath - Special Church Program
   Saturday night/Sunday - Social and Reminiscing
   Those of you who are coming, please be prepared to participate, this program is not FOR you but ABOUT you! So let us know what you would be comfortable doing, even if it is just handing out programs or collecting offering or setting up the microphones :)
   I look forward with joy to hearing from all of you (even if you are not coming)! please don't disappoint me!
   God bless you all!
   Cheryl Howson

VI. A Story from Mongolia
   "Those Evil Christians"
   "Tawgy slowed his steps as he neared his home in Ulaanbaatar. 'Dear Father,' he prayed, 'help my parents not to be angry with me for going to church instead of doing my chores. Help them to understand that I'm not trying to disobey them, but that I want to obey You.'
   "Thirteen-year-old Tawgy had been a Christian for only a few months, and his parents still were deeply concerned that he had joined 'this evil sect.'
   Tawgy understood, for he, too, had heard the rumors that some extreme Christians committed suicide. He tried to convince his parents that he wasn't at all involved with such an extreme group.
"Tawgy was just 12 when his aunt invited him to visit the Seventh-day Adventist with her. He didn't want to go, but he felt obliged to obey his aunt, so he went. He enjoyed the meeting and liked the young pastor who spoke. Tawgy attended the rest of the meetings and accepted Jesus as his Savior. His parents tried to dissuade him from attending church and often gave him work assignments to keep him home on Sabbath, but he stood his ground.

"Tawgy's classmates shunned him when he began associating with boys who drank and smoked. But when he became a Christian, his classmates thought that he had done something even worse! Tawgy stopped spending time with his former friends, and, in time, his classmates realized that he really had changed for the better. To his joy, Tawgy learned that four of his former friends had also become Christians.

"Always somewhat shy, Tawgy struggled to gain confidence. His church family has encouraged him, and now he finds it easy to talk to people. 'My friends at church are like my family,' he says. 'They pray for me and help me stay faithful to God when I'm weak. They make it easier for me to be the only believer in my family.'

"The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mongolia is just taking root. With fewer than 2,000 members, standing for one's faith can be difficult. Pray for the believers in Mongolia, and remember that your mission offerings are helping the church to grow in regions such as Mongolia, one of the uttermost parts of the earth."

--from the 4th Quarter SS Lesson Quarterly.

VII. The Johnstons Revisit Korean University--Part 2

In a May issue of the FED E-News we carried Madeline Steele Johnston's account of their return to Korea after many years in "Love Out Loud," the women's morning devotional book for this year. Her 2nd account of the return to Korea is from the message for October 3; it is called "Buttered Bread" and is based on Eccl. 11:1: "Cast your bread upon the water, for after many days you will find it again."

"I'm writing from the Sahmyook University in South Korea. I am visiting here for three weeks; my husband has come to teach in the seminary for four months. Officially retired from teaching, he was asked to return for one semester--exactly 50 years after we first came to the campus as missionaries, a young couple with a 16-month-old son.

"We had not sought a mission call. My husband spoke a few romance languages but not Korean. Was God really behind the call? The church officer who sent the call wisely suggested we take two months to think and pray about it. As we did so, God sent indicators pointing toward Korea--not the least of which was a Sabbath school Bible lesson on Jonah!

"But God knew Korea was just right for us. It was a great place to raise our toddler and the three children born to us there. We gained many solid friends, and my husband developed skills as a college professor. Not only did God use him to train many pastors there, but he has since been able to serve Korean students in the Philippines and in the United States.

"The students have gone on to leadership positions in Korea, America, and around the world--as foreign missionaries, teachers, medical professionals, and in other ways. We are in our 70s now, and it is gratifying to look back at the ripple effect of our work. We know clearly that it is not from our bumbling attempts at mission, but from God's grace to us and through us.

"Upon our return, former students have treated us like royalty, with gifts, meals, and trips that we know are costly. Koreans are gracious and generous people. Our children also have fond memories of their early childhood here. Our daughter and her family returned here the same day I did (because of her husband's work). During her few days here we enjoyed a reunion and some wonderful hospitality from Korean friends.

"Our old house on the campus is gone--torn down, replaced by a large apartment building to house foreign teachers, as the campus has grow tremendously. But our warm memories remain. God has blessed us, our family, the church and its many phases of work here, and our former students. He has indeed returned our bread with butter--and even jam on it."

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