I. Former FED MK Is Hong Kong Hospital Chaplain
   Don Aldridge <don@alleta4you.com> October 6:
   Readers may be interested in a return to the mission field by a former FED MK. One of the latest appointees to what used to be the FED is our son Rick Aldridge. Rick is the new head Chaplain of the Adventist Hospital in Hong Kong. Rick spent three of his childhood years in Singapore ('63-66 in Far Eastern Academy) and then in Kuching, Sarawak, East Malaysia (Sunny Hill School '67-68). His wife, Jean, was born in Malawi, Africa also of missionary parents (Drs. Elton & Rheeta Stecker) -- Don and Lillian Aldridge ~~~~~~~~

II. Historic Note: Choosing the Chiangmai Academy Property
   Jerry Bruce <brucewent@frontier.com> October 5:
   In a recent newsletter mention is made about the Chiang Mai Academy in North Thailand. [Some 40 years ago] God led in choosing the property for that school. It all came down to 3 available properties spread over a large area that would take days to determine which one to choose. In the Southeast Asia Union Office we decided to ask Dick Hall to fly the Cessna 180 from Kuching, Sarawak to Thailand to use for a survey group to study the properties from the air saving several days of hard travel on the ground. At low levels we visited all three properties and made the final choice from maps and some pictures taken from the airplane.

III. Thailand Adventists & Countrywide Floods
   --Prayers Among Buddhists e-Newsletter
   <prayersamongbuddhists@gmail.com> Oct. 6:
   Thailand's worst monsoon floods in six decades have affected three quarters of the country, including the ancient capital of Ayutthaya. "It is the worst flooding in terms of the amount of water and people affected," said an unnamed official of the Department of Disaster of Prevention and Mitigation.

   Thailand is the largest exporter of rice in the world. The Agriculture Ministry estimates that about 2.48 million of the country's 22 million acres of rice fields have been damaged.

   According to the government, the flooding has inundated 58 of Thailand's 77 provinces, with 25 severely affected, and damaged the homes or livelihoods of millions of people. This includes many Seventh-day Adventist Church members as well. LopBuri River has overflowed affecting Ayutthaya province and a swath of Phichit province. This has left many riverside communities underwater.

   Team members whose home is underwater. Three of our team members, Mike and Marilee Kier and Miew Prapaporn, whose house has never been flooded, is surrounded by water plus several inches of water has seeped inside and covered the first floor. The picture is of Miew and Marilee coming out for supplies.

   Khun Muy’s 2nd floor home at risk...as of today (the 6th) the water is ready to come in through the floor boards.
Is there something we can do to help? Donations can be made directly from your bank to the Thai Farmers Bank, Sukhumvit 71 Branch (Bangkok, Thailand)

Account: Seventh-day Adventist Church of Thailand Account #: 971-2-02160-5 Swift Code: KASITHBK

IV. G. C. President to Visit China Next Year

Leaders from the official Protestant church in China paid a courtesy visit to the Seventh-day Adventist Church headquarters yesterday, the second time in two years. Shen Xuebin, center, Chairman of Shanghai Committee of Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Church, visited with Adventist Church Executive Secretary G. T. Ng during a trip to the Adventist Church headquarters on October 3. The delegation of Chinese officials also visited last year.

The visit of representatives of the China Christian Council and the Three-Self Patriotic Movement Committee precedes the visit of the denomination's president to China next year.

Adventist Church President Ted N. C. Wilson and a small delegation from the church's headquarters is scheduled to visit China during March and April to strengthen relations with Adventist believers in China. "We are grateful to have contact and visit Adventist believers in China through the official organization, the China Christian Council," Wilson told Chinese officials during a protocol lunch yesterday. He thanked the leaders for helping to facilitate the visit.

The China Christian Council is a post-denominational organization of Protestants in China. There are some 23 million Protestant Christians in China, said Reverend Shen Xuebin, chairman of Shanghai Committee of Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Church. "Christians are a minority in China. Most people in China are atheists," Shen said.

Adventist believers in China fall under the China Christian Council and are recognized as a special group for their worship services on Saturday. It's estimated that there are some 400,000 Adventist believers in China.

In the past few years, Adventist believers in China have built several large churches in agreement with authorities.

Next year's trip would be Wilson's first visit to China. His predecessor, Jan Paulsen, visited China in 2009. --ANN Bulletin, October 4, 2011

V. Readers Respond to Durian Item
1. Angela Matthews <angela.j.matthews@gmail.com> October 5:
Durian Again, and Again, and Again

Although many people believe that one has to either love it or hate it, personally I am indifferent towards durian. Although the smell is pretty offensive, and the texture somewhere between raw bread dough and glue, the flavour is not terrible—a little lacklustre, but not overtly horrible Besides that, though, it's expensive, and considering it usually comes out at about the same time as mangosteen, (a far superior fruit) my decision to eschew the merely palatable for more divinely exquisite alternatives is a fairly easy one.

I am not without sympathy to those who are passionately obsessed with durian. The cravings they exhibit when distanced from their panacea are reminiscent of withdrawal symptoms, and the lengths they go through to obtain their slimy gold lead me to wonder what type of addictive euphoria they are really experiencing. Perhaps someone should set up a support group: Durians Anonymous.

In light of these ponderings, you will probably not be surprised that I read "It's Durian Again" with a degree of skepticism. In a future FED-e-News I will give my entirely unscientific rebuttal.

2. Judy Rosa <jk7040@webtv.net> October 5:
I have been having fun reading about the durian stories. I remember the smell and how dad woke me up one night not too long after we got to Bangkok. He loved it from the first bite and wanted to see if I would like it! I was known as the kid that would try anything once. But this time I would not take a taste due to the smell. Well
some of the kids on the hospital compound liked the stuff so I began thinking I would try. The thing that finally go me to take my 1st taste was at Pataya beach. We were in a cabin with some other families and one of them was the Nelsons. All I remember is that Lolly dared me and said she would be my friend. So I took my 1st taste and it was not too bad. I do not recall how long after that that I really liked it but it did take a few times before I knew it was the best thing I had ever eaten!

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3. Alice Spindler <clever_bacon@hotmail.com> October 4:  
So many times I tried to eat durian, even on return visits to Singapore. Never made it past the smelling and dashing out!! I DID drink a durian milkshake. Not too bad. Also, someone airmailed a frozen supply to a friend here and they shared it. Was able to eat without any problem. Perhaps it was the freezing that decreased the smell. It has so many values. -- Alice Cunningham, M.D.

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VI. David Gates Reports GMI work in Far East  
--Gospel Ministries International Newsletter October 4:  
Greetings from Sabah, Malaysia where we are finishing four weeks of meetings in Korea, Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia. It has been a very busy, a very beautiful and a blessed experience. The focus on missions has led hundreds to make commitments to be missionaries at home and abroad.

A routine inspection of our PAMAS Medical Helicopter serving the native mountain villages of Palawan in the Philippines revealed a defect beginning to develop in the main rotor blades. The three blades were removed and sent to the US for repairs, but the repair stations stated that they cannot be repaired and must be replaced. Our chief pilot, Dwayne Harris, was finally able to find only one set of replacement blades through the help of a friend who read our last email request for help. Due to the scarcity of these blades, they are not cheap. Though we hope someday soon to have a second medical helicopter operating in the North mountain regions of the country, at present this helicopter is the only one. Without it many patients do not survive and Bible workers remain unattended. For further information you can contact Dwayne at harro@hotmail.com. Two videos of this helicopter at work are available online on the Pamas Mission channel. "People of Darkness, People of Hope". As of the date of sending this newsletter, we have received a commitment for $25,000 towards the purchase of the blades. An additional $15,000 needs to be donated to complete the purchase.

With the birth of HCBN-Indonesia (He's Coming Broadcasting Network) in early 2011, the ASI chapter of Malaysia got busy working toward the launching of their own television network focusing on their own unique needs and culture. This past week, during our Faith Camp Asia meetings in the same beautiful new church, over 50 volunteers and supporters of the new network came forward and were organized for action. We welcome HCBN Malaysia as the 15th sister network in the family of television networks worldwide.

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VII. Pakistan To Be Part of Southern Asia-Pacific Division  
09 October 2011, Silver Springs, MD, USA [Miroslav Pujic, tedNEWS]  
The Seventh-day Adventist Church's top officials, represented at the General Conference (GC) Annual Council, voted today to accept a recommendation to realign the mission fields of the Euro-Africa Division (EUD) and the Trans-European Division (TED). For the TED, this means that the Middle East Union is joined with other fields in North Africa, Turkey and Iran to form a new union called Greater Middle East Union (GMEU). The union will be placed directly under the oversight of the GC. South Sudan will be placed under the East-Central Africa Division with offices in Nairobi. Pakistan will be moved to the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, and Israel Field will be directly under the GC as an attached field on its own. The decision also includes Afghanistan, which is aligned with the Euro-Asia Division. Cyprus will remain with the TED. All the changes will take effect on 1st of January 2012.

The rationale for the decision is to give more resources to the Middle East, to keep countries with similar cultures together, and to focus on the needs and mission challenges of this part of the world. It is also a way to give the two European divisions more time to focus on the mission challenges in Europe.
VIII. SULADS Mission Story: "Wrestling With Spirits"

SULADS Newsletter <sulads@suladsnewsletter.org>

by Daryl Famisaran, Misoloksolok Mission School

"Sir Daryl! Datu (chief) Asang has decided to be baptized," Sir Arthur gladly reported. He did not join the last baptism because the Pastor, who was not a SULADS missionary, did not speak Manobo and he couldn't understand Cebuan. He didn't like that.

"I have some things to surrender to Datu Bowngit (chief talkative bird), Daryl Famisaran, before I get baptized," Chief Asang said. I believed these things were his amulets, charms and bits of assorted things he used in attending to patients as he calls on the spirits in the woods to help him heal the sick in his community.

I did not hesitate to go. This chief, estimated to be 85 years old, was already too weak to hike to the nearby river. He wanted to be baptized before he couldn't make it anymore. Excitement filled me imagining that this chief especially sent for me to baptize him. Though he alone would be baptized this time, it would be worth my hike of four hours crossing rivers and climbing mountains.

Reaching the village that afternoon, I right away went to see the Chief. His black teeth glowed in his sweet smiles when he saw me. We hugged, and he hugged me again so tight as if to say what took you so long? He then called his people to gather in the plaza around a suspended log and he started beating the log as the other dancers joined him in beating the log welcoming me. He asked me to join the merriment in dancing and we enjoyed it.

We had worship that evening in the village hut hall in the dark and he was there present with all the villagers.

I was told that some Baptist members and a pastor had been there and told him that the Adventist's Sabbath was no longer applicable this time as it was abolished on the cross. So I expounded on Creation and the Sabbath. I saw him nodding affirmatively. We parted that evening with the reminder of the most important appointment in the morning-his baptism. He was excited.

We planned that evening that the whole class of two hundred would have no class that Monday morning just to witness Chief Asang's baptism. I wore my chief’s attire just as I do every time I baptize these mountain tribes and most especially since I would be baptizing a Chief. As the children were having the flag ceremony, I went ahead to prepare the chief. He was there combing his long hair as he has just taken a bathin the river. "Oh! the chief is quite ready now," I said to myself. "So are we ready now, Chief for the holy bath?" I reminded.

"I'm sorry, Chief Talkative Bird, but I'm not yet ready this time!"

"What!? I was shocked! But I just pretended it was alright. This is what I came here for I mused. WHY? WHY? I could not understand this.

"Why chief? What do you mean not this time? This is what I came here for," I asked.

He then got his bag full of bits and pieces of his charms and amulets.

Then out came shiny shells, a certain kind of seed which he explained is an extra ordinary seed with powers, rusty iron which he said floats on the water, a crystal ball as big as a marble and a rusty needle which he explained floats also on the water. I made my camera ready to take some pictures of him with his charms, but he said, "NO PLEASE!" I right away put my camera down so as not to upset him. I understand that this was a big "No No" according to culture. I then recalled his dream about the narrow road and the wide road where he saw his people and himself on the narrow road that led to hell with a dark bottomless pit and the narrow road where he saw the SULADS teachers and his children in the village joining worship on the road to heaven.

He said, "Is there no other way to heaven?"

"I said, "There is only one way-the narrow road only-and this way is Jesus."

"Not yet this time maybe, Chief," he explained. "It is okay for me to have my people get baptized first..."

"But I will not be baptized this time yet either," his wife butted in.

I understood and I dared not force him anymore. A moment later the students and the teachers were already there ready to go to the river. I was happy that they had prepared some others who decided to be baptized. I asked Chief Asang to say some few words of
encouragements to his subjects to be baptized. He did! "This is the narrow road full of thorns and snares," he began, "but this is leading to life eternal. Be faithful as you go. I will follow later."

I baptized eighteen of them that sunny morning and I said it was still worth my hike. Later that day I learned that, some two days before I came, Chief Asang visited his Balite Tree where he used to offer sacrifices to his spirit friends. I then understood that he was still in a battle of WRESTLING WITH SPIRITS.

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