I. Alice Peterson Celebrating 100th Birthday

Terry & Kathy Phillips <colorcat3@comcast.net> October 24:
Thomas Peterson <tpeters@westga.edu>

On October 2, 2011, Alice Peterson will be celebrating her 100th birthday. She is in very good health and is waiting for the Lord to return.

Her address is: 755 Linda Falls Tr., Angwin, CA 94508.

Henry (deceased) and Alice Peterson served for many years in the South East Asia Union (Singapore) and Mrs. Peterson taught at FEA grade school.

[Writes Terry, "I pulled this news note out of the Africa newsletter (FAMA - Former Africa Missionary Assoc.")]  

II. Angie Matthews Responds to Durian Benefit Article

My Unscientific Rebuttal to the Scholarly Article Praising Durian Angela Matthews <angela.j.matthews@gmail.com>

***Energy: "Durian contains three natural sugars...[and] fiber[;] durian gives an instant... boost of energy."

Eat a banana instead. It's cheaper, more delicious, and comes with a convenient, no-slip, protective covering, and a pop top to open it. Plus, being snack-sized, it is much more easily transported to your strenuous activity venue anyhow. No giant fruit to haul around, and no slimy mess to extrude from Tupperware or ziplock bags.

***Depression: "...among people suffering from depression, many felt much better after eating durian."

The study further concluded that the depression returned very soon after consuming the fruit, upon the realisation that no one wanted to hang around anymore, because of the smell. Also, the recurrence of depression is possibly due to the fast onset of withdrawal symptoms. As with any other drug, the initial high is followed with an emotional crash.

***PMS (pre-menstrual syndrome): "Forget the pills - eat durian."

Really? Do you think a PMSing woman has the patience to cut open a durian?

***Anaemia: "...durian can stimulate the production of haemoglobin...and...helps in cases of anaemia."

Snack on a nail. The texture is better, the smell is better, and you're less likely to get poked, because nails only have one sharp point.

***Blood Pressure: "[Durian] is...perfect to beat blood pressure."

The study was skewed by the pre-consumption adrenaline rush. Having overcome the worst part of the experience - that is, actually putting the fruit in one's mouth - anyone would likely exhibit a drop in blood pressure.

***Brain Power: "200 students...[ate] durian...to boost their brain power"

Unfortunately, those same students were disappointed when they received their improved results, because the rest of the school would not talk to them and they had no friends left to brag to. Furthermore, coffee has the same effect on students, and is more palatable and comes in a convenient liquid form which is easier to consume. The Twickenham students' peers, who skipped on the snack and drank a cup 'o joe instead, exhibited the same positive effects, without any of the negative ones.
***Constipation: "High in fiber...durian...can help restore normal bowel action..."
Grass is higher in fibre, more palatable, and cheaper--in fact free.
***Hangovers: "...a durian milkshake, sweetened with honey...calms the stomach and...builds up...blood sugar..."
I'm going to say you get the same benefits from a milk and honey milkshake. Besides, it was the land of milk and honey to which the children of Israel marched, not the land of milk, honey, and durian.
***Heartburn: "Durian has a natural antacid effect"
Whatever heartburn relief you may get from eating durian is directly counteracted by the retching you experience when you smell the stuff.
***Morning Sickness: "...durian between meals helps to...[prevent] morning sickness."
Snacking on durian is the last thing one should do when feeling nauseated. Being around durian in a sensitive condition, should be avoided at all costs.
***Mosquito bites: "...try rubbing the affected area with the inside of the durian skin."
But if the inside of the durian skin should fail to bring relief, the outside of the durian skin will scratch that mosquito bite right off!
***Nerves: "Durian is high in B vitamins that help calm the nervous system."
Tragically, it is also high in volatile esters that will shatter the olfactory system.
***Smoking: "Durian can...help people...to give up smoking."
The effect of durian in this case is akin to someone taking up drinking in order to help them stop smoking. It's a drug trade-off.
***Warts: "...if you want to kill off a wart....hold [a piece of] durian [on it] with a plaster..."
Those keen on natural remedies are also generally those keen on blaming toads for warts in the first place. Plus, dry ice is about as natural as it comes: carbon dioxide being one of the most abundant compounds in the atmosphere. And it's odourless.
In conclusion: are the benefits of durian outweighed by the various costs of eating it? Indeed, for me, and millions of others with a sense of smell, no, they are not.

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III. FEDites Remember Sunnydale Academy Days

Recently on a trip to Missouri we came across a publication:
"Born in a Barn
Sunnydale Academy
Voices from the Early Years
1946-1953
A Collection of Stories"

Some of these are by former SA students who eventually became missionaries in the Far Eastern Division. This one is that of Mrs. Ralph Watts, Jr.

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"A Journey That Covered the World
by Patty Ortner Watts '51

"The nostalgia that comes from looking through four years of annuals brings to mind many wonderful memories, too numerous to write about--roommates, friends, faculty and, yes, boyfriends that added fun and meaning to life. From the pioneer days when there were only curtains for doors, to my senior year when our classes were moved from the unfinished first-floor rooms to the new administration building and the seniors were given first choice the second half of the year to move into the newly finished rooms.

"Roommates: Mildred Astner from my home town, As a senior she was like a big sister to me and introduced me to dormitory life. Then for two years Betty Blackburn and I had a front center room on the second floor. We had a prime view of the guys and gals going back and forth to classes, meals and play periods. And at night we could flash code messages to the boys' dorm."

.I felt so fortunate to have wonderful roommates. Dorm life with Girls Club, secret pals, and worship and prayer bands.

"Work: A must for everyone. My first year was housekeeping for Mrs. Long. Then second floor janitor; night monitor for Miss Remley (passing collected notes to the boys' dorm) and then in my final year being promoted to the chicken house where the music department was located. I was assigned to accompany voice students during their practice sessions, and also to accompany the choir. Most already know that one
of those students (a new guy from Singapore) captured my heart and he has held it ever since. Choir tours were great, visiting the different churches, and we had fun as a group. I appreciated Mr. McManaman. . .

"On senior night it was predicted that I would marry a missionary and go to Borneo. And that I did! For nearly ten years our home was in Singapore, and I did visit Borneo. Our son spent two summers there. But first it was to Union College, earning a degree in Business Administration with a minor in Music, and along the way getting married and having two precious baby girls.

Then a boy and another girl came to bless our home.

"My mission was to be of help wherever needed in team ministry. For years I led out in children's Sabbath School in our local church. Then while serving in Korea, I was also asked to be treasurer for our fourteen missionary families. No paycheck in those days. In Singapore I taught music at the academy for a year, then worked as a secretary. In the States, my passion was for the pastors' wives and ADRA wives. We considered our workers as family.

"God has guided our journey and our gratitude goes to Him."

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Patty Ortner Watts, Redlands, California Fourteen grand children and four great-grandchildren ~~~~~~~IV. Flooding Fears Loom Large For Bangkok

Buddhist Study Center <prayersamongbuddhists@gmail.com> October 21:

Bangkok is under increased threat of flooding. Families whose homes are under water have moved to higher ground. For some that is a tent on the side of the highway. For some it is a shelter of tarps at the edge of the rice field. It is a sobering time in Thailand. Please pray for increased wisdom for Christians. May God show us how to reach people in this vulnerable situation with the news of a loving Saviour, and that because of Him...there is hope.

Early this week ADRA and Thailand Adventist Mission (TAM) came with packets that included rice, canned goods, instant Thai noodles, medicine, flashlights, toilet paper and more, even a nice t-shirt with 2 sentences in Thai about the soon coming of Jesus. We have already seen people wearing them! A number of the recipients spoke of their appreciation particularly of the good quality of the rice. ADRA and TAM have partnered on this effort and are continuing to take supplies to other areas in this country where the need is great. ADRA /TAM and the BSC team (Global Mission Buddhist Study Center) passed out supplies to flood victims. Our team was able to find villages that were in great need. We were able to do this by working with the leaders of the smaller villages. In this way we were able to help where no one else had.

TAM President Pastor Chanchai took this opportunity to pray a Christian prayer among Buddhists. He briefly introduced Seventh-day Adventists as their brothers and sisters. In prayer he reminded us all that we are sinners in need of a Savior...and that Jesus is that Savior.

Part of our team drove back to Ayutthaya to take packets for the community around our church, where at least 4 ft. of water remains. Pastor Prakasit spoke with members of the Royal Thai Navy asking if they would be able to deliver him and the supplies to the 2nd floor of our Center (church) in Ayutthaya. They were more than happy to help. Byron Reynolds was able to do some physical therapy on the Naval Commander while we waited for the boats.

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V. A Visit with Phil & Joanne Jones

Last week, while visiting a college friend of more than 60 years who now lives in the mountains above Boulder, Colorado, we attended the Boulder Adventist Church for Sabbath services. We had seen a church bulletin of a previous week and had noticed the name of Phil Jones on the church staff; we looked forward to greeting the Jones at church. And sure enough we found them, and recognized them even though we had not seen them in more than 35 years.

We first met Phil, Joanne, and their young children in Mt. Klubat College (as it was then called) in Indonesia where he was our Bible professor and a North Sulawesi evangelist. They had served earlier in Hong Kong before coming to Indonesia; and have subsequently held many major evangelistic crusades in India.

After returning to the homeland he was an evangelist in the Southeast California Conference as well as other places. He is serving now as Associate Pastor of the Boulder church. When we visited them later in the day in their lovely mountain-side home north of Boulder, we were thrilled with accounts of evangelistic efforts he had held subsequently to that which we attended in Airmadidi, just near the Mt. Klubat College campus. One of our most outstanding soul winners, he has brought thousands and thousands to the baptismal fount. As he pointed out, the Holy Spirit used and continues to use him to make a surrender call as the closing part of every sermon preached.
Looking out from their home toward the plains that stretch eastward from the mountains, they pointed out the site, several miles away, of daughter Carlyn Taylor’ home; she is a very successful financial consultant. Their son Corrie and his family live in Oregon.

VI. David Gouge to Wed Next Year

David Gouge <grandpag30@yahoo.com> October 24:

On October 6 I was engaged to a Vietnamese lady, Huynh Thi Xuan, who has been close to us since July, 2000. She was our guide and translator whenever we visited Vietnam. She came to visit me while I was in the hospital and said she would like to take care of me for the rest of my life. I agreed and we have been in close contact since then. We plan to be married in March, 2012. Xuan has 5 children, all married. Her husband has been dead for about 3 years.

With that in mind, I plan to really retire after this school year and move to Vietnam. This is my 56th year of teaching and administration for the Adventist Church.

The end of May I went to Vietnam to attend a "grandson and granddaughter's" wedding. When I met Dr. Shipton there, he said, "I feel like I am talking to the living dead." So many are surprised at how much I have recovered. Many say that I look about the same as before the accident.

The metal in my leg does give me a little pain at times, but I praise God for the wonderful way He has helped me recover.

I am teaching half time in the ESL Department of the university and enjoying it very much. However, I do not enjoy living alone after almost 60 years with my lovely wife.

With all the disasters in the world, we need to realize that Jesus will be coming very soon. I pray that all will be ready for that great day.

VII. New Church Company in Myanmar

Saw Thein <sawthein2009@gmail.com> October 16:

Pakokku Church Company Organizes

The new plan Myanmar Frontier Missions(MFM)Church Planting Project started in May 2011. We would like to say a big thanks to all who supported the MFM ministry by prayers and by financially.

Aung Win Shwe & Sone Chin, a couple of pioneers, served the Lord in Pakokku and onSabbath, September 17, we were able to organized a church company in Pakokku. Bro. Ngala Benjamin was elected elder of the new company. Dr. Kem Thang, Central Myanmar Mission President, and Pastor Ven Chu Mang, Sabbath School Department & Personal Ministry Director, led out in the organization.

As we are raising fund for evangelism work to plant seven churches in our targeted areas in the next three years, we already organized one of them by this year. 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 that we set up a budget and we have received about fifty percent.

Please continue your prayers & financial support for MFM our church planting project.

VIII. Rudy Klimes' Autobiography Is Out

After 60 years of service, Rudolf Klimes retired from serving in a pastoral and administrative capacity, much of it in the Far East. His autobiography is entitled "An Adventurous Pilgrim" and is available on www.amazon.com and on Kindle. Consider reading the first chapter free or purchasing it.

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