I. The Rational for Adding Pakistan to the SSD
II. Durian Comments Continue
   1. Marla Matthews
   2. Dorothy Nelson
   3. Don Aldridge
   4. Ted Chew
   5. Larry Brodeur
III. ADRA Cambodia Distributes Food to Flood Victims IV. Letters
   1. Wayne Martin
V. Revival Meetings in Kyonpyaw Kyaungone Circle
VI. Sharing Hope Amidst Bangkok's Flood VII. Philippines "Hope Impact" Literature Distribution Program

I. The Rational for Adding Pakistan to the SSD

Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> October 26:

The vote of the Annual Council making the Pakistan Union a part of SSD is a step in the right direction. When in 1984 the territory of the Southern Asia Division was realigned many thought that attaching of the Pakistan Union to TED was strange, but the option of making it a part of SSD was not favoured because of the distance involved. Pakistan, especially the Punjab and Sind areas, has lots more in common with the East Asians than it does with the Arab world. When a peaceful solution to the Kashmir problem is arrived at, when the sharing of river waters is agreed upon between Bangladesh and India, when the Tamil peoples of Sri Lanka feel safe and have a say in their future, when the peoples of the Indian sub-continent can live in peace and above suspicion of each others motives, when their nationals can freely travel to each others countries; maybe at some future time the Annual Council of the General Conference will reorganize and realign a new Southern Asia Division to include the territories of SAARC (South Asia Countries for Regional Co-operation--Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India.) Afghanistan joined SAARC in 2005. Till then I am inclined to favour the present SUD being attached to SSD. It's not healthy to have a single country organized as a Division.

From what I have witnessed on a single trip to the Middle East to conduct a week of prayer many years ago, is that the SDA membership in the Arab States is largely made up of expatriates from the Philippines, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India. There is an active mission to other expatriates working in this area. I will be watching with interest what new initiatives will be taken for outreach to the local inhabitants.

May God bless our churches in these areas. May we feel the need of revival and reformation. [Pastor Christo, former president of the Southern Asia Division, is retired and lives at Hosur in South India.] II. Durian Comments Continue

1. Marla (Tidwell) Matthews <marla@andrews.edu> October 21:

I don't love or hate durian. I would rather indulge in litchees, which often are in season the same time as durian. However, in response to whether or not durian is one of the fruits on the tree of life, I would say this:

I am quite sure that whatever the Lord has planned for us in heaven and the new earth, we will love it. If durian is on the tree of life, I am sure it will be a variety all of us will love. After all, if God can change a heart of cold stone, then surely He can also change our tastebuds!!

----------

2. Dorothy Nelson <dnn@healthexpo.org> October 21:

I couldn't help but smile reading the reports about durian. When I was flying the Twin Bonanza for several years in the Philippines some of our Filipino sisters had requested one day to bring some durian with them on the flight. I believe there were four or five of these fruits which were loaded in the nose baggage compartment. We flew from a city in the
south to Manila where the durian was unloaded. The flight had been quite unpleasant with the durian odor seeping through the cockpit as I was flying and I was most relieved to reach Manila. Well after the flight I thought the odor would eventually pass on but my flights were becoming more and more unbearable. I sprayed using the strongest disinfectant I could but it just seemed to make matters worse. After several more flights I decided enough was enough and I had to get a professional cleaner to help. Believe me I stepped far away as the fellow crawled into the compartment to clean! Even he was gasping it seemed .... well for good reason! It was discovered that one of the durian fruits had been forgotten and left behind ... far in the 'back of the compartment!! I can't begin to describe what a rotten durian smells like! I always thought they smelled rotten anyway until I smelled one that really was!!!

-------------------

3. Don Aldridge <don@alleta4you.com> October 21:
For those who object to the durian 'repeating' its wonderful flavor and aroma for several hours after you eat I can only offer this suggestion. "If you can't lick 'em, join 'em. After you finish your durian feast be sure to follow up with a full glass of 7UP. Then when the durian repeats on you it will also come up 'carbonated'!!!!!

It is my dream to someday go to Southeast Asia to make a documentary entitled "In Search of the Durian"... The premise is that I will take a camera crew to all the countries where durian is found looking for "The Perfect Durian"...... So far it's just a 'pipe dream' .... "Durian Lovers of the World, Unite!"

-----------

4. Ted Chew <tedchew@apiu.edu> October 23:
I certainly got a kick reading punctuated notes from people who love eating and those who hate eating durian. I am a bit surprised to know that it is the smell (odor) that is disagreeable to those who reject it. I thought it is its smell that makes it so attractive in the first place.
Whether or not it will be among the fruit in heaven, I have a colleague, Dr. John Perumal, who says, "Every bite is heavenly," whenever he eats it. And you ought to see the glitter on his face when he gets a mouthful. I have always said with all sincerity and expectation, "Those who eat durian have a bright future." In my family culture, eating durian is the best family get together ever each year. The bonding is palpable. More durian more power.

-----------

5. Larry E. Brodeur <Larry.E.Brodeur@iapws.com> October 28:
I couldn't stop laughing when I read Angie Matthews response to the durian article. Having experienced most of the same reactions that were listed in the responses to the article I can totally understand her perspective on the subject.
My folks and brother would sit there and eat the stuff by the boatload but I rebelled after the first bite, smell, feel, everything about that fruit. Give me a good mangosteen or rambutan any day.
There are just so many other choices that can make more sense than a durian. But I know people that will stand by the fruit as being one of the best in the Far East. I can't imagine durian being in Heaven but know those that swear that it will be one of the selections there. Perhaps we'll be able to select a different fragrance and taste there but then it wouldn't be durian would it?

~~~~~~

III. ADRA Cambodia Distributes Food to Flood Victims

Ann Marie Stickler <anns@adracambodia.org> October 28:
High levels of rain on the upper Mekong River drainage basin along with seasonal monsoon rains within local provincial areas of Cambodia along with have caused flooding in the entire Mekong River and Tonle Sap Lake basins making it the worst flooding in a decade affecting 17 out of 24 provinces.
The National Committee of Disaster Management confirms that at least 247 persons have died due to flood related causes.
The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Cambodia, working together with trained local partners from the Cambodia Adventist Mission in Kompong Thom province, has assisted 2,509 families with 2,099 receiving food packets including 25kg rice, noodles, canned fish, oil, salt and sugar and 410 receiving 50kgs rice. Tarpaulins have also been provided to 520 families whose shelter has been affected. Through funding from the ADRA network and the World Food Program, ADRA Cambodia is initiating additional food relief to at least 1,100 additional families in Prey Veng province in areas where no or little help has been given to date.
Urgent needs remain. Over 330,000 families, approximately 1,300,000 persons, have been affected, with over 150,000 being children under five.

Many families have evacuated to higher ground to escape the floodwaters in low-lying areas. Over 405,000 hectares of ripening rice has been damaged with over 232,000 hectares of these rice crops permanently destroyed. For the majority of rural farmers, 80% of the population, loss of rice paddy means no rice to feed the family.

ADRA Cambodia and its partners continue to conduct assessments in Kompong Thom, Kratie, Prey Veng, Pursat and Siem Reap provinces where 38%, 24%, 16%, 14% and 14% of all households were affected, respectively and continues to coordinate with national and local relief efforts, actively seeking additional funds to expand its disaster response to meet needs.

The waters are beginning to recede, revealing the infrastructure and rice crops that have been destroyed. The people now need much more still to reestablish their lives. Reports indicate that over 690 houses, 1,257 schools and 101 health centers were also affected.

~~~~~~~~~~

IV. Letters

1. Wayne Martin <wamartyn@att.net> October 28:
   I remember the Bangkok flood 50 years ago. All the yards were flooded, even out at Ekamai. That meant that all the fish ponds were flooded and the fish were released from their ponds. My son had great fun catching fish with his bare hands in our front yard.

~~~~~~~~~~

V. Revival Meetings in Kyonpyaw Kyaungone Circle

Saw Thein <sawthein2009@gmail.com> November 1:
For two weeks we've been conducted revival meetings in Myanmar's Kyon Pyaw Kyaung Gone Circle. We asked the Lord to help us continue His work with all our might.

Saya San Tin Maung of Shwe-Ka-Nyin-Bin Church and four of us started our meetings at YwaThaGyi on October 18. We spent time going house to house from morning to evening and night together with our church members. We encourage them to be ready for the Lord's coming by leading a dedication life through reading the Scriptures and conducting morning and evening devotion daily. We have reached ten churches (twenty villages & four towns) a total of 125 homes of our Adventist families. Our church members warmly welcome us as we conducted the devotion at their homes. On October 22 we had prayer meetings in the ZaYatSu Church that lasted up to midnight. The Holy Spirit was burning in our hearts as we sang praises and prayed together with our church members over there.

During these revival meetings we found couples and two single young men who willingly would like to serve the Lord with us in frontier lines. We plan to have training and assign them to the field but we do not have enough financial resources to support them and yet to continue our evangelism work.

We pray and believe that God will provide to continue our evangelism work for soul winning and church planting.

The MFM worker-training will be conducted until the third week of November and the annual worker meeting will follow the first week of December in Meiktila. Except the Thazi project, all our other nursery school projects are able to stand with their income.

We pray that God great blessings on all our supporting donors, together with all our church families.

~~~~~~~~~~

VI. Sharing Hope Amidst Bangkok's Flood

E. D. Venn <hope4bkk@gmail.com> October 10

The Seventh-day Adventist Church of Thailand secures boats to continue its mobile relief ministry - on the water today in the Nonthaburi & Bang Bua Tong communities! We've been able to secure a three small boats and three engines. Thanks to the Dr. Robert & Linda Spady, Dr. William & Linda Jacobson, and the Southern Asia Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for their contributions to make this possible!

Pastor Doug Venn and Reben Huilar meet with the leaders at one of the Thai government's Flood Evacuation Center, to see what can be done. Thanks to Ron Takeuchi & Poramit Srikiureja for this referral.

Under the leadership of Pastor Reben Huilar, Global Mission Pioneer church planter with Hope for Bangkok, volunteers have been organized to minister to the displaced children at the Evacuation Center.

The Nonthaburi church plant has been evacuated, due to over 1 meter of water in the neighborhood, and flood waters have entered the church plant, no potable water, as the drinking water system has been contaminated, raw sewage in the flood waters, church planting staff are safe, church members & students have either evacuated or are
staying in their homes. Public transportation is no longer assessable in this community - only access is by boat or by military transport. Stranded church members & their communities north of the church plant in the Bangbua Tong community area are questing aid (food, water, medicine, pet food, etc.) is under over 2 meters of water. Crocodiles have been spotted in the flood waters.). ADRA Thailand, our H4BKK AVS volunteers & ADRA Japan delivered food packets to the community.

Community has requested floating toilets.

The Bangkok Noi community is report to have over 1 meter of water in parts.

The newest church plant started in June 2011, in the Tiwanoon district on Vipawadee Rangsit Road (by the Don Muang airport) has not yet been flooded. The surrounding community has 30 - 50 cm of water.

The Pratunam Prain Church plant is submerged. Volunteers included Brendon Irvine with ADRA Thailand, AVS volunteers Andrew Keyes and Daniel Reynolds, and Kazi, a representative from ADRA Japan delivered food packets to the community with military transport.

Bangna Udomsuk is housing several displaced families as their homes/apartments were flooded from the northern parts of Bangkok.

Nawamin Center housed 13 displaced people as their homes/apartments were flooded. Yesterday, these evacuees left Bangkok to Chonburi, past Pattaya, approx. 200 KM away.

Muangthonthani Adventist International Church is assisting several displaced families as their homes/apartments were flooded in their community.

TAM has no insurance on any of these places. Praise God, so far we've received $20,000 USD in Bangkok flood relief funding. For those interested in making donations can be made to the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Thailand - labeled Bangkok Flood Relief.

During this darkest of times, we want to UpLift Christ as the Brightest Hope for Bangkok!~~~~~~~~~~~~ VII.

Philippines "Hope Impact" Literature Distribution Program

Wendy Harris <wrguptill@gmail.com> October 25:

Last Sabbath we enjoyed participating in the world wide "Hope Impact" literature distribution program for the second year in a row. As always, we were amazed at how many people were so open to taking the tracts. As the mass of red and white-shirted church members made their way through the market, we observed people sitting on the side of the road or in their stores or tricycles pouring over the small magazines. On the back was written the local phone numbers, radio and TV stations where the people could learn more.

Our fellow missionary friends (working in Mayoyao) shared with us that most of their interests and friendships in the community have come from tracts we gave in previous medical missions in their area which had their phone numbers on the back! They said people text or call them frequently asking for a visit or advice on medical problems. In this way, through medical missionary work, they are gaining the people's love and respect.

Please pray for the mountain people of Mayoyao and all the towns and villages scattered throughout the Philippines that are longing and waiting for the hope of the Good News! Pray that God will open doors to reach them in the short time they have left. Jesus is coming again soon! Thank you for your prayers and support for this ministry! -- Dwayne and Wendy Harris ~~~~~~~~~~~~~ To remove your name from the mailing list of this newsletter, simply reply to this e-mail and put "REMOVE" in the Subject line.

--

BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

Teach CanIt if this mail (ID 08FQcdrEi) is spam:
Spam: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=08FQcdrEi&m=0262932855f1&c=s
Not spam: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=08FQcdrEi&m=0262932855f1&c=n
Forget vote: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=08FQcdrEi&m=0262932855f1&c=f

END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS