Subject: FED e-News, November 18, 2011 #40

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Gratian Perera, SAUM Youth Director <grationperera@saum.org.sg>

The 9th Southeast Asia Union Mission (International) Pathfinder Camporee will be held in Camp Wawasan, Kota Kinabalu, and Sabah, Malaysia from December 11-16, 2011. The theme, "Walking by Faith," reflects the focus of the camporee. Over 1300 pathfinders from Southeast Asia Union Mission territories and beyond will be participating in this camporee. From the present list of registered participants it is observed that the Pathfinders and their leaders will represent 27 different nationalities. The camporee will officially be declared open on Monday, December 12 by the Minister of Sports and Youth (State of Sabah, Malaysia), the honourable Datuk Peter Pang En Yin. The Ministry of Youth and Sports, and Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Environment have extended their hearty welcome and support for this great event. World Pathfinder Director, MG Jonathan Tejel and Southern Asia Pacific Division Youth Director, MG Jobbie Yabut will grace this camporee as guests of honour. Pastor Joshua Mok, SAUM President, Pastor Simon Siew, SAUM Ministerial Secretary, Pastor Berson Richard Simbolon, SAUM SS/PM Director, and Mrs. Sim Sew Moi, SAUM Children Ministries director will be among many leaders of Union and Mission level that will participate and facilitate this camporee. Remarkable to the progress of youth work in Laos attached field, there will be 30 Master Guides in Training who will attend the camporee and

15 of them will be among several other Pathfinders who will be invested as Master Guides during the camporee. We invite the readers of this newsletter to join us in your support and prayers. For details of the camporee please visit http://www.saumcamporee.adventistsabah.org

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II. Death of Dr. George Atiga

Dayton Chong <Daytonch@aol.com> November 17:

Dr. George Aiga passed away this week. I have worked with Dr. Atiga in the Asian/Pacific Ministries for more than 12 years, and my late father was his former college classmate in the Philippines. He was also my Mentor in the Asian/South Pacific Ministries

The Central California Conference Administration has asked Yvette and myself to represent the Conference at the Memorial Service this Sabbath. As a result, we are driving down there immediately after my dialysis treatment tomorrow morning.

Another piece of information, last Sunday, during the Conference Constituency, Yvette was confirmed as a member of the Conference's Executive Committee for the next four years representing all the Asian Laity in our Conference. Please pray for her, as she assume this responsibility in December. Yesterday, I was also informed by the Union, that they took an action that I be invited, to be in a consultative basis advised the Union and Division Asian/South Pacific Ministries, as an Associate Director. I do not have to travel as much as the Director. So please pray for me also. I will continue to stay here in Fresno.

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Funeral Arrangements for Doctor George Atiga ***Visitation Hours:
Friday, November 25 from three o'clock to five o'clock that afternoon at the Central Filipino SDA Church, 777 Colorado Blvd., Los Angeles, CA.

***Wake Service: VicLouis Arreola, III, Speaker

Friday, November 25 from six o'clock to ten o'clock at the Central Filipino SDA Church (address above) ***Memorial Service: Ernest Castillo, Speaker

Sabbath, November 26 at two o'clock at the Hollywood Hills Forest Lawn Cemetery, Hall of Liberty, 6300 Forest Lawn Drive, Los Angeles, CA

***Graveside Service: Simeon Rosete, Speaker

***Committal Service: Jose Manalo, Speaker

Sunday, November 27, two o'clock at the Hollywood Hills Forest Lawn Cemetery (ask at the gate for directions)

Flowers for George Atiga’s Services may be sent to Hollywood Hills Forest Lawn Cemetery 6300 Forest Lawn Drive Los Angeles, CA 90068

The best way to contact the Atiga Family: Darlene Sapigao, granddaughter of George and Caroline Atiga, would like you to contact the family using her cell phone 951-235-6970 and email address sapigaod@gmail.com/ ***Sincerely, VicLouis Arreola III, PhD Director Asian/Pacific Ministries Pacific Union Conference and North American Division

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Jerry Bruce <brucewent@frontier.com> November 14:

My wife, Shirlee Wentland Bruce, died on October 21. Her memorial service will be held in the Sunnyside SDA Church in Portland, Oregon on November 22. She and her first husband, Rankin Wentland, served as missionaries in Vietnam. Subsequently he was killed in an auto accident in 1981. They have two surviving sons, Daniel, a building contractor in Paradise, California and Paul who was born in Saigon and later graduated from Loma Linda School of Medicine and currently practices in Brunswick, Maine. Shirlee's eldest son Timothy, also a physician, died a few years ago and is resting in the military cemetery here in Portland, Oregon. After the memorial service more details will be available. Shirlee and I have been married almost twenty years.

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IV. Remembering Paul Essig

Walter John <gwalterjohn@hotmail.com> November 17:

TRIBUTE TO A TOWERING MISSIONARY

When Mrs. Karen Essig wrote a few days ago, "I am losing my sweetheart," my wife and I were quite alarmed but did not anticipate such a sad end so soon.

Dr. & Mrs. Essig arrived at Lakpahana Adventist College & Seminary, Sri Lanka in the early 90's as missionaries. The day they arrived I was in charge of their welcome program. As part of the program I requested them to plant one tree sapling each at the entrance to the school. Today, those two trees have grown tall and strong. They stand there right in front of the school as monuments to the immense service they rendered Lakpahana and the entire neighborhood through their long years at Maitalpitiya.

Dr. Paul Essig was one of the few doctors (PhD) that Lakpahana ever had. The only other doctors I remember are Dr. Robert Stahlecker and Dr. Fred Oshiro. Also, as far as my knowledge goes they were the longest serving American missionaries at Lakpahana. Correct me if I am wrong, Dr. Essig was one of the tallest missionaries to serve in Sri Lanka. He was one of the most professional Adventist educators my family and I had ever known. In his different capacities from time to time as principal, headmaster, registrar, and teacher he manifested an unmatched passion for maintaining the highest possible academic standards at the school.

I enjoyed the privilege of working so closely with him for so many years, an honor I still feel unworthy of. He just loved human companionship.

He was such a friend to all his co-workers and students. But more than everything else, to me personally, he was a loving father. The long journeys he and I traveled together in his car helped develop, strengthen, and seal that relationship.

The trees are not the only things the Essigs planted on Sri Lankan soil. They planted and nourished Christian characters for the future kingdom of God. They were instrumental in obtaining and providing financial sponsorships for hundreds of students who passed through these halls of learning. From the school and the Buddhist community around, they rushed sick patients in their car to hospitals seeking health and healing. Lives were saved and hearts were touched by their most Christ-like ministry. Neighboring villagers who approached their doorstep for any kind of assistance were never turned away empty. Their loving arms were always open wide to welcome and embrace all who came for help regardless of religion, color, or race. Dr. Essig preached, taught, helped, healed, served.

Our two sons, Jonathan and Andrew, were little boys when the Essigs arrived. For many years they grew up under their guiding wings and the fruits are visible today. Now back to the literal trees that Dr. & Mrs.
Essig planted. Those trees are often referred to as weeping willows. Now as I reflect on those trees they appear to be as though they are weeping the sad demise of their planter! Nevertheless, the lives and characters planted and nourished by the life and ministry of Dr. Paul Essig will continue to shine as eternal monuments of God’s grace in the kingdom of heaven. That’s our hope! "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).

V. Caution Regarding PASC's Official Recognition

John M. Fowler* <FowlerJ@gc.adventist.org> November 17:

I too share George Babcock’s caution regarding Pakistan Adventist Seminary’s affiliation with Sargodha university. I wish and pray that the affiliation is without any strings except for maintaining high academic standards within the curriculum we have been running. Any compromise now on matters such as faith and learning within the Adventist context and on governance according to our philosophy will be dangerous. I still remember how we almost lost Bangladesh Seminary; fortunately the Union there woke up in time, when they had to deal with the Muslim student demand for a "mosque" on the campus.

VI. Letters

1. Philip Goh <philipycgoh42@hotmail.com> November 15:

I meant to write this earlier but procrastination got a better hold of me!

With the demise of Elder Don Roth we have lost one of the best if not THE best PR personnel in the FED. When I made my first trip from Singapore in 1972 to WWC Elder Roth was so helpful in arranging someone to pick me up at each airport stop that I had to make. There was Miss Harris in Tokyo and she has a brother at PUC who has a habit of dropping a quarter in those parking meters that has their time expired at St. Helena. I don't know where Miss Harris is now but if Elder Roth were still around he would know. Then there was Elder Tidwell in Taipei, I don't know this was the elder Tidwell or Jr. but I missed my flight on that part of the trip and had to make my own way to 424 Pa Te Road on arrival the next day. There were also the Kravigs in Honolulu who put me up for the few days I was there.

The young people in Singapore and from the FEA will remember Elder Roth for his mentorship as a sponsor of the Youth Division at the Balestier Road Church in the later half of ‘60's and early ’70's.

VII. My First Mission Flight!

Wendy Harris <wruguptill@gmail.com> shares the following account of Danny Henson, Jr. (Coordinator, Bible Worker, and Pilot for PAMAS Palawan) November 18:

"I pray that this email finds you all blessed and excited about the times in which we live. Even with all the challenges the world is facing at this time, we can have confidence that Jesus is interceding on behalf of God’s people. I recently experienced an example of answered prayer and I am compelled to share my testimony with you to the Glory of God. More then five years ago now, in the privacy of my bedroom, there in Westmoreland, TN, I knelt next to my bed and asked Jesus to make me a missionary. He answered that prayer three years ago, but I had also requested that he allow me the honor of serving as a missionary pilot as well.

"Almost one year ago now Jesus answered part of that prayer by providing the resources for me to complete flight training to become a private pilot here in the Philippine Islands. Last week on Nov. 9th, Jesus fully answered that prayer and allowed me to finally use the skill he had provided to fly my first mission to the small Muslim Island of Mapun. This island is located in Tawi Tawi south of Palawan next to Malaysia. I flew there with Mission Pilot Ed Brennon of AWA (Adventist World Aviation) and two other missionaries, to survey the Island and meet with some Adventist missionaries operating a school on the island. During our visit I was able to visit the Major and his officers, and the local hospital as well. While visiting the hospital, I learned of a 23 year old young man that had been in a serious motorcycle accident the night before we arrived. He was bleeding from his ears and head, along with multiple injuries from sliding on the road after his crash. It appeared that the head trauma was very serious and that his condition was grave. The P.A.M.A.S. missionary that was with me (Roy Reyes) asked me to pray, using Muslim phrases in the name of Isa Al Ma (Jesus) so I raised my hands in prayer and asked Jesus to spare the life of the boy so that the Muslims would know that He sent us, and that He may be glorified among them.

"After our prayer we offered to fly the boy to the Adventist hospital in Palawan where much better treatment could be provided, and the family, touched by our generosity, agreed that we would life flight him to Puerto Princesa. The
flight was nearly two hours over open water (a personal first for me in a single engine airplane) back to the international airport in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. As soon as we arrived we were challenged with getting the young man transported off the tarmac to the hospital. The tower had given clearance for us to bring an ambulance in to get the boy out of the plane, but the guards did not want to comply because a commercial airplane was also present on the tarmac. More then one hour later the transport van was allowed in to the parking area where the plane was waiting with our patient. I then climbed into the cockpit to lift the young man out of the back seat and onto a stretcher. As I began to arrange his head so I could get a hold on him, he turned and opened his eyes and looked at me. He then turned to see what was going on, then proceeded to climb out of the plane on his own power. I started to try and stop him, but he was already committed and climbed out and laid down on the stretcher. Ed and I looked at each other with amazement. 'Praise Jesus' I cried in front of the puzzled paramedics and the even more surprised relative of the Muslim boy who had traveled with us to care for his injured family. 'We did pray did we not?'

Ed agreed and we praised the Lord for allowing us to witness such a demonstration of His power. The young man was released a couple days later with a clean bill of health and has returned to his island with a testimony of his own.

"Its so good to be part of the family of God! A great door has now opened to these Muslim people of Mapun. Pray for the school and missionaries that are working in that remote place. I also praise God that I experience nothing but kindness from the people of that island; it is known for being a dangerous outpost for Muslim rebels and radicals. in the past when Ed had visited the island he was escorted everywhere by the military. For some strange reason there was no escort for me, and I’m glad because it allowed me to talk with people without guns being involved. God was clearly in control of the entire trip. I hope this story encourages you to spend more time in prayer. Jesus is in control. And if He is for us, who can stand against us? Thank you for your prayers and support."

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VIII. Brother Tan Has the Last Word on Durian

Khoen G. Tan <kgntan@netvigator.com> The amazing DURIAN!

Durian is an extraordinary fruit. Not just extraordinary, but unique. In the jungles where durians grow all animals compete to get the fruit. From the lofty elephant to the tiny ants, the monkeys and orangutans and even tigers like to eat durian. But all animals have difficulty to get past the skin because of the thorns on the skin.

The durian divides the family. If I come home with a durian, a part of the family will rejoice, but some will run away. There are not many people who are neutral; you either love or hate the durian.

In popular Christian literature the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil was called an apple. But in Europe all fruits were called apples. There is the pine apple, custard apple, rose apple, granite apple and even potatoes are called apple of the earth (French: pomme de terre, Dutch: aardappel). What was the fruit on that tree?

Was the durian the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil? It is said that the durian tastes like Heaven, but smells like Hell. That is good and evil. The durian is the only fruit cursed that it is completely covered with thorns.

A Dutch professor of botany in Indonesia, Prof. Van der Pijl, analyzed the durian. Do you know what is that buttery stuff that you eat of a durian?

He explained that it is not the fruit-flesh, which is the white substance inside the skin. The skin proper is the hard (green, brown or yellow) outer layer. What we eat is not seen in any other fruit. Many seeds have a thin waxy film on the seed. In the durian this film is much thicker and can be up to an inch thick. That is the yummy buttery part of the Thai monthong durian. This is unique and not found in any other fruit.

He did further research to determine what animal is the natural carrier of the durian to spread the seeds. First he took some durian seeds and planted them. He discovered that the sprout of most of them were damaged as they pushed through the tough seed-shell. Many of them were so severely damaged that they could not grow into a tree. There must be a better way in nature to solve this problem. So with the cooperation of the zoo he gave a durian to the elephants. Some time later he searched their droppings and found that the seeds were still intact. Then he planted them and all the sprouts came out perfect. Why? The elephant has digested the hard layer at the sprouting area of the seed. Conclusion: The elephant is the carrier of the durian. In the natural habitat of the elephant and the durian the best trees sprout out of elephant cakes. No wonder that the best durians come from countries where elephants roam.

The durian deserves to be called the King of the Fruits because who is carried by a more distinguished animal than the elephant?

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