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   Larry Colburn <larry@larrycolburn.com> December 14

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Once again in 1999, Karen and Dave answered the call to serve in mission service as Loma Linda University China project coordinator at Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital in Hangzhou, China. During the next 5 years Karen and Dave were suffering a little of the "empty" nest syndrome as all 3 sons were attending university and Jeff was completing dental school at LLU. In Feb., 2001 Karen returned briefly to the USA to meet her first grandchild, Kaela, born to Jeff and Kim.

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We married in the summer of 1968 and finished our senior year at Andrews University before moving on to LLU.

It’s impossible for me to express the joy, comfort and love I’ve shared with her over our 42 years of marriage. She never complained about our frequent moves to Taiwan, back to LLU, to Singapore then Kettering, then back to China and finally Minnesota (well she did complain about the "frozen tundra land of Minnesota!) She has always been there for me to lift my spirit when I’m down, even to wipe my tears when she recently saw me cry as both of us knew her days were numbered. She loved her children and grandchildren dearly. One night about 10 days before her death she rolled over in bed and whispered in my ear, "honey, please take good care of them after I’m gone".

She dearly loved her Lord and spent at least 30-45 minutes each morning in Bible study and prayer. She touched the lives of so many and was an inspiration to all. Wonderful mother, grandmother and loving wife, we will all miss you my dear. Each day now, I cling to God's promise in 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17: "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a command shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died WILL rise from their graves, Then TOGETHER with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air"

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III. Sri Lanka Adventists Take Major Step of Faith

from Prayers Among Buddhists Newsletter, 12 December 2011
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Many local leaders are eager participants.

Sri Lankans traditionally place much reliance on the positions and actions of a strong authority figure. Many of the ordinary Seventh-day Adventists in Sri Lanka have seen themselves with little capacity for personal impact on the community for a variety of reasons. It is an unsettling experience, maybe even frightening for some, to deal with greater responsibility. Equally difficult is the concept of more authority spread around among a larger number of common people. But our members recognize that we need to make this change if we are to finish the work that has been assigned to us.

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"With open hearts and pocketbooks, Positive Life Radio (PLR) listeners quickly bridged the 7,500 miles from the West Coast of the United States to Cambodia. During the thirteenth annual Rice for Cambodia campaign that recently ended, more than 1,000 listeners pledged $200,150 [sic] toward the purchase of rice to feed families in a country that's been marked by war, poverty, and hunger.

"PLR is a group of six radio stations owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church and supporting institutions in the Pacific Northwest.

"'At a time when the need in Cambodia is greater than ever, the Positive Life Radio family comes through with more help than ever,' said Kevin Krueger, PLR afternoon host. 'The pledge total is enough to purchase 333 tons of rice. That's enough to feed 13,320 families for a month, or more than 1,000 families for an entire year.'

"This year's pledges total more than $40,000 above last year's campaign, and are nearly $10,000 more than the previous record in 2008.

"During the three-day campaign, volunteers and student workers joined station employees. Also part of the event were TransformAsia (www.transform?asia.us) and Musicianaries (www.musician aries.org)--partnering organizations that help fund and distribute the rice.

"'Praise God for His incredible blessing,' said Setan Lee, president of TransformAsia.

"'We just can't believe the enormous outpouring,' said Lee Michaels, president of Musicianaries. 'Heartfelt thanks to each one who helped out.'

"The rice will be distributed in 2012. For more information about the campaign, visit www.plr.org." --Reported by Positive Life Radio in the Adventist Review of December 8th ~~~~~~~~~~~~~ V. New AFM Missionaries Arrive in Thailand

--from the Adventist Frontier Mission's current "Adventist Frontiers" magazine

"Arrival in Thailand" by Alicia Palacios

We arrived in Bangkok just in time to be evacuated from the city. Thai Mission president, Elder Chanchai, kindly arranged to transport us by van to Asia-Pacific International University (formerly Mission College). Sobered, we observed
the rising waters and the attempts underway to minimize flood damage. Gratefully we acknowledged God's perfect timing. If we had arrived even one day later, our trip to Khon Kaen would have been greatly complicated.

The last leg of our journey was with Pastor Wanlop and his wife.--more encouraging evidence of God's timing and preparation for the task. Pastor Wanlop is a retired Thai pastor who has been living in Khon Kaen for the past year with the goal of starting a Adventist church. As we traveled, he filled us in.

Khon Kaen is an important educational, industrial, and agricultural center in Northeastern Thailand. The population is listed at over 200,000, but the Khon Kaen area is actually home to about a million. More than 25,000 students from all over Thailand study at Khon Kaen's universities. Pastor Wanlop has tracked down about two Adventist believers and three Adventist university students there. There has never been an Adventist church in Khon Kaen, and previous attempts to start one have failed. But there is evidence that the time has come for that to change, and we are thrilled to be a part of God's mission here!

Our immediate need was to find a house and a good language-study program. We had been told that Khon Kaen didn't have a Thai language school, and we were concerned that we would have to start out somewhere else. Upon our arrival, my husband Ricardo showed Pastor Wanlop an advertisement we had seen for a house for rent near the main university. Pastor Wanlop made the phone call for us and learned that the owner was a university professor open to the idea of renting at a reduced rate to missionaries. "I'm a practicing Buddhist," she told him, "but we can talk about God." Little did we know the important role this woman, Busha, would play in our lives.

While studying abroad, Busha attended a Christian church with friends and values the contribution of missionaries to "making society better." Her sensitivity to spiritual things was evidenced by the tears in her eyes after Ricardo prayed for her. Busha not only provided for our housing needs, she also solved our language-study problem. She took us straight over to the university and introduced us to a friend of hers, a Thai professor with a PhD in linguistics who has had several years experience teaching Thai to foreigners!

Basha is a generous neighbor who has gone out of her way to help us adapt to our new home, taking us to festivals, explaining her beliefs, running us around town and more. We pray that we may be an even greater blessing to her, and others who have befriended us. We do not doubt God will finish this work He has begun.

We stand in awe of God who fulfills His purpose for us and provides for the mission to which He has called us.

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VI. Season's Greetings

1. Thomas A. Davis <tadthree@gmail.com> December 10:
Dear Family, Relatives, and Friends,
I write these words sitting before a glowing fireplace, while large snowflakes tumble from a deep, gray sky. It's a setting for reminiscing.

It is approaching five years ago since we left Armstrong, and eighteen months since we left Creston to live with our daughter Cheryl here in the Calgary area. Meanwhile the weight of years has been steadily accumulating--Tom his ninety-one and Margaret her eighty-five. Actually, in spite of the fact that Tom has a problem with vertigo our health is remarkably good for our years.

Our children have been following the Biblical admonition to "replenish the earth" -- Arlen to Walla Walla, Washington, Cheryl here in Calgary, and Lorna in Idaho.

The snow has stopped, the woods behind our place is quiet.

We wish you a Happy Christmas.

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VII. Bea Neall & Lessons from Prodigal Son

"The prodigal son teaches us many lessons. If we are dissatisfied with out lives, he encourages us to sit down and take an honest look at the past, admit our failures, and repent. He tells us to have the courage to confess to those we have wronged. We may help heal broken relationships. Above all, even if our motives aren't the best, the prodigal urges us to come back home to the God who loves us. The warmth of His embrace overwhelm us! His free forgiveness will relieve us of a burdened conscience. He will restore us to an honored place in the family. He will rejoice over us with singing and celebration. Living close to Him will purify our motives, restore our relationships, and impel us to sing the praises of Him who 'called [us] out of darkness into His marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)."

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BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

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Spam: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=09GaKIEF3&m=3b274fd34681&c=s
Not spam: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=09GaKIEF3&m=3b274fd34681&c=n
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