I. Remembering Them  
1. Karen Weaver McFadden  
2. George Atiga  
II. Halls Revisit Their Mission Stations  
III. ADRA Emergency Aid Following Philippines Tropical Storm IV. Season's Greetings  
1. David & Charlotte Dennis  
2. Byron & Carol Reynolds

~~~~~~~~~~

I. 1. Remembering Karen Weaver McFadden  
JoAnne Lafever" <ymscsprin@gmail.com> December 19:  
I was so sorry to hear about Karen's death! We have experienced her great hospitality. We met them at Mission's Institute in the summer of 1977 as they were on their way to Taiwan and after we had spent our first three years in Karachi, Pakistan. We never dreamed we would end up in Taiwan at that time.  
Many years later, I and a couple other ladies that worked at our school in Taipei made a trip to Shanghai. Karen met us in Shanghai and took us home with her to Hangzhou after a couple of days of touring Shanghai. She had it all planned out to the minute what we should see and do. It was a great experience to have her as our tour guide in Shanghai and Hangzhou. I have such fond memories of that trip and how gracious and accommodating she was for us.  
We last met in Taiwan when she, David, and some of their children returned to Taipei for the dedication of the new wing of the SDA hospital. I had the privilege of taking them to try to find some of their favorite places around Taipei. She will be so missed. I feel sorry for the families left behind and send my condolences to each one. She is at peace and rest now. What a wonderful day it will be when Jesus comes again!

2. Remembering George Atiga  
"A Good Man Gone  
"Regarding 'George Atiga, B3, Passes to His Rest':  
"A Chinese, a Filipino, and an Indonesian . . ." This familiar line often began a sermon by George Atiga. He was a man full of humor and a positive attitude; an individual who was dedicated to God and the Seventh-day Adventist Church, for which he served so many years.  
"The Asian community in the Pacific Union Conference will always have a special place in its heart for Atiga. He will be remembered as someone who was there to celebrate with churches at their high moments and grieve with them during the sad times. His kindness and constant support will always be alive in our hearts.  
"As we grieve with the many others whose lives have been touched by Atiga, let's keep his memory burning within us by living our lives with the same positive attitude and good humor he had. --Milton Wu"-- Letter to the editor, current Adventist Review ~~~~~~~~~~~ II. Halls Revisit Their Mission Stations  
Dick & Jean Hall <dicknjeanh@cs.com> December 22:  
Wish you all could be enjoying the season of love and warmth we are experiencing here in Thailand at Riki’s place. We would not attempt to mail you Christmas greetings via snail mail, as we will soon be back in the US, and could do it there, but we will be too busy catching up and then leaving again for the south to keep warm. We have enjoyed hearing from many with their greetings and updates, and am so happy for the Internet to help us along that line as well.  
The year has been a busy one, and we won’t try to tell everything that went on. Just know that our health is good, we keep active, have good appetites and there is plenty of food, even though our garden was very late, and we didn't get all we had hoped for. Seems the seasons are getting shorter all the time and it rained so late in the spring that we were late in planting, so late in reaping as well. . . .
Thanksgiving Day John, Jan, Dick and Jean all left on Delta for Thailand and were met by our daughter Riki in the middle of the night. Unfortunately, we could not go to Riki’s house, as it was still in flood stage, as it had been for 5 weeks. Riki was not able to travel to work for 6 weeks, because of the floods, but worked from home via the Internet. Many in her office were doing the same. She had made reservations at Dolphin Bay, a lovely resort south of Hua Hin, which is south of Bangkok on the Burma side, and we spent 4 days there, wishing we had more days to spend there, but it was rush back to Bangkok, and head for Sarawak for a week this time Riki went with us. Yik chose to stay home as the water was receding, and he cleaned up their place which was a lot of work.

We were met by several from the mission office as well as Wendy and Michael Chin, old friends, and she took us to her son’s condo that was very beautifully decorated with things from places he had worked. He works for hotels, and often is transferred from one country to another. He had stored 2 containers full of furniture and artifacts so we were very comfortable there. Wendy and Michael took us to many places as Lawrence Bangie had arranged for Dick to speak in a different district every night we were there, except Saturday night, and he spoke in the Kuching Church that day.

We were thrilled to see the great growth of the church, and the enthusiasm of the youth there. In Samaba, the first night, they are planning to build a youth center with land that was donated to the church. The church was full, they had a PA system, a projector to project pictures as well as their words for songs in two languages, and a keyboard to accompany.

It was a real surprise to drive on a 4 lane divided lighted highway all the way to Ranchan, the old swimming pool by a waterfall where we used to go when we lived at Ayer Manis. There is a hotel there now, with cabins to rent, and places to eat and of course lots of swimmers enjoying the waterfall and pool. Progress is all over Sarawak, and though it is good to see the improvement in highways and towns, the most rewarding progress was the future of Ayer Manis School, which has been an empty building since the government gave free education and even paid for books and lodging. Our school had been full, and had produced the leaders for our churches, but has been dead for many years. This happened about 30 years ago but several years ago they started a kindergarten, and now they are starting primary one, and plans are for each year to add a year till they are back to the place where our school is producing pastors and teachers again.

Even the church at Putah, which is near the border with Indonesian Borneo, has a PA system, projector, and music. All the churches do now, and they are growing. Most of the churches now are built and maintained by the local people, which is a great improvement. When we were working there, most of the members were subsistent farmers, but now many have jobs, and most have built separate solid homes, and the churches are cement as well.

Each church had planned a pot luck and brought delicious food, and the durian!~ What a culinary delight! And of course, rambutan, and lanzat and mangostein, and other fruits that many of you have never tasted, but are so good.

We were really tired after a week of traveling to these different churches and eating potluck every night, but were so happy to be able to go to the ice cream shop and be entertained with non-stop ice cream at the Sunny Hill Ice Cream shop that has a great reputation--and they are still using the same formula Dick started with back 35 years ago. It still helps support the mission work. Wilfred Sim, the manager, (the one who Mark really liked and nicknamed "grandfodder") is going to start making soy ice cream and yogurt ice cream. He told of how he went to Kula Lumpur to learn how and he was wearing shorts, and didn’t look like a business man, and was almost turned down for buying a new machine, but he told them to come to Kuching and just ask for Sunny Hill Ice Cream, and at the airport or any place in town they will know Sunny Hill Ice Cream, and then the fellow was willing to talk business.

Amazing how things have grown and changed, but the most thrilling is to learn that people are still eager to study the Bible, and there is religious freedom in Sarawak.

When we got back to Bangkok, Dick headed to Vientiane to talk about the plans to open a school in Nam Tha where we were from 1957 to 61, but had to leave when the war broke out. It has been a real difficult place to work, and they do not have the freedom to worship as they desire. However, now the government officials are eager for us to open a school, which will start with Primary one and continue on each year adding another grade, and hold adult evening English classes. They will use the building on the land we bought several years ago to start with and then build a new one with multiple class rooms as the school grows, which fulfils our plans. From Vientiane he went to Cheing Mai by car with Pastor Rungsit to visit our friends there. We also went by van to the University that used to be called Mission College and had a joyful time visiting friends there.

May you all have a Merry Christmas and God's blessings as you soon enter a New Year.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

III. ADRA Emergency Aid Following Philippines Tropical Storm
The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is on the ground in eastern parts of Mindanao, Philippines, distributing emergency supplies of food to some of the hardest hit families in response to flash floods brought by recent tropical storm Washi (locally referred to as Sendong). Official reports from the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) have attributed Washi to at least 807 deaths in the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Iligan collectively.

An estimated 1,440 families in the affected areas are receiving much needed emergency food kits comprised of rice, noodles, canned fish, dried fruits, beans, peanut butter, milk, oil, salt, and sugar. Implemented by ADRA Philippines, the distribution will last four days and will be carried out in close coordination with the City Social Welfare Office and Adventist Community Service volunteers.

According to Agency reports, a number of residents in the affected areas are now stranded on rooftops after fleeing to higher ground as the dangerous flood waters began rising. Household items such as kitchen appliances and furniture have been swept away by the gushing water, leaving families robbed of personal belongings. Businesses have shut down as the floodwaters inundated their premises, following widespread power and water outages.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), the overflowing of the Mandulog and Agus rivers has been confirmed as the source of massive flooding in Lanao Del Norte, a province in the Northern Mindanao region. Nearly 72,000 people have been affected by the tropical storm in this province alone, with an estimated 71,000 others affected in 12 additional provinces throughout Mindanao.

Tropical storm Washi made landfall on 16 December, causing a downpour through the early morning hours of 17 December. With gusty winds moving at speeds reaching 50 mph, and heavy rains accumulating to 8 inches in less than 24 hours, Washi has inflicted significant water damage to homes, buildings, and roads.

The Agency is working to broaden its response, and plans to provide flood victims with essential health services, in addition to increased access to clean water. Additional information will be provided as ADRA’s response expands.

For more information about ADRA, visit www.adra.org.uk. To support the survivors of Typhoon Washi, donations can be given to the ADRA-UK Disaster Relief fund here, or visit our website to donate online.

~~~~~~

IV. Season’s Greetings

1. David & Charlotte Dennis davedennis@verizon.net

Can you relate to any of this: When someone greets you one of the first things they say is .."you are looking so good", as if that were unexpected.

More people, both male and female, address you as "honey". When leaving the grocery store offers come to assist with your bags to the car. What you heard is not always what was said. You find yourself surprised to observe how your contemporaries are looking so much older. I guess some of this is to be expected, for after-all we are both septuagenarians now, since Charlotte reached that milestone in October. But, we are thankful for our robust health and that we still feel like participating in our brisk morning exercise. Our lives are full and we do enjoy having our family all close-by.

In fact, we haven’t even retired yet from our little accounting practice with Sam, though we see the "writing on the wall", for sure in 2012. And here we are looking to another holiday season. With that comes the fun of communicating with dear ones near and far.

As 2011 comes to an end we reflect on so many "moments to remember".

Highlights for the year began back in late February when with Cheryl, Aanen and Emma we spent a week away from the cold of Maryland on the sunny and nearby islands of the Bahamas. Across the bridge from Nassau is a small island known as Paradise Island (better than it's historic name, "hog island") made famous by the gaudy resort complex known as "Atlantis". We enjoyed all the amenities of the Atlantis while we stayed in a nice two-bedroom timeshare condo unit.

When the taxes had all been filed in late April, we motored off on a 6,000 mile one-month journey by car. We shared the driving details and started out on the Florida panhandle at Destin on a gorgeous beach. We visited former missionary cousins, Charles and Evelyn Tidwell in their beautiful retirement home in Tennessee. On the way, April 29, we passed where the huge tornado had done extensive damage just the day before as it ripped through the town of Tuscaloosa, AL. A bit of time was spent with David’s 90 year old sister who lives in Missouri. In fact, she and her youngest daughter, Nita, accompanied us on to Colorado where we spent time with
Charlotte's sister-in-law Julie. We visited Pagosa Springs, Mesa Verde, and did the mountain train from Durango to Silverton, then finally stopping briefly at Estes Park. We made a nostalgic Sabbath stop in Newton, IA. Exactly 50 years ago, David served as an associate pastor of the little Newton Church. It was exciting to be asked to preach that day since the regular pastor was not there. It made us long for that big reunion with all God's children one day soon!

To accommodate Emma's school break we did a rather hot getaway to Orlando and Hilton Head the last of June. We first traveled on the auto train to Florida. Eight year old Emma enjoyed her first overnight train ride. There was a lot of swimming and beach fun. For Thanksgiving we shared thanks with our little family at our house, soon after Charlotte and Cheryl returned from a girls' getaway to Florida. Cheryl, who turned 50 this year, treated her mother to the trip to celebrate Charlotte's #70.

As you can see, the past year brought us much joy, but these remembered moments will seem trivial when we compare them with our anticipated eternity in heaven with Jesus, the Christ-child of Bethlehem.

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

2. Carol Reynolds <<carol.byron@gmail.com>> December 22:

Tidings from Thailand 2011

TIME has flown by and we are at the end of another year already. We want to connect with you and share our family news, but because of distance and time, our Christmas letter and picture this year will be by email. Somehow, with the advent of things like Facebook and e-communication the yearly Christmas letter tradition has lost its luster. But, it's still the time of year to send greetings and stay in touch with those we love and care about.

We really look forward to your holiday letters and pictures each year. So, please keep them coming, even if they are by email. :)

TIDINGS. We send our greetings from our second home in Thailand where we are currently serving as Global Mission AVS volunteers for six months.

Yes, tidings from the land of Thais where we speak Thai, get tongue tied, wear Thai ties, and feel very tied to Thailand! It's like a 30th anniversary visit for us, bringing back many memories of our arrival as newlywed missionaries in 1981. God clearly led us to return once again this year and provided for us in amazing ways. We arrived in Ayutthaya in early October the same time as major flooding did. The first month and a half involved unexpected and countless opportunities to minister to people in tangible ways, often by boat, during the terrible floods. It was unforgettable. We enjoy a simple life, not receiving junk mail, tropical birds, amazing fruits, working for God full time, reconnecting with dear Thai friends and the wonderful missionaries who are serving here, and making new friends.

THAILAND. It is with joy that we see God’s work moving forward little by little, life by life in the midst of spiritualism, superstition and idolatry in the heart of the 10/40 window. God is pushing back strongholds that the enemy has held for centuries, and souls are being won for His eternal kingdom. Even though it sounds overwhelming, Thai people are kind, fun to be with, and friendly to foreigners. We were invited to partner with several faithful Thai pastors who are church planting in totally new areas in central Thailand. We are helping them make friendships, doing visitations, looking for ways to minister to people's health needs, teaching English, and more. Each day is different and rewarding, yet challenging. In the next few months we will be involved in various training and evangelistic outreach events. Please keep us in your prayers!

TENNESSEE. 2011 has been a year of ups and downs, trials and triumphs.

We have enjoyed many benefits of living near Southern the past six years, especially being involved in the lives of all the young people that we love.

It was a truly a year for weddings! We have nieces and nephews staying with us frequently, as well as lots of other visitors. The April tornado in the Southeast that killed hundreds hit our neighborhood in Colleagedale, but not as severely as those a few miles from us. It took all summer to get the repairs and clean up done on our property. We are so thankful for the Lord’s protection. In May Carol’s sister-in-law was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

What a shock! Through all the turmoil and surgery, God's mercy and love have been so strong. Christine is stable now, and they are about to welcome a little girl into their family. Thank you for praying for this precious family during this crisis and in the future!

THANKFUL. We are very thankful for our wonderful family, close friends and especially our children. Jonathan and Lindsay gave us a wonderful surprise when they announced that we will become grandparents next June! We are so excited! Jonathan has been accepted into CRNA school in Nashville for his master's in Nurse Anesthesiology, after four years of working in SICU.
We're very glad they'll still be nearby. Lindsay finished her Nurse Practitioner master's degree this fall. They are active in their church and have a great circle of friends. We're so proud of them. Michael is in his last year at Southern and very ready to graduate in May with Interactive Media. He has a part time job with the ministry It Is Written doing web design, and plans to work for them that after his graduation. He had another great summer as a canvassing leader in Michigan. Mic lives in our basement, and loves hanging out with his friends. We miss him! Daniel has had a year full of study, travel, and adventure. He decided to take this school year off and serve as a student missionary in Thailand where he grew up. We didn't know if we would see much of him here, but we are thrilled to have him and his friend Andrew serving in this project for a few months and living with us! It is an awesome privilege to be serving together here. They were in Bangkok for the first few months, and will involved with other projects after they leave here. Daniel's life goals include missions, so this is a great training for him. God is so good!

THRIVING. Byron is loving his pre-retirement here and hasn't missed working yet! He celebrated his 60th birthday in June with a surprise party and still feels as young as ever. We enjoyed visiting his family in Colorado and California this year. Both of our fathers are doing well -- we treasure them as the years go by. Carol is very involved as a volunteer in several ministries while in the US, for SE Asia and refugees in North America (asapministries.org and refugeeministries.org) and she often travels for the ministries. We know that God will guide us when we return home in April regarding our future and work. There is nothing better than knowing that we are within His perfect will. Our hearts have been saddened by the loss of several dear friends and loved ones this year. But, Jesus is coming soon! Our prayer is that you are healthy, happy, and rejoicing in the blessed hope of Christ's soon appearing.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~
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 0aGcMwyXR) is spam:
Spam:  http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=0aGcMwyXR&m=41dbf6bf1faa&c=s
Not spam: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=0aGcMwyXR&m=41dbf6bf1faa&c=n
Forget vote: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=0aGcMwyXR&m=41dbf6bf1faa&c=f
---------------------------------------------
END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS