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Tisha & Daniel Bair <missions@danielbair.com> December 30:

2012 is almost here! You may have heard that some are expecting the world to end next year. For example, the Mayan calendar only extended through 2012. Although we would love it if Jesus would come next year, there is one reason that Jesus gave that could mean that He will not be able to come next year. That reason is stated in Matthew 24:14—"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

There are still many countries in the world that have vast areas where the people have never heard Jesus name. Revelation indicates that "every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" will hear the gospel preached to them prior to the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ. There are still hundreds of whole people groups and language groups-billions of people-who have never heard the least bit of that everlasting gospel.

Daniel and I have experienced such joy and peace from knowing Jesus as our Savior so we want others to know about Him too. Both of us have had a long-time desire to go to a foreign country where there is very little knowledge of Jesus. I think it is partly because we want to help where help is needed the most. But our call to missions had never had a country attached to it, until now.

This year we have received a call to go to Thailand to spread the gospel there. We are so excited that God has given us a burden for a specific project now and we can begin planning for it! We are planning on going with the organization Jesus For Asia and our project is called "Thailand Gospel Media Project". Thailand has a population of nearly 66 million and less than 0.5% are Christian of any denomination let alone Seventh-day Adventists.

Thailand Gospel Media Project is going to be located at the All Asia TV Studio that Jesus For Asia has built. It is an hour north of Chiang Mai, and in the same village as Chiang Mai Adventist Academy.

There are many, many people in Thailand and Asia that can not understand English, so even though we have 3ABN broadcasting over Thailand, very few can get it and even fewer can understand it. They need gospel programs that speak to their hearts in their language and culture.

The All-Asia TV Studio was born to help fix that problem. JFA wants to develop a team of local language workers who will develop television programs in the local languages to reach these precious people. The long term goal is to get on the ABS1 Satellite (which is open to us even now), but first we need local language content. JFA rented a channel on this satellite for 6 months but discovered there is absolutely no television programming available in any of these languages, except for a little in Tamil, maybe some in Chinese and Korean. That is why we need the studio!

So what will we be doing? Initially both of us plan to go to Thailand on an education visa, where we can take classes to learn the Thai language.

Daniel plans to work at the Studio, assisting with building and running the technology needed to produce gospel TV programs. I will be taking care of the kids, but may be able to help with Studio eventually, or teach a health class at the Chiang Mai Adventist Academy.

We don't expect that we will be in front of the camera in the main programs we hope to create. Instead, we hope to find Thai speakers, who can speak to their own people in their own language and culture.
We will be working with Bill and Venie Osborn, the directors of the All Asia TV Studio. We have been writing back and forth with them, and they are looking forward to our family's arrival.

Of course, that means we will be missing our families back home in the U.S.A. But, we will have internet, and will be able to call or video chat, which will help us keep in touch. It's amazing expecting that kind of contact, as many missionaries even in fairly recent history have had to rely on letters, without photos and with unreliable postal service, to keep in touch with their families.

We have started fund-raising for the project, beginning with our own church, the Alvarado Seventh-day Adventist Church, here in Texas. Then we went on a fund-raising trip this year around the country from early November through mid-December. We presented our project in seven Seventh-day Adventist churches/companies. A big thank-you to all the churches for letting us present our project!

It was such a long trip to take with two small children, but we felt God sustaining us all through the trip. We didn't get sick, the car didn't have any troubles, and thanks to the generosity of friends and family, we only had to buy three hotel nights on the whole five week trip. In Tennessee, Daniel was able to get a bit of training with video production equipment at Jesus For Asia's headquarters. Thank-you to all those who hosted us on our trip!

By this date, we have raised approximately 10% of our goals for launching and monthly support pledges. Thank-you to all who have given funds so far!

We would like to invite you to join our project, and help us to get to Thailand as soon as possible. If you like, you can watch our presentation online at our website http://missions.danielbair.com on the home page. And, if you would like to support our project financially you may do so online at our website or you may mail donations to Thailand Gospel Media Project, c/o Jesus for Asia, P.O. Box 216, McDonald, TN 37353. Please make your check out to "Jesus for Asia" and put our project name in the memo as "Thailand Gospel Media Project" as this is the designation for our family's part of the All Asia TV Studio project, so writing a check or giving online with that name will be giving to us. Tesha and Daniel Bair (and Natanyah & Nathaniel too!)

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[Daniel & Tesha have been long-time members of our little Village Chapel Adventist Church in McDonald, Tennessee of which we have been members for the past 14 years of our retirement. We are happy they are going to the Far East where we served so many years and in so many places, including Thailand! -- Charles & Evelyn Tidwell] ~~~~~~~~~~~

II. Paulraj Masillamony, Missionary to Singapore

"Light in the Darkness" by Charlotte Ishkanian-- from Adventist Mission's FRONT LINE magazine

"For the past year and a half Paulraj Masillamony, a Global Mission pioneer, has been working among the thousands of migrant workers in Singapore. Most of them left their homes in India to earn money to support their families. Living in dormitories, they're often lonely. Paulraj befriends these men and offers them English and computer classes, health services, and family counseling.

"Why do you do this? some workers ask.
"Because God loves you and so do I," Paulraj answers simply.

"One evening Paulraj noticed a worker named Martin reading a Bible. 'May I share a verse with you?' Paulraj asked. He turned to Isaiah 48: 17 and 1.8 and read.

"I've never heard of God's commands," Martin said. The two men talked briefly about God's commandments, then Paulraj started for home. TURN AROUND a voice said. ASK THE MAN TO PRAY WITH YOU. Paulraj recognized God's voice. Martin accepted his invitation and before the night was over the men had prayed together.

"Paulraj visited Marten often after that, and eventually Martin asked to be baptized. He became Paulraj's first convert.

"Paulraj holds programs on Saturday nights outside the large dormitories.

"When a man named Sankar noticed the group praying, Paulraj invited him to join them. Sankar continued attending the meetings and gave his life to Jesus.

"Then Sankar was seriously injured. When Paulraj visited him in the hospital, Sankar told him, 'I must go back to India and share what I've learned about God's love with my people.'

"There are migrant workers here here from almost every city and town in India,' Paulraj says. 'If we can lead them to Christ, imagine what they will do when they return to their homeland!'

"Paulraj praises God that more than 70 migrant workers have given their lives to Christ through his ministry.

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III. Season's Greetings
1. Len Tolhurst <<lpthrst@bigpond.net.au>>

Since I sent out our last Christmas letter I did get to go to Tonga and New Zealand. The Tongans conducted a Youth Congress in Hapa‘ai in the village of Faleloa where Len’s father buried his first wife in 1919. She died as a result of the Spanish flu epidemic which swept the world after the First World War ended. The island is only about three kilometers long by half to one kilometer wide. At that time they were the only Europeans on the island, and there was no hospital nor clinic there. They both came down with the flu, and he recovered but she did not. Though weak he had to conduct her funeral himself as there was no one else there to do it.

The Tongans in New Zealand that were planning to attend the congress decided that they would like to place a new plaque on her grave, as the one previously there had cracked down the middle. They contacted me asking for a photograph of her, and wanting to know what wording to put on the plaque. I sent both to them by e-mail, and they took the black and white photo and using a computer placed a lagoon scene behind her with a coconut palm reaching up over her head, and then turned it all into natural colours, and baked it onto a ceramic tile, and glued it onto the new plaque.

I felt that someone ought to represent the family so arranged with our son Ewan to travel with me. When we arrived there I discovered that they had purchased some 20 or so large floral tributes made of artificial flowers so that they would last for months or more, and brought all of these items up from New Zealand. They also kindly paid for everything, an example of true Polynesian hospitality. When the floral tributes were placed on the grave, one could hardly see it, for the grave was virtually buried with them.

My role was to unveil the new plaque and of course make the expected speech. I told in some detail the story of how they cared for each other, and also shared with them a couple of my father’s poems that he had written about her death.

During the year I have been conducted a number of seminars on Bible subjects, including a Daniel Seminar type program for non-SDAs in San Remo.
I gave 14 presentations from July 17 to August 28. That is two presentations each Sunday for seven weeks. However I have not been as busy as I was before my heart attacks, which are now over four years ago. My cardiologist is very please with my progress. Several weeks ago I did a seven kilometre walk.

Val is also keeping well physically and shows no signs of heart problems such as I have had. We get home help now for house cleaning and for Val’s showers.We also get a young man to come and do our lawns for us.

On Thursday, December 15 I plan to fly to Melbourne and in the week that follows I have been invited to present 8 topics to the Polish churches there. There are three of them, and some of them will combine for some of the meetings.

Val joins me is wishing you all God’s rich blessing during the Christmas period, and for the new year that will soon begin. We are reminded that each year, in fact each day brings us closer to the return of Jesus. May we all be awaiting His coming and share eternity with Him.

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2. Steve & Barbie Dickerson <barbie-dickerson@charter.net> December 27:

It’s the most wonderful month of the year! Barbie’s birthday (December 9), our wedding anniversary (December 21-42 years!) and Christmas all in one month! Oh my! ‘Tis definitely the season to be jolly, at least around our house, which is still the old homestead in College Place which has been home to some member of the family for over 50 years. We’re hoping to build a new place on some property we own just west of College Place (in the Dickerson tradition, the shop is already built), but financing will be via the sale of the present house, which hasn’t happened yet.

Our kids, Christy (here in Walla Walla) and Matthew (in Royal Oak, Michigan), are both fine. Feel free to check directly with them for more details. They both have Facebook pages-speaking of which, we do, too. Look up Steve Dickerson on Facebook. Barbie has a page, too, but she isn’t quite as active with it as I am. I’ve had a great time on Facebook connecting with friends from years past and keeping track of present ones.

Barbie and I are both 63 now-old enough to collect Social Security if we wanted to! Can you believe it? I have always wondered what it would feel like to be "mature." I still don't know.

Barbie loves working as a medical social worker. She spends most of her time helping kidney dialysis patients at Fresenius Medical Care, though she also works part time at Walla Walla General Hospital and teaches classes for caregivers from time to time. At church she helps with the Cradle Roll division.

I’m still on the College Place City Council. In my spare time I’ve been building tenor ukuleles. Check out my web site at www.myoanmusic.com (sounds like "my own music").

My job at Consumer Credit Counseling disappeared when the company closed all its satellite offices.
Now I’m the area’s Asset Building Coalition coordinator (a contract job for Blue Mountain Action Council). The coalition’s goal is to help people acquire sufficient assets so that they could weather a three-month lack of income—so there’s a great deal of financial education involved.

I’m still singing and playing the stand-up bass with Hand Picked, our bluegrass gospel band. I write a song every year or so and the other band members have been kind enough (so far) to perform them. Our new CD ("Touch of Grace") has been out for a few months. Let me know if you’d like one.

Hand Picked has a Facebook page, too, and you can get the latest news there.

We wish you all the joy of the season and blessings from the One to whom Christmas points. May He come soon!

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IV. 10th Annual Ministry Among Buddhists

From <<prayersamongbuddhists@gmail.com>> December 30:

This January, just a few short weeks into the New Year, we will be holding our 10th annual Ministry Among Buddhists (MAB) meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. The dates are: January 26th through the 29th, 2012.

We are looking forward to some interesting sessions. This includes a number of guest speakers that have never attended our meetings before, as well as some of our "seasoned veterans". We will hear from places where reports are few but blessings are many.

We want to discuss issues in a real way about what works and what does not work as we labor among the many and varied Buddhist groups in Asia. Even more importantly, we plan to seek the Lord and ask what He would have us do and how He would have us work as earth’s history comes rapidly to a close.

We will have a special track for Sabbath and Sunday to assist teachers, business people, and others who work among Buddhists everyday but may not know how to effectively share the valuable truths entrusted to us as Seventh-day Adventists.

The weekend will also include a special emphasis on the 3 Angel’s messages in light of a Buddhist audience. This will remind us to take a fresh look at the core message and mission for Seventh-day Adventists. We hope to renew our hearts and minds with the message that we are to live and give right now. This message demands our clear understanding, our attention and our prayerful action. Whatever we do should contribute toward the completion of the prophetic commission given to Seventh-day Adventists.

We would ask you to join with us in praying for these upcoming meetings, the speakers and the attendees. Pray that Jesus will open the windows of heaven, and pour out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Prayers Among Buddhists: PO Box 15, Nakhon Luang, Ayutthaya, 13260, Thailand

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V. Death of Richard Charles "Dick" Larson

--from the current FOCUS, alumni magazine of Andrews University

Death of Richard Charles "Dick" Larson (att., former faculty) passed away on Oct. 18, 2011, in College Place, Wash.

Dick was born November 9, 1919, in St. Joseph, Mich. to Edward and Edith Larson. He lived his early life in southwestern Michigan and attended Emmanuel Missionary College in Berrien Springs, Mich. While there he met and married Evelyn May Myers on October 25, 1950. Dick and Evelyn moved to southern California, where he worked at Lockheed in Burbank on the assembly line for P-38 planes until 1944. He then served in the U. S. Navy until 1946.

Dick and Evelyn moved their growing family to La Sierra, Calif. where he attended La Sierra College and graduated in 1951 with a business administration degree. He became business manager at Monterey Bay Academy in Watsonville, Calif.

In 1953 Dick went to Mountain View College in Mindanao in the southern Philippines. During the five years the family was in Asia, he served at Bangkok Sanitarium and Hospital in Thailand, Penang SDA Hospital in Malaysia, and Youngberg Memorial Hospital in Singapore. In 1958 the family returned to the United States, going to Lansing, Michigan where Dick completed his master's degree in business management in 1959.

From 1960 to 1971, Dick taught business administration and accounting at La Sierra College. He completed his PhD in business management at Michigan State University in 1968, and earned his CPA shortly thereafter. Dick also taught at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas, and at Andrews University, where he completed his teaching career in 1985. He and Evelyn retired in Sonoma, Calif., and then moved to Victorville, Calif. to be near their sons. There he served as a Citizen on Patrol for the San Bernardino Sheriff’s Department.

Dick is survived by his older brother, Frank Larson, sons and daughters-in-law Richard C. Larson, Jr., Donald D. and Barbara Larson, David N. and Heidi Larson, and Robert E. Larson. He also leaves six grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

VI. Pathfinder Camporee Planned in Korea

Northern Asia Pacific Division: August 7-12, 2012, at Jamboree Campsite, in Gosung, Gangwondo, Korea. Theme: "Mission from the Northeast" (Daniel 11:44). More Info: Contact Angela Han <chunek@nsdadventist.org>

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