Adventist Heritage

From: charles tidwell <charles.h.tidwell@gte.net>
Sent: Monday, January 23, 2012 7:53 AM
To: Self
Subject: FED e-News, January 22, 2012 #3

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Julie Sanders Keymer <juliesanders@keymer.net> January 20:
Paulene and Doyle Barnett's movies from the FED can be seen on the Far Eastern Division Facebook page. Search for Far Eastern Division & "Like" Far Eastern Division.

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II. AIU Evangelism in Sarawak
by Yoko Uchima
During the December break, Pr. Johnny Wong, Asia-Pacific International University (AIU) church pastor, held "The Way of Life" evangelistic seminar at Batu the Boom Seventh-Day Adventist church in Tatau, Sarawak, Malaysia. Vachiraporn Srikhumpa and I also joined in and helped with the meetings.

We were warmly welcomed by the church members and were served a lot of food in their long houses! Every night, we were so full, spiritually and physically.

We were also impressed to see the local people actively involved in the meeting along with their families. They cheerfully greeted one another by shaking hands, they loved to sing songs with actions, and they voluntarily read the Bible texts out loud in their Iban language after Pr. Johnny read in English.

During the meeting, there were heavy rains which caused flooding and landslides in the town. Pr. Semilee Tajau, Tatau district pastor and senior Applied Theology student, together with Pr. James Jalin, a recent graduate from the Faculty of Religious Studies, helped the affected church members by supplying daily necessities to each family. It was hard to see their houses destroyed by the flood, but I was amazed to see their smiles despite their difficulties. I attributed that to the people having their faith firmly grounded in Christ.

At the end of the seminar on Sabbath afternoon, 14 people professed their faith and were baptized by Pr. Semilee in the nearby river. I think the baptism was their first test of faith since they know that there are crocodiles in the river!

It was a great experience to visit and meet the heartwarming church members of Tatau and to witness 14 new walks of faith in our Christ at the end of the year 2011.

--Newsbyte, January 19, 2011 an on-campus newsletter from Asia-Pacific International University ~~~~~~~~~~ III.

Young Volunteer Reports from Phnom Penh
Kristal Clements writes about her experience volunteering in the Adventist Southeast Asua Projects Feed and Read School for the Vietnamese children in Phnom Penh, Cambodia:

"It terrified me to think about leaving all my luxuries for six weeks and being chucked into the deep end of another culture and lifestyle that I have only read about. I had no idea what to expect or how long I would be able to last.

"The first two weeks were very difficult ~~~~~~~~~ IV. What the Lord Has Done With the Helicopter
Wendy Harris <wrguptill@gmail.com> January 20:
Enjoy this new, short PAMAS 2011 video on YOUTUBE! (Done by our helicopter pilot, Andriy Mershalov):
What The Lord Has Done, video: <http://youtu.be/3Vghx5p4qw0> ~~~~~~~~~ V. SULADS Story: Get Up, Cook and Eat
By Christopher Dancalan
The best way to describe the situation was that there was a famine. What was left from our last stipend was just enough for fare back for the next reporting. Our rice container was empty and the breakfast we ate that morning was just two pieces of sweet potatoes as big as our thumbs. The usual scene of students and parents coming to our cottage every morning bringing root crops, and veggies had come to an end. Rats had plagued the farms destroying everything. What was left of their still young corn were cobs with just a few kernels left on the tips.

Chief Asang warned us and the people that this was terrible and advised that we should go home now because they could not supply our food. That would seem to be unfair for the little ones who still came to school. The bigger students went with their parents to some distant villages searching for food.

Anyway we still held classes. Pupils came with empty stomachs and listened to their teachers who also had empty stomachs. We ate only when the parents came in the late afternoon to cook whatever they had gathered for the day. We hated to leave the village because of that situation so we stayed to serve in our capacity. But it could not be denied that we felt the pain of the hunger pangs. One early afternoon, having only a little finger-sized piece of sweet potato for breakfast and no lunch, my teammate gave his students some work to do at their seats. He then asked me to just pee and check his students periodically because he wanted to take a nap to forget his hunger.

There he prayed. "Lord, I'm sleeping with an empty stomach please wake me up to eat. You sent the ravens to feed your servant Elijah. You can also do something for us, your SULADS servants here. I do not know how You will do it but I believe that You will never let us go hungry as we continue to serve you in this mountain." Then he fell asleep.

The afternoon wore on. I continued my class as my teammate slept. By 4:30 the mothers and bigger students arrived. Some brought a handful of food but others came with empty baskets. I dismissed my class and that of my teammate's and I prayed. "Lord, how long will this famine continue and when can we ever eat? Please save us Lord from this situation."

Opening my eyes there stood a mother who had just arrived. With a sweet smile she said, "Come with me, Maestro, to my house. I have something to cook."

"Lord," I whispered, "thank you so much!"

There she cooked ground corn and made it into a porridge with just plain water and no salt. Nothing else. I was imagining and salivating for some fresh fruits from the farm. I wanted bananas or whatever vegetables and rice. But just plain ground corn grits? Then I realized. This is food. Why should I complain? Didn't I ask God for food? And now, with this food He provided, why should I complain?

"I'm sorry, Lord. I'm sorry." But I could not deny that my taste buds were really looking for rice. Some others may not understand how precious rice is to a Filipino like me. It is our staple food. A Filipino has never had a hearty meal until he has rice. So I just imagined that what I was gulping spoon after spoon of much watered ground corn was well cooked rice.

I could not eat until I was full either because I was invited to share with the six children and the whole family. Whatever was placed on my plate this one time was just it. But, alas! I forgot all about my teammate who was in our cottage sleeping with an empty stomach.

I excused myself to check on him...... then....BANG BANG BANG came the bell from our cottage calling all the children for the evening worship. Who was ringing the bell? It couldn't be him because we usually worship after supper but he had not had supper and even worse, he had not had lunch. When I got to the cottage sure enough he was there and still ringing the bell. He looked good and alive.

"Where have you been," he asked. "You may have supper now because we will have worship soon when the children come."

"SUPPER? Did I hear it right?"

"Yes," he said. "I've just had my supper."

"Where and what did you have."

"Check the stove," he said pointing to our kitchen. And there was our kettle full of cooked rice.

"Where did you get this?"

"From our container." I checked the container and it was half full of uncooked rice.

"You said you have eaten but this kettle is full."

"I have eaten and I just left enough for your share. How can it be full?"

"You see this?" I showed him the kettle and this time he was the one who was surprised.

"Why? I ate almost halfway down because I was so hungry. Why is this full?"

"Now tell me where did you get this special expensive variety rice?"
"This is it! Listen. Today I have just witnessed a MIRACLE."
"What do you mean?" I was all ears.
"Before I slept this afternoon, when I asked you to look after my class, I slept with an empty stomach because our rice container was empty. I prayed, 'Lord, I'm sleeping and I'm so hungry please wake me up to eat.' He did!"
"Why? How did it happen?"
"During my sleep I dreamed. In my dream I saw Jesus waking me up saying, 'My faithful SULADS servant, GET UP, COOK AND EAT!' I pinched myself wondering whether this was real. When I was fully awake I went straight to get our rice container. It was heavy and when I opened it, there was rice.
'Thank you, Lord,' I said. I was looking for you but I could not find you. I cooked and ate. And now it's full again!"

We inquired from every person in the village if they had stealthily sneaked to our cottage to put rice into our container. Nobody had done it.

Yes, our God is our provider just like He provided for Elijah during the famine in Israel. From that time on our kitchen has always had something for us to eat.

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VI. Positive Aspects of Pakistan College Gaining Official Recognition

George Babcock <gpbabcock@gmail.com> January 22:

Report on the PASC affiliation with Sargodha University

As most of the PASC alumni and friends around the world know, I was deeply concerned when I read the announcement of the affiliation with Sargodha University. My concern focused upon the ability of our beloved school to maintain its unique and distinctive religious education program while joining with a Muslim government institution. Therefore, I wrote a list of questions and requested that the officers at PASC and the Pakistan Union give full and clear answers. I urged that they be completely transparent with the many, many people who love PASC and who want to see it become a better SDA Christian institution of learning. I am happy to report they have done so. Therefore, I shall attempt to summarize what I have learned:

1. I have been assured that the PASC Board of Trustees, the Pakistan Union of SDA, and the Division checked carefully the negative as well as positive possibilities. The General Conference Education Department of Education was kept informed and PASC and the Pakistan Union assured the GC that the affiliation will in no way undermine the identity and purpose of Adventist education at PASC. I have seen correspondence from the General Conference Education Department regarding the affiliation and it appears that the GC is Okay with what is happening; however, they do say that the situation must be closely monitored.

2. Fortunately, the affiliation expires at the end of each year and must be renewed if PASC and the Pakistan Union want to have it continue. Therefore, it is possible to rather quickly discontinue the arrangement if the terms of affiliation become such that it is difficult to serve God while serving Caesar.

3. Most of the General Rules for the Grant Affiliation are normal and would not cause us a problem; however, there are some that could possibly become a challenge.

***Rules 14, 15, and 16 have to do with the hiring of administrators and faculty according to University of Sargodha requirements and standards. This could be both good and bad for PASC, Good, in that it will force PASC to hire more highly qualified faculty and staff. Bad, in that there is the slight possibility that the university could insist that we hire Muslim faculty. It is NOT likely that the university would insist on this. If the university did insist on hiring Muslim faculty, the affiliation will not be renewed.

***Rule 20 has to do with library holdings. Some PASCAA folks thought that this would be a problem, but it is not a problem. A well-rounded college library must have research books and encyclopedias on all world religions.

***Rule 25 has to do with holding classes six days per week. The fact is that this rule will not be enforced. If it were enforced, classes would be held on Sunday. There would be no Sabbath classes.

***Rule 39 has to do with following all instructions issued by the University. Again the PASC and Union leaders will have to be on guard and, should something come up that we cannot live with, the affiliation would have to be terminated.

4. The University of Sargodha will actually issue the degrees.

Fortunately, all courses required for each degree approved in the affiliation are already being offered at PASC and we can continue to tech as we have in the past. What this really means is that our students will be able to sit for the various degree exams as regular students rather than private candidates. One additional area that must be closely monitored is
the matter of Sabbath exams. It appears that the University is willing to cooperate with us on this matter so that we can keep the Sabbath.

5. There will be no Muslim students living in our hostels. Our hostel facilities are only for Christian students; therefore, there should be no problem about having a mosque on campus. Evidently, the old rule regarding a mosque on campus is no longer being enforced. I have learned that the Karachi Adventist Hospital enrolls Muslim nursing students and some may even live in the nurses hostel but the Hospital is not required to have a mosque. There are currently many, many educational institutions that do not have a mosque. That is true even for some Muslim institutions.

6. PASC has not accepted a single rupee of government money and they will not do so. PASC has been strongly warned to never accept government money. In other areas of the world, where the Adventist denomination has lost control of their schools, it has usually been over the matter of taking government money. That should never happen at PASC.

7. I have been assured that the Spirit of Prophecy guidelines regarding SDA Christian education will be followed carefully. All levels of our church work from the local school to the General Conference agree that this is the most paramount thing and the GC, the Division, the Union, and PASC itself will monitor what is happening at PASC in this regard.

Closing Comment

It is my belief that we (including myself) should not be so quick to criticize the leadership at PASC. But everyone needs to be ever watchful to make sure that we individually and our institutions remain very close to our Lord. The operation of all our educational institutions is becoming more difficult with every passing day. Only by staying close to Jesus and pleading for His wisdom can we be kept from being swept away. I've been an educational administrator for the church for 53 years and I'm still working.

I am amazed at the new and more difficult problems that I have to face here in the USA. The challenges in Pakistan are greater than in the USA. Therefore, it is good that we approach any question that we may have with Christian grace. Please pray for Dr. Selmon Dio and his team of faculty and staff. Pray that they will be guided by the Holy Spirit to make only decisions that will build up God's kingdom in Pakistan. As they enter this new phase of affiliation with Sargodha University, may be ready to protect the interests of our Heavenly Father and have the courage to cancel the affiliation should that become necessary.

George P. Babcock, Ed.D.
Former President of PASC
Former Assoc. Director of the GC Education Department Officially retired but still working as Principal of Hinsdale Adventist Academy ~~~~~~~~~~~~~ VII. Four Missionary Families Meet in Tennessee

Recently John and Irene Duroe and Brooke and Pat (McFadden) Sadler hosted a visit by John and Marla (Tidwell) Matthews and Charles and Evelyn Tidwell. The Duroes and Sadlers, both retirees from years of mission service, live in a beautiful rural area near Greenville, TN, overlooking a beautiful river with distant mountains completing the view.

The Duroes served in Pakistan and in the Philippines; the Sadlers served in Sri Lanka and Pakistan; the Matthews in Pakistan and Thailand, the Tidwells in Southern Asia and the Far East. John Duroe continues mission work in Bangladesh and Northeast India, sponsored by the Gospel Outreach organization; he is preparing for yet another stint over there very soon.

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END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS