I. Letters
   1. Carrol Grady
      When we celebrated Chinese New Year in Hawaii, it was mostly fireworks. But in Singapore we learned that it's a three-day holiday, and the second day you visit your friends. Our favorite friends to visit were Margaret and Stephen Tan whose cook made the most delicious spring rolls. You also took a gift of something - usually Mandarin oranges - had to be an even number. Or ang pow (two pieces of money in a little red envelope). --from Facebook

   2. Barbara S. Wyman <barbwy26@gmail.com> January 22:
      What God has wrought! Imagine....in our mission days, having a helicopter to reach deep into the jungles. Amazing. I was amazed at the PAMAS YouTube report by Wendy Harris. Such technology to share this whole thing....I can't fathom it !!
      For those who haven't viewed GOSPEL OUTREACH on Hope channel, I strongly recommend it. It is so cost effective, and just plain effective... BY God's blessings ~~~~~~~~~~~~

II. Young Volunteer Reports from Phnom Penh

In the last issue this report accidentally got truncated; here is the full account, from the current ASAP newsletter

Kristal Clements writes about her experience volunteering in the Adventist Southeast Asia Projects (ASAP) 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 and could possibly be one of the most challenging experiences I have had in all my 18 years of life.

Getting use to the food, toilets, bedding, and basic life itself was a massive change. By living the way people do here, I have learned to appreciate what I take for granted so much more. It is a lesson that a person can try to get through books, but can only truly understand after having had first-hand experience.

"That is just a part of the story. It was also one of the most fun and exciting experiences I have ever had. It opened by eyes to a whole new world that I never knew existed.

"Though having had only a small taste of the whole dish, this mission experience has changed the way I see the world and has helped me grow immensely. I highly recommend anyone to jump in with both feet and experience the same.

"I am very grateful to the people here at the school who welcomed me with open arms, and to teacher Khanh who took me in like a daughter and helped me whenever I needed help. Going to Cambodia was the best decision I ever made."

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III. 10th Annual Ministry Among Buddhists Conference

   Prayers Among Buddhists <prayersamongbuddhists@gmail.com> Jan. 25:

   The Ministry Among Buddhists conference starts Thursday the 26th

   We ask for your prayers. It is our desire that the Holy Spirit guide these meetings. We want our hearts to be filled with greater love and zeal for the work among Buddhists, most of whom do not know our loving Saviour, nor what He wants
to do in our hearts and homes. Please join us in praying for each speaker and each listener - that God would be able to accomplish in each one what He desires. We here in Thailand were reminded this week in an email of what the messenger of the Lord wrote in Testimonies for the Church, volume 5, page 164:

"Here is a work for families to engage in before coming up to our holy convocations. Let the preparation for eating and dressing be a secondary matter, but let deep heart-searching commence at home. Pray three times a day, and, like Jacob, be importunate. At home is the place to find Jesus; then take Him with you to the meeting, and how precious will be the hours you spend there. But how can you expect to feel the presence of the Lord and see His power displayed when the individual work of preparation for that time is neglected? . . ." This is our prayer for all speakers and listeners.

We have 26+ speakers this year. They bring a wealth of experience from their walk with Jesus, and working for souls.

The speakers come from different backgrounds, life experiences, vocations, and countries.

The topics for Thursday will include: Effective Evangelism in a Restricted Country; How a SDA Health Club is Reaching Buddhists in Indonesia; How Prayer Changes Everything in Soul Winning; Personal Ministry...How One-by-One is Working in China; God Has Not Forgotten Tibet; and God's Miracles Deep Inside China.

These are Friday’s topics: Overcoming Buddhist Prejudice Against Christianity; A Yearly Cycle of Evangelism That Works Among Buddhists; and Consider the Future of Mission Among Buddhists followed by a panel discussion. After lunch will be Jesus’ Method Alone Covers it All; and Disciple Making with a Clear Consideration for Context. Friday evening will be The 1st Angel's Message in Light of a Buddhist Audience.

Sabbath morning will begin with God's Recipe for Success by a Chinese, Thai, Indonesian & American; followed by How the 2nd Angel of Revelation 14 Is for Buddhists, Too. For church the sermon is entitled: The 3rd Angel of Revelation 14 Is for Buddhists and You. The talks continue through the afternoon and the evening meeting will be How the 4th Angel Will Reveal Jesus to Buddhists.

Prayer will hold an important role in these meetings. Each day there is 45 minutes scheduled at the beginning for praying together, and each afternoon there will be more time for focused prayer. And to know that you are and will be praying with us is encouraging as well as effective. This conference will conclude on Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m.

We will close by saying we have included this amount of detail so that you will know how to pray specifically. Thank you!

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IV. EIS Teachers and Students Help Flood Victims

By Mr. Clandestine Claro, Computer Teacher

In the midst of chaos and confusion during the flood crisis in Thailand, all schools in Bangkok and affected areas were closed from October 17 to November 18, 2011. Teachers and staff of Ekamai International School (EIS) under the coordination of Thailand Mission and in cooperation with members of the Bangkok International Church and Ekamai Thai Church were more than willing to lend a helping hand to those who were severely affected.

One group of teachers went to a "Water Refilling Station" to help refill bottles of drinking water. They also went to the King's Park to help bag sand while others served food to the soldiers in the Nawamin area. Their smiles, laughter, and even the tears of joy, as the food were given to the soldiers, served as an inspiration to do more, give more and to serve more.

Another group of teachers went to Bangkok University Kitchen to help with the packing of food. The long hours of standing in what resembled a product assembly line didn't matter and seemed insignificant to the volunteers as they happily put food in plastic bags. Mr. Carlos Cirilo said, "As I spent time cleaning and cutting meat and vegetables, it reminded me how fortunate we are that we have regular meals and no flood. I wish I could go and help out more often."

A group of male teachers also volunteered to help distribute bottled drinking water using a motorized boat to areas heavily inundated by the flood. Wading, paddling, and piloting motorboats through varied depths of flood waters, these men have risked their own health, to alleviate the situation of those who were badly affected in Donmuang, Lamlukka, and Kasertsart University communities.

A group of senior students went to Suvarnabhumi Airport to bag sand. It was a lot of hard work under the sun. Thanakrit Sermsuksan, 12B, commented, "The flood has affected many people including the homes of our EIS students and we felt obligated to help in any way we can to alleviate their hardship." Another student said, "The flood may take away our belongings and homes, but it cannot take our love and care for each other."
Needless to say, the work these teachers and students have brought smiles and hope to those they served. Indeed, the dedication of our teachers and students is not only confined in the four corners of the classroom but extends beyond physical structures and call of duty.

From The EIS Newsletter
Volume 14, No. 1 January 2012
forwarded by Lee Ching Beng

V. Chinese Protestant Leaders Visit G. C.

"Leaders from the official Protestant church in China paid a courtesy visit to the Seventh-day Adventist headquarters October 3, 2011, the second time in two years.

"The visit of representatives of the China Christian Council and the Three-Self Patriotic Committee preceded the visit of the denomination's president to China [in 2012]. Adventist Church President, Ted N. C. Wilson and a small delegation from the church's headquarters are scheduled to visit China during March and April, 2012, to strengthen relations with the Adventist believers in China.

"Leaders from the council previously visited the Adventist Church headquarters in July 2010.

"We are grateful to have contact and visit Adventist believers in China through the official organization, the China Christian Council,' Wilson told the Chinese officials during a protocol lunch. He thanked the leaders for helping facilitate the visit.

"The China Christian Council is a postdenominational organization of Protestants in China. 'There are approximately 23 million Protestant Christians in China,' said Shen Xuebin, chairman of the Shanghai Committee of Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Church.

"Christians are a minority in China. Most people in China are atheists,' Shen said.

"Adventist believers in China fall under the China Christian Council and are recognized as a special group for their worship service on Saturday. It is estimated that there are some 400,000 Adventist believers in China.

"In the past few years, Adventist believers in China have built several large churches in agreement with authorities.

"[This] year's visit to China will be Wilson's first visit to China. His predecessor, Jan Paulsen, visited China in 2009."--(Ansel Oliver/ANN) from the December issue of Ministry Magazine

VI. ADRA Thailand's Vocational Training Aids Refugees

Refugees striving to make ends meet in Thailand are finding new skilled training and employment opportunities, thanks to an Adventist Development and Relief Agency project in the country.

When Na Aye Yin and her family fled her home country of Myanmar to a refugee camp in Thailand, they were disappointed to learn that they would not benefit from a Thai government program that assists refugees.

Meanwhile, Na Aye Yin heard about an ADRA project called 'Vocational Training for Refugees from Myanmar' that offered classes in vocational skills to refugee camp residents. Classes included sewing, welding, elderly and childcare, basic auto mechanics, cooking and hair styling.

After completing the initial class in hair styling, Na Aye Yin enrolled for further study through training conducted by the Thai Vocational College, which partners with ADRA Thailand.

Equipped with new skills, Na Aye Yin opened a hair salon in her bamboo house. The success of her fledgling business convinced her husband to study hair styling as well.

Not only have the couple become self-sufficient through their shop, they are working together to provide free services for unemployed refugees in the community.

"We want to help others. It gives us greater happiness in our hearts," said Na Aye Yin.

Through ADRA vocational training, refugees like Na Aye Yin become productive, contributing members of society, ADRA Thailand officials said.

--ADRA Thailand/Christina Zaiback/ANN staff

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