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I. Hong Kong Adventists Celebrate 110th Anniversary

Khoen G. Tan <kgntan@netvigator.com> February 8:

On Sabbath, February 4, we had a combined worship service of the 18 churches in Hong Kong, to celebrate the 110th Anniversary of the Adventist Movement in China. It was held at our Tai Po Sam Yuk Secondary School. The large Assembly Hall could not contain us all, because they expected 500 visitors from China. So several groups were assigned to other rooms with Video link.

Our Happy Valley International Church was accommodated in a small auditorium with 2 projection screens. Combined worship services are usually held in Cantonese and English. This time it was held in Cantonese and Mandarin for the China visitors, while English translation was added in our auditorium.

Upon arrival everyone was welcomed with a Programme booklet and a round metal box. It contained a watch with stainless steel case and band. The 110th Anniversary is printed on the face. This is a beautiful souvenir of this event.

The Sermon was given by Pastor Stanley Ng of the N.Asia-Pac Division. He summarised the developments of the Adventist Movement in China, having gone through difficult times of wars and revolution. In spite of many obstacles God granted that the church has grown. At the 100th Anniversary not a single member from China could come, and this time hundreds have arrived. (over 600, which was more that expected).

According to the Three-Self Movement there are now 400,000 SDA members in China. ( The Three-Self Movement is the umbrella organisation of the Protestant Christians in China, with the principles of Self-governance, Self-support and Self-propagation. ) In recent years amazingly large SDA churches have been built in China.

As in the past the missionaries in China were foreigners, now China is sending out Chinese Adventist missionaries aiming at the Chinese communities in foreign lands. The Benediction was held by Pastor John Ash with a Dedication Ceremony of a lady missionary from China on her way to Tonga. In this service Pastor Ash spoke in Mandarin which has become his native tongue.

II. Remembering Dr. Galen Coffin

1. Jim Forsyth <jim.forsyth@bmt.tv> February 8:

   Christie & I served in Hong Kong and Singapore from Feb., 1972 thru July, 1981, and we knew Dr. Galen Coffin & Beth quite well, as Galen’s father and Christie’s grandfather grew up together and were best friends through their very last years. We had a great visit with Galen at the "It Is Written Partnership" in October, and we’re very sorry to learn of his passing.

2. Carrol McBroom Grady, February 19, on Facebook:

   "We attended a celebration of the life of Dr. Galen Coffin, former Singapore neighbor who practiced at Youngberg Hospital, Sabbath afternoon in Portland. As so often happens at such gatherings, we saw lots of old friends - Otis
Edwards, H. O. Burden, Jerry Bruce, Mike Stevenson, and Beth Heisler Adels, among others - and heard and shared many humorous and loving stories about Galen. Love and prayers to Kathy and Jim, Terry, and all the rest of the family."

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III. Letters

1. Doris A. Roth <DorisARoth@gmail.com>> February 19:

I wanted to let you know that on February 5, my family and friends helped me downsize to a one-bedroom apartment here at the Linda Valley Villa. Since Don’s death, I am no longer needing a two-bedroom/2 bath apartment. Please change my apartment number FROM #116 TO #301 so I will receive your mail. Thank you so much!

I enjoyed spending the holidays in McAllen, TX with my daughter, Diane, and family. Diane’s husband, Chuck, is the principal of a beautiful K - 12 Christian (SDA) day school.

I am making a good adjustment with the help of my children. Thank you so much for your thoughtful cards, letters, emails and phone calls.

Doris A. Roth
11075 Benton Street #301
Loma Linda, CA 92354
Phone: (909) 796-4730

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IV. Myanmar Frontier Mission’s Revival Meetings

Saw Thein <sawthein2009@gmail.com> February 8:

We conducted revival meetings January 22 to February 2, 2012 in the Pyapon-Bogalay Circle. During the twelve days we have meetings in 85 members homes in nine villages and two towns.

MFM pioneer Saya U Z Naung San Aung from Meiktila and Thara Eh Taw from Da-gune-‐taing, Twantay met me in Yangon to accompanied me. World Wide Missionary Pastor Thara Saw Silas, with our group, conducted revival meetings in his area where our Adventist church members live.

Aung Gone and Auat Sait Kwin villages are our Union Mission leaders’ native places. The local mission workers enjoyed having the revival meetings with us. Thara Wah Say take cares of the Tharapi Gone and Ma Aung Gone churches where crocodile nestle.

We did house to house visiting, encouraging to our members to be ready and waiting for the coming Jesus Christ. We lighted the revival fires through praise and worship with eagerly prayers at every Adventist home. We appealed to them to know the importance of waiting for our Lord through conducting morning and evening devotion. It is our aim and the task to accomplish the warning message throughout our Myanmar Union Mission until Jesus Christ’s coming.

I’m very happy because I met with some of my old friends over there.

On our revival trips we found many faithful members with their precious spiritual blessings.

In the PyaPon Church an active lady named Eh Ni serves as a World Wide Missionary. I remembered that she became an Adventist before I served as a Literature Evangelist there twenty years ago.

We encouraged them to offer themselves as living sacrifices to God and to dedicate their lives and services to God because we know the Lord is coming, He’s even at the door.

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V. A Mission Story from Mongolia,

by Enkchimeg Enkhbaatar who works for the Mongolian Mission, from the current senior SS Quarterly.

"Eggie’s family wasn’t religious, but when a classmate in secondary school invited her to attend church with her, Eggie agreed to go. She knew that her parents didn’t mind, for her mother had told her that worshiping God was a good thing.

"Her friend’s church was a small group of 20 or 30 people who met on Sabbaths. Most were young people, and Eggie loved the vibrant worship service these youth led out in. Eggie invited her younger sister to attend and eventually both girls were baptized.

"Eggie finished high school and looked forward to studying to become a teacher. But her older sister was already studying at a university, and her parents couldn’t afford to support two girls in university at once. Disappointed, Eggie found work as a waitress and saved money to study.

"Eggie helped start a small group Bible study in another family’s home.
Her church family saw her leadership abilities and helped Eggie get a scholarship to begin her studies. Joyfully Eggie journeyed to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia's capital city, to begin her studies.

"She found a vibrant church family where she can grow spiritually. She teaches the children's class in church and hopes that when Mongolia opens a Seventh-day Adventist elementary school, she can teach there. In the meantime, she encourages other Seventh-day Adventist young people to stay true to God and the beliefs they treasure.

"In the dormitory where she lives, Eggie shares her faith with her school mates. 'My friends want to know what I believe,' she says. 'I give them books about my faith and copies of my Sabbath School lessons. I invite them to church and share with them my joy in Jesus.'

"Eggie prays for her younger sister, who is working as a missionary volunteer while she awaits her turn to attend the university. 'God is leading us, and we rejoice that we are working with Him to lead others to Jesus.' Eggie says.

"Mongolia is a small but growing mission field that relies on our mission offerings to help grow the church."

VI. SULADS Story: "Return That Chainsaw Now!

During the pioneering days of SULADS High School in 2003, 2004 we made use of the logs we found lying down on the ground and saved them into boards for our classrooms. We cut down some trees to make a clearing for the school campus. Little did we know that the NPAs (New People's Army), the communist rebel group who camp near the woods we were clearing, were upset by what we were doing. We continued clearing more space for our agriculture project where the students could grow vegetables, bananas, and fruit trees.

Sir Goly and I had just left this mountain school one time coming down to the city when my cell phone rang. It was SULAD Jun Julian calling. "Sir," he said, "the NPAs are here. They want to borrow our chainsaw."

NPAs? That was alarming because for them to borrow means to confiscate, not be returned. It was also understood that the SULADS using the chainsaw had broken their law of preserving the forest, especially their nest. Clearing the forest would expose them as their camp would become visible. If we would not give it to them the lives of our faculty and students would be at stake. If I gave the chainsaw away, that would mean the development of the school would be stopped.

What would be next? What will happen to the school then? I prayed, "Lord, please give me the right decision."

"Sir Daryl!" came the call again. "This is urgent! The NPA commander wants your answer now!"

"Give it!" I said.

"You are giving our chainsaw away, Sir?" Goly asked in a blaming tone of voice. "What shall we use now to cut down trees? We need more logs for more buildings, faculty homes and many more."

"Goly," I said, "this school is God's. We are only stewards and instruments commissioned to do His work. The lives of our faculty up there are in danger. God will replace that chainsaw with another new one if He so wills it. Let us just wait on God. Let us just pray that the NPAs will return the chainsaw soon."

Back at the school the students were discouraged. They felt that the school which had just begun might be closed soon. But the faculty encouraged them that God would do wonders and miracles. "You will see the closing day of the school year. We need only to pray, pray, pray for God's leading and let Him do what is best." The chainsaw was always the subject of prayer.

"We know the NPAs, Sir!" some students told the teachers. "Once they borrow something they will never return it." That simply meant that our chainsaw was confiscated. "Let us just trust God as we continue to pray that He will do something about the chainsaw. Whatever that is, we don't know. He knows best," Sir Jun explained.

Every worship time, morning and evening, the students and faculty prayed that the chainsaw would be returned by the NPAs. Some students started to complain. "Why do we keep on praying about the chainsaw that will never be returned. No chainsaw or ax borrowed by the NPAs has ever been returned."

"Let's just pray for it anyway," the faculty insisted. The majority of the students were with the faculty sincerely praying for the chainsaw.

One morning, about six months from the time the chainsaw was confiscated, it was returned. Early that morning, before their morning worship, the chainsaw was there. It had rusted some but was still functioning. There was rejoicing in the school because they saw God's hand in control. The students, including those who doubted, joined now with the faculty in a prayer of thankfulness to God for hearing their prayers.
Who returned the chainsaw? Nobody knew. But it was clear that the NPAs came in the night while everybody was sleeping to deliver the chainsaw. Why was it returned? Nobody knew that either. The return of that chainsaw remained a mystery. We believe that God was the One who made it happen.

Recently, when this NPA rebel commander surrendered, we heard this story.

When we visited the rebel group in the 8th Infantry Battalion camp, Apol, the spokesperson for the rebel leader, revealed to me the chainsaw mystery. She said the rebel leader was away for some six months on another assignment to lead a rebel squad with a mission in another area away from Santo. Domingo where our school is. When he heard about the chainsaw, he left his squad in the charge of another officer next to him and hiked a day through the jungle to reprimand the ones who confiscated the chainsaw.

Reaching the camp, he investigated them. "Why did you confiscate the chainsaw?"
"They were cutting trees, Sir, which is against our law here in the forest."

"The SULADS are not selling the logs they fell. They use that for school buildings and our people benefit from this school which even our government cannot provide as a free service. I am a product of the SULADS service of free education. I have never been to any school except the SULADS. And I owe much to them for who I am now and to the God they serve. Now, take my command! RETURN THAT CHAINSAW NOW!"

And so it was that the chainsaw was returned. Mystery solved? I believe it was all in the hand of God.

Daryl Famisaran
Field Director, SULADS Philippines

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