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~~~~~~~~~~ I. Singapore Revival Meetings

from Prayers Among Buddhists eNewsletter, February 24

We ask that you pray with us for a weekend revival camp in Singapore. It begins today, the 24th, and ends Sunday the 26th.

The purpose of the meetings is to remind members of our identity and mission as Seventh-day Adventists. Through the prism of current affairs, such as the financial crisis in the European Union, the focus will be on the imminent second coming of Jesus. The revival camp is for members of the Singapore Thomson Chinese Church. Dr. Samuel Wang will be the speaker for these meetings. The theme will be Back to the Advent Core Beliefs and Mission.

Dr. Wang will be bringing with him from Taiwan Brother Wang Jun. Brother Jun will share his testimony. Samuel met him in Taiwan last year. They had an appointment every week for nearly a year. Jun read the whole Bible through in 2 months and 15 days. He then read ten of Ellen White’s books in just under 6 months.

His knowledge in the Bible increased rapidly. His passion for evangelism and outreach is burning. Every week he studies with some of his friends or customers. The Lord has also used him to be a witness to several churches in Taiwan to encourage others to be revived and rededicated. The many changes in his lifestyle and character are obvious to those who knew him before his conversion.

This weekend Brother Jun will be a living example of what revival looks like when the Holy Spirit works on one’s heart. Please pray for the meetings this weekend in Singapore. Please pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the speakers as well as those who attend. Please pray that a genuine revival will be given to this Chinese church.

The weekend camp is designed as a preparation for the upcoming evangelistic meetings in March. Samuel Wang will again be the speaker.

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II. Remembering Dr. Galen Coffin

Marion Dressler <mariondressler@gmail.com> February 21:

Just before Andy, David and I left for Singapore in 1968, we met Galen and Beth at Rainier National Park. While there Andy and Galen made arrangements for sharing a boat which we enjoyed the three years we spent at Far Eastern Academy. As I recall, Andy maintained the boat as he had done in Indonesia, as well as when we lived in Rio de Janeiro. Love and prayers to Kathy and the family.

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III. Deaf Work in Manila by Gospel Outreach

Pastor Jeff Jordan, a deaf pastor from Collegedale, TN, arrived in Manila on February 22 and has conducted an evangelistic series which culminates Sunday night, February 26. Sarah Famisaran, the Gospel Outreach Deaf Coordinator for Mindanao was in Manila to provide some assistance to Lychel Gabuco, the Gospel Outreach Deaf Coordinator for the Manila area who planned and organized the meetings.

The work of Lychel Gabuco for the deaf is centered in the Pasay Seventh-day Adventist Church. The church appears to continue to give good support to the ministry for the deaf. The church has an early service at 8 am, then Sabbath School followed by the second service.
The Sabbath School program was presented by the deaf group featuring a video that has been prepared by the those who work with Lychel to educate people about the deaf culture. The song service was directed by a hearing person but three of the deaf youth signed the song as it was sung by the congregation. The special music was a choir of youth who are volunteering as helpers to Lychel in the deaf ministry. This was also signed by the three deaf youth. The SS lesson was presented by a local elder and was interpreted by Lychel to the deaf group that numbered about 50.

The entire second service was put on by the deaf ministries group lead and organized by Lychel. All spoken parts were interpreted to the deaf group and all the signed parts were interpreted for the hearing. Judith is a German girl who has been living and studying in Manila for several years and has taken an interest in the deaf. She told the story to the children while it was signed by Lychel. The children's choir in the church sang the special music and it was signed by the three youth mentioned above.

Four deaf youth were presented to the church as candidates for baptism and were voted in as members subject to their baptism. The elders of the church welcomed them to the church family.

The sermon was presented by Pastor Jeff Jordan. He is the deaf pastor of a deaf church in Collegedale. He presented the sermon in American Sign Language and it was interpreted by May Andrada. The Andrada family has been very supportive of the deaf ministry and is very much appreciated.

Following the church service, the deaf group retired to a room that has been assigned to them by the church. After a short time, the group moved to the baptistery of the church where Pastor Jeff Jordan baptized the four candidates. This was especially interesting to me as the prayer for the baptism, of necessity, was signed rather than verbal. It was a very sacred time as these were the first fruits of the labor of Lychel Gabuco for the deaf in Manila. It was emphasized during the church service that the goal of this ministry is for the deaf to have their own church where they can worship. Since the deaf culture is somewhat different from the hearing culture, this is thought to be the best environment for them to worship the Lord.

Returning to the room assigned to them, the entire group enjoyed a meal prepared by the members of the Pasay Adventist Church for the deaf group. I think this is a very positive example of how well the church supports the work for the deaf in Manila.

Lychel has a relatively large group of helpers who are strictly volunteers. Many of the youth of the church are learning American Sign Language so they can assist Lychel in her work. One of the most helpful is Cheard Gabuco, Lychel's sister who is herself deaf. Cheard adds credibility to the work of Lychel because the deaf do not totally trust a hearing person. Cheard as an ambition to become a pastor for the deaf in Manila.

Lychel was very tired as she has been leading out in the evangelistic meetings conducted by Pastor Jeff Jordan over the past week. On top of that responsibility, her grandmother passed away during the week and she has been heavily involved in the cultural practices of the Filipinos during the time before burial which will take place on Sunday, February 26. They have wakes that last all night and Lychel has been faithful in supporting her family during these nightly vigils.

In summary, I was very pleased with what I saw there. Lychel has lead out in an aggressive way and has rallied the church family around her in reaching out to the deaf of Manila. This is truly an evangelistic work that has been neglected for too many years. The elder of the church told me of the child of an Adventist minister who did not feel accepted in the Adventist church but found a Sunday-keeping church that had a work for the deaf. Now he is a pastor of a Sunday-keeping church. With the work that Lychel is doing, this should not happen in the future. Rather, the deaf from other churches will be joining the Adventist church and hopefully provide a real outreach work to the many deaf persons in Manila.

--Fred L. Webb, writes February 2. I am currently in the Philippines on my annual inspection of the Gospel Outreach projects here. I will be making a report of each of them over the next 7 weeks.

IV. Death of Eric Monnier, Bangladesh Missionary

from the "Adventist Review," February 23:

"Eric Monnier, 59, a Seventh-day Adventist missionary whose work spurred church growth in South America in the 1970s and 1980s, died January 22, 2012 in Collonges-sous-Saleve, France, following a battle with cancer.

"Monnier's mission career spanned 35 years and two continents. He had several church leadership positions in South America before accepting a call to oversee church operations in Bangladesh. . . ."

"Born in Paris, France, in 1952, Monnier was raised in a missionary family. He spent grade school in Martinique and Haiti and high school in Brazil and France. He graduated from Adventist University of France (Campus Adventiste du Saleve) with degrees in theology, education, and business administration. Later, during a furlough from missionary
service, he earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University.

"After 19 years of work in Brazil, Monnier was elected president of the church's Bolivia Union. In 2007 Monnier accepted a call to serve as president of the church's Bangladesh Union Mission. Colleagues there remember his humor, enthusiasm, and generosity.

"If you want to know who Pastor Monnier was, you'll find it explained in Matt. 5:39-42. Both he and his wife always tried to give, give, give,' said Sweetie Ritchil, treasurer for the Bangladesh Union Mission. 'Much of the furniture in the office, and even the computers came from their generosity. I have never seen such an attitude of "What can I do for others?" rather than "What can I receive?""

"Southern Asia Pacific Division president, Alberto Gulfan, remembers Monnier's conviction. 'He died in the strongest faith and assurance of Christ's second coming--a message that he so boldly and courageously shared in the countries where he served as a missionary,' Gulfan said.

"Monnier is survived by his wife, Francoise; the couple's children, Valarie and Gabriel; a grandchild, Emily; his mother, Yvonne; a brother, Yves; and a sister, Elizabeth Van Rignoot."

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V. ADRA-UK Success in Myanmar

ADRA has been working in Myanmar (Burma) for many years and a recent visit to ADRA supported projects by the British Ambassador to Myanmar, along with Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy Party, has clearly shown how British aid is changing lives.

Aung San Suu Kyi joined Ambassador, HE Andrew Heyn, in seeing first-hand how British aid from the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) is helping improve the lives of ordinary Burmese people. They visited two villages in Myaing Township where British aid is supporting local NGOs to develop the rural economy and empower communities.

"This visit illustrates the importance of the work ADRA is doing in Myanmar," states ADRA-UK CEO, Bert Smit. He says, "We recently completed a food security project in Myanmar and are currently negotiating a new project which will start this summer in the country. ADRA-UK is also helping Burmese refugee workers in neighbouring Thailand."

Villagers demonstrated how aid had helped provide water taps for every village household, seeds and tools to plant home gardens and support and training for other local initiatives. They also met with women members of a self-help group, who showed how they had invested their own and project resources to improve conditions in the village. The project is implemented by Action Aid and the Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA). It is part of a wider project in 50 villages in Magway region, benefiting more than 5,000 families.

In a letter to ADRA Myanmar dated 6 February, Paul Whittingham, Head of DFID Burma stated, "I found the whole ADRA team highly professional, enthusiastic and kind throughout the whole preparation and visit itself.. We saw examples of excellent community led work in all the villages." -- BUC News Edition #769 (24 February 2012)

~~~~~~~~~~~~ VI. "From Despair to Hope" a story by Dowell Chow

"Neng Suan cried out in agony. His son--his only son--was dead.

"Neng and his wife have five daughters, but in their culture, girls count for nothing. If someone asked Neng how many children he had, his answer was, 'I have a son.' A son meant stability, support in old age, and hope for the future. But suddenly his son, his only son, his pride and joy, was dead. Now Neng had nothing, no hope, and no future.

"Neng and his family live in a village in Southeast Asia. In his culture, if a couple dies without a son, the relatives swoop in and claim everything the couple has--their land, their home, their livestock--everything. Daughters have no rights; it's as if they don't exist. And now Neng and his wife had no son. His life became meaningless.

"Before his son died, Neng had been attending a Protestant church, but when his son died, his hope and faith died with the boy. He stopped attending church. His life became enshrouded in darkness. He began drinking, and before long he was smoking and chewing 'khaini,' a tobacco-lime product.

"Neng lost interest in his work, and spent his days drinking. His whole family gave up on him, except for his wife, who supported the family by cultivating a few crops in her hillside garden. She tried to encourage her distraught husband, but nothing seemed to bring peace to his troubled soul.
"Then one night Neng turned on his radio looking for distraction. He found a program that caught his interest. It was called 'The Voice of Hope.'

The speaker’s voice soothed him, and the message brought hope to Neng’s heart. From that night on, Neng listened to the program.

"Neng learned that the speaker, Pastor Khan Suan, would be holding meetings near his home. Neng decided to attend the meetings. His wife went with him, and together they experienced the love of God anew. Neng and his wife surrendered their lives to Christ and asked to be baptized.

"Neng claimed God's promise in Phil. 4:13: 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' and with Christ's strength he gave up his self-destructive habits. People noticed the changes in Neng's life. "God understands my loss,' he says. 'He gave His son to die for me. Although I lost my precious son, I have found comfort in Christ.'

"Neng is glad that in his deepest sorrow, God sent him the message of love through Adventist World Radio."

[Dowell Chow is president of AWR; the above is taken from the current senior SS Lesson Quarterly.] ~~~~~~~~~ VII.

Southern Asia-Pacific Division Gets 13th Sabbath Offering

This quarter features the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, which includes the countries of Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, East Timor, and Vietnam, and islands of the Pacific, including Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, and Wake Island. Almost 800 million people live in this region, of which almost 1.1 million are Seventh-day Adventists. About one person out of about 700 is an Adventist.

Indonesia is made up of more than 13,000 islands stretched along the equator between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. Many distinct cultures and religions developed among the different ethnic groups living in Indonesia. Although Indonesia is not officially an Islamic state, more than 85 percent of Indonesians are Muslim.

The Adventist Church serves the people of Indonesia through several schools and medical facilities. Hospitals and medical clinics offer valuable services to Indonesians, and many have come to know Christ through them.

Myanmar (Burma) is the second-largest country in Southeast Asia, with a population of about 54 million. But years of military rule and civil war have isolated the country from global and economic influences and left many of its citizens in poverty. However this same isolation has helped preserve some of Myanmar's traditional culture and customs.

Religion usually follows ethnic lines, and ethnic groups haven't mixed well in Myanmar. While a small percentage of Myanmar's population is Christian, the majority (more than 80 percent) is Buddhist. Because they don't interact easily, they don't yet know of Christ's love for them.

Yours for the kingdom,
Charlotte Ishkanian
Editor, "Mission"

[Since the above was published, the Guam-Micronesia Mission has been assigned to the North American Division, and the Pakistan Union, formerly in the Trans-European Division has been assigned to the Southern Asia-Pacific Division]

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