I. The Dick Halls Revisit Sarawak After 40 Years

Dick & Jean Hall <DicknJeanH@cs.com> February 29:

We had a great time on our trip to Borneo with Riki, Janice and John. What a reception we had as Lawrence, the Sarawak Mission president, had arranged for us to go out to different village areas for a worship service each evening where we met so many friends we hadn't seen for 40 years or more. After every meeting was a fellowship dinner with a lot of good Sarawak food like we used to have many years ago and there was always good Asian fruit which we like, especially durian. They always had a lot of that even to send back to our apartment with us. Our friend Wendy put is up in her son's apartment and it was very nice. He was working overseas so the apartment was available and she told us to use anything and everything we wanted. They also transported us out to some of the villages.

II. Drs. Gulley and Blanco Featured in Ministry Magazine

Dr. Norman Gulley has written the first two volumes in a series on Systematic Theology, "Prolegomena" and "God As Trinity." Comments Timothy George, dean and professor of divinity at Samford University, "This systematic theology is an impressive undertaking. Deeply rooted in the witness of Holy Scripture, it is richly textured by dialogue with current trends and contemporary thinkers. Norman Gulley writes as a theologian of the church, and I commend his work to all God's people everywhere."

["Norman Gulley (PhD in Systematic Theology, University of Edinburgh, Scotland) Research Professor at Southern Adventist University, has taught at collegiate and seminary levels both in the United States and the Far East."]

Dr. Jack Blanco contributed an article in the same March, 2012 issue of Ministry magazine, entitled "A Personal Devotional Journey." Here is the first paragraph of this most interesting account:

"The journey began with reading a most unusual 'Bible' while I was in the military during the Korean War. After accepting Christ as my personal Savior, I decided to change my lifestyle and spend my free time, mostly weekends, in the base's library. One day, walking among the shelves looking for something to read, I noticed a green-covered book titled 'Bible.' Never having seen or read the Bible before, I pulled it off the shelf, sat down at the reading table, and opened it. The first thing I saw was a picture of Jesus with outstretched arms; surrounding Him were all kinds of people--old, young, mothers with babies in their arms, those on crutches, and the sick. As I looked at the picture, I began to cry, wishing I could be as near the Savior as they were. Quickly wiping the tears away, I began to read."

You will want to read the article yourself and discover that he had run across "Bible Readings for the Home Circle," an Adventist book that lead him to baptism into the Seventh-day Adventist church.

[Jack Blanco, DTh, is Professor Emeritus at Southern Adventist University.] ~~~~~~~ III. Celebrating the 110th Anniversary of Adventism in China

Dorothy Nelson <dnn@healthexpo.org> March 5:

The Celebration of the 110th Anniversary of the Adventist work in China is still on my mind and would like to share my personal testimony. It was a real privilege to be invited to participate in what I consider a most inspiring and
unforgettable weekend. how I wish my late husband, Wilbur, could have been present to hear the report and meet former students now leaders in church ministry.

Listening to the Sabbath sermon by Pastor Stanley Ng, (Assistant to the President, No. Asia-Pacific Division) was such a blessing and brought back many memories when he was one of our students and a member of our music group in evangelism. His sermon was an encouragement as he traced the development of the work in China... the difficulties and yet remarkable church growth in spite of serious obstacles. Pr. David Ng, President of the Chinese Union Mission, who kindly took me to the airport for my return to Saudi Arabia shared more of our work in China. It was encouraging to hear of the 1,300 registered churches, 3,400 home churches, 125 ordained pastors and ten ordained women pastors among a total of 400,000 officially recorded members.

My flight from Riyadh actually arrived at the same time as the large group from China. What a special moment it was to meet them and experience their excitement upon arrival. An interview with one of the women pastors was so very inspiring. Miracles are happening and surely the Lord is blessing these faithful workers. I had not been back to China since my work with IIW following the death of my husband (for those who may not know the cause of his death, the Forensic Examiner’s report documented he did not die from natural causes. His arteries were unusually clean as shown by the Examiner to my son, Richard, whom he called in during the autopsy. His death was caused by inflicted trauma to the back of his head which an accompanying physician and assistant US Consul considered 'foul play'.) Wilbur loved China, and our family ties are strong with our dear China friends... to both the 'known' and the 'unknown' of those wonderful people for whom we continue to pray. Although I felt it difficult to follow in my husband’s footsteps it was an honor to be able to continue his work in China for which he had given so much. I am very grateful to IIW for making that privilege possible. And now in this special weekend of celebration to meet our dear members from China... what a blessing!

A side trip to visit Sai Kung [in Hong Kong] following the meetings was something I just couldn’t miss and thanks to Verna Chuah who arranged it...

I didn't! It was here in the harbor of this fishing village that our boat ministry, the Robert's Sea Light, was launched. This fairly large boat, built in faith (praying it would float!) by my husband, was completed and towed around to the beach below the South China Union College for a dedication service. Pastor H. M. S. Richards, Sr. and son, Harold, officiated including faculty from the college. The boat was then anchored among the 150,000 Hakka people with its chapel, medical offices and top deck for children's programs. Students from the college participated as junk and sampans surrounded the boat each week. One experience vividly reminds us of our prayer-hearing and miracle-working heavenly Father! During an unusually strong typhoon to hit the area in which numerous junk and other boats were severely damaged, the Robert's Sea light was swept between two rock areas and held fast. We prayed earnestly and did not know until the storm was over of the miracle that had happened. People marveled and began calling the boat the "Jesus" boat! It was a witness to the entire harbor as people came to survey the damage from this unusually destructive typhoon. At one of our meetings the chapel became so crowded with people that the boat began to take on water. I well remember how quickly my husband disappeared to locate a pump. Our guest speaker, Pastor James Scully, who was just finishing a song at the time with Millie at the little organ made a hasty exit out the window! (as did a few others!) Fortunately a very efficient pump was found and the meeting was soon able to be continued.with a few less on board. Physicians. Drs. Harry Miller, Roger Heald, Clarence and Isabel Ing graciously gave of their time on weekends to treat the patients. A need for a presence on land was soon realized and we were able to rent a building which became our first SDA church in Sai Kung. Today, praise the Lord, there is a three story building now owned by the Adventist church for worshippers.

It was a thrill to meet the pastor and to learn that one of our former students, Jonathan Fu, who was so active in the boat ministry, and now a professor of religion at the college, attends this church.

It was with a grateful heart as my flight departed Hong Kong to have had the opportunity of meeting and sharing with my Chinese brothers and sisters as this is what they are and ever will be. May God bless each one with prayers that our final and lasting reunion comes soon.

~~~~~~~~~~

IV. "Steps to Christ" for Micronesia's Chuck Islanders

JoAnne Lafever <ymscsprin@gmail.com> February 28:

Roger and Amy Krum have worked on Paata Island, one hour by boat off of Chuuk for 12 years. They have returned for a year of much needed rest, regrouping, and hopefully to get this Chuuk translation project published.
Krum Roger & Amy <andakrum@yahoo.com> wrote to JoAnne,
My energies are going into finishing these publication projects. Here’s the figures as I know them for now.

Editing / Layout & Design Cost: $3,000
Printing Cost: 50,000 copies for $22,000 at approximately $0.42 a book
Shipping: Estimated $1,000 for shipping to Chuuk, Guam, and USA
Total project price $26,000

We are making appeals with the following approach, Help publish "Steps to Jesus" in Chuukese for only $0.42 a book. Your $100 will print 238 books.

Thanks for your prayers and support, Roger & Amy Krum
438 Buck Mountain Road
Roan Mountain, TN 37687
Home Phone: 423-772-4630
randakrum@yahoo.com

-------------------

Some Information about Chuuk State:
**People Group-Federated States of Micronesia, Chuuk State** **Population-over 60,000 people with many populations on Guam, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, and Kansas.**
**Adventist Presence-First Adventist in 1970s with a present (2012) membership of approximately 550 located on two islands, Weno and Paata.**
**Religions-Primarily Protestant (Evangelical, Baptist, Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, Seventh-day Adventist) and Catholic.**
**Adventist Schools-K-12 on Weno Island and a K-8 on Paata Island.**
**Directing Chuukese Pastor-Pastor Karemeno Ifa, PO BOX 208, Chuuk, FM 96942
(Phone: 691-330-2607 Email: kahat_ifa@yahoo.com) **Directing Mission-Guam-Micronesia Mission of SDA, 290 Chalan Palasyo, Agana Heights, GU 96910 (under North American Division since 2011) with Pastor Louis Torres, President
(Phone: 671-477-9745 Email: <louisstorres@gmail.com>)

[Although this mission is no longer in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, we all will remember that it was once a part of the Far Eastern Division.] ~~~~~~~~~~~ V. Expanding MFW Building in Myanmar

Saw Thein <sawthein2009@gmail.com>
This year we have accelerated our evangelism work for planting churches in Middle Myanmar where our nursery school projects are situated.
The Myanmar Frontier Mission office rented an apartment for a year in Ahlone township in Yangon. The contract will be expiring at the end of April, 2012. We would like to remind you to extend your gifts for the MFM ministry for this year. We really need to make an extension of the MFM office building. The building is an evangelistic centre as well as a training center for our pioneers.
We extend a hearty welcome to all our friends and visitors from far and near to visit our schools and office and so you may able to contribute towards our missionary work.
As we have accelerated our evangelism work for planting churches we've trained some young people in the service of God. Please kindly extend your gift for the MFM ministry this year.

Mailing address: Myanmar Frontier Missions, 68 U Wisara Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

~~~~~~~~~~

VI. SULADS Story: "LITTLE BY LITTLE"

We pioneered Cueva Mission School in Pisan, North Cotabato, Philippines with my husband and little boy. When we first came to this village of T'boli and B'laan tribes, I had a hard time adjusting to them. I covered my ears because I couldn't stand to hear the shrill cursing. In the wee hours of the night some drunk men would shout to each other exchanging curses waking the whole village. As adult men and women curse, boys and girls curse too. Our little boy was just starting to talk and we were teaching polite words of thanks, good manners, and respect. But LITTLE BY LITTLE he picked up some curse words here and there from the boys who played with him. That pierced my heart.

I told my husband of my concern for our little boy whom I don't want to be raised in such an environment. "What can we do?" he asked. "God called us to be missionaries in this place. It is a struggle, but let us just pray to the Lord that our influence will LITTLE BY LITTLE change them spiritually."
I just nodded submitting to my husband, but my heart was bleeding for my little boy. "Dear God," I prayed silently, "please help me train my little boy to be strong and a good example of good traits to the children. Help me too, Lord, to be patient and love these people we came to serve. Help my husband and me to be good examples to them so that LITTLE BY LITTLE they will be changed."

"Don't expect too much a change," kept ringing in my ears. That was a very important message I learned during the seminar. "Change will be seen in little children LITTLE BY LITTLE. Adults are too old to learn new tricks and you will just be frustrated expecting them to be good examples to their children. God through the Holy Spirit is the One who changes hearts. There is nothing impossible for Him to change even the hardened criminals," my husband reminded me. "Let us just do our part and God will bless our efforts."

It was difficult for me to adjust and accept. What irritates me most is their cursing. I would shrink covering my ears to the shrill lambasting of God's name that I don't want my boy to pick up. In my struggle I prayed again, "Lord, please give me patience and love for these people. Help us and my boy to be good examples to them that they may copy our ways and that they may see You in us. Amen"

Then LITTLE BY LITTLE we introduced songs to the children in worship and they loved it. We told Bible stories from picture rolls and even the adults came to join our worship. They were so hungry, listening with all ears. Soon children came to worship every morning and evening. Then we heard them singing worship songs in their homes. They sang while they washed their clothes in the clear brook from the spring. Soon the village became alive with heavenly music from the children. Though we don't have a decent classroom yet where we can teach them a formal class of reading and writing and math, children learn the most important lessons everyday. I didn't hear cursing anymore except from the adults who come home drunk late in the night.

Just as we were starting to really enjoy our stay in the mission school, a big problem shook the village. One of our men was shot dead by a neighboring Muslim group. Our men secured their families somewhere to prepare to retaliate. Children and mothers came to us crying. "Teachers, we will be missing you. You have to leave now. We don't want you to stay with this mess. Please pray for our safety here as you always pray to your God."

My heart went out for our dear people as we had already learned to love them. But we really needed to leave and go home to Mountain View College for our safety. We gathered the villagers and prayed for them. "Lord," I prayed aloud, "this trouble is scattering our people and destroying our work here. Please help these dear brothers to solve this problem. Save our men from harm as they face their enemies in battle. Keep our lives safe even as we separate our ways now and make a way for us to come and see each other again in this village after this mess. In Jesus' name, Amen."

It was a teary farewell as children hugged us saying, "Please pray for us, Teacher. We love you." I cried for their pitiful situation. But what brought tears to my eyes the most was the joy that by now they were no longer cursing but asking for special prayer.

At Mountain View College I monitored the situation back in our village. The war wore on for more than a month. I learned that two of our big boys were killed in the clash. After the battle was over and the people came back to the village we came home too to continue our work. We came in the night to surprise them. We heard songs of children from a distance. Slowly we slipped in and discovered they were having worship. One group was meeting in one house and a group in another and other groups in other houses. My heart was pounding and tears were flowing when we heard the children reciting memory verses. They were having worship on their own. We went straight to our cottage and had worship too. Somebody noticed that there was light in our house. He came to check whether we were home and he broke the news to the village. All of a sudden they all came to our cottage and mobbed us with hugs, welcoming us home. What a teary reunion!

They then told us many stories that took place during the time of battle when we were away. They said they always prayed that God would save them from harm and bring their teachers back. They also told of the sad fate of their two brothers who died in battle. This was very unusual, they said, that only two of their brothers were killed in battle. They usually lost ten or more during the past conflicts. "It was all because we always prayed to God," they said.

"We prayed for you too when we were away."

"Thank you, Ma'am and Sir for praying for us."

I felt great joy that evening thinking that indeed our efforts had been rewarded when we saw them changed LITTLE BY LITTLE for good in so short a time. Now there is no more cursing but praising God.--by Esther Ortiz ~~~~~~~~~~~ To remove your name from the mailing list of this newsletter, simply reply to this e-mail and put "REMOVE" in the Subject line.
Teach CanI if this mail (ID 09GGJJCsU) is spam:
Spam: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?id=09GGJJCsU&m=f5242cf40d5b&c=s
Not spam: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?id=09GGJJCsU&m=f5242cf40d5b&c=n
Forget vote: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?id=09GGJJCsU&m=f5242cf40d5b&c=f