I. Two Deaths
   1. Leo Van Dolson
   2. Mrs. Annabel Blandford

II. Elderly Korean Multi-copies the Bible III. Gospel Outreach in Northeastern Mindanao Mission IV. Korean Missionary to China Speaks at Loma Linda Church V. Life Sketch of Dr. Galen Homer Coffin, Part 2 of 3

I. Two Deaths
   1. Dr. Leo Ray Van Dolson fell asleep Sunday, March 11 to await the call of his Savior.

   A native of San Francisco, Leo received a BA from Pacific Union College, a bachelor of divinity and a master of divinity from Andrews University, a master of public health from Loma Linda University, and a PhD from Claremont University. He was a veteran of World War II.

   As a minister Leo had the privilege of preaching the gospel on six continents. He and his family were among the early missionaries to enter Japan after the end of World War II and they served in Tokyo and Kobe for nearly 10 years.

   During his 65 years of service to the SDA Church he taught at Pacific Union College, La Sierra University, Loma Linda University, and Southern Adventist University. Dozens of books and numerous articles he wrote have been published and he served as editor of various denominational journals.

   He also was a self-taught artist in both oil and water colors.

   Leo always will be missed by Bobbie Jane, his wife of 65 years, his two sons, Randall (Reatha), an attorney in Chattanooga, and Leo, Jr. (Gloria), an orthopedic surgeon in Paradise, California, his five grand children and seven great-grandchildren.

   -- selected from obituary in Chattanooga’s Times-Free Press

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2. Death of Mrs. Annabel Blandford
   Gordon T. Blandford <GTSKY@aol.com> March 14:

   My dear wife fell asleep in Jesus March 1, 2012. She had suffered Alzheimer's for ten and a half years. She was 83 years old. We served in the South China Island Union.

   Please remember me and my family in your prayers. Annabel was 83 years old.

   [Readers may recall that Gordon was what we called a "White Russian" and had grown up in North China as an orphan adopted by missionaries. We knew the Blandfords when they worked in Taiwan.] ~~~~~~~~~~~~~ II. Elderly Korean Multi-copies the Bible

   "A 72-year-old organic farmer from South Korea spends six hours a day tending to a very different kind of crop; he copies out, by hand, the text of the Bible, as well as the texts of several Spirit of Prophecy books authored by Seventh-day Adventist Church co-founder, Ellen G. White.

   "Nam Yong Han, a local elder of the Chilbo church in the Southwest Korean Conference, operates an organic farm, raising many kinds of fruits and vegetables. His agricultural techniques have been taught in many countries, including the Republic of Korea, China, North Korea, the Philippines, and Bangladesh.

   "Nine years ago, in January 2003, while serving as a missionary in Beijing, China, Han began copying out these texts, a process he calls 'transcriptions.' As of October 2011 he had copied he text of the Bible seven times, as well as a series of the Conflict of the Ages books, and 'Testimonies for the Church. Han said the hours he spends transcribing are the most joyful moments in his life."

   --by Suk Hee Han, communication director of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, from the March 2012 issue of ADVENTIST WORLD.

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III. Gospel Outreach in Northeastern Mindanao Mission
   Fred K. Webb’s SULADS Newsletter, March 6:
I arrived at Butuan about 12:30 pm March 4 and was met by Brother Baal, treasurer of the Northeastern Mindanao Mission. He brought me to the Mission headquarters where I was treated to a delicious Filipino meal.

Immediately after eating, we boarded the mission van and headed for Corro, the village where Mr. Perfecto Tecsun, Gospel Outreach worker, is assigned. The Gospel Outreach began sponsoring workers in the Northeastern Mindanao Mission in October, 2010.

It took about two hours to travel to Corro which is off the main highway perhaps 10 Km. The village is inhabited by the Mamowa tribe who have very dark skin and kinky hair. Many of the Mamowa have intermarried with the Manobo tribe, however, and there are quite a number now with lighter colored skin.

The Tecsun family consisting of the couple and a girl twelve years old have lived and worked in Corro for a little about a year and a half. During that time, they have made friends with the villagers and have interested about 30 in attending Bible studies and worship services with them. They have obtained permission to use some land temporarily and have constructed a church mostly of native materials. It would seat perhaps 50 people on rough bamboo benches. The mission has signed an agreement with the local municipal government to have custody of 600 square meters (about 5,500 square feet) on which they may build a church and use the property as their own as long as it is used for religious purposes. They are now raising funds for the construction of that church. Having the Tecsun family is a real bargain. We pay one worker, Mr. Tecsun, but his wife is just as involved in the work as he is. Further, their daughter works for the children in the village and tells them Bible stories. We get three people for the price of one!

The Tecsuns have built their home there as a model for the village. It is built of native materials but is very neat. They have planted flowers around it and have planted vegetables and bananas in the yard. They have built a neat "comfort room" (a toilet commonly called a CR here) to improve the sanitary conditions. Behind the church there is a "dirty kitchen" which simply means an outdoor kitchen where they cook with wood. They have a special pit for "basura" or garbage. We were treated to the first fruits of their banana plants. Their presence in the village is an influence for good. I am proud to have them be called GO workers. We returned home to rest for the night.

Tuesday morning, March 6, we left about 8:15 to travel to Kidihay where we have another GO worker, Larry Mata. Now Kidihay has a special story. The datu or chief of this Manobo tribal village had a vision where he met a supernatural being who told him to keep the seventh-day as the Sabbath and to not eat unclean foods. He was told to not accept any teachers that did not worship on Sabbath.

Sometime later, a Pentecostal missionary came to Kidihay and began to evangelize the village. The datu asked on what day they worshipped God. The missionaries said on Sunday. The datu then told them that they could not accept them into the village unless they kept the seventh-day or Sabado as the Sabbath. The missionaries replied, "We can do that. We will worship on Sabado with you." So the Seventh-day Pentecostal church was established in the village.

Our brother, Larry Mata, had come to the village a few years ago but was rebuffed by the pastor of the church so he moved on to another village. When Gospel Outreach accepted to sponsor four workers in Northeastern Mindanao Mission, Larry was selected and when asked where he wanted to work it was in Kidihay. Pastor Solomon Mongaya, the mission president, agreed so he moved to Kidihay. He was asked why he came there to live in this Manobo village. He had a piece of ground where there was some planted falcata trees that he could cut for lumber. That was his "alibi" for living in the village. He also rented some land and planted a garden. When the produce was mature, he shared it with the villagers. This won their hearts and he was accepted into the village.

A former pastor of the local Seventh-day Pentecostal church had left the village for a time but returned after Brother Mata went there to live. He asked Larry why he did not attend church with them. The response was that he followed the Bible in his lifestyle and that was different from the local church. The former pastor then asked if Larry would study the Bible with him. Of course that was arranged.

There are about 10 families in the village now that are studying the Bible with the GO worker. Brother Mata has cut some timber from his land and rather than selling it to earn some cash, he has brought it to the village and is constructing a church that could seat perhaps fifty people. He has included a water system that would catch the rain water from the roof and store it in a tank under the platform of the church. Water faucets are installed in the back of the church for access to that water.

Ruel Rojas is our Gospel Outreach worker assigned in Minbahandi Village where there are about 100 families. He also made friends in the village and now is giving Bible studies to five families. Ten families attend church regularly. Ruel conducts small group meetings on Wednesdays in the temporary church building erected on a half hectare (1 acre) lot that the mission purchased for a church. I was unable to visit this site because of the treacherous road leading to Minbahandi.
The fourth GO worker, Tertoliano Hallasgo, apparently did not get the message that I was coming. Pastor Mongaya sent out the message about a month ago and then tried again these past few days but he did not respond. At any rate, he did not come in and we did not see his area. Pastor Mongaya told me, however, that he is studying with about 10 families and has secured a spot where they have built a small house of worship from native materials. It appears from the brief report that he is doing well there. He has only been in the field about one year due to the health of his wife. She is doing well now.

To sum up my visit here in Northeastern Mindanao Mission, things are looking good. They are in full knowledge that they must prepare their congregations to stand alone with a district pastor by 2016 which would be 5 years in the field. The mission is making plans for taking over the churches with a district pastor at that time. These men and their wives are dedicated missionaries and are diligent in their work. They are good examples of what a Gospel Outreach worker should be.

IV. Korean Missionary to China Speaks at Loma Linda Church

At the March 16, Vespers service in the Loma Linda Chinese Church the speaker will be Brother Yeong Pan Ha, a Korean layman and missionary in China for 15 years. Brother Ha's way of spreading the Three Angeles' Messages is by opening 12 restaurants near the university at various locations. He recruited the students to study the Books of Daniel and Revelation and also trains them to be Gospel Workers. In the past few years, they are over 600 baptized into SDA Churches. --Weekly Newsletter and Church Bulletin for Chino Valley Chinese Seventh-day Adventist Church ~~~~~~~~~~~ V. Life Sketch of Dr. Galen Homer Coffin [Part 2 of 3]

With his military draft cancelled, Galen enrolled at Loma Linda University Medical School in the fall of 1944. One of the few letters which reached his father in internment camp, via the Red Cross, was a short note telling of Galen's acceptance into medical school.

Galen's father remained in Canton after his release from internment came in order to retain the property for the mission. In 1947 he returned to the US. In 1948 Galen graduated from Loma Linda and a month later Galen and Beth's daughter, Kathy was born. After Galen's internship in Los Angeles and temporary employment in Camarillo, California, Galen sat for the Canadian Medical Boards qualifying him to practice medicine in a British colony and they set sail for mission work at Youngberg Hospital in Singapore.

It was a joyous occasion when they docked in Singapore in April of 1950 and were met by Beth's parents, Lily and Victor Armstrong, who were serving there and Galen's boyhood amah, Ah Saam. As a grade school boy in China, Galen had one day decided that since Ah Saam was their house girl, she should learn English. The first phrase he chose to teach her was, "The house is on fire." She practiced faithfully until she could say it well, but she never became very proficient at English. Years later when Ah Saam had immigrated to Singapore the stove caught fire and she was well equipped to run out of the house yelling, "The house is on fire. The house is on fire!"

After arriving in Singapore, Galen remembers overhearing someone proclaim in Chinese, "So young, so thin!"

Youngberg was a newly opened 60 bed Seventh-day Adventist Hospital when Galen joined Dr. George Innocent on the staff, but less than two years later, Dr. Innocent returned to the US leaving Galen to run the hospital alone. It was a year before additional doctors were found to join Galen on the staff. In those days in Singapore there was no such thing as pagers and many businesses didn't have telephones. The family remembers him calling back frequently to the hospital on available phones to check on the status of his patients while he ran his errands or attended church functions.

Three weeks after Dr. Everett Dick arrived to join Galen, Everett died of polio and Kathy contracted polio. The family flew home to White Memorial hospital for Kathy to receive treatment. Galen stayed in the US for a month, however Beth and Kathy were able to return home to Singapore after 3 months of treatment.

During those early years Galen and Beth made a medical mission trip to Sarawak, Borneo, hiking many miles up and down the jungle ridges to isolated villages where the people had never seen a doctor or a white woman before. They slept on the bamboo floors of the raised long houses with the head hunter skulls hanging from the rafters and pigs and chickens rooting underneath.

Galen and Beth had always wished for more children and during their furlough to the states in 1955 they were able to adopt their son, David, who was 7 years old and only 6 months younger than Kathy. Beth's mother often showed pictures of Kathy and David in her travels around the Far East. When asked how old they were and being told they were both 7, folks would exclaim, "Oh, twins!" When she explained that they were not twins, but 6 months apart she would be met with puzzled looks and corrections of, 'You mean a year and 6 months!' The next question would be,"How can that be?" to which she would answer, "Their father is a doctor!" and they would nod sagely, finally satisfied.
The work load at a mission hospital was very demanding with long, busy days. Many days he would see 50-60 patients in the walk-in clinic in addition to doing surgeries, afternoon scheduled patients, in house patients, delivering babies and taking night call which could add up to over a 100 patients a day. There are many men of Singapore heritage named Galen after him. In the early days he would start the anesthetic, turn the patient over to a nurse to monitor and then scrub in and perform the surgery. He was a very sought after doctor because he was fluent in the widely spoken Cantonese dialect in Singapore. The patients appreciated being able to talk directly to the doctor without having to trust an interpreter to get it right!

Over the 26 years he worked in Singapore his medical cases were varied and interesting. He had many opportunities to use his inventive mind, solving problems. His family still enjoy looking through his old slides of unusual cases. One of his Malay patients had had his ear cut off in a fight some years before. He was embarrassed with his 'deformity'. Galen made a casting of the gardener's ear which was similar in structure to the patient's ear. From that casting he molded an appropriately colored artificial ear out of dental plastic which successfully hung from a stub of the patients ear and his glasses. It was a rewarding experience for Galen and the patient was thrilled.

One of his patients presented as a very distended lady with more than a year long pregnancy. She weighed 100 pounds and in actuality had a 33 pound ovarian tumor which Galen successfully removed. He enjoyed the challenge of the medical practice but not the continual lack of sleep from the night calls.

The 'believe it or not' around Singapore was the American doctor named Dr. Coffin who worked with Dr. Innocent and Director of Nurses, Miss Grieve at the hospital across the street from a large cemetery!

He enjoyed playing ping pong for exercise and as a stress reliever after a busy work day and became a difficult player to beat. Galen played his last game of ping pong two days before his death. Not long after arriving in Singapore, he bought a small, locally made, plywood speed boat, with a 25 horsepower outboard engine. Since the price of skis was very high, he made his own set from plywood and screwed a pair of tennis shoes onto them as binders. When he could get an afternoon off, the family would head for the beach and a few hours of skiing. Over the years he practiced on trick skis learning to do turn arounds and on his 40th birthday did his first successful 360 degree turn around on one ski. Behind a friend's more powerful boat he also learned to ski barefoot.

[End of Part 2 of 3]

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END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

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