**Adventist Heritage**

From: charles tidwell <charles.h.tidwell@gte.net>
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 9:33 PM
To: Self
Subject: FED e-News, March 26, 2012 #11

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III. It's Back to Work for Dwayne Harris IV. Life Sketch of Marion June Blanco V. Life Sketch of Dr. Galen Homer Coffin, Part 3 of 3 ~~~~~~~~ I. Remembering Eric Monnier

--Leo Ranzolin, Estero, Florida

I was shocked to hear that another great Adventist, Eric Monnier, president of the Bangladesh Union had passed away. Eric came from a family of great missionaries from Switzerland. His father, Samuel, was a missionary in Brazil, and we had the opportunity to work together in the South Brazil Union and in the General Conference. Eric followed in the footsteps of his father and dedicated most of his life in service to our people in the Amazon, Bolivia, and finally Bangladesh. He seemed to thrive on work in difficult parts of the mission field. -- from Letters to the Editor in current "Adventist Review"

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II. Myanmar Frontier Mission's Report

Saw Thein <savthein2009@gmail.com> March 14:

There have been many changes in Twantay Town since Pastor U Montana Paul and I worked in the school in nearby San Oya Myaing village some 30 years ago. Now we MFM workers are in the area again; on February16 to 22 we conducted meetings and visited twelve villages that covered 49 members' houses in that circle. U Soe Min Khaing, church pastor of Twantay, Saya Z Naung San Aung, and I, began by announcing that the Lord Jesus is about to come, and by calling some young men to be followers of Jesus Christ. We prepare the way by giving the Three Angels' Message. We ha ve made appointments for the next time to conduct Daniel and Revelation Seminars and in some places to conduct cottage meetings for home Bible study.

My wife and I went our itinerary to the middle Myanmar field from February 24 to March 6; we visited Meiktila, Thazi, ShweBo, Kyaukmyaung and Monywa to plant new churches where ever the projects are ready.

The MFM Revival Group will attend the seventh Union-wide Convention of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kalay (March 28-April 1, 2012) and we will conduct revival meetings in April in some villages in Upper Myanmar Mission areas. MFM pioneer training will be conducted in Meiktila in May 2012. We keep moving forward-in faith that God is in charge!

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III. It's Back to Work for Dwayne Harris

Wendy Harris <wrguptill@gmail.com> March 16:

Dwayne writes first:

All in God's Hands

It is Wednesday again, one week since being shot. On Monday the EENT Doc removed the balloon and drain tube from my sinus and the chest specialist doctor was just here and removed my chest drainage tube today as well as the staples in my chest. My body is now free from external accessories and I praise God for the rapid healing and recovery that he has given me this last week.

I wanted to add a little more about how God had everything in place to continue the work that I have been doing with the hanger construction. For the last month I had been working on getting arrangements made for the delivery of 5 container vans that will make up the walls of the hanger. Several things have to be in the right condition in order to have them delivered. #1 the road that reaches the hanger site has to be graveled and culverts installed in several spots, second it had to stop raining long enough for the road and airstrip to dry out in order for the trucks to get in and, third we had to get a piece of equipment that could unload them. Two weeks ago the government was able to gravel the road and install a few culverts so that fixed problem #1. I thought I had things arranged with our neighbor, Jose for the use of an excavator he had, but he had no truck to transport it. He
assured me that it would be back early in the week and they could bring it down. With this planned I arranged for the trucks to deliver all 5 containers on Thursday and kept praying that God would control the weather and keep everything dry. The beginning of the week past and I patiently waited for word from our neighbor. Wednesday morning he arrived and I went with him to look at the excavator. We found it was being worked on and would not be together for another two days. I had just one day as the container vans were to be delivered Thursday. Jose assured me that he had a boom crane that could unload them and it could be driven down there itself without needing a truck to transport it. So we went and looked at that and made arrangements for them to drive down early Thursday morning. We had just arrived back from making these arrangements when the incident with the robbers happened. As I was in the emergency room being prepared for surgery, I gave Bob, our short-term volunteer, instructions on what needed done to prepare for the container arrival and how to place them on the hanger pad.

The next day I learned that everything had been pushed back to Friday for the container van delivery but everything was being arranged and prepared.

Several of the local church members volunteered to help out, and our missionary Briane and his family had just come down from Mayoyo so he helped as well. Briane described to me later that God had put all of the right people in place with all of the necessary skills to make the delivery of the container vans go smoothly and quickly. I left it all in God's hands and the work went forward even with me out of action for a week or two.

I praise God for all of your prayers which I am sure has sped my healing. I am thankful for yet another experience that has increased my faith and trust in God and his plan. Even if we can't see the reason at the time, we can be assured that all things work together for the good of those who love God. I can claim the promise in Romans 8:18 "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."

We see that battle between good and evil intensifying on every side. Everyone that we know personally, it seems that is impacting this world for Christ is being attacked in various ways. The devil works by creating conflict with other people, he exploits any weakness we have that can drag us down or that he can use to harm God's work. He will take Christ's workers down physically through disease, depression, or physical injury. God allows these things at times to increase our faith and trust in him and to develop a more Christ-like character in us. Praise God, all we have to do is to keep looking up and move forward in faith, surrendering daily, knowing that God is in control of all things. Look up for our redemption draweth nigh.

P.S. The guy that shot me was literally beaten and stoned within an inch of his life by the neighbors and police after we left. He was unconscious for a full day after he arrived at the local government hospital. He is now in prison with one of the other robbers. God gave this man a second chance at life as well. Please pray for him that he will surrender his life to Jesus as he has time to sit and contemplate the decisions he has made. We plan on visiting him with the prison ministries group from the local church here.

***Note from Wendy:

It is Friday now. Dwayne was discharged yesterday and we are staying in a house on the hospital compound. He is doing great, just taking it easy. I feel like I've just raised a child in one week :) He still is limited in what he can do but he is improving every day. His right arm and chest is painful, understandably and he can't lift his arm up very far, but everyone is amazed at his speedy recovery. We are so thankful for what God has done.

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Positive Update on Dwayne Harris

Dwayne Harris <wrguptill@gmail.com> March 25:

It has been a week since we were discharged from the Cagayan Valley Adventist Hospital and we are praising God for his provisions yet again. On Thursday last week when we were being discharged Wendy went to the hospital business office to see how much our bill was going to be. When she asked about the amount of the bill they said it was free, Wendy thought they were joking so she asked again and they said there would be no charge for our week stay at the hospital. There was still the fees of the 2 physicians and anesthesiologist who were not Adventist but they said they were negotiating for the amount of those fees. In the end all but the chest specialist wavered all of their charges and the chest specialist reduced his fee significantly.

We were overwhelmed with the love and support of all the hospital staff and church family. Even the doctor that did the CT scans brought us a check to reimburse us for her professional fees. It is truly a blessing to be a part of the family of God.

Some of our doctor friends at the hospital were strongly encouraging us to move into a vacant house on the hospital compound for safety reasons. We consented to staying there for at least a week or two and would be praying about
staying there longer. Although we have not felt like there is great danger at the other house, we knew it would be a lot more convenient and safe for Wendy who is always working near or at the hospital with poor patients. So we decided to move the rest of our things to this house and stay here until we get the hanger complex at the airbase finished. We really enjoy living here in this secure, loving community here at the Adventist Hospital. I am getting better every day and any pain that is left is very minor. It will likely take a few more weeks to get the muscles restored in my chest but I am able to work more and more everyday.

We thank God for this incident which has strengthened our faith and reminded us that when we give all that we are and all that we have to God we have nothing to fear or worry because he has a plan and reason for all that happens to us. We want to thank everyone for their prayers and support for we truly believe it has made my healing much faster.

Dwayne Harris
Philippine Adventist Medical Aviation Services (PAMAS) <pamasmision.org> ~~~~~~~~~~ IV. Life Sketch of Marion June Blanco

The following was read at the memorial service held in the Colledgade Adventist Church on March 17, 2012:

Marion Blanco was born [in 1918] in Winnetka, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Later the family moved to Waukegan, where she attended Broadview Academy. After a year at Southwestern Junior College, she attended and graduated from what is now Andrews University and worked as a Bible instructor with the Illinois Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

One of her first assignments was to work with an evangelist who was scheduled to hold meetings in Springfield, the state capital. She was not only to visit people and give Bible studies, but also to do chalk drawings during each of his appeals, accompanied by a quartet. Other evangelistic meetings Marion participated in were held in tents, halls, and even at the Harris Theater in downtown Chicago; her work included conducting children's meetings and serving as an announcer for the pastor's Sunday sermons on WGN, the Chicago Tribune's radio station.

After she and Jack were married, here work varied as they moved from place to place and raised their children. While Jack was in school, she did colporteur work, took classes with him at the Seminary, and taught everything from grade school to college courses in Africa and the Philippines. While in the Far East, Marion was diagnosed with thyroid cancer which had already spread, had radical neck surgery at the Manila Sanitarium, and then was flown to Loma Linda in California for treatment.

After an amazing recovery, Marion was back into pastoring with her husband, serving as the local church secretary. While Jack was teaching at Colombia Union College, she worked as a unit manager at Washington Adventist Hospital and a secretary at the General Conference Department of Health.

When her husband accepted a call to Southern Adventist University, she served at the University dining room as a hostess until retirement.

After numerous moves over their 60 years of marriage, Jack and Marion were glad to settle in "Happy Valley"--"where" as she said, "you can meet the nicest people."

After some severe struggles, Marion passed to her rest on Sabbath, February 4, 2012, "God's day of rest," just a half-hour before sunset.

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V. Life Sketch of Dr. Galen Homer Coffin [Part 3 of 3]

In 1964 Galen was invited to do a second medical trip to Sabah and Sarawak, Borneo. It was a very interesting and rewarding trip for the entire family. David and Kathy, by then teenagers, learned to pull teeth, give injections and help Beth hand out pills. Galen, son David and some friends did a two day climb of Mt. Kinabalu, which at 13,435', is the highest mountain in SE Asia.

In 1966 the family took a 3 year break for Galen to finish an Anesthesia residency at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, Oregon. When he returned as an anesthesiologist to Singapore in 1969 he found three old non-working donated anesthesia machines at Youngberg. He set about salvaging parts from the three machines to make one working machine which he used for many years.

Galen was a quiet man who didn't like being in the limelight, but enjoyed a good prank. His sense of humor often caught new acquaintances by surprise. One day he quietly cut a small slit at the top of a empty plastic IV bag, filled it with clean water and inserted a live goldfish. He managed to sneak it into the operating room and hang the bottle above the patient, letting the clean water drip slowly under the operating table unnoticed onto the floor. When the anesthesia assistant and surgeon looked up and saw a fish swimming in the patient's IV the surgery came to a standstill. Of course the patient still had their good IV running. The fish in the bag made the rounds of all the hospital departments as one after another played the joke on their fellow staff.
Before Galen and Beth left Singapore they were very involved in helping a group of young people establish a new church in Queenstown. These young people became family members to Galen and Beth.

In 1976 Galen and Beth left Singapore for the last time and Galen joined the anesthesia staff at Kaiser Sunnyside Hospital in Clackamas, Oregon, where he remained until his retirement in 1986. They built a modest home on a hill a mile from the hospital and enjoyed landscaping it and gardening. Galen finished the basement and built a nice deck. During their years in Portland they were members and active leaders in Lents church.

After his retirement he and Beth enjoyed camping in their camper and continued their Singapore hobby of birdwatching. The more remote the spot the better in Galen’s mind. Galen also built and flew radio controlled gliders, volunteered on the staff of Portland Adventist Community Services, as well as fixing and maintaining things at their Lents church. Over the years he climbed Mt. Hood several times, Mt. Whitney and Mt. Adams. They enjoyed many trips to California to visit David and their twin grandsons, Travis and Troy.

Galen often stitched up family members at home rather than pay the ER fees and saved money by neutering quite a few pets on the ironing board or kitchen table for family and friends. Two years ago he put four stitches in his own eyebrow using the mirror after a "minor" bike accident.

In 1987 Galen and Beth flew to Blantyre, Malawi, Africa to volunteer at the clinic there. The added bonus was being near their daughter, Kathy, her husband Terry Phillips and their oldest grandsons, Victor and Sidney who were serving at Malamulo Hospital. Galen planned ahead and carefully packed a lawn mower engine in their luggage. He and the grandsons had a great time building a go cart during those months. The family enjoyed expanding their bird lists and traveling in the game parks together. Kathy and her family joined them for the journey back to the US through India, Singapore and Malaysia. In Singapore David and his family joined them for a grand family reunion visiting old friends and traveling to favorite vacation spots for several weeks.

In 1989 Beth and Galen travelled to Brazil and met Kathy and family on their way home from Africa. Again the family enjoyed traveling together, adding to their bird lists and seeing new sights in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia.

At the age of 80 Galen decided that if grade school kids could use a computer he could too and he became quite proficient with it. With that skill he answered questions for BibleInfo.com gathering a large library of Bible resources and spending many happy hours answering questions from people all around the world.

They made several trips to Guam in the early 90s to visit Kathy and her family who were serving at Guam SDA Clinic. In 1993 Galen volunteered at the Palau SDA Clinic for 6 months. Galen and Beth especially enjoyed the tropical weather and snorkeling on the reefs.

Galen and Beth also made trips to Astoria to help in the building of the 71' sailing catamaran 'Canvas Back' destined to be a clinic ship in the islands of Micronesia. In 1995 Galen flew to the Chuk islands (formerly Truk Islands) in the Pacific Ocean to sail with 'Canvas Back' for a month of medical and dental clinics on many of the remote islands. There were 11 people in the group including the captain and a cook. Sleeping quarters were in the hollow metal hull of the catamaran and could be stifling hot. Some nights Galen brought his bedding top side and slept on the deck under the stars. Bathing was done on a platform off the back of the boat with Joy dishwashing soap -- the only soap that lathers up in salt water, and a slight rinse with precious rainwater.

In 2000, Galen and Beth, Kathy, niece Donna and nephew Jeff joined a two week tour to China, visiting former FEA sites in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and the former Shanghai Sanitarium and Hospital. At age 80 Galen astounded the tour guides by climbing to the top of a section of the Great Wall.

In 2003 just as Galen and Beth were preparing to move from their house on the hill to the Village Retirement Center, Beth suffered a ruptured cerebral aneurysm which resulted in permanent brain injury and dementia. Since then Beth is not able to reason, or process time. Everything and everyone she thinks of in her mind or imagination is reality to her. She always recognized Galen and her family members and remains happy and cheerful. Galen settled into the Village alone in April, 2003. Beth lives in Powell Valley Memory Care on the property adjoining the Village. Since then Galen rarely missed a night of visiting Beth to read to her, pray with her and tuck her in.

Galen faithfully took Beth with him each Sabbath to the Village church.

Last September they celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary. Galen's last day was spent visiting with his daughter Kathy and son-in-law Jim, sharing stories, shopping at Radio Shack for a new hearing amplifier for Beth which she used during their visit that evening. Galen died peacefully in his sleep early the next morning, Feb. 3, at the age of 91 at his home in Gresham, Oregon. Beth has been told of his death, but has no ability to comprehend the information and is not in a state of grief.
Galen is survived by his wife, Beth, of Gresham, Oregon, daughter Kathy Marshall and husband, Jim, of Salem, Oregon; son David and wife Candi of San Bernardino, California; sister Hui Sui Wan of Singapore; brother Harold and sister-in-law Emma Coffin of Calhoun, Georgia; grandsons Victor and Sidney Phillips, Travis and Troy Coffin, great grandchildren Chloe and Ryder; sister-in-law June Armstrong; nieces Janny, Karen, Ann, Glenda, Kris, Trac, Shannon and nephews Frank, Kok Choy and Kok Seng and Jeff.

[End of Part 3 of 3]

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