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Bette Brown Bertochini <bette.bertochini@earthlink.net> April 22:

On April 13, 2012 Elder Gilbert Bertochini passed to his rest after a very long illness. His service in the Far Eastern Division spanned the years 1955 to 1970 and included service first in the South China Island Union Mission and then in the Far Eastern Division as the Director, Adventist Youth/Temperance Department. In 1995 he retired from the General Conference as Associate Director of the Church Ministries Department, a supervisor and coordinator for Sabbath School Ministries; Editor, earliteen and junior SS lesson quarterlies, and Director for the Office of Records Analysis. Youth will remember him as "Uncle Bert" -- the editor of Winner Magazine. He leaves to mourn Bette Brown Bertochini, and two sons Bill (Brenda), and John (Francisca), five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one great-great grandson. Bette resides with her son John, in Richmond, Texas.

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Life Sketch:

Gilbert James Bertochini, after a lifetime of service to God, passed away on April 13, 2012. Born March 22, 1924, in Chicago, Illinois. He was the youngest of four children of William and Grace Bertocchini who emigrated from Italy in the 1800’s. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather, great & great-great grandfather. He married Bette Marland Brown on August 8, 1948. Their love story began when they met at Andrews University in 1947 and spanned more than sixty-four years. Their life together was one of abiding love, travel and adventures that most people can only dream about. He served his country during World War II in New Guinea and the Philippines, earning a bronze medal for his service. After serving his country he began his education at Emanuel Missionary College to prepare him for his passion to serve God as a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church. He dedicated his life to spreading the Gospel as a pastor, missionary and in a leadership position in the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists until he retired in July, 1990. As a missionary he lived with his family in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore and became conversant in the Chinese language. He traveled extensively throughout the world during his career and even after he retired, spreading the Word of God. He will be remembered lovingly by generations of young people as "Uncle Bert", editor of the Winner Magazine. He enjoyed playing the piano, baseball, golf and tennis. He was a fan of the Chicago White Sox baseball team, regardless of how they were doing in the standings. He loved to tell his life adventures. His grandchildren will always cherish the memory of 'story time with Grandpa'. He was preceded in death by his parents William & Grace Bertocchini and sisters Dina Schuster & Amneris Rasmussen. He is survived by his loving wife, Bette Brown Bertochini. Brother, George & wife, Wilda. Sons: Bill & wife, Brenda, John & wife, Francisca. Grandchildren:

Rhonda Forcum & husband, Chris, Michelle Donaldson & husband Zack, Melinda Spradley & husband, Kirk, Scot Bertochini, Heather Meitzler & husband, Joe.

daughter, Melinda Li. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy

II. Three Brief Obituaries in the April 26 Adventist Review

1. Josefa Alsaybar-- born November 19, 1921, Philippines; died October 18, 2011, Avon Park, Florida. She was a denominational teacher in the Philippines. She is survived by two daughters: Dulce Tangunan and Cora Alsaybar, and three grandchildren.

2. Wilbur A. Burton-- born March 20, 1933, Okla.; died December 5, 2011. He served as teacher/principal in the Idaho Conference, and as a missionary in Guam, Palau, Japan, and Vietnam. He later served as an educational superintendent, pastor, and youth and trust services director in the Kansas-Nebraska Conference. He is survived by his wife, Esther Louise; one son Reginald; and three daughters, Mary, Joy, and Wilma.

3. Lois May (Shepherdson) Watts-- born May 25, 1919, Kirksville, Mo.; died November 13, 2011, Loma Linda, Calif. She and her husband were conference workers in Kansas, Missouri, and Southeastern California, and served as missionaries in Okinawa, Japan. She is survived by her husband Carl; one son, Howard; one daughter, Kit; and two grandchildren.

III. Letters

1. Philip Jones &pjjsdm@gmail.com> April 19:
   Loved the news about China! I got an e-mail from Dottie Nelson of her attendance at the 100th. anniversary of the work in China. She is now doing mission work with her sons in Saudia Arabia. She and her deceased husband, Wilbur K. Nelson, were teaching at Clear Water Bay College when we were student missionaries there in 1964-65.

2. Joy Ramley <joyramley@hotmail.com> April 20:
   We know and remember Mr. Wendell Wilcox when he was in Indonesia. Our deepest sympathy for the family. May the Lord bless and comfort you in His loving way.
   --Family Ramley (Jakarta, Indonesia)

IV. Helen Lee Seems Near End of Life

Dayton Chong <daytonch@aol.com> forwards letter from "Fred & Shirley" <ppekchu@aol.com> April 20:
   We called Mrs. Lee last week when Fred and Aura were by her side. Her mind was still clear but her voice weak. She's not sick, not in pain or any distress, just very weak because she has not been eating well, not even swallowing Ensure or water...
   Today, we received words from Fred and Aura to say that she may only have few days and asked us to e-mail to Chinese friends. We don't have many contacts so we ask you to tell other friends about the poor condition of the much-loved Mrs. Helen Lee.

V. Sharing God's Love in China

from the General Conference Office of Adventist Mission

"Deng is a Global Mission pioneer in eastern China. She dreamed of starting a house church in her elderly mother's home in a village with no Seventh-day Adventist church. Deng traveled to the village twice a week to share God's love with her mother's neighbors.

"She ministered to the elderly and the sick whom who met during her neighborhood visits, and then she invited them to hear God's message of love. A little group began meeting in Deng's mother's home, and within a year some 40 people were attending. They crowded into the small home, filling every available space.

"Someone complained to the authorities about the unauthorized meetings being held in the house, and the police shut down the house church. Deng went to the government and explained that she was helping the people. 'Some are old, and others were sick; they have no one to care for their needs. Go and ask them who is caring for them,' she challenged.

"The local people begged the police not to close down the church. "Deng is a good person. She is helping us,' they said. The police allowed the house church to continue meeting while Deng sought formal permission to find a church in which to worship.
"The church members found a small house to rent, and converted it into a church. But soon it, too, was too small and when Deng asked for land on which to build a church, the local authorities couldn't help her.

"The congregation found an old movie theater for sale, and Deng requested permission to buy it. But she learned that a businessman and could afford to pay far more than Deng's congregation. The believers prayed that God would influence the government to let them buy the building. But the price rose, and the congregation had to release its bid to bid to buy the cinema.

"Deng felt impressed to return to the government and ask them to intervene the businessman, asking him to let the church buy the cinema. The official explained Deng's work in the village to the businessman, and he withdrew his bid to buy the building.

"Deng's congregation didn't have the money to buy the building, but the 46 Adventist churches in the region agreed to help buy the cinema. Within two years the little congregation grew to some 150 people.

"Global Mission pioneers such as Deng work in many regions of China and throughout the unreached world, sharing God's love and reaching souls who would otherwise might never hear the message of salvation. To meet more Global Mission pioneers, visit <www.Global-Mission.org> ~~~~~~~~~ VI. What's the News & What's New at CAA?

--from "Whispers from the Hills," Newsletter of Chiangmai Adventist Academy

***School Sign

After many years the school sign has been replaced at the entrance to our school. The previous sign was a gift of a graduating class over 20 years ago. The new one is a gift of the Alumni of CAA. We are thankful for their support and are very happy with our new sign.

***Baptism

January 23-28 was our second term week of prayer here at CAA. It was led by Pastor Samart. He had been pastor of our Maetaeng Church for a few years about 10 years ago. It was a pleasure to have him back to speak to us and our students. Seventeen students and four adults were baptized. Please pray for these new members.

***Graduation

February 27 was graduation day for our 91 M6 students. It was a time of rejoicing for their completion of the course of studies, but also sad to see them leave the school.

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VII. SULADS' Fred Webb Visits East Visayan Conference

By Fred L. Webb, March 18-21, 2012

I arrived in Tacloban about 5:30 pm March 18 and was met by the Conference President, Pastor Benjamin Mahinay, and taken to the Conference Office guest room. It was raining. Dropping my luggage there, I was taken to the home of one of the ladies who work for the conference who provided a great meal. Her daughter, Dollis, came about half way through the meal. We had known her at MVC when we worked there so it was a delightful time. We returned to the office where I slept for the night.

Monday morning, the conference president, treasurer, ministerial director, and secretary joined me in the van to go to our farthest destination with was Llorente. We arrived just as the group had returned from the cemetery where they had buried a young leader of the church only 31 years old who died of a heart attack on Saturday night.

We went to a local café for lunch. After lunch we started out for the baptismal site. It had been raining constantly since my arrival. The rivers were swollen and the current was swift. Just inland from the Pacific Ocean we found a small cove of muddy water where the baptism of 14 was conducted.

Wilfredo Fugoso was formerly an associate publishing director but was not re-elected so was assigned as a Gospel Outreach (GO) worker. He has been working in Llorente since August. The first baptism was 43, the second was 4 and this was 14 making a total of 61. He is using literature evangelism as a means of opening the work in this area. He has had some assistance from other literature evangelists. After the congratulations were made, we hurried off to the next baptism.

About 36 km south we came to General MacArthur where Saldy is the GO worker. We have had GO workers there now for 3 years but Saldy has been there only since November. He had prepared 10 to add to the 40 or so already baptized but since it was raining, 6 did not come. The 7th was away in Manila. We went to a quiet ocean site to baptize the 3. It was a beautiful scene with the Pacific Ocean and some jutting rocks in the background.
After the baptism, we went to a "Pension House," which we would call a motel. We would spend the night there, but first we had a worship service with the newly baptized and other members of the local congregation. At the conclusion of the worship service, Helen announced that the previous day was Saldy's birthday and she had planned a birthday dinner for him. Helen is a Filipina who met Christ while in Orlando, Florida and baptized there (another story for another time), but is now home on vacation. Helen has a degree in hotel management and works in a 5 star hotel in Ontario, Canada, at this time. She put on a great evening meal for us with many of my favorite Filipino foods. We retired early for the night.

Tuesday morning, March 20, we arose and went to breakfast at Helen's house just across from the Pension House. Again, it was exquisite. Helen is well known in General MacArthur as she as well as her father grew up in that area on the island of Samar. Her father was at one time the mayor of General MacArthur but has since passed on. She determined to plant a church in her home town when she came on vacation only to find that GO was already there. She has determined now to provide a church for them to worship. She has searched out a couple of properties that we observed before leaving. She will try to raise the money to buy the lot and build the church. I told her we could channel the funds through GO as this was a GO church.

Leaving General MacArthur, we headed back towards Tacloban but stopped in Giporlos where Jesse has been working for 2 years. The post was earlier filled by Paul for 1 year, so there has been a GO presence there for 3 years. They have a membership of about 20, with 12 more preparing for baptism next Sabbath. Most of these are youth, but there are also a few adults. They are meeting in the home of one of the members.

From there, we went on farther towards Tacloban to Marabut where we have also had a GO worker, Carl Glenn, for 3 years. There is a new church building under construction there on a lot purchased by the conference and the building donated by the next-door hardware store owned by a Seventh-day Adventist brother who was a student at Mountain View College while we were there. At the moment there is no GO worker assigned in Marabut but that vacancy will be filled April 1st.

Three of our GO workers have been called to be district pastors due to some attrition in the conference work force. Thus the replacement of those workers. One of these former GO workers, Jon-Bye, was assigned in Allen on the very northern tip of Samar Island. He has been asked to be a district pastor there in the same area so is no longer a GO worker but continues to nurture the group that he raised up in Allen. His replacement on the list of workers was Wilfredo in Llorente.

The GO workers are playing an important role in opening the work on Samar Island, claimed to be the 3rd largest island in the Philippines after Luzon and Mindanao. There are vast areas where there is no Adventist presence. Those large areas are now being penetrated by these 4 GO workers. It will take many years to have reached the whole island at this rate but progress is being made.

The administration of East Visayan Conference are very grateful for the assistance they are receiving from Gospel Outreach.

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BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

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END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS