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Daniel & Tesha Bair, New Missionaries to Thailand

Daniel and Tesha Bair <missions@danielbair.com> May 16:

Countdown to Thailand!

We are excited that we only have 48 days until we fly to the great Kingdom of Thailand! The tickets are purchased, and we are praying earnestly that our hearts, home and finances will all be in order for this upcoming change in our lives.

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All-Asia TV Studio (Daniel's Call):
Can you imagine that the average Thai cannot just go down to a Christian bookstore, or walk into a Christian Church, or tune their TV or radio randomly, to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ that we hear so often in America? It's true! There is such a great need for media to share our precious Jesus with those who are longing to hear about Him!

The All-Asia TV Studio is where Daniel has been called to serve. It’s main goal is to serve the Thai people groups by creating a place for them to create quality TV programming and DVD's for the spread of the gospel, and especially the Three Angel's Messages of Revelation 14. It is also hoped that other countries might be served, that Asian languages all over the 10/40 window might also have broadcasting materials or video programs for individuals to share with their friends. This is why the studio has the words "All-Asia" in it.

Bill and Venie Osborn are directing the studio, and although they report that it is not ready yet for full TV programming production, we have heard that they just started to duplicate and distribute evangelistic DVD’s in the Karen language. We have not heard of any Thai TV programs that have yet been produced.

The building is still in progress of being built and paid for, but there has been encouraging progress on both of those. Building progress includes a filming "set", a sturdy lighting grid above it, and strong tables to hold video production equipment. There is only $20,000 left to pay off the construction loan.

Of course, there is still more to do to get it ready. The Osborns tell us that the next set to be constructed will be a kitchen set, so that cooking school programs can be made, in the Thai languages, to share the wonderful health message we love! There will also be more development in the studio equipment, which Daniel is looking forward to helping with.

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Education Opportunity Program (Tesha’s Call):
This is the latest development in our Thailand plans, and is quite exciting to me! I have been asked to serve as Head Girl's Dean for the Education Opportunity Foundation. This girl's dorm has about 20 girls, most of whom are from grades 9 through 12. Duties will be leading daily worship and encouraging these students in music, taking pictures of and writing newsletters about the students for their sponsors, and generally nurturing and loving them. I will need to stay close to the dorm "home" morning and evening, to be available for the girls and help supervise them. It's like my family gets expanded by 10 fold!

The Education Opportunity Program was started by Pastor Phamor Poopichitprai. Pastor Phamor, in The Karen Outlook News March 2011, wrote about why he began this project:

"My reason for starting our Education Opportunity Program was that a few years ago there were children in the villages in Chiang Mai, Tak and Mae Hong Son provinces that wanted further study after they finished grade school, fourth grade, which was as far as they could progress at home. These boys and girls would be about twelve to fifteen
years old. They would go into the cities so they could work and study at the same time. Many found a good boss and they would study and work hard and some finished high school and attended colleges and became teachers but quite a few of them found a bad boss who would make them work hard so that they would never get a chance to study. Some were even forced to become prostitutes. ...

"When I found out about all of this I tried to bring some girls from the villages to the school close by here in Chiang Mai so they could study there and live in the dormitory at the school, but the nearby school is growing so big and the dormitories are so crowded with young people that it is hard to control them. That's why I thought of having our own smaller dormitory. We can keep them here and let them go to the academy close by."

Morning and evening worship are essential for the Education Opportunity Program to be effective. Actually, both Daniel and I, and our kids (Natanyah & Nathaniel), will go to the girl's dorm for morning and evening worship. I am so happy to have this opportunity and responsibility.

[The Bair's home church is the little SDA Village Chapel in McDonald, Tennessee which is the home church that Evelyn and I have been attending since we moved to this area some 15 years ago. Several of our overseas-based children and grandchildren maintain membership in this little mission-minded church in which there are several other retired missionary families.

CHT/sr.

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II. Death of Elder Abel Leung

Cho Paul <paulcho99@yahoo.com.hk> May 17

Weekly Newsletter & Church Bulletin for Chino Valley Chinese SDA Church:

Our Church Family extends our deepest condolence to the family of Elder Abel Leung, who passed away May 11, 2012. Abel was an elder of Los Angeles Chinese Church and San Gabriel Valley Chinese Church. He was actively involved in Sam Yuk School Alumni. A memorial service will be held at Rose Hill at 3:00 pm today. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to San Gabriel Valley Chinese SDA church in his memory. We pray for Lily, her three children and families. May they find comfort and strength in the Lord during this difficult period.

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III. Remembering Helen and Milton Lee

Lawrence Geraty <lgeraty@lasierra.edu> May 18:

I have an interesting experience to add to those that have already been shared. When China opened up to American visitors, the U.S. Government sent me (among other American university presidents) to inspect how China was treating its minority university students. While we were in Xian I visited Li Wei San, a colleague of my Dad's when they worked together at the Adventist college near Chungking during World War II. When he learned that I would be visiting Kunming as well, he told me of another student of my Dad's, a female pastor in Kunming who was pastoring forty different house churches in the city! He arranged for me to meet her. When I learned how busy this 80-year-old pastor was, just for fun, I said, "To be doing all this, you must be ordained." "Yes," she said. Thinking that she misunderstood me, I said, "I'm talking about ministers of the church laying their hands on you to set you apart for the ministry." "Yes," she replied again. When I inquired as to how this happened, she said, "Well, Milton and Helen Lee were here recently and saw what I was doing and said, 'You need to be ordained,' so they took me into the back bedroom of my house and ordained me!" While I have always admired the Lees since childhood (Fred Lee and I were playmates in China), my esteem for them went up a notch higher! True missionaries, they followed the leading of God's Spirit, with or without the hierarchical blessing of the brethren!

Lawrence T. Geraty
President Emeritus
Executive Director, LSU Foundation
La Sierra University

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IV. Remembering Phaam Thien & Wartime Trip in Vietnam

David Gouge <grandpag30@yahoo.com> May 19:

Pastor Phaam Thien and I were good friends. We made several trips together while in Vietnam. He told me several stories about what happened to workers during the war.

One trip we took I will never forget. Pastor Than, pastor of the Danang church, wanted to start a school in Tam Ky. The mission committee asked Pastor Thien and me to go talk with him to see if it was possible.
The next morning we went to the airport to see if we could get a ride on a US plane to Tam Ky. We signed in as numbers 15 and 16 on a C-130. I told the man in charge that I needed Pastor Thien as a translator. I was the only American on the list. About 11 a.m. the announcement was made that the following 11 people would be on the flight to Tam Ky and beyond.

We landed in a small pasture. As we were leaving the plane, I noticed that there was not a building in sight. A jeep with an American civilian driver was parked on the other side of a barbed wire fence.

"Hey, Mac," the load master called, "are you going into Tan Ky?"
"Yea," he called back.
"Can you take these two men with you?" he asked.
"Yea," he said. Turning to us as we came down the steps, he said, "Climb in."

As we drove toward the city, Mac asked, "What are you up here for?"
"We are checking on the possibility of starting a school here," I replied.
"That sounds good," he commented.

"We need to get back to Danang today," Pastor Thien put in. "We have a trip to Hue tomorrow with the Beaver Group."

"Fat chance," he grunted.
"Couldn't we ride the helicopter?" Thien asked.

"It takes only two passengers from here each day and there are 15 on the waiting list. Don't count on that," was his answer.

"What about the bus?" Thien asked.
"Oh, they run," was all he said.

We got out at the church and met Pastor Than. We talked for several minutes about the possibility of a school and decided it would be a good thing.

"When does the last bus leave for Danang?" Pastor Thien asked.
"3:30," came Than's quick response. It was 3:15.

"Is it safe for me to ride that bus?" I asked.
"Oh, yes. I ride it all the time."

That didn't give me much assurance.

We continued to talk as we walked to the bus stop. When we reached the bus we saw several ARVN soldiers getting on. This made me feel better.

We found two window seats across from each other.

A few miles out of town, some of the civilians and a few soldiers got off.

A little farther and more got off. About 20 miles out of town the rest of the soldiers and all but two ladies got off.

A guard came onto the bus and looked around. He looked a little funny when he saw me. He spotted a bag of rice under one of the lady's seat.

"Where are you going?" he asked.

"To Danang," she lied.

"You can get more rice when you get there," he growled. With that he picked up the rice and threw it off the bus.

The bus driver looked in his rear view mirror and saw me. A big grin spread across his face.

I then knew that we were about to enter Viet Cong territory. "I wonder how much money you see in me," I thought.

About three miles farther all the other passengers got off.

I was carrying a movie camera. Every time I started to take pictures, the bus would stop. I was a little nervous when we stopped by field where several were taking pictures and we moved on. men were working. They stopped working and looked at the bus. I quickly quit taking pictures and we moved on. We could see F-16s making strikes about half a mile from the road.

Finally we reached the next town. A Vietnamese officer walked around the bus. As soon as he saw me he quickly walked around to where Thien was sitting.

"Which way are you going?" he demanded.

"Danang," Thien replied.

"Good, if you were going to Tam Ky, I would not let that American go any farther," was his comment.

We were at the Beaver office at 8 the next morning. Charles Martin, a Beaver pilot stationed in Saigon, had arranged with his friends in Danang to fly us to Hue, the old imperial capital of Vietnam.
"Well, what did you two do yesterday?" one of the American soldiers asked.
"We went to Tam Ky" Thien replied.
"How did you get back?", was the next question.
Thien sheepishly answered, "We rode the bus."
A major burst out of a back office. "You did what?" he shouted.
"Rode the bus to Tam Ky," Thien repeated.
"You are the only American to come through that 70-mile stretch of Viet Cong territory in over three years in anything less than a heavily armed 3-truck convoy and the only ones to come out to tell about it," the major explained.
I silently prayed again, thanking God for His protection.

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V. Mission Story from the Philippines --"Our Great Healer"

Elsa Malig-on, a SALUDS, was a student missionary teacher from Mountain View College when she wrote this story for the GC's Office of Adventist Mission.

"Three-year-old Jenny never missed the morning and evening worships in our village. So when she didn't attend one morning, I missed her.

"Where's Jenny?" I asked.
"She's sick, teacher!" one boy answered.

"After worship I went to check on Jenny and found her lying in her family's one-room house, writhing with pain. I prayed for her and mixed some simple herbal medicine for her. Soon Jenny fell asleep.

"When I returned later to check on Jenny, I found several traditional healers in the family's home. They were performing sacrifices and rituals to heal Jenny. I knew that if I tried to stop these false healers I would be killed. I found Jenny's mother sitting outside and told her, 'We must pray to God in heaven to heal Jenny. He is the true Healer, the greatest healer of all.' She stared at me as if to say, 'You are new here; you do not know that we do these rituals every time someone is sick in the village.'

'We prayed for Jenny at school that day. But after school, Jenny's brother told me, 'My father said that you must not come to our house today because you will disturb the healers.' My heart sank. I wanted to help but I couldn't. 'Lord,' I prayed, 'please help Jenny. If it's Your will, heal her. Help her parents know that You are the true God.'

"But Jenny's condition worsened and the family took here to the forest to be closer to the spirits they worship. The healers continued their sacrifices, and we continued to pray for Jenny.

"Two days later, as we prepared to welcome the Sabbath, Jenny and her mother appeared at our door, smiling broadly. 'We did everything our rituals decreed, but Jenny didn't get better,' she said. 'Finally we prayed to your God. We promised Him that if He would heal Jenny, we would give our lives to Him. As soon as we prayed, Jenny's pain left. The next morning we awoke to hear Jenny singing the songs that you taught her. I heard her thanking God for healing her. Then she came to me and asked, 'Mama, can we go home now? I want to attend worship.'

"Today Jenny's entire family attends worship in the village church. They plan to be baptized as soon as possible."

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VI. Karen Camp Meeting Attracts Large Crowd

Phamor Phoopichitprai (Aw Gaw Paul) <steverawlings8@gmail.com>

Over 500 Karen Adventist church members registered at our annual camp meeting April 3-7, 2012. The crowd was significantly larger as not all attendees registered. Long distances and rough roads did not deter Karen students, lay people and pastors from gathering for five days of spiritual blessings and fellowship centered around the theme of "Redeeming the Time".

Featured speakers this year were David Fam and Andy Chung of Malaysia, who presented messages on the history of the great controversy between good and evil, and on the prophecies of Daniel. Joining them was Chaplain Shari Chamberlain of Florida, who gave new insights on intercessory prayer and how to exercise one's dominion as a child of the King. Many of the messages were videotaped by the All-Asia Media Center and may be viewed on the website.

One of the highlights of Camp meeting 2012 was the beautiful music provided by the Mae La refugee camp EOP children orchestra. In addition, there were many vocalists and instrumentalists from each area who blessed us with their thrilling renditions of familiar hymns.

Mornings and evenings were given to formal meetings. Afternoons consisted of lots of music and a variety of seminars. One after another of the early Karen convert members and pioneers were called forward during Sabbath
School as the history of their conversion was recounted. It was awe-inspiring to realize that from just one or two hard-won converts during the early years, the work among the Karen has mushroomed to the thousands.

When asked what he or she took away from this camp meeting, one person felt especially uplifted by the rich quality of the music. Another said it was an understanding of how very deep the Father's love is for His children in the sermons of David Fam and Andy Chung.

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