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I. The Bairst Go to Thailand--Part 1 of 2

The Bair Family <missions@danielbair.com> July 23

[The Bairst' account of their preparation for and actually going to Thailand as missionaries in 2012 reminded me of our similar experience more than half a century earlier when we too, with small children, prepared and actually traveled on a similar mission. We kept a diary of those busy and exciting days and still enjoy looking back over and re-living those 1952 "Sixty-six Days to Bombay," for we traveled on an ocean freighter. --CHT/sr]

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The last month has been a whirlwind of activity, but we have finally arrived in Thailand!

A little over a month ago we loaded up our storage trailer and headed off to visit family for one last time before flying to the other side of the world. We are very grateful for all the volunteers who helped us pack our belongings into our PUP semi-trailer for storage (from June 6th to June 12th). Packing sure would have taken us a lot longer without all our friends!

The drive out east was a bit suspenseful. We left on Tuesday, June 12th, and soon found that the car was running rough when under load/accelerating.

Then the next day, we found that it was also overheating, and over the course of the next few days we had to stop often to let it cool down during the heat of the day. It seemed that our car's radiator was too small and too old to pull the small (smallest) U-Haul trailer that carried our luggage. We prayed a lot, and asked close friends to pray too, especially since we wanted to get to our West Virginia destination before Sabbath began on Friday evening (June 15th). Daniel's dad drove several hours to meet us in southern West Virginia to pickup our luggage so we could return the U-Haul trailer and lighten the burden on our little car. I am happy and thankful to report that God gave us what we requested, and we were able to rest on Sabbath at Daniel's parents' house.

When we got to Daniel's parent's house, we found that our passports had arrived with Thailand multiple-entry visas valid for one year. This was another blessing as we had heard it was rather difficult to get the "one-year" Thai visas now. Also, our International Drivers licenses had arrived so when we need we can drive vehicles in Thailand.

So, With more prayers over our little car, we traveled the next weekend to visit Tesh's family who were at Michigan Camp-meeting. We were happy and blessed to see more family, and we enjoyed a few of the meetings, also.

Pulling away from there, our little girl said, "Grandma Sue too far away."

(She said that about Grandma Bair and Great-Grandma Gilmore too!) Family is so precious! We had stopped the night to visit on the way up and on the way down at Tesh's Grandma Ellie Gilmore's house.

We pushed and got back to West Virginia in time so we could attended a memorial service for a young girl from Toll Gate SDA Church who had passed away from cancer. And our final weekend in West Virginia, we attended the Toll Gate SDA Church Reunion. Sharing both sad and happy times bonded us closer with the church family there.

The last two weeks of June were also filled with finishing the last business transactions needed before leaving the U.S.A., and with finalizing which items would come with us to Thailand. The first three days of July we spent in Ashley, Ohio, where Daniel's brother lives. Along with a bit of family time, we had to re-pack and weigh each piece of luggage before we could leave for the Columbus Airport.

We were also able to go to the nearest Apple store and buy the computers we have been using in our work here. Daniel's former laptop screen had just burned out, making his computer unusable, and my laptop was barely able to keep from overheating, even with an extra fan under it and air-conditioning running (which we don't have in Thailand).
So both our computers had to be replaced. We were so thankful for a donation that came in during the last month to provide for the purchase of both computers. We had in our budget a category for replacement computers, but were willing to surrender such to get to Thailand earlier.

We are also thankful to report that we met our launch goal of $20,000 by the time we left for Thailand. We had earlier set our launch goal at $40,000 with half of that for a vehicle purchase, but later we found out that a vehicle was available for us to use while in Thailand.

Early morning, on the 4th of July, we headed to the Columbus Airport. We first flew from Columbus to Chicago, then Chicago to Seoul, Korea, then Seoul to Bangkok, Thailand. Along the way we were blessed by many friendly airline staff. First, we got a discount on our luggage check-in, then in each airplane the stewardesses helped us carry some of our luggage, so we could handle the children.

Since many of the passengers were Asian on the last two flights, we heard Korean and Thai being spoken. The Asian culture of being very relaxed with raising children made the long flight more pleasant for us, because there were kind glances (instead of annoyed) when any of the kids on the flight cried or screamed. Our kids (Na-na, our two year-old girl, and Sa-no, our one year-old boy) didn’t scream too much, and they had a lot of good naps. When awake, Na-na and Sa-no enjoyed playing with the remote controls on our airline seats, pretending to call their friends.

II. Death/Life Sketch of Macie Louise Gibb

Phyllis J. Eisele <pjeisele@earthlink.net> July 20:

My mother and wife of A. Edwin Gibb, slipped quietly away in her sleep on July 4, 2012. Memorial services will be this weekend in Montgomery, Alabama, and next weekend in Columbia Missouri.

Contact information for my Dad is:

Edwin Gibb
3363 Marler Road
Pike Road, Alabama 36064
Phone # 537-446-6101

Life Sketch -- Macie Louise Gibb--Missouri Version

Macie Louise Rice was born in Boone County, Missouri on June 20, 1919 to Larkin and Bessie Rice. She was the 10th of 13 children all of whom preceded her in death. She was a graduate of Hickman High School and met her future husband, Edwin Gibb during her high school years. They dated for four years and were married on September 11, 1941. This happy union created four children, Kenneth Gibb, Phyllis Eisele, Keith Gibb and Glenn Gibb and the family was pleased to help celebrate a 70th wedding anniversary last fall.

In 1947 Macie left her home, her family and everything and everyone she knew in order to answer the call of mission service with her husband. The call involved living in post war Philippines and later in Singapore for a combined mission tour of 19 years. Her extensive world travels included Austria, Canada, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan and Vietnam. She loved music and especially enjoyed the music in Vienna, Austria.

This shy and reserved country girl quickly needed to adjust to living in a broken country, hearing different languages, dealing with foreign currency and traveling on public transportation since she never wanted to learn to drive an automobile. She carried a heavy domestic load raising four children while her husband traveled to fulfill his work responsibilities.

She was a devoted daughter, sister, wife, mother and friend. She established lifelong friendships with local residents in the Philippines and Singapore as well as a 50 year friendship with Marvel Bedwell, a fellow missionary. One of her Filipino friends travelled from California to Missouri to join friends and family in celebrating Macie and Edwin’s 50th wedding anniversary.

In her role as a missionary pastor’s wife she was active in ministry. She noticed that there was virtually no programming in Sabbath School for cradle roll and kindergarten age children. She demonstrated outstanding leadership in the development of children’s ministry in the Philippines. At that time there were no visual aids for telling Bible stories and every week she created her own from magazine covers, magazine articles and cutting up books. She did this every week for every story. Church leaders in Manila visited her Sabbath School classroom to observe her methods and soon they were adopted in churches and schools across the country. Altogether, she taught Sabbath school from the age of 16 until well into her 80’s when illness prevented her from continuing to do so.
She had the gift of hospitality and any stranger was welcome in her home for a visit and a meal. She was an outstanding cook and her recipes still bless many a mealt ime.

She suffered from Alzheimer’s disease for 13 years. For 11 years she was cared for at home by her husband. She died peacefully in her sleep on the morning of July 4, 2012, at age 93 and is survived by her husband Edwin, four children, 10 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, family, friends and a host of adults who were once children listening to her teach them about the love of Jesus.

III. Death of Gloria Keizer

Gloria Keizer passed away July 1. She served the church 47 years, most of them teaching in such places as the Philippines, Indonesia, West New Guinea and Patchogue, Long Island, NY. She also managed the Adventist Book Center in Surinam. She retired in 1996. She was married to Dr. Leslie Keizer. She is survived by four children and nine grandchildren. Services were held July 5.

---from the July/August 2012 ARW Newsletter of the Adventist Retired Workers Club of Colledagel. Tennessee Area

IV. Pilipino Prisoner Becomes Preacher

Conrado Andoy, age 65, shares his faith in central Philippines

"I was arrested and jailed for a murder I did not commit. I had been a lay pastor in a little church before I was imprisoned, and I was angry at this injustice. Then a group of Seventh-day Adventists visited the prison and I heard their message of hope. But I found it difficult to accept the Sabbath. In the same prison was a Seventh-day Adventist man who had also been wrongfully accused of a crime. He encouraged me to follow God’s commandments.

"I challenged the Seventh-day Adventists to bring me another Bible in another version that clearly stated that the Sabbath is Saturday. Only then would I believe. They brought me a Catholic Bible, which names Saturday as the Sabbath. I thought a long time about the law and the Commandments. If it’s true that the law was done away with, then why am I in prison for a crime I didn’t commit? If the law is done away with then all the law should have been done away with. It struck me like lightening! The law wasn’t done away with at all, and therefore the Sabbath was still binding.

"Convinced of this truth, I shared this message with other prisoners, and began studying the Bible with others who wanted to know the truth. Some of these prisoners asked to be baptized even before I was. But I hesitated. I wanted to wait until I was freed to be baptized so I could profess my faith as a free man.

"As I waited for my freedom, I had a troubling thought. What will happen to me if I put off following God and I die? I decided to follow God’s leading and be baptized while I was still in prison.

"I remained in prison long after I was supposed to be freed. But God used me to lead others to Christ in the prison.

"At last I was freed. I became a lay worker under a Seventh-day Adventist pastor. I gave Bible studies, and in five year I led more than 150 people to Christ. One congregation with 30 members worships under a mango tree for they have no other place to meet.

"I harbor no ill feelings for those who wrongfully accused me of murder, for if I hadn’t gone to prison I might not have found this wonderful Seventh-day Adventist faith."

---from the GC Office of Adventist Mission

V. Chinese Books for Chinese Colleges

When Mrs. Rose Shim died recently, among her things were two boxes of Chinese books designated as gifts for Chinese SDA College. Since she and her husband, Dr. C. P. Shim, worked at both our colleges in Taiwan and in Hong Kong, it seems appropriate that one of these institutions should receive these books for their libraries. Their son J. T. Shim, who was a secondary school student in Hong Kong Adventist College when we were on the staff there, has left these boxes with us. Does any reader of this newsletter know of anyone going in that direction who would be able to take some or all of these books in their shipment? Let me know and I will send the boos to them. --CHT/Sr.

VI. A SULADS Story, "I Want SULADS"

by Ranny de Vera

I was in Tawi-tawi visiting the work we were doing in those far-flung islands, when I received an urgent request for a meeting with a school principal. Curious what this meeting was about I went to the appointed place. Arriving early I was briefed that the principal of two large remote islands, namely Bilatan Tainga and Bilatan Halo, was coming to meet with me with a special request.

The principal arrived and after the pleasantries he humbly asked for SULADS teachers to come to his islands. I inquired, "Why do you want SULADS when you can get teachers from the local Department of Education anytime you need additional teachers?"
His response caught me by surprise. He said, "I have witnessed first-hand how SULADS work! I observed how they teach. They painstakingly give their all. They would even provide night classes or tutorials at no additional cost. I want SULADS. I will replace all my teachers with SULADS. And I observed that the students love their teachers!"

I was feeling good deep inside, but I also cautioned him not to do that. We would run into trouble should he replace government teachers with SULADS. Instead, I related how we operate, that our SULADS work with deep commitments. I also told him that SULADS work independently and differently, hence we do not allow our SULADS to be mixed with any other teachers. The principal did not have the slightest idea that our teaching work was only a tool, an entering wedge to bring the gospel to these Muslim areas.

After I related how we work, the principal agreed that SULADS would be given an island without a mixture of teachers from the locals. He also agreed to the terms to provide housing, safety, and food assistance. So, Bilatan Tainga island is opened and we have assigned a couple there as SULADS teachers this year. I thought the meeting was over, but then he came back with another request.

He said, "Sir, I need more teachers in Liaburan island because I also handle supervision in that place. We have just finished three freshly-built classrooms on the island and we will not allow anyone else to teach there except SULADS!"

You may recall that three years back, SULADS opened Liaburan Island. You may remember the girl swimming across between two little islands. The local government has now provided the funds and there is now a concrete bridge that connects the two islands so that students no longer have to swim to get the precious education. The principal further said that he would take care of class cards so that students will undergo a formal education and that they will receive class cards to enable them to proceed with their education should the students decide to transfer to another island with a government-operated school.

As I see these developments, I praise God for what He done in opening the heart of this Muslim principal.

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