I. Current Missionary Remembers Her SM Days

II. Korean Work in Alabama, USA

III. Two Deaths
1. Elwood Sherrard
2. Avery Dick

IV. Richard Clark Joins Union College Faculty

V. Lost Luggage in Manila

VI. A Visit with the Astlefords

VII. Val Tolhurst Resting Comfortably in Nursing Home

I. Current Missionary Remembers Her Student Missionary Days

Kelli Doss <bobandkellidoss@hotmail.com>, in the August, '12 Adventist Frontiers magazine:

"It's been nine years but I still remember it so clearly. The church was crowded with students, faculty and family members. Returned student missionaries, dressed in outfits they had brought back with them, carried flags from around the world down to the front and placed them in holders. As the speaker for the mission weekend gave his appeal, his words touched my heart and moved me out of my seat. I walked down to the front and stood, making my decision to spend a year serving the Lord somewhere, anywhere.

"Later that year I gave my dad a last hug and boarded the first of three planes on the way to Thailand. Thailand! The excitement was hard to contain as I sat on the plane, waiting to see what the 'Land of Smiles' had in store for me.

"As I waited for my luggage in the Chiang Mai airport, two children ran up to me. They called me Miss Kalli and told me I would be their teacher that year. Benya and Eliyah Wilson were eager to become my friends and I was just as eager to serve this missionary family however I could.

"A couple of months passed. We traveled up into the mountains outside of Chiang Rai to visit a Mien village. Benya and Eliyah climbed a passion fruit tree, while Duang Wilson and I visited with youth and grandmas on front porches. In the village, seeing youth becoming witnesses to their families and seeing grandmas decide to give up their old ways and follow Christ, I was reminded of the reason I went. I sensed the Lord speaking to my heart, calling me to give more than just a year.

"My student missionary year flew by. I spent my time homeschooling Benya and playing with Eliyah. I also attended a Mien wedding with my friend, Att. I watched Att decide to be baptized despite her family's opposition. Praise the Lord, her family's hearts changed and they accepted her decision afterward. I helped put together Scripture memorization packets for Mien youth.

"The Wilsons packed their bags for furlough and said goodbye. I stayed behind along with my friend Pin to take care of their house and animals and visit the Mien youth attending the Adventist academy.

"One day my phone rang. 'Hey, Kelli, this is Chris Sorensen. How would you feel about staying in Thailand another year? Would you like to come and help us in Surin? Pray about it and let us know.'

"After a quick trip back to the States, I arrived back in Thailand and began my second year as a student missionary. The Sorensen's Northern Khmer Project was in its first stage of language learning and cultural research. My role was to teach English, something the local people had requested, but which the Sorensens didn't have time to do.

"I lived with Pastor Wanlop and P'Thongmii, and my Thai improved rapidly. I began teaching neighborhood children. They were easy pupils, and enjoyed the learning games we would play. They especially loved the songs I taught them. It was so much fun! I knew this was where God wanted me.

"I was invited to at a weeklong English camp in a different province. At first I was reluctant to leave my class of village children. However, P'Thongmii urged me to go, so I packed by bag and reluctantly boarded a bus for Roi Et. All the way
there I prayed and asked God to change my heart and make it clear that this was His will. As the bus pulled into the station in Roi Et, I still felt reluctant. 'Lord, is the where You want me to be right now?' I prayed. 'Please change my heart.' I stepped off the bus and saw the lady I would be staying with and two of the youth from the church, New and Fon. Immediately I felt peace in my heart. This was where I was supposed to be for the week. 'Thank You, Lord, for changing my heart,' I breathed.

"The week was done before I knew it, and I had many new friends among the students and church members. The Lord blessed my time at Roi Et.

"The months of my second year passed quickly. I continued teaching English to the neighborhood children. I helped the Sorensens and Mitchells with their culture study, editing and even researching some parts myself. We took a week off together to finish up the cultural scrapbook. Then I said goodbye to both missionary families as they left for meetings in Chiang Mai.

..."

"As my second year of student missionary service came to an end, I returned to Chiang Mai to visit the Wilsons. Then I took a bus to Bangkok where I boarded a plane and flew back across the ocean.

"My life was forever changed. So many experiences from my time as a student missionary are still vivid in my mind. It was the opportunity of a lifetime, and I wouldn't trade it for anything. I know the Lord called me to be a student missionary. He is calling more people to devote a year of their life to service overseas. Please pray about the opportunity. When you feel the Lord call you, respond, 'Here am I, Lord. Send me.'"

[Kalli Doss, her husband Robbie, and children Hope and Haven, are career missionaries to the North Kymer.]

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--from the Southern Union's August "Southern Tidings"

"Pastor Gitack Ju hosted the first Korean Camp Meeting in the local conference. Almost 30 Koreans gathered on the Oakwood University campus in Alabama. Oh Younghee ministered to the Korean women. The guest speaker was Choi Gyongchum, PhD, from Andrews University. His theme for the weekend was 'The Holy Spirit Within Us.' The members left Sunday spiritually renewed after attending their first Korean Camp Meeting.

"Gitack Ju is the first Korean pastor hired by South Central [Conference]. Ju pastors the Auburn, Alabama Korean Church. He was a pastor in Korea before going to Andrews University. Last June, while attending Andrews University, he and his wife were working part-time in a garden. They contracted poison ivy and went to see a Korean doctor to treat it. After the doctor told them how to treat their poison ivy, she also told them that a Korean elder wanted to plant a church in Alabama.

"Ju began praying. That same month he was invited to a picnic, but he decided to skip it and spend time praying. He asked God if there was a way to show him if he was to help with the church planting. Later that day Ju and his family left their home and returned afterward for something. While they were home, the Korean elder who wanted him to start a church in Alabama called. He wanted to come visit them that same day. When he came, he brought a Korean woman from Alabama. Ju and his wife had never met anyone from Alabama in the three years they were at Andrews. This was the answer to their prayer.

"Ju met with the Conference Executive Secretary and the Multicultural Ministerial Director at the Conference office on his way to visit Auburn. The next day they called and told him they had been praying for a Korean church for the past five years. They told him, 'Pastor Ju, God sent you.'

"In December, 2011, Ju and his family moved to Auburn to plant a church. Ju stated, 'The Korean Church planting is initiated by prayer and God's guidance. Our mission strategy is door-to-door visitation and English classes.' -- by Deborah Truitt

[The article has a picture of the family: Pastor Ju, wife Soothing, and daughters Ashley (12) and Alice (10).]

~~~~~~~~~~~ III. Two Deaths

1. Death of Elwood Sherrard

Dena Guthrie <denaguthrie@earthlink.net> August 10:

Elwood Sherrard passed to his rest in Blue Ridge, Georgia on July 30, 2012 at the age of 94 years. He served in the Far Eastern Division with his wife, Amy Hubley Sherrard, for 20 years, initially as principle of Malayan Union Seminary from 1952-1957. The next 15 years he served in the Philippines first as business manager of Philippine Union College and then as business administrator for Manila Sanitarium & Hospital. His last 15 years of denominational service were as the administrator of the Ventura Estates Retirement Center in Newbury.
Park, CA. With the help of the Lord he always left behind a fiscally stronger institution. In retirement, he was the meticulous editor of the My Bible First materials (www.mybiblefirst.org) He is survived by his wife, Esther Amelia Hubley Sherrard (Amy--comfortably settled with Phil & Sherry Mills), daughters Dena Sherrard Guthrie and Sherry Sherrard Mills, three grandchildren and two great-grand children. We eagerly await the trumpet call when his strong forever-young arms will encircle his beloved family once again.

Address: 960 Snake Nation Road
Blue Ridge, GA 30513
Ph: 706-258-2824

2. Death of Avery Dick, Former FED Missionary
   --from Union College's Summer, 2012 CORD Magazine

"Avery Dick, class of ’38. of Loveland, Colorado, died May 25, 2012 at age 97. He was born on a farm in La Harpe, Kansas, the second of five boys. After graduating from Enterprise Academy and Union College, he married Arline McTaggart Dick, class of ’37 who died in 2005. Avery pastored churches in Wyoming, Colorado, Missouri and South Dakota, served as a missionary in China and the Philippines, and taught in Kingsway College, Mountain View College in the Philippines, and Canadian University College. In 1976 he moved to Loveland to help pastor the Estes Park church and was an active member of the Campion church. He is survived by his daughter, Ardis Dick Stenbakken, and three brothers, Willis, Edwin, and Clyde [all graduates of Union College]."

IV. Richard Clark Joins Science & Mathematics Dept. of Union College
   --from Union College's Summer, 2012 CORD Magazine:

Richard Clark, class of ’79, has joined the Division of Science and Mathematics as chemistry professor. He from graduated from Union with a BA degree in chemistry and earned a PhD from Kansas State University in 1992. He most recently taught in Philippine Union College and Pacific Union College. He and his wife Janice, have four adult children.

V. Lost Luggage in Manila

Bessie Russell Haynes wrote the following for August 2 in "Renew," the women's morning devotional book for this year:

"Little Things

"And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.' Phil. 4:19

"Recently I went on a mission trip to the Philippines with some students, our pastor, and one of my colleagues. We flew out of Seoul to Manila with no problems whatsoever. We stayed in Manila the first night because of an early flight the next morning to Davao, another island in the Philippines.

"As it was the rainy season, it was wise to take an umbrella along. My coworker brought his large university umbrella and had no problems taking it on the plane from Seoul, or retrieving it at the airport in Manila. However, when we went through customs the next morning as we were to fly to Davao, Jonathan's umbrella was confiscated. He was told he should have checked it in as baggage to go below with the luggage.

"He was understandably a little upset, but I found myself very upset and disappointed that he wasn't told this when checking in earlier. Finally Jonathan told me not to worry; it was OK. But it would have been nice to have a souvenir since he wasn't returning to the university where we both taught. We finally reached the Davao airport, and soon everyone had claimed their luggage except me. Again Jonathan came to the rescue, checking all our bags and baggage claim tickets, but my luggage was nowhere to be found. We located agents who called the Manila airport who confirmed that my bag was still in Manila. Now Jonathan and I had a laugh because I was so furious about his umbrella, and now here I was in a city with no luggage--and therefore no clothing.

"Here I'd been worried about a little thing such as an umbrella when I had no knowledge that I would be without something a lot bigger--my luggage with everything in it that I needed for my stay in the Philippines.

"Little things matter to God, but we shouldn't waste time worrying or fretting about things over which we have no control. We're told in Luke 12:6: 'Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.'
"I shouldn't have worried because the Bible tells us not to worry about big things or little things.--our God will supply all our needs."

[The author is an English professor in Korea and has served across America as a teacher and principal. She has edited several books while living abroad. She is the mother of three adult children and loves to spend time with them. Her hobbies include traveling, gardening, music, reading, meeting people all over the world, and mission trips.] ~~~~~~~~~

VI. A Visit with the Astlefords

Gerald Christo* <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> August 8:

We met Mrs. Della Astleford in the looking lonely without her husband who is in a home about 30 miles into the countryside at Bassingham.

Son-in-law Kish Poddar and I picked her up from their home and he drove us to see him after lunch. She cautioned us that he may not recognize us, unless he was having one of his rare good days. When we arrived at the Care Centre we found him in bed with a chest infection. Gone were the firm grip of his hands, his once keen eyes, and friendly greeting; only a puzzled look trying to grasp the reality of the moment. It was sad but I don't regret the visit. Pastor Astleford spent many years in Southern Asia as Publishing Director of the Division where he was responsible for printing many new titles, promoted small message books and gave aggressive leadership to the work of the Literature Ministry. After leaving Southern Asia he served in the Far Eastern Division. He also served several years in Africa where he learnt to speak Swahili fluently.

* [Elder Christo, former president of the SUD, and his wife are visiting in the UK.] ~~~~~~~~~

VII. Val Tolhurst

Residing Comfortably in Nursing Home

Len Tolhurst lptlhrst@bigpond.net.au August 2:

After over three weeks in hospitals, (Wyong and then Toronto Private) Val is now in the Adventist Nursing home in Cooranbong here in Australia.

She took up residence on Monday, July 16. She had been assessed for high level care just over two years ago, but I have been looking after her during the time from then till now. The doctor who was caring for her in Toronto hospital told me that when she left the hospital she needed to go into care in a nursing home. When our younger daughter Sharon and I approached the Nursing Home, we were given a bed for her right away, and she was taken there a few days later.

Sharon was on term-end holidays for three weeks from her teaching job in Victoria, and drove up from her home to be with me during that time. Last Monday Anne, our older daughter, who is a trained nurse flew up from Melbourne and is spending a week or so with me. What a blessing our daughters have been to us at this time. Our son Ewan was able to be with us for a short time as well and we appreciated that as well. Val is settling in well, but has some health problems that need to be monitored. Both girls are now back in Victoria, but Sharon plans to fly up for a weekend in about 10 days from now.

Please pray for us at this time as we have entered a new phrase of living.

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BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

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END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS