Adventist Heritage

From: charles tidwell <charles.h.tidwell@gte.net>
Sent: Friday, August 31, 2012 7:19 PM
To: Self
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I. Bruce Wickwire in Hospital

Adele Wickwire <bawickwire@juno.com> August 22:

My husband Bruce is in the hospital. We took him to the emergency room by ambulance Sunday morning. He was having a real struggle breathing. He was in Intensive Care in the Parkridge Hospital from Sunday afternoon until Tuesday evening when he was put in a private room. Besides his problem of COPD (which he has had for a long time) he now has Congestive Heart Failure.

P. S. His spirits are good. He is telling jokes to the doctors!

II. The Keyes Celebrate Their 50th

Pat Bailey <patty.cates69@gmail.com> August 22:

Sunday, August 19, 2012, John and Barbara Keyes of Collegedale, TN celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary along with their family and a small group of friends. May God's blessing continue with them and they have many, many more years together.

On August 19, 2012, John and Barbara Keyes celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Daughters Beverly Collins and Bonnie Banks, along with their spouses Shawn Collins and Robert Banks, and children Noah and Kendall Collins and Tyler Banks hosted a brunch for some 30 life-long friends in the Collegedale Church fellowship hall for their parents. Among those from the Far East who attended were Bob and Nancy Greve. They had been close friends since Barbara and Nancy went to Adelphian Academy as freshmen in the fall of 1947. Bob was a junior at Adelphian at the time. Later Nancy and Barbara roomed together at EMC for three years. And still later the two couples worked at Far Eastern Academy together for a number of years. Also in attendance from the Far East were Pat and Cheril Bailey. Pat came to the FED in 1982 to work with child evangelism. Her daughter Cheril came to FEA in 1983 and graduated from there in 1987. Others were friends from Blue Mountain Academy, where John taught for eight years, and Southern where John had taught for 17 years prior to his retirement in 2004-and where he continues to serve as an adjunct teacher. -- Barbara Keyes <bkeyes@southern.edu> ~~~~~~~~~~

III. Letters

1. David Gouge <grandpag30@yahoo.com> August 22:

Maybe it's about time to catch you up on what is happening to me.

On October 6, 2011, Huynh Thi Xuan and I had our religious marriage ceremony. It took the government until June 6, 2012, to decide it was okay for us to be married.

This year, on March 5, I officially retired, after 56 years, and moved to Vietnam. My time is now spent in reading, exercising, learning Vietnamese and resting. I am surprised that I do not really miss the classroom. It feels good to only occasionally have to meet a schedule. My life is quite routine now.

I spent from June 7 to July 11 in the States visiting my children, my only living aunt, and a few friends. Xuan was not able to get a visa to go with me because she has not visited other developed countries.
World conditions indicate that Jesus is coming soon. I pray that we will all be ready to meet Him.

2. Merlyn Fernando <merlynfernando@yahoo.com> August 27:
   We are encouraged when we hear that Pastor George Johnson is headed back to Pakistan and that Elder Larry Colburn is headed for Sri Lanka. We are acquainted with the foresight and vision of these brethren and have been blessed through their leadership in Divisions we are familiar with. Their ease with which they communicate with others is bound to be a leadership trait that God will be honoured with.

IV. SULADS Report: Radio Station Gave 3 Hours for Islam Discussion
   By Ranny de Vera
   I was invited to speak at our Church in Boracay Island. It is known to be a tourist spot frequented by many visitors from various countries. The invitation came because a Muslim couple had decided to be baptized as Seventh-day Adventists. The relatives of the husband, upon learning of the conversion, started to hassle and make trouble for the couple, even threatening death should they be seen. The church there could not understand why such antagonism, so they asked me to come and explain why this was so?
   After a series of lectures the church now understood why such reaction was shown by the relatives of the couple.
   We were supposed to leave the place after the presentations, but I was asked to stay for another night because there was a radio station, Radio Boracay, that wanted a presentation on air about Muslims and their origin. I asked why such an urgent request because we were prepared to leave. I was told that Boracay Island attracts so many tourists each month, so business has been flourishing. Together with the influx of businesses in the area, Muslims flock to the island as well, bringing with them various wares they sell to tourists. So there was a steady stream of Muslims either visiting or staying on the island to do business there.
   I agreed and cancelled our trip back. I made it to the appointment but I didn’t expect the program was to run for three long hours! I was stunned when I learned how lengthy this night would be. I was nervous as well because I did not know what I was getting into.
   The three-hour program went well, in fact I did not notice the passing of time. The discussion was lively as there was an anchor person who provided interaction and questions while the presentation went on. Frankly we did not know what kind of feedback we would be getting, whether positive or negative. We just left it to the Lord’s will. As soon as we ended the program and were heading towards where we were housed, we heard many good comments because many residents were tuning in, listening to the whole presentation. The Muslim community there also got interested and many wished it to be repeated because they missed tuning in on their radios. Even the Chief of the local Police department phoned in and inquired if there was a follow-up program because he thought the whole presentation was interesting.
   He was listening the entire time. That prompted another invitation for me to come back to hold meetings with the local Muslim community there. The local Church leadership was challenged with the study that they intend to hold a full-scale evangelistic series focused on the Muslims either this year or early next year.
   I praise God that He provides opportunities for the work to expand among the Muslim people. I look forward to another visit to that famed island, not because the tourism there attracts me, rather because of the prospects of expanding work in that area where Adventists are highly respected by the Muslims.

V. Chino Valley Chinese SDA Church Item
   Paul Cho <paulcho99@yahoo.com.hk>
   from the Church Sept. 1 Bulletin
   We have been working with our Southern California Conference for the past couple of years is to enable our members and their children to attend any SDA school in Southeastern California Conference at reduced tuition. We are glad that both conferences have now approved this arrangement. In addition, new students who attend our SDA schools (primary and academy) for the first time will receive a 50% discount of the tuition. Among the elementary schools and academies located in Southeastern California Conference are Loma Linda Academy, Redlands Academy, La Sierra Academy, San Antonio School in Uplands and others. Christian education is important to children’s upbringing and we encourage you to take advantage of this special program.

VI. History of Adventism in Pakistan

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Since Pakistan is now a part of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, the Division paper, the Outlook, introduces the Pakistan Union and its institutions to its readers. The following is from the just-received Outlook:

Written by Union president, Younis Noor Bhatti, when Pakistan became a part of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, in the Outlook magazine:

"We thank God for His blessings and care for the church work in Pakistan. There are many challenges but at the same time, there are many blessings. We now have many opportunities to hold evangelistic meetings in different cities. Most of the population lives in village areas but there are a large number of big cities like Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Hyderabad, Gujranwala, Quetta, and Peshawar where our church work is growing.

"Pakistan is considered a developing country. The main sources of income are agriculture and industries. Our people are very hardworking and hospitable.

"Pakistan Union consists of two Sections, North and South. Within these sections, we have 13 schools and one college, Pakistan Adventist Seminary and College. We are also blessed to have a dental clinic, Karachi Adventist Hospital and an ADRA office. Currently our church membership is about 15,000.

"We do have freedom of worship so our members are able to worship together on Sabbaths, and we are allowed to conduct evangelism in the Christian communities. In previous years our church membership growth has been about 20% annually with much of it happening in the cities. In the future, we plan to hold more evangelistic meetings and grow as a strong, developed church in large cities like Karachi and Lahore.

"We are grateful for the support of our previous division, the Trans-European Division (TED), This support has enabled us to renovate churches and houses for our pastors.

"We are excited about the privilege of joining the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD). We hope many things will take place with new ideals and views. SSD is very positive in its plans and aims for Pakistan, and we are hopeful about the future church work. We were blessed and encouraged by the February 29 to March 3, 2012 visits by Treasurer Sergie Ferrer, Secretary Saw Samuel, and Associate Treasurer/Associate Secretary Kevin K. Costello.

We believe our church will grow stronger and develop under the SSD leadership."

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"Pakistan Union of Seventh-day Adventists "Church Information, History, Challenges and Opportunities"

"STATISTICS:

Churches 122
Companies 187
Baptized Church Members 14,225
Ordained Ministers 32
Total Employees 897
Institutions 4

"HISTORY:

"In 1901, colporteurs visited the area now called Pakistan, among the first of which was Anna Knight, an African-American missionary. In 1913 A. Wellman met an independent Christian minister S. Samuel from Gujranwala.

After accepting the Adventist faith, Pastor Samuel invited the Seventh-day Adventists to open the work in Punjab. Leaders traveled to the province of Punjab, and interests were developed through these visits.

"In 1914 F. H. Loasby and Mann began an itinerate outreach and medical work in the villages west of Lahore. At night, the missionaries slept under their ox cart to protect themselves and the oxen from thieves. In 1916 Mann purchased 10 acres of land in Chuharkana [now Farooqabad], about 35 miles west of Lahore for a medical training center, where men could be trained to operate village dispensaries. Pakistan Adventist Seminary and College were [later] established at the same place.

"Some 12 young men were trained to do evangelistic work in village areas. Six were sent out as village workers. Sabbath Schools and companies were formed in surrounding villages. In 1917 the first baptisms took place in the Punjab. In the same year additional land was purchased at Chichoki Mallian for a new station of medical work.

"In 1921 or 1922 the medical training center which was operated as a hospital in Chuharkana was discontinued and its building was converted into a school for boys. In 1929 a school for girls was opened at Chichoki Mallian.

"In 1947 a small clinic was opened in Karachi by a woman physician, G.
Joy Ubbink, which by the end of 1951 had developed into the Karachi Seventh-day Adventist Hospital. Later the name was changed to Karachi Adventist Hospital. From the beginning, it was a modern 72-bed hospital, which later expanded to 120 beds, with a School of Nursing as well. Today it is a well-known hospital in Karachi. It serves the Muslim and Christian communities alike; they also have a charity clinic for poor and needy.

"Outreach work in English was conducted in Pakistan by several men, Later English churches were established in Rawalpindi, Lahore and Karachi.

"In November 1972, the Pakistan Union was re-organized with the administration of two of its largest institutions taken over by the Southern Asia Division. The institutions were Karachi Adventist Hospital and Pakistan Adventist Seminary.

"In 1974 the ministerial training institute began in Lahore. The school was to train young men to work in the villages. Outreach efforts in the 1960s and the early 1970s expanded the growth of the work in the interior of Sind. Churches were organized in Mirpurkhas, Hyderabad and Sukkur. A new church building was built in Multan.

"In 1973 the Union administration began to build a Publishing House in Pakistan that would print material in the vernacular languages and English.

The Qasad Publishing House was completed in 1974.

"After 1974, the focus went form expansion to maintenance. In the 1990s the outreach focus shifted and moved to the big cities with large outreach meetings and a need for follow-up work to be done in the cities."

"CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES"

"Pakistan is Muslim country where 97% belong to the Islamic faith. Reaching various groups is a big challenge, as converting people carries the death penalty. Christians are given freedom to build churches, give Bible studies, and even arrange for evangelistic meetings for Christians and other religious, as long as no attempts are made to reach Muslims. Despite these challenges, there are people who want to study the Bible. The challenge is to find a way of meeting this need. Perhaps one of the best ways to accomplish this is to develop lessons through the Voice of Prophecy Correspondence School and through the specialized training for pastors in how to reach out to all people groups.

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