Personal Note: It seems likely that I will be in hospital for some surgery in the near future, so the next issue of the newsletters will likely be delayed. Please pray for successful treatments -- CHT/sr.

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   Treva Burgess <<bobtrevaa48@yahoo.com>> August 31:
   Just a quick update on Bob & Treva Burgess. While I was 30 miles away in a nursing home recovering from a stroke, Bob was fighting for his life in St. Helena Hospital. He had a major heart attack and it took 3 cardiologists, a triple bypass, 3 stents and a new mitro valve (to replace the old one that had literally blown apart) to put him back on the road to good health. We are now back in our Calistoga home and making good recoveries. God is good!
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II. SSD Family Ministries Event in Bangkok
   To encourage wider involvement in family ministries, and to partner with other ministry leaders in the nurture and strengthening of families, a division-wide family ministries certification event was conducted at the Regent Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand in March, 2012. Nearly 500 individuals from every union in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division -- including the president of the division president, union presidents, several conference presidents, departmental directors from every level, and many lay leaders -- participated. Attendees expressed deep appreciation for the training and well-developed manuals that guided the discussions, as well as the Bible-based principles and high spiritual tone of the presentations.
   Almost 40% of the event participants were administrators and departmental directors and their spouses from some level of church leadership. Members came thus to understand that marriage enrichment events are both credible and encouraged, and their own willingness to attend to build marriage skills increases as a result.
   Recently a mother from the Philippines who attended the Bangkok certification event received the devastating news that her teenage daughter had attempted to commit suicide. The information shocked her. She and her physician husband are active members in the church, and she had never imagined that kind of crisis could ever happen in her family.
   She testified that the information she learned at the family ministries certification conference gave her a perspective that prepared her to better handle this painful discovery of her daughters fear and depression.
   Today the family enjoys a more fulfilled and meaningful life because of the training received, and they are using that blessing to reach other families with the good news of God’s grace through Jesus Christ. -- Mariam Andres. SSD Director of Family Ministries ~~~~~~~~~~ III. Bill and Beth Dickerson Lose Their Daughter Cyndy
   \ Bill and Beth Dickerson <billbethd@msn.com>
   A Tribute To Our Daughter
   On September 2. 2012 at 1:00 P.M., our precious daughter Cyndy breathed her last breath, quietly going to sleep. Thus ended her six-year battle with an ugly intruder in her system, known as colon cancer. For seven days before her death we shared with husband, Dave Aichele, the honorable privilege of standing by Cyndy's bedside and caring for her
needs. Her mother and I watched with aching hearts during those seven nights as she silently (for she could not speak) slipped away into a deep slumber.

On Wednesday, August 29, Beth and I realized that Cyndy's last birthday had just arrived. At 4:30 A.M. through tears we sang "Happy Birthday dear Cyndy" on birthday number 55. We hoped she could hear us. From babyhood to her final conscious days, Cyndy radiated sunshine. What a joy it was to witness her bright and witty way of communicating with family and friends and work associates. She was loved by everyone. Her enthusiastic approach to life and her work was evident to all. In spite of great health challenges she continued her IT work as a computer specialist at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington right up to the final week of her life.

Cyndy tenaciously fought to cheerfully serve others to the very end.

Though unable to speak in her final week, we saw her respond to the continuing love and affection of husband, Dave, and to the tender care of her mother, Beth. Cyndy valiantly fought to live to see her son, Erik, graduate from school at Upper Columbia Academy near Spokane. In June of this year, that became a reality as we all joined together to celebrate this great event.

During the last week, Erik, and his lovely friend, Katrina spent several days at mother's bedside. At one time, Katrina sat at the piano to accompany Erik as he sang to his mother. Her restless agitation was calmed and she seemed to experience inner peace. Katrina left the hymnal on the piano open to two well-known hymns that were just perfect for Cyndy, "Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus" and Hiding in Thee". How perfectly fitting!

Cyndy always loved music and her fine performances in her clear soprano voice always deeply touched the hearts of her listeners. I have played for quite a number of funerals, so now, I decided to play a funeral performance for her while she was still alive. I am told by Dave that dear, precious, daughter, Cyndy became quiet and restful. I'm so glad!

To younger sister Annie, Cyndy expressed the desire to spend one more time with the family at the beach on the Oregon Coast. She, and all the rest of us had enjoyed our times together there immensely. Ever mindful of the needs of Cyndy, older sister, Becky, with the strong support of big brother, David, arranged for the rental of a large house at Lincoln City right on the beach. All our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, made ready to spend several days with Cyndy at the edge of the great Pacific Ocean.

It was a beautiful dream that was not to be. Only a few days before it was time to for us all to wander together on the ocean sands, Cyndy had to say goodbye to life for now. A dream it must be until that day when we as a family once again meet on that glorious Sea of Glass in our Heavenly Home.

Just can't wait!!!

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IV. Letters

1. Carrol Grady <carrolgrady@hotmail.com> August 31:
   It's good to hear about our "aging" friends - the Keyes, the Greves, David Gouge. We're aging too, though we haven't admitted it to ourselves yet. We just celebrated our 56th anniversary. Bob is always busy with SAGE [a retirees' club] -- you know, I married a preacher, but now I'm married to a painter! SAGE has painted some 50+ building in the past few years and right now a SAGE crew is painting two schools and two churches in Oahu - real hardship tour! When he gets back we'll be heading for the Maranatha Convention in Sacramento and then down to Santa Rosa to see our eldest son, Bob, and his eldest daughter Lanisa's new twins. SAGE does fun things, too.
   In fact we've celebrated our last two anniversaries at SAGE events -- a whale-watching tour and a concert at the Olympic Music Festival. If we make it, God willing, to our 60th, we want to do a hot-air balloon ride, as we did on our 49th. Meanwhile, I keep busy making handmade quilts for all the grandchildren (15 as of July) and baby quilts for the great-grands (5), reading stacks of books, and with my ministry for families of gays and lesbians www.someone-to-talk-to.net.

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2. Willard Hackett <wkhackett@yahoo.com> August 31:
   Today's newsletter -- "Bruce Wickwire in the Hospital"
   I have know Bruce since I was very small. He and my dad were in evangelism for a while and we have kept in touch with the family all these years.
   We lived on the same mission compound with them in Singapore and I went to school there with his daughters. I wish I could be there to hear his jokes. He never seemed to run out of stories or jokes.
   We will be praying for him and his family.

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V. Karen Pastor Ordained in America
Pastor Jimmy Shwe was ordained by the Carolina SDA Conference on July 21 at his home church in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This is good news as we seek to continue and expand the ministry to the newly arriving Karen Adventists from Burma and Thailand scattered all across this division. He is the first Karen Adventist pastor in North America to be ordained. He is working half time for the Carolina Conference and half time for Adventist Refugee and Immigrant Ministries [ARIM]. He received support from Adventist Southeast Asia Projects [ASAP] until ARIM was able to financially support him. He travels across the division to form and encourage Karen worship groups, perform weddings and baptisms, conduct training for lay pastors, and many other duties. We extend our congratulations to Pastor Shwe on this step forward in his ministry, -- by Carol Reynolds, ASAP Board Member, in ASAP’s current journal ～～～～～～～ VI.

Vietnamese Church Breaks Ground for Mission Center


"Eight years ago," said Vinh Khac Nguyen, pastor of the El Monte [California] Vietnamese church. "I had a vision to build a mission center here, so a couple of years back we started fund raising. Nguyen then pointed to a fund-raising chart and said, "Now we have $620,000 of the $1 million needed for the center. Praise God!" The center will be built on the church’s current parking lot. The church’s publishing ministry will support the mission of the center, providing literature, Bible lessons, and Sabbath School study guides in Vietnamese. Nguyen spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Vietnamese Mission Center on June 9. An enthusiastic audience gathered, including many who had helped make it possible for the El Monte Vietnamese congregation to start and to grow.

"Pastor Nguyen had a dream about the mission center; that the church can do missionary work so that the work can be finished, and Jesus will come," said Larry L. Caviness, president of the Southern California Conference. "My challenge to you today is that you move ahead with the mission of the church. . . ."

Grateful members and friends gave gifts, including one gift that was a poignant reminder of what the church has meant to its members and leaders.

Pastor Le Huu, the church’s first pastor wanted to donate to the project, but he passed away weeks before the groundbreaking. Family members came forward to present $25,500 in his memory. By the end of the day the project fund reaches $720,000, with more received at a later date.

"This day marks the beginning of the fulfillment of a dream," said Ralph Watts, a former president of the Southern California Conference, as well as former president of ADRA. "As you build, remember the Bible’s important statement, "Unless the Lord builds the house, those that labor, labor in vain."

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VII. Barnett's Historic Movies Now on DVD

When Costco member Julie Sanders Keymer set out to fulfill her late mentor's wish, she didn't realize it would become the biggest movie-to-DVD conversion order that Costco and partner YouVideo had ever received from an individual. Spread over six months that order consisted of 100 home movies converted to DVDs, about six copies of each.

These movies were filmed during the career of Paulene Barnett, who, with her husband, Pastor Doyle Barnett, lived and worked as missionaries for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in China and other Asian countries from 1940 to 1983. An avid photographer, she was always behind a camera, and loved to entertain visitors with movies or slide shows.

"The Barnetts saw a part of the world at a time when many people weren’t recording life with pictures as we do now," Keymer tells The Connection.

"Paulene's movies were very special to her, and she wanted to share them with others."

The Back Story

Arriving in Shanghai in 1940, the Barnetts spent their first two years in China evading Japanese soldiers at the outbreak of World War II, and experienced travel on the notorious Burma Road, used by the American and British forces fighting the invading Japanese. Eventually settling in Kunming, China, for three years they found themselves frequently hosting members of the American Volunteer Group. Know as the Flying Tigers, the group was made up of mostly U. S. military pilots recruited under presidential authority to defend China from Japanese forces.

Paulene Barnett recognized a need for Asian children to be sheltered and included in church services as adults were. She championed that cause and became widely known in Asia as "Mrs. Lamb Shelter" for her success in developing programs and shelters for the children.

Keymer was 12 years old in 1982 when she met the Barnetts when they were in the U. S. on furlough from their mission work. At 19, Keymer took a year off from college to travel with Paulene Barnett for four months throughout Asia--an experience that established a lifelong relationship--and stayed on to teach at an English school in Taiwan.
The Barnetts eventually retired near Walla Walla, Washington, where Keymer still lives with her husband, Marshall. The Barnetts asked Marshall to assist with their estate when the time came [Doyle passed away in 2009. Paulene in 2010], with the Keymers distributing the couple’s items from Asia, including the movies, to family and friends.

The big conversion

"When we learned that Costco offered movie transfer to DVD, I called and inquired of their process," says Keymer. She was anxious to have Barnett’s movies treated with the greatest care. Keymer says the fact that Costco offered the service that it was indeed reputable.

Organizing 100 movies, inputting information into the 1-Hour Photo kiosks, copying Barnett's original notes for each reel and making delivery of hundreds of boxes of DVDs, while a lot of work, went without a hitch. As a matter of fact, it went so well that the Keymers converted an even larger number of their own home movies to DVD.

"Picture are something that can't be replaced," Keymer summarizes. "I appreciate the care and systems Costco and YesVideo have in place for protecting them."

-- by David Wight in Costco's Sept. 2012 "The Costco Connection"

[The above article was shared by Barbara Keyes <bkeyes@southern.edu>; the Keymers may be contacted by e-mail; Julie <juliesanders@keymer.net>, Marshall <marshall@keymer.net>] ~~~~~~~~~~~ To remove your name from the mailing list of this newsletter, simply reply to this e-mail and put "REMOVE" in the Subject line.

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BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

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END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS