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I. First Believers Baptized in Mayoyao, Philippines

Wendy Harris <wrguptill@gmail.com> Oct. 26

Thank you so much for your prayers and support for the recent Mayoyao meetings!

We are so happy to share how God has lead and blessed the work in this area (it's about a 3 hour drive from our place in Santiago, Isabela in northern Luzon). These were the first evangelistic meetings ever held in this area that we know of.

A little background: Our missionary partners, Briane and Joy Lupkey and their two small girls, dedicated their lives this last year to opening the work in this beautiful, rice-terraced area where there are no Adventist churches within 2 hours (4-wheel) drive. With the help of several young adults from the LIGHT medical missionary group, they have built close relationships with many of the people using simple methods which lead to Bible studies, like taking blood pressures, assisting with lifestyle changes, using charcoal and hydrotherapy, massaging, praying, and singing with patients and neighbors. We have found this to be such an effective and fun tool to reach the people of the Philippines!

This last August a bigger team of trained young-adult volunteers were brought in to Mayoyao to prepare for the evangelistic meetings which were held last month. All of this was done by faith (including this whole year of missionary work), and we praise God that through His grace and the help of local friends and family all expenses were taken care of.

The district pastor of this Ifugao region, Jonathan Ayangao, was the speaker. A year ago he held "cottage meetings" in this area and several wanted to be baptized but he felt they were not ready yet. Braine and Joy came about this time and were able to continue studying with these people (and many others) until they realized it was time for some evangelistic meetings.

The team was prayerfully selected. Everyone involved was careful not to work for "numbers" but for lasting and deep commitments to Jesus as their personal Savior. We praise God for the 15 people who made this commitment and were baptized on the last weekend. All but a couple were over the age of 50 and two were pastors from other denominations! One of them continues to regularly share with his church members the things he has learned and is facing significant persecution so please keep him in your prayers.

Briane and Joy continue to oversee the Mayoyao project to ensure that the new members receive nurturing. They have also added another project to oversee: the Santiago LIGHT Bakery/restaurant project which has been developing over the last year (which is supported by a mission-minded family from that area).

The Lupkeys have sacrificed a lot to work as full-time missionaries with only the promises of God that He will supply all their needs, which He has faithfully done. Though they have faced trials of sickness and financial needs, God continues to protect their family and give them strength to continue on with the work God has given them. They are invaluable partners with our PAMAS team with their experience, language skills, and many talents that they have dedicated to the Lord.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for Mayoyao and all the PAMAS ministries.

II. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 6

Mervin Myat Kyaw <mervinmk@yahoo.com.au> and his wife Nan are Karen Adventists who worked many years in Burma and Thailand and now live and work in Australia--Mervin as School Services Officer 1 (SSO-1) in a primary school and Nan as a full-time lay minister in the Werribee Karen Church, appointed by the Victorian Conference of SDA. He has written a manuscript covering Adventism in Burma from its very beginning to the present and of his work in Thailand.

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Miss Mary Gibbs arrived from the US in November, 1910. She was a qualified nurse. She studied the Karen and Burmese languages. She could give Bible studies using the two languages. She could speak the Hindustani language too. She opened a dispensary at Ohn Daw, Kamamaung, and it was very successful. Eric B. Hare and wife Agnes joined her later. They made a wonderful team among the Karens.

Mary Gibbs studied midwifery for six-months in Calcutta in the year 1915.

Andrew J. DeNoyer arrived in Myanmar as a self-supporting missionary in 1913. For a year or so he worked with the Tornblads (Dr, Ollie Oberholtzer-Tornblad and her husband) at their farm at Heho in the Shan States of Northeast Myanmar. Then he took up literature work, selling, in bazaar and railway stations, on trains and boats, small tracts that at that time were in Burmese and in some of the Indian languages.

He worked very hard. The mission leaders saw that Andrew DeNoyer was a very dedicated and hard-working man, so they invited him to work for the mission. His first assignment was to study Burmese. He continued to do literature work also, and for a time he worked in the school at Meiktila.

Mary Gibbs went on furlough to US in April, 1917. She met Andrew DeNoyer, also on furlough, and they got married in September 1918, and together arrived back in Myanmar in May, 1919. They became a wonderful missionary team. The DeNoyers were located at Ohn Daw for a year or so, where Mary continued the dispensary work she had started there. And from there Andrew travelled and continued with his literature evangelism. In 1920 the mission asked them to open a girls’ boarding school at Taik-je, about 30 miles north-west of Yangon on the Pyee railway line. Brother DeNoyer supervised the work of putting up the necessary buildings, and Mary supervised and taught the school with the assistance of two or three Karen and Burmese teachers.

They did good work until 1928, when this school was merged with the co-educational school of Meiktila. They continued their excellent service until they returned to America in 1933. Brother and Sister DeNoyers were real pioneers and contributed much to the success of early Adventist mission work in Myanmar.

III. GMI & and the Plane for the Philippines

David Gates <Gospel_Ministries_International@mail.vresp.com>

OCTOBER 2012--The Last Flight South

My friend Tim Holbrook and I prepared the small two-seat Cessna 150 for its flight South to Peru. We rigged up an HF antenna, put in long-range tanks, squeezed into the plane with the HF radio on our laps, and headed South. Down through Mexico, weaving through Central America, and across the Panama Canal we flew making occasional Ham Radio contacts with the US and Peru to keep them informed of our position.

Flying with us to Peru were two young men, Steve Caudil & John Laswell. John died in the 2005 GCC plane accident. Steve is a missionary in Bolivia.

Nearly one week later, we held our breath as we struggled across the lowest mountain pass of the Andes mountains in Colombia, and headed on a 6 hour night flight over the Amazon jungles of Peru with only a compass heading for navigation. God graciously carried us safely to our destination.

I was twenty-two years old.

Two years later, after making eight medical flights to Haiti in a Twin-Comanche, N8585Y, for Christian Flights International based in Kentucky, I borrowed the plane and flew it to Peru. With a fuel capacity of 6 hours, the plane was filled with six passengers including my pregnant wife Becky and our one-year old daughter Lina on her lap. Shorter than flying down through Central America, our route took us straight to Jamaica, then down to Panama and across to Colombia. Once again in a non-turbocharged plane, we struggled across the same mountain pass I had crossed two years before in the Cessna 150 and then across the jungles to Peru. Little did we know what an important part N8585Y would play in our ministry years later.
After several years of intensive medical flying in Guyana, in 1999, we felt the need for an efficient small twin-engine plane to expand the work across the Caribbean islands and for safe transport of supplies from the United States. My first thought was, "We need a plane like N8585Y." Into the Internet browser I typed, "Twin Comanche, Miller Nose, Robertson STOL" and hit <Enter>. Up on my screen popped up a plane with those same characteristics. Its registration said N8585Y. I was very excited and called my dad to discuss a possible purchase. The only plane we had up to that point was our high power Cessna 150 taildragger. We couldn't even conceive of how to buy a Twin. However, we laid the need before the Lord in prayer and started imagining, With God's peace leading us, we borrowed the money and purchased the plane. Several months later it was entirely paid off.

"When God opens the way for the accomplishment of a certain work, and gives assurance of success, the chosen instrumentality must do all in His power to bring about the promised result. In proportion to the enthusiasm and perseverance with which the work is carried forward, will be the success given... Success depends not so much on talent as on energy and willingness." Christian Service, p. 262, 264.

Over the last thirteen years N8585Y has faithfully carried out the mission, flying over 5000 hours through the Caribbean islands to Guyana, down to Brazil and Bolivia, Peru, Colombia and Argentina. Through the kindness of donors, long range tanks were added, increasing its fuel capacity from 6 to over 10 hours. Its avionics have been upgraded and engine analyzers and fuel flow totalizers have been installed.

With the purchase of a larger aircraft, a 7-passenger AeroStar primarily flown by Jeff Sutton, and the donation of a pressurized high altitude long range Cessna 340A, it became possible to assign the faithful N8585Y to a new post of duty, the Philippines. Our chief pilot/mechanic there, Dwayne Harris, has prepared the plane for the flight across the "pond", while Gary Roberts, our chief pilot/mechanic who directs our work in Africa will be flying it across to the Philippines. There it will be flown by Dwayne among the many islands in support of our medical helicopter programs, to transport patients, personnel and equipment.

As we completed our last flight from Bolivia to the US a few weeks ago, I noticed my long-time copilot wife was wiping tears from her eyes. I also had a lump in my throat as we said goodbye to the plane that has been part of our lives and ministry since our early 20s. We know it will continue its faithful service in facilitating God's work overseas and look forward to flying it again on our next trip to the Philippines.

Goodbye 85Y. May you serve God well in the Philippines.

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IV. SULADS Story --From Burned Skin to Burning Faith
--by Jimmy Evangelio, Gospel Outreach Worker, Pampanga, Philippines

A fifty nine year old lady, whose name is Rosita Bacani, has an extra-ordinary experience that led to her conversion. She was staying in the village of Mawacat, a mountainous place where native Aetas reside.

One day I went house to house visiting in the place and happened to be Rosita's house. I found her lying on their bamboo bed. Rosita could hardly move her body. The skin on her arms, legs, and body was burned due to an accident when she unexpectedly fell into a bonfire while sleeping in their house. Because the place was more or less fifteen kilometers from the town where the health center was, her children didn't think of taking her to the doctor. That caused her condition to get worse and could have led to her death.

As soon as I saw the situation, I looked for some means of transportation to bring her to the hospital. There was no other choice but to hire a cart with a bull pulling it. They call that a "gareta." The travel from the village to the town by cart took six long hours passing through rivers and hilly rugged road. When we arrived at the health center the doctor checked her condition immediately and gave her the treatment. The family was saddened to learn from the doctor that not only did their mother have the problem of the burn but she also had a respiratory problem. She was found to have water in her lungs that needed to be removed right away. The treatment was given her and she treated well during her confinement in the hospital.

The Lord has been so good to her that after a month of confinement she was finally discharged from the hospital. Rosita returned home to Mawacat to recuperate. But the supply of medicines for her tuberculosis problem were being entrusted to me by the doctor. I bring the medicines to Rosita once a week. That's why every Monday, I went to her house to bring the medicine and at the same time visit her.

It took six months to complete her treatment. And I saw her getting better and stronger. She can now walk by herself and her burned skin is healing. Before I leave their house, I always invite her and her children to pray with me. I told them to trust the Lord because He answers prayers. But there was hesitation in Rosita. Her children did not want to talk
about Jesus so usually they went on their way. But I never lost heart to continue to bring her the medicine and offered prayers for herself and her family.

God totally healed Rosita Bacani!

This incident happened in 2001. Later on she was transferred by her children to another village and I never saw her anymore. I was assigned also to another new village. Once in a while I visit the church in Mawacat.

After a decade of time Rosita Bacani and her family returned to Mawacat and decided to stay there for good. And I happened to see her again some months ago and I asked how she was doing. I asked her also if she could still remember the trials that she went through many years ago. And she nodded her head slowly and tears started falling through her cheeks. She went on in her recollection while I was listening. She humbly admitted that she has proven that behind those trials she and her family had gone through, there is a God who was very concerned for her. She confessed that God had given her hope and had used me to patiently pray for her, take her to the hospital and deliver the medicines to her for six months until she recovered.

While listening to Rosita’s story, my heart was moved again as a Gospel Outreach missionary. When I did that service for Rosita way back then, I knew that it didn’t bear fruit right away. But after months and years have passed, the seed of God’s love implanted in her heart gradually had taken root. After eleven years Rosita finally received the words of God and accepted Jesus as her own personal Savior. She is now part of God’s worldwide family. She was baptized September 29, 2012. She is so happy in her new faith.

Let’s praise the Lord for our working together in His great vineyard.

Thanks to God for the prayers, perseverence, time, money and efforts given to us to do His work. In Psalms 33:13-15 it says there, "The Lord looks down from heaven, sees all of us humans. From where He rules, He looks down in all who live on earth. He forms all their thoughts and knows everything they do."

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