I. Sri Lanka Mission Gets New President
   Donald Fernando <clifferd@eureka.lk> November 13:
   News have trickled down of the appointment of Pastor George Wambeek, another Sri Lankan
   (fourth son of the soil) as the Sri Lanka Mission President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
   The first was the late Pastor B. F. Pingho, next Pastor W. D. Anthony, followed by Pastor Willie Reith.
   Incidentally, it was Pastor B. F. Pingho who introduced the Biblical teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
   in the Catholic stronghold town of Chillaw to the 'Wambeek' family. Mr. Stanley Wambeek, his wife Irene, daughter Rosemary,
   and younger son George were baptized by Pastor Pingho in the year 1967. Later their elder son Oliver, an engineer by
   profession, now living in Australia, was led to water baptism by Donald Fernando when he attended the evangelist series
   'Where Jesus Walked'.
   Irene Wambeek was a strong pillar of the Chillaw Seventh-day Adventist church, contributing much as a Sabbath School
   Leader.
   We feel assured that their younger son George, (better known as calm and patient pastor) will usher in maturity and
   serenity to the church family.
   That his composure will bring in greater respect to his fellow workers. His tranquility will create such self confidence
   and demonstrate faith in God, as he leads the remnant church during these end times.
   We welcome you to come and share
   Our Joys of worship, work, and prayer.
   Show us the blueprint, show us how
   To meet the challenge of the hour, now.
   Pastor, you and your family remain in our prayers. Donald Fernando.

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Roger Isaacs <emmcon@gmail.com> Nov. 13:
The exciting news is that Pr. George Wambeek has been appointed as the President of the Sri Lanka Church has been a
long time coming and I was very pleased with his appointment. He has been a tireless and faithful worker and a more
honest man would be hard to find. I am sure many of us who know Pr.
George Wambeek and those who have worked with him wish him and the church in Sri Lanka the very best. It is my
sincere wish that this will be a new chapter and a new era in the work of the church in Sri Lanka.
Congratulations and God's Blessing to him and his family.

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II. Letter
   Collet Masillamoni <puldr@msn.com> November 13:
   I've been reading with interest about the early Adventist work in Burma (Myanmar). I want to point out that William
   Lenker, pioneer Adventist Missionary Literature Evangelist, was the first to enter and work in Burma.
He arrived in Rangoon on November 17, 1895 by the British steamship 'Ethiopia', after having worked in India for two years. Lenker wrote, "I liked India as a missionary field, but I have rather fallen in love with Burma." (W. Lenker "Burma" Advent Review and Sabbath Herald 73 (11): 170-171, March 17, 1896).

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III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 8

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. 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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(8). Robert A. Beckner (1908-41)

Robert A. Beckner arrived in Myanmar from America in October, 1908. He came alone but he went on a short vacation at Mussoorie, India, and there he met Mabelle McMoran and they were married on November 10, 1910. Robert and Mabelle Beckner did valiant pioneer work in Burma, he as evangelist, colporteur, personal worker, writer and translator, and she with her skill as a nurse. Robert Beckner was the first missionary to become efficient in the use of the Burmese language. Mrs. Beckner however worked beyond her strength and endurance that she became ill and they returned to America where she died on June 16, 1923.

Robert Beckner returned to Myanmar in 1924 with a new wife, Ethel May Beckner, who was also a nurse. Together they worked in Myanmar many years until they left for America in January, 1941.

R. A. Beckner had served as principal of Meiktila school from May 1925 to September 1928. He worked for Myanmar all his life and is well remembered as an editor, publisher, educator and evangelist. Pastor Beckner died shortly after their return to America, truly a life of service for the Myanmar he loved so much.

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IV. Health Evangelism in Thailand

Steve Rawlings <rawlings@leadingtothelight.org>

The gospel and the medical missionary work are to advance together in Chiang Khong. I went there last week to follow up on the recent community health seminar Ratri organized. She has been there for 6 months, and I am very happy to report that God is blessing her efforts. Her community outreach includes: teaching English, massage and hydro-therapy treatments, private cooking schools, and organizing health seminars. Best of all, this effort has resulted in a weekly Bible study! Here’s what people are saying about the recent health seminar:

"I have made changes in my lifestyle"
"I feel much better since I have stopped using meat."
"My wife is cooking differently"
"I would attend another seminar and invite my friends."
"Will you sell some of the cooking ingredients you have shown us how to use?"

On December 10-12, we are having another health seminar in our newly rented building.

Major growth is happening in Chiang Khong due to the nearly completed "Friendship Bridge" which will connect Thailand with Laos and China, bringing a flood of tourists, foreigners, and nationals. With the plan for an Asian Union to open the borders of Southeast Asian countries in 2015 to trade and religion, the door is now open to make an aggressive effort to reach the people of Chiang Khong and surrounding areas with the "Good News" of Salvation. If time should last, our goal is to have a core group of grounded SDA church members to meet the demand of a growing population.

Our New Community Outreach Center
"Leading to the Light" is pleased to personally spearhead this church planting project. We have just signed a two year lease for a 2400 square foot building near the new "Friendship Bridge". This new training center will be much more efficient with room for staff housing, massage, hydrotherapy treatments, gardening, health seminars, English Language classes, cooking schools, branch Sabbath Schools, and of course Bible Studies. Pray for the newly awakened residents to continue their thirst for knowledge.

Make a one-time donation for much needed items to furnish the new center. Your tax deductible donation may be sent to:
Leading to the Light
26710 N. Yale Rd. #18
V. A Mission Story from North Korea

"Free Indeed!

"Esther [not her real name] slipped across the North Korean border into China. But she still wasn’t free. She knew that if she was caught, she would be sent back to North Korea and imprisoned or even killed. While in China, she met a Seventh-day Adventist woman who befriended her. The woman offered her a place to stay and introduced her to Jesus.

"One day Esther was stopped by the security police. Without a Chinese passport, Esther was arrested and sent to a North Korean prison. 'God, why are You allowing this to happen?' she pleaded.

"The prison was surrounded by high walls, and thick bars covered every opening. Prisoners were guarded constantly when they were allowed out of their cells; there seemed no way of escape.

"One cold, rainy day Esther shivered as she waited in line to use the bathroom. The guard was called elsewhere, leaving the prisoners unguarded.

Suddenly Esther felt an unseen hand push her toward the prison wall, where she found sacks of cement piled like a stairway. She climbed over the wall and ran to the nearby village. She hid in a small building, shivering from the cold.

"She heard voices and watched as a search party moved from house to house, looking for her. 'Jesus, help me,' she pleaded. The guards skipped the building where she was hiding, and eventually turned back toward the prison without finding her.

"The rain turned to snow, but Esther couldn't stay any longer. She trudged out of the village through the deepening snow. 'God, show me the way,' she prayed. Immediately a light illuminated her path and she followed it. The path led out of North Korea and back into China.

"For two months Esther walked, crossing a desert and cutting her way through barbed wire fences. She found shelter with sympathetic farmers. At last she crossed out of China. She found soldiers who took her to the embassy of South Korea, where she was given asylum.

"Esther eventually arrived in South Korea, where she met Sister Park, an elderly Seventh-day Adventist woman who had made her ministry to help refugees from North Korea find a new life in South Korea. Sister Park is their Dorcas, cooking for them if they are sick, providing food and clothes and shelter for them until they can care for themselves. But most important, Sister Park leads these people to Jesus.

"'God led me to freedom,' Esther says. 'Today, thanks to His love and His people who helped me, I am free indeed!'

--GC Office of Adventist Mission

VI. Bangladesh Orphanage Featured on Hope TV

David and Barbara Weld (sp?) were interviewed by Don Schneider on his very interesting TV program, REALLY LIVING today, November 15th. David and Barbara are retirees who have been working in Bangladesh for several years, establishing and running an orphanage and a school in a rural area, a 7-hour drive from Dacca. They currently have 150 children in their orphanage, and more children from the surrounding villages in their school. They have plans to increase the size of their institution to accommodate 500 children in the orphanage and add more acreage to their present 5-acre site. They have several teachers who have received their training at Spicer Memorial College in India.

VII. Chinese Union Mission Reorganized at GC Annual Council

--from the current issue of the Adventist Review

Chinese Union Mission to focus on Hong Kong, Macau, and mainland China (Posted November 7, 2012) By Mark A. Kellner, news editor

Educational and organizational matters topped the agenda of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's 2012 Annual Council on the afternoon of October 15, 2012, with world church leaders voting to reorganize the Chinese Union Mission, headquartered in Hong Kong, and rename the Greater Middle East Union.

The Chinese Union Mission (CHUM) will now focus on the territories of Hong Kong and Macau, each a "special administrative region" of the People's Republic of China (PRC). The PRC's "unorganized territory" of 400,000 Seventh-day Adventists will also be a constituency of CHUM.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Taiwan, and an affiliated hospital, university, and publishing house, will directly link to the Northern Asia-Pacific Division (NSD), headquartered in Seoul, Republic of Korea.
"Since China is so huge," said Jairyong Lee, NSD president, "they always feel they need more help. Meanwhile, our people in Taiwan feel they have been neglected by the union, even though the union did its best. The idea [of the reorganization] is to let the China Union Mission do more for mainland China."

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