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II. Letter
   1. Happy Thanksgiving from the Rawlings
      Leading to the Light <rawlings@leadingtothelight.org> November 22:
      Everywhere are glimpses of God's character & love. On this Thanksgiving Day, we are thankful for nature. We are blessed to live in the country of Thailand where we can see the things of God and come apart from the idol worship that dominates this land.
      Even though we are oceans apart, may God draw our hearts closer together. We pray your Thanksgiving Day will be full of blessings as you seek to reach out to others.
      "Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name." Psalm 18:49 -- The Rawlings Family, Micah, Lynette, Steve and Elyssa ~~~~~~~~~~ III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 9
      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.

(9. Charles F. Lowry (Eva Callicott) (1915-1919)
   Pastor Charles F. Lowry arrived in the field in 1916 and was appointed superintendent of the Myanmar Mission. It was during his term of service that the Myanmar Mission was reorganised in early 1919 into the Myanmar Union Mission, and he was the first superintendent of the Union.
   Unfortunately, Pastor Lowry's untimely death cut short his service in that capacity. He died of small-pox in February 14, 1919. Pastor Lowry rendered excellent service from the time of his arrival from America in 1916 until his death. Brother Lowry was from a real missionary family. His brother Gentry Lowry was president of the Southern Asia Division for a time. Mrs. Lowry (Eva Callicott Lowry) was also of missionary stock. Her sister Lois (Lois Callicott-Carter) served in India with her husband Pastor J. B. Carter for many years.

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IV. Church Growth in Thailand
   Chanchai Kiatyanyong, Mission President
   "The Lord is blessing the work in Thailand in many ways. During the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2012 we had 451 baptisms. We pray that by the end of the year we will reach 800 to 1000. This year though God's guidance we were able to open 10 new worship groups in different areas all over Thailand. We have finished church buildings and rebuilt smaller churches into bigger ones. We plan to open more congregations in the South. . . ."
   "This year Chiangmai Adventist Academy (CAA) has 808 students; it is really crowded and we cannot accept any more students. Because the majority of the SDA churches are in the North, there are many parents who would like to have an Adventist education and so CAA is crowded. In the near future we plan to open another school in Chiangrai. . . ."
from October's "Shining Light in Thailand"

V. Power of Music -- A Chinese Global Mission Story

"Kai Ming was a Christian. Her greatest joy was leading her church choir. Then she met Yen, a Global Mission pioneer who was working in her city. Kai Ming was impressed with Yen's singing and invited him to teach her choir how to sing better. Yan agreed.

"Soon Kai Ming realized that Yen knew his Bible well. She asked him to teach her more about the Bible. She invited her fellow church members to join her to learn more of the Word of God. When the leaders of Kai Ming's church learned that Ken was teaching their members Bible truths the leaders did not believe in, they threatened Yen and warned Kai Ming not to associate with her former church members.

"Kai Ming was baptized and opened her home to start a home church. She invited her friends to come and learn more about God. In spite of her former church's edict, Kai Ming invited her former church friends to come and hear Yen teach about God. She wanted her friends to understand God's will and the reasons why she had left her former church.

"Within a month of Kai Ming's baptism, 12 people were coming to her home church, 7 of whom came from her former church. They wanted to know what had drawn Kai Ming away from their church and the choir that she loved so much.

"Kai Ming visited one old woman who was bedridden with a bad back. She prayed for the woman every day, and within a month the old woman could walk again. The woman, her daughter, and her granddaughter began attending Kai Ming's house church to thank God for her healing.

"Others came asking for prayer for health and personal issues, and the group prayed for them. When several saw answers to their prayers, they came back and brought others.

Kai Ming made a good living selling blankets. But she yearned to reach more people for God. So, she gave up her blanket business and became a Global Mission pioneer. She has taken over Yen's work in her city, allowing Yen to begin working in another city. In the past three years, Kai Ming has lead about 50 or 60 people to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including her two adult daughters.

"'I've always believed in Jesus,' she says. 'But when I met Yen, I learned the whole truth of the Bible. I thank God that He is willing to use me to lead others to Jesus. God is so important in my life.'"

[Kai Ming Fang is a Global Mission pioneer in Jiaingsu Province, north of Shanghai, China.] --from the GC Office of Adventist Mission ~~~~~~~~~~ VI. With the Bairs in Thailand

The Bair Family <<missions@danielbair.com>> November 30:

We (Tesha and Daniel Bair) are still studying the Thai language. Our toddlers, Nana and Sano, are picking up some Thai, too, as they hear mom and dad practicing. We have been told we are doing well in our studies. That is good encouragement, since the language acquisition doesn't seem to come fast enough for us. We are so eager to be able, someday, to freely talk with people.

The most exciting news regarding language study is that we are now finally learning to read and write Thai! Our homework is now taking a bit more time, practicing the Thai alphabet. But it is so fun to be able to recognize letters in the Thai writing we see around us. We only have a few more letters to learn to write, and then we will be practicing our Thai lessons in Thai script.

On another note, we have also been asked about Thai holidays, and Thai worship customs that we see around us. The first Thai holiday we saw was the Queen of Thailand's birthday. It is celebrated a lot like Mother's Day, with giving flowers, cards, and other gestures of appreciation to one's mother.

The King of Thailand's birthday is coming up in December, and we have heard it is a lot like Father's Day.

A few weeks ago, we went on a field trip with our Thai language teacher, to Chiang Mai to visit the famous Warorot Market. That day we saw a lot of Thai people burning incense and offering food at the spirit house shrines they have on their properties. Our teacher, Khruu Oiy, said it was the last day of a three-month-long Buddhist holiday.

The most recent holiday was Loi Krathong, which was just a few days ago.

The words Loi Krathong mean "to float", so the day is characterized by floating flower arrangements that are shaped like a lotus flower on the water. The flowers are thought to thank the water goddess. We didn't see much of that, since we don't live near the water. But, we did see festivities from the northern holiday called Yi Peng. Our neighbors set off fireworks, and they also floated paper lanterns into the sky from the Wat (temple) in our village. We could see the lanterns floating up into the sky from our house. They believe that sending up the paper lanterns builds merit. The flowers, lanterns, and fireworks are beautiful, but it makes us a bit sad, since we
know they are trying in their own strength to gain the forgiveness and peace that Jesus has given as a free gift to all who will come to Him.

Construction on the boy's dorm has begun. They are building it from bamboo as funds have not come in to be able to build a concrete dorm. The boys have been staying in staff housing, but they desperately need their own dorm now. So they make do with what is available.

We enjoyed American Thanksgiving with other missionary friends complete with pumpkin pie that Tesha made. Tesha also made a cranberry like relish from a local Thai plant. Some did not have the typical Thanksgiving Thursday free, so we had our Thanksgiving meal a few days later for Sabbath lunch.

Venie Osborn had us all over to her place and made vegan stuffing, mashed potatoes and corn. Others brought sweet potatoes and such just like Thanksgiving back home.

We have been happy to welcome some new volunteers to the All-Asia TV Studio project. Aaron Frichtl, along with his wife, Deonna, and son Zalen, has joined us for six months. Aaron is skilled with audio production, and he is here to help build the audio systems in the studio. The studio has rooms that were built just for audio production. The sound-proof rooms were designed for high quality recording, but they have been lacking the microphones, and other audio equipment. We are looking forward to sharing the progress as it develops.

As for the rest of the Frichl family, Deonna is a physical therapist, and has already had the opportunity to teach health classes for the EOP staff. Zalen is making friends with the students and local kids, and he might be able to help Michael Strack (who is another of our co-workers at the AATV Studio) with the Bible studies he has for a group of village kids.

Aaron was able to bring some donated, high quality audio equipment from the USA. The FCC had reallocated the 700 Mhz bandwidth to be used for expanding wireless internet markets. So, these wireless microphones on this frequency cannot be used in the U.S., without incurring major fines. So a kind church donated their wireless microphones, that were needing to be phased out, for Aaron to take with him to Thailand. We are so thankful for that donation!

Ideas for audio production include quality Christian music that shares the gospel of Jesus Christ, and voice-overs to translate Christian videos into the local languages.

We still hope one day to have the opportunity to broadcast over the ABS-1 Satellite, but first TV programs need to be developed.

We are working on a mission update video for all of you and were hoping to have it finished for this newsletter. But there is a lot of editing still to be done. So be watching for our mission update video. We really think you will like it.

We're trying our best to make a difference in this part of the world...

But we cannot do it alone. We really need an army of people who would be willing to come and witness to the unreached. If you can't come but would like to help the missionary work go forward, you can send a tax deductible donation to: Jesus for Asia, PO Box 216, Collegedale, Tennessee 37315.

Please make a note that it is for Thailand Gospel Media Project.

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VII. Lair of Criminals Entered by SULADS

By Ranny de Vera

A newly opened territory was recently entered by SULADS missionaries after promptings by the local government with no less than the Municipal Mayor actively participating in the said endeavour. Because of the raving news of the opened school in Tamparan, Munai - a municipality under Lanao Norte, word has spread around of the good news of the SULADS teaching activities there. Local residents from adjoining barangays have started to clamour for more schools to be operated by SULADS! It will be recalled that these places are relatively surrounded by homogenous Muslim communities and it is quite interesting that they find Seventh-day Adventists as people worthy of their trust.

Tapurog is the newly entered area. It is a lair for criminals and a place for safe-keeping of kidnap victims held by rebels for a handsome ransom fee. When the SULADS missionaries first entered the area, they described the place as very remote with no public vehicles able to drive through its rugged road. They noticed that residents were freely brandishing their weapons of all sorts with no fear of government apprehension because, after all, this was a rebels' lair.

As soon as they were ushered to where they were to stay and live while on duty as teachers, they were handed an UZI - a high calibre weapon for their defense and would-be protection! The SULADS graciously refused the offer saying, "We have Allah as our protection."

The Muslims who offered them the weapon, were amazed because to them, without a firearm respect cannot be demanded from the locals. One of the residents, after introducing himself added that he has not gone down to the
nearest community for the last three years for fear of apprehension because he murdered the local leader of another community!

This is the condition of the newly entered area of Tapurog, a haven of rebels and criminals. We praise the Almighty God that He opened the way for the Gospel, through SULADS, to enter this place that otherwise would not have been reached by ordinary means. Please pray that as our SULADS teach and bring the gospel to this highly critical and dangerous place. Pray that they may they be safe in God’s hands. Pray also that God will provide the means as there are many other Muslim communities wanting for their village to be entered by SULADS.

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Forget vote: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=08IuioESK&m=1a17afe5cb20&c=f

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