I. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 10

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.

10. J. M. Comer (1911-12)

J. M. Comer came over from Calcutta to do evangelistic work in Yangon, Myanmar, and continued from late 1911 to late 1912, when he returned to Calcutta. He was assisted by Henry E. Baash, a German, who was baptised by Pr. Heber H. Votaw in 1911.

II. Death of Etoile Martin

Wayne Martin <wamartyn@att.net> November 30

My wife, Etoile Martin, passed away Nov. 27 at the age of 91. She served with me ten years in Thailand. She grew up in Michigan and assisted me in pastoral work by making friends with prospective members and encouraging them to become Christians. She was the mother of our two surviving children, a daughter who taught at Southern Adventist University, and a son who is a computer technician.

III. Myanmar Frontier Missions' 13th Annual Meeting

Saw Thein <sawthein2009@gmail.com> Dec. 5:

All MFM pioneers arrived Meiktila on November 23. Our opening ceremony started on that evening. Pastor U Bo Khin from Magway was with us and altogether we had 16 in attendance. We had the special privilege to conduct our meetings starting with a holy Sabbath and a holy Communion Service. On Sabbath evening we enjoyed AY sundown worship at the Meiktila lakeside.

Our evangelism fund for this year was very limited so we could have only two evangelist: U Tun Sein in Pwint Phyu and John Yawhan in ShweBo. Two nursery school teachers could not attend the meetings. At the meetings we discussed our evangelism work that introduced people of the community through nursery schools. We have heard the report presentations from our pioneers. Finally we closed the meetings with a commitment to the Lord for what gifts that God had given us.

We are very happy that some persons are interested and asked about our work in Myanmar. We do not have our website page yet. We plan during the next three years to plant seven churches in middle Myanmar where we already have started. We submitted a proposal to an organization and requested major funding. It will cost to plant a church about $ 5,000 each.

In order to implement our tasks we urgently need the help from our friends. We believe that God will answer our prayers through some persons what we are looking for. We have moved the MFM office and resident to Meiktila. Please
keep contact and pray for us. Our office phone number is 95-64-35419. If you are in Myanmar the phone number is 064-35419. Our office address is: 392, Pthitayar Ward Staff Quarter, Street No. (6), Meiktila, Myanmar.

IV. Public Birth of Baby in Thailand

From the AFM's "Adventist Frontiers" December issue:
"The fluorescent lights glowed dimly over the heads of the waiting patients. It was just before 5 a.m. They had come early to be sure to be seen by the doctors on this Friday morning. As they sat quietly, some with eyes closed, they heard a voice behind them. A woman, obviously pregnant, even more obviously in labor, was walking in the entrance to the hospital.

She was talking to herself in English, but when an attendant came running in with a wheelchair, she switched to Thai and told him, 'I can't sit down. The baby is coming now.'

"Then, before the crowd of witnesses, she squatted down and delivered her child in the hospital lobby, picked him up and held him to her chest.

Her husband ran in just as she was picking up the baby and sitting down in the wheelchair. The people in the hospital lobby had never seen anything like this before in their lives. This was a story they would never forget and would probably tell for some time.

"Our son, Ephram, entered the world on Friday, October 5 at 5 o'clock in the morning. We praise the Lord for a safe, albeit unconventional, delivery.

"Even more amazing than the miracle of new life that the people in the lobby witnessed is the miracle of lives changed by the power of Jesus. We have been witnesses to the way Christ has changed our lives, and we pray that we can witnesses to the changed lives of many Northern Khmer brothers and sisters." -- Keli Doss

Included in the article is a picture of AFM missionaries Robbie, Keli, Hope, Haven and Ephram Doss.

V. Season's Greetings

Carol & Bob Grady <carrolgrady@hotmail.com> December 10:

Dear Family and Friends,

It's hard to decide what was the most exciting news of this year - the birth in April of twin great-grandchildren, Dante and Lily, to our oldest granddaughter Lanisa; the birth, in July, of Toby, our 15th grandchild (and third son of our third son Paul), or Bob's 80th birthday in November? They were all exciting events that celebrated life! And the older we get, the more precious we realize life is.

I won't spend much time on the less delightful aspects of the "maturing process" with which many of you are too well acquainted already, except to say that even Bob, the "go-go energizer bunny," is beginning to feel the effects of mortality. A knee replacement is in the works at St. Helena's Joint Center, and he is having a lot of pain till that can be scheduled. He is actually missing out on the SAGE mission trip for the first time this January, but he hopes to be up and running soon.

Some of SAGE's activities this year:

- St. Patrick's Day banquet in March, with an Irish band and a group of step-dancers for entertainment - really fun!
- Mission trip to Holbrook Indian School to build a garage, paint several buildings, and really spruce up the campus, with Grand Canyon, Painted Desert, Petrified Forest and other Arizona sightseeing included.
- Clean-up after winter storms and painting new gym at Sunset Lake Camp.
- Painting four conference schools, plus two churches and two schools in Oahu, Hawaii.
- Live production of "Sound of Music" and other sightseeing in Bavarian-style town of Leavenworth in the Cascades.
- Olympic Music Festival "Concert In the Barn" at Quilcene.
- SAGE Reunion Day at the Conference Office, with Dr. Alden Thompson as our speaker.
- Caroling and gift-giving at an assisted living facility, followed by tour of Bellevue's "Garden d'Lights" at the botanical gardens with thousands of Christmas fairylights.
Carrol's Activities:
· In February Kinship Advisory Board met in Loma Linda. While there I got to see a screening of "Seventh-Gay Adventists." It is a very heart-touching documentary about the difficulties gay/lesbian Adventists face in trying to reconcile their spirituality with their sexuality. It has now had some 45-46 screenings around the US and overseas, with the latest being at La Sierra Church where nearly 1000 attended. Sometime after the first of the year it will be available on DVD. Hope you will all see it.
· In August I attended the NAD K-12 Teachers’ Convention in Nashville. Although my booth, focusing on bullying of gay/lesbian students, was cancelled at the last minute (after having reserved it ten months before), my team and I decided to go anyway and talk to as many people as we could. We made a lot of good contacts, and a pastor-ally who writes a column for the Huffington Post told about booth being cancelled, which probably spread the news of my ministry even further than the booth could have.
· Quilts, quilts, quilts! I made three baby quilts and finished a big quilt for Robert, Bruce’s stepson, in time for his 16th birthday. Currently, I’m quilting one for Carolyn and halfway through piecing a quilt top for Brandon, Robert’s younger sister and brother, who are 14 and 13 respectively. These are all hand-pieced and hand-quilted, which is why they take so long. . .
· We are thankful to God for all His blessings every day and for the hope of His Second Advent. May God bless each one of you, our family and friends, in the coming year!~~~~~~~~~~~ VI. A Christmas Poem by Carrol Grady The Young Shepherd

The night is chill and I snuggle
with my pet lamb near the fire.

Father and old Uncle Nathan
talk quietly as they watch
for hungry wolves who are prowling
for something to eat in these hills.

Reuben and John sleep soundly,
protected from frost by thick robes.

Sheep softly bleat as they huddle
together for warmth from the cold.

My eyelids droop drowsily.
Sleep hovers near; overtakes me.
I startle awake as a brilliant white light suddenly blazes around me.

I hear a voice like the sound
of a deep, melodious bell:
"I bring you good tidings of
comfort and joy for all people."

I open my eyes and stare, amazed,
At an awesome, incredible sight:

A heavenly messenger of stern beauty and grace has come to announce the birth of our Savior!

And then, the most glorious music,
that ever my ears did hear is ringing
and echoing through the hills;
resounding across the skies.
"Glory to God in the highest; good will to those on earth."

An angelic chorus of radiant evangels rejoices with news that will transform our world.

We listen in reverence and wonder to their message of astonishing importance.

While our ears are still ringing with music celestial, our vision still blurred with splendor divine, the radiance fades. We're alone once more on a dark hillside under frosty stars,

We look at each other in silence, dazed and enthralled by the vision we've seen.

At last Uncle Nathan gets to his feet. "Come, let's go see," he commands.

We leave our sheep and follow the glittering star to a stable inn in Bethlehem town.

Shyly we gather around the door viewing the scene within.

Bathed in heavn's warm glow, is a mother, her tiny, new babe, and the father, watching over them both.

Can it be? Is this the long-promised Messiah? Has God taken our form, and become one of us?

We bow in bemused adoration and awe, only faintly perceiving Heaven's incredible gift."

[Written for reading in her local church, posted on FaceBook.] ~~~~~~~~~ VII. Community Outreach in Chiang Khong

Micah Rawlings<rawlings@leadingtothelight.org> Dec, 11:
At our recent community outreach event in Chiang Khong, 67 members of the community registered for a free vision screening by Dr. Supachai from Bangkok. They also received reading glasses, blood pressure checks and more examples of healthy vegetarian cooking.

During lunch we mingled with the people smiling and nodding. They were happy for this opportunity to learn more from the team.

Ignoring the protests from Ratri & Elyssa, Micah & I went outside in the back to wash dishes. Pretty soon we could hear stifled giggles. As we looked around, we spotted four local Thai children. I smiled as I scraped dirty dishes into a bucket. Micah handed me a low stool and I began to wash. In Thai, I asked them if they could speak English and they responded with another chorus of giggles and ran away. Not for long, I thought. Soon they drifted back and I started
asking them questions in Thai. Next I asked them if they knew the English names of various things. Soon we were learning from each other. When the dishes were done, they grabbed my hand and drug me though the house chattering away.

I watched the approving eyes of several of the local people. Barriers seem to melt away in the presence of children. When it was time to leave for the day, the children thanked us profusely and told us in English how much they liked us. "See you tomorrow," they said, jumping up and down. We nodded and waved.

This year we have reached these milestones:

1. Opened a large 2 story community outreach center in Chiang Khong for Health Evangelism.
2. Supported one full time medical missionary.
3. Supplied Bibles & Literature in the Local languages.
4. Paid this year's tuition for two needy Karen refugee students.
5. Supplied materials to build a church in the village of Htee khoe.
6. Supported two full time Bible evangelists in Karen State.
7. Enabled Steve to volunteer his time to assist Pastor Phamor.

Milestones for the future:

1. Children's Evangelism - Mae La Refugee Camp: Sunday thru Thursday evenings, children and parents come join our team for a Vacation Bible School type program. This is a non ending program for families that will teach Bible truth, Christian principles, Discipleship, and Community Outreach.
2. Church Building Project - Sho Lu Kho Teet Village: This village’s forty member SDA church has grown to seventy members. In January we plan to build a larger church next to the existing church which will then be used for children's meetings.
3. Karen Bible Evangelist School - On the Thai/Myanmar Border We are planning to partner with Pastor Phamor to open a Karen Bible training center on the Thai border. Forty six students will arrive on January 14, 2013 to commence course.
4. International Bible Evangelist School - Near Chiang Mai We will also partner with Pastor Phamor to open a Bible training center at Education Opportunity Foundation. Classes will begin February 18, 2013 for ten committed Bible students. Six of the students from Myanmar will be sent immediately to the southern part of Karen State to assist Pastor Belay to open new territory.
5. Literature Publishing

We will be ready to publish the Thai Sabbath Tract and the Karen Great Controversy in February.

-- The Rawlings Family: Micah, Lynette, Steve and Elyssa ~~~~~~~~~~ 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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