I. Remembering Driving in Bangkok

Bill & Beth Dickerson <billbethd@msn.com> August 11:

A friend, Ken Wilbur, recently shared with us an account of traffic in rush hour in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. It brought to our memories our own driving experiences in and around Bangkok, Thailand.

We saw a lot of this "wild", yet quite orderly driving practices for getting where you needed to be, while we lived for 10 years in Bangkok, finally learning to drive that way ourselves. Traffic laws were invented to deal with Bangkok's traffic congestion at the rush hour. Their wide streets are often described as the world's largest parking lots. We've even seen motorcycles take to the sidewalk in the wild rush-hour traffic. At times we have disembarked from the city buses and walked some distance to our destination, arriving long before the passenger bus arrived.

Some of these road rules came back with us when we returned to America.

I remember our daughter, Cyndy, really giving it to us and saying, "You can't do that here, Pa." She really spoke to us authoritatively and she got really upset when we tried some of those driving skills here. Some of our family and friends refused to ride with us anymore, even to this day.

One thing we did in Bangkok was to cross a busy thoroughfare by finding an opening to walk or run to the center of the street, then waiting there while we found a break in the traffic to finish our trip across a busy 6 or 8 lanes of traffic. I remember here on College Avenue unthinkingly crossing to the middle line and then waiting for oncoming cars to pass so we could finish crossing the street. Nobody would go past us, instead, both lanes of traffic would come to a full stop while they waited for us to complete our crossing.

Before we became fully reeducated in the rules of the road in the USA, we heard a lot of horn blowing, caught sight of many looks with daggers, and learned of whole new vocabulary of expletives and the like. We're not completely sure that the driving rules of the East are all out of our system, yet. Maybe you'll read our obituary one of these days because be reverted to the rules of the road in the Orient. Hope not!!!

Thanks for letting us share something we have tried hard to forget.

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II. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 41, 42, 43

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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# 41. Emma Lehman (1926-1933)

She rendered excellent service in Yangon English School for a term of years in the 1930s. Emma Lehman was from Canada.

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#42. I. S. Walker (1939-1942)

Dr. I. S. Walker came from America and pioneered in starting a hospital in Yangon. A building was rented for clinical work on Dalhousie and Oliphant Streets in Rangoon, and work was begun in 1939. It was a success from the beginning.
He operated the clinic well until forced to leave by the Japanese invasion early in 1942. Dr. and Mrs. Walker joined the hundreds who were fleeing for their lives and trekked out on foot over the mountains to India. There Dr. Walker died, after serving a short time in one of the SDA hospitals, truly a dedicated worker and a willing sacrifice for the cause of God which he loved.

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#43. E. M. Meleen (1941-42)
PRESIDENT

Pastor Meleen served as president of the Myanmar Union Mission from 1941 to 1942. He worked many years in the education department in India. The fiery trials of war started in 1942 as Elder Meleen and other missionaries (E. B. Hare, W. W. Christensen, H. Baird, F. A. Wyman, J. Baldwin) were still in Yangon. They later proceeded to Upper Myanmar for India. He continued to serve the Lord in India after Second World War.

III. The Maddocks Have Served Cambodia 21 Years

Terence Maddocks <terence.maddocks@gmail.com> August 2:

--Prayer Journal, August 2013

Milestones are significant but often overlooked as we hurry through life. How often I have been looking out for the milestone that would tell me how far to my destination only to miss it due to deep concentration on getting to where I desired to be. July 7 was one of those milestones that we almost missed. For our family, it marked 21 years in Cambodia. What blessings and miracles we have experienced and witnessed during those 21 years. As I walk around the Wat Preah Yesu campus and see the tall trees and buildings where once there was wasteland, I am constantly in awe of what God is doing. As I look at the young people that God is molding in His image and I think from where they have come, I am in awe. As I meet church planters who have brought many to Christ and then remember that somehow God used us to help train them, I am in awe. But there is an on going miracle that to me eclipses them all, that is the miracle of what God is doing in my own life and my relationship with Him.

Twenty one years in Cambodia marks the beginning of looking to the next milestone. For me that stone will be reached when the current young people we are training become the next generation of soul winners for Christ. Time is short and I believe that many of our young people sense that and are redirecting their lives to preparing themselves and those around them to meet their Lord in the clouds of heaven.

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Update on Cambodian Adventist School Staff

A question I am often asked is, "How many teachers do you have in the Cambodia Adventist School-Kantrok?" My usual answer has been, "I am not sure, I just pay them." Closing exercises for the 2012/13 school year, on July 25, forced me to do a count so that I could prepare the right number of envelopes to give each teacher a small reward for their years service. I was surprised when the count reached 32, excluding myself. Our staff are Khmer, American, English, New Zealander, Australian, Norwegian, and Filipino. A diverse group of people with a common goal, to prepare children and young people to meet Jesus.

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IV. Terrible Flooding in Karen Area of Burma

Rawlings Family <rawlings@leadingtothelight.org> August 4:

Full Flood Story

Karen, a member of an Australian youth group serving in "No Man's Land" writes:

"The Muay River separating Thailand and Burma transforms every year. It shifts from a strong but pleasant river where children play and others bathe to a rising and profound body of water, painted by the brown dirt it pushes and collects. While the river always smells of danger, rainy season entices the churning river. As the water pours down, the river grows deeper, threatening to overflow and devour the surrounding area. Last week the people of Ta Lod, Burma were seized by the river, robbed of their homes and left with a sodden and empty shadow of their lives.

"As mothers cooked and Karen soldiers walked the unpaved roads of the village, the tan water struck the community by surprise. The village flooded. Days passed and the water still covered bedrooms, kitchens, classrooms and even people. The flood even went past Ta Lod to the town above them. Now, 700 people are missing and only 100 bodies have been recovered from the murky watery remains. When I received this news I was told that everything was lost.

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"Specifically in Ta Lod, 15 families have lost their homes and everything they have. They have no place to stay and hope for help from somewhere. The dormitory for children has been washed away by the sweeping river and the 50 children who had made it their home have nothing more. They lived in the dormitory because they and their families were unable to provide them with food, clothing and schooling. Now with this opportunity batted away by a massive wall of water, they urgently need food, clothing and shelter.

What makes this story worse for me is that just a few weeks ago we spent a few days in Ta Lod with a group of Australian volunteers building a water tank. The tank was to give access to water to the entire village. We built the tank, ran piping along the village and prepared the taps in a few days. Excitement ran along the group as they realized they would be helping a village have running water. Now the tank is filled with the same water that washed the town away.

A few weeks ago there was hope for a different kind of life in their organized village. The cease fire had meant less death, they built up their town in peace knowing they would not have to run in the middle of the night and leave everything behind. But now a different enemy has killed villagers and left many homeless. In the middle of rainy season, these people must begin again.

While the damaged cannot be repaired in a couple of days emergency aid is needed to provide the villagers with food, clothing and shelter. The individuals in these villages live off of what they can grow, sell, build or work for. Some are Karen soldiers who receive no salary, simply a ration of rice and chilies. In order to begin reconstructing we need immediate assistance to shed a ray of hope for a people who have a history of fleeing.

We hope to begin reconstructing homes as soon as possible and ask for help with this as well. Please share this information with your friends and family so that we may garner as much support and help as possible.

Leading to the Light
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V. Furlough Funding--"He Is Able"

Kent George in August 2013 Adventist Frontiers Magazine

"Just before we left on furlough, I mentioned to the staff in Kemantian that they should expect some major spiritual challenges in our absence, as has often been the case during past furloughs. Well. this time I was wrong.

Things fell apart just two days before we left, and we had to evacuate all our non-native staff from Kemantian (a story for another time.) It was very discouraging, and we wondered if this might be the end of our 17+ years of work in Palawan. We caught our flight out on time, but it was a tight squeeze, and we slept very little during our last two days in Palawan. Soon after our arrival in the States, we got word that a new Palawan governor had been elected. Part of his campaign platform was a promise to rid Palawan of all missionaries. About the same time, we also learned we would have to have an additional $4,240 in monthly pledges for our project. As I talked to AFM management, they also realized the magnitude of the challenge before us.

Raising that much monthly support in 10 weeks was an almost impossible goal.

'It is tempting to believe that the challenges were too great. But it was yet another opportunity to put everything back in God's hands and say, 'Father, the whole project is Yours and we are Your servants. If it is time to end the project, that is your decision. If You want us to continue, You most certainly bring can bring us through.' As the Palawan Project grew, we realize more and more that we are only servants doing what God asks.

'We began a speaking and visiting tour of the States that took us through Southern California where I spoke to a small group students and other folks at Loma Linda. As I looked at the small group, I felt impressed not to spend time trying to raise funds, but rather to encourage the students to dedicate their lives to God's work, to challenge them to become frontier missionaries rather than to settle into lives of affluence. I expected minimal donations that night, but I earnestly hoped hearts would be touched and life decisions would be made. So you can imagine my surprise when a good friend of ours at the meeting pledged $1000 a month to our project! When I asked how she had come to this decision, she replied that God had let her know we needed her help. She hadn't even known we were in the States until earlier that day when I called and invited her to the meeting.

'This miraculous pledge was God's way of letting that He isn't through with us yet. He has done many miracles in the past, and He will continue to do miracles in the future. We are His servants spreading the Good News, and He will supply all our needs.
"All our staff members have returned to Kemantian, and improvements are taking place the we would never have dreamed possible. What about the new governor? Well, God is certainly stronger than he is. Besides, we all know how early politicians forget campaign promises. And our fundraising? We have a real pro in charge of that, and I can't wait to see what He will do."

VI. Judy Aitken on Simple Remedies AND Prayer

"I love the story of when Jesus healed a blind man through the use of simple and natural remedies: ‘...He (Jesus) spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay and He said to him, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam". So he went and washed and came back seeing.' (John 9:6,7) God still heals through the use of simple remedies combined with prayer.

"During a recent visit to Albany, New York, I met a Karen refugee named Moo Htay*. After many hours of tears and pain pills with no results, she asked my daughter, Jolene, who is a volunteer refugee worker, if there was anything she could do. Jolene brought her to me, asking if I knew a cure for migraines. I laid hands on her and prayed in the name of Jesus Christ and then administered a hot foot bath. By the end of the treatment, God had completely taken away her pain. She was able to return home and have a good night's sleep. Praise God for His supernatural power!

"This reminds me of a Vietnamese lay pastor who was subjected to beatings on the head from authorities and consequently lived with severe, chronic headaches. Prayer, combined with hot footbaths was the cure for him as well. We solicit your prayers and support of ASAP national missionaries, who share Jesus through prayer and simple remedies.

-- from the current issue of ASAP Ministries magazine ~~~~~~~~~~~~~ VII. SULADS Story -- An Abandoned Church is Resurrected

By Edgar Itable, Gospel Outreach Worker, Lebak, Sultan Kudaret, Philippines

Edgar Itable was assigned by the Southern Mindanao Mission to Lebak in November, 2012, because there was a church building there that was not being used. He found that there were 15 former Seventh-day Adventists living in Lebak but they no longer attended the church.

Willie Cabasag was a pastor of another protestant church. He wanted to take over the abandoned Adventist church. This is what prompted the mission to assign Edgar to Lebak so that he could revive the former members and fill the church again.

Edgar began visiting the villagers and inviting the former members to return to their former beliefs. He held a series of meeting in the village and baptized 12 individuals on March 9, 2013. The captain of the local sitio (small village) was among that 12 as well as Willie Cabasag, the now former pastor of the protestant church.

Willy Cabasag is now assisting Edgar Itable in his work in Lebak as well as reaching out to other villages around. Now nearly the whole village of 20 households are Seventh-day Adventists because all the former members have been reclaimed and are active again.

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