I. Dick Hall Visits Laos by Phone

II. Death of Mrs. Lorraine Yen

III. Spreading the Gospel in Thailand

IV. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries #15 V. Daniel Bair’s Hike to No-Mans Land--Part 1 of 2 VI. Scott Griswold Family Returns to States ~~~~~~~~~~ I. Dick Hall Visits Laos by Phone

"I received a call from a lady we knew from Laos. She said a group of Lao believers had heard how we started the work more than 50 years ago in Laos and they wanted to talk with me over the phone. The next day she called back with more than fifty people on a conference call to Laos. They sang and we prayed together. Then they asked me if I would preach them a sermon in Laos. Though it had been a long time since I had preached in Laos, God provided the words. We had an amazing time fellowshipping together. We were on the call for eighty minutes. It was a thrilling experience." -- from the current ASAP Ministries magazine.

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II. Death of Mrs. Lorraine Yen

"We regret to announce that Lorraine Yen, the late wife of Pastor Nathaniel Yen, had rested with Jesus Christ on January 23, 2013. She was 84 years old. Our church family expresses our deepest condolence to Pastor Nathaniel Yen and his family. Mrs. Yen was a constant partner with Pastor Yen throughout his ministry in Taiwan and the States. We were informed that services will be held at Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, California." -- from Paul Cho's Weekly Newsletter and Church Bulletin for the Chino Valley Chinese Seventh-day Adventist Church - January 26, 2013

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Add Pastor Cho: "It is saddening to know that Mrs. Yen rests in peace in the Lord. Dear family, please accept our deepest condolence. We know we all have hope that we will meet her again when Jesus comes. If there is any thing I can do, please feel free to let us know. May God continue to comfort you and give you strength too.

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III. Spreading the Gospel in Thailand

The Rawlings Family <rawlings@leadingtothelight.org> Jan. 27:

We just want you to know how blessed we are to be able to work side by side with some of God's committed workers here in Thailand. This year Leading to the Light will advance its focus on "True, Christian Education" to bring the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ, the "True Light", to the people of Asia. We have three opportunities for you to pray about:

**1 - Karen Bible Evangelist School - On the Thai/Myanmar Border
**2 - Church Building Materials for Sho Lu Kho Teet Village
**3 - 10,000 Sabbath Tracts in the Karen Language

1. Karen Bible Evangelist School - On the Thai/Myanmar Border We are praising God for an opportunity to support the training of forty-six Adventist lay workers. Our New Life-School of True Education with Pastor Phamor will begin this month. God has provided a beautiful country property with adequate buildings for us to rent on the Thai/Myanmar border.

Twenty-two committed Bible students will begin a six month training on Jan. 30, 2013. After the Karen Adventist grade schools break for summer vacation in March, twenty-four trained teachers and Bible evangelists will join the training program for two of the remaining five months. Each student has agreed to provide for his own travel and visa expenses, as well as participate in our daily work study program.

Many of these students, teachers, and evangelists must work very hard and sacrifice much to have the opportunity to obtain knowledge in order that they may labor for the ignorant and perishing. The majority subsist on an average
monthly income of less than $175.00 US. One Burmese student who attended a past training in Mae Tang was so pleased to report that not only had he earned his airfare and visa, but had come to the school with an extra 1,500 Burmese Kyte ($1.75 US) to help support himself. Joyfully he turned the money over to pastor Phamor to help with the cost of his room and board".

Pastor Phamor graciously excepted the money, knowing that this amount would not even provide a toothbrush and soap for this young man. God blessed both this young man’s commitment to learn and the Pastor’s efforts to provide true education to the people in Asia.

We would like to invite you to join us in supporting these valuable workers who seek to enlarge God’s Kingdom. A donation of just five dollars will cover the cost of one student for one day. This will provide food, housing, training materials, and transportation to outreach projects.

2. Church Building Materials for Sho Lu Kho Teet Village
   Help us raise $5,000 to purchase materials for a growing congregation to build a church.
   Last year Leading to the Light was able to supply building materials for one church. Our goal for this year is to build five small village churches.

We believe that God has blessed our plan already by sending us to the remote mountain Thai/Karen village of Sho Lu Kho Teet. The name in Karen, means "village at the bottom of the mountain". Two Adventist families began a few years ago to share the light of Jesus with their neighbors. The small bamboo church that they built with their own money is now too small for the fifteen families that presently worship together each Sabbath.

3. 10,000 Sabbath Tracts in the Karen Language
   Pastor Phamor printed 10,000 copies and many workers distributed more than half of them in less than a month. The other half is nearly finished and we are in urgent need of another 10,000 copies.
   There is a Baptist pastor in one of the largest refugee camps (population: 100,000 plus) that is giving all of his church members and contacts a copy of our Sabbath Tract. He is convicted of the Sabbath message and is enthusiastic about sharing it with his whole community. Please help us print 10,000 more copies today.

   Leading to the Light
   The Rawlings Family
   Steve, Lynette, Elyssa and Micah
   26710 N. Yale Rd. #18
   Chattaroy, WA 99003
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IV. Burma Vignettes—Early Missionaries # 15

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.

# 15. Harold Baird (Dorothy) 1920-42, 1946-50

Harold Baird arrived from Australia in December, 1920. He went to Ohn Daw and assisted Eric B. Hare. He was single. Dorothy Nelson, his fiancé, came out from Australia in September, 1922 and there was a missionary wedding at Ohn Daw.

The Bairds were an exact fit for Ohn Daw. Both were trained nurses, just as the Hares were. Harold was also a builder. He was also musical and took his place in Pastor Hare’s famous jungle band when it was started.

The two families of nurses really did some major medical and surgical work that usually would be undertaken only by qualified physicians and surgeons. Pastor Baird worked also at Shwe Nyaung Bin and its neighborhood where the Karens were mostly found.

The Bairds fled to India with other missionaries when the Japanese entered Myanmar in the Second World War. The Bairds were the first to arrive back in Myanmar after the war.

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V. Daniel Bair’s Hike to No-Mans Land

The Bair Family <missions@danielbair.com> January 20: Part 1 of 2

I only had a few days to prepare for my trip to No-Mans Land, but we had been somewhat expecting such for the past few months. Tesha and I had discussed the complications earlier and we were ready to trust God for our care and
provision while apart. After talking with Ben Sharon, who I would be traveling with and who had the most experience traveling into No-Mans Land, we decided to leave on December 10th. At Mae Sariang ready for the journey to begin. We got in to the Mae Sariang church late that night, slept on the floor of the pastor's house, and left the next morning for the Salween river. A hired driver picked us up that morning and drove us, over winding dirt roads that reminded me of roads back in West Virginia, to the river where a boat met us and took us up-river to a village in No-Man's Land. At that village, we were supposed to meet two lay pastors and a teacher from our projects who would walk with us for what was supposed to be a three-day hike. We found out that they weren't going to arrive until the next day, so the lay pastor decided to take us to a village that he served, half-a-day's hike away, where we would wait for the others.

The first mountain was very steep. Taking a break on the first day's hike, I was carrying my backpack at first, but after a while, the lay pastor, and the teenage orphans with him, offered to carry my backpack, which helped a lot. We got to our destination just after dark, and slept the night there. The next day, the village had some games for the youth that we watched. That evening, they had a "Christmas concert." It began with the pastor telling the story of Christ's birth, and that was the only Christmas-like part about it, as the rest of the program was like a talent show. The first village we stayed at. The villagers sang hymns which (by the tune) I recognized were about other Bible topics, and they also did some skits which were obviously not Christmas related.

Those we were supposed to meet earlier arrived that evening, and the next morning we set out again. One of the lay pastors again carried my backpack. Resting on the second day's hike. We climbed three very steep mountains, and, late afternoon, the other lay pastor was saying he wasn't feeling well so we camped on a very high mountain-top meadow. By that point, I was feeling a little bit of soreness in the back of my legs when going down hill, but it didn't seem too bad. I slept that night in a hammock, and the next morning we were ready to continue.

Ben had hoped to get farther the day before, so he was set on trying to make up time. My legs felt a little stiff and sore, and they only got worse as almost all morning was down-hill hiking. When we finally got down to the bottom and to the rice fields, my legs were not working well and my knees were starting to hurt with sharp pains. We got to the village before the road crossing, and found out the way was clear for travelers to pass, yet I couldn't go any further that day because my legs were not doing well. This was noon Friday, so we rested the rest of the day there. The lay pastors with us massaged my legs with some muscle ointment with eucalyptus in it, and the next day my legs felt better.

We set out the next day to cross the road. We hoped to arrive at Htee Ler Kee village for Sabbath services, but there was a necessary delay as the local guides had some complication to work out. There were many other travelers waiting to cross the road, and when we finally were given the go, it was a fast pace march. We had to descend and ascend three or four very steep ravines to get to the other side safely, and when we got to the village on the other side, only about two hours from the first village, my knees were hurting badly again - my legs were actually locking up.

Ben wanted to get to Akaba village that day, where campmeeting was to be. He decided to go ahead to Htee Ler Kee village, where there was one of our churches and schools, and send back men to carry me there. So he hiked on, leaving me behind with another of our party who could translate. When the men arrived, they made a stretcher out of a hammock and a bamboo pole and carried me to their village. I rested there for 36 hours and then, on Monday, walked the remaining four hours to our destination. I didn't have any problems until the last part, which was descending a large hill, where my legs started hurting again. A wise person asked if I wanted a walking stick, so I gave it a try and was able to descend the hill on my own two legs.

Once at Akaba, our goal was to record the youth camp-meeting that was to start in a few days, and most importantly, to record interviews of the staff from our No-Man's Land schools (who were all at the camp-meeting). These videos are needed for our Thailand Gospel Media Project to produce promotional videos and content for the Education Opportunity Foundation website.

The camp-meeting was on the grounds of Karen Adventist Frontier Academy, and was attended by a lot of youth! I wished I could communicate with them better, and understand the sermons and songs, which were all in the Karen language. I did get to learn a few Karen words, and share family pictures with some of the youth when they talked with me through a translator.

After camp-meeting Ben had to leave early, but I stayed behind another week so I could visit the two nearest and biggest schools and get what pictures and footage I could. Before our trip, Ben had said there should be people at the camp-meeting who would have satellite phones, so we shouldn't need to bring his (which didn't have any service set-up). Sadly, we found out that the only satellite phone had broken. I was really missing Tesha and the kids at this point! I had been really hoping that I could call home with a satellite phone, tell Tesha I was okay, and update her on our change
of plans. So, praying at night, the only thing I could think to do was to ask Jesus to deliver a message to my wife and children and let them know was okay and I missed them and was looking forward to seeing them soon. Ben left (hiking for two days, around the clock) to return earlier as planned, but when he got back, Tesha said she already got my message through prayer, so she wasn't surprised by the change of plans! Talk about wireless communication!

On Sunday, I videoed interviews of the staff at Karen Adventist Frontier Academy and the smaller academies-those who were still there after the camp-meeting. That afternoon, we hiked four hours to Daw Blu Da Academy. Others carried my gear, which this time was the camera backpack, tripod bags, plus my personal backpack. End of Part 1 of 2 ~~~~~~~~~ VI. Scott Griswold Family Returns to States

"We lived six years in Cambodia and ten years in Thailand. One year ago we asked ourselves the question, 'Should we really return to the United States when the Great Commission is not yet finished?' Our daughter was ready for college and our fathers were turning 80. It seemed like we should.

'But what about the millions of desperately poor and unreached?'

"We came to an exciting conclusion: The world has come to America. Just in nine months of 2012, 60,000 refugees moved here from Buddhist Bhutan and Myanmar and war-torn Iraq and Somalia. It is extremely hard for a westerner to share the gospel in any of those environments. Now anyone can be a cross-cultural missionary at the local Target or donut shop.

"This really matters to God. The very fact that every 31 seconds a new immigrant comes to America is part of God's plan to finish the work. . . . They may be just strange faces to us, but they are individual immigrants known personally by God. He longs to have each one in heaven.

"Before we left Thailand. Suphin, a young girl from the Mein tribe who is like a daughter to us said, 'If you see my sister in America, tell her hi for me.' We smiled, thinking how huge the USA is. She did not give us an address, either.

"Just before we moved into our new home, we stepped into a Thai restaurant twenty minutes away. To our surprise we heard. 'Acharn Scott?'

Suddenly we were hugging the waitress. Siphon's sister Mai. We later visited her two children and her animist husband, Lo. This week we all cooked rice, curry and vegetables in our home.

"Jesus loves the world. He loves the immigrant, the refugee. He loves you and wants to give you the joy of being a cross-cultural missionary right in your own back yard." --from the current ASAP Ministries magazine.

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END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS