I. Happy Chinese New Year

   Paul Cho <paulcho99@yahoo.com.hk>

   Tomorrow is Lunar New Year of the Snake. Happy Chinese New Year! We hope the New Year will bring each of you joy and good health, and with God's blessings. There will be a Chinese New Year celebration next Saturday evening. We encourage everyone to wear Chinese traditional dress/jacket to brighten up the spirit and festivities of Chinese New Year. We also invite you to bring your favorite dish for the dinner.


II. Letters

   1. David Gouge <grandpag30@yahoo.com> Jan. 30:

   It is hard to believe that 2013 is one twelfth over. 2012 was a year of change for me. I stopped teaching March 5 and moved to Vietnam to live with my new wife Xuan. I went to the States alone as the conciliatory would not give Xuan a visa as she had not visited another developed country. I am studying Vietnamese. It takes some doing to get used to not getting up and going to school after 56 years. I am fine and enjoying life here. God bless.

   We are one year closer to Jesus return. I pray that you will be ready

   2. Bob Grady, on FaceBook:

   Well, today my status at the end of three weeks after surgery is that I am doing as well as could be expected at this point. The doctor says the first three weeks are the roughest. That it will take eight weeks before the bone has healed and that possibly after another three weeks I may be able to get rid of the pain pills. Hopefully all of this is true for me. I want to thank so many who have sent best wishes and their prayers. It is so heart warming to receive these messages. It has been a rough three weeks put I can see light at the end of the tunnel. For a guy who has been walking 3-5 miles a day and going to the gym 3-5 days a week this has been tough. I am able to walk around the kitchen for 5-10 minutes at a time now and am doing this several times a day plus doing all the other exercises required by my doctor and physical therapist. This too will pass and I will by the grace of God be back to my old schedule again soon." -- Bob Grady <bobbgrady@hotmail.com>

III. Rudy Klimes Authors Books

   Rudy Klimes <rudy@klimes.org> January 31:

   We are very blessed. I would like to invite you to go to Google and type in "amazon.com Klimes." My books will come up, including my latest one, called "Spiritual Disorders." Read the first chapters free and order it, if you like. You can also download it as an eBook. Also, write a review of it, if you can. Thank you and blessings on us.


IV. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 17

   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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#17. Mr. & Mrs. Don C. Ludington (1915 -22)
Mr. & Mrs. Don C. Ludington arrived from America in 1915. The family was reputed to be having educational status. It was a blessing to Meiktila Technical School which was started by the Thurbers in 1909. The Ludingtons continued in charge of the school at Meiktila until early in 1922, when they returned to America to educate their two sons, both of whom became missionary doctors.

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V. Death of Elden Lamar Smith
Rita Smith <eldenritasmith@yahoo.com> February 4:
The funeral service for my beloved husband, Elden Lamar Smith, will be held on April 5, 2013 at 11:00 am at Chiangmai Adventist Academy, Maetang, Thailand.
Elden was the school administrator at CAA from 1997 to 2000. His former wife, Patricia Lynn Smith, passed away in Chiangmai in Feb. 1998, hardly three months after her arrival at CAA as a missionary. She is interned at the school cemetery, where Elden's cremains will also be laid to rest.
All are kindly invited to be present. Please continue to keep me in your prayers. The strength that God gives me to move forward on a daily basis is amazing. Thank you for your kind words of encouragement, love and prayers.
A little over $3000 has been received as memorial gifts from friends, family and well-wishers. Thank you very much! This gift has been donated to sponsor evangelism.

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VI. SULADS Story-- "Lumay"
By Mary Jane Olowan, La Island, Simunol, Tawi Tawi
Lumay is the worst form of an activity of forcing a woman into marriage. This is used by a man if he knows that the woman does not like him. The village witch doctor has this power and men go to him for help. Whatever activity a man plans to use to lure a woman, say sending her a love letter, or giving her a gift or inviting her to eat something or any other strategy under the sun so long as it is blessed by the witch doctor with his rituals.
Then the letter, the gift, the food, or any other thing becomes effective so that even a wife would leave her husband and children to live with a stranger who lures her with lumay. The most devastating part of this is when the power of the lumay expires and the victim comes to her senses.
All she can do then is to cry as it is already too late. Many women, and even men, fall prey to this satanic device.
I am particularly careful for this as many have been victims already. I always pray to the Lord in our daily communion with Him that my co-SULADS Missionaries and I may be empowered by the Holy Spirit and be free from the grip of this evil force.
I was told that these Muslims in the islands practice lumay also. Witch doctors treat their patients with rituals. Lumay is just an ordinary thing to them.
One day I overheard some High School students on La Island talking about lumay. "Did I hear lumay?" I stopped and looked at them waiting for an answer.
"Yes, Ma'am," they chorused.
"What about it?" I asked.
"No, Ma'am. We were just talking of our Lumay which is very effective."
"Why? Have you tried it?"
"No, Ma'am, but my uncle, and my cousin have tried it."
Another butted in, "Yes. It was very effective."
"And do you think it is right and fair to do that?" I followed up.
"No, Ma'am, but...........
"But what?" I paused
"But... but you SULADS are different."
"Why different? What made you say that?"
"My uncle said he has tried it on many men and lady SULADS teachers already but none has been successful. The SULADS teachers didn't know this but he said it won't work at all on SULADS."
"Lord," I silently prayed, "thank you so much for empowering us with your Holy Spirit."
The girls continued, "The God you serve is so powerful that even our lumay won't work on you. You are a peculiar people."
VII. Kent George, After 17 Years

"Giving All"

"Seventeen years is indeed a long time to be in the mission field, and people often ask when we are planning to come home. To this question I can only reply that I don't know. It is true that four of our children are in the States and I would love to be closer to them. We even have a home in Tennessee, and it has been a joy to spend time there when possible, but our hearts are bound up with the Palawano people.

"We have begun to realize that when God asks us to give all, He means ALL. As long as He calls us to continue our ministry among the Palawanos, my hope is that we will always be willing to stay. It can be tempting to give a lot or most to God, but not all.

"I am not saying that everyone should be missionaries. But we all must dedicate ourselves 100 percent to obeying God's leading in our lives to take up our crosses and follow Him wherever He goes. I admit there are times when I desire to lay down my cross and leave Palawan. The spiritual battle becomes very intense at times and it would certainly be easier to step back, play it safe, and be less of a threat to the forces of evil. However, being in the forefront of the battle does some very important things to us, too.

"When I was in my early 20s, I came to the realization that I had pretty much figured out the whole scheme of things—what religion was all about and what it meant to be a Christian. To anyone else who arrives at this point, I say, 'Enjoy the moment, for it will not last.' Life has a way of teaching us many new lessons. Today, 40 years later, I know a lot more than I did back then. But at the same time I have even more questions, and I am less certain of myself. The hard knocks of life have made me keenly aware of how weak and human I am. More and more I find myself saying, 'Lord, I cannot do it, so I entrust it all to You.'

"I am beginning to learn that true success is measured not so much in that we accomplish, but rather in prayer and obedience to that still, small voice.

"We Americans like to see results. We watch numbers and chart the progress. There is most certainly a place for that, but sometimes in our rush to accomplish great things, we miss the whole purpose behind our efforts.

"Sometimes what we count as failures may actually be heaven's greatest victories. Sometimes the things we are most proud of may be of little import in the courts of heaven. Our only hope is to put away our dependence on human methods and commit ourselves to being faithful and obedient servants, whatever the cost.

"So when am I going home? I still don't know, but I do know that when I see the Son of Man descending from the clouds of heaven, then I will know it is time to come home." --from the February, 2013 ADVENTIST FRONTIERS magazine

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