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I. British Youth Visit Hong Kong School

Victor Hulbert <VictorHulbert@adventist.org.uk>

--BUC News Edition #819 (8 March 2013)

"Between 13 - 26 February, a group of students from Stanborough Secondary School visited Hong Kong in the framework of a long-standing annual cultural exchange.

"Since 2006, Stanborough Secondary School and Tai Po Sam Yuk Secondary School (TPSY) have had a reciprocal exchange that allows students from both schools to explore another culture and experience a different education system. On Sunday, 3 February Stanborough welcomed a party of students from TPSY for 12 days. And on Wednesday 13 February it was the turn of Stanborough students to fly to Hong Kong and enjoy a fun-packed programme.

"Students had the opportunity to visit some of Hong Kong’s most famous and culturally important sites, such as Victoria Harbour, The Peak, The Big Buddha, Tai Po Lin Monastery, Tai O Fishermen Village, Macau Island and Clearwater Bay Beach. Sarah, a Year 7 student, enthused, 'What I liked the most about Hong Kong was Ocean Park (a theme park) and the Big Buddha. The Big Buddha (a 26m stature on a hilltop in Ngong Pi) was really big. It is very important to Buddhist people. and we saw them praying when we got to the top.'

It wasn’t just sightseeing though. Students also attended lessons at TPSY where they reported particularly enjoying Mathematics and English. Additionally, they experienced China’s rich culinary culture and appreciated the opportunity to make new friends.

"Our students are privileged to have such an opportunity to develop as global citizens,' says Vanesa Pizzuto, one of the accompanying teachers.

'Trips like this provide them with first-hand experience about other cultures and educational systems. Additionally, it teaches them tolerance and responsibility towards each other and the wider world.'"

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II. Life Sketch of Beth Armstrong Coffin [Part 4]

Kathy Marshall <colorcat3@comcast.net> Feb. 13:

In early 1967, six months into Galen’s Anesthesia residency in Portland Oregon, Beth was due to begin substitute teaching in the Portland School System when Beth’s mother was killed in an auto accident by a drunk driver. Her father sustained a broken hip and was bedfast for some weeks. Beth set up a hospital bed in their dining room and cared for her father until he was back on his feet again. After her father's recovery she became the Director of the Volunteer's Gift Shop at Portland Adventist Hospital in Portland, Oregon.

They returned to Singapore in 1969 and she began a new job, which quickly became her favorite, as Associate Director of the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School. Lessons in English, Chinese, Tamil, and the Malay languages were mailed out to Sabah, Sarawak, Brunei, Malaya, and Singapore. A staff of six to eight people graded the completed lessons as they arrived back in the VOP mailbox.

The VOP Director and pilot, Pastor Chet Damron, flew Beth and key staff members to VOP rallies to hand out graduation certificates and meet the students in central towns in each of the countries represented. Beth learned to pack everything she needed for a week in a tiny red suitcase measuring 14" X 16" X 6" which would fit in the 4-seater
Cessna along with staff and rally supplies. She loved the travel, meeting the students and sharing God's love. She soon 'adopted' Chet as a younger brother.

Shortly after they arrived back from furlough, they heard of a small satellite church meeting in a storefront in Queenstown. On one side was a noisy printing business and on the other an aromatic bakery. They moved their membership there and became very involved mentoring and leading the young congregation. Most of the members were young, brand new Seventh-day Adventists or studying to become Adventists.

In 1976 Beth and Galen returned to the Portland, Oregon area and settled on Sunnyside Rd. in Clackamas a mile from Galen's work at Kaiser Sunnyside Hospital.

Beth was very active in leadership in the Lents Seventh-day Adventist church from 1976-2003 and many people considered her their church mother and spiritual counselor. She was a prayer warrior, had a listening ear when people needed encouragement, served with the Oregon Conference Women's Ministries Committee and was an Oregon Conference Board Member. She felt it was an honor to follow in her mother's and father's footsteps in church leadership and was one of the first women ordained as an elder in the Oregon Conference.

While Kathy's family served at Malamulo Hospital in Malawi, Africa, Beth and Galen made two trips to visit and volunteer there. When items were not available in Africa, Beth was the person in charge of finding and sending these supplies to Kathy's family.

Galen retired in 1985 and they enjoyed camping, hiking, and bird watching around the Northwest in addition to working in their garden. [End of Part 4] ~~~~~~~~~~~ III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 23

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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#23. LaRue & Anna Melendy (1919-1925)

LaRue W. Melendy and his wife Anna had arrived in India from America in 1918, where they were called to Myanmar in 1919 to serve as secretary-treasurer of the newly organised Myanmar Union Mission. Mrs. Melendy was secretary of the Sabbath School Department of the Union. The Melendys were very active and lovable missionaries. Although their work was primarily office work, yet they found time, or took time, to do a great deal of visiting in Yangon where they lived and made many friends for the mission. They were especially active in Sabbath School work.

LaRue Melendy was truly kind and helpful. Missionaries working in the jungles of Myanmar, where for months at a time they had no opportunity for shopping, could send long lists of things they needed to Brother Melendy at Yangon, and everything on the list from needles and thread and buttons to engine parts for the mission launch would be carefully purchased and sent on their way.

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IV. CEART Says Goodbye to Workers

--Global Mission Center for East Asian Religions and Traditions Newsletter **Scott & Julie Griswold

After serving as director of CEART for ten years, Scott and family have returned to the States where Scott is affiliated with Adventist Southeast Asian Projects. The Griswolds invested their whole family while serving in Thailand and they are dearly missed! Many successes mark their time with CEART including establishment of the annual CEART conference, several worship groups planted in Central Thailand, and the development of many materials and resources. Thank you, Griswolds, for your whole-hearted service!

**Greg & Sue Lundquist

Greg and Sue served as volunteer missionaries through Adventist Volunteer Services. Due to family needs back home, the Lundquists returned to America in May 2012. Greg served as administrative support in areas of finances and planning while Sue published the Center's newsletter each month. Thank you for serving selflessly!

**Prapapon (Miew) Phonboon

We congratulate Miew in her new position as a dean of women at Asia Pacific International University in Saraburi, Thailand. Miew served CEART as a Thai Bible instructor by conducting outreach ministries and assisting with Thai materials development. While we are happy for her future, we will miss her very much!

**Mike & Marilee Kier

When Mike and Marilee first came to CEART seven years ago, they didn't know they would stay so long. Mike and Marilee have specialized in focusing on discipling people in Christ. They look forward to the next step in faith and in June
will become fully volunteer missionaries here in Thailand where they will continue to support church planting and missionary endeavors.

PLEASE PRAY FOR GOD’S BLESSING IN THEIR LIVES!


Rose Stickle <rose.fama@gmail.com> March 1:

Robert faithfully served the Seventh-day Adventist Church as Branson Hospital accounting clerk, East African Union Secretary-treasurer, South China Island Union Mission treasurer, auditor for West and East Indonesia Unions, Far Eastern Division auditor, Maritime Conference secretary-treasurer, Trans-European Division associate treasurer and for a total of 28 years overseas and seven years in Canada.

Martin earned his Chartered Accountant degree in 1971 and was ordained to the gospel ministry in 1993. Forced to retire in 2005, because of failing health, the family settled in Tantallon, N.S., Canada. He passed away early morning, Dec. 14, 2012 with congestive heart failure. He leaves to mourn his wife, Eileen (nee Bayliss), three daughters, Heather (Ken) Harrington, Holly (Ben) Bruestle, and Merrilee (Dean) Moores; and three grandchildren. - Eileen Moores, Canadian Adventist Messenger

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ VI. Adventist Church & Pastorage Burned In Lahore

George Johnson <georgeandmerniej@cs.com> March 10:

Good News & Bad News From Pakistan

Over this past weekend, we were ending the LEAD Seminar put on by SSD and the G.C. Pr. Lowell Cooper was the lead speaker. Sabbath he spoke at PASC with 44 baptisms in the afternoon performed by Cooper.

Sabbath noon we learned that one of our pastors located in Badami Bagh, Lahore had his church and home burned along with 100-330 other families in a Muslim incited riot in the area following the Friday prayers in the area. A group including ADRA is scouring the area right now (Sunday noon). The family who escaped with their lives are now at Adventpura and are in the Badami Bagh area with the ADRA team contacting their members (there are about 40-50 members in the area) and trying to see what is left of their house and things. They are also registering for Govt. of Punjab assistance for the affected families. The Punjab Govt. has offered a cash settlement of 2 lakhs per family (about $2,000) to each family affected. [George Johnson is Acting President of the Pakistan Union.]

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Samuel Nazir <samuelyouthpku@hotmail.com> March 10:

On Saturday March 9, 2013 mob of Muslims torches 125 houses and belongings of Christian families during a protest in a Christian neighborhood in Joseph colony Badami Bagh area of eastern Pakistan's Lahore.

During a protest in a Christian neighborhood in Badami Bagh area of eastern Pakistan's Lahore on hundreds of angry protestors on Saturday set ablaze more than 125 houses of Pakistani Christians over a blasphemy row in the eastern city of Lahore, local media reported. Muslim protestors turned violent over derogatory remarks allegedly made by a young Christian against Prophet Mohammed in a Christian neighborhood in Badami Bagh area. There was no casualty as members of the Christian community, including women and children, had left the area on Friday evening after police advised them to do so.

Churches included Seventh-day Adventist Church along with the pastor's house is burned. Pr. Afzal Bhatti was able to get out unharmed, but on the way getting out of the area, his spectacle (eye glasses), mobile phone were snatched but the pastor, his wife and his 2 daughters and son were in shock.

On Sabbath afternoon, they reached the Pakistan Union office - as instructed by Pakistan Union president, Pr. George Johnson. Here pastor Afzal & his family are being cared for and they are restoring to their normal senses after sever shock. But they have lost almost everything, their home, all belongings and they cannot start their normal life without support, morally and financially.

It's a humble appeal for special prayers for encouragement & supports during this big crisis our Adventist pastor and his immediate family and about 50 church members as they have experienced same as other Christians. -- [Samuel Nazi is Director of the Communication Department, Pakistan Union of Seventh-day Adventists.] ~~~~~~~~~ VII. The Richard Halls Revisit Thailand

Richard Hall <dicknjeanh@gmail.com> March 13:

We are home again and writing to catch you up on our comings and goings.

After a busy summer, around November 8, we packed up our little motor home and headed to the Fountain Of Youth Spa in Southern California. On the way we were able to visit our youngest granddaughter, Katrina, at Santa Cruze,
California. We have been spending a couple of months at the Spa for several years, and always have a good time there getting away from the cold weather and enjoying being with so many friends that go there also. . . . This time we had a special treat as our daughter Riki, who lives and works in Thailand, joined us for her two week vacation. . . .

We spent the month of February in Thailand with a trip through Laos also.
It brings back a lot of memories to visit Laos as we started the Adventist work as missionaries there in 1957. The war came and we had to leave in late 1961. It is encouraging to see the Lord’s work spreading all over Laos.
While in Thailand we made a trip to Chiang Mai in northern Thailand for a few days and had a good visit with Pastor Rungsit and family. We missed our good friends the Clark Lambertons, as he had passed away, and the Ervines, Brendon and Esther, who are now working in Myanmar. Pastor Rungsit took us to our Adventist boarding academy and it was thrilling to see how it has grown with students from the hill tribes as well as the valley. As I remember there are around five hundred students. Years ago I flew our little Cessna 180 from Sarawak on the island of Borneo to Singapore, picking up our Union president, Ralph Watts, and treasurer, Romie Gainer. We then flew on north to Bangkok, Thailand and picked up the Thailand mission president, Palmer Wick, and flew north to locate a place for the academy. We spotted an area that looked good, right on the edge of the valley sloping up the mountains. Later they were able to purchase the land we chose. When we visited the academy this year we realized how the Lord had led us to the right place.

Pastor Rungsit then took us on north up into the mountains to visit some villages. When the road left the main highway it was just a dirt track and so steep he had to call the church pastor for the large village he wanted to show us, to come and pick us up in his 4x4 pickup truck. Once again we were thrilled to see that this large Hmong tribal village were almost all Adventist Christians. We saw their large church and the pastor said they needed to add on to it and make it larger as they had 399 members, besides others attending, and the church was too small. The Lord is working miracles among these people.

When we returned to Bangkok we had some good rest and visits with Riki as they had a nice air conditioned room for us. Her husband Yik had really fixed up some nice rooms down stairs in their house. While there, our other daughter Janice and grand daughter Mandy came to visit also. Riki had reserved rooms at a beach side resort for a five day stay. That was a great vacation.

February in Thailand was a busy month but a very interesting one with good family visiting, and shopping for the ladies. We arrived home on the fourth of March and are now just getting over our jet lag.

We praise God for the safe trip and His watch care over us and we wish each of you to share the blessings He has for us.

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