I. Bob & Treva Burgess Publish Autobiography
II. Life Sketch of Beth Armstrong Coffin [Conclusion]
III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries #23 IV. How Audrey Wilcox & Gordon Bullock Found Romance After Tragedy V. Adventist News Network Comments on Pakistan Tragedy VI. Memories of Eric B. Hare Live On ~~~~~~~~~

I. Bob & Treva Burgess Publish Autobiography

Robert Burgess <bobtreva48@yahoo.com> March 14:
This is how the review people have described the publication of "The Bright Side of China": The China book has now been officially released, with a big promotion at our 2013 Marketing Seminar. The book is now ready to fill orders. Bob and Treva Burgess, known as the China Burgesses have each given more than 40 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They served overseas for 15 years in five different countries, including five years in the Southern Asia Division and five years in the Far Eastern Division. Their last overseas assignment was in China, directing ADRA village projects. Teaching in a Beijing University they were able to receive a resident visa to live in China.

The couple have written their autobiography, "The Bright Side of China."
The book was self-published and printed at the Review & Herald just before the holidays. It is Bob and Treva's wishes that a portion of the sale of this book be split between support for the Women's Ministries Scholarship Fund and ADRA.

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II. Life Sketch of Beth Armstrong Coffin [Conclusion]

Near the end of 1992 Galen was asked to volunteer at the Palau Mission Clinic in Koror, Palau. Beth enjoyed adding more birds to her life list, became involved in Women's Ministries at the church and did some preaching. Her father had been instrumental in starting the Adventist mission work in Palau and Beth enjoyed meeting the descendents of those first Adventists and seeing the historic places. The amazing snorkeling was a relaxing diversion as well.

In February 2003 as they were preparing to move to the Village Retirement community in Gresham, Oregon, Beth suffered a ruptured cerebral aneurysm. After several surgeries she was alive, but left in a state of confusion with very little short-term memory, sense of time, ability to reason, or make decisions. In November 2003 she was moved into Powell Valley Memory Care.

In spite of her dementia she retained her sweet gentle ways and cheerfulness. She was quick to thank Galen for his care and visits as well as the staff for their love and care. She always kept her spark of humor. Soon after her surgeries Galen and Kathy were walking her down the hallway to rebuild her strength when one of the staff complimented her on the good job she was doing. She quipped back, "What choice do I have with a doctor on one side and a nurse on the other?" Another occasion, she was walking around the Village grounds with Galen when he suggested she stand up straighter as it would make her look younger. She replied, "What is the use of looking younger when I'm married to an old man!"

The first few years after her aneurysm when she was still more ambulatory and steady on her feet the staff would find her watching out for and helping her fellow residents. The last several years her strength and balance waned and she was confined to a wheelchair, but she still enjoyed joining in the activities and especially liked to sing hymns. Some evenings when Galen came for his nightly visit he would find her laying in bed singing to herself. Other times she would be praying out loud for various people.

She never comprehended Galen was gone. In her damaged mind each time she thought of him, he was there in person. On Jan. 28, 2013, fifty-one weeks after his death she peacefully slipped away and on Feb. 3, the first anniversary of Galen's death she was buried beside him in Forest Lawn Mausoleum, in Gresham, Oregon.
She is survived by her daughter, Kathy; son, David; grandsons Victor, Sidney, Travis and Troy; great grandchildren, Chloe and Ryder.

III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 24

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.

#24 Joseph Phillips (Mariam) (1921-38)

Joseph Phillips and his wife Mariam arrived from America in March, 1921. He was an Englishman. He studied in the U.S. when he was young. He came to Myanmar to take the place of Elder Lowry, who passed away with small-pox, to serve as the superintendent of Myanmar Mission. Elder Phillips could write Burmese well and he preached in Burmese. He preached in villages all over Myanmar and he formed many church groups. He was able to live and eat with village food. He worked enthusiastically for the gospel work in Myanmar. His historical achievement that could be acclaimed was the purchase of the land which we hold now as the headquarters of Myanmar Union Mission in 1928.

Afterwards the present Yangon Central Church was built on this land. The headquarter offices building and staff lodgings were also built. The staff lodging building was later destroyed and the present two-storeyed building was built in 1977 instead.

J. Phillips served as the principal of Meiktila Technical School from 1933 to 1936. He organised training for evangelistic works in his school as well as to the villages practically. J. Phillips had been a man who encouraged the young aspiring workers to its pivotal achievement. He molded the youths with kindness and much patience. He himself worked with the students during working time. Brother Phillips was a diligent and efficient supervisor of the growing mission work for 12 years, and then was principal of the training school at Meiktila for four years.

Mrs. Phillips carried Union departmental responsibilities while they were at the Union office, and then taught at the school which they were at Meiktila. She was known to be diligent and she would help the young girls tenderly just like their own mother to them. Failing health made it necessary for her to give up work in Myanmar and returned to America.

Pastor Phillips stayed on for a while, but finally returned to America in 1938. Their only son was Winston Phillips. (Pastor Phillips trained students and teachers as his assistants for evangelistic training.)

One of the outstanding things Pr. Phillips did while in Myanmar was to make the evangelistic training he was giving students at the school practical by holding an evangelistic effort in the town of Meiktila during the school year, using students and teachers as his assistants, so that they could get actual experience in evangelistic work. The young men and women who had that experience with him cherished the memory of it in their work later.

IV. How Audrey Wilcox & Gordon Bullock Found Romance After Tragedy

Audrey Wilcox <ambullock819@gmail.com> March 14:

Last year, I came down with Bullous Pemphigoid (broke out all over and itched terribly), so had to take Prednisone for several months before it all healed up. When I heard that our friend Gordon Bullock's wife had passed away, I sent him a sympathy card and letter. Then when he heard that my husband, Wendell Wilcox, had passed away, he called me, and we talked by phone every day--morning and evening. It wasn't long before we knew we were in love, and wanted to be together. He was in Paradise, CA, and I was living in Tennessee, near my oldest daughter, Wendy Barlow.

After Wendell passed away the end of March, we had a memorial service there for him, and all of my children, plus Wendell's brother-in-law, Ernest Neufeld and his second wife, nieces Hazel Neufeld and Kathy Boyd, came to Tennessee to attend it. We had a wonderful time together as we recalled various events involving Wendell and fellowshipping together for a few days.

After they all left, I got ready for a trip out to visit all of the children, as well as Gordon. He helped with another memorial service for Wendell in Yountville SDA Church, where we had attended for about 5 years while living in the SDA Retirement Center there. Gordon and I had a wonderful 2 weeks together at that time, driving out to the ocean, and back across a little road to get to Highway 5 again! All of this cemented our desire to be together. I was able to see the home he had purchased in April, as well as get acquainted with his little dog, Tippy. Everything seemed to work well.
Then I had to leave and finish my tour to visit Debbie and Dan in their homes. Had a wonderful trip. While at Dan's house he took me shopping, and I found the dress I wanted for my wedding. It was a beautiful pale blue, floor-length, topless, but it had a thin shawl of the same material to wear over my shoulders. Had it altered to fit me, and I was on my way. After I got back to Tennessee, Gordon said he would come and help me with my packing and getting rid of things. That was wonderful. He came in July and stayed in my apartment and I stayed with Wendy and Greg in their home a short distance away. We stored the things I was keeping in a storage shed down the street from where I was living, since the truck couldn't come to pick it up until after I moved away. We took time off one weekend to drive down to North Carolina to visit my two granddaughters, as well as my little 4 month old great granddaughter. We really enjoyed that visit. After everything was packed, we drove to Nashville to fly west, and used the remaining time to finalize the preparations for the wedding and reception.

We had set our wedding date for August 19, and had ordered announcements and sent them out. My former pastor, Sam Alexander, agreed to do the honors to marry us, and my sons, Paul and Dan, had agreed to be my Best Men, and walk me down the aisle. Gordon's daughter, Cindy Waring, played the piano, and her friend played her flute for special music before the service. Paul and his friend, Rob Peterson, prepared two beautiful songs to sing during the service. Everything turned out perfect, and it was a lovely service to tie us together.

We are very happy together, and have planted flowers in the backyard, as well as in the front, bought fruit trees and evergreens and planted them in the yard, too, since it was very barren except for a rose garden below the back deck. Gordon made 5 octagonal shaped flower beds, which we have planted with seeds, and some flowering bushes. He has put in watering pipes and sprinklers all over the place so it can be automatically watered, once we get that set up again. I didn't realize the daffodils were flowering all over, but planted my bulbs anyway, and they may not bloom until next year, but that's ok. It has been fun to work together on this project.  

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Mar. 12, 2013 Silver Spring, Maryland, United States--Elizabeth Lechleitner/ANN

Residents of a Christian community in eastern Pakistan, among them Seventh-day Adventists, are reeling after a mob torched their homes and businesses in response to alleged insults against Muhammad in Pakistan said.

Church property and the homes of Adventist members, however, sustained "tremendous damage," church leaders said. The rented home of local Adventist Pastor Afzal Bhatti and his family was destroyed along with the homes and belongings of at least 40 Adventists.

Songbooks, Bibles and sound equipment at the local Adventist church were burned, but the building itself only withstood minor water damage as firefighters worked to control nearby blazes, an Adventist survey team reported.

Bhatti and his wife, Parveen, returned the morning after the riots to comfort and pray with affected community members. Later, the family began the process of rebuilding their lives by purchasing necessities for work, study and ministry.

The Adventist Church and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Pakistan are assessing the situation and assisting members of the affected Christian community.

In 2011, Salman Taseer, a Pakistani businessman and politician, and Shahbaz Bhatti, the only Christian in Pakistan's cabinet, were assassinated for their opposition to legislation against blasphemy. Religious freedom advocates have long urged Pakistan to ease its harsh controls on defamation of religion.

"We have always strongly opposed Pakistan's blasphemy laws, which are the source of so much injustice in the country, especially for religious minorities and Muslim dissidents," said John Graz, secretary-general of the International Religious Liberty Association.

"All religious liberty advocates should express solidarity with the affected families and encourage the government to reform this legislation," he said.

VI. Memories of Eric B. Hare Live On

--from the current issue of ASAP Ministries magazine

"The Amazing Grace of God" by La Kraw as told to her son, Stephen Aungsee
"I am truly grateful to the Lord for I was born and raised at Ohn Daw village, Burma, close to where Eric B. Hare, a devoted missionary from Australia, established an Adventist academy in 1916. I am also thankful that I was given an opportunity to study at that academy until seventh grade. There, I learned about God the Creator and I came to know Jesus who came to the earth to suffer shame, guilt, and eventually sacrificed His life for me on the cross.

"Pastor Hare made great sacrifices in order to share Jesus with my people. He was a great preacher, a loving man of God who set a solid example of Christian living in what he said and did. He went from village to village asking parents to send their children to the academy. He usually carried a big trumpet with him. He would blow it as loud as thunder. At that time, my mom was Buddhist and she was told my her mother that the white Indian was a ghost. Children were told to hide in their bedrooms whenever the villagers heard the trumpet sound. Parents explained to their children that a ghost goes from village to village to count every child and to write down their names. If children went to Pr. Hare's school, he would cook one student each year for a special celebration. Most parents were superstitious and they did not let their children study at Pr. Hare's school. My grandparents welcomed Pr. Hare to their homes, but they were kicked out of the village. Then moved closer to his school and sent their kids there. In the first year of the opening of Pr. Hare's school, only two students attended. During the following years, more students joined the academy as the villagers witnessed that neither of the first two students were eaten.

"In 1966, the Adventist schools. hospitals and institutions, but praise God. the school was eventually rebuilt. God answered my prayer and I was able to work as the school nurse for many years. Shortly after I retired, all the Christians in my village were forced to leave. We fled to a refugee camp in Thailand. In our lives we never dreamed that we could come to live in America. We see that through the trials, God still had a plan for us and my His amazing grace He brought us to this country [America]. Now I am 62 years old and I thank God I still am able to worship at church every Sabbath.

"My grandpa, Pr. Saw John, worked together with Pr. Hare and now his legacy lives on in the lives of his children, even to the fourth generation. Currently my son Stephen Aungsee is serving as a pastor for the Karen Adventist group in Des Moines, Iowa, and my cousin, Pr. Saw Htoo, serves in Albany, NY. Many other relatives are serving the Lord around the world.

"Please pray that God will provide in every way that is needed for Pastors Aungsee. Saw Htoo, Sam Ngala, and others who are working for the salvation of refugees in America.

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