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I. Memorial Service for Shirley Johnson

Mernie Johnson <georgeandmerniej@cs.com> April 3:

A memorial service for Mrs. Shirley Johnson will be held Sabbath afternoon, April 13 at 3:30 PM, in the Clovis SDA Church which is located at 2370 Helm Avenue, Clovis 93612.

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II. Early Alumnus of Bangkok’s Ekamai School Responds

Lee Chin Beng <alumni@eis.ac.th> April 1:

This is an update from Mr. Lawrence Au, one of the early students in the school that was started by Dr. Ralph Waddell in about 1950 in his garage in Bangkok. Could have been earlier. I hope the letter will bring some cheers to our pioneers.

Here is my letter to Mr. Au:

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March 24, 2013

Dear Mr. Au:

I have not heard from you for quite a while. Hope things are fine with you. Do you still make trips overseas? The school is still going on and will be ending soon on May 31. We will be organizing an alumni night on May 1. If you are around this area, please drop by. We will be happy to honor you on that day. Have you visited the school website from time to time. I will be putting more news. The latest is one of our students won the 1st prize in speech speaking contest last Sunday. He is our 3rd first prize winner from our school over the last 5 years.

Hope to hear from you soon.

Lee Chin Beng, Bangkok, Thailand

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March 29, 2013

Greetings,

Thank you, Chin Beng, for your very kind invitation to be with you on Alumni Day on May 1, 2013, as an EIS alumni and be honored.

What an honor that every one in the world would not lightly let go; however, regret to let you know since last Spring of 2012, I was appointed by the American Legion to serve as Commander Post #230 San Francisco. This year there are also a few staff in transition; much attention have put me down in order to handle some issues which were left behind by the former ones.

Travelling as usual, but would be confined mostly in the State of California till this Fall; by then, my wife and I would be heading the Orient for our Golden Wedding Anniversary and would be very likely ends up in Bangkok in late December after Christmas.
I thought I have been forgotten and thought as one who had stirred up the "waves" in the history of EIS. But the evidences and "the Official Receipt," the teacher who had much influence on my earlier stage of life; as a former FBI member, are still quite "fresh" and cherished those memories.

Miss Feltus made us all kneeling next to our desks, repeating the Lord's Prayer before starting the morning classes! What a lighting rod like struck on my head - being a Taoist/Buddhist traditionalist, you see! But those were the days! Chin Beng.

Have to go. Blessings.
Lawrence Au, San Francisco, CA.

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III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 26

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.

#26. Lindsey & Margaret Semmens (1922 - 25)

Lindsay and Margaret Semmens arrived Myanmar in February, 1922. He relieved the Ludingtons at Meiktila School. Up to this time the school at Meiktila had been known as Meiktila Technical School, as its primary emphasis was on manual arts - carpentry, furniture making, cloth weaving, shoe making, and printing. Not long after Pastor Semmens came to the school, it was decided at that time that its primary purpose was should be to train workers for the mission - ministers, colporteurs, teachers, Bible instructors, book keepers, office secretaries, and other workers. The name of the school was changed to the Seventh-day Adventist Mission Training School. Lindsay and Margaret Semmens continued at the school until 1925 when they returned to America.

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IV. AWR Holds Training Session in Thailand

Umesh Pokharel <umesh.shantipothare@gmail.com> March 31:

Adventist World Radio (AWR), Asia Pacific Region organized an Intermediate Program Production (IPP 200) training from 18 to 22 March at Asia-Pacific International University (APIU), Muaklek, Saraburi, Thailand.

Twenty two participants involved in to the radio ministry from six countries were in the training. There were two parts of the trainings; one was theoretical and the other was practical.

All the participants were richly blessed with their stay at APIU. We learned various methods and techniques required for radio production and feature writings; we made complete radio magazine and spent time in the computer lab.

Our instructions were Elder George Scott, senior vice president of AWR, Elder Ray Allen, director of the global training department, AWR, Mrs. Shally, communication director AWR, Pastor Jonathan, director, Asia Pacific Region, Mr. Anniston Mathew, program director, Asia Pacific region.

APIU is one of the seven best universities in Thailand and it offers various courses and there are almost 1000 students from 40 different countries. It is a very beautiful university located 150 km from Bangkok. I enjoyed my stay there; the food was very delicious and I met my former professors in Spicer Memorial College, Dr. Joy Kurian and Mrs. Lalitha Kurian, while I was studying there, 1992-1998. When I met them again I felt like Spicer; they were so kind to us and we had delicious meal at their home. On Sabbath 23rd March at evening we were invited by our old friends from Spicer, Mr. Sundersan and his wife Anita. They are lectures in APIU and they have three lovely children and they were so kind to us; they took us to see tallest Buddha statue in Thailand and around Muaklek area for shopping; we had supper with them and would like to express our thankfulness to them.

On 23rd, after lunch, we went to see a water falls with APIU president and his wife, AWR senior Vice President, Elder Georg Scott and Mrs. Shally, communication director from AWR; we had a wonderful time to see people playing, swimming and eating together.

The Thailand is very developed country and roads are very wide and good; every where we could see vehicles and very clean people, hard working and honest. If you walk at midnight on the street there's no problem. Most Thais like to eat out side in the restaurant, so that they are fat. By looking at country I can say that there is good government in Thailand. The county is very open and tourism is flourishing. People respect the king and queen very much; no one talks against the king and queen.

While we were in Bangkok we rode the very fast train.
On 24th March we were invited by our old friends Ajit and Lovely, both of whom are teaching in Bangkok; they have two sons and we had lunch at their home and they took us around and we had fun and we would like to express thankfulness to them.

On 25th early morning I said bye to my friend Rajesh Hada and went to the Bangkok International Airport; it's very big and many people were waiting to catch their flights. We travelled by Thai Air and I found that it has a very long history and is one of the best airlines in the world.

Service is very nice.

Umesh Kumar Pokharel
Kathmandu, Nepal

V. Marriage of Karen Essig
from FaceBook March 29:

I feel gratitude to all who were in touch during the time of Paul's death in 2011. God was good to let me sense love and comfort from so many of you. Now my life is taking on another change -- this time a very happy one.

God has given me the privilege of "finding love again" in a reconnection with a long-time friend from academy days. Connell Bruce Bowen and I will be married on March 31, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in the SDA church in Farmington, New Mexico. Bruce's wife passed away the same year that I lost Paul. We both feel very blessed that God has granted us a new opportunity for companionship and marriage. I will be leaving Graham to live in Bloomfield, New Mexico.

VI. Adventists in Mongolia Poised for Growth
from the April 2013 Ministry Magazine

"The Seventh-day Adventists Church's Mongolia Mission Field acquired 5 new properties in 2012, positioning the still-nascent regional church to expand its community services and church infrastructure.

"Only established in Mongolia's modern era since the early 1990s, the denomination has 24 congregations and nearly 2,000 members. Thanks to international support, recent capital investments in land, church buildings, and plans for community centers, the church is poised for more significant outreach, and, church officials hope, membership growth.

"'Mongolia has a bright future, but we believe that if we don't take this opportunity now to establish our school and health centers, later on it could be too late,' said Elbert Kuhn, director of the mission field, based in Ulaanbaatar, the country's capital.

"Khun said the mission field plans to build as many as 15 community centers in the country during the next four years. 'The church must be relevant for its members, but for the community as well,' Kuhn said. 'We want to make a difference where we are established.'

"Evangelism outreach slowly yields results. A dedication ceremony of an Adventist church in Ovorkhangai Province in October, 2012 was the first time an Adventist congregation was officially organized in the country in eight years.

"In 2012 the mission field acquired a 600-square-meter plot of land in Khentii Province, east of the capital, and a 500 square meter lot in the Arkhangai Province, west of the capital. The mission field also purchased a lot and a building in Erdenet, the second-largest city by population.

"According to the Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia, Adventist work among the Mongol people began in 1926 by Russian missionaries operating from, Manchuria, China. A few years later an American missionary worked to establish a mission headquarters and a clinic. He returned to the United States in the late 1930s, and World War II prevented further work in the region.

"Adventist work was not reestablished in Mongolia until the early 1990s after the end of Socialistic rule, which opened the country to religious expression. Volunteers from Adventist Frontier Mission, a supporting ministry, came to Mongolia in 1992, and the Adventist Church's Mongolia Mission Field was formally organized in 1997.

Christianity is relatively new in Mongolia. About half of Mongolians are Buddhist, and more than a quarter are atheist. Shamanism beliefs are also widespread. The society today, though, is largely secular, Khun said. Under early Soviet influence, the government conducted campaigns to dissuade young people in the region from participating in religious activities. That influence remains.

"'We want to try our best to ground our church to prepare local leaders who can take care of the church themselves as soon as possible,' Kuhn said."

VII. La Sierra Academy's Mission Day
Scott Jones <sjones@lsak12.com> April 3:

The Humanities and Religion Department of La Sierra Academy extends an open call to those who have served as missionaries to a special day of celebration and interaction with students at La Sierra Academy on April 19, 2013. The Department believes that the experiences and stories of returned missionaries form a valuable resource for La Sierra Academy students to draw upon as they become active scholars and servants of God. Therefore, the Department seeks 10 or more missionaries willing and able to share their mission experiences with groups of 3-6 La Sierra Academy students during a short oral interview session designed to aid the students in the writing of a research paper on missionary work. If you are interested in sharing your experiences with groups of 3-6 students on the morning of April 19, 2013, please contact Scott Jones at La Sierra Academy through email (<sjones@lsak12.com>) or by telephone (951-351-1445 x235).

Scott E. Jones, M.A.
Social Studies Teacher
La Sierra Academy

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VIII. Jean Hall Remembers Sarawak Days
from the current Morning Watch book, "Blessed"-- April 4
"The Mind of a Child"
"Matthew 18:5,6"
"The toddlers clung to their mothers' legs as the mothers talked about their babies. Then one said, 'We're going out to have some fun tonight--but only after we put baby to bed. If he knows, he will fuss.' That reminded me of two youngsters who briefly entered my life.

"When we were missionaries in Sarawak, my husband regularly flew sick people in from remote villages for hospitalization. I would take them to the hospital and stay close until they were on the ward. Far from families, they appreciated my frequent visits. One time Dick brought in a 1-year-old girl and a 5-year-old boy. He didn't know much about the boy, except that the local pastor had found him in the longhouse, sick, listless, and emotionless. During my visits, both the children came to me eagerly and played happily with me.

"After they got well, the hospital would not release the boy until the father came to get care instructions. When I took the father in, the boy took one look and screamed--and would not stop! The father turned to me and said, 'He has forgotten me.' I thought, 'On the contrary--he remembers you all too well.' Obviously he did not want to go home to neglect and mistreatment.

"We took the little girl home ourselves, since we were taking supplies to her village. During the long trip, she clung to me. We stopped at the top of the hill overlooking her village to check the brakes and our load. In the distance I saw her father running up the hill. When she saw him, she immediately stretched out her chubby arms, and I was forgotten. She knew her father and his love.

"What a difference in the response of these two young children to their fathers! Their minds had been imprinted so differently by the treatment which they had received, and thus the young mother's remark haunted me. Children learn quickly, and can learn distrust as easily as trust. And once learned, distrust is difficult to reverse. God entrusts these precious little ones to us. He trusts us to impart love and trust, to be gentle with their feelings."

[The Halls were missionaries in eastern Asia for 25 years. Now retired, they volunteer for ADRA overseas and in the United States. She writes from Lebanon, Oregon.] ~~~~~~~~~ IX. Philippine Adventist Medical Aviation Services (PAMAS) News

Wendy Harris <wrguptill@gmail.com>

Things are finally moving along with the airstrips. The Palawan airstrip in Brooke's Point is now completed, thanks to your support and God's providing for good weather and equipment. Our new missionaries, Sean and Pris Knapp, will be taking the Cessna there by next month to support the mission work in that area until we get a helicopter.

The Quirino, Luzon airstrip is also moving along nicely, even with all the setbacks with rain and waiting on equipment. We hope to have it done in the next week or so. In the meantime, both airplanes are still being kept a couple hours drive away in a nearby, small airport.

A couple weeks ago Dwayne had the privilege of flying the LIGHT missionaries to Batanes (the island way up north between Luzon and Taiwan) where they will assist the fledgling church in reaching out with medical missionary work. The Northern Luzon Mission and LIGHT ministry have been wanting to place missionaries in Batanes for a long time now, and thanks to this airplane we were able to help them make it happen.

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We recently found a displaced tribal group (called Badjao) in the middle of Santiago City and were appalled by their state of living. They remind us in some ways of the mountain people of Palawan—with very poor sanitation, no education, and many don't even know their age, the language of the area, or even how to count. Their place in Mindanao that they fled from is a lawless area where there is a lot of fighting between the Abu Sayaf and the military. Tanya immediately enlisted support from the local church members after learning about these people and they are continuing to help weekly with food, clothes, medical help, and education ~~~~~~~~~~~ To remove your name from the mailing list of this newsletter, simply reply to this e-mail and put "REMOVE" in the Subject line.

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