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I. Death of Andrew Kuntaraf

Trevlynn Oberholster posted in Adventist Missionary Face Book: April 7:

Many of you may know Andrew Kuntaraf who worked with SunPlus at the GC and visited many divisions and institutions. On Sabbath evening Andrew was killed a motorbike/car accident. At that time his Dad Jonathan was teaching a class here at AIIAS when he received the devastating news. He is now on his way home to Maryland. Please keep Jonathan, Kathleen, Andrea and Alyzia (Andrew's wife) Kuntaraf and family members and colleagues in your prayers as we mourn the loss of Andrew. Looking forward to Jesus' soon return when there will be no more pain, death or suffering.

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Funeral Service for Andrew Oey Kuntaraf

Dayton Chong <daytonch@aol.com> April 9:

The funeral service will be at the Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist church, 2001 E Randolph Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20904 on Sunday, April 14, 4:00 pm. The family is establishing the Andrew Kuntaraf Memorial Scholarship Fund to assist worthy students at three colleges/universities in Indonesia.

Therefore, in lieu of flowers, if you wish to participate, you may write a check payable to "General Conference of SDA" with a memo stating "Andrew Kuntaraf Memorial Scholarship Fund."

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Life Sketch of Andrew Kuntaraf

-- from the Adventist News Network:

Andrew Kuntaraf, an advocate of using technology to empower better and more effective ministry, died on April 6 from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident near Charles Town, West Virginia. He was 33.

Andrew Kuntaraf was instrumental in establishing a unified membership accounting software for church use worldwide. He died in a traffic accident Saturday at age 33.

Kuntaraf was director of the Seventh-day Adventist world church’s office of Adventist Church Membership Software, where he oversaw the development of standardized membership accounting software for church use worldwide. The software, now in its pilot implementation stage, is streamlining how the church maintains its membership database.

Kuntaraf told ANN last year that he expected the software to address discrepancies in accounting for the global denomination’s estimated 17 million members, lending greater accuracy and transparency to the process.

Kuntaraf grew concerned by church membership records when a colleague pointed out that the church was "keeping better track of its money than its members." At the time, Kuntaraf was serving as associate director of the office of Seventh-day Adventist Accounting Software. There, he had worked to help the church implement a global standard for accounting software. Shortly afterward, he was hired under the church's office of Secretariat to standardize membership records worldwide.

"Andrew had a heart for mission and viewed his work as a service to God," said John Beckett, director of the Adventist world church’s Office of Global Software and Internet. The two church technology directors worked together closely on projects."His ability to make friends complemented his excellent information technology skills in a way that made him a great leader and colleague," Beckett said. Colleagues in the office of Secretariat echoed Beckett’s sentiment and added that Kuntaraf brought a spiritual tone to a job that could have been seen as purely technical.
"The passing of Andrew was a huge loss, not only to his family, but to God's family worldwide," said G. T. Ng, Adventist world church secretary. "Not only was Andrew technically qualified, but he was spiritually qualified. He was driven by the mission of the church."

Andrew Oey Kuntaraf was born in Loma Linda, California on September 10, 1979, while his parents were pursuing higher education in the U.S. In 1987, the family moved to Singapore, where they worked for the church's Southern Asia-Pacific Division, then called the Far Eastern Division. Andrew later returned to the U.S. to complete high school and college.

In 2001, he earned a BBA in Computer Information Services at the church's Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, adding an MBA in management in 2008.

In addition to his interest in technology, Kuntaraf was also a skilled musician, often embellishing hymns on the piano during song service at the Capital Chinese Seventh-day Adventist Church in Silver Spring, Maryland, where his parents are members.

"I used to joke with him and say, 'Andrew, you are adding extra notes, I can't keep up!'' said Norma Hendrixson, a family friend who watched Kuntaraf grow up and often led song service with him. At one point, Kuntaraf considered a career in music, Hendrixson said.

Kuntaraf was also an avid motorcyclist. He had borrowed a friend's motorcycle for a ride in town on the day of the traffic accident, family members said.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of Andrew, and the Adventist Church will greatly miss his contributions at a time when more and more of the church's mission relies on the Internet and technology," said Williams Costa Jr., Communication director for the Adventist world church.

"Andrew was one of our cornerstones of technology for the world church," he added. Costa had worked closely with Kuntaraf to prepare for the church's upcoming Global Adventist Internet Network (GAIN) conference, scheduled for May in Dubai.

Peter Landless, an associate director for the Adventist world church's Health Ministries department and colleague of Andrew's mother, Kathleen, said Andrew was "like a son to my wife, Ros, and I in the kind deference he always showed us."

"I was always impressed by his smile, his energy and his talents. It was an absolute blessing to know him. He epitomized the vibrancy that young people can bring to the church," Landless said.

Kuntaraf is survived by his wife, Alysia; his parents, Jonathan and Kathleen, both employees at Seventh-day Adventist Church headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland; and his sister, Andrea.

II. Spring Activities with the Bair Family in Thailand

Daniel & Tessa Bair Family <missions@danielbair.com> April 11:

A lot has been happening lately at the All-Asia TV Studio! The Studio walls are now covered with fabric, and more equipment has arrived. The finishing of the wall-coverings is a major answer to prayer, and a big encouragement to all the staff at our project. As you my remember, the walls had been covered with a multi-colored foam carpet padding, to absorb sound since the concrete walls were "very good at" making echoes. The coloring of the walls was a distraction, because it would cast a strange reflection on the computers, making some fine-tuning editing more challenging. So, to cover that foam, the staff were building fabric-covered wooden frames that were mounted tightly onto the walls.

About a week before completing the wall-coverings, all the studio staff counted up the frames yet to be built, estimated the wood needed to build them, and then counted the wood. Clearly, there was not enough wood. But, finding the specific wood would be a challenging task because of the language barrier, time-constraints, and the fact that we didn't know where they had been purchased. With prayer, the staff kept building the frames, and continued until all the frames had been built, and the walls were finished. It was clear that God had multiplied the wood, just as he did with the baskets of loaves and fishes!

Another exciting development, is that we have recorded our first cooking program on our kitchen set! The presenters, Khun Sompong and Khun Nitia, made traditional Thai meals, with salads. The meals were entirely vegan, and quite delicious! During the moments of waiting for the food to cook, the ladies talked about their faith in Jesus Christ and about healthy lifestyle choices.

We are praying for Thai workers to help us in editing the videos. Not having fluency in Thai makes editing the videos quite challenging.
At the beginning of March, we began our furlough. While we were packing, one student, Fon -- whose Thai nickname means rain -- kept asking in Thai if Mommy Bair was coming back. Tesha finally had to look up the word for ticket in Thai, so that she could tell her that we had already bought the tickets to fly back. "When I said that in my simple Thai, the uncertainty left her eyes, and she ran off to tell the others." Saying goodbye to the girls at the dorm was touching. They didn't want to cry, since it's a bit embarrassing to their culture to cry in public. But about 5 of the girls couldn't help it, and hugs were interspersed with a few tears.

During our furlough, we have travelled by train, by plane, and by car.

We have been joking that the only thing missing is travel by boat! Our furlough trip is partly for visiting family, partly for raising support/fundraising, and partly for renewing our visas. We are visiting several states, and if anyone would like to know where we will be, please send us an email.

As we have said before, God has been providing for our needs, faithfully, and just when needed. We are so thankful for all of you who have prayed and given funds at just the right moments.

The funds raised last year carried us through, but now we are needing to raise the support for our next year. We believe God calls donors in just the same way as He calls missionaries. He led us to hear people who told us about the need in Thailand and then put it in our hearts to help. I know there are a lot of different circumstances for our newsletter readers, but I trust that God will lead the right ones to volunteer to help in just the way He desires.

For those who can give, here's some possible projects you could be involved with.

Monthly pledged support still needed: $1,300 Amount needed for car: $3,400 ---Donation received! Thank-you!
EOP Boy's Dorm: $20,000

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III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 27

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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#27. R. A. Hubley (1923 - 27)

Pastor R. A. Hubley, originally from Canada, came over from Bombay to pastor the English church and do evangelistic work in Yangon. The Hubleys were hard-working people and did excellent service in Rangoon. The Rangoon English church was served by the Hubleys from 1924-27. They were dedicated, hardworking missionaries and the Lord blessed their work.

While the Hubleys were in charge of the Yangon English church, an important forward step had been taken - a church school was started. Leila Baird, sister of Harold Baird of the Kamamaung Mission, Ohn Daw, came out from Australia to be the first teacher in 1926.

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IV. Karen-Burmese Company Organized in Kentucky

From the Southern Union's April "Southern Tidings"

"Near the turn of this new century, life became increasingly hard for the people of Burma. Because of persecution or economic challenges many had fled the border towns of their home countries for safety, and to seek support for their families in the refugee camps along the border of Thailand under United Nations protection. But, in these camps life wasn't easy--little freedom was found.

"In 2003, the United States and other western nations opened their doors for refugees. Most. including many Seventh-day Adventists, came to the United States, where the U. S. government settled the refugees throughout the 50 states, some of whom came to the Louisville, Ky., area.

"A year ago, after meeting together in the Baptist Church where Burmese was spoken, a group of about 15 Adventists believing God's promise, 'For where 2 or 3 are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them.' stepped out in faith. Si Blur, a Burmese Adventist from Dayton, Ohio, and an Adventist known to them as Pastor Jimmy. who was bringing Adventists to Louisville from North Carolina, invited them to worship at the South Louisville Church.

"Within a short time, Blur and his wife moved from Dayton to nurture the group. Their numbers grew as non-Adventist Burmese young people became interested in joining them in Bible study.

"Needing more room, they began meeting in the Louisville Korean Church, where John Moon, pastor, provided additional pastoral support. With God's blessing, they requested and were approved by the Conference Executive Committee to become an official Company of Seventh-day Adventist.
"Sabbath, January 5, 2013, for them was truly a Sabbath of new beginnings. On the first Sabbath of the new year, 60 individuals were present as 33 refugees from Burma, Thailand, and Malaysia signed the charter to become the first Karen-Burmese Seventh-day Adventist Company of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

"They will appreciate your prayers for God to use them to introduce countless refugees to Jesus as they support one another."

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V. SULADS Story-- God Restored the Strength of a Little Girl

It was the final night of the public evangelism that Edgar Pangilinan's team was holding among the Aeta tribe in Balangkas, Camias, Porac, Pampanga. It was the night when the speaker was to make the final appeal to the attendees to accept Jesus as their own personal Savior through the holy rite of baptism.

The program had just started when suddenly the elder of the church in that place came gasping for breath and approached Filmore, the gospel worker assigned to speak that night. "My youngest daughter is unconscious and may lose her life tonight there in my house! Please come and take her to the hospital!" he gasped.

Filmore then approached Edgar to inform him what was happening. So, the three of them got on the motorcycle and rode to the house of the elder while the program was ongoing.

Upon reaching the house and before doing anything to the child, Edgar gathered everyone around and prayed. Then after the prayer he saw the child move and seemed to be hungry so he handed some money to the mother to buy a few packs of noodles, cook them, and feed the four year-old girl. Then after learning how it happened, Edgar, Filmore, and the elder went back to the meeting.

The special song rendition in the program was assigned to the members of the church both young and old. And just on time, through God's amazing grace, the wife of the elder brought the child who was sick to the meeting place when it was time for the special number. The elder and his wife and every member present in the meeting stood up in front and rendered their wonderful song number.

When the appeal was made by the speaker, every prospective candidate for baptism was there and stood up for a special prayer. The meeting was over and everyone present was very glad for the successful night of preaching the Word, while the little girl was fast asleep in the loving arms of her mother.

We all praise the Lord for this another miracle that He has done in order that the preaching of His word goes on. God truly can carry His work of ensuring the salvation of many precious souls forward in spite of the techniques of the enemy.

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VI. Philippine Adventist Medical Aviation Services (PAMAS) News

Dwayne Harris <wrguptill@gmail.com>

Last week, Danny informed me of a critically ill patient who needed immediate transport to Manila for more advanced medical treatment. I came down with Malaria about that time, but thankfully I was able to take treatment in time and I felt fine by the time I needed to fly. Our airstrip is too short for the Twin Commache at my comfort level so we arranged to land at a private airstrip to the south. They refused our request initially for permission to land but after the local mayor and congressman got involved we were given permission. After loading the patient we had a nice flight most of the way back toward Manila. We had arranged to land at a small private strip south of Manila and have someone meet and transport the patient from there to the Manila Adventist Medical Center. As we neared the intended landing strip I could see heavy rain pouring from a big thunderstorm that was directly over the airstrip. I started to divert to another airport that the GPS indicated was to the east a short distance and found nothing but a phantom runway. There was a gap in some of the thunderstorms that allowed us to fly toward the Manila International Airport and we got a clearance and landed there. I dropped the patient off and waited in line for 30 minutes before I could take off again. Even though things did not go as expected I was praising God for working everything out anyway and I still got back home that evening and was able to get things prepared for pouring the cement pad in front of our Luzon hanger that next morning. A group from the Adventist hospital came out and helped us pour the pad.

It’s encouraging to see what God has done the last few months, and yet it seems we are barely scratching the surface of what needs to be done. The opportunities come faster than we can keep up with, but praise God He is able to do more than we can imagine possible. We appreciate very much your prayers and support for us and this ministry."What I do you cannot do; but what you do, I cannot do. The needs are great, and none of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful." --Mother Teresa
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BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

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