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I. Life Sketch of Thra Phu Tah Moo (Saya Ah Chu)

   Dennis Tidwell <dennis.tidwell.adra@gmail.com> April 16:

   On April 15, 2013, Phu Tah Moo went to his rest in Mae Sariang, Thailand where he had spent his retirement years.

   No birth records exist for Phu Tah Moo, but per to his best estimate, he celebrated his 100th birthday with a big party in Mae Sariang in December, 2010. Many friends young and old came to help him celebrate.

   His Pwo Karen parents named him Ah Chu, and he first came to notice when he enrolled in Ohn Daw School. He was the smallest boy in Eric B. Hare's famous jungle brass band and learned to play a coronet as its size suited him. During the summer he tramped with the band through the jungles helping to recruit new students and drawing audiences to hear the gospel.

   One time he was most upset to discover he had lost the mouthpiece for his coronet. Eric Hare fashioned a temporary one from a pumpkin stem and little Ah Chu and the band played on.

   After completing high school and distinguishing himself as a young church worker, the Burma Union sponsored him to travel to Bangalore, India to attend the South India Training School. One of his colleagues was M. S. Prasada Rao and they maintained a lifelong friendship.

   One of their teachers was Pastor Mookerjee, who liked to share with the boys what he had had for breakfast each day. He would first ask the boys what they had eaten for breakfast before launching into a recital of his own meal. He mentioned things like "one boiled egg, one piece of toast, one banana, one small glass of orange juice, one small bowl of curds, etc."

   According to Ah Chu, one day at the end if the menu recital, Prasada Rao's voice was clearly heard from the back of the class when he added, "and one small jackfruit!" The room erupted in laughter.

   After Ah Chu returned to Burma it was time to settle down and get married. He married his school friend Mu Say, who Eric Hare made famous throughout the Adventist church in his children's story, "Silver and the Snake." Ah Chu and Mu Say worked for many years in support of Adventist education in Burma.

   During World War II, Ah Chu took his young family into the hills to live off the land and hopefully avoid any fallout from the war. One day while out scrounging for food, he was discovered by a small group of Japanese soldiers who were fleeing to Siam. They ordered him to carry their goods and show them a safe trail to the border. The Japanese officer could speak some English, and Ah Chu engaged him in conversation. Thanks to Ah Chu's tact and diplomacy skills, not only did the Japanese release him at the end of the trip, instead of killing him as a potential informer, they also sent him away with malaria medicine for his pregnant wife.

   During the Karen rebellion, the eastern region of the country was cut off and workers' salaries could not be delivered. Ah Chu was selected to travel behind rebel lines to go to Thailand to meet Myrl Manley and escort him around Karen State to meet workers and deliver their salaries. Later he also escorted Lennie and Esther Hare from Thailand to their post at Ohn Daw School when they returned from furlough.

   Ah Chu was known for his hearty appetite, although he swore off dal years ago, insisting he had eaten more than enough during his school days to last a lifetime! Whatever invited for a meal he always gave his trademark response, "Good offer never refused!"

   Once at a Rangoon Adventist Hospital picnic, Ah Chu trounced the competition in a banana eating by consuming 30+ bananas. He then went on to enjoy the picnic lunch. In later years, Ah Chu recalled with a smile how Dr. Heath Rowsell kept checking on him, incredulous that he could eat so much and suffer no ill effects.
Ah Chu's fascination with the border regions continued and twice in the mid-1970s he brought teams of Karen youth from Burma to evangelize Karen villages in Thailand. When traveling to Thailand he adopted the alias Phu Tah Moo (Grandpa Life) and the name stuck throughout the remainder of his life.

On his second trip, he accepted an invitation from Dennis Tidwell, missionary to Karen people in Thailand, to return to Thailand to preach the gospel to the Pwo Karen of Thailand. After engaging with Kent Gregory in health evangelism for several years in Pwo villages in Mae Hong Son, he also began outreach to Karen villages in Chiang Mai before retiring.

Fluent in English, Burmese, and Sgaw Karen, Phu Tah Moo was a gifted translator. In retirement he translated many books and pamphlets into Sgaw Karen. One of his long-lasting gifts to the Karen people was his monumental translation of "Where There is No Doctor" into Sgaw Karen.

Together Phu Tah Moo and Phi Say raised seven children to adulthood. Phi Say preceded him in death by nearly a decade. Phu Tha Moo is survived by his children Stanley, Vennie, Candy, Winsleigh, and Cherry and many grandchildren and great grandchildren in Australia, Burma, and Thailand.

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II. Death of Mrs. Priyani Anthony

Shyamala Bastiam Pillai <shyamalab@sjmsassociates.com> April 19:

Mrs. Priyani Anthony (nee De Silva), wife of Pastor W. D. Anthony, former President of the Sri Lanka Mission passed away after a short illness, to her rest in the Lord on Saturday, 13th April 2013.

Priyani was a very unassuming person, very quiet, but a steady support to Pastor Anthony in his ministry during their 42 years of marriage. Though she did not enjoy the best of health, she did her best. One of her great strengths as a minister's wife was that she kept her own counsel and never gossiped or had an unkind word to say about anyone. As a mother, she raised her sons to have faith and confidence in God.

During the last few years, after the retirement of Pastor Anthony, she found great solace in interacting and associating with the children and staff of the REACH orphanage in Chilaw.

Priyani is the daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. A. H. De Silva of Katunayake and is the sister of Lalitha Jansz, Indrani Ariyaratnam and the Late Ranjith De Silva.

She leaves behind her husband, Pastor W. D. Anthony, her two sons, Ravi and Ruwan, their wives Nishamani and Anurukshi, and her three grandchildren.

We thank the Lord for the assurance we have in His promise that "whosoever believeth in Him will not perish but have everlasting life". Her life reflected her love and belief in her Lord and hence, we know for sure that "there is the crown of life" ready for her when the Lord comes to claim His own.

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III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 28

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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#28  John L. Christian (Bernice) (1925-36)

John L. Christian took charge of Meiktila Technical School in October, 1928. The Christians were being assisted by the Fred Hartins, who had passed their Burmese examinations successfully at the end of a year's study.

The Christians found the school needing just about everything - classrooms, school buildings and even the principal's house. Christian became building engineer as well as school administrator and professor of history. He convinced the Union Committee that new buildings were needed, with appropriations from Union and the Division a new administration building, and new dormitories were erected. Brother Christian worked hard until electric lights were installed around the campus.

His wife, Bernice Christian, was an accomplished musician and soon the campus was ringing with beautiful music and singing. John L. Christian became widely known in Myanmar. His books on Myanmar were accepted as authoritative and accurate by the Burmese themselves.

Elder Christian was president of Myanmar Union Mission from 1933 to 1938.

John L. Christian was appointed superintendent of the Myanmar Union in January 1933, taking Joseph Phillips's place, and, Pastor Phillips took Christian's place as principal of the school at Meiktila.

John L. Christian fled Myanmar at the Japanese invasion. He came back to Myanmar among the earliest, but he died when his craft hit an enemy mine in the Yangon River.
IV. U. K. SDA Church Honors Hong Kong's British-Chinese Veterans

from the British Union Conference News (19 April 2013)

Talented members from Preston Seventh-day Adventist church have made an impact halfway around the world through their support of the ex-Chinese Veterans Association.

Church members wrote the lyrics, scored the music, and sang a song in support of the Association, entitled: 'Forgotten heroes... listen to our voice'. This song has since been played on Hong Kong radio and local British radio stations.

As a result of some members pooling their talents in Preston Seventh-day Adventist church, a plaque of appreciation was presented to Pastor Jeff Couzins by Russ Banks on Sabbath, 13 April 2013. Russ, a member of the ex-Chinese Veterans Association himself and husband to Preston member, Chrystal Banks, has been working hard to help the 1,700 abandoned British-Chinese soldiers and naval personnel left behind when the UK left the territory in 1997. The local military servicemen had provided much needed support to the British military contingent in Hong Kong. This support had been ongoing for 140 years whilst Hong Kong was in British hands.

Members of the ex-Chinese Veterans Association in Hong Kong are so grateful for the help provided by Preston Seventh-day Adventist church that they are linking up with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hong Kong. Many of the Chinese veterans are Christian and the connection may go further than just formal relations.

The Preston group will now be singing in front of government and royalty. The ex-Chinese Veterans Association has reached out to HRH Prince William and Lord Chris Patten of Barnes, the last UK Governor of Hong Kong. They have been invited to a fundraising event in London at the Ming-Ai Institute where their song will be one of the highlights of this event.

V. Korean Science Center Tells Creation Story

"The Adventist church-owned Byeol-Sae-Kol-Tol Science Center in Shew Chung, a rural area near Seoul in South Korea began with a young boy's dream to study the stars.

"A cautious and intelligent child, Kyoung Sang Sohn studied hard at school and eventually became a successful dentist. He never lost interest in astronomy, however, nor forgot his childhood dream to observe and examine as closely as possible the wonders of God's universe. As a faithful Seventh-day Adventist, and a believer in God the Creator, Sohn longed to educate others—particularly children and youth—in the marvels of nature and the many ways it reveals a loving heavenly Father. So in 1999, using his personal finances, Sohn constructed and opened a science center, initially called Nomok. Six years later, in 2005, the Adventist Church in the region took over management of the education facility, renaming it the Byeol-Sae-Kol-Tol Science Center. It has since grown into a highly recognized and appreciated complex that is the recipient of government awards for excellence in its field.

"The name of the center, Byeol-Sae-Kol-Tol Science Center, indicates its emphasis on four areas of study: astronomy (study of planets and stars), ornithology (study of birds), biology (study of plants and flowers), and paleontology (study of fossils). It boasts a planetarium equipped with telescopes and a sliding dome; habitat and feeders to draw wild birds that can be closely observed through binoculars and the center's bird-watching telescopes; a botanical garden filled with colorful and vibrant flowers, bushes, and herbs, as well as a high-powered microscope for the careful study of the foliage; and an exhibit area housing hundreds of fossils in which both youth and adults can learn the history of the earth from a creationist world view. The teachers and other qualified staff who run the learning facility also share the story of Jesus and how wise men followed a special 'star' to Bethlehem, the place where Jesus was born.

"More than 100,000 visitors a year, largely comprising students from elementary school through college, encounter God's handiwork at the Byeol-Sae-Kol-Tol Science Center and learn of the Creator who spoke this world and the universe into existence because of His unfathomable love for humankind.

"Because of the large number of visitors, registration is required. Plans are also underway to expand the facility."

To learn more about the Byeol-Sae-Kol-Tol Science Center, go to www.ntam.org

--the April ADVENTIST WORLD

VI. Mongolian Adventists Gain Via Distance Learning

"As the New Year began, SDAs in the Mongolian Mission Field (MMF), working with the Northern Asia-Pacific Division launched a new distance learning center (DLC) program in Mongolia run by the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIIAS) in the Philippines. The DLC will provide local pastors and church leaders an avenue for
upgrading their skills and augmenting their academic leaning and technical competencies in ministry. The program will hold classes once every quarter for five years.

"The first session took place January 14-30, 2013 with Youngsoo Chung, AIIAS professor of applied theology, presenting 'Biblical Foundations of Leadership' course in MMF's headquarters. "The first distance leaning course provided 32 MMF students with a foundational understanding of the principles and approaches to biblical leadership; identified the essential characteristics qualities and requirements of Christian leaders; appreciated various biblical models of leadership and leadership activities; and helped to coordinate missional leaders working together on a regional, national, and global level.

"The DLC program is key to promoting a strong ministerial development plan that will train and develop Seventh-day Adventist pastors in Mongolia, church leaders said."

--reported by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division in the April ADVENTIST WORLD ~~~~~~~~~~~ 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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