I. Meet With Sadlers Before They Visit Sri Lanka

Merlyn Fernando <merlynfernando@yahoo.com> May 1:

This is inviting Sri Lankans, Lakpahana alumni, former workers and others in Maryland to meet the Sadlers who are returning to Sri Lanka at the invitation of the Mission to renew the Lakpahana estate for income generation. Meet at SASDAC on June 1, 2013 for vespers at 7 pm in the Youth Room over a light supper. For further information, contact Nigel @240 505 6800

II. Refugees, Our Mission Field Here at Home

Reynolds Carol <adventistrefugeeministry@gmail.com> May 10:

Southeast Asia - what sights and smells greet the eye of the beholder!

People on every corner, cooking delectable curries, selling exotic wares, shuffling along crowded streets, amidst undefinable odors, stifling, muggy air, and smiling faces. Glittering Buddhist temples and images at every turn remind us that the gospel message has not been well received despite more than a century of sacrificial missionary work. Spiritualism is rampant, and materialism and secularism are fast overtaking native religions. Less than 1% of the population in Southeast Asia is Christian.

Upon closer examination, certain tribal groups in Southeast Asia can be found worshipping the God of heaven in large members. The Karen tribe of Burma and Thailand is one of them. The Chin and Hmong tribes are also largely Christian. Due to diligent missionary labors a century ago and receptive hearts, these primarily animist tribes are now a majority Christian. Eric B. Hare and other pioneer missionaries established schools and churches that laid a solid foundation for the Adventist message among these people groups.

Decades of civil war and widespread persecution drove many Karen and Chin people of Burma to the jungles and finally to primitive refugee camps in Thailand. After more than 20 years of refugee camps life, many Karen and Chin people have been accepted to be resettled to the USA as legal refugee immigrants. They began arriving about five years ago, and continue to arrive every year. Burma (Myanmar) is one of the top three countries of origins for current refugees to the US. Many faithful Seventh-day Adventist families are among the refugees.

In the shuffle of getting resettled to a totally foreign environment, these precious people are barely surviving. Their English skills are greatly lacking, they have to work long hours at minimal paying jobs, often back breaking work, just to pay their bills. They often have large families, and their children are placed in the public school system. The adjustments to our modern world are massive.

There are Karen and Chin parents who are pleading with God to help them find a way to get their children into Adventist schools here in the US.

Their eyes are opening to the dangers of secular public education. Their children are being subtly influenced, and the parents are afraid that they could loose their children to the influences of the world. But the prohibitive cost of a Christian education makes it impossible for these families unless a way can be found to help them.

Htoo Saw, in North Carolina, is the lay leader of a sizable Karen Adventist group there. His three children have been in public schools in the US for over four years. He pled with me to help them find a way to get their children into Adventist schools. He and his wife are joined by many other earnest parents. Some of these youth are ready for high school, and
are longing to attend an academy. Past experience with other refugee groups has shown that if they attend public high school, the majority of these youth will leave the church.

Twe Laing, Atlanta's Karen lay leader, has many church members who are pleading for their children to receive Adventist education. Adventist Chin families who are faithfully leading their people in worship each week are also seeking help for their children. Miraculously, a group of 14 refugee children are now attending the Duluth Adventist School, financed through state funding and it is making a huge difference. But, there are over 30 other children on a waiting list, and the state funding is no longer available.

Pleas are coming from New York state where a dozen refugee children are being sponsored to attend an Adventist elementary school. Due to lack of funds, the school is in dire need and about to close. The refugee families are sacrificing to pay $50 a month, but the tuition is much more than that. The same story is repeated in other states. There is great danger that a whole generation of faithful Adventist families could lose their children to the world.

The story is repeated all across the division wherever the refugees have been placed. From Canada to Arizona to Minnesota and nearly every state in the country, Adventist refugees are struggling to adapt to life here. Their beautiful children are at great risk as they try to become Americans in our secular society. We are praying earnestly for the Lord to help these dear, faithful people who have suffered so much.

We are thankful that Dr. Tidwell faithfully keeps us connected with the Far East through this newsletter. I am asking the readership of the FED newsletter to prayerfully consider helping donate towards such a need like this. If you are impressed to help sponsor a student or two to elementary school, academy, or even college here in the US, the Lord will richly reward you. We can try to connect you with students near you. Please contact Carol Reynolds at: adventistrefugeeministry@gmail.com There are several tax deductible ways for donations to be accepted for this very pressing need.

For the mission field in our backyard, Carol Reynolds Volunteer Adventist Refugee and Immigrant Ministries North American Division of SDA www.refugeeministries.org Tel. 423-396-9207 ~~~~~~~~~~~ III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 30

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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#30. J. C. & Faith Dean (1928-38)

Pastor J. C. and Faith Dean were originally from England when they came to Myanmar. They were engaged in English literature evangelism in the cities of India and Myanmar for many years. They lived at Insein, a small town about eight miles from Yangon. They opened their home and preaching services, and the Sabbath School classes just about filled all the house.

The attendance climbed to around seventy.

Mrs. Dean played the piano for her husband's meetings and helped in the Sabbath School. But she became afflicted with arthritis and was finally disabled entirely. However, she was always so cheerful. Pastor Dean was transferred to India and did evangelistic work in Calcutta and other cities. Finally they went to America. Pastor Dean worked as a pastor near Washington for several years, until time for retirement.

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IV. California Pastor Holds Evangelism Crusade in Australia

Pastor Paul Cho of the Chino Valley Chinese church is away from April 30 to May 16, 2013, conducting an evangelistic series in Sydney, Australia and then in Hong Kong for a Seminar. Please pray for his ministry.

-- Weekly Newsletter, Chi????????no Valley Chinese S.D.A.? Church -?

May 4?

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V. Easter Festival Attracts Buddhists in Cambodia

Terence Maddocks <terence.maddocks@gmail.com>

--from SALT Ministry's April Prayer Journal

QUESTION: How do you do evangelism in a Buddhist country when people aren't interested in conventional Christian meetings?
ANSWER: Do something that is Christian but not conventional!

A month before Easter, the Sombua church (the church at Wat Preah Yesu) board decided to do exactly that. We would put on a 3-day Easter Festival in a Cambodian way. Invitations looked like a typical invitation to a Buddhist merit making festival. The welcome tent was erected ready to receive gifts of money and rice from our guests. Food was prepared to feed our guests -- vegan vegetarian food with Khmer names and Khmer flavors was served in the church hall. Guests got to take printed recipes home as souvenirs.

The Health Assessment tent sat snuggly between the church and church hall. Guests worked their way through the eight laws of health and received a free massage to make them feel welcome. Any good Khmer festival must have lots of sound coming from big speakers and mega phone speakers mounted high so every one for a couple of kilometers around can hear. It is very important to let the people know it is time to come and to keep those who do not come informed with what is happening. Despite our burning out a couple of megaphone speakers by pumping too many amps through them, our neighbors for a couple of villages around got to listen to hours of Bible reading, health lectures and Easter Sermons. Khmer language videos on the life death and resurrection of Jesus were also screened in the evenings.

Catering worries meant that only 160 invitations were given out ("Ye of little faith" - I told them if we ran out of food we could fill the giant pots with water and carry on serving, but they weren't so sure). Around 100 people who would not normally attend our church came along over the three day festival. It was a lot of work with around 60 of our church members being heavily involved in 15 action teams.

The year 11 class and teachers put in a mammoth effort to cook the food and man the health assessment tent. The sense of joy experienced through service refocused them on what is meaningful in life. The class decided that during the three day kings birthday holiday in May, they would travel to a class members village, 80 kilometers away, and run a 3 day health assessment program and seminars there (there is no Adventist presence in that district at present, although many of our orphans are from that area).

Our Buddhist neighbors learned just a little of the love of Jesus and seeds of trust and friendship have been sown. Our $200 annual church evangelism budget was spent plus some, but most of what was over budget was provided for by our guests. The church board was upbeat about the result, voting to do an all day Christmas Festival in December with plans to invite the whole community.

The food was delicious but only served Friday afternoon and Sunday afternoon so we could better keep the Sabbath. Sadly there was food left over, at least until the orphans, who had already eaten well were invited to taste. They were not sad one bit. It was not long after and the large empty pots were carried to the kitchen for cleaning.

VI. God Sends Rain for Philippine Airport Runway Rolling

Wendy Guptill Harris on Facebook

For a couple weeks we've been praying for a big rain to come after the first rolling of the airstrip with a compactor (to help settle the gravel before the second rolling). Yesterday, the moment the compactor finished rolling, the drops started falling! A huge thunder storm swept through with 42 mile/hr winds (with more rain then we've seen) and in 30 mins it was gone again! A rainbow appeared as if to say with a grin "It's me, God! What else can I do for you?" The airstrip is now ready for the second and last rolling! What an amazing God! Thanks for your prayers! - Coincidence? Not a chance!

VII. The Bangladesh Disaster

Benjamin Raksham <braksham@baum-bd.org>

On 24 April (Wednesday) at about 9:30 in the morning, a eight-storey commercial building (Rana Plaza) collapsed in Savar town, near Dhaka City. This building housed five garment factories and production lines including heavy machinery, banks, and hundreds of shops. There were about three thousand five hundred people inside the building. During the writing of this note (after 102 hours), 370 dead bodies recovered and 2,800 people rescued alive, and hundreds unaccounted for. Injured people are in the different hospitals in Savar and Dhaka. Some lost their arms, legs, and some are injured seriously. Some were rescued by cutting their limbs with electric saws who were trapped in the rumbles of concrete. Rescuers are relentlessly working round the clock for the last five days. An army commander, (in the rank of Major General) GOC of the 9th Division of Bangladesh Army is coordinating the rescue operation. The rescue teams include Army, Navy, Air Force, Fire Brigade and Civil Defense, paramilitary groups like, Border Guard Bangladesh, Ansars and Village Defense, and military and civil doctors and others—they are working hard. It is very delicate and dangerous rescue operations.
The rescue teams are trying to reach the victims by drilling from the top floors. All the floors crumpled down on one another except the ground floor and the first floor. Until now manual rescue techniques are used to minimize loss of life. Heavy equipment (automatic machines such as lifting, moving, cutting, bulldozers, loader, hydraulic machines, etc) are placed there around the building, ready to act, waiting for orders to clear debris but these will be used only after ensuring that there is no more living beings. There are many dead bodies still lying inside the building but priority is given to rescue living one bypassing dead bodies. Oxygen, water, and dry food are being supplied to the victims who are trapped inside the building. In this connection, two engineers, owners of garment factories, and the owner of the building are arrested. Your prayers are needed for the Bangladesh national disaster.

--Benjamin Raksham, BAUM Communication Director, Dhaka ~~~~~~~~~ VIII. SULADS Story -- "A Reformed Couple"

By Rey Dolotallas, Gospel Outreach Evangelist, Southern Mindanao Mission

"Roy Lansang has been known for his ill-tempered personality. He was often involved in conflicts with his village mates and with other people. And when entangled in a quarrel, Roy was always determined for a fight. His wife, Kathy, had similar traits of character. Hearing words that were unpleasant to her ears easily made her furious making her an enemy to many.

"In the past years Roy and Kathy have had opportunities to listen to various groups that teach Christ. But never were they convinced to be baptized. When our group of Gospel Outreach missionaries visited the area, there seemed to be some positive effect on their lives. By God's grace, we easily won their friendship and they were delighted to hear the Good News that we shared with them. Nightly evangelistic meetings followed and God's Spirit continued to work on their hearts and minds. At the culmination of the program the couple with their three children were baptized.

"Presently, Roy and Kathy are active members of the tribal Seventh-day Adventist church and happily participate in church activities. Several times during testimony hour in the Sabbath school the reformed couple have testified of the grand transformation caused by their new relationship with their Saviour.

"We are overwhelmed by the humility that they now possess as a result of accepting Jesus and His wonderful teachings. They are now making friends not enemies. Glory to God!

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