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VII. New Mission Magazine - Mission 360° ~~~~~~~~~ I. Letters
   1. Ruth Sipkens <ruthsipkens@gmail.com> May 14:
      It's a sorrow to learn of Priyani Anthony's death. We send sympathy and love to the family. One more reason to look forward to Jesus' coming. Love and prayers to the family.
      Also sending best wishes to the Sadlers as they make changes in their lives to return to Mailapitya, Sri Lanka. We know they will do a great work out there. They were well liked and the people will welcome them to help get their school and estate in good shape.

   2. Arlind Hackett <arlind.hackett@yahoo.com> May 21:
      For several years I have been treasurer of Chinese Ministries International--a supporting ministry whose mission statement is to spread the Gospel to the Chinese people in all countries around the world. We are planning to send a newsletter by email to our supporters, and because of your interest in and connection to the Chinese people we would like to include you on our email list. If later you prefer not to receive our newsletter you can always ask to have your name removed from our list.

II. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 31

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.

#31 T. J. & Mrs. Michael (1927-29)

T. J. Michael came from India. He arrived as a substitution for Joseph Phillips who went back to America on furlough. He was Myanmar Union Superintendent during Myanmar Union Headquarters building period. It was during T. J. Michael's time that the Myanmar Union Mission headquarters was first built. It was 1928 and the new church in the mission compound was also erected. He was assisted by C. H. Mackett, who oversaw the building work. When the construction work in the headquarters was completed T. J. Michael moved from the former headquarters at Lower Kyitmyindine Road to the new headquarters of 30 Voyle Road (later 68 U Wisara Road)

T. J. Michael was an Englishman. He was a handsome man and he was also a good soccer player. He played soccer with students at Meiktila Technical School whenever he visited the school. He taught them the art of playing soccer. He was a kind and good-natured man. Referring to T. J. Michael, students at the school would comment that you can judge how good-natured someone is by watching him play soccer. When J. Phillips returned from America the Michaels returned to India and continued to serve the Lord faithfully.

III. ADRA and the Bangladesh Disaster

Benjamin Raksham <braksham@baum-bd.org> May 14:
Two groups of volunteers of the young people of the Dhaka SDA Church, Mipur took part during the rescue operation in the ill-fated commercial building collapse in Savar near Dhaka. The first group of SDA young volunteers composed of twelve, responded immediately right after the disaster on 24 April when a call came from the Fire Brigade for volunteers. Among them ten have training on disaster management, especially, earthquake preparedness training less than ten month ago. Some of them entered the building through tunnels and holes and helped bring about 30 victims, four of them were still alive. Another group of young people comprising 15 including a girl from Dhaka SDA Church went there on Sabbath (27 April) to help the rescue team. They assisted to pull out three young ladies alive who were trapped inside the building and recovered a couple of dead bodies. They provided food and drink to some surviving victims. A lady who was trapped three days without food and water, they gave her food and fruit juice. On 26 April (Friday) during the AY meeting, young people collected special offering for the victims, and the collection was Taka 12,100 (approx. US$ 160) without any prior announcement.

One SDA member, a boy named Bitu Baroi who was working in one of the garment factories there, is still missing. His mother is working at Pollywog, a handicraft industry inside the Bangladesh Union campus. She cannot find him until now either dead or alive.

On 28 April night another untoward mishap happened there. While the rescuers were trying to cut rods with machine cutters in process of rescuing a lady who was alive, fire broke out on the 3rd floor and there were tons of clothing there. Five rescuers injured seriously in the process. After an hour or so, the fire brigade extinguished the blaze. However, they were not able to save the girl. And two volunteers lost their lives in process of rescue efforts, one of them, Mr. Kaikolbad, was flown to Singapore for better treatment but he succumbed to his serious burn injury.

A miracle happened after 17 days—a lady named Reshma Begum was found alive in the basement. She was working on the third floor, but slowly she was able to crawl down to the basement through stair ways. She ate some left over dry foods of his co-workers who may have died and rescued alive but two days she was without food and drink just before rescue. She is now in the Combined Military Hospital in Savar, taking normal food.

This is the worst industrial disaster in Bangladesh and the second in the sub-continent after the Bhopal disaster in India in December 1984 (estimated to have died eight thousand in the Bhopal disaster). Today (14 May) the army authority who is responsible for rescue operation and clearing debris decided to wind up their work and hand over the disaster site to the local civilian authority. In the rescue operation they found 1,127 dead bodies from the rubble and rescued 2,438 alive (in the preceding email, 2800+ was reported, that was misinformation). Among the dead, 12 died 2800+ in the hospital; 98 names are still in the missing list; 234 dead bodies are unidentified and buried in the Jurain Graveyard in the capital. When DNA test will be complete, their identification will be known. May be 98 missing are among the unidentified who are already buried. -- Benjamin Raksham, BAUM Communication Director ~~~~~~~~~ IV. Pakistan Union Has New President

Samuel Nazir <samuelyouthpku@hotmail.com> May 16:
Pastor Michael Ditta New President Appointed in Pakistan Union
Greetings to all brethren! There is good news about PKU; that we have new president appointed by South Asia Pacific Division... you already know about Pastor Michael Ditta. May God use him to uplift the work in Pakistan. Thank God things will be improved to glory of God. Please keep the Pakistan Union officers, departments, ministries and other friends and institutions in your personal prayers. More blessings and power of God only through more prayers! Wish Best of God's blessings for Pastor Michael Ditta and his family. God bless you all --Samuel Nazir, Communication Department, Pakistan Union ~~~~~~~~~~~~~ V. Singapore Lady Prays with Non-believers

"Ask in Confidence, Believe, and Claim the Promises of God."
by Yan Siew Ghiang in BLESSED, the 2013 Women's Morning Devotional Book
Matt. 21:22; John 15:16; and I John 5:14,15

"Some months ago Miss Lee, a Buddhist. said her boss gave her one month to meet the sales quota, or else she would be fired. She asked me for help.
I replied, 'I can pray for you, asking God for His wisdom, mercy, and grace. I will also ask Him to bless you with more stationery orders.' Soon God blessed her with many stationery orders. She says she now believes in God and is very thankful to God for His providence. Many times she thanked me for praying for her, and said she was still receiving God's blessings. I told her, 'Thank God and praise His name.'

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"Sometime later Miss Lee said she was unable to cope with her sales order from a corporate company because it was so large. She gave the stationery order to her superior, as her superior had no orders, but she asked me for my advice. I told her she had made her decision. 'It was your choice to give to whomever you wanted because God blessed you.'

'A few weeks ago Mabel told me her husband, Phillip, had been hospitalized with a high fever. I said, 'Let him be anointed.' As I had the flu, I instructed her as to how to anoint her husband, I said, 'When you do it yourself, you will see the wonders of God.' That afternoon she and her two daughters visited her husband. She anointed him with oil and prayed according to God's will, and in Jesus' name. The next day she was happy to learn that he had opened his eyes. Mabel spoke to Phillip, and he responded. Later he had recovered enough to return to the nursing home.

"'My mouth will speak in praise to the Lord. Let every creature praise his holy name forever and ever.' Ps. 145:21. We asked, believed, and claimed God's promises."

[Yan Siew Ghiang writes from Singapore where she is employed as assistant administrator with a construction project. She attends Balestier Adventist Church in Singapore but recently has been to west Malaysia to be involved in the Pathfinder Club. She has been an assistant pastor, a chaplain, Bible teacher, and Voice or Prophecy coordinator.]

VI. God's Messages Through Dreams

The current May/June issue of ASAP Ministries magazine is filled with examples of God speaking through dreams in Adventist southeast Asia Projects countries. Bruce Bauer, chairman of the ASAP Board begins the issue as follows:

I just returned from spending my spring break in Bangkok where I had the privilege of listening to a group of men and women tell their stories of how God is giving dreams and visions as they work among Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus. Here is Vikas' story:

"In July, 2012 I met one of my old Hindu friends whom I had not seen for more than ten years. He had a lot of questions about my new religion. I told him how I had changed, how I had stopped smoking, so he wanted to know how I had stopped. I told him that I got the power from the new religion, from Jesus, to overcome the habits. When his wife heard this--she had a smoke allergy and often fought and argued with her husband when he drank--she became more interested in what I was saying than her husband. The wife asked, 'How can we know about this religion?' I promised to come and study with them, but I also gave them a New Testament, and told them to begin reading the book of Mark.

"After I left their home that night there was a big fight because the husband wanted to throw the Bible out of the house, but the wife said, 'No, you know that your friend changed because of this book!' The next morning I got a phone call from my friend telling me that something strange had happened. In the middle of the night he had a dream and didn't know why, but he knew it was Jesus who asked him not to fight with his wife over the book and to read the book. Immediately he said 'I woke up my wife and my wife started telling me that she had just had a dream in which Jesus told her not to worry, that Jesus would also tell her husband to read the book with her.'

"I then talked with his wife who was crying and she said, 'Something happened to my family--both of us have seen Jesus and have been encouraged to read the Bible. We have already read five chapters of Mark. We don't understand everything we are reading, but it is a very nice book, so you can help us understand it.'

"Now, just eight months later, they have already started 11 small groups with 8-12 members in each group in order to tell their neighbors about what God has done for them. It is really true that it is not by might or by power, but by the Spirit of God that people turn to Him."

VII. New Mission Magazine - Mission 360°

Many of you are interested in mission and may want to check out the Seventh-day Adventist Church's new mission magazine introduced at Spring meetings at the General Conference. The new magazine called Mission 360°, is available for Ipad, Android, and Kindle HD. Please share the link with your Adventist friends who have an interest in mission. We are also looking for stories from IDE missionaries, so if you have a story you'd like to share, please let us know.

-- Rick Kajura <information@adventistmission.org>

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