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   Thanks.
   Warmest Blessings,
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   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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III. New ADRA Director for Bangladesh
   Benjamin Raksham <braksham@baum-bd.org> June 4:
   Pastor Serpa Santana Landerson accepted the call to be country director of Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Bangladesh (ADRA,B). He arrived in Dhaka with his family to resume duty in mid-February this year. He took the reign of ADRA,B with his rich experiences and past tract records-prior to this appointment, he served as executive director of ADRA Amazon, ADRA Northeast, and ADRA Bahia-all in Brazil; he has been Vice President of Santana (shoe company with more than 140 outlets/stores in Northeast Brazil), Director of Franchising and Quality Management of Santana Company, Salvador, Brazil, and the owner of a small vegetarian restaurant chain in Salvador, Brazil. He is an ordained minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He completed MBA, specializing in Development Economics; and has been trained in areas of Security, Human Resources, Planning and Public Relations, Crisis Communication and Economic Development Productive chains among others.

IV. Furloughs, Then, Now, and Later
   -- by Leonda George in the current Adventist Frontiers magazine
   "Time. We all have the same number of hours in a day, days in month, and months in a year. But how are we investing that time? The Bible tells us there is a season for everything. For us there is a season for furloughs!

From: charles tidwell <charles.h.tidwell@gte.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2013 9:17 PM
To: Self
Subject: FED e-News, June 11, 2013 #19

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II. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries #33
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V. New Missionary Settles In in Thailand
VI. How Sally's Faith in God Paid Off
VII. SULADS Story -- Saved From Suicide

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Sent: From:
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"What is a furlough? The dictionary defines furlough as 'a leave of absence or vacation or temporary layoff from work.' But most missionaries will tell you that isn't what furlough is to them, Furlough usually means doing a different kind of work, not stopping work. Furlough can be tiring as we travel from place to place raising support for our project. Often, it feels like we need a vacation afterward to recover from furlough!

"But furlough has many positive aspects, too. It is a time to shift gears. A time to be revived so we can return to the mission field with renewed energies. Time for travel. Time for new experiences. Time to spend with our extended families, our children and grandchildren. Time for friends, old and new. Time to share what God is doing in our lives and in our mission. Time to be ministered to. Time to be rejuvenated. Time to refocus.

"I think the dictionary definition of furlough will only be realized when we get to heaven and hear Christ's words, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.' What a furlough that will be!"

[When, in 1952, we began our missionary career the general term was 6 years and then a year's furlough. This was changed to a 5-year term before our first furlough. We appreciated several furloughs during our 38 years as regular missionaries (and then 8 more years as retiree volunteers) and found furlough activity exciting and time-well-spent. On our first one I did graduate study and in 3 semesters and a summer school earned a doctorate degree. On yet another furlough I was assigned to help the GC Education Dept. evaluate many academies in the United States. We always we looked forward eagerly for furlough-time and even more eagerly to returning to our overseas assignments. -- CHT/Sr.]

~~~~~~~~~~~~ V. New Missionary Settles In in Thailand

-- by Danielle Koning in the current Adventist Frontiers magazine

"First Days in Thailand--My Cup Overflows

"Yesterday it hit me. I was in a small open bus, languid and sticky from the afternoon heat and the packed crowds in the subway and two types of sky train I had just ridden. Bangkok was beginning her early evening traffic jam. Around me there were dozens of shiny pink taxis ferrying school children in uniforms. Aromas of gasoline, sweat and dust filled my nostrils as I attempted to review my Thai homework of the day while also watching the social choreography around me--who got up for whom in the overcrowded vehicle. Across from me sat a beautiful woman, clearly possessing an exceptional sense of aesthetics like most women in Bangkok. I admired her blouse, embroidered with pearls, he perfectly ironed and carefully folded skirt, her heavy make-up that made the light brown skin of her face seem white. That's when it hit me; I was in THAILAND!

"My body arrived here weeks ago, and yesterday my heart caught up. When I have thought, dreamed and talked about so long is now a reality! Smiling, I sat back, looked all around me, and enjoyed the Thai script on the buildings, and the faces of the Thai people--the people I want to get to know and love, and with whom I want to share the magnificent character of God. What a gift to be here!

"'You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.' (Ps. 23:4). This verse is the best summary of my three weeks here. (Which actually feel like three months. Here is a small selection of awe-inspiring blessings God has given me in this short amount of time. First, for the purpose of bonding, I wanted to move in immediately with a Thai Buddhist family. With my limited contacts in the country, I was not at all sure whether this would actually work out. But God opened up a wonderful opportunity for me to stay temporarily with a Thai family. What a perfect introduction to Thailand! I cycled with a youthful granny through her neighborhood, was invited to see a neighbor pray in front of an altar with nine Buddha images (nine is considered a lucky number here), got to observe the son of the house, a former monk, doing his meditative exercises, and witness an alcohol-fueled party of wealthy Thai women (after which everyone drove themselves home). The people I stayed with didn't speak English, so I had the opportunity to stutter my broken and very limited Thai with anyone and everyone. I was also introduced to the many scents and colors of every-day life. The number of fruits and veggies I know must have just about doubled in those few days!

"I knew that this lovely family was only temporary. But before I could really think about my next home, God had already provided. On my first Sabbath in Thailand I joined the Bangkok Adventist women's ministry group that ministers monthly to small church planting the region. Early that morning, while we were waiting for all the women to arrive, I was introduced to an elegant Thai lady named Teenmoo. About 30 seconds into our conversation, with no mention from me about my need for a place to live, she said, 'You can stay with me. I have plenty of room. Also I have a lot of Buddhist workers in the office at my house, so you will get to spend time with Buddhists.' I couldn't believe my ears. Here I was with none of the social network or conversational skills that I could have employed back home to find lodging and God showed me that He works powerfully when I am at my weakest.
"I moved in with Teenhmoo and her family a few days ago, and I am in awe of God's provision. The family is motivated to serve God by supporting a missionary, so they provide me with anything I need. They will not even allow me to pay rent! Teenhmoo wants to start a Bible study group with her Buddhist workers, and we are praying for God's guidance.

"Another major blessing is language learning. Bangkok has some excellent language schools, so I will spend my first year here studying Thai. Just prior to launching, I learned that the Thai language teacher I studied with in Holland is a former teacher in the very school I am now attending. I had no idea about this, but God did. This connection allowed me to take a placement test that allowed me to skip the school's first module. Again, this is something I never could have arranged for myself. How wonderful God is leading in this part of my life and mission.

"I am surprised to find how wonderful it is to not have much control over my life as I learn to live in a totally new environment. Back home, I was constantly tempted to rely on my own strength, but being a foreigner makes it much easier to depend on God. Here in Thailand I don't have the skills and knowledge to plan or make the best decisions. Yet my life has rarely run this smoothly. God is giving me amazing evidence that it is much better to rely on His strength. This is the theme of my start in Thailand, and I long for it to become the pattern of the entire new chapter of my life; to desire nothing but to follow the life-giving lead of God. Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

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VI. How Sally's Faith in God Paid Off
by Sally Lam-Phoon in BLESSED, the 2013 Morning Devotional book for women
"To have faith to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.' Hebrews 11:1 TEV
"Talking and preaching about faith is easy, especially when everything is going well, the sky is blue, and no crisis is in sight. But meet a crisis head-on, and the preacher of faith finds a need to search deeply regarding his or her degree of trust in the Lord.

"My mother was dying in Penang, Malaysia, and when the news came for me to go home at once, I worked frantically to book a ticket to fly from Seoul, Korea to Singapore and then on to Penang. The first leg of my flight, from Seoul to Singapore, was confirmed, but I was on the waiting list from Singapore to Penang. That morning, when I arrived at the Seoul Airport, I used every persuasive power to convince the duty manager to give me a seat from Singapore to Penang, but his hands were tied. 'Try your luck in Singapore,' he told me.

"For the next seven hours there was nothing I could do. Yet the human response was to worry about what would happen in Singapore. Could I get the connection?

"It was interesting how I talked to myself regarding my own faith in the Lord. Sitting on the plane that left Seoul, I kept repeating Bible promises to myself and mentally surrendering to God. After my meal, the Lord sent me such peace that He would take care of every detail that I fell fast asleep.

The past few months had been stressful. Mom's illness had weighed heavily on my mind. But the Lord gave me peace and confidence in His leading.

"We were deplaning when I awoke. The Lord brought the plane into the terminal where my connecting flight departed. At the transfer counter I shared with the ticketing agent that my mother was critically ill and that I had to get on the flight. She was compassionate and assured me that she would give me special consideration. It took an hour, but I occupied myself with talking faith on the phone to my daughter. We even made some alternate plans in case it was not God's will for me to take that flight, Again I recalled how Mary and Martha thought that Jesus was four days too late to heal Lazarus, but praise God, He is always on time.

"When time came for me to check back with the ticketing agent, I was elated. My faith was renewed to a God who cares. God is surely good!"

[Sally Lam-Phoon serves the Northern Asia-Pacific Division as children's, family, and women's ministries director as well as coordinator for a unique leadership program. Her passion is to help people unleash their potential as they seek to live out God's purpose. Married for 40 years to Chek-Yat, a gospel minister, she has two married daughters and one granddaughter.] ~~~~~~~~~~~ VII. SULADS Story -- Saved From Suicide

By Eleazar Tamano, Gospel Outreach Evangelist, Bataraza, Palawan, Philippines

Melinda has had many men in her life. She was a member of a local Protestant church in her village where the Adventist message has never penetrated. Since they are near our assigned mission field, we made friends with her. As we became friends, she began telling us about all her problems. The biggest problem is her live-in partner. The frequently quarrel.

Once I saw her with a bottle of poison in her hand. She was ready to drink it. Someone held her hand and did not allow her to drink. We asked her about her problems. She blames her problems on her live-in man friend. This man has
other women in his life. This makes Melinda very angry. So angry, in fact, that she wanted to die. She feels that her live-in partner no longer loves her.

I gave her advice and told her about Jesus and the hope that only He can give. I told her that God cannot forgive her if she commits suicide.

I invited her to join us when we began having Bible Studies in our home.
I also invited her to attend our seminar. At the close of the seminar, she came forward to be baptized. She confessed her sins to us and now seeks baptism.

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