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I. Letters

   1. Raymond Woolsey <RayWool@aol.com> June 19:
      Challis and I celebrated our sixtieth wedding anniversary on June 14. We recently moved from Maryland and will be building a home at Greenbriar Cove, a retirement community in Ooltewah, TN.

   In 1995 I retired from the Review and Herald Publishing Assn. as vice president of editorial services. I had served the Review as a book editor since 1971. For six years I was editor of the Philippine Publishing House, Manila, and Challis helped with the children's Sabbath School program. From 1956 to 1961 I was a pastor/evangelist in Burma (now called Myanmar). We have three daughters (all born in Burma), and nine grandchildren.

II. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 34

   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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# 34. G. W. Petit (1928-32)

   G. W. Petit started taking care of the Yangon English Church in 1928. They were dedicated and hardworking missionaries. The Lord blessed their work. The Myanmar Union Mission Headquarters was completed in 1929. The Petits were the first to serve in the new Yangon English Church building and to live in the comfortable apartment assigned them in the new headquarters building. They cared for the Yangon English Church from 1928 till 1932.

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III. Graduation Day at Ekaimai International School

   Lee Chin Beng <leec@eis.ac.th> June 11:

   May 2013 EIS Newsletter

   Friday, April 29, 2013 was an auspicious day for EIS Seniors. Mrs. Beatrice Kootanasan, Head Sponsor for the Class of 2013, presented 126 seniors to Mr. Harold Dawat, Principal for Academic Administration. These students had completed all the requirements for graduation.

   As the senior class marched down the aisle holding their class flowers, each graduate realized that this was a very special day.

   The keynote address was presented by Mr. Somchai Chuenjit, President of the Bangkok Adventist Hospital. He challenged each Senior to live up to their motto "Outstanding Success" and their aim "Strength to Challenge."

   In his response speech, Tanawat Vimarapirat 12E, Vice President of the 2013 Class said, "Thank you teachers for guiding us through the years we lived and studied at EIS. We have learned not only knowledge from the books but also from your example."

   The Grade 12 presentation saw smiles of satisfaction since many Seniors had struggled to reach their fullest potential. The memories of bad times were completely forgotten as a unique sense of camaraderie pervaded the hearts of all members of the EIS High School.
"I will certainly miss EIS," said one Senior. "It has become my second home. I studied here for 13 years."

IV. Remembering Dad Dan Guild on Father's Day

Lillian Guild <LRGuild@aol.com> June 17:

To you who knew my husband Dan, you might like hearing what his daughter has to say about her father on Father's Day.

Today is Father's Day. Meggan took her Dad (and me) to brunch at The Ruby Slipper. Great ambiance, good food and we even found a parking place!

Watching Meggan and her Dad today reminded me of so many Father's Day meals with my Dad. We laughed had long discussions about things that interested us and probably no one else and ate bland food. . . I want you to know that (IMHO) David is the second best Dad that ever lived. My Dad, however, is/was unquestionably the best Dad that EVER lived! And I miss him.

He's been physically gone for several years but he is still very much present around our house. I can't tell you how often one of will say a "dadism" like "it's a great life if you don't weaken!" Dad loved horrible puns, his wife, his girls and bland food. Trust me, if food happened to have any taste at all he probably hated it. And if he didn't hate it his digestive tract would. He had a "bad stomach" with an extremely sensitive digestive tract. The only really bland food I ever saw him actively dislike were packaged flaked mashed potatoes.

We were in Europe, I think it was Holland, when my Dad found a package of pre-prepared mashed potatoes in some market, somewhere. After two months of traveling and no mashed potatoes (we hadn't gotten to England yet) he was thrilled! My Dad loved mashed potatoes - probably because they are nice and bland.

He could hardly wait until lunch time the next day. All morning he romanced those potatoes. He finally couldn't wait any longer and declared that it was lunch time. Never mind it was about 11:00 AM and he was a stickler for a 1:00 PM lunch! He pulled into a beautiful park for the much anticipated lunch. He was like an excited kid on Christmas morning!

Mom got out the butane stove and Dad found the kettle, water, milk, fresh butter, salt and a kettle. With a great flourish he picked up the package and began to read the instructions. It took about ten seconds for his face to fall. He quietly handed the package to my Mom.

Turns out the instructions were nicely written in German, French and Italian. Not an English word in sight! Mom knew a little German so she tried her best to read the instructions. An hour later we had a very big pot of a white, gluey substance. Dad took a taste and pulled a sour face. I think he even spat them out. You could see that he was thinking seriously of blaming my Mom for the gluey mess. But Dad was gentleman and he visibly bit back his comments.

Two minutes later there was a big bang and the kettle and all the gluey potatoes were laying in the dirt. He had executed the perfect turn and somehow jiggled the table. Dad swore to his dying day that he ACCIDENTLY hit it. We (my Mom, my Sister and I) still believe he kicked the table so that the potatoes would spill and he wouldn't have to blame Mom or pretend that the gluey mess was edible.

To this day, every time I see mashed potatoes, I think of Dad, the accident/kick and it makes me smile. On this special day, if your Dad is still with you, enjoy celebrating his special day. If he isn't, take a couple of minutes to remember something about him that makes you smile! -- Happy Father's Day!

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V. Bairs Back in Thailand after Furlough

Tesha Bair <missions@danielbair.com> June 20:

We are back in Thailand, and finally have a chance to write. Although in many ways things are the same, there are quite a few changes too. Our main mission (All-Asia Studio), that we originally were called to, is now basically our only mission. . . .

The All-Asia Studio team has had some major staff changes. Bill and Venie Osborn have returned to the U.S., and we miss them. They felt God was directing them back, and plan to help with the fund-raising side of ministry. Michael Strack, who has been involved in DVD duplication and translation (among other things) is also leaving for a trip to the U.S., and we pray for God to open the doors for him to return according to His will.

Our new director is Michael Ross; his wife Inge is an old friend of mine so I'm thrilled to have them both here, and plus, they have a one-year-old baby girl who our kids can play with! Michael has previous experience with ministry in video work.
Another team mate, currently, is Gary. Gary is working with editing the video footage that we have already taken, and also runs camera and other equipment during recording sessions. When we first got here, he was our housemate, while we were waiting to move into our new house in the village. He has about one more month to his 6-month mission here, but it sure would be nice if God sends him back to us again later.

And our team is so excited to have Gop Zion join us. He is our audio engineer, and often our translator too since he is Thai. He and his wife and five-year-old boy just moved to the little village we live in.

All our new teammates have deep love for the Bible and are excited to work on this project together. We praise God for our team, and pray that He keeps us united on His word.

So, since the All-Asia Studio is the focus now, let me share some exciting news about it. Just before our spring trip to the U.S., the All-Asia Studio staff was working on filming an evangelistic series in a Mein tribe village. It was exciting to hear how people were learning about Jesus from that series! Since then, our team has been able to hand out DVD’s of that series to others, and we have heard that the people have been happy to receive the videos and excited to hear the gospel for the first time.

What potential those videos have in reaching souls for Christ, only God knows—but by God’s grace, we just get to be a little part of sharing His good news!

A few days ago, we went as a team to the Chiang Mai City SDA Church, where Peter Gregory presented a two-part series on Biblical meditation. Meditation is part of the life-style of Buddhism, so we anticipate that this series would be quite helpful for a Buddhist who would like to understand Christianity.

Thanks again to our supporters. We have increased expenses being out in the village instead of on campus (rent, utilities, and fresh garden food are now not gratis), but we trust that God will provide.

VI. How God Solved the Noise Problem

by Sweetie Ritchil in BLESSED, the 2013 Morning Devotional book for women

"Commit thy works unto the Lord and thy thoughts shall be established.'
Proverbs 16:3

"My family and I were staying in our mission staff quarters, which were attached to a gas station. Because I am an administrative officer, I had the opportunity to move into the house where the previous treasurer had lived. But my husband and I discussed it, and decided the new staff should occupy the house, not us. Just recently that house had been remodeled and updated.

If I were to move into it, I could be blamed for fixing up the house so I could move there.

"But we had a problem. There was an ongoing disturbance next to our apartment. It was a huge, noisy generator operated by our gas station neighbor. Many times we prayed, asking the Lord to get rid of it. We were really tired of the noise day and night.

"Suddenly the mission administrator decided to add another staff member to our team. Being the treasurer, I considered how to accommodate the new family, as there was no empty staff house. Then our president (a foreigner) proposed we change one of the two guest quarters into staff housing. I knew the rooms were not earning as much as they should, so turning them into staff quarters would be more profitable, and everyone agreed to that idea.

Now the question was who would move into the new house, as it was quite a bit smaller than the regular houses.

"The president first requested that the executive secretary move there, but he declined. Then the president told me to move there. I said, 'Let me talk to my husband.' We talked it over, but saw the same problem as before. If we moved into the new house we would be blamed for being selfish. So I told the president, 'If anybody else wants the house, it's no problem for us.'

"The president became a little angry and replied, "People always talk about you, how you sacrifice and are good to everyone else. I told you to move! Without further discussion we moved. And we thanked the Lord for not having to suffer with the generator noise anymore. We had no idea how God was going to solve the noise problem, but our Lord knows how to solve any problem. Test Him. He has a thousand ways to satisfy you. But seek His guidance first."

[Sweetie Ritchil writes from Bangladesh, where she is the treasurer for the Union Mission She has served the church in financial areas, worked with children's Sabbath school--writing songs in Bangla--and is women's ministries and Dorcas director. She loves reading the Bible, writing articles, and finding ways to help the helpless children, students, and mothers.]  

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

Many of the newly baptized members are persecuted by their peers in the village. One young lady named Jocelyn Ogbong is a student at the Bataraza National High School. Her family told her that she should not be going to church on the Sabbath. She has remained faithful and returns to Tabud each week to attend church.

When she gives her testimony in the church, she frequently sheds tears.

I told her, "Don't give up. Remain faithful and God will protect and keep you. Pray that the Lord will give you the strength to remain faithful." She is a leader in our Adventist Youth meetings and is frequently found reading her Bible.

Her friends and classmates in school make fun of her because she no longer enjoys what they consider to be good food such as meat and fish without scales and other foods forbidden by God. Jocelyn is ready with answers from the Bible for all their questions. She carries her Bible with her always. That Bible is her shield and defender of her faith.

I pray that this young lady will remain faithful to her Adventist teachings until Jesus comes.

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