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I. FED-ites Honored/Featured at Loma Linda University Commencement

At the recent commencement service for the Loma Linda University School of Nursing some former FED folks figured prominently. Patricia Jones, who formerly worked in Hong Kong and the Philippines with her husband John, a theology professor, was given a special award in recognition of her many years of international work. She has worked tirelessly to help upgrade Adventist nursing quality around the globe, conducting seminars, institutional reviews, etc.

The commencement speaker was Beth Johnston Taylor, a nursing professor there at LLU, daughter of Robert and Madeline Johnston, who served in South Korea and the Philippines. Beth was born at Seoul Adventist Hospital and spent her early years there and at Philippine Union College on its old Baesa campus.

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II. Burma Vignettes—Early Missionaries #35 & 36

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.

#35. Fred Hartins (1926 -29)

The Fred Hartins came to Myanmar from Canada in 1926. The Hartins assisted John L. Christians in Meiktila Technical School. He was a teacher at the school. The Hartins were outstanding in that they had passed their Burmese examinations successfully at the end of a year’s study.

Their service was cut short after another year by a break in Mrs. Hartin’s health that made it necessary for them to return to their country. However they continued in the Lord's service till retirement.

#36. Alfred A. Sargent (Eda) (1929-42, 1946)

Alfred J. and Eda Sargent, both nurses, had arrived from America in 1929, to take their place in medical missionary work throughout the Delta region of Myanmar. Pastor Sargent teamed up with Po Shwe, a national pastor, and these two did valiant soul-winning work, sometimes wading water and mud to their waists to get to the villages. He worked until the beginning of World War II.

Elder Sargent was the first to arrived back Myanmar after the war on the day after Christmas of 1945. He arrived from India, bringing boxes of used clothing for distribution to those in need of them. His arrival brought great joy to our people in Myanmar. There was a general meeting on January 1, 1946. It was a very happy New Year with clothes given out by Pr. Sargent.

However, he was so sad to know that his best friend, Pr. Po Shwe was murdered. He saluted Brother Po Shwe for his martyrdom.

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III. Geoscience Research Institute Holds Philippine Meeting

Jim Gibson <jgibson@llu.edu> June 21:

At the invitation of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, Jim Gibson [of the CRI] met in February with Union Conference leaders in both northern and southern Philippines. In addition, he presented lectures at Central Philippine Adventist
College, Mountain View College, Adventist University of the Philippines, and to a student group at University of the Philippines Los Banos. -- April Geoscience Newsletter ~~~~~~~~ IV. Death of Robert R. Stahlnecker

Kris Seerengan <krisseerengan@hotmail.com> June 23:

It is with sadness and heaviness of heart, inform you of the passing of Dr. Robert R. Stahlnecker, former President of Lakpahanah Adventist College and Seminary on June 19, 2013. Each of us not only grieves at the passing of a great leader in our denomination but also for the loss his family suffers. Many of you have met and worked with him the different capacity in a different part of the world. He has been missionary in India and Sri Lanka for many years. I have known him for the last 36 years and worked with him with many capacities in our church. On Guam I went along with him to visit church members and admired him the way he uplifted the members at their homes. He would talk to them as Jesus would. I have gone with him to give communication service to those who were unable to come to church due to illness and very much blessed and impressed the way he conducted. His high light of the work in our church was the evangelist meeting he held in 1996 (Net 96). He showed Mark Finley messages via VHS tapes in our church, and was able to bring 65 brand new souls to our church. He did it all by himself. It was one of the successful meetings we ever had. Those members who came from the meetings are active members, including our current church pastor. God blessed his efforts because his sincerity, commitment and dedication to His work. He loved to visit people. When he was not allowed to drive, he found someone to take him to visit people. Though he was not doing well health wise during last days he visited our church members until the day he moved to the Mainland. In his condition, he would want someone to visit him, instead he visited others. He loved the people of Guam. The people in our church and people of Guam will miss him.

We look forward to that day when we will see him strong. I look forward to walking beside him the way he used to walk. Our thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Ruby Stahlnecker (wife) Carol, Donna, Patti, (daughters) Lesley (son), many grandchildren and great grandchildren and many friends here on Guam. Mrs. Ruby’s email address: <kg6aso@gmail.com> ~~~~~~~~~~ V. Philippine Adventist Medical Aviation Services (PAMAS) Report

Dwayne and Wendy Harris

A couple weeks ago Dwayne had the privilege of flying the LIGHT missionaries to Batanes (the island way up north between Luzon and Taiwan) where they will assist the fledgling church in reaching out with medical missionary work. The Northern Luzon Mission and LIGHT ministry have been wanting to place missionaries in Batanes for a long time now, and thanks to this airplane we were able to help them make it happen.

We recently found a displaced tribal group (called Badjao) in the middle of Santiago City and were appalled by their state of living. They remind us in some ways of the mountain people of Palawan--with very poor sanitation, no education, and many don’t even know their age, the language of the area, or even how to count. Their place in Mindanao that they fled from is a lawless area where there is a lot of fighting between the Abu Sayaf and the military. Tanya immediately enlisted support from the local church members after learning about these people and they are continuing to help weekly with food, clothes, medical help, and education.

Last week, Danny informed me (Dwayne) of a critically ill patient who needed immediate transport to Manila for more advanced medical treatment. I came down with Malaria about that time, but thankfully I was able to take treatment in time and I felt fine by the time I needed to fly. Our airstrip is too short for the Twin Comanche at my comfort level so we arranged to land at a private airstrip to the south. They initially refused our request for permission to land but after the local mayor and congressman got involved we were given permission. After loading the patient we had a nice flight most of the way back toward Manila. We had arranged to land at a small private strip south of Manila and have someone meet and transport the patient from there to the Manila Adventist Medical Center. As we neared the intended landing strip I could see heavy rain pouring from a big thunderstorm that was directly over the airstrip. I started to divert to another airport that the GPS indicated was to the east a short distance and found nothing but a phantom runway. There was a gap in some of the thunderstorms that allowed us to fly toward the Manila International Airport and we got a clearance and landed there. I dropped the patient off and waited in line for 30 minutes before I could take off again. Even though things did not go as expected I was praising God for working everything out. I still got back home that evening and was able to prepare for pouring the cement pad in front of our Luzon hanger that next morning. A group from the Adventist hospital came out and helped us pour the pad.

It’s encouraging to see what God has done the last few months, and yet it seems we are barely scratching the surface of what needs to be done. The opportunities come faster than we can keep up with, but praise God He is able to do more than we can imagine possible. We appreciate very much your prayers and support for us and this ministry.

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VI. New York's Korean Adventists, Concentrated Outreach Works
--by Mark A. Kellner, Adventist Review News Editor, reporting from Queens, New York

A single week of outreach meetings - widely advertised, suffused with prayer and presented by a guest speaker imported from Seoul - has marked the NY13 outreach of Korean-American Seventh-day Adventists in the greater New York City area. At least 50 people have signed up for further Bible studies designed to lead to baptism, local Adventist leaders said.

Culturally sensitive and presented in a manner to which other Koreans can relate, the nightly meetings began June 17 and featured pastor Kim Dae Sung, president of the Korean Union Conference in Seoul. Preceding Pastor Kim, ten young Adventists from the Republic of Korea spent three months in New York City helping to prepare for the event.

John K. Kim, a local elder of the Northern New York Korean Seventh-day Adventist Church, said the joint outreach brought together five of the area's Korean Adventist congregations, each affiliated with the Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. About 700 Korean Seventh-day Adventists live in the region, he said.

While separate efforts will also take place at individual congregations, Kim said the churches decided on a united venture at Daedong Manor Wedding Venues, a popular banquet facility, on Northern Boulevard in Flushing, a large neighborhood in the New York borough of Queens. The location is the heart of the city's Korean community, which, according to U.S. Census figures, boasts 88,000 people.

The series was heavily advertised in four Korean-language newspapers as well as on Korean-language radio and television. The room in which the series was held could accommodate between 250 and 300 people, Kim said, and on the first night, it was "packed out," he noted. Subsequent nights have been equally popular, something a visitor noted on June 21, the next-to-last day of the series. . . .

Mr. Kim said the meetings were so successful that two Korean-American Protestant pastors - concerned, perhaps, about losing some of their members to the Adventist message - took to the local media attacking the Seventh-day Adventist meetings as being fronts for a "cult." The result was that a local Korean-language television station showed up to interview participants, gaining extra positive exposure for the effort. . . .

One advantage in reaching many non-Adventist Koreans here is that they already have a strong Christian background - Korea has Asia's largest Christian population - and are often already familiar with biblical texts. . . .

For Korean Union president Kim Dae Sung, the Flushing, Queens seminar was something of a homecoming, even if Gotham is nearly 6,900 miles from Seoul. "I have been preaching for almost 30 years on Bible prophecy," he explained, "so when they asked me to preach here I was very glad," Kim said of the New York City trip. "I believe that the Bible's gospel [message] makes people Christians, and that Bible prophecy makes Christians Seventh-day Adventists and also makes Adventists heavenly minded citizens."

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VII. SULADS Story -- Two Truck Loads of Army Soldiers
by Daryl F. F amisaran, Field Director, SULADS

Angel stories were common during the pioneering days of Mountain View College (MVC). I heard again the angel stories of those beautiful pioneering days during the 60th anniversary celebration. I have two angel stories of MVC linking to SULADS and this I would like to share. This was told to me first hand from a chief of the Talaandig tribe in Migtulod village some three hour hike away from MVC.

It happened in May 1994. Chief Alipio Lagunday came with another chief, Datu Husayan, bringing with them legal papers to enter MVC with their people of the Talaandig tribe. They said MVC land once belonged to their forefathers and was sold very cheap. According to their papers they can claim back their land for the benefit of their children and their children's children.

The two chiefs came to the office of then MVC president Dr. Abelardo Era and presented their papers. They then left word that they will come in October that year with their people to occupy and make a community in Kisalom. After that they came often to MVC to survey Kisalom planning where they will build their hut community.

Alex Panes, Joel Velasco and I were requested by the president to visit him in the office for an important matter. We went and he then told us about the mess MVC would be getting into with the clash against the Talaandigs and their claim. "Indeed it would be a mess," we said.

"What can SULADS do to help pacify this issue without involving innocent lives?" he asked.

"We can only pray, Sir, to the God of Miracles and the God of MVC who posted angels during the pioneering days to protect this college. Of course we will also talk with the chiefs and leaders of the tribe," we assured him.
We heard also that CMU (Central Mindanao University) was in a mess with this tribe with their legal papers who occupied some portions of CMU. If it happened to CMU, we believe it too would happen to MVC if the God of MVC would withhold His hand to protect His school.

We also prayed with the SULADS missionaries. When Chief Lagunday again came one day to the office of the College President he sent for the three of us. We talked with the chief.

"What do you want from MVC chief?" I asked.

"We are claiming MVC land because this belongs to us from our forefathers. We will not claim everything of MVC, we will just occupy the idle lands you don’t till but we will definitely include Kisalom where we will build our hut community."

"What really is your important need, Chief?" Joel followed up.

"We need to send our children to school that is why we will live at MVC so that our children can study here."

We prayed silently asking for God’s guidance to speak the right words to this chief for a win/win solution. "You don’t have to worry about that, Chief," Alex Panes queried. "MVC has a program in reaching our neighboring Lumad villages with free education. This program is called SULADS. We will send teachers to where your village is. These teachers will live in the village with you and teach your children from Monday through Friday. Not only that, but these students are trained to take care of the sick in the village. This program is called HEAL (Health, Education, Agriculture, Livelihood).

This made the eyes of this chief sparkle.

"Do you really mean it?" the chief asked. "Is this for free?"

"Yes! For free!" I assured him.

"If this is true, this indeed will be a big help to us and we don’t need to come anymore. My people who are afraid of your "army" in this campus will be happy to hear this news. When can we start our school in my village?" he asked.

"Right away after we have make a survey," we responded.

So we made a team to survey Migtulod. What we found were warriors and each man has a special kind of machete, long and sharp which was made just to kill. They called their force the "bolo battalion" a well known armed group equipped with machetes and charms and amulets. That helped me recall what the chief told about the army that his people are so afraid about.

"Please tell us about the army of MVC you told us which your people are afraid of," I requested.

"We come often surveying where we can put up our village inside MVC campus. One late afternoon when my team were and I surveying, we saw two army trucks loaded with soldiers in uniform with all their ammunitions making rounds around MVC. From Kisalom to the administration and tour around MVC campus."

"MVC has no army!" I assured him.

"But we really saw those two army trucks loaded with soldiers!" He assured.

I recalled that these mountain people are so afraid of uniformed men with guns and the sight of the two truck loads was enough to abort their plans of squatting and claiming Kisalom for their community.

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