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~~~~~~~~~~~ I. Ejler Jensen—Blessed 101 Times and More!

Sally Phoon <sallylam@nsdadventist.org> July 9:

On June 26, Pastor Ejler Jensen, missionary to the Far East (Japan & Malaysia), celebrated his 101st birthday in Yountville, California. Pastor Jensen arrived in Okinawa together with his wife and daughter in September of 1950, just 5 years after the war when the island was still in a very pitiful state with poverty everywhere. Men, women, and children were dressed in odds and ends of military clothing. Many of the children showed signs of malnutrition, he wrote in his book, Memoirs.

Within just two short years of their arrival, filled with a passion to share the gospel with the Okinawans, he built the Shuri and Sashiki churches. There was not a single Adventist on the island at that time. This was followed by the construction of a school, then a medical clinic which later was expanded to be the Adventist Medical Center. Before he left for Tokyo, he completed a third church at Koza.

The Japanese thought he was crazy, building a 200-member church when he had no members except for his three-member family, but the Lord honored his faith. Within just two years, the Spirit of the Lord brought 40 members to worship in the new church, and He added to their numbers daily until the church was filled. After Okinawa, he was called to work in Tokyo at the Adventist hospital. Later, he moved to the Japan Union as its secretary treasurer and was involved with the sale of the Harajuku property and building of the Union office, school and residences in Hodogaya.

Currently, Pastor Jensen is in a nursing home where he is lovingly cared for. His daughter, Yvonne Truby (an ex-Heritage singer), reports: "His mind is still very sharp which is wonderful for the many conversations we enjoy together." Let's pray that our God will be there to comfort and encourage him as His unassuming and humble servant continues to live in praise to His name.

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II. Burma Vignettes—Early Missionaries #37 & 38

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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# 37. Oliver Asprey (1928 - 31)

Oliver Asprey arrived Myanmar in 1928 as secretary-treasurer. He came from Poona, India, and served well as a secretary-treasurer until 1931. He came to relieve the Killoways, also from India, who suffered from failing health, after both served efficiently.

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# 38. Wallace W. Christensen (Dr. Doris- Dentist) (1931-1942)

Elder Wallace W. and Dr. Doris Christensen came from America early in 1931. The Christensens did excellent job. Pastor Christensen studied Burmese as soon as he arrived and he looked after Yangon church. He held evangelistic meetings at western Yangon of Ah Lone at White Hall, a famous public meeting place. He could speak Burmese fluently. In later years he worked in literacy and publishing work. When A. J. Johanson arrived and took over the literacy
department, Pastor Christensen served as the pastor to Yangon church till 1942. The Christensens went on furlough in 1938 and came back to Myanmar serving in the same position he left before furlough. Before the war he sent his family to India where he continued for some time in Myanmar. He left on foot for India when the situation worsened. During the Second World War Pastor Christensen served the Lord by teaching Christian faith to African youths a seminary at Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).

After the Second World War he came back to Myanmar. The seminary established at Myaungmya in 1958 now called Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary (MUAS) got Pastor W. W. Christensen as its first principal. This godly man gave himself whole-heartedly to this task for several years, until 1964 when his health broke and he had to return to America where he was laid to rest.

He was a willing martyr for missions in Myanmar.

Dr. Doris Christensen was a dentist who kept herself busy in the Yangon area, before Elder Christensen broke down in his health and returned to the US where he fell asleep in Jesus. The Christensens had three children. They were all serving the Lord in their respective fields.

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III. Letters

1. Philip Jones <pjadmin@gmail.com> July 8:

Greetings from Xian, China. We are touring the mainland for our 50th wedding anniversary present to each other. --

Phil and JoAnne Jones of Boulder, CO ~~~~~~~~~~ IV. Death of Dr. Amos Simorangkir

Octofien Sumendap <octofien@yahoo.com> July 3:

Pastor Amos Simorangkir, the former Education Director of Far Eastern Division in Singapore during 1980s, passed away on Thursday, June 27, 2013 in the morning in his house in Redlands, California, due to illness. Pastor Amos Simorangkir is one of our church members. He has served as the senior pastor for this church for nine years before he retired. He and his wife have five children.

PS: I am enjoying reading FED e-News that you sent regularly. I am Octofien Sumendap, the wife of Pastor Hendrik Sumendap who is now serving as a senior pastor of Loma Linda Indonesian SDA Church in Redlands, CA. My husband and I used to work for the Southern Asia-Pacific Division in Singapore and in Silang, Cavite, Philippines in the years 1993-2008.

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V. Pakistani Christians in Bangkok

by Cindi Tumberg in July "Adventist Frontiers" Magazine

"The building was long and bare with nothing but a bland white sign identifying it as a Seventh-day Adventist church. It was one of many church plants in Bangkok, and I was visiting it that Sabbath with the Thai Women's Ministry group.

"As we got out of our car and entered the church, we were told we would be meeting in a small room that was actually part of the pastor's house because it was too hot to meet in the other part of the building. The room was perhaps 14 by 20 feet; there was a pulpit in the front corner. School desks and a couch lined the walls. A fan and a small airconditioner unit struggled to keep the room comfortable as the outside temperature soared. We watched as the pastor spread two huge off-white rugs on the floor in the middle of the room. As he continued busily preparing the room, he told us he expected 30 or 40 people to show up for church. He went on to tell us that the majority of his congregation were Pakistani refugees, since he can speak Urdu.

"When Sabbath school began, between 20 and 30 Pakistani were in the audience, most of them men. The church service was an interesting blend of four different languages and cultures. I was touched by the enthusiasm with which the Pakistani worshippers sang praises to God in their native tongue. I sensed that each one of them had experienced God in a very personal way.

They didn't seem to care that their surroundings or situation in life was less than desirable. They were just happy to be worshipping God together.

"At one point in the service, my attention was drawn behind the pulpit to the kitchen where several ladies were preparing lunch. Like the rest of the building, the kitchen was greatly lacking in modern conveniences. It was a windowless room with a refrigerator, a few metal counters, a gas stove, and a broken air conditioner. The door to the kitchen was kept shut, since it opened directly into the sanctuary, so the cooks suffered as they prepared a feast for the guests. One of the ladies came out of the steam bath with her clothes almost glued to her body and sat on the floor, visibly exhausted. I watched her for several minutes, concerned that she might pass out from the heat.
"Before we left we had a special prayer for the group. As we sat in a circle together, the reality of what these people must have been through began to dawn on me. Many of them had escaped religious persecution in Pakistan. Several told us they had spent several years in a prison camp before escaping. Many of them do not have any communication with family back in Pakistan and don't even know where they might be found. Though they are thankful to be out from under tyranny, they are frustrated in Thailand. They have been allowed into the country, but they haven't been given work visas. Many of them struggle to survive, and at times they feel trapped in this 'free' country with no ability to better their lives. Many of them dream of someday making it to America or Europe. They hold onto hope that any day their circumstances will improve. Many of them seemed truly happy that we had come to their church. I sensed a longing in them to connect with a larger community of Christian believers.

"As I thought about their situation and compared it with my own, I felt extremely blessed to have been born in a country that allows religious freedom. I was also impressed that if we have been blessed with freedom, that we have a great responsibility to those who haven't. We can not continue just living our lives and ignoring the needs of the world around us. We have a responsibility to our suffering brothers and sisters in this world as well as to the millions who have not had the opportunity to know our Savior. God has not showered us with so many blessings just so we can keep them to ourselves and our families, but so we can share them with those less fortunate."

VI. Update on Palawan, Philippines News

Wendy Harris <wrguptill@gmail.com> July 17:

Dwayne & are presently in Palawan, filling in for our missionaries who are in the States for a couple months or so, working on visas.

I’m enjoying being back in Palawan where I can speak with the local people and see many old friends. It’s been three years since we lived here and our visits have always been too short to see too many people. Despite the challenges of serving in a very poor and remote area, it is also very rewarding to be able to help so much even in such small ways.

You cannot walk into a village without finding multiple patients. The people are really desperate, and malaria and typhoid are especially rampant right now. Missionaries are also regularly plagued with these diseases, but the locals suffer more because of malnutrition and low immune systems.

We had all the AFM missionaries over the other day for potluck at our place. We had quite a group. They were all out of the mountains temporarily anyway, and some were about to leave, so it was a perfect time to see them. We had a lot of fun getting to know the new SM’s and volunteers and catching up with the old ones.

I love visiting in the Palawano villages, seeing patients and helping with Bible studies and children’s programs. The kids are enjoying the Palawano songs I’ve been teaching them (it’s their first time to learn songs in their own native language). We also hiked into the mountains a couple hours the other day to visit a mission post where some of our missionaries serve and hold a small, informal school. The kids are so precious. They are well behaved and so anxious to learn! We have two local volunteer missionaries who take turns every week or so to hike up and teach and hold Sabbath services.

There is never a lack of things to do here. Dwayne stays busy with the never ending projects here around our project. He’s been working on rebuilding the truck, the motorcycle, fixing leaky roofs, and finishing various building projects. He’s also helping one of the local churches here put in windows and other projects that they have not been able to afford to finish for years.

Our new missionaries, Sean and Pris that we’re filling in for, were also able to do several medical evacuation flights here in Palawan before they left. The airplanes are a big blessing, even though they are limited to areas that are flat enough for airstrips.

We continue to get reports of urgent needs for helicopters both in Palawan and in northern Luzon. Two patients died this last month in one remote area alone because of lack of immediate transport to the hospital. Missionaries spend precious time and energy traveling far distances to get their supplies or to transport emergency patients to the hospital. We continue to believe that God will provide in His perfect timing.

Dwayne tackled and completed the huge project of building folding doors for the Luzon hangar before we came down here to Palawan. He’s also been helping a couple churches in the area finish their buildings.

We thank you so much for your continued, faithful prayers for the needs here, and for wisdom, health, and safety, and all the details of this project. Jesus is coming soon! We pray that we can be the instruments in His hands to accomplish a great work for Him.
Dwayne and Wendy Harris  
Philippine Adventist Medical Aviation Services (PAMAS) ~~~~~~~~~~ VII. SULADS Story -- Converted Pastor Becomes Soul-Winning Layman  
by Elias Bitoon, Gospel Outreach Worker Southern Mindanao Mission, Philippines  
Half of the inhabitants of Sarangani Province in southern Mindanao are Muslims. Many of the Muslims are wealthy coconut plantation owners, fishermen. Many belong to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Many Muslims have accepted the Adventists as brothers because of our similar beliefs regarding unclean meats, idols, and one God. The other half of the people are Christians of various denominations or animists.  
Our Gospel Outreach workers use friendship evangelism. They visit the people in their homes where they speak of the Lord and offer Bible studies. They attend services of other denominations on Sundays and make friends of the people.  
Dencio Enghang was a pastor of an evangelical church. He agreed to study the Bible with us and decided to be baptized August 12, 2012. He had been living in the home of one of his church members until then but when he joined the Adventist church, he was told, "Go live with the Adventists now!"  
He came to Elias Bitoon for counsel. The church group in that area had just moved from a temporary church to a more permanent one so Elias allowed Dencio to live in the temporary one. Now Dencio joins Elias in visiting and giving Bible studies. Elias shares a portion of his stipend with Dencio.  
A new pastor came to the evangelical church and requested a high official to come visit their church and another church three hours away. Dencio approached the pastor and asked, "May Elias and I accompany you to the next church?" The reply was positive. Some other church members went along as well.  
After the visiting official spoke, Elias requested to speak also. The pastor said "No" but the visiting official wanted to hear what Elias had to say. Elias then preached a sermon about the seventh-day Sabbath as revealed in the Bible. He had the members look up the texts and read for themselves.  
When he finished speaking, the pastor left without saying "Good-bye" and they went their separate ways.  
The people remained and discussed what they had heard and read. Later in the afternoon, they met again and entered into a heated discussion. They finally agreed that their church did not teach the truth. One man went home and returned with a hammer with which he destroyed the pulpit of their church. They accused their pastor of teaching them things that were not supported by the Bible.  
The church is now closed. Denicio continues to study with the people and many of them, including the pastor, are preparing to be baptized March 30, 2013 at the Quiet Hour Ministries mass baptism in General Santos City.  
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