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I. Missionaries of a Different Kind

Feryl Harris ferylharris@yahoo.com August 1:

Submitted by Feryl E. Harris (Taiwan Adventist Hospital, 1974-78)

While Wilton E. Williams was on the island of Taiwan for a different reason than the appointees sent by the General Conference, he and his wife Janice were missionaries in their own right. Mr. Williams, an engineer for United States Steel Corporation in Pittsburgh, PA, was commissioned to serve as an advisor to the China Steel project in Kaohsuing, located near the Southern end of the Island of Taiwan. Always one to share his faith, he took every opportunity to speak a word for his Lord with the Project Coordinator and his staff at China Steel Corporation. My husband and I were serving at Taiwan Adventist Hospital during this time and when the Williams came to Taipei we had the privilege of extending hospitality to them on several occasions which included potatoes instead of rice for this gentleman farmer from West Virginia. During their visits we were privy to many stories of how God opened doors for Wilton to testify, beginning with why he didn't work from Friday sundown to Sabbath sundown. There was a time element in which China Steel executives were desirous of taking advantage of every opportunity they had to make use of his knowledge so they were, at first, quite put out that he would not be available to them on Saturday. Wilton assured them they would finish on time and they eventually caught on, not only to his commitment, but also to the values he stood for.

Wilton and Janice became integrated in the Kaohsuing church family in an active way in that Wilton taught Sabbath School classes and Janice played the piano from week to week. If I remember correctly, she painted a watercolor of the church which she left with the members.

Wilton recently passed away at 87 years old and one month later, Janice also laid down her life. While Wilton was officially retired, neither one retired from their dedication to God and His plan for the expansion of the work in Pennsboro, West Virginia. Because of their efforts, a lovely country school/church building sits among the hills of Appalachia and two existing medical clinics in adjoining towns have been staffed by Seventh-day Adventist physicians.

Missionaries of a "different" kind but nonetheless missionaries who served the Far East and beyond in their individual ways.

II. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries #39, 40

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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# 39. Frank & Phyllis Mainstone (1931-37)

Mr. & Mrs. Mainstone came from India in 1931. Brother Mainstone worked as secretary-treasurer of the Myanmar Union Mission. Mrs. Mainstone taught in the Yangon Church School at various times. Both Frank and Phyllis Mainstone did excellent jobs in performing their duties. Frank and Phyllis Mainstone worked well until they returned to India in 1937.

#40. Eugene A. Crane (Ethel) (1934 - 41)
Pastor Eugene A. Crane and his wife Ethel arrived Myanmar from America in 1934. Both of them were nurses. He studied Karen as soon as he arrived Myanmar. They came as a substitution for the Hares. They were in charge of Ohn Daw and the surrounding area, known as Tanintharyi district. They were later in charge of Delta Region. Pastor Crane trained Myanmar nationals into the ministry as there was no seminary as yet at the time. Pastor Eugene A. Crane gathered about him some of the best evangelists and village teacher-evangelists in the field and taught them how to conduct full-time, long-term evangelistic efforts in the villages. They followed a well-organised program. A vigorous program of evangelism was carried out during those years when workers were so few. He worked together with Pastors Alfred A. Sargent, Frank C. Wyman and R. A. Beckner, and associated with them were some national workers. Since there was no seminary as yet at the time, he worked as educating workers in the field of the Gospel. He had lots of visitation during the days. He went into the villages to see the members personally. When J. O. Wilson was called to India, Pastor Crane had to supervise the literature ministry work around Myanmar.

Pastor Crane and U Po Shwe, a national, once held an evangelistic meeting at Hsin Doh village. One night while the meeting was in progress a disruptive person threw a torch into the tent. The roof of the tent was made of thatched leaf. However the roof was not burnt. God prevented the fire from burning the tent. The evangelistic effort finished with the baptism of a group of Adventists and a primary school was opened at Hsin Doh village. An active Seventh-day Adventist Church was later established.

Pr. Crane and his wife worked very hard. He was superintendent of local missions for sometime. For a couple of years (1939 to 1941) he served as superintendent of the Myanmar Union.

III. Death of Ana Faigao

Ken Flemmer <ken.flemmer@gmail.com> July 20:

It is with great sadness that we inform our GC family that Ana Faigao passed away at home early this morning after a seven-year battle with cancer. The Faigao family is so grateful for your support and prayers throughout those difficult years. Ana had worked in both GC Secretariat and GC Treasury. She is survived by her husband, Howard Faigao (PUB) and two adult children, Shari Ann and Allan Howard.

A viewing is scheduled for Sunday, July 14, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the Hines Rinaldi Funeral Home, 11800 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring. The funeral service will be held Tuesday, July 16 at 9 a.m. at the Beltsville Adventist Church, 4200 Ammendale Rd., Beltsville. A graveside service at George Washington Cemetery and repast at the Beltsville Church Fellowship Hall will follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that friends contribute to a memorial fund. Donors are invited to write checks payable to the General Conference and indicate funds for the "Ana Faigao Memorial Fund for Worthy Student Scholarships."

During this very painful time, we trust God's wonderful promises of resurrection and eternal life and request that the GC Family keep Elder Faigao and his family in prayer.

[Ana was born and raised in the Philippines and was resident in Maryland with her family. She was married to Howard Faigao, publishing director for the world church. She had been fighting multiple myeloma or cancer of the bone marrow since 2006. She enjoyed writing and kept a log of her cancer journey. -- from BLESSED, the women's morning devotional book for 2013; her contribution is for December 25.] ~~~~~~~~

IV. Dick Halls Continue Campmeeting Circuits

Richard Hall <dickanjeanh@gmail.com> July 24:

It seems like every time I write I say, Now we are home again. I guess that is the way it goes with us. It seems that we are always on the go. I think the last I wrote was in March and since then we have been busy. We continue our ministry of speaking at different churches here in northern Oregon, helping out where the pastors have more than one church and need help. . . .

June was a busy, busy month starting our with an RV potluck and two weekend speaking appointments at quite a distance leaving on Friday and coming back Sabbath afternoon. Then on the 9th. we left for Montana to attend the campmeeting. As an ADRA, and Quiet Hour Ministries representative, we set up a display booth and give out materials to people, telling about the work being done around the world. The campmeetings are for about five days and those of you who may not know what a campmeeting is, it is a meeting when people come together from our churches throughout the state and camp together. We are blessed with special speakers for meetings all day and it is a real spiritual blessing that brings us closer to our God and one another. After leaving Montana we got to Spokane, Washington on time for the campmeeting held at the Upper Columbia Academy. We set up a booth there and again enjoyed a real blessing and met with many friends we hadn’t seen for a long time.
We were home just a week and went to the Light Bearers Campmeeting which is only about 60 miles south at Jasper, Oregon. We don't set a booth there but we had a real spiritual blessings with dynamic speakers. It started at seven in the morning and had meeting after meeting with half hour breaks and then a two hour break after lunch. This year each study was on the book of Acts. We felt really blessed as we do each year. . . .

The Light Bearers is a supporting ministry for the Seventh-day Adventist church that has printing presses to print Bible lessons and Christian literature by the millions in different languages to send to African countries by the shipping container loads. A ministry called Rise is located there together with them and trains young people to be Bible workers and Evangelists. We really appreciate this ministry and go each year to their campmeeting or convention as they call it.

We were glad to be home again for another week and then we were off to the Oregon Campmeeting held at Gladstone which borders Portland on the south. Here again we set up the display booth for ADRA and the Quiet Hour Ministries. As people came through the display tent we gave them the ADRA and Quiet Hour materials. Riki had nice bags made with the ADRA logo on them and had brought them from Thailand and we would put the different leaflets, catalogs, magazines, cards etc. from both ministries in them for people to take. They were very popular. Another very popular item was little stuffed animals of all kinds. Riki had nice little ADRA logos made in Thailand and I glued them on the back or front of the animals to give to the little kids.

When we would give them, we asked them to take good care of the animal, and to look at the ADRA logo, and think of the many little kids that ADRA helps and pray for them. We had these for all of the campmeeting's and gave away all we had which was several hundred. The animals are mostly given to me, but I also buy them at thrift stores, wash and dry them, ready to give to kids. . . .

Jean and I are in good health for our age but getting old is no fun. We get tired easily and like to take naps in the afternoon when we can. God is good and we are thankful that He can use us in His work of helping others and spreading the good news that Jesus is coming again to put an end to all sin, pain, suffering and death and take us home with Him to live for eternity. Let us all be ready for that great event.

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V. Major Evangelism in Far Eastern Cities
-- from the July 25 Adventist Review

"As New York City evangelism concluded its initial phase at the end of June, plans for the SDA Church's worldwide family to teach major metropolitan areas are in place. Some have begun while others are anticipated. . .

"North Asia-Pacific Division, based in South Korea. The division has chosen Tokyo, Japan, as the city of focus, and named the initiative TOKYO 13. The '13' means that every pastor and church member is to become the thirteenth disciple of Christ. The Adventist Church in Japan has experienced slow growth in recent years. Because evangelistic meetings have met with little success, the church will employ Christ's method of mingling with people. Hence, the strategy for TOKYO 13 will be relational evangelism.

Later this year, the church will organize small groups and engage in team ministry while inviting new people to church. The goal is 100 new believers which may seem a small number compared to other regions of the world church, but would be three times the number of new members in a typical year. A team has already started praying for the TOKYO 13 imitative."

"South Asia-Pacific Division, based in Manila, Philippines. Includes Southeast Asia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. Adventist Mission representatives are planning a major evangelistic campaign in Manila next year, with church president Wilson as the featured speaker [as he was in the New York effort]. The denomination will also offer health outreach from a shopping mall in Indonesia, and a vegetarian restaurant in Laos."

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VI. SULADS Story -- It Did Rain

by Fema E. Silmaro, Belatan Literacy Center, Tawitawi

My husband and I are pioneering the SULADS work in Belatan, a tiny island in the Southwestern tip of the Philippines. Our rocky island is so small that you can walk across from tip to tip in thirty minutes. Ninety-eight percent of our people live in stilt houses made of sticks, bamboos and nipa palm leaves. It's not about the size of the island that they build their huts in the water, but this is their way of living. They reserve their inland for their cemetery.

The lowest tide is waist deep and highest tide is one foot away from their slab floors. Children use their windowpanes and porches as their diving boards when they swim. Needless to say our house is just like theirs--over the water.
There is no potable water on the island and we wait only on rain so we can drink, wash and bathe. That is why there are big containers to gather rainwater from the few houses that have galvanized iron roofs. We use this water wisely using only a liter to rinse ourselves after swimming in the salt water.

"It has been three months now with no rain," said one fisherman. "Water in big containers is thinning every passing day. For three weeks now we have not taken a bath in fresh water save the swimming everyday as we go fishing. The sky is still blue and there is no trace of rain clouds."

I could feel the fear in his voice. "We will pray to our living God, Allah, to send us rain," I said.

That night our students came to our hut again to listen to stories. They love the story of (Nabi) Prophet Abraham most of all. That evening my husband Jifrey told the story of Prophet Elijah who was provided by Allah (Sabhanna Watta Allah) with bread delivered by the ravens every day. His water was sure from the brook Cherith. He also prayed for rain during those months of no rain in Israel. The drought was so bad that beasts in the field lay dead because there was no more grass to graze.

Our students were all eyes that never blinked, jaws dropped in awe as they listened to Jifrey. "Tonight," he said concluding his story, "we will prostrate in prayer and ask Allah (Sabhanna Watta Allah) to send us rain. He is the same God, our living God in heaven, today as of long ago in the olden days of Nabi Ibrahim."

"The students looked at me in disbelief seemingly to say, "Is Sir Jifrey serious in what he is saying?"

They went outside to see the sky and said, "The sky is full of stars, Sir! This means that there is no trace of rain in the sky. It is impossible to have rain tonight."

"Honey," I turned to my husband, "what if it won’t rain at all tonight?"

I doubted in my little faith. He looked into my eyes and said, "Honey are you joining them in disbelief? It is natural for them not to believe. But I am counting on you to join me in faith as we pray to our living God of miracles to send rain tonight so that these people may know that the God we serve is the Living God!"

"I’m sorry, Honey!" I cried because I was so embarrassed by my unbelief.

We prostrated to the floor together with our Muslim students. Jifrey started with the Al Fatiha, the Muslim Prayer and continued, "Lord, let these children know that the God we serve, the God of the SULADS, is the same Allah that they serve and worship, the living and only God of Abraham and Elijah. Please send us rain tonight as we have not had rain in three months."

After the prayer the students went outside and looked up to the sky and said, "The stars are still there the same."

I kept quiet joining my husband still praying in our hearts that God would send the rain. That evening the students stayed to spend the night with us.

In the middle of the night when all the students were snoring the two of us prayed again. "Lord, please hear our prayer and let the rain pour tonight. We do not doubt you, Lord. Make it known to these people that you are our Living God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Ismael, as well as the God of the SULADS."

We went back to bed but we were not able to sleep due to our anticipation. Then at two in the morning we felt a strong cold breeze, followed by flashes of lightning and the loud thunders roared. The children awakened and ran home to bring out their containers to gather their most awaited life giving liquid, the most expensive commodity. As the whole village was busy gathering rain water with their containers my husband and I were our knees in tears and prostrating to the floor thanking and praising God for sending us rain and for granting our request. After the prayer, we too took our buckets and more containers to gather this blessing from Allah.

In the morning children and parents came to us and said, "Thank you, Mastals, for your prayer. IT DID RAIN. Indeed the GOD of the SULADS is alive."

"Alhamdullilah (Praise God)," I said. "He is the same living God. You and we SULADS serve the Living God in the high heavens.

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