I. Southern Asia-Pacific Division Leads World in Membership Growth
   ANN Bulletin October 15, 2013: Annual Counsel News
   One of the brightest spots in rising membership in 2012 occurred in the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, which reported the fastest growth rate, at 7 percent.
   Southern Asia-Pacific President Alberto C. Gulfan Jr. told ANN that most of the growth is occurring in the Philippines, which is undergoing a neighborhood-based evangelism campaign that is being credited for some of the 80,000 baptisms since 2011.
   The care-group ministry program, called Integrated Evangelism Lifestyle, consists of an Adventist family praying for a family in their neighborhood, and inviting the family to a weekly study of health principles, family life matters and, later, Bible study.
   "It's catching fire," Gulfan said. "We are seeing that in South Philippines, where the growth is fastest and largest. It's because they have strongly implemented the program of the Integrated Evangelism Lifestyle."

II. Health Leaders Meet in Penang
   Stanley Ng <StanleyNg@nsdadventist.org> October 9:
   2013 AHCA Presidents' Council Meets in Penang, Malaysia
   The 2013 NSD Presidents' Council of the Adventist HealthCare Association (AHCA) was held from September 23 - 26 in Penang, Malaysia. 27 hospital administrators including the speakers representing 11 member hospitals from the Northern Asia-Pacific Division; 1 associate member hospital and 4 sister hospitals from the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. Participants who joined the Council came from Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Singapore and USA.
   The Presidents' Council is an annual event for the hospital administrators to meet and fellowship with each other for spiritual enrichment, networking and continuing education. The guest speaker at this year's council, Mr. Edward F. Reifsnyder, is the President of The Reifsnyder Group from USA. He helped start Adventist Health System, Orlando, Florida, and served as Chief Financial Officer for 11 years since 1973. He then helped start Adventist Health System/United States in 1985 and served as Chief Financial Officer during its five year history. He was heavily focused on strategic financial planning, developing capital to support growth, relationships with the capital markets and building financial infrastructure.
   Two morning devotionals were given by Pastor Joshua Mok, the president of Southeast Asia Union Mission on the topic of Revival and Reformation with emphasis on the Health Message, to challenge and remind our hospital administrators the Mission of our healthcare institutions.
   Mr. Reifsnyder gave his presentations on two morning sessions, "Forming a Health System - Discussing the Potential" which was very timely and thought-provoking. On day one, focused on the case study of Adventist Health System (AHS)
in USA and its Mission Philosophy & Realities with the group discussion on "What mission achievements are most important to our Healthcare Institutions?", "What strategic and business results would you want from a Health System?" On day two, focused on the legal and governance structures, functions & services provided by AHS with the group discussion on "Desired functions in a Health System", "Recommendations to church leadership about forming a Health System".

On September 24 afternoon, the participants went on a tour of Penang Adventist Hospital (PAH) guided by the Hospital president, Dr. Wesley Toh. The PAH was first established as a clinic in 1924 and today, with 211 bed tertiary care facility, it provides first-class high quality care to the local community.

The business session of AHCA was conducted in the afternoon of September 25. The business session dealt with some routine agenda items and also voted to appoint a feasibility study committee on forming an Adventist Health System within the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. It was also voted to accept the nomination of AHCA officers for the year 2014-2015. The newly elected president of AHCA is Dr. Toshihiro Nishino, president of Tokyo Adventist Hospital and AHCA secretary/treasurer is Dr. Choi Myung Sup, president of Sahmyook Medical Center - Seoul Adventist Hospital. AHCA advisor is Pastor Stanley Ng, Assistant to the NSD president.

AHCA is the umbrella organisation over all the Adventist health-care institutions within the Northern Asia-Pacific Division. The purpose of AHCA is to provide coordination, services, advice and networking amongst the hospital administrators.

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III. Letters

1. Robert Wong <rw1441936@chumadventist.org> October 9:
   
   Thank you for sending me the FED E-news.

   In today’s issue: I learn that Jerry Bruce passed away. It remind me that when I graduated from Southern Missionary College in 83’, Elders Don Roth and Alf Lohne of GC called me back to HK to prepare the mandarin radio program for our soon coming Guam Station, at that time Elder Bruce helped me and my wife to deal with some documents in order to get the permit from immigration office of HK, but later on I was wondering where is he? Now I know a bit.

   Also before I came to HK I stayed in California with our relatives there, once I and my wife, Mary, visited the Voice of Prophecy in Thousand Oaks, Calif. We met Elder Dan and Lillian received a warm welcome and encouragement from them, even so many years passed but I still remember it....Wish Mrs. Lillian Guild in good health and congratulations to her 90 years birthday with God’s abundant blessings.

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IV. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 56

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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# 56. Arthur E. Anderson (1952-57)

Pastor A. E. Anderson came to Myanmar in 1952 and he was noted to have worked for the Chins. It transpired that excerpts from Bible Readings were distributed among the heathen in the Naga hills of Assam by a certain group of anti-Adventists. These heathen found Sabbath truth in Bible Readings.

There was a favorable response and Pr. A. E. Anderson was sent towards these hills. Brother Anderson met with Pr. W. G. Lowry, head of the (India) Assam Mission, and together the work developed in leaps and bounds. Chin people are religiously very enthusiastic. Pastor A. E. Anderson remained a prominent missionary among Chins like Eric B. Hare among the Karens, although he did not work as long as his counterpart did.

After working among the Chins for two years he worked at Mawlamyine, Lower Myanmar, for another two years. Elder Anderson returned to America in 1957.}

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V. Lillian Guild Tells Her Life Story

Lillian R. Guild <LRGuild@aol.com> Part 3 of 3

God Has a Plan for Your Life

by Lillian R. Guild, as she approaches her 90th birthday
After breaking up with the doctor, and with no Saturday night date, my roommate and I decided to go to her parent’s home in Glendale one weekend. On Saturday night we went to a special program with her parents at the Glendale Academy Gym. As we walked in, I was surprised to see Dan standing in the entry way. (This was the same Dan I had met when he accompanied Bill from college to the Friday night vespers the year before.) After the program, Dan and I visited for awhile, and I discovered that he was filling in as Bible teacher for the former Bible teacher at the Glendale academy had left before the school year had ended. Dan also was pastoring a small church in Los Angeles.

After seeing me that evening, he decided that since I wasn’t with a boyfriend, maybe he could date me. Not remembering my name, the very next week-end on Friday evening he came to the White Memorial Young People’s Meeting at Paulson Hall looking for me. I had told my roommate that particular Friday evening before going to the Young People’s meeting that after the meeting I did not want to be with her and the two resident doctors who we had been double dating.

When the Young People’s meeting was over that night, we saw the two doctors at the bottom of stairs waiting for us. I looked around and when I saw Dan standing at the top of the stairs, I rushed up there and invited him to come to the girls’ dorm for a songfest. (I didn’t learn for sometime after this that he was there looking for me.) We had such a good time together that evening, and when Dan asked me for a date for the following Thursday evening to attend a violin concert, I readily accepted. From that time on, he was at my door or on the phone always wanting us to be together. I liked Dan from the very beginning. His big blue eyes and ready wit reminded me of Claude Gibford. I had always said I would marry someone like Claude who was such a loving husband to Claudia and a good, kind father to me.

After that first date, when I returned to the dorm, the housemother said to me, ”Lillian, that’s the guy you should marry.” And I was afraid she might be right. When he asked me to marry him very soon afterwards, my question was not if I loved him enough to marry him, but rather could I really be a minister’s wife? Since Dan was a pastor, and most minister’s wives could either sing or play the piano which I could do neither, I was sure I wouldn’t be an acceptable minister’s wife. It made more sense for me to marry a doctor.

With Dan’s persistent urging, we were married later that year after I graduated from nurses’ training. I worked for as a graduate nurse for one year before Dan and I were invited to attend an evangelistic meeting and field school with Evangelist J. L. Shuler, a successful pioneer in evangelism. We would learn how to successfully conduct public meetings. This changed my future life for I loved soul-winning and rededicated my life anew to winning souls through evangelism with my husband. I worked closely with Dan not only in his pastoral and evangelism work, but also mission work when we went to Singapore as first time missionaries.

When returning home after almost twelve years, we worked at the Voice of Prophecy until we retired. Dan became manager and my work was with Elder H. M. S. Richards Jr. and Sr. Even though Elder Richards Sr. had retired, he still came in to the VOP office occasionally. Not wanting to bother Junior’s secretary, he would ask me to write some letters and make phone calls for him. I liked calling myself ”His flunky.” What an inspiration it was associating so closely with him! I thank God for the wonderful privilege it was having him come into my office and telling me stories of God’s leading in his life and the work of the Voice of Prophecy. His stories helped me to realize anew, that God has a plan for each of our lives, and if we but will let Him guide and direct us, He will show us the way to go. From personal experience I can truly testify to you that it pays to follow God’s plan for our lives. For almost 90 years I have had such a rich full life with God guiding all the way. He was had His hand on my shoulder and I am so thankful for this.

There is no question in my mind but that God had my life planned even before I was born. (See Jeremiah 1:4, 5) Just as God had His plan for Jeremiah, and for me, so He has a plan for your life, too. ”For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11 NLT)

He certainly fulfilled His promises to me and I am sure He will also do it for you as you give your life to Him. Have you ever wondered does God really have a plan for my life? Did He really know me before I was born? Why am I alive? What is the meaning and purpose of my life? I hope by my sharing a part of my life story, you will realize how true it is, that God had a plan for my life and He, also, has a plan for you as well.

VI. ADRA Helps Flooding Victims in Cambodia

ANN Bulletin October 8, 2013:

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency is assisting those affected by flooding in Southeast Asia by providing food and shelter in coordination with local government agencies and other NGOs.
In Cambodia, ADRA has created distribution sites for flood victims to obtain emergency supplies. Victims are receiving food kits containing rice, fish and cooking oil. Tarps are being distributed as makeshift shelters for families displaced from their homes. ADRA is working in collaboration with the Cambodian Red Cross, Humanitarian Response Forum, and the Provincial Committees on Disaster Management.

ADRA staff took supplies from the distribution center to the homes of some elderly residents who couldn’t travel to the site. Chea Soeun of the Krokor village in Kratie province said she was not expecting to receive any aid. "I am surprised and so thankful for this food," she said.

Emanuel da Costa, ADRA International’s director for Emergency Management, said the agency would continue to help local victims now as well as when the flooding subsides.

“We ask our ADRA and church community for their continued prayers and support as we bring aid to Cambodia and help in the rebuilding in the coming weeks and months,” da Costa said.

VII. Power in Corporate Prayer

--by Kathleen H. Liwidiya Kuntaraf, in "Blessed", 2013 Morning Devotional Book

"The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed they came from every town in Judah to seek Him."2 Chron. 20:4 NIV

"When Judah was attacked by enemies from every direction, he gathered his people and prayed. Later their prayers were answered because their enemies were destroyed. There is power in prayer.

"That has been my experience too. My husband and I were on a moving walkway in the Singapore airport when his cart got stuck. I bumped into his back and felt an excruciating pain in my right knee. Upon arriving home in Washington, D.C., we went to a hospital emergency room. An arthroscopic surgery was done on my right knee for the torn meniscus.

"The orthopedist said I would be better within 6 months. Three months passed, corticoid injections were given, and eventually I had a $1000 Synvisc One injection. Still I was not well. I was restricted from duty, travel, and daily swimming was recommended. I swam 60 lengths of the pool every day except Sabbath until my swim cap turned yellow because of the chlorine. Nothing helped. Finally I was referred to another orthopedist for a complete knee replacement. Before the surgery, a friend told me of a similar operation that had ended in paralysis. The day before surgery another friend told me that her friend had died of a blood clot. Being a physician, I knew the risks, but their untimely stories definitely frightened me.

"Both my Chinese church family and my work colleagues prayed for me. A friend put my name on various prayer request lists. E-mail came from many friends around the world to say they were praying for me. Do the corporate prayers work? The morning after surgery, God helped me walk 40 feet with a walker. The second day I was able to walk 50 feet and up and down some stairs with crutches. The third day I was discharged, and walking with a cane. The 13th day I was able to drive my car and walk without a cane. Six weeks and two days later at my second orthopedic visit, I was declared healed.

"The orthopedic surgeon performed the operation, but only God brought healing by causing the dissected tissue and skin to speedily return to normal! All this was in response to many prayers. There surely is power in corporate prayer.

["Dr. Kuntaraf has been the associate health director at the world headquarters of the SDA Church since 1995. Prior to that she worked in eastern Asia in Adventist hospitals and as assistant ADRA director and health director. She and her husband Jonathan have authored five books."] ~~~~~~~~~~ VIII. Aina’s New Life

Wendy Harris <wrguptill@gmail.com> October 14:

A few years ago we learned of a medical mission group coming to Puerto Princessa to do free cleft lip/palate surgeries. We sent word out and were able to help several children and teenagers get the life changing surgery.

One of the biggest life changes was for Aina, a teenage girl from Balabac, the remote, southern islands of Palawan. She was born with multiple deformities and her face especially was severely misshapen. One of our student missionaries, Allison accompanied Aina as her “mom”, since her own mother had died some years back and her father was unable to go with her.

Allison stayed with her day and night and even cared for her for several weeks during her recovery. We did not expect the surgeon to fix all of the deformities on her face, but what a surprise when she came out of surgery! Aina was the most surprised of all! She was so happy. She wrote Allison a very sweet letter thanking her for helping her to have a new life. Allison decided to sponsor Aina to Palawan Adventist Academy, which she has been attending for the last couple years.
One day, during a recent medical mission trip (with Dr. Norbert's group from the States) we did a free clinic near the academy, and we were privileged to see Aina again! She had come to avail of our free dental work. She was just as excited to see us as we were to see her, and she squeezed us tight as if we were family. It was great to see her beautiful smile! She is doing well in school, despite the difficulties she faces. (We continue to support her tuition and books and sometimes lodging and a little food but there are many other needs that come up.) It is amazing how she has survived and we never hear a complaint from her! She struggles with headaches and eye problems and she recently lost her father, so now she is a real orphan. But, she now stands with her head held high and she no longer covers her face with her hair. She has managed her way alone through the trials of her life. She even somehow found a way to earn enough money to get some dentures for her missing front teeth! This helped her looks and self-esteem even more. Best of all, through the influence of her Godly teachers and classmates, Aina chose to be baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church and she gives God all the glory for her new life.

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