I. Earthquake & Philippines Adventists
   from Adventist News Network (ANW)
   "In the Philippines, major earthquake damages Adventist property
   "A hospital and several other properties owned by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in central Philippines sustained damage when a massive earthquake hit the island of Bohol last week.
   "The 7.2-magnitude quake killed at least 185 people, injured hundreds more and reduced thousands of buildings to rubble and twisted metal. An estimated 500,000 families are displaced or affected, among them 14 Adventist families. More families, fearing powerful aftershocks, are living outside their homes in makeshift tents.
   "The upper floors of the Adventist hospital in Cebu were damaged, forcing staff to move patients to lower floors and nearby shelters. Walls cracked and ceilings caved in at the church's East Visayan Academy. The Capital Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cebu also reported damage, church leaders said.
   "Travel remains a challenge on the island of Bohol due to impassable roads and interrupted communication services, relief workers said. Although airports and seaports in Bohol and Cebu City are operational, on-the-ground communication, transportation and emergency relief efforts have been hampered.
   "Despite the obstacles, leaders and staff from the church's Central Visayan Conference, headquartered in Cebu City, flew to Bohol with other Adventist volunteers to begin distributing food, water and medicine to affected families. Local Adventists are supporting the effort by collecting supplies and supplying off-road vehicles to navigate the debris.
   "The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in the Philippines is monitoring the situation and continues to assess needs. Agency officials said their initial response includes water, food and other basic supplies for the most vulnerable people, such as children, the elderly and pregnant women. ADRA is also coordinating with local government relief efforts to support the broader humanitarian response.
   "Local church leaders said they're grateful that the Central Philippine Union Conference headquarters emerged largely unscathed. Hope Channel broadcasts were temporarily halted for safety reasons, Communication Director Donald Zabala said.
   "The conference oversees more than 1,200 churches in central Philippines with a membership of 166,000."

II. The Beginning of the Adventist Work in Laos
   --Dick Hall, from the 4th Quarter, '13 SAP Outlook -- Part 3
   "The work in the villages grew as the people wanted to learn more about the Jesus who was so much more powerful than their spirit gods and sent us to help them. We saw the need to buy some land on which to build a house and a church. God led me to a nice piece of land on the edge of Namtha, just a little walk from the airstrip and on the road to several villages where we were working. I found the owner and was able to purchase it for almost nothing. It was a little more than an acre and had some large trees. There was a big tree right by the road and close to where we would build our house.
   "We had the land. Now where could I get lumber? We did not want a bamboo house. I enquired and found the village people Nam Ngan village could hand saw lumber for us. So they began cutting it and carrying it to the river. We tied it together and floated it down the river which wasn't very far from our land. From there people carried it to our property,
and with many helpers, I began to build, first our house, then the church. Later I found the reason we had gotten the land so cheap. The big tree was an evil spirit tree! It turned out that this was a blessing, as the people saw that our God was greater than the spirits, and the spirits did not hurt or bother us, so they began coming to worship with us.

"Still more blessings were in store for us. The Americans wanted to help the people to build a road from Namtha over the mountains to Muang Sing so they airdropped a D-4 Caterpillar bulldozer on the air strip for them to use. They had been trying to build by just using shovels and picks. We saw the bulldozer coming down out of the sky and many people ran to see what it was. As it turned out, there was no one in the area who knew how to run it except me. So I drove it up to our property and cleared the brush off of our property to make space for a church and later for two more houses.

"By now the governor was my good friend so he asked me to do a road for them out to another area and also teach someone else how to run the bulldozer. I did this and they were very pleased. Sadly, sometime later the man I taught was building the road over the mountain to Muang Sing and a bank gave away. Thankfully he jumped off just in time before it rolled over a cliff, never to be recovered. So that was the end of easily-built roads and cleared land for us.

"But we had many reasons to rejoice. It was a great day when our two-bedroom house was finished and we moved out of the hotel. We built an outhouse toilet and also dug a well. We built a high stand to put a water barrel on and hose down to the house so we could take showers in the bathroom and wash the dishes on the back porch. Later we purchased a squat toilet and Air America brought it up for us to install in our bathroom. What luxury!

"Now we could use the front room of our house for our church. The people from the villages just flocked in to hear the word of the Lord and prepare for baptism. The next building project was a church and a lot of helpers came to help me build it. God sent us another great blessing. It was about this time that Ajam Mun came from Uban, where he had been our gardener to help us spread the good news of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.in the Kingdom of Laos. We built a small house for him, and soon he went back to Uban and brought his new wife to be with him in Laos.

"We bought bicycles so we could get around to the villages much easier and quicker. It wasn’t long until the demand to visit the villages to teach them about Jesus and free them from the power of the spirits kept us on the go all the time. So many people were coming to our house on Sabbath for church, we saw the need to build a church building. When we began that project, many men came to help in whatever way they could. Whenever some mountain tribal people came to Namtha, they wanted to listen to a recording of the Jesus message and attend church. Soon they asked us to come to the mountains and teach them and their families. We began to see that we needed to go with them into the mountain villages and especially among the Hmong which were known at that time as the Mao tribe. Many of them were very interested in learning bout Jesus and asked if we could come and teach their children.

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III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 59

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.

#59. Raymond H. Woolsey (1956-62)

Pr. Raymond Woolsey looked after churches of Pyin-Oo-Lwin (1956-60) and Yangon( 1960-62). I had the privilege of knowing Pr. Woolsey. I was a university student at the time in Yangon. My father worked as the manager of the book depot of Kin Saung Publishing House. The Burmese translators used to comment that his evangelistic sermons were hard to interpret as he used quality vocabularies. He held evangelistic meetings at the towns of Titaun, Tahan and Kale. He baptized 48 people at Kalay. He formed Pathfinders Club at Yangon Church. He wrote VOP lessons and manual on ministers during his two year vacation at US. Presently he serves as an editor at Review and Herald Publishing House. [He recently retired and they now live in Collegedale, TN.] ~~~~~~~~~~~ IV. The Whitsetts Replace the Griswolds in Thailand

Rick McEdward <McEdwardR@gc.adventist.org> Oct. 30:

Greetings from the GC in Silver Spring. I am writing to introduce you to Greg and Amy Whitsett. Greg is the new director of the Center for East Asian Religions, formerly called the Buddhist Study Center. When Scott Griswold returned to the USA with his family Greg was appointed the director, and has since relocated the Center to Bangkok on the compound of the Thailand Adventist Mission. If anyone would like to visit the center or have more information about the resources the center has available, please contact Greg at <WhitsettG@gc.adventist.org>. The Center for East Asian Religions is one of six Global Mission Centers operated by the office of Adventist Mission at the General Conference, for more information go to <www.AdventistMission.org>.
Greg and Amy spent the last 10 years in SE Asia working with AFM, they have 3 children who live with them in Bangkok: Tyler, Seeda, and Ryan. Amy is assisting Greg with communication and resource development at the center.

V. Workers Needed in Korea
--from GC's Center for Youth Evangelism (CYE) monthly newsletter
2. Missionary in South Korea: Seize the opportunity to do missions for youth & young adults while teaching English, and earning income. More Info: Contact Justin Yang, <aucye@me.com>

VI. How the Work Began in Singapore & S. E. Asia
By Wu Chook Young in Letter to Nov. Adventist World Review
"Adventist World readers may be interested to know that before G. E. Jones and his wife went to the western Solomon Islands in 1914, they arrived at Singapore on October 28, 1904, after sailing a month from Sidney, to pioneer the work in Singapore and subsequently in Java, Sumatra, Borneo, and the Malay States.
"After the organization of the Asiatic Division in 1909, the General Conference allocated Singapore and the Malay States to that division, and the Australasian Union in 1910 made a request, in vain, to the G. C. to restore them to its territory. This marked the end of the direct link between Australia and the Malaysian field.
"Two of the early converts of the Jones were C. M. Lee and his wife, In 1957 the couple donated a modern church building with more than 2,800 square meters (30,000 square feet) of freehold land on Thomson Road to the General Conference Corporation for the use of the Chinese congregation. From 1936 to the end of the last century, Singapore was the headquarters of the Far Eastern Division. It is still now the headquarters of the Southeast Asia Union."

VII. SULADS Story -- The Deaf Want to Hear More
By: Sarah A. Famisaran, Director, SULADS School for the Deaf
The coming of Pastor Jeff Jordan, a deaf minister from Tennessee, USA, drew a crowd of Deaf people in Cagayan De Oro City in Mindanao, South Philippines. We posted a tarpaulin announcing the five-day Revelation Seminar.
One morning a small group of Deaf came by during their morning exercise and saw our poster which read, "HOPE for the DEAF" with Speaker Pastor Jeff Jordan. They came that afternoon with their family.
"WOW!" they said in their fast talking hands in sign language. "This is our first time to hear this. This is HOPE for the Deaf indeed!" They loved the messages so much that they regretted that they saw the poster in the last two days of the series.
We visited Divisoria, a plaza section in the heart of the city, one evening. This is where many Deaf masseurs go to massage people who come every night for the soothing touch. Pastor Jeff came with us and he too had himself massaged. That drew a large crowd of Deaf and they had a good talk.
We invited them to the series for the last two nights. Many came to hear the good news of "HOPE for the DEAF." That Sabbath, the last day of the series, some fifty came. This was the biggest crowd. One with the group was Juliet who sat quietly in a corner observing. She caught my attention as she behaved differently from the others. She seemed so awed by the messages. She responded as Pastor Jeff emphasized the new truths she seemed to have just discovered.
During the break, she came to Sunny, our deaf lay worker who invited her to the meetings. She asked if she could be given time to talk in front. "Why not. Go ahead," Sunny agreed. She then started her nonstop talk in hand signs so fast that I could hardly understand because I am slow and feel handicapped in signing.
Lychel, my teammate in the Deaf work who is a good interpreter helped me understand every word of her message. She said there were so many church groups that invited her in the past to join their church but she didn't.
Some even bribed her with money so that there would be more to join their Deaf group. But she resisted joining their church feeling that to join a church should be with a heart converted according to conscience not a bribe.
"In coming today to your church," she continued, "Sunny, my friend, did not bribe me but he just invited me. But there seemed to be a force that was pulling me to come when I had a very important appointment somewhere else.
But listening to Pastor Jeff I am so thankful now that I came because I discovered that this is far more important than my appointment. I regret that I have just heard these golden truths just now. I want more of this. I'm hungry for more. It's sad to know that Pastor Jeff is leaving this soon when my Deaf brothers and sisters and I have just tasted a bit of this wonderful messages which I have heard for the first time."

"Modesty aside, I am the president of the Deaf Association in Caraga Region. This association covers four provinces of the Northeastern part of Mindanao. I am proposing to ask Pastor Jeff Jordan to come again next year. This time we would ask for a Revelation Seminar. I don't know what I can do about finances but we will just pray. Let me be in-charge of contacting all deaf people in my region to attend these meetings. I believe with all my heart that God sent Pastor Jeff here for us with a special message in these end times. I request further that an interpreter be available in an SDA church in Butuan because there were two SDA deaf persons there. Then I can start attending SDA church there with them."

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END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS