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   1. Ruth Sipkens <ruthsipkens@gmail.com> Nov. 13:
      Our hearts are so full of sympathy for our friends/people in the Philippines. During our time in that lovely country John, then ADA director, and his crews worked on many typhoons; but nothing like the terrible carnage being shown on this one. Our prayers are especially with you.First Seasonal Greeting ~~~~~~~~~~~ II. The Beginning of the Adventist Work in Laos
      --Dick Hall, from the 4th Quarter, '13 SAP Outlook -- Part 5
      "It was now time for our furlough and Pastor Abel Pangan was called from the Philippines to take our place. He arrived just a day before I was scheduled to leave. Then later his wife Otelia came to join him,
      "When we returned from furlough, my brother Lee and his family came with us, and I also brought an airplane so we could get in and out of Laos easily when needed. The Pangans moved into the little house and Pastor Mun and family were moved over to Chiang Khong, Thailand, just across the Mekong River that bordered Laos, to start the Lord's work there. Lee had been a medic in the army, and so he took over the medical work there at home and I carried a medical pack when we went to the villages to help the people there.
      "We built another house for Lee and his family on our property and on its side we built a little room for his clinic with all the medications on the shelves. He was kept busy day after day all day and his children joined our girls at Otelia Pangan's home school.
      "The church attendance grew as more people were being baptized and others preparing for baptism. Several of our students were baptized, and one Hmong village chief who had burned his emblems of spirit worship came down from the mountain and was baptized. He was about the first Hmong villagers to show an interest in learning about Jesus. The story about how he came to be baptized might surprise you. I was visiting him and noticed quite a large box in his hut along with other spirit emblems that he worshiped. I asked him about what was in the box and he told me it was a good spirit's skin. He said it came down out of the sky and landed in the tall tree by his house. Everyone in the village was afraid to climb up to get it, so he went up and brought it down. I asked him if I could see it as I had never seen a spirit's skin. He pried the lid off the box and there I saw a multi-colored paper-like material. Then I saw writing on it in Thai. It said on it that over in north Thailand they were having a contest to see whose hot-air balloon could fly the furtherest. I began to laugh and told the chief what it said and what it was and then he began to laugh and shake his head. How foolish to worship that. He then made his decision to follow Jesus and worship the true God. He then took it and all of his spirit emblems outside, and in front of the villagers he burned them, You have to understand that this was quite a statement considering their beliefs and especially considering that he was their chief!
      "This led to others from the mountain villages who began studying and were later baptized. It was thrilling to see the Holy Spirit touching the hearts of these former spirit worshipers and changing their lives from a life of fear to a life of joy and hope in the coming of Jesus and eternal life with him.
      "It wasn't long, about a year after this, when all things -- our village work, medical work, our little Lao school and work in the mountains -- were going well. Then we heard the rumblings of in the north and east of Namtha.
      We spent time in prayer, seeking the Lord's guidance on what we should do.
      It was finally decided we should move our students and teachers, Sang Nuan, and the Pangans over to Chiang Khong, Thailand where Pastor Mun was, and keep the school going there where they could be safe. Later most of the students
went on for further study in Thailand and Singapore. Several of them became pastors, and were very successful in raising churches among the hill tribes of Thailand.

"Soon after this we decided that Lee and his family should be moved also, so I flew him and his family out to the border where they took a boat and crossed the river to Chiang Khong to be with the rest of the evacuees. They had been a real asset to our work there in Namtha with their medical work and were greatly missed. Not long after, when just I and my family were left there, the American Special Forces came in to help train the Lao army to resist the enemy that was moving closer to Namtha. We let them use our empty houses.

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III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 61

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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#61. John & Ruth Grossball (1949-54)

John and Ruth Grossball arrived Myanmar in 1949 and worked many years in Yangon Seventh-day Adventist Hospital. John worked as hospital manager. He also worked in pathological department whereas Ruth worked as a nurse. John Grossball also worked at Pyin-Oo Lwin as city evangelist for sometime. He used to collect Education and Medical Uplift funds at Pyin-Oo Lwin, Hsi Paw and Lashio area. John and Ruth were friendly and they used to extend their hands in helping needy people. They left Myanmar in 1954.

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IV. Taiwan English Church Seeks Pastor

Alice Bennett <alice@bennett7.com> Nov. 13:

Our school, the Primacy Collegiate Academy in Taipei, formerly Taipei Adventist Preparatory Academy, is a high school with 150 students. We are doing a clothing drive and hope to send out a shipment to the Philippines in one week. We have a membership of Filipinos that attend the New Life international Church (NLIC) in Taipei. We are hoping to make a small difference in the welling of those impacted by the typhoon.

I am also writing to ask for prayer: our church, NLIC, is in search of new pastor. We are part of the Taiwan Conference (TWC), but because of language differences, they have authorized the church board to find a pastor. The pastor should speak English, as we are an English church. We want an English-speaking pastor, with a BA degree and ordained minister who would be interested in a call to Taipei, Taiwan.

Here are the details for potential candidates:
1. Pay depends on years of service
2. TWC provides Taiwan Health Insurance
3. Annual Leave: At the end of 23 months, a paid vacation (including travel) of one month is provided for the family to return to their homeland.
4. Annual leave (14 days) is provided during the years the family is not returning to their homeland.
5. TWC will subsidize shipping costs up to US$2,000.
6. Housing: Provided by TWC but the worker pays up to 10% per month depending on the size of the apartment.
7. Tax: Worker should pay the income tax (6%), and TWC will pay the extra tax rate when worker stay less than 80 days in the last year before return.
8. Other Subsidies: (1) All subsidies due a regular worker will also be paid --- Car Insurance (car tax not included), medical allowance (according workers handbook), book allowance, child allowance, utility allowance, etc. (2) Basic furniture will be provided including Kitchen Stove, Range Hood, Gas water heater. (Refrigerator, Washing Machine, and Air Conditioner not included).

The contract term will be for them to work out with the conference.
Let's pray that God will send the right person to take this position!

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V. Help for Philippines from Britain

Victor Hulbert's BUC News Edition #853 (15 November 2013)

Pastor Ian Sweeney, President of the British Union Conference expresses his emotion at seeing the TV pictures following the destruction and loss of life caused by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. "I was really shaken at the power
of nature and the frailty of humanity" he stated, adding, "it's a tremendous human tragedy." ADRA-UK's Ms Zeny Cooper will be heading to the Philippines to help coordinate relief efforts.

However, tragedies do have the power to demonstrate the best of the human spirit. Todd Frias, pastor of the London based Filipino International church states, "From Sunday until today, I am overwhelmed with phone calls and emails from colleagues and friends who are so concerned about my family and my church families' relations." He adds, "Neighbours are even knocking on our door to check on us and how we're doing, knowing that I am from the Philippines and that I am pastoring churches with mostly Filipinos. All these gestures and words of comfort, truly alleviated my sadness and the same feeling has been expressed by my church family as I share with them the great love and concern of the wider Adventist Church family here in the UK."

That concern is resulting in immediate action. ADRA-UK is flying two of their office staff to the Philippines to help coordinate relief operations.

Zeny Cooper, herself a Filipino, is flying out on Monday, 18 November to assist in financial accountability and grant control. This, she says, is an essential role "to ensure that internal control systems are in place and that the supplies will get to the people who really need it."

Programmes officer, Tom Pignon, will follow soon after. "The team already on the ground are reporting that transportation is incredibly difficult", says Tom. "Aid is waiting to be delivered. ADRA is currently distributing 3,500 food kits that will feed families for 3 days." That relief will then be scaled up over the next few days. ADRA has begun assessment in the three highly affected areas of Bohol, Northern Cebu, and Iloilo. Because ADRA already has a presence the ADRA response team states that they believe it to be the area where they can be of most help and bring the most assistance.

"My family live in the Northern part of the Philippines and so are safe", Zeny states, "but as I watched the typhoon approach and then saw the devastation in its wake my heart went out to so many who are suffering. I know many who have lost loved ones. I'm just grateful to be able to do a little bit to help." . . .

Dodge Wyndel, a Filipino volunteer missionary working in Manchester, understands that pain. "I'm begging also to help other places like Panay provinces and other neighbouring small islands" which, he states have been neglected as they don't get seen in the broadcast news. Hearing from a high school classmate through Facebook he reports that in Ajuy, Ilo-Ilo, 90-95% of the houses were washed away or devastated by the typhoon. He also noted the very sad news that Sir Eli Macawili and his wife Myrna, Publishing director of East Visayan Conference were found dead, hugging each other in their last moments. Wyndel states, "He was a very humble and smiling kind of person. Please pray for his family to comfort them."

Joy Pontanar, whose serves, together with her husband Ben, in the Dublin district of churches movingly stated that she was "Just overwhelmed by the rapid, kind and generous response of other countries towards my homeland Philippines. I personally can never repay you nor thank you enough."

Pastor Frias adds, "Looking beyond the Church circle and how the British people responded to the needs of the Filipino people through their monetary contributions, these made us so thankful to God for showing and extending His hands right before our eyes. Church members are not just sitting on their hands." Pastor Frias states that dedicated members and friends of the Filipino and Heathrow International churches, have drafted a plan for the fundraising projects, aiming to raise a minimum goal of £10,000. This will include a concert at the Advent Centre, London, on 23 November at 6:30 pm and on 30 November at The Church Hall, Brentmead Gardens, West Twyford, London NW10 7ED. Similar initiatives are happening across the country.

[ADRA volunteer]

ADRA-UK made an immediate initial contribution of £30,000. With money starting to pour in this figure will increase and already adds to the half a million US$ across the ADRA network already pledged to get relief operations off the ground. Adventist Church leadership across the whole of the British Isles have called for churches to make this Sabbath, 16 November, to be a special time of prayer for the Philippines. Many churches will also make a special collection on the following Sabbath, 23 November.

To all those generous individuals and families and organizations providing prayer, comfort and support, the Filipino community say, "God bless your heart. Maraming Salamat! (Thank You!)" Pastor Frias concludes, "Our prayers continue to go to those survivors who lost their loved ones, their houses, their livelihoods and are now in a desperate situation because of their need for food and water. We pray for a speedy delivery of goods and medical help to all these people in need. To the charity organization volunteers and individuals helping in the rescue operations, we pray for your health and safety as you do your work each day."
VI. Adventist Church HQ Gives $250,000 for Philippines

Top officials of the Seventh-day Adventist world church today voted to contribute $250,000 to humanitarian relief efforts in the Philippines in the wake of one of the most devastating typhoons to make landfall in recorded history.

Super Typhoon Haiyan tore through central Philippines last week, flattening entire towns with 195-mph sustained winds and a massive storm surge. The storm crippled communication and transportation in the region, fettering relief efforts for days.

"We want to express to the Adventist Church in the Philippines our sensitivity to this enormous tragedy," said Juan Prestol, undertreasurer for the Adventist world church.

"The amount of money is not the greatest in the world, but we want to demonstrate that we care, and we want to be an example for other church entities that will also contribute," he said.

The donation comes from the Adventist Church's World Budget Contingency Fund.

A statement voted by top church officers this morning said, "The assistance will be used, at the discretion of the [Southern Asia-Pacific] Division, to help restore normalcy to the lives of our members and people affected in the area, with consideration given to restoring the normal operations of schools, if advisable."

Since initial emergency relief, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency has distributed more than 3,500 food packs and 5,000 shelter tarps.

The humanitarian arm of the church has also partnered with other relief organizations to set up water purification systems in areas where clean drinking water is needed.

Adventist hospitals in Cebu, Calbayog and Bacolod are serving as hubs for medical outreach in affected areas, an update from the church's Southern Asia-Pacific Division said. The church's East Visayan Conference in Tacloban is also serving as a center for relief operations and medical assistance.

"The process is slow because Adventist members are also trying to save the remains of what were once their homes," a statement from the conference said.

According to ADRA Philippines, needs remain "dire." Most of the estimated 11 million people displaced by the storm remain in urgent need of food, water and shelter.

"Saving lives and relieving suffering are priorities of the Adventist Church," said G. T. Ng, executive secretary of the Adventist world church.

"The wonderful people of the Philippines have suffered much in this disaster and deserve all the help we can give."

--from ANN Newsletter, Nov.19th

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