I. Belated Obituary: James Milton Lee

James Milton Lee -- b. Sept. 21, 1912, Sunan, North Korea; d. Feb. 19, 2013 Coalmont, Tenn. He served as manager of the Korean Publishing House and as principal of West Visayan in the Philippines. He was founding president of what is now Sahmyook University. He later served at Mt. View College in the Philippines. Predeceased by his first wife Marguerite, he is survived by his wife Irene; three sons, Elfred, David, and Paul; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

from January 16, 2014 Adventist Review.

II. Philippine Typhoon Relief Update

Wendy Guptill Harris <wrguptill@gmail.com>; January 23, 2014 5:32 AM

It has been too long since we last updated you, but your prayers and support have meant more than ever lately!

Last November 8, the world's biggest typhoon hit the central Philippines and as we jumped into action with air support, medical missions, and tarp/relief distribution, we were counting on you, our faithful friends and supporters to come through-- and you did not fail us! With your generous gifts at a time of year when most families are stretched as it is and donations are usually at the lowest, we were able to increase our efforts instead, and give full support to the storm relief! We hope these reports will remind you that your sacrifices for God's work are well worth it!

As the media focused on the Tacloban area, we have focused on the vast areas of damage in the Panay islands region where 80% of the families lost their roofs (if not their entire houses). Storm surges and category 5 winds devastated the northern islands. At least 121 SDA churches were destroyed or greatly damaged. Thousands of families are in need of shelter and food even until now. (The latest detailed report from on-the-ground pastors in some of the worst areas totaled 5,000 families still needing help!)

***Tarps

Thanks to your help, 1000 families have received tarps for temporary shelter. Much of these were transported to the hard to reach areas by airdrops using our PAMAS mission planes. This is an ongoing project that HCBN (He's Coming Broadcast Network) is heading and we continue to support.

On each tarp is written (in the local dialect): "From your friends, the Seventh-day Adventists". Rope and sharing pamphlets are also added to the packs.

All distributions are done systematically--with local church member volunteers on the ground making lists of families ahead of time and helping with fair and timely distribution.

We continue to get reports that many thousands more are crying for help as the monsoon rains make it difficult to survive without shelter.

The thin, but large tarps are only $6 per family (one roll is $120 and will cut into 20 tarps). The next project in the works is for tin roofing, to provide more long-term shelter. It will be around 7 times the cost of the tarps.

***Air support

We kept both mission planes busy and on-call for the last couple months transporting various local and foreign medical teams to the affected areas and doing air drops of tarps and nails. Several med-evac flights were also provided
during this time. We praise God for the blessings and more opportunities for outreach this year with an added airplane and another pilot, which allowed us to provide around 250 hours of air support.

***Medical Clinics
While Dwayne and Sean (the pilots) were flying, the rest of us volunteers were busy holding free medical clinics. We provided 2 to 3 day medical clinics in different areas, prioritizing the health education and counseling stations where we talked and prayed with patients and gave hope-filled pamphlets.

***Food
It's hard to know what to focus on when the needs are so great. The question is often "shelter or food"? Both seem equally important! The need for food remains great in several large areas as people do not have a livelihood back yet and crops take many months to grow.

Thanks to donors like you, volunteers in conjunction with a local SDA church in Iloilo have been providing food packs to many of the areas from day one until now. Each food pack with cooking utensils is around $7 per family. This continues to be a big need.

***Boats
This is one of our favorite projects as it seems to be more long lasting. It is organized by the Riverview SDA church in Iloilo. You'll be interested to know that through your help along with other donors, 130 boats have been built by the fishermen/boatbuilders (with the supplied plywood and nails etc) and will be officially distributed this Sunday. This will allow the coastal families and islands to have livelihood, food, and transportation once again.

***Special Thanks
Besides each of you who pray and support this project, we want to also say a special thanks to the HCBN (He's Coming Broadcasting Network) and the Riverview SDA church who continue to strategically and tirelessly work to meet the needs of the storm victims in a way that will also reach them with the gospel. A bit thanks also to HCBN for the very helpful video updates and for always graciously hosting the volunteers at a moment's notice!

Last but not least, we thank the doctors, nurses and volunteers who dropped everything to give their time and resources to help with the medical missions!

We'll save the rest of the project updates for another email :)
Please remember the prayer requests below. Thank you!

***Prayer Requests:
--Storm victims and guidance for relief operations--making the spiritual connection --God's provisions for helicopters for Palawan, Luzon, and Mindanao --Need for local missionary volunteers (Medical and Bible workers) and sponsors --Need for volunteers with leadership abilities to start medical missionary training schools --Continued guidance and open doors for expansion work into Mindanao --Healing of Dwayne's resistant Malaria case

***Dwayne and Wendy Harris
Philippine Adventist Medical Aviation Services (PAMAS) pamasmission.org ~~~~~~~~ III Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 70
Mervin Myt 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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#70. Yvonne Stockhausen (Doctor)
Dr. Yvonne Stockhausen, a lady doctor, came from Jamaica, in March, 1955. Dr. Stockhausen filled a definite need in caring for lady patients.
She later led out in directing the new midwifery training program. She was a pediatric and gynecologic physician. Dr. Stockhausen was also choir director in the Yangon English Church. I sang bass in her choir. She said she was settled in her wheelchair at the moment. Dr. Stockhausen married Dr. Gulraiz Bazlief after her medical missionary service in Myanmar. Dr. Bazlief was an excellent administrator of the SDA Sanitarium and Hospital in Simla, India.

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IV. Chet Damron Wins Two Abraham Lincoln Contests
from Andrews University's Alumni Magazine, FOCUS
"Chester 'Chet" Damron (MA '58, MA '67) recently returned to Hodgeville, Ky. the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, to celebrate the annual 'Abraham Lincoln Days.' Hundreds of people from far and near come annually to participate in this two-day festive occasion. Of the many events, the 'Lincoln Look Alike Contest' and the 'Lincoln Oratory Contest' are very
popular. He won first place in both events. His speech was the Presidential Proclamation 97 made on March 30, 1863. 'Appointing a Day of National Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer' by President Abraham Lincoln. Chet writes, 'The late Leonard Ravenhill spoke these sobering words, startlingly appropriate for contemporary America: "The self-sufficient do not pray, the self-satisfied do not pray, the self-righteous do not pray." America today is facing many of the same issues that our 16th President Abraham faced.'

Chet currently resides with his wife, Carolyn Rollins-Damron (att) in Sylvia, N.C.

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V. Indonesia at a Glance
-- from SSD's 2nd Quarter 2013 OUTLOOK

"The Republic of Indonesia is a country in Southeast Asia. With 34 provinces it is home to more than 237 million people making it the world's fourth most populous country. Indonesia is the largest Muslim country in the world, although it is not a Muslim state. It shares land borders with Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Malaysia.

"As early as the 7th century this archipelago has been an important trade route during the Sriwijaya and Majapahit empires. Hindu and Buddhist kingdoms flourished for many centuries. Islam was introduced by traders in the 13th century. The natural recourses, especially spices attracted Europeans to occupy Indonesia, bringing Christianity along with them.

"After World War II, Indonesia gained independence from Dutch and Japanese occupation on August 17, 1945. Today Indonesia's growing economy of 6.4% is the world's 16th largest.

"In 1900 an American missionary by the name of Ralph Waldo Munson arrived in Padang, West Sumatra. Together with his family the opened an English school and established the first Adventist church in the country, then known as the East Indies. In 1912 Petra Tunheim from Australia opened the first church in Java. Kramat Pulo Munson and Tunheim mentored several early Adventist Indonesian pioneers. These local pioneers included Samuel Rantung who brought the message to Sulawesi, Immanuel Siregar to Sumatra, Pieterz to Maluku Island, and Direja to the rest of Java.

"The tremendous growth of the church led to the establishment of the Indonesian Union Mission (IUM) in 1929. In 1964 IUM was divided into unions:
West Indonesia Union, headquarters in Jakarta, and East Indonesian Union, headquarters in Manado. The combined membership of the two unions is 200,000."

[Continued in next newsletter]

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VI. SULADS Story -- Guns for Land
by Hilson V. Badang, Buna-bunaan Literacy Center

Being a SULADS volunteer assigned to a Muslim area is challenging. We have different beliefs and culture which we cannot easily bridge or cross.

As a Seventh-day Adventist, I found it hard to practice my beliefs in the field where I was assigned without causing harm to the people around me.

Buna-bunaan is an island within the strait of Pulao Sato, Panglima Sugala, Tawi-Tawi. It is a Muslim community of the Sama tribe. People here believe in Allah, their only one God. According to the previous SULADS volunteers assigned in that area, uttering Jesus name, reading or bringing the Bible, is a big taboo to them that will cause a barrier between us and the people. Upon knowing this, I started to ask myself, "How will I then share with them the things I know about my God?"

Arriving at our field of assignment, I knew there is no point in turning back. "I will do anything that I can for them to know my God," I said to myself with determination. People in our village welcomed us warmly. Then we started to know them. That meeting introduced us to Ama Sinang (Ama means father). Ama Sinang is one of the leaders in the village. From the day we arrived, he treated us as one of his children. "Sir, iingatan ko kayo dahil mga anak ko na kayo." (Sir, I will take care of you because you are my children.) He said this and treated us as his adopted children.

We started to mingle and blend with them. We started to accept their culture. Accepting their culture is being like them, living the way they live, doing the things that they do. People in this village are engaged in fishing. It is their livelihood. Whenever men went fishing, it has become their custom to carry guns with them for their protection. People from other islands are their rivals and they don't dare go away from their island without being prepared.

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One day, my partners and I decided to go fishing. We informed Ama Sinang and his whole family. We are about to leave when Ama Sinang called us. "Sir, magdala kayo ng baril."(Sir, bring some guns.) Ama Sinang said giving us one of his high powered guns. He offered his guns to keep us prepared and safe whenever enemies attack.

We were shocked. We did not expect this to happen."No, Ama. We don't need these. We have Allah and we trust him," we answered him with confidence. We left the island and went on with our plan. Situations like that happened many times and we have always repeated our answers every time they offer us their gun not thinking of its effect on them.

A few months passed. One day, Ama Sinang called us. "Mga anak, lumapit kayo sa akin. May sasabihin ako sa inyo."(Come, my children. I have something to tell you.)

Fear crept up my spine. I wondered why Ama Sinang called us. "Have we done something wrong? Did we offend them? Have we committed something against their culture? Are the people mad at us? Or worse are they going to kill us?" These questions started to fill my thoughts. I came near Ama Sinang with these questions lingering in my mind.

"Mga anak, ibinenta ko na ang lahat ng mga baril ko para bumili ng lupa. Napag isip-isip ko na mas mapapakinabangan na natin ang lupa kay sa baril. Ibibigay ko sa SULADS ang lupa na nabili ko."(Children, I already sold all my guns. I came to realize that a piece of land would be more useful than guns. I will donate to SULADS this piece of land that I bought.)

We were stunned. Nobody was able to say a word. We had not even the least expectation that something like this would happen. "Are you sure, Ama?" one of my partners asked.

"Of course I am," Ama Sinang answered with assurance.

"What will you use for your protection?" my partner asked.

"I know I will always be safe. Allah will protect me," he answered.

Plans are now being made to use the land Ama Sinang donated for as a campus for a new SULADS Academy for the Sama tribe. Until now, we do not know what triggered Ama Sinang in selling his most treasured possessions. All we know is God is coming in to his heart little by little.

Please pray with us that we may continue to be faithful witnesses in all we do and say among these lovely people.

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END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS