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I. Death of Thomas Sinclair Geraty

Lawrence Geraty <lgeraty@lasierra.edu> February 4:

Thomas Sinclair Geraty, born December 2, 1914, in San Francisco, passed away in Loma Linda on December 22, 2013. He graduated from PUC in 1937 along with Hazel McVicker whom he married the next year. They served at Golden Gate and Mountain View Academies before going to China in 1940 with their son, Lawrence, a babe in arms. When the Japanese started down the coast of China, the Geratys moved to Burma (along with the Barnetts, Curries, Mazats, Stonebrooks, and Wiechiebes) where they learned Chinese in preparation for World War II to be over.

When the Japanese bombed Rangoon in 1941, the Geratys flew over "the Hump" into interior China where they worked at China Training Institute near Chungking for the remainder of the war. They lost their second son, Edwin, due to inadequate medical treatment during the war. Their third son, Ronald, was born in 1946 during furlough in CA. The Geratys returned to build up the new college in Central China, near Nanking, until it was overrun by the Communists in 1949. Thomas helped move the school to Clear Water Bay in Kowloon, Hong Kong, where they served until called to be president of Middle East College in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1951, where their only daughter, Kathleen, was born in 1955. Except for a furlough in 1955-57 when Thomas finished his doctorate in educational administration at USC, they served the Middle East Division of the church until 1960 when called to the General Conference Department of Education.

Hazel taught at JNA in Takoma Park, MD, while Thomas iterated in several world divisions ultimately being responsible for the church's higher education institutions around the world. In 1970 he accepted the responsibility of chairing the education department at Andrews University where he began the first doctoral program in SDA higher education.

Retiring in 1977 to be with his ailing father in CA, they first lived in Angwin, CA, assisting President Malcolm Maxwell at PUC, until invited to help the Far Eastern Division with policies for their higher education institutions and later as superintendent of education in the Hawaii Conference for a few years.

When he discovered he had developed colon cancer, he was operated on at New England Memorial Hospital near Boston where his son, Ronald, a psychiatrist, was working. Recovering, Thomas and Hazel assisted their other son, Larry, who at that time was president of Atlantic Union College. When Larry moved to La Sierra University as president in 1993, Thomas and Hazel moved to Linda Valley Villa where Kathleen soon became Activities Director.

When Hazel passed away with Parkinson's disease in 2001, Thomas volunteered as a teacher at Middle East University again. Upon his return he became the volunteer dean of the International Student Dormitory at LSU and enjoyed helping Chinese doctoral students with their dissertations; he also founded the Middle East Fellowship, an organization of Adventist Middle Easterners who are now in North America, primarily in Southern California.

He spent his last years at Linda Valley Villa and Linda Valley Care Center, enjoying correspondence, painting, holding Bible studies, teaching poetry to residents, etc. Though his mind was sharp right up to the end, his body gave out at aged 99. He donated his body to medical science. His memorial service was held in Loma Linda Campus Hill Church on December 28, 2013, to a standing-room-only audience, and leaves to mourn his three children, Larry, Ron, and Kathleen, plus six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and a host of friends from China, the Middle East, Michigan and California, and across the world. Donations in their memory may be made to the Thomas and Hazel Geraty Endowed Scholarship for Students in Education at La Sierra University. Further information is available from Larry Geraty at lgeraty@lasierra.edu or by calling him at 951-318-2526.

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II. Winter Vacation Bible School Held in Korea

from Adventist Review on line, Feb. 6
The Ansan Adventist Multi-cultural Family Service Center in Korea held a Winter Vacation Bible School (WVBS) for the many children attending the center. This WVBS was held as a result of the growing number of children enrolled at the 'Mother & Child Establishment' and the 'Kindergarten' business, established to help spread the gospel to the children and their families.

Thirty multi-cultural kids attended Bible school and listened to the Bible stories told engagingly by senior pastor Young-soo Kim. The children wrote letters to Jesus, learned new songs, and played interesting recreational games. As a follow up to the meetings a festival was organized by the Russian School and Kindergarten where the children learned action songs and dances.

Through this WVBS the children learned about Jesus and enjoyed many different activities. Service center leaders believe it's important to educate about their faith at a young age. They plan to develop the program into a Sabbath School and Pathfinder curriculum in the church for the near future.

Despite the cold weather this past January, the children of the center went to the Happiness Etiquette Education Center in Ansan city to learn about the Korean traditional New Year's Bow and to experience the traditional way of drinking tea. They had fun together learning to play yut, how to wear Han-bok, and practicing New Year's Bow.

--Northern Asia-Pacific Division News ~~~~~~~~~~~~ III Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 72

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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#72. George A. Richardson (Doctor)

Dr. George A. Richardson arrived in Myanmar in August, 1949. Yangon Seventh day Adventist Hospital had just been opened in December, 1947. He and Dr. Eden M. Smith worked together so much so that the in-patient department was expanded to its full capacity.

With the hospital work well established in Yangon, it was decided to undertake to train nurses there. This would involve providing dormitory and boarding facilities and classrooms, and enlarging the staff to include teacher, a preceptress, and altar helpers. It would cost a great deal, but it would make available at home the proper training for Myanmar's Adventist youths who wanted to serve as nurses. With large faith and unlimited willingness to work, the hospital's doctors and nurses launched the project and carried it on with commendable success. Drs. George A. Richardson and Eden Smith pioneered this enlarging of the medical work of the mission, assisted by Helfred Johannson, Emme Beirder, Elida Mann, Beatrice Gore, Margaret Roelke, Harriet Dinsmore as supervisor and instructors.

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IV. South Philippine Union Builds Dormitory for Literature Evangelists

from Adventist Review, February 3, 2014

by Vivdncio R. Bermudez, publishing director, Southern Asia-Pacific Division

In the southern Philippine city of Davao housing for new literature evangelists (LEs), especially student literature evangelists who serve during summer vacations, is always a problem. The Davao Mission addressed this challenge by building a dormitory for literature evangelists. January 10, 2014, marked the ground-breaking ceremony of this project.

Howard F. Faigao, General Conference Publishing director, attended the event, along with leaders from the South Philippine Union and the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, and the Davao Mission. When completed, the building will have space for an Adventist Book Center/Home Health Education Services (ABC/HHES) office and meeting place for daily devotionals and instruction.

More than 200 literature evangelists and leaders witnessed the ceremony and participated in a one-day revival and fellowship experience. The project, substantially advancing for the publishing ministry, will cost approximately US$100,000.

In a related event, a new publishing center has been built in the Southern Mindanao Mission. The new building has an ABC/HHES office and a meeting place for literature evangelists. Pastor Faigao indicated that the Mindanao building and the construction in Davao will greatly encourage publishing leaders and literature evangelists in the South Philippine Union.

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V. Chinese Adventists Have New Hymnal

from Adventist Review, February 3,

by Chinese Union Mission
A newly compiled hymnal is now available to Chinese Adventists worldwide, according to the Chinese Union Mission (CHUM). The new product is the fruit of the painstaking work of many over a course of seven years. Their efforts included, but not limited to, the careful selection of hymns, the re-translation of some lyrics, and the addition of the numbered music notation to the conventional staff notation.

A taskforce comprising nearly two dozens of Chinese Adventists, gifted in music, language, ministry, and theology, was organized by the Chinese Union Mission to undertake this massive project. Its objective was to update the old hymnal to make it more user-friendly and content-rich to the Chinese Adventists living in the 21st century.

The old hymnal was first published 48 years ago. It contains many hymns that are rarely sung by congregation. Today there are many popular, spiritually uplifting, and lively, new hymns that are loved by Chinese Adventists but are not included in the hymnal. The CHUM taskforce took out the unpopular ones from the old hymnal and added the new ones.

The translators made sure that the newly translated lyrics rhyme, and that they are accurate and easy to understand. The discrepancies in the number of stanzas in some songs between the old Chinese Hymnal and the English Hymnal were also reconciled, facilitating the use in bilingual Chinese congregations overseas.

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VI. Remembering Sir Run Run Shaw, Philanthropist
from Adventist Review on line, Feb. 6
"His gift made possible the hospital named for him"
by Nancy Yuen and James Ponder, Loma Linda University

On January 7, 2014, Sir Run Run Shaw passed away at 106. Though global media reports that ran the day after his death trumpeted his work and legacy as a movie pioneer who, with his brother, brought Kung Fu to the big screen, Loma Linda University Health (LLUH), and the Seventh-day Adventist Church remember him in his passing as a philanthropist and humanitarian in the world of healthcare.

It is because of his benevolence that Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital was envisioned and constructed, opening in 1994 in the Zhejiang Province in the People's Republic of China. The hospital transformed the delivery of health care in what was then a very poor community.

From a childhood memory and appreciation for quality medical care nearly 100 years ago to a modern hospital today, the connection between Loma Linda and Sir Run Run Shaw is legendary," says Richard H. Hart, president of LLUH.
"Loma Linda University Health is pleased to have partnered with the Shaw Foundation to develop a superb western-style hospital in Sir Run Run Shaw's home town. With China's current rapid development, we expect this model to continue to impact the entire country for years to come."

Sir Run Run Shaw, a Hong Kong film magnate who dreamed of building a Western-style hospital in his native country of China, provided partial funding to the Zhejiang Provincial Government for the construction of a hospital in its capital of Hangzhou in the early 1990s. His only request was that he wanted to partner with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in operating the hospital.

Years earlier, Sir Run Run Shaw’s mother had received treatment from Dr. Harry Miller, an Adventist physician, at a progressive hospital in China. He was impressed by the compassionate, whole-person care provided to all echelons of society, from government officials to day laborers. As a result, he vowed to one day bring a similar level of care to his own community.

"He never forgot the excellent care his mother had received from Dr. Miller," says Joan Coggin, former vice president for global outreach, Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center.

When Sir Run Run Shaw initiated plans to build a hospital, he asked the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Loma Linda University and Medical Center to become involved.

Says W. Augustus Cheatham, emeritus vice president for public affairs, LLUAHSC, "I was saddened to hear that Sir Run Run Shaw, one of China's respected businesspersons and philanthropists, had passed away. I, along with Drs. David Morehead, Gorden Hadley, and Joan Coggin, had the pleasure of visiting with him. It was notable to see that his interest was on improving the health care in his home country where the population was expanding so rapidly. His contribution that resulted in the construction of Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital was unique and unparalleled. Our prayers are with Sir Run Run Shaw's family."

The ribbon cutting for Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital was held May 9, 1994.
In its early days, the 400-bed hospital provided Western-style services in all of the medical specialties practiced in the United States. The hospital was awarded Joint Commission International Accreditation in December 2006. The first facility in China to achieve this level of recognition and success, it subsequently earned reaccreditation in 2009 and 2013. Today the 1,200-bed tertiary care hospital treats more than 6,000 patients per day.

Jan Zumwalt, associate director, Global Health Institute and executive director for international affairs, LLUMC, was on-site at Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital when its namesake visited. She recalls, "He didn't desire fanfare or attention. He had been born in the province where the hospital is located; the area was very poor at the time the hospital was built. "He visited several departments and when asked if he wanted to visit an outpatient clinic he said, 'Yes, I want to see more.'" Zumwalt remembers his deep interest in the facility that would not have existed had it not been for his vision, and for his financial support. "It was so important to him that the people of Hangzhou benefit from the best in health care including education, modern equipment and facilities. He was impressed," she says, "at what he experienced during his visit." At a celebration marking the Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital's 10th anniversary, Zumwalt recalls a colleague describing the facility's importance to Sir Run Run Shaw, stating that of the many philanthropic projects he had supported, this hospital brought him the most satisfaction.

Sir Run Run Shaw made his fortune by selling martial arts movies through Shaw Brothers film studio. In later life, he earned widespread respect as a philanthropist. In 2002 he created the Shaw Prize, which is recognized as the Nobel Prize of Asia. In 1977, Queen Elizabeth II knighted him for his longstanding support of the Red Cross.

In addition to the hospital, Sir Run Run Shaw generously provided hundreds of millions of dollars in philanthropic support to projects in Asia, Britain, and the United States. He is survived by his wife, Mona Fong, and four children.

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