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I. The Emersons Complete Renovation Project in Indonesia

Paul Emerson <emersonopa@gmail.com> March 7:

Betty and I are just back from a renovation project at the Indonesian Publishing House in Bandung. We brought a crew of 4 and we joined with members to reroof, put in new ceilings, cut 3 new windows in brick walls, put several sheets of clear roofing in for added light, smoothed up floors, and repainted. It was amazing to see the pile of junk that was cleaned out and the space can now be used for children's SS and Pathfinders. Our project was nearing completion when someone noticed Paul Emerson looked sick and not talking normally. I was rushed to the SDA hospital. They found my blood pressure had gone to 220 and I had had a stroke. I thank the Lord for sparing me from side affects. We arrived home safely to Ojai, California the evening of Mar. 3. We covet your prayers.

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II. Adventist Appointed Provincial Police Chief in Indonesia

from current Adventist Review

by Bryan Sumendap and Gay Deles

Brigadier General Police Jimmy Palmer Sinaga, an Adventist lay member has been recently appointed as chief of the police in Indonesia's North Sulawesi province. The announcement came on January 29 at the National Police School in Manado.

Sinaga was formerly the graduate program director of the College of Police Science at the Institute of Police Education in Jakarta. In his introductory speech, he took the opportunity to introduce his wife and two sons. He said, "In the future, I request the same support that you have shown to Brig. Gen. Kaligis during his stint as the Chief of Police. I know that the people in North Sulawesi are loving and caring people as evident in their motto 'sitou timou tumou tou' (man lives to help other men live) and 'torang semua basudara' (all of us are brothers and sisters)."

He wants to continue police force's efforts to eradicate excessive alcohol consumption, which is often the cause of crime and violence. North Sulawesi is well known for their local strong alcoholic beverage, cap tikus, made from fermented coconut water.

A native of North Sumatera, Sinaga is a member of the MT Haryono Adventist Church in Jakarta. He was public affaires and religious liberty coordinator for many years. On February 15, Sinaga attended Sabbath service at the Governor's Hall together with his family and the Mayor of Manado, Godbless Vicky Lumentut. Sinaga was proud and happy to have his sons visit with them in their new home in Manado. The older is a practicing lawyer and the younger, a Police Inspector in the Brimob Corps.

"As a newcomer to this region, I want to spend as much time with our Adventist members in the different churches. I want to get to know them," he stated in his speech before the Sabbath sermon. Sinaga recalls his previous official visits to Manado. Nevertheless, he was happy to see the friendly faces of the Adventist church members. He appealed for them to continually pray for him as he assumes his new responsibility to maintain peace and religious freedom in North Sulawesi.
Richard Sabuin, seminary dean of Adventist International Institute of Advance Studies, located in the Philippines, was speaker that Sabbath and was happy to have the Manado mayor and the chief of police worshipping with the members of Tikala Adventist Church and other neighboring churches.

North Sulawesi is a province in east Indonesia. The Adventist union headquarters in east Indonesia (EIUC) is located in north Sulawesi's capital and largest city, Manado. EIUC oversees its more than 700 churches and over 101,000 Adventist members.

III. SDA Academy Ranks 12th Among 3,225 Korean Schools
   from the current Adventist Review

   According to the Korean national scholastic assessment of 2013, Daejeon Sahmyook Middle School is now among the top 0.3 percent of the nation's schools, ranked 12th among 3,225 schools nationwide.

   The school's vision is to "foster globally creative and outstanding students" through proper Adventist education, character development, and academic growth. Above all, Daejeon Sahmyook Middle School promotes knowledge, ethics and physical development based on the Bible's counsel to "love your neighbor as yourself." The school enjoys an outstanding educational environment.

   To create an atmosphere of comfort and contentment where students can feel at home, the school's classrooms and hallways are designed like a house. Students may sit or lie down to read books and play during recess. Since 2010, schools around the country have been promoting the motto of "schools without violence". However, while other schools install CCTVs and use artificial ways to prevent school bullying and violence, Daejeon Sahmyook Middle School has focused on educating students on the fundamental sanctity of life, building upright character, showing love and humaneness.

   Daejeon Sahmyook Middle School's aim is to be the "head" and not the tail. Principal Kim JoonSup makes it clear that "our school will do its best to teach with passion and love; to guide our students to be active and creative through all appropriate means. We will continue to do our work in a spirit of humility and service."

IV. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 75

   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.

#75. Robert Shrewsberry (Doctor)

   Dr. Robert Shrewsberry arrived in June 1956. By this time the patronage of the hospital was greatly increased. The addition of Dr. Shrewsberry was greatly appreciated. His special training in the case of the eye disease was an additional service to the hospital.

   This is the end of this list of Burma personnel.

V. Mississippi Doctor & Philippines Disaster Relief
   from the Southern (USA) Tidings magazine

   Jason Shives, a medical doctor in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and a member of the Bass Memorial church, is also the medical director of the ACTS World Relief. A few days after Typhoon Hayian hit the Philippines, Shives responded to a call to lead a disaster response team to the Philippines.

   Here is his story.

   "Dr. Shives, I need to show you something," said Cyril, village captain. He led me to his villagers who were suffering from wounds received during the typhoon. Cyril was my interpreter and my assistant in caring for those who had received no medical care. However, the last house we went to was different. As we walked into the wall-less, roof-less home, Cyril introduced me to some of his family. "Dr. Shives, this is my sister and her husband."

   Then Cyril looked behind me and said, "And this is my niece:" I turned and saw a small black body bag with a name written on a card lying on it. "They finally found her after nearly two weeks of excavating," Cyril explained. I was not brought to heal any physical wounds this time, but to provide emotional support to wounds that only God and time could heal.
Although travel to Tacloban City took four days, it was worth it to be able to help in a country that had suffered a direct hit from the strongest typhoon on record. I was leading an advanced team of 10 doctors, nurses, and search and rescue teams.

Arriving in Tacloban was surreal, like driving through the aftermath of a nuclear detonation. I could smell the decay of rotting flesh even 10 days out. Local government reports led us to believe most of the missing were yet to be extracted from the rubble. As I met people and listened to stories of dead spouses, missing children, destroyed houses, and people who had lost all three, a sense of awe, shock, and sympathy for the suffering survivors flooded my mind.

The chief medical officer of Tacloban City, Dr. Arnes, led our team and doctors from Loma Linda and Harvard to several villages. One of these unreached areas was next to the largest Adventist church. This is where we set up a clinic for displaced church members and the Leyte Mission Conference workers.

I could tell that Cyril was holding back additional pain when he recounted he night of the hurricane. He explained that helping the team gave him hope that things would get better. Cyril stayed with us for the entire trip. He provided much-needed security and transportation.

It was hard to leave the Philippines. The survivors had nowhere to escape; they will be struggling to recover for a very long time. For most, there is no chance for clean water or electricity for at least a year. The people of Tacloban NEED your help. Thank you and please pray for our brothers and sisters in the Philippines.

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VI. With the Rawlings Family in Myanmar

Steve Rawlings <rawlings@leadingtothelight.org> Feb. 28:

Ee Tu Hta Village Health Center

Pastor Phamor, director of Education Opportunity Foundation, asked Po Lwe to work in Ee Tu Hta village five years ago. At the time there were no Seventh-day Adventists in the area. After working for just one year, Po Lwe had planted a church. There are now eight families worshipping together each Sabbath in a small bamboo church erected by the new church members.

A dorm was also built for students that live too far out in the jungle for schools to be established. Po Lwe and his wife minister to the students that come to live with them in their dorm, providing a safe Christian environment.

Po Lwe’s wife is a very talented seamstress. She wanted to start a community sewing class as a way to reach more of the ladies in her village and provide an income for the dorm. Po Lwe agreed that this would be an excellent way to reach more villagers, but could not afford to buy her a new sewing machine. Not willing to give up on this plan, Po Lwe searched for an inexpensive, broken sewing machine that he could repair for his wife.

God blessed his search and over time has provided eight broken sewing machines. Po Lwe has now supplied his wife with four working machines. Through these sewing classes, God has yielded two baptisms with two others nearly ready to commit their lives fully to our Saviour.

Last year, Po Lwe was able to attend three of our nine month Bible/Medical Missionary Training Program on the Thai/Myanmar border. He was very interested in the connection between Health Work and the Three Angels Messages. When he returned to his home he immediately applied his new found knowledge of natural healing to help his sick wife. At first, his wife was very skeptical of the simple water treatments and poultice packs her husband was doing for her. She did not believe that he was doing anything useful, but to her amazement, she was feeling much better in a very short time.

Po Lwe’s wife is now very motivated to use the medical missionary work as the entering wedge for the gospel. Their local church group has decided that if they can raise the funds to build a new bamboo dorm for the students, they will use the old dorm for sewing and medical missionary evangelism.

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Mae Oo Health Center

Samuel San and Pwe Bleh both attend our entire nine month Bible/Medical Missionary Training Program. The refugee camp that they live and work in is quite far from any villages, making it difficult for the refugees to get help with their medical needs.

These two men were convicted of God’s instruction to use the Medical Missionary work as an entering wedge for the gospel. As they talked with each other, they became more convicted that God was calling them to apply their new found knowledge. With great enthusiasm they petitioned Ying, our school director to help them. . .
Karen Adventist Frontier Academy (KAFA) This Seventh-day Adventist school is located in a very mountainous region of Myanmar about two, very long, days walk from the Thai/Myanmar border. Because it is central to many villages, many people from the district walk by it every day. There are around 400 students and 26 teachers living and working at KAFA. More than half of our students attending the Bible/Medical Missionary Training last year were from the areas around this school.

The goal of this outpost center is:
* to be a medical missionary training facility for the students who come to KAFA.
* to supply a place where villagers who pass by can receive natural treatments and care.
* to be an entering wedge in the community for the everlasting gospel.

Ying also went to have a meeting with this group to encourage them to go forward with their outpost plans and continue to practice the health message in their own lives.

Directors were appointed and the group has agreed to go forward. Please feel free to contact us about any of these projects. We are experiencing so much joy watching God bless these beautiful people.

Standing on His promises,
The Rawlings Family
Steve, Lynette, Elyssa and Micah

VII. Adventist Work in Mongolia Celebrates 20 Years
from the current Adventist Review

Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia -- Adventists in Mongolia celebrated the 20th anniversary of the first Adventist baptisms in Mongolia in modern times during a ceremony in November, 2013 in the Central Ulaanbaatar Adventist Church. The program featured music and testimonies from some of the first converts. Though Russian missionaries first launched the work in Mongolia in the 1920s, World War II stopped the work until Adventist missionaries went to Mongolia in 1993.

VIII. Adventists in Manila Highlight Community Service
from the current Adventist Review

Almost 20,000 Seventh-day Adventists rallied at Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila, Philippines, February 22, 2014, to celebrate the completion of a month-long community service event in the region called Love-in-Action, sponsored by the Central Luzon Conference. High-ranking government officials as well as Adventist Church leaders from the conference, the North Philippines Union, and the Southern Asia-Pacific Division attended.

Some 20,000 people attended the Central Luzon Conference-sponsored rally. On the previous three consecutive Sundays the Central Luzon Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Philippines conducted simultaneous community service projects, including a cleanup drive, child guidance and feeding programs, and medical/dental missions to help the government provide for basic community needs for residents. The program reached some 100,000 people in 500 barangays, or neighborhoods. The rally conceptualized the church's mission to care for the environment and its inhabitants by conveying God's love through acts of kindness and service.

Conference president Romeo T. Mangiliman along with Manila mayor and former Philippine president Joseph Ejército Estrada welcomed the crowd. Local church members and leaders promoted the event by distributing more than 1 million tracts to those living in the region.

Love-in-Action originated with the Integrated Evangelism Lifestyle program, an evangelism tool for Hope Manila 2014:iCare. It exemplified the gospel message in the lives of Seventh-day Adventist Filipinos in preparation for a two-week evangelistic campaign scheduled for May at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila. General Conference president Ted Wilson will be the speaker for the series of meetings.

Benjamin Gonzales, Jr., representative for the Republic of the Philippines, vice president Jejomar Binay; Philippines senator Nancy Binay-Angeles; Miss Philippines Earth 2009, Sanda Siefert; and actor/vocalist Cesar Montano also attended the rally. Gonzales congratulated the church for "choosing to give life to its message and remaining united with a mission to serve the least of its brothers."

--Information provided by Paula Cecilia D. Borlongan, special assistant to administration, Central Luzon Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists.

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