I. The Halls’ Annual Trip to Thailand

II. G. C. President Preaches/Baptizes in Vietnam III. Update on Sri Lanka’s Lakpahana School IV. Making Pilipino Friends for Eternity V. The Blair’s Report from Thailand ~~~~~~~~~~~ I. The Halls’ Annual Trip to Thailand & Laos

Dick Hall <dicknjeanh@gmail.com> March 28:

It has been a while since we brought you up to date on our comings and goings so here we are again. This time we made our yearly trip to Thailand and Laos the month of November 2013. The day after we got there we were invited to join a the Laos mission team and Pastor Khamsai to make a trip by van into the mountains of Laos to visit members and churches. We went by bus to the Lao boarder where they met us and off we went on a great trip. It was very encouraging to see how the Gospel message had spread throughout the country. Some time before Pastor Runzsi had been told of a Hmong village that was keeping the Seventh Day Sabbath so they went in to visit them and teach them our Christian beliefs. The village people were happy to learn more of our beliefs. When they were asked how they learned about the Sabbath they said they had heard about it on the radio which was no doubt Adventist World Radio. It was exciting to hear that the government authorized them to have a church. We arrived there on Sabbath we went to the church which had just started with different ones and groups coming up and singing Gospel songs. They took us up by the front of the church, which was built of poles and forest materials, right near the speaking platform and I counted men, women and children around 200 attending. After others had sung special songs the one of the fellows then said “Now you sing”. Well Jean and I are not singers but they insisted so we sang the song, “He Touched Me,” which we knew the tune and words. The people have us a great applause. After that we heard the sermon but couldn’t understand it as we don’t know the Hmong language. We do speak and understand Lao but none of the hill tribes languages. After the church service we went down the path a ways where they had a baptism of 11 people. After the baptism we were invited to eat at one families house very near by. We had a great day there and were happy to see some results of the seeds of truth we planted back when we were there in Northern Laos from 1957 to 1961. It is encouraging to see the growth throughout the country through the years. There are churches springing up in many areas, not because of public evangelism, which is not allowed in a Communist country, but from brother telling brother, cousin telling cousin, and even the cell phone is used to spread the gospel. Even in very remote areas where you can’t even see a village, there are cell phone towers, so the coverage is everywhere.

After leaving there we were taken to the Xiongkwang Province to the ancient Plain Of Jars. We had always wanted to see this historic site when were living in Laos but never had the opportunity. It was an amazing to see these great stone like jars about as tall as we are and about five feet wide sitting all around. Probably more than a hundred of them. It is a mystery and no one knows who made them and how or when they were made and why they made so many of them just in this one area. Here you can see a picture of us with a jar. After coming back to Thailand we spent some quality time with Riki and Yik and shopping in Bangkok. Riki took a little vacation with us at a very nice resort down by the beach for a few days.

With our love and the Lord’s blessings, -- Dick and Jean Hall ~~~~~~~~~~~ II. G. C. President Preaches/Baptizes in Vietnam

Posted May 7, 2014 by Ansel Oliver in ANN

"Seventh-day Adventist Church President Ted N. C. Wilson last month became the first non-indigenous person permitted to speak at an Adventist evangelism event in Vietnam since 1975, a major step for the church since the government granted permission for the denomination to resume operating there in 2008. . . .

"Wilson participated in a “Mission to the Cities” reaping evangelistic series from April 24 to 26 at the Phu Nhuan Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ho Chi Minh City, a municipality of more than 8 million people. . . .

"Wilson baptized 35 people, most of whom were young people, who joined the Adventist Church at the end of the series. They have studied and prepared for baptism during the weeks prior to the evangelistic series.
“Ten local evangelistic volunteers worked for one year prior to the event to bring the Seventh-day Adventist message to the knowledge of many people. A team of young literature evangelists also helped prepare for the evangelistic series. The reaping evangelistic series welcomed more than 160 visitors in addition to local church members who attended. On the final night, attendance spilled outside the building.

"Wilson's participation also marked the first time for a president of the Seventh-day Adventist world church to participate in evangelistic outreach in Vietnam. During his visit, Wilson also traveled to the capital city of Hanoi to meet with the government's vice director of the Committee for Religious Affairs. Wilson visited the headquarters of Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Vietnam and also visited a small fourth-floor church that was established by a blind member.

"In the capital city of Hanoi, with approximately 6.5 million people, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has only two churches, with a combined membership of fewer than 100 members. The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Vietnam has approximately 11,300 members worshipping in 15 churches....

"Nearly 80 percent of Vietnam's citizens identify themselves as not affiliated with any religion, according census data. Nearly 10 percent are Buddhist, and almost 7 percent are Catholic. Less than one percent are Protestant. . . ."

~~~~~~~~~~

III. Update on Sri Lanka's Lakpahana School

Merlyn Fernando <merlynfernando@yahoo.com> May 7:

The laundry will be open in 2-3 weeks. 
ADRA will be working with us the first week of June, have 2 non-working wells working again by early June. Hopefully this will permanently solve water problems; relatively inexpensive to fix.

The swimming tank is filled! Grand opening this Sunday at Alumni Day.

Current student enrollment? Slightly down at 340 but some by our choice.

Dr. Bajic just got back, so the Teacher Training & Seminary will add some students, Vocational Nursing starts probably in September.

Teacher cadre filled? Yes, but barely. Desperately need Tamil/English math teacher.

Hostel occupancy? Full and adding new beds and mattresses;

Poultry? 1832 eggs in March, 8251 in April. at Rs 12 per egg = Rs 100,000.

Bakery? Small profit Purchasing bakery vehicle in next few days which will increase profits significantly.

The puffing gun has been found to be in good order! May start puffing in 6-8 weeks.

Biogas to flow again and will be used in the kitchen and the bakery.

NOW YOU HAVE IT

~~~~~~~~~~

IV. Making Pilipino Friends for Eternity

Wendy Guptill Harris <wrguptill@gmail.com> March 30:

from Pamas Newsletter

The new year started with joy and sleepless nights for missionary pilot and nurse Andriy & Tanya, and daughter Anzhela, with the birth of their first son Nazar! The end of January brought much appreciated help from Dwayne's brother, Eric and wife, Katie who sacrificed a month of vacation time for manual labor and cold showers! We took them to Palawan where Eric visited old friends from his time there 5 years ago. Dwayne finished the annual inspection on the Cessna and Sean, our Palawan pilot, and Dwayne did some supply drops into the mountains. We flew on to Mindanao where we officially began work on the next airbase which will be at the old MVC (Mountain View College) airstrip. After doing all we could in Mindanao, we headed back "home" to north Luzon where the guys built a fuel shed and a "chipper" machine for recycling branches into mulch for the fruit trees and garden. Katie helped Wendy finish a big project preparing 29 nights of crafts for a children's program.

We took another journey last month to the "Mountain Province" in northern Luzon, which is one of the most beautiful and also least reached with the Seventh-day Adventist last-day message. In this area English is preferred over Tagalog, but many of the tribal groups are isolated with different languages and strange customs. The Ifugao tribes are known worldwide for their hard work and incredible skills in rice-terracing. They are lesser known for their not-so-long ago rituals such as hanging their dead in coffins on the sides of rock cliffs and even cannibalism! Just a few months ago we were praying with our district pastor for more missionaries for these neglected areas. God answered our prayers and..."
helped us place three more missionaries in the field! Though we realize it is a drop in the bucket, we know God specializes in doing much with little! Please pray for these missionaries and the great work God has given them. We also ask for your continued prayers for Heaven's resources to be opened in providing helicopters to speed this work!

The joys and the heart of missions is in the personal friendships made and in seeing lives changed. All around us in this world there are people in crisis - people longing for relief from emotional and physical pain that money cannot fix. Another story is of a young man in his late 30's that we, our district pastor, and some SDA youth started visiting lately. His wife left him 3 years ago and his health has declined rapidly ever since, seemingly from a broken heart. June lives in a rural village in a small, dark house where he spends most of his time sitting and staring at his wasted, useless legs. In our visits we focus on hope and joy with plenty of songs, smiles, and praises to God. During our last visit we saw the first smile on June's face, and though it's hard for him to read, he now spends a few moments a day reading a Bible study guide we gave him. He and his mother thanked us for our visits and pleaded with us to please keep coming!

A CHILDREN'S CHURCH?
The Banuar Seventh-day Adventist Church (located just in front of the PAMAS airbase in Quirino, Luzon) is becoming a point of interest lately. Though it is a comparatively big church for it's rural location, it's attendance has never been high until lately when an interesting phenomenon began to take place. Last year after the usual summer VBS program, children of all ages (5 to 15 years old) began attending the regular church services 3 times a week. The prayer meeting and vespers programs that usually consisted of 4 or 5 people began to grow to 20 plus! We began to tailor the programs more and more for the children, and after some time we saw the need for a more structured program. So we started a child evangelism series two nights a week that included scripture songs and crafts. The children loved it! Before long there were close to 40 children attending every Wednesday, Friday and even Sabbaths. Until now the children outnumber the adults and make up the bulk of the congregation! They love to sing out of the hymnal and take part in the services. On Sabbaths they stay most of the day, joining us for a simple vegetarian lunch. The parents are pleased to have their children doing something safe and uplifting and we invite them to special programs and pray for them often! It's an ongoing challenge to keep the children engaged, but it's amazing how they come early to the church, rain or shine, craft or no craft. We are just finishing the series so please pray for ideas and more help! The future of the church may already be sitting in the pews of the "Banuar Children's Church!" We cannot let this opportunity pass by!

V. The Blairs Report from Thailand
Daniel & Tesha Bair & Family <missions@danielbair.com> March 29:

We have so much to be thankful for! For one thing, after most of our All Asia Studio team had something like the flu, we are all thankful to be well!

Our team has been privileged to again be the hands and feet delivering someone else's gift - Bibles for new Christians who cannot afford to buy one themselves. A few more donors gave toward Bibles last month, some specifically for Karen Bibles. The Thailand Bible Society gave us a discount on the Bibles, so we were able to purchase 29 Sgaw Karen Bibles! We gave them to Pastor Pada, who will distribute them to the Karen people. It is such a thrill to give the most precious Book of all!

Next month, the All Asia Studio team will be going to several camp meetings. The first two are Hmong camp-meetings, and the last is Lahu. The Lahu people group does not have any videos of any gospel content in their own language yet, and little to nothing of printed gospel materials either, so recording those sermons is greatly needed!

For Hmong camp meeting, we will be recording Pastor Samart, and Tesha & Wanida are preparing to speak to the women. Please pray for us and all the speakers, that in each camp-meeting the sermons will be delivered well and recorded well (which means, for our equipment to work well, also). We are praying that self will be hidden and Jesus will be seen, so that the sermons will be a blessing to all who later hear them.

To prepare for the camp-meetings, the All Asia Studio staff are duplicating sermon and health DVD's. Related to that, Gop reported an office blessing: "While we were busy working and preparing videos for the camp-meetings, the Lord tried to tell me many times last week to check the printer. But I forgot because I was so busy with editing video (my job is to put some Bible texts in it).

"Yesterday, when we needed to print the labels, the printer just died. No light on, no sound, everything was just silent. I tried to unplug the power cord but the result was the same.
"I told Wanida about this and she was so surprised because it's our new printer. She tried the same with the plug, pulling this and that, until she too gave up.

"Then we knelt and prayed. I prayed, 'Lord you knew that this would happen and I believe that you have the solution for it. Please Lord, make the printer work again if it's failure has only come from the enemy. But if not, if it's a problem with the printer itself, then please give us time to go down to Chiang Mai and let someone fix it for us. For the sake of many people that will take these DVD's, please help us, and your name will be glorified.' Wanida also prayed about the battle that we face and asked God to help us.

"After the prayer, Wanida was back to her work. The Lord told me to pull all the plugs. I pulled out all cables and carried the printer out to a different room. I prayed in my heart and tried to look underneath it. I could not open it. I then decided to try to turn it on again one more time. Then I heard the "on" beep. I ran to the front of it and there the light is on, indicating it's back and working!

"I took it back to the room and plugged everything back in, and there was no problem. It was just like it never had a problem before.

"I told Wanida that "the printer is now working." She shook her head and said, "Oh really? The printer is working now." She paused and then asked me with a louder voice, "What? The printer is working?!" We were so excited!

"She went back to her computer and so did I. My computer was on the sleep screen, so I moved the mouse and got it back to the Final Cut project. The mouse stopped at the Bible text which I was working on. I looked at the screen with my mouth open while reading. It showed on the screen: "Luke 1:37 'For nothing will be impossible with God.' " That was not by accident I know, even though there are about 10 Bible texts I put in the sermon which had different meanings.

"Why did the mouse stop at this text and why is the printer working? It is God who gives us evidence of His presence and His care. He's able to help at any time."

To remove your name from the mailing list of this newsletter, simply reply to this e-mail and put "REMOVE" in the Subject line.

--
BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS
-----------------------------------------------

Teach Can't if this mail (ID 0aM1NTz2V) is spam:
Spam:    http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=0aM1NTz2V&m=93a88fe6b516&c=s
Not spam: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=0aM1NTz2V&m=93a88fe6b516&c=n
Forget vote: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=0aM1NTz2V&m=93a88fe6b516&c=f
-----------------------------------------------
END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS