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I. Facts about Bangladesh, the Country & the Union

"The Republic of Bangladesh is a country in southwest Asia. It shares borders with Myanmar, India, and the Bay of Bengal. In 1971 it gained its independence from West Pakistan. With a population of 163 million according to 2013 statistics, Bangladesh is the third most populated country in the world and rates as one of the most economically challenged countries.

Bangladesh is subject to devastating floods, tropical cyclones and tornados, often accompanied by surging waves that cause great damage and loss of life.

Very often the victims of these disasters are those living in poverty in slums on the outskirts of towns. Not only do the floods cause damage among people, but they wreak havoc on crops, domestic animals, cattle and houses as well. However, the people are very lovely and smiling no matter what situation comes to them.

"The Adventist message came into Bangladesh in 1906, particularly into Gopalgang in the southern part of the country by a laymen named Kellogg Mookerjee from Kolkata, India. From the southern part of Bangladesh the Adventist message spread toward the west, the north and finally to the east by many committed pioneers. At present there is one union mission headquarters named Bangladesh Adventist Union Mission (BAUM) and four local missions, the East, North, South and West Bangladesh Missions.

Geographically BAUM has 55 districts but only 21 district pastors care for the local churches. BAUM has 121 organized churches and 296 companies and 32 ordained pastors are serving the local churches, organizations, and companies. The church membership of BAUM as of 2013 is over 27 thousand, and the ratio between Seventh-day Adventists and the general population is 1:5745. BAUM has one college (Bangladesh Adventist Seminary & College) with 198 enrolled students, seven boarding schools, ten day schools, and 150 elementary schools; all in all 8,670 are educated in the Adventist philosophy of education for whole person development physically, intellectually, and spiritually development.

"Eighty three percent of the Bangladesh people follow the Islamic religion while Hinduism accounts for 13% of the population. With only 0.0002% of the population reported as Seventh-day Adventist, public evangelism a great challenge and usually blocked. Conversion from Islam or Hinduism is rare. Also the four missions face great economic challenges. Their working capital and liquidity are usually very low year after year, the four missions and boarding schools suffer from insufficient finances. A great number of students are not able to pay their tuition fees, and without sponsorship from abroad, the majority of students must stop their study. We are earnestly praying for those in need to receive sponsorship oon," --Pastor Myun Julee (D.Min), BAUM President

Charles Tidwell, Jr. <tidwell@andrews.edu> May 29:

Doris Yew Quan (Wong) Foo was born on January 25, 1938 in Penang, Malaysia. Her parents were immigrant Chinese and members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She received her primary education from the local church school and her secondary education from Catholic Women's High School and Penang Normal School. After graduation, she worked as a teacher for three years. In 1962 she was admitted to South China Union College (later renamed Hong Kong Adventist College) where she majored in theology. In 1965 she married her classmate, Jonathan Foo, who was also from Malaysia. After the completion of their education in 1967, the couple moved to Singapore to begin their ministry.
In 1970, her husband was called to be the senior pastor of the Saigon Chinese Seventh-day Adventist Church in Vietnam. She was commissioned to be the Principal of the SDA elementary school. At that time, the school only had a few dozen students. Being in the prime of her life and full of ideas, with courage and determination, she built a four-story school building and added a high school. The school was prosperous with enrollment reaching over 800 students within several years. In the spring of 1975, and as the Vietnam War intensified, the family, along with their daughter, relocated to the Philippines. There they finished their respective master’s degrees in 1976.

Returning to Hong Kong, Mrs. Foo served as a teacher in the Tsuen Wan Hospital Elementary School.

Two years later, Doris Foo accepted the position of Registrar at her alma mater, Hong Kong Adventist College. In 1980, Pastor Jonathan Foo was accepted at Fuller Theological Seminary in California to study for his doctorate in missiology. Doris Foo accompanied him and began her doctorate in education at Loma Linda University. After completing their doctorates, both returned to Hong Kong Adventist College in 1983. Besides teaching in the Department of Education at the college, Dr. Doris Foo was also the principal of the high school. In 1988, she was asked to be the Principal of the Kowloon Sam Yuk Secondary School. In the meantime, she obtained the Hong Kong Chinese High School Education Certificate, a qualification required by the Hong Kong government.

In 1985, the SDA secondary schools in Hong Kong were reclassified as "partially-funded secondary schools" resulting in the Hong Kong government subsidizing the salaries of teachers and some administrative expenses of each school. This governmental funding was accompanied by stricter rules and regulations which meant the schools need to upgrade their facilities to a higher standard. As Principal, Dr. Doris Foo needed to expand both school facilities and student enrollment, which presented major challenges in maintaining academic standards and student merit. With the decline in school-age students in Hong Kong, she initiated the addition of Form 6 and Form 7 programs as means of increasing student enrollment. An alumnus of the school also voluntarily assisted her in converting the ground floor of the Kowloon Adventist Church into classrooms to fulfill the requirements of the government. These efforts contributed to the growing success of Kowloon Sam Yuk Secondary School.

In the winter of 1996, Dr. Jonathan Foo accepted a call to serve as senior pastor of the Los Angeles Chinese Church. After completion of the school year in the summer of 1997, Doris Foo joined her husband in ministry.

After thirteen years of service Pastor Foo retired and returned for a short term to Hong Kong Adventist College as Chair of the Department of Theology.

Mrs. Foo, however, was asked by the Los Angeles Chinese Church to remain as interim pastor which she did for two years until the arrival of Pastor Gao Ming. At that time, Mrs. Foo returned to her role of a lay member and continued her service to the church.

On May 17, 2014, after Sabbath worship and fellowship with church members as usual, she returned home and suffered a stroke rendering her unconscious. Even with all the best of medical treatment, she never regained consciousness at the USC Hospital. On May 19, 2014, with her husband and children by her side, she was called to rest in the Lord at the age of 76.

All her friends, family, and acquaintances who heard of this sad news have felt the great loss of a loyal servant and dear sister in Christ.

Doris Foo is survived by her husband, Jonathan; her elder daughter Grace, a registered nurse; her first son Bright, an engineer; her youngest son Roy, a plastic surgeon and artist; and by grand-daughters Brilia and Jessica and grandson Donald.

Doris Foo devoted her life in faithful service for the Lord and left a distinguished legacy for all to remember. Her passing in a painless and swift manner may be deemed as a great mercy from the Lord. The Scripture has noted that "All things God works for the good of those who love him" and Jesus also said "I am the resurrection and the life. Those that believe in me will live, even though they die. The family and friends who mourn greatly for her leaving shall find comfort in the hope of reunion with her in our heavenly home. May all of us live and obey God’s will to fulfill what He has prepared for us in life.

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III. Remembering Doris Foo

Ruth Sipkens <ruthsipkens@gmail.com> June 1:

We were so sorry to read the news about Doris Foo’s illness and death. Doris and her family were neighbors when John and I lived at the Hong Kong Adventist College campus. Our sincere sympathies to her husband and children. We can look forward to seeing Doris and her family when Jesus comes again. What a marvelous hope we have in that day.
IV. Bair Mission Story

The Bair Family <missions@danielbair.com> May 29

One of the categories of videos we have been working on as a team is the testimonies of church members, on how they came to be a Christian, or how God has worked in their lives. So, whenever our translators translate one of them into English, we plan to pass on the stories to you. So here is our first one:

My name is Liama Seng Yang. I live in Khunsanai. I am 72 years old. I want to tell people all around the world the reason why I became Christian and how God helped me. Before I became Christian I was a shaman (witch doctor). The reason that I became Christian was because an evil spirit tried to destroy my brother and me, so we became Christians and the evil spirit went away. After God called me to come to Him, another demon possessed me as before when I was a shaman (a witch doctor). But this time he came to me in different way- he used the Bible, and gave visions to me, and tried to prophesy some things that would happen to the world. When Satan tricked me he would use the Bible, nine things he said were correct but one thing would be wrong.

He then told me, "If you and your wife become sister and brother only, I will give you the Holy Spirit." I didn't know this was Satan, and I did what he told me to do. Again he told me, "don't eat on the Sabbath." So I stopped eating on the Sabbath for almost three years. The devil was with me almost nine years during this time. I felt pain all over my body, had a stomachache, and I could not eat well for almost 8 months. I almost died.

Then I went to hospital and the doctor gave me a blood transfusion. I prayed to God the Father, who created the heaven and the earth, every day and every night.

Before that happened, I had prayed a lot, but God did not answer my prayers because I had turned my face to another god. But in the hospital, I turned back to the creator God and went to church again after that.

After I repented, Satan again came to me when I was asleep, in my dreams. He tried to repossess me, but I said to him, "I did not believe you any more! Now I have turned my face to God and now I do not want you any more! In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, go away."

Sometimes I woke up at night and Satan would try to do some things to make me afraid, but I rebuked him in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and he went away. This happened many times, but I did not listen to Satan anymore and so now he has gone away.

I thank God that He called me back. Satan is very smart and no human can compare to him, but God is greater than him. Sometimes if people turn their back to God they will never return to Him again. But I was able to come back to God, because God was helping me. I was lost so many years from God. I am the lost son- I went far away from God, and yet God called me back and I returned to Him.

V. ADRA Vietnam Celebrates 25th Anniversary

ADRA Vietnam <info@adraworld.org> June 5:

Dear Mr. Dennis Dean Tidwell,

On the special occasion of celebrating the 25th anniversary of ADRA in Vietnam, we would like to request the honor of your presence at the event, which will take place at Sheraton Hotel, 11 Xuan Dieu, Tay Ho, Hanoi on the 16th of June, 2014 at 17.00 hrs.

ADRA in Vietnam team wishes you a pleasant rest of the week and looking forward to seeing you soon, so we can celebrate together.

Best regards,
ADRA in Vietnam

DDT Replies:

Thank you for your kind invitation to attend the 25th anniversary reception. Unfortunately, I have other obligations at that time and am not able to join.

Congratulations to ADRA Vietnam for reaching this significant milestone.

I wish ADRA Vietnam every success in the coming 25 years.

With cordial regards,

Dennis Dean Tidwell, ADRA Vietnam Founding Country Director

VI. SULADS Story -- Arlene by Bernadette Magbanua, Gospel Outreach Evangelist, Palawan, Philippines

After coming to the village of Dumarao in January, 2013, my husband, Andy, and I began visiting our neighbors going from house to house. After making friends, we invited them to come study the Bible with us.
The Valoroso family members are strong adherents to the Catholic Faith. Their twelve-year-old daughter, Arlene was among those who began coming to the Bible study simply for something to do and several of her friends were attending. I noticed that Arlene was not listening to me. She was gazing about and seemed very uninterested in what I was saying. In spite of her seeming lack of interest, she continued to come each week. She said, "I will never become an Adventist. I'm only attending your program but will never become an SDA. I was born Catholic. I love to eat pork because it is good."

Little by little, Arlene began to pay some attention to my instructions. I believe the Holy Spirit was working on her heart. She began to understand the plan of God to save human beings. She listened intently and came under conviction. She concluded that this was what she really wanted. "Now I know the truth about Jesus. Now I want to accept Jesus through baptism."

Arlene has accepted Jesus into her life and has expressed that through baptism and is one of our first church members in the village of Dumarao. She is now witnessing to others in the village. Please pray that she will remain faithful and full of her "first love" for Jesus.

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