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I. Ralph Watts & Arlind Hackett Visit Vietnam
   (6th of several installments!)
   Arlind Hackett <arlind.hackett@yahoo.com> June 27:
   Travel Report No. 6 (part 2 of 3 parts)
   Right next to the gift shop was the firing range, and all three guys wanted to shoot some of the weapons. They paid the required fee for shooting a rifle or AK47 (around two dollars each), and we proceeded to the shooting area. When we got down there, there was a jeep with a machine gun on the back. As soon as the guys saw that, they said that was what they wanted to shoot. The guide said that cost more money, so that went back up to the gift shop, paid the extra money and came back to the shooting range. Before they shot we all had to put on head phones to protect our ears. They took turns getting into the jeep. After getting instructions they blasted away at the targets that were a couple hundred yards away. When they pulled the trigger it fired a blast of about five rounds in rapid succession. I was certainly glad I had on the head phones, because it hurt my ears even with them on. The guys were really pumped-even though I think Gregg was the only one who actually hit a target!

   From there the guide led us to the actual entrance to the tunnels.

   Before we went down inside he made a little speech, most of which I didn't understand. I did understand that you could go for 20 meters, 40 meters or farther. We went down some earthen stairs, and for us it was a tight squeeze getting in. I had to bend over almost double and walk along bent over scraping along on the roof and sides. The air was stale, and it was so humid the sweat was running down my arms. From the beginning I was fighting claustrophobia and was taking deep breaths to keep from panicking! At the first exit I told the guide I was going out and made my way up the earthen steps to the daylight. I couldn't imagine spending most of my day down there, and going underground for many kilometers. There are over 200 kilometers of connecting tunnels. Gregg came up at the next exit, and we waited at the next exit for the other guys. They didn't come up, and after a while the guide came through the woods, and said they were already down at the exit point. When we caught up with them, Cole was grinning widely. He told me he is a spelunker and he really enjoyed the experience. It was just like exploring caves. From there we went back to the parking lot and headed back to Ho Chi Minh City.

   I got back to my hotel before noon, and had time to shower, finish packing and head out for some lunch. Khoi had told us that there was a food court in the hotel across from the Rex, where the media guys were staying. It was only a couple of blocks away, so I went there. The food court was on the third basement level down. Fortunately, it was a beautiful mall, with escalators and lots of lights, so I didn't get claustrophobia. I found the Loteria, which looks kind of like a McDonalds. They had a special on their cheese combo. It included a sandwich, a drink and fries. I was glad for a change from rice and vegetables, but the cost was a whopping 35,000 Dong! (about $1.75) Should be within my per diem.

   When I got back to the hotel I went up to finish packing and check out. In order to take the elevator up from ground floor you had to wave your key card in front of a sensor. It would beep and then you could punch in your floor number. I had trouble working the system almost every time I went up. This time I couldn't get it to work at all. There was another guest going up and he used his card unfortunately, he was only going to the eleventh floor and my room was on the 14th floor. After the other guest got off the elevator went back down. When the door opened there was a bell boy there. I told him my problem. He used his card and punched in 14.
When I got to my room my card wouldn’t open the door. Fortunately, there was a maid across the hall who let me in with her card. Evidently, they had graciously extended my checkout time, but not my key!

I checked out and met Ralph in the lobby at about 1:30 and we left for the airport. When we got there we went to the far side of the terminal and got in line with hundreds of other people waiting to check in. I stayed with the luggage cart and Ralph went and checked with an airline person. She said we were in the wrong line, so we went to another check-in counter.

There were only about ten people ahead of us there, so things were looking up. Ralph showed his ticket to another gal there, and she said we should go to the business check-in counter. Khoi had upgraded Ralph’s ticket to Business Class. So we went back to a counter just inside the terminal and got in line. There were only two people ahead of us there. Since I was with Ralph they let me check in there even though I was only in economy class.

After going through security we went to our departure gate. Two of the media guys were already there. The other one had tried to carry his big tri-pod on board, but they turned him back at security. Soon after we arrived at the departure gate Puong and Pastor Giao joined us. About the time Khoi got there they announced a gate change, so we went to the other gate. Shortly thereafter they said our flight had been delayed due to a late arrival. Ralph had told me earlier on that he would be surprised if we left on time, as he had experienced a total of seven hours of delays on his Thursday and Friday flights. Fortunately, our delay was short, and we boarded about a half hour late.

(2nd of 3 parts of # 6)

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II. The Reynolds Remember Years in Pohnpei

Edwin Reynolds" <reynolds@southern.edu> August 22:

We are glad that Richard Maskelony (not Meskalone) had a great experience on Pohnpei. [see the August 21 FED e-Newsletter] Connie and I spent two years on Ponape, as it was then known, back in 1976-78, when the school had only 70 students (grades 1-8) in three classrooms behind the church. We purchased the property for the new school while we were there and began clearing the land for the school. Now it has over 350 students in K-12. It has at times had over 450 students. The "SDA school," as it is known, is the best and most well reputed on the island, with anyone wanting their children to get a good education sending their children there. The island, however, is not one mile by two miles. It is about 23 km east-west and 21 km north-south, or about 14 1/2 mi. by 13 mi. It is, however, very mountainous, with the tallest peak about 782 meters or 2540 feet high. It gets an average of about 188 inches (nearly 16 ft.) of rain annually, with over 300 inches (25 ft.) in the mountains, being one of the wettest places on earth. The typical temperature is about 86-87 degrees, with 100% humidity. Very muggy and miserable if there is no breeze. Pohnpei now has paved roads around the island, whereas when we were there, there were no roads completely around the island, only part way, and the only paved road was up a steep hill to the water tower. As part of the Guam-Micronesia Mission, it is now (since 2010) a part of the Pacific Union Conference (NAD) rather than a mission of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. As such, its financial support is much more secure. It still needs lots of prayer support, however. Student missions keeps the work there going. We are grateful for the support that student missionaries and other volunteers have given to Pohnpei over the years.

--Edwin Reynolds, Southern Adventist University

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III. Death of Pastor Ejler Jensen

It is with deep sadness that we share with you Ejler Jensen's passing on August 27, 2014 at 102 years of age. His transition was very peaceful. In the past several years, although bed-ridden, he was happy and content, spending much of his time reading his Bible, listening to gospel music and welcoming visitors. He loved small pleasures - fresh picked strawberries, Hawaiian chocolate covered macadamia nuts, brightly colored flowers. Your cards and letters, and occasional visits, were highlights of his days.
Most of his life was dedicated to serving others - as a pastor, a hospital administrator, counselor. His focus was on helping others in any way possible. As a family it has been wonderful to see him open up and share his gentle, funny spirit as well as learn so much more about the man we call Dad. His trademark wave and 'well hello there!' would often lead into stories of his youth and family heritage. In his final moments, even though in a deep sleep, he lifted his hand and waved! He was a man of great courage, creativity and perseverance.

Ejler was born on June 26, 1912 in Gleichen, Alberta, Canada to Danish immigrants Mette and August Jensen. His father August was a developer of irrigation projects for the Canadian Pacific Railways. Ejler spent his early years in the small prairie town of Standard where his family ran a livery stable and drayage business as well as the first auto sales business in the area, selling Fords. Ejler became well known in the area as a wrangler with great talent for breaking in horses.

The Jensen family went from a hard but prosperous life to complete ruin through the Great Depression of 1929-1930, suffering near starvation and depletion of all their resources. The family became itinerant farm workers, living in a 12x12 shack, sleeping beneath horsehide robes during the frigid winters. They were occasionally visited by religious book salesmen and as a result of those relationships the family joined the Seventh-day Adventist church. The pictures and stories of mission projects all over the world captured Ejler's imagination and he determined he would some day become a missionary.

Ejler attended Canadian Junior College from 1936-1939. He expressed his love of music by playing drums in the college band and also enjoyed playing the guitar, violin and in later years, a saxophone. When his family emigrated to Modesto, California, Ejler transferred to Pacific Union College where he graduated in 1942. He met Iona Clark, the daughter of biology professor Harold Clark, at PUC and they were married on May 27, 1942.

Ejler became a pastor and he and Iona spent their early married life in Nevada, Utah and then Alaska where daughter Linda was born. Ejler’s territory covered all of Alaska and he relied on veteran bush pilots for transportation. He survived several emergency landings/crashes and being lost in blizzards in the wild frozen wilderness.

In 1948 Ejler’s dream came true and he and Iona accepted the invitation to become missionaries to Japan. Following a 3-week trip on a derelict freighter, they arrived in Yokohama. To receive Japanese residency permits they enrolled in language school and spent two years becoming fluent. In early 1950 they were asked to be the first missionaries to the island of Okinawa. They leased land in the village of Shuri and opened a small clinic with one nurse while they built a home and then a church. Post-war Okinawa was a land of deprivation and opportunity. It took many miracles to find building materials. In 1952 daughter Yvonne was born in a tiny Quonset hut on a military base.

The clinic expanded to overflowing and at the end of the 1950s Ejler designed and built a new clinic; two years later it was expanded to a full hospital and now is the premier private hospital on the island.

In 1960 the Jensens were asked to move to Tokyo where Ejler was administrator of the hospital and pastor of the church on the same property. After six years of service they moved to Penang, Malaysia to serve with the hospital and church community on the island. The Jensens returned permanently to the United States in 1969. Ejler worked for several years at the St. Helena Hospital in Deer Park, CA. He and Iona spent the rest of their retirement years in the Napa Valley.

His two brothers Harold and Anker, his sister Alfreda and his wife Iona Clark predeceased Ejler. Daughters Linda Jensen and Yvonne Truby survive him as well as sons-in-law Lou Marines, Bill Truby and Fernando Canales, daughter-in-law Joann Truby, 4 grandsons (Fernando and Sylvan Canales, Bill and Brandon Truby, their wives Stephanie Canales, Pati Le and Amy Truby), 3 great-grandsons (Julian and Christian Canales, Jayden Truby) and one great-granddaughter (Rayne Truby). His ashes will be interred at St. Helena Cemetery in the Clark family plot in a private ceremony.

Ejler loved his family and friends. Your letters, cards and visits over the years brought so much joy into his life. He has lived a very long life that inspires each of us. We are grateful he is at peace.

With love, Linda and Yvonne

Email Addresses: <ljlightworker@gmail.com> and <yvonne@yvonne.com> Mailing Address: Yvonne Truby, 206 Bernadine Place, Napa, CA 94558 ~~~~~~~~~ IV. Pastor Paul Cho Holds Meetings in Malaysia

Cho Paul <paulcho99@yahoo.com.hk> Sept. 4:
--Weekly Newsletter and Church Bulletin for Chino Valley Chinese SDA Church
"Pastor Cho will be away from September 9 to 23, 2014, conducting an evangelistic series in Sabah, Malaysia. Please pray for his ministry."
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V. Former Missionary to Japan Joins Newbold College Staff
Newbold alumnus Alastair Agbaje has returned to Newbold after accepting the call to be Chaplain/Dean of Men. Upon arrival on campus Alastair instantly expressed how happy he was to be back! He added that the same sentiments were expressed by his wife Sharon, and daughters Celeste, 10 and Jayda, 5.

"Alastair was a student at Newbold from 2006 - 2011 and graduated with an MA in Theology. Upon completion, Alastair took the post of an Associate Youth director for the Norwegian Union. Asked why he chose to return to Newbold, Alastair expressed that the decision to come back was not difficult to make due to the positive experience that he and his family had at the college. . . ."

"Before first coming to Newbold, Alastair spent five years as a missionary, project accountant and church leader working for the Japan Union. His eldest daughter was born in Yokohama, the second largest city in Japan. Before Japan, Alastair worked for 11 years in London as a project accountant for commercial companies.

"Alastair loves Japanese and West Indian food and enjoys running, reading and football. He confesses that he is a massive Arsenal supporter! He enjoys spending time with his family and finds chilling out most enjoyable!"

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VI. SULADS Story -- Growth in Kolambogan

By Tertuliano Hallasgo, Gospel Outreach Evangelist

Glory be to our loving God for His continued using us in His sacred work. I said "continued using" for even though the success is certain because it is his program, there are still some who tried to bother us. That's why we have experienced problems such as physical problems, financial problems, social problems, etc. But through Him we still continue to unite our efforts for His work and will reach success and victory.

In November 2013 we informed you that we had conducted a Revelation Seminar at Barangay Kolambogan which was initiated by Unit 3 Fellowship where our two churches which were built through Gospel Outreach (Sinaca and Tagkiling) belongs had resulted to the baptism of fourteen (14) precious souls last December 4, 2013.

After the seminar we continued the construction of the church building at Tagkiling which we had reported in the month of November. This church building was being hoped for by the newly baptized members so that they would no longer have the church worships at the home temporarily used because they felt ashamed but rather in the new church building. We thought that the building would be finished at the end of year 2013 but because many of the members became busy even though the materials were already complete.

For now, this is only the information that we can give to you about the activities of the Gospel Outreach Missionaries here in the mountain of Barangay Anticala, Butuan City, Agusan del Norte.

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