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I. Jon Dybdahl Heads Gospel Outreach

Jon Dybdahl, (MA ’66, BD ’67, former faculty) has been named president of Gospel Outreach which is headquartered in College Place, Washington. Dybdahl has been an evangelist, church planter and pastor in Thailand and Singapore. He taught theology in colleges and universities in Asia, Michigan and Washington. From 1990 to 2002 he served in the Institute of World Mission and the department of World Mission at Andrews University. From 2002 to 2006 Dybdahl was president of Walla Walla University. Dybdahl took office September 1, 2014 after Dan Preas, past president, resigned to focus on his ministry as chaplain at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla.

Gospel Outreach is an all-voluntary organization that works closely with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in providing support for more than 2,000 indigenous Bible workers in North Africa, the Middle East, India, China, the Philippines and other countries in the 10/40 window—an area where 97 percent of the world's unreached live.

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II. The Campbell’s Laos Report

Jephthae Campbell <Robert.jephthae@gmail.com>

The Tai-Kadai Tales, December, 2014

---Gold English Institute (GEI)

Four hundred and seven students enrolled in our first term for this school year. This is the highest enrollment since our school opened in 2007. Even better than this high enrollment, we have students who are interested in Christianity. Some have asked their teachers for Bibles. Two are actively studying their Bibles with their teachers and are now attending church.

While we operate the English school to provide visas for us to stay in the country, it is also an awesome opportunity to witness to students. Just as in the States public schools don’t allow teachers to bring up religion, here in Laos we can’t openly bring up Christianity. However as our students watch us and see the difference in our characters, they begin to ask questions and want to know what the difference is about.

Please keep GEI in your prayers. Our first term just ended and a new one is starting. Pray for more than just a large enrollment, but more importantly, that God will lead students who are seeking truth to attend GEI. Pray for our teachers that they will have wisdom to know how to share God’s love with their students.

---Bible Studies

Our team is starting more inductive Bible studies with small groups of believers and individuals who are interested in learning about Christianity for the first time. Please pray for the missionary families in Laos as they share Christ's love. Also pray for those with whom they are studying. Satan doesn't give up easily, and while they are studying about Christ he often throws difficulties across their paths.

---Furlough Update

Three months of training at the AFM center in Michigan, followed by three months of traveling, fund raising, and connecting with family, friends and donors seemed to be winding to a close. We were about a week from our November re-launch date when the reality sunk in. Though Robert had been diligently seeking medical attention for some issues that seemed to be related to a parasite infection, the problems still weren't resolved. We still needed more time to figure things out. After discussing this with our supervisors at AFM, they encouraged us to take another two months to
sort out the medical issues before relaunching. It was a disappointment, since we were looking forward to returning; however the extra time here in the States has proven to be a blessing.

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Smartphone App Development

With some extra time available, Robert continues working on Android app development. Printing religious material in Laos is challenging because books must receive the government stamp of approval before publication. Since the Laos government is not friendly to Christianity, they are not quick to approve Christian literature. This has slowed the publishing work in Laos drastically. Robert has been getting around this by helping the church publish books on line in app format. While not everyone in Laos has access to computers, more and more people are getting Android phones and using apps. These are not blocked by the country, enabling many people to have access to Christian content that was censored previously.

In anticipation of having some extra time to develop apps, Robert signed up to be able to develop apps for Apple. He is in the process of getting the Laos Sabbath School, Bible, and Ellen White material available for those using iPhones.

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III. The Griswolds Remember Cambodia Two Decades Ago

Julie Griswold, in the December issue of Adventist Frontier Mission's journal

In 1993 my husband, Scott, and I were serving as missionaries in Cambodia. I was pregnant with our first child and I was living in fear.

For as long as I can remember I wanted to be a missionary. I always believed it was what God was leading me to do. But it wasn't long after Scott and I arrived in Cambodia that I no longer felt so sure mission work was my calling.

Cambodia was not a safe place to live at that time. It was dangerous to be out on the streets after dark. The government had set a curfew for 6:00 and almost every night I would hear shootings when I tried to go to sleep.

One Christmas we received word that our good friend Kavut had been shot. He and his fiancée had been down by the river and had lost track of time. When it began to get dark, thieves demanded the keys to Kavut's motorcycle.

The motorcycle belonged to the organization Kavut worked for. He didn't want them to take it, so he moved too slowly. They shot him, and he died in the hospital.

Another time, very early one morning, the mission president banged on our door.
"Ben has been shot!" he exclaimed.

I immediately thought our good friend had been killed. But no, the bullet from the Khmer Rouge soldier had just grazed his neck, spurring blood everywhere. He managed to stay on his bike, even after a second bullet hit him in the foot.

Land mines would explode in various places throughout the country. In fact, in the marketplace down the street from where we lived, where I shopped almost every day, a land mine had gone off. I was so glad I hadn't walked to the market that day! After that, I felt I couldn't go outside my door for fear I would step on a land mine.

Paralyzed by Fear

With all these things playing again and again in my mind, I became increasingly uneasy and unable to function. I felt paralyzed by fear. I was young, pregnant-and I wanted to go back home to America.

At the same time, I believed in my heart that God had called us to Cambodia. We were there to share the love of Jesus with people who didn't know Him at all. But how could I do that when I could hardly walk out of my house. I certainly wasn't a good example of trusting my loving heavenly Father to take care of me.

Satan began to harass my mind with every imaginable scary thought. He tried his best to get me to be so afraid that I would give up and go home. I truly felt that almost every thought I had was a fearful thought. I was sure I would be the next victim!

Enough!

One day, a few months after our baby girl was born, I told my husband that I had had enough. I wanted to go home. I was just too afraid to stay in Cambodia any longer.
"OK. We can leave," he said, surprising me. Then he added, "But before we start packing up and telling people goodbye, I want you to do one thing.

Every time a fearful thought comes into your mind, I want you to drop to your knees in prayer, give that thought to God, and replace it with a Bible verse. Do this for two weeks. If it doesn't help, we'll go back to America."

I told him I would do it, but that I was sure it wouldn't help and he better prepare himself and start packing his bags.
Shortly after that, I went into the kitchen to make spaghetti. Before the water could boil, I had to drop to my knees with a very scary thought. I gave my thought to God and then said out loud, "Perfect love casts out fear." (1 John 4:18). "I praise You Lord that You have perfect love and You can cast out my fear."

I went back to preparing food. Again I was overcome by another fearful thought. So I dropped to my knees again and gave it to the Lord. I replaced the thought with, "God has not given Julie a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (see 2 Tim. 1:7). "I thank You God for this promise. I claim it as mine right now." At this rate I was not getting the meal prepared very fast. In fact, before the noodles were even soft, I had dropped to my knees eleven times.

What was wrong with me? My husband seemed to enjoy the challenge. Why was all the paralyzing fear coming to me? Maybe it was because Satan knew my weakness and kept attacking me.

A Gun to My Head

It was in my own kitchen that a gun was held to my head. We were living with our Cambodian landlady and her family of nine. It was a Sabbath afternoon. My husband had gone to the provinces [for what reason?], and I had decided to stay home with my baby girl. As I was enjoying playing with her, I suddenly heard what sounded like dogs fighting. I got up to look and stuck my head out the window. It wasn't dogs. It was a bunch of policemen yelling and shouting at the son-in-law of our landlady.

I was shocked! My mind was swirling. How could this kind, friendly man who was living with us be in trouble with the police? I had had no idea that he was actually a drug smuggler and a car thief!

As I was still looking out the window, one of the policemen put a gun to my head. I was surrounded by people speaking a language I didn't understand.

I didn't know what was going on. After what seemed like an eternity, the policeman finally removed the gun and let me return to my crying baby.

I could still hear them firing shots as I grabbed my baby and crawled under the bed. I survived, but the fearful thoughts were with me all the time. These experiences and countless others left me shaky, nervous, and always on edge. My heart seemed liked it was always pounding.

It Won't Work

That's why I didn't think Scott's suggestion would work. But just the same, for the next two weeks I claimed God's promises. It seemed like all I did was spend my days on my knees replacing my fearful thoughts with promises from God's Word. It didn't seem to be helping.

The two weeks were almost up, and then, on day 13, something amazing happened. I realized that I was getting a lot more things done in my day. I wasn't spending all my time on my knees battling with fear. By day 14, the last day of the agreed-upon timetable with Scott, I knew God had performed a miracle for me. He had taken away the gripping, paralyzing fear and replaced it with courage. Oh, the Word of God! How powerful it is!

We stayed in Cambodia for five more years. God knew that I needed to learn how to overcome through claiming and believing His Word. He knew that later we would go through a military coup, with machine-gun fire and tanks in the streets. We needed to know how to battle on our knees. And we did, claiming Psalm 27... 

I know from personal experience that God's Word is more powerful than anything I think, feel, or face. I am sure He will also help you to conquer your fears as you replace them with His amazing Word. Even if you have to do it 11 times before the spaghetti is done!

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Julie Griswold and her husband, Scott, were missionaries in Southeast Asia for sixteen years. They have four children and even a grandchild who is Cambodian. They now live in Berrien Springs, Michigan where Julie is a mom who homeschools and Scott works at ASAP Ministries. Julie has a passion for the poor and missions.

[Personal note: Evelyn and I were sent to Cambodia in 1991, the first missionaries to work in that country after the fall of the terrible Pol Pot regime which had killed hundreds of thousands of the population and left the country desolate. Julie's account of life there in those days strongly reminds us of our pioneering time there.] ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ IV.

SULADS Story--Instant Change

By Chiomes de la Veda. Datalkade Mission School, Tasiman, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato

"Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors." Proverbs 8:34

Nelson and his wife with their 5 children were living here in Datalkade Village. They are a good family, but Nelson was not keeping the Sabbath. You could always find him in the farm. His wife continued to invite him to go to church with her, but he refused saying, "I am busy."
One night, Nelson found his wife reading the Bible aloud. He just ignored her and went to sleep. Another night his wife was reading as was her routine before going to bed. This time he listened to what she was reading aloud. He just couldn’t ignore but started to listen. At one point of time he began to understood why his wife was always attending church and worshipping God. He saw the importance of obeying and keeping God's commandment.

Nelson accepted Christ and was transformed. He felt that God had changed his life. In September, 2014 he decided to be baptized and become an active member of the church.

We praise the Lord for the excellent witness of his wife.

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