I. Remembering John Lu

II. Helicopter for PAMPAS in Philippines

I. Remembering John Lu

Dayton Chong <daytonch@aol.com> Jan. 28:

I am so sorry to learn of the passing away of Dr. John Lu! He was my former classmate in the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews years ago! He was a very dedicated and consecrated Servant of the Lord through the years. Many of us will miss him! Yvette and I want to send our deepest condolences and sympathies to Karen and his family.

When Jesus returns again, we shall see him again!

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Cho Paul <paulcho99@yahoo.com.hk>

Church Bulletin, Feb. 7, for Chino Valley Chinese SDA Church:

Our deepest condolence to the family of Pastor John Lu, who passed away last Saturday afternoon (January 24) at the age of 83. He was a former professor and President of Taiwan Adventist College, former pastor of San Francisco Chinese, Los Altos Chinese, Los Angeles Chinese, Loma Linda Chinese and Toronto Chinese SDA Churches. He will be missed by many who know him. May God give comfort and strength to Mrs. Karen Lu and their children, Jonathan and Roschelle and their families. Funeral service is scheduled for next Saturday, February 7, 2015, at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Church Of The Recessional, 1712 South Glendale Avenue, Glendale, CA 91205. Private viewing will be at 10:00 am - noon for family and closed friends, and service at 1:00 pm. Please pray for the family for comfort and strength in the Lord.

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II. Helicopter for PAMPAS in Philippines

Dwayne Harris <wruguptill@gmail.com> January 30:

This last month I’ve been especially feeling the need for divine guidance. We have been waiting for some information on some helicopters we were looking at and it seemed to be taking much longer than expected. At the end of December we flew to Manila to renew the operating permit for the Twin Commanche and to arrange things for the delivery of a 20 foot container full of literature and Bible study guides from the Lightbears ministry. Because of the holidays and Manila port congestions it took much longer than expected for the literature shipment to clear customs, so we have been at Wendy’s parents place waiting for that also.

A couple weeks ago I decided to fast and pray specifically for God’s guidance in finding and purchasing the right helicopter for our work in the Philippines. I was inspired by a friend who had recently fasted for three days and on the fourth day received a phone call with a direct answer to prayer. I fasted and prayed Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. On Saturday morning I got a call from a pilot friend in Manila telling me there was a Robinson R44 for sale that was in
the price range I had mentioned to him some weeks before. The following Monday I went and looked at the helicopter, all the while continuing to pray for God's leading if this was the right aircraft. They were asking about $290K. It is unusual to find an R44 in this country at prices comparable to the USA because of the cost of importing them (15% of the value) into the Philippines. After looking at the helicopter and talking to some friends about it I made a very low offer of $245K and the manager of the company said it was not high enough so I prayed some more and made another offer about $260K. The manager said it still was not enough and would not even tell his boss about it. I explained to them that this was all the money we had available at the moment and we left it at that.

We continued to pray, trusting that if this was the right helicopter that God would work it out. A few days later I got a call from them informing us that the manager had finally told his boss of our offer and he had accepted it.

The following Monday I went and did a more detailed and thorough inspection and made a test flight. Everything seemed to work well so we confirmed our deal and are working out the details for payment and transfer of ownership. This is an incredible answer to prayer to find a helicopter in the Philippines that is within the price range of the funds God provided.

Being in the country and already Philippine registered also saves us months of time that would be needed to ship and import a helicopter into the country.

God has shown Himself faithful again in answering our prayers for clear guidance to know His will and plan. We know that many of you have been praying and sharing generously for this helicopter. We can't thank you enough for your support!

PAMAS's mission is to speed the spread of the gospel to the unreached and remote areas of the Philippines and beyond by providing air and medical support to established SDA missions and organizations and to help the church to open new work in unentered territory.

Dwayne and Wendy Harris
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III. Honoring the Memory of Dr. Nancy Twinstra

from the February '15 Adventist Frontiers magazine

"Celebrating Devotion" by Danielle Koting

"Tears welled up in my eyes. With our Kohn Kaen AFM team and Thai church leaders and members, I was standing by the grave of a Dutch dentist-missionary in Phuket, Southern Thailand, Dr. Nancy Twinstra, who had died 10 years. Like me, she was born in the Netherlands, single, and serving in Thailand. I read her biography before launching to Thailand, and naturally I felt a deep connection.

"Dr. Twinstra was something else. She was not a short-term, easy-does-it kind of person. She went all-out during her 40 years of service in Thailand.

She adopted more than 100 underprivileged children from all over the country into her home. She provided a loving, disciplined home environment for them.

She sponsored their education, encouraging them to learn a musical instrument and English. And through it all, she guided their spiritual growth. Today many of her children are professionals and devoted church members and leaders. A foundation has been set up to continue the good work she started. Her memory is cherished in the Thai Adventist church, and her name is well-known in non-Adventist circles as well.

"We were gathered in this Thai Protestant graveyard to commemorate her life. We shared and sang. I stared at her grave marker--the name of a Dutch sister in a Thai grave--and suddenly I felt deeply emotional. With all the Thai-ness around me, I was reminded of my own roots as I read her name--that strange name that Dutch people can pronounce. I sensed the depth of Dr.

Twinstra's devotion--so deep that she would desire to be buried here, far from her native land.

"I felt challenged by Dr. Twinstra's live in two ways. First, her ministry was a highly tangible one. She touched people's hearts in profound ways through practical care and love. The results are amazing. Ten years after her death, people are still inspired and still feel grateful to her.

Later that day, I met two of her adopted Thai children, now a professional couple who work for the church. When they found out that I was from the Netherlands, they showered me with gifts and expressions of affection--a legacy of gratitude for how Dr. Twinstra blessed their lives. There are many ways of doing ministry that are all valid and appropriate in different contexts and times, but in Dr. Twinstra's life I clearly see that the ministry of practical service is an extremely powerful one.
"Second, Dr. Twinstra's ministry was a highly devoted one. She never said, 'Three years is enough,' or 'Ten years as already an amazing service.' She served until her very last breath in a country she had adopted as her own.

"I want a heart like Dr. Twinstra's, and ultimately like that of Jesus Christ. Praise God for giving us people to be examples that raise our standards of loving and serving to a whole new level!"

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IV. Gospel Outreach Director Webb Visits Philippines
Fred L. Webb <sulads@suladnewsletter.org> Feb. 4:
I am currently in the Philippines on my annual visit to the workers for Gospel Outreach and the SULADS. The next few reports will be from these workers.

I arrived in Manila Monday night, February 2 and went directly to North Philippine Union Conference where I had a reserved guestroom. February 3, I made contact with John Blake, Jeff Jordan, and Larry Evans who had preceded me in Manila. After a nourishing breakfast at the Manila Adventist Medical Center cafeteria and making a few arrangements, we were transported to the Southern Asia-Pacific Division headquarters in Silang, Cavite by the NPUC van.

We met with Pastor Doug Venn, Missions Director, and Pastor Hermogenese Villanueva, who among other titles is the Director of Deaf Ministries. We discussed what is happening in the deaf work in the Philippines, some of the problems and the successes of the program. Most of all, we discussed what we could do to advance the work for the deaf.

Larry Evans, General Conference Director for Deaf Ministries, reported on the work for the deaf around the world which led into a discussion about what could be done in the Philippines. Doug Venn told of his burning desire to reach the deaf within the territories of SSD and particularly within the Philippines. Within the Philippines, Gospel Outreach is sponsoring two young ladies, Lychel and Cheard Gabuco, in the Manila area and Sarah and Daryl Famisaran with Sunny Suan in Mindanao.

Pastors Venn and Villanueva are cooperating and collaborating to improve and expand the work for the deaf within SSD territory. While Pastor Venn has had a long-time interest in the deaf since studying American Sign Language under Jeff Jordan at Andrews University. Pastor Villanueva is just beginning his work as the Director for Deaf Ministries and has much yet to learn about working for the deaf. Both seem to be very interested in seeing this work expand.

Pastor Venn revealed a fund that could be made available for the work for the deaf as well as other evangelistic activity. The guidelines for application for the funds are not yet well in place. All of us present expressed interest in the work for the deaf to avail of some of these funds. I will seek further information regarding this.

Pastor Venn had postponed a trip out of the country in order to meet with us for the morning. At noon, he excused himself to prepare for his departure. Pastor Villanueva escorted us to a wonderful outdoor restaurant nearby that provided us with a delicious meal.

We then proceeded to AIIAS (Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies) where I obtained the domestic tickets for the balance of my itinerary here in the Philippines. After a brief tour of the campus, we proceeded to Tagaytay and took a quick look at Ta'al Lake and volcano. We then went on to Adventist University of the Philippines for a quick look at the campus. After a short drive around the campus we returned to NPUC for the night.

February 4, we met with Lychel and Cheard Gabuco along with their parents, all of whom are involved in working for the deaf in Manila. Pastor Gabuco presented a short history of the deaf in the Philippines. Lychel gave a report of the work they are doing in Manila. Currently they have about 150 deaf people attending church services each week in 13 churches. Thirty-five of these are now baptized Seventh-day Adventists. Five years ago, when the Gospel Outreach launched this work under Lychel, there were only 4 deaf Adventists involved. They now have 9 persons trained in sign language so they can function as interpreters. . . .

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V. SULADS Story--"You Are a Spy"
By Ranny de Vera, SULADS Supervisor for Muslims

An Adventist went knocking on doors trying to sell his books to an unfamiliar Muslim neighborhood. He happened to knock on a strange door that got just a bit of opening to allow somebody from the inside to take a peep. Suddenly the door opened wide enough and the visitor was yanked and pulled into the house. Whoever was inside held the Adventist, pushed him against the wall, and with such strong hands the unwelcomed visitor was choked as he was held by his collar. Whereupon a pistol was pulled from the hips of the house owner, raised it to the head of the visitor, and pulled the cock ready to blow the brains off of the visitor. Just before he pulled the trigger he said, "You are a spy."
To this the visitor said, "No, Sir. I am a Seventh-day Adventist."

Upon hearing that phrase, the owner put down the pistol, released the cock to the safe position, pressed a button to eject the gun's magazine, and ejected the bullet inside the chamber. Then he said, "Ah, so you're an Adventist. What is that?"

The reply, "I don't eat pork and I worship one God." The conversation became cordial, friendly and pretty safe. Pleasantries were exchanged and smiles were seen in the faces of both persons. This was totally different from the hostile attitude moments ago. After a while of conversation, it was time to say goodbye. The Adventist visitor offered prayer for the household and left the premises safely with a sigh of relief. He even sold the Muslim a book!

Certainly our people undergo unpleasant experiences when dealing with people that are perfect strangers. With faith and trust in the God of Abraham and our ancestors, we can be assured of God's companionship amid dangers and hardships. May God be praised.

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