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IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT FED E-NEWS

We are changing the way we distribute the FED e-News. Soon it will go out only via Yahoo Groups. The old distribution method worked well in the beginning when there were few subscribers and the editor was 20 years younger! Now, with thousands of subscribers, the old system is both time-consuming and burdensome for me (nearing age 93) to send out the newsletter each week.

You already received one invitation to sign up to the FED e-News Yahoo group. We will send out one more round of invitations to join the Yahoo group. Please accept the invitation if you wish to continue to receive this newsletter. Alternately you or any interested party can join by sending an email to the following address: <fed-subscribe@yahooogroups.com>. If you are already receiving the newsletter via Yahoo groups, you need do nothing further. After the next round of invitations have been sent, the FED e-News will go out only to addresses that subscribed to the Yahoo Group.

I. Lao Stories

The Bair Family <missions@danielbair.com>

A month ago Daniel and Gop were invited to visit Laos to film testimonies and other footage requested by the SDA church in Laos. Pastor Khamsay, whom they travelled with, spoke English fluently, so we don't have to wait for translation to share these inspiring testimonies. Below are a couple of these stories:

1. How Meh Deng came to know Jesus:

"In 1957, when Pastor Dick Cole arrived in this little sleepy town, he started to work with the people here. Meh Deng is one of the very first converts for the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, and she shared her experience of how she came to know Jesus.

Meh Deng was thirteen years old. She had a cyst in her face and her father took her around to see many doctors but they couldn't help her at all. Finally she went to our mission station and the doctor there operated on her cyst. She was able to lead a normal life after that.

Meh Deng was impressed by the care and the love given to her from the people at the mission. She decided to embrace the faith in Jesus that the missionaries expressed. She joined the church and worshiped every Sabbath until the missionaries left. The missionaries left a very, very young church behind.

Then there was a big gap of time, of living as a Christian alone without any shepherd, until 1996, when other, local missionaries came. At that time her daughter was very sick. There was something wrong with her neck, maybe "goiter". No one in her area could help. So the missionary took her to Vientiane and she had an operation there. They cared for her and treated her.

After that, Meh Deng's daughter decided to stay with the missionary family in Vientiane and also embraced belief in Jesus, and joined the SDA Church. Later on, the missionary left and Meh Deng's daughter returned home and got married. Both Meh Deng and her daughter are remaining faithful to Jesus, even though they do not have a pastor."

2. How Mr. Young decided to follow Jesus:

Mr. Young's son was about six months old when he started to have epilepsy, and he would have an epilepsy fit three or four times a month. He invited the witch doctors to come and help. Each time, he had to pay their fees as well as give an offering. The sacrifices could be a chicken, or a pig, or another animal sacrifice.
It had been like that for over three years and his son's condition did not improve. Mr. Young had run out of options. He had run out of money.

So he decided to come to Pastor Lee, and so Pastor Lee went to help. Pastor Lee prayed for Mr. Young's son only two times, and the boy became completely well, and has had no more epilepsy fits since then. Now this little child is a normal boy, growing up tall and healthy. Seeing this miracle, Mr. Young decided to accept Jesus and follow Him as his Savior.

II. With the Bair Family in Thailand

The Bair Family missions@danielbair.com May 25:

First, we have a correction from the last newsletter. The missionary named in one of the testimonies should be Pastor Dick Hall (not Dick Cole). Thanks for the correction from the two readers that knew him!

Daniel is continuing to work on creating a video for the Laos Attached Mission Field. This video is being created for the upcoming GC session, to share how God is working in the hearts of the Laos people and to appeal for support of the fledgling work there. Please pray for this video to be created as an effective tool to encourage supporters at the GC session!

**Mission Institute**

During the last month, our family was able to attend Mission Institute, a three-week training session that the General Conference (GC) Office of World Missions has every year for missionaries who are going all around the world. The fellowship was wonderful! The SDA missions phrase, "From everywhere to everywhere," was illustrated in how the many families that attended were from places around the world, and going to almost just as many other places around the world. It was encouraging to be among so many people who have the same vision for sending the gospel to places where it is most needed! The teachers gave us the feeling that we were their peers, which was especially significant for us because our sending organization is a supporting ministry rather than GC.

Our kids had classes too (which allowed Tesa the rare privilege of actually attending adult meetings). They learned about Bible people that went to other countries, did crafts, learned songs, and played with the other missionary kids. We all learned a lot! Some of the topics covered were.

1. Stories from previous missionaries to Thailand, such as the Dybdalls, and the Gustins.
2. How we process transitions, such as moving to a new country, or changing jobs, etc. This topic was especially helpful for recognizing how each member of our family deals with the stresses of transition.
3. The special challenges of raising kids in foreign country, and how families (and individuals) adopt elements of the new culture to add to their home culture, creating a "third culture".
4. How cultures around the world have different logic systems, and different ways that conflict and conflict resolution are handled.
5. Tips for language learning, and ethnographic and area studies to learn about the host country.
6. How syncretism (the amalgamation of different religions, cultural values, or schools of thought) occurs and four steps to avoid it, by analyzing the culture and applying Bible principles of sharing the gospel in a way that people in the host country will understand and yet retain deeply Biblical truths.

We had heard rumors that "spiritual formation" content was in the classes, but we are happy to report that there was none of the negative type of spiritual formation taught at Mission Institute. Perhaps the rumor started because a previous attendee had misunderstood what Mission Institute class had meant in the topic of "the neglected middle".

That class was about how different cultures perceive the connection between the physical realm and the supernatural world. At times, Christianity has somewhat ignored this, in an effort to distance themselves from spirit worship, eastern meditation, charms, and other non-Biblical methods of connecting with God (or the spirit world). In class, we discussed how Christianity has legitimate ways to connect with God that we can teach new believers. And we talked about our need to spend personal time with God in prayer, Bible study, occasional fasting, and corporate worship.

It was validating to recognize that we had already learned some of the content of the classes. God has been a great teacher! As for the new information, we wish we had learned some of those topics earlier, as it would have reduced the stress of several transitions that we have experienced. Better late than never, of course. So many topics opened our minds to how much we need to learn from God, and our Thai neighbors, so we can be effective in our work.

Another big blessing is that all our expenses for Mission Institute were covered. To save money, we stayed at a guest room at the Chiang Mai SDA church, and commuted each morning to the Park Hotel for the meetings. After the first
week, the leaders announced that it had been arranged for all attendees, even the few of us not staying at the Park Hotel, to have a complimentary lunch. That was such a help, since then we didn't have to commute back to our guest room, or go out to eat for lunch. Next, an anonymous donor covered the fees for the class and materials. And at the end, one of our new friends and classmates gave us a donation that covered the expense of our guest room. We're thankful to God and our new friends for helping us afford to attend Mission Institute! Of course there were tears at the end of the Mission Institute, saying goodbye to our new friends. We will be praying for them as they go to their various countries.

**Book Duplicator**

The book digitizer is finally constructed! One of the needs in Thailand is to be able to reprint Spirit of Prophecy books. Creating a digital copy of out-of-print Spirit of Prophecy books will allow them to be edited and republished more easily. With cameras mounted on the book digitizer, and a book laid open on the top windows, high quality digital images can be made of each page of the books, without damaging the binding of the book. And now we have a new member added to our team for the task of digitizing books. We would like to welcome Eak to our team!

**Faith Camp Thailand**

Just last weekend, Thailand held its first Faith Camp. Faith Camp is a camp-meeting where missionaries come together to share testimonies of how God provides for, and how He has been leading them. This year, Gop and Eak were able to attend. They reported that it was a big blessing for the small group of about 25 people that attended! There were nine presenters who shared stories of how God is working around this country. By God's grace, this will not be the last Faith Camp in Thailand, and so we hope that next year we will be able to attend too (it is harder for Tesa to get around with baby number three almost due). But what we hope the most is that other people will be inspired on how they also can step out in faith for the spreading of the gospel.

**Current needs and prayers (Go, Send, Advocate):**

Please pray for the application papers for our foundation in Thailand.

The papers were submitted at the district office, but have not progressed beyond there for the last 4 months.

Foundation status would not just benefit us, but would benefit all the many JFA missionary projects around Thailand.

Please pray for us to have favor with God and man.

Our family is still seeking transportation funds, both for airline tickets, and for ground transportation for our family of five, for our upcoming furlough to the USA. Would anyone be able to let us borrow a vehicle for October and November 2015? Please email us if you do.

Our team still only has one monthly donor, so we are still praying for more people to join us in the support team. We praise God for His sustaining us through the gifts of faithful believers in Christ! Our mailing address is:

Thailand Gospel Media Project
60 Moo 12, Sop Poeng
Mae Taeng, Chiang Mai 50330
Thailand

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III. Fresno Hmong Company Organized

Abel V. Pangan <abelfelan2734@yahoo.com>

On Sabbath, April 25, 2015, the Fresno Hmong Group was organized into a company status. The historic event was held at the Fresno Asian Community Seventh-day Adventist Church, officiated by Elder Ron Rasmussen, Executive Secretary of the Central California Conference. Pastor Abel Pangan gave a brief history of the Hmong work by quoting the Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia, p. 763, Article Laos. "The first SDA mission station was opened in 1957 by Pastor Richard C. Hall and his family at Nam Tha, the center of one of the northwestern provinces. A short time later Nai Mun and Pastor and Mrs. Abel Pangan joined them, and by 1961 a church with 44 members, mostly from the Hmong tribe, had been organized." Elder George Johnson, a retired missionary from Southeast Asia, gave the homily. Elder Daniel Botbara, Central California Conference Asia/Pacific Ministry Coordinator led out in the ordination of three local elders and three deacons. The Hmong Youth Group rendered the special music.

More than 80 baptized members signed the prepared document as chartered members of the Fresno Hmong SDA Company. The challenge is for them to faithfully move forward to establish the first Hmong Seventh-day Adventist Church in the North American Division.
At present, they are in the process of searching for their church building. They are also fine tuning their preparation for the next Fresno City-wide Hmong Evangelistic Meeting to be held on June 15-20. The speaker is Elder Chanchai Kiatpanyong, President of Thailand Mission.

According to the 2010 US Census, there are 260,073 Hmong scattered in ten different States. About 40,000 Hmong live in Fresno and Visalia, California.

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