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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@yahoogroups.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. Pastors Needed in Laos

Khamsay Phetchareun, (Asia Pacific International University) <khamsay@apiu.edu> May 26: Special Edition of Sticky Rice Ministry

Phong Mua, from Nam Phed Village, Bokeo Province, Northern Laos, was born on 19 April 1993 into darkness. Like most Hmong people, his parents worshipped all kinds of spirits. When he grew up all he knew was how to please the spirits. When his parents accepted Jesus as their God Phong Mua was only 13 years old. But, he has been attending church with his parents at Nam Phed Church, Bokeo Province. He has seen many of his tribal people who are still living in the shadows of darkness, in a world controlled by the devil. He would like to help them see the light of the gospel. He has heard the call of God to serve Him as a pastor. But, one thing stands in his way.

Phong Mua will finish his high school this year, June 2015. He has been living behind the Vientiane Church with his friends and attending school in Vientiane for a couple of years. Although he has tried to study English during the last couple of years, however, his English is still very basic.

How can he enter our Asia International University Theology program? Since there is no English Secondary Language (ESL) subsidy from the church, many young men from Laos like Phong Mua simply cannot come to study to become pastors. What a pity, since there are at least 4-5 young men, who sleep behind the Vientiane Church, who have expressed their desire to study theology.

The church in Laos is growing fast and we are facing with the lack of proper theologically trained pastors. As a result, we are facing with all kinds of spiritual challenges such as unbiblical practices, speaking in tongues, and sometimes even immoral practices.

One may not understand why one pastor cannot take care of several churches like in some countries. This is difficult in Laos for a few reasons. Firstly, our churches are very far from each other. It would take at least 2-3 hours drive plus 2-3 hours walk to reach the closest church.

And our pastors do not own cars and do not know how to drive. Secondly, ethnic churches need the same ethnic pastors. A lot of ethnic people do not speak or understand Lao well enough to appreciate spiritual message.
Thirdly, cultural barriers between different ethnics still exist. It is not ideal to let a Lao pastor look after a Hmong church and vice versa. Besides, we still do not have enough pastors any way. In total, we only have 7 theological trained pastors, including the president and 3 departmental directors. In reality, there are only 3 pastors out in the field.

So, you can see our dilemma. Unless, we can find a way to get our young people to study ESL at AIPU we will continue to face this same challenge until Jesus comes.

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II. Missionaries and Language Learning
Don & Janella Abbey in Adventist Frontiers magazine
"As I entered the Muak Lek Hospital check-in and waiting area, I immediately realized how difficult the task was likely to be. At the best of times I don’t feel comfortable in hospitals. I do not read or speak Thai.
Yet here I was at a Thai hospital seeking a medical certificate necessary to renew my Thai driver’s license.
"Scattered around the room were 4 or 5 different desks with signs and numbers indicating what people were to do, all illegible to me. I glanced around for someone who might be able to help me. One lady appeared to be willing to help, so I showed her my expired driver’s license. She immediately figured out what I was trying to accomplish and pointed me to the correct line. After I cleared my check-in card and queue number, she directed me to next step in the process which anyone who could read Thai could have immediately figured out.
"Oh yes, missionaries are dependant and vulnerable especially until they learn the local language and establish trust relationships with the people they live among. I have great respect for our career missionaries who have learned Thai or other heart languages of their people. I found learning calculus much easier than learning Thai. I am thankful that Thai people are more gracious and willing to take time to understand and help me.
"After a short time at the hospital I was able to obtain the medical certificate I needed, travel the 25 miles to the driver license office, and secure a new license, all in less than 4 hours. Last year the initial process to obtain a driver's license two and a half month, so I was relieved...."

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III. Hope for Bangkok
Dede Van Buren <dede@jesus4asia.org> May 29:
Hope for Bangkok - Spreading the Message of Hope in Bangkok

Hope for Bangkok has established twenty-nine church plants and conduct baptism as a result. The beauty of this movement is that it has sparked a lay movement, as well. Half of the church plants mentioned are driven by lay members and one of the church plants has a restaurant. In spite of these positive happenings, city life is expensive and the budget is no longer there. The program could be forced to close by the end of the year. Shutting this down would mean taking us backward, instead of forward in the work.

We are asking for prayer from you, our supporters, for clarity and direction as to how JFA could be involved in helping this situation. We would love to see this valuable program continue to win more souls for His kingdom!

**Two India Projects: Orphanage Boys Dorm and Clean Water Matching Grant **

Please continue to pray that we will receive funds to begin working on building a government-required boys dorm for our boys at the orphanage.

Also, pray for funds to meet the $12,000 matching grant for our Clean Water Project in India. We appreciate your prayers and help with both of these!!

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IV. SULADS Story: "Changed Lives"
By: Gene Mae Precious Amante, Lao Island Mission School, Tawi-Tawi, Philippines

Panglima Haji SULADS Academy (PHSA) started as Panglima Haji SULADS Junior Academy in 2007. SULADS itself had been operating in this island for 12 years since 2002. Foremost of those who entered this Tausog-Muslim territory were Victor S. Palin, Peter S. Sinagpulo, and Jong Ebarat. They were the first who left family behind crossing the sea of Tawi-Tawi and lived the Tausog life in a small island well known to all as LAA.

As what the island name connotes "LAA" (Visayan term for poisonous), this island was known as the most dangerous island for the pirates that lived there. Almost all of the parents were uneducated but clever in terms of fighting and war. People didn’t want to put a foot on this feared place.

Even Adventist brethren tried to stop the first missionaries who dared to go there. Sir Victor Palin and Maam Alicia Blanco were the first ones who expressed to Ina Tan, the wife of the village leader Albasher Idjirani, the desire to teach
the children. According to them, the Adventist brethren at the nearby island of Simunul did not want them to go. But they persisted.

One of the brethren went with them on another boat to watch what would happen. He stopped from afar, so only the two went to Laa. When they arrived they could only see women and some children but as soon as they stepped out of the boat all of them went inside their huts. Many among the parents at first did not want SULADS to enter their territory. It was difficult especially during the pioneering days. The elders were uneducated and have a dim view on the necessity of education. But good intentions helped paved the way through instrumentalities that supported the program.

These people became the real ama's (father) and ina's (mother) of the Mastals (teachers) up to this day.

Tausogs are also Islam oriented people who are eager to guard their territories even if they have to die. Mastals would paddle a little farther from the seashore to hold worship services. The islanders hold several traditions handed down by their forefathers which contributed to their prejudices especially to Christianity. But Seventh-day Adventists and Muslims are similar in many ways. This was a big help to SULADS in building connections and fostering friendship in the village. Some of these are not eating "haram" foods like pork, belief in one God, judgment day, "hanifs" or faithful "nabis", and many others.

The school name Panglima Haji SULADS Academy came from one of the oldest Tausog men who came to the island. His name was Panglima Haji. He was sent by the family Majinji to be a steward of their coconut trees. His grandchildren are still living in the island these days, and some are students of PHSA.

Passing through different challenges in a Muslim territory every school year, some of the hoped-for changes can be seen apparently today in the lives of the students and villagers. Mastals (teachers) every school year strive to inculcate Adventist principles through education. From the literacy center, which was an elementary school, SULADS reached secondary education which held a bigger opportunity to minister to their spiritual needs.

Ama's and Ina's (fathers and mothers) are supportive to the needs of the mastals and the needs of their students. We can see Parent and Teachers Association (PTA) is working well. Although some are still prejudiced, others even allow their children to join worship services with us. Others have been improving their understanding of the importance of education and even want their children to really pursue their education up to college. Some of the students want to be a SULADS too.

Students are now open to Christianity and even sing Christian songs which were contextualized. They join worship at times. You can also see some of them view things the way a Seventh-day Adventist would see the world. All the praises and thanks are to Allah.

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