I. Karen Adventist Centennial Reunion Held at Andrews University

Karen's from all over the United States met at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan July 24-26. They reviewed how God led them as a people in the past and how God still leads them today.

It was 100 years ago that famed missionary Eric B. Hare and his wife Agnes traveled to Burma as missionaries to the Karen. Their descendents took it upon themselves to show traditional Karen hospitality by feeding the 500+ Karen who descended on Berrien Springs.

Karen from California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, and Tennessee joined the meetings. Over 90 Karen traveled just from Utica, New York. Pastor Law Kler attended from Norway and Pastor Mervin Myat Kyaw and wife were present from Australia.

After the participants took an Adventist history tour of Battle Creek on Friday morning, the meetings began the same evening. Senior Karen leaders, including Law Kler, Priscilla and Herbert Sein and Sanday Dee shared the Karen traditional stories of creation, and the Golden and Silver Book that prepared the Karen of Burma as a people to accept the Gospel when they heard it preached by Western missionaries. Herbert Sein sealed his reputation as a storyteller with stories of "The Wisest Animal in the Jungle!"

On Sabbath Pastor Don Livesay, President of the Lake Union Conference, charged the Karen youth to be active witnesses for Christ. Over 100 came forward to accept the challenge and dedicated themselves to the task. In the afternoon several speakers told of their experiences of witnessing for God even in adversity.

Dennis Tidwell from Tennessee shared how the Adventist message came to the Karen of Thailand and reminded the Karen that they have nothing to fear for the future, except they forget God's leading in their past. Pastor Jimmy Shwe, coordinator for ministry to Karen members in the North American Division, gave a special tribute to Helen Hall who continues to educate Karen youth in Thailand after nearly four decades of uninterrupted service.

Sunday was devoted to more social activities. There was a Karen cultural program in the morning and there were soccer and volleyball games in the afternoon.

A surprisingly large number of young Karen members attended the reunion weekend in Berrien Springs. The weekend meetings afforded a great opportunity for Adventist Karen youth to renew contacts with each other before they headed back to their homes scattered across the United States.

Please pray for the Karen members in North America to remain faithful and united.

Special thanks to Adventist Frontier Missions Training Center for providing kitchen facilities, Adventist Southeast Asia Projects for logistics and financial support, the extended Hare family for feeding the multitude, and special thanks Trudi Myaing Starlin and Don Starlin for coordinating the whole weekend program.

--Dennis Tidwell

II. Monsoon floods damage 32 Adventist churches in Myanmar

Adventists assist flood victims
by Brendon Irvine in ANN August 4

This week Adventists in Myanmar continue their assessment and relief activities in the flood-affected western areas of the country. Six weeks of heavy rainfall combined with high winds and rain from a recent cyclone have caused flooding and landslides in 4 western areas, leaving 46 dead and more than 150,000 affected according to current news reports.
Although at least 32 churches have been damaged with the majority still flooded, members and leaders are focused on helping their communities. Adventist Community Services (ACS) volunteers distributed needed items to approximately 500 disaster victims in the area. ACS is also organizing a food distribution plan for approximately 2,000 people displaced by earlier flooding in the southeast.

Tha Tun Aye, Central Myanmar Mission treasurer, reports that church leaders "are coordinating with the ACS coordinator in Myanmar Union to send medical doctors and health workers to the disaster-affected area."

In conjunction with government teams and non-government groups, ADRA Myanmar will provide a joint emergency response to unmet needs and/or gaps in support in the northwestern region. Initially, the response plan will include food and water for victims. Brendon Irvine, ADRA Myanmar country director, notes that "a larger ADRA International Network response of up to USD 50,000 is also planned once clearer details emerge of ongoing needs, which [could] possibly include [the other] areas."

With more monsoon rains predicted this month, the Adventist church in Myanmar is prepared to continue its relief work and bring the comfort of Christ to those in crisis.

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III. New Book by Mervin Kyat Kyaw

Pastor Mervin shared a manuscript with me that he was writing several years ago and I included many short biographies of long-time Burma workers in the news letters. Just last month he kindly sent me a copy of the book now in print. It is called "The Legacy of Eric B. Hare And Tribute to Wonderful Missionaries." Its cover is a beautiful color picture of a smiling "Dr. Rabbit" and on the back cover a picture of the smiling author. In the section dealing with missionaries and outstanding national leaders are many pictures.

The author’s country of origin is Myanmar (Burma). He studied in Yangon (Rangoon) Arts and Science University and graduated with a B. A. in 1963 and a B. Ed. in 1965. He served as principal of middle and high schools for 28 years. The call came to him in 1993 to Thailand via South Korea where he served the Lord as a teacher at Bangkok Ekamai International School and then as a Global Mission pioneer for Mayanmars in Thailand for 11 years resulting in 91 souls saved. He migrated to Australia with his family in 2004. He and his wife, Nan, who is now pastoring the Werribee Karen church in Victoria, are still serving the Lord with 61 persons already accepted Jesus as their personal Savior.

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IV. SULADS Story -- "I of so Little Faith"
by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Añiosa --Slong Literacy Center, South Cotabato

It was Sunday and our minds were so occupied preparing with the coming jamboree. To break the monotony of the preparation we were doing, we decided to spend some time to relax and unwind in the forest and look for some bamboo shoots to cook for lunch. We were having so much fun in the forest that we did not notice it was past lunchtime already. So, we hurried home to fix our lunch and eat. In the house I saw from the distance the wife of our village leader, I ran to her and was warmly greeted by Auntie, "How are you, Ma'am and Sir?" She was restless and seemed in a hurry.

"We are good, Auntie, why are you in so much hurry?" I answered.

Without any hesitation she told us, "Ma'am and Sir, what can you do to help in this situation. The mother of Jemna (one of our students) has been in labor for two days now. The baby is said to be in the breech position. The village midwife has given up already and it's been two days now."

Hearing the throbbing of my heart I told Auntie, "This is a very critical condition! Why didn't you inform us earlier?"

My tone become stronger, "So what do you plan to do now?"

"They wanted to bring her to the health center downtown can you accompany them?" she pleaded.
I was thinking of the expenses that might incur on us, so without any consideration to Auntie's feelings, I told her, "Auntie, please consider our situation, we don't have the money to help the family. We can only help them reach the hospital. For the rest of the needs we need to pray and plead for God to send us the help."

Auntie was silent and my husband breaking the awkward silence, without delay asked all of us to hurry up and move fast to go to the patient's house. There we saw the very hopeless state of the pregnant mother, struggling for her breath and trying her best to manage the pain. She was already in a very critical condition and her family had prepared for the possibilities that might happen along the way that, God forbid, she might lose her life or the baby's.

It was my first time to be alone in the mission field, without my husband at my side. I was left with only prayers to strengthen me. I knew that it would be hard for them to be accommodated in the hospital because they did not have the money.

By the grace of God the patient was safely brought to the nearest government hospital and was admitted without a single peso asked. Adding to the miracle was the unexpected financial assistance that came one by one. The mother was saved and so as the baby.

I admit I had so little faith. My mind was not in my trusting relationship with my God. I was ashamed of how I reacted with my worries regarding the financial burdens that may incur on us. Oh, I of so little faith! I took the situation in my hands, even I called for prayer but God knew my anxiety.

God sends his missionaries not because they all have what the people needed. God sends His missionaries not because they are all skilled in everything. God sends His missionaries not because they could provide for everything. God sends his missionaries because HE IS ABLE TO DO ALL THE GREAT AND WONDERFUL THINGS BEYOND ALL OUR UNDERSTANDING THROUGH HIS MISSIONARIES.

It is NOT US BUT CHRIST in every work done and given to men. We are SULADS missionaries. We have nothing except our time and availability. These are our only treasure to be given to the almost forgotten people of the remotest villages of South Zotabato. Glory and Honor to our God!

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