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I. Prayer Request for Hua Khua Church in Laos

Khamsay Phetchareun <khamsay@apiu.edu> Sept. 9 Dear Friends and Partners in Lao Mission,

May I solicit your prayers for our church at Hua Khua. A new village chief was recently appointed to the Hua Khua Village. And this new chief does not like Christians. So he banned worship inside our church at Hua Khua. Tomorrow, Pastor Bounprany Vannady (LAF president), Elder Saisana Oudomsap (LAF Secretary-Treasurer), and Pastor Saisavanh Phouliphan (LAF Publishing director & Hua Khua Church pastor) will go to meet with the Hua Khua village council.

Please pray that the Lord will grant an amicable atmosphere at the meeting and that good relationship between our church and that local authority will be established to allow God's work in that area to continue and prosper. For those who are not familiar with where Hua Khua is, it is just 60 km from Vientiane Capital. We have a church there on a 5 hectare block of land. We had very good relationship with the local authority for the past 20 years or so, until this new chief arrived.

Thank you for your prayers. I am confident that God will turn this meeting into a good outcome for His sake.

Best regards,
K. Phetchareun

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II. Aviation Challenges in PAMAS

Wendy and Dwayne Harris <wrguptill@gmail.com> September 06:

-- PAMAS Mission News: Challenges Inspire More Prayer

Landing gear damage on the twin Comanche. The last four months have been action packed and extremely busy with flying and other projects in Palawan. Sean and Pris got back the end of July and that helped alleviate some of the flying load. We spent a couple more weeks in August at our base in Palawan with Sean and Pris before heading back to Luzon. A week before our planned departure I had an unfortunate incident when landing the twin on our grass strip. Our airstrip there is about 1800 ft long and while it works great for a Cessna it leaves little room for error for a light twin when the grass is wet. Because of this I was trying to land very near the beginning of the strip because it was early morning and I knew the grass was wet. I touched down about 5 feet short of where I should have and the right main gear hit a small berm and caused it to break folding backwards where it wedged in place in the wheel well and turned the tire sideways. By God's grace I managed to keep the airplane traveling straight down the runway until it stopped. The wing sustained some damage from the collapsed gear but praise God it was not worse. So now I am looking for parts to make repairs and since we cannot fly it for a few months we decided to go ahead and overhaul both engines which are past their recommended overhaul times anyway. Please pray for God to provide the needed parts and resources for the repairs and engine overhauls on our twin Comanche.

Helicopter Donation

Despite the challenges, God is still working in many unexpected ways. About a year ago a Bell 47 helicopter (needing overhaul and restoration) was donated for mission work. A few months ago God moved on a young man who is a helicopter mechanic to take on this overhaul project full time. He has left a secure and good paying job to answer God's call to missions and intends to follow this helicopter to the mission field when it is flying. This Bell 47 overhaul project will be costing between $50,000 to $60,000 for new engine parts and rotor blades. It would be a big blessing to have this helicopter in the field. If you would like to support this project financially please designate your donation to "PAMAS Bell 47 project."

Exponential Growth
As this medical/aviation ministry expands, we are amazed at how God continues to provide for the growing needs. You may not be aware that your donations are supporting 11 missionary families and 11 single Bible worker/medical missionaries as well as the operation of two airplanes and one helicopter. (We also have one family and one single who have their own support.) Three strong church plants and a school are a direct result of your prayers and support, and more are close to being established. Dozens of young people have been (and several still are being) sponsored through medical missionary and evangelism trainings, and Adventist academies and colleges and have given their lives to full-time volunteer service. Thank you for making these things possible! God is truly blessing and we can hardly keep up!

Kabulnukan school and church plant

The opportunities and requests from isolated areas continue to grow almost by the day. The helicopter flies on average 3-5 times a week and the Cessna flies about the same. Most of the flights are medical evacuations and the rest are for supplies and/or missionary support. Three new remote villages are opened now and are already hearing the Gospel as a direct result of the helicopter. A new missionary family has recently arrived to Palawan to serve in the mountain village of Karusuan . . .

Though we have hardly had to slow down on any major work for any reason, there are times where our faith is stretched and we do a lot more praying!

We really do covet your continued prayers and financial support for this ministry. . . .

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Dwayne and Wendy Harris

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III. 71-Year-Old Pastor Tours Japan for AWR

from Adventist Review, Sept. 2

by Tadaomi Shinmyo, retired minister in Japan

Masaru Kawagoe, a retired Seventh-day Adventist minister, dropped by my house a few weeks ago in Imabari, a port of about 170,000 people in southern Japan.

My first surprise came when I learned that this 71-year-old pastor was driving around Japan in a tiny car as he produced recordings for the local branch of Adventist World Radio. My second surprise was that he was studying, working, eating, and even sleeping in this cardboard box-sized vehicle.

Kawagoe set out from his house in Japan’s capital, Tokyo, for the 46-day tour on June 29. He started in the northern part of Japan, using a ferry to cross the sea from Honshu Island to Hokkaido Island, and continuing to drive to northernmost part of Hokkaido, Soya Cape. Then he began the return trip back south.

To welcome the Sabbath, he dropped in at the nearest Seventh-day Adventist churches. He preached at the Sapporo, Aomori Minami, Akita and Kyoto Churches before visiting me. Afterward he drove to Honshu Island and Kyushu Island and preached at Yaizu, arriving back in Tokyo in mid-August.

I was astonished to learn that his car was able to handle this all-Japan tour. It seemed to be too small. When I looked inside the car, I saw that Kawagoe had carefully refurbished it for his every need. All the necessary equipment for recording was packed in a box beside the driver seat. In the back seat was a small table that he had made to sit at for studying, working, and eating. A small bed was set up on the other side of the back seat.

The arrangements in the car meant that Kawagoe didn’t need to eat at restaurants or lodge at hotels. Since Kawagoe was making the trip as an unpaid volunteer, he was trying his best to save money.

Kawagoe kept a tight daily schedule. He stopped to rest and eat in parking lots. During those stops, he washed his clothes and hung them to dry inside the car. He also wrote daily articles about his findings, experiences, and interviews with pastors and others. Then he recorded himself reading the articles using a portable microphone. Finally, he uploaded photos and the recorded files to Adventist World Radio Japan through the Internet.

To me, doing all this seemed like a tough assignment for an elderly man, but Kawagoe is used to hard work after 44 years of pastoral ministry.

Five years ago, Pastor Kawagoe took an all-Japan bike tour to make recordings for Adventist World Radio. The trip took 73 days, and he produced a series of 57 recordings for the radio station. Last year, he took a 35-day bike tour in eastern Japan.

Kawagoe is familiar with doing such tours, and he clearly finds them rewarding as he shares his love for Jesus.

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IV. Lightning Bolt Hits School in Japan
An Adventist boarding school in Japan was praying for water when disaster struck.

By Andrew McChesney, news editor, Adventist Review August 28

God answering a prayer with a powerful bolt of lightning may sound like a story of biblical proportions, but the principal of a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school in Japan says that's exactly what happened on his campus.

Hiroshima Saniku Gakuin Academy, a school nestled in rolling hills near Mihara, a city about 45 miles (70 kilometers) east of Hiroshima, faced an urgent water shortage from its aging wells that drove its faculty and 300 students to their knees.

Then a thunderous lightning bolt - complete with billows of yellow and white smoke - rocked the campus one morning, causing several million dollars in damages but also miraculously causing water to gush out of the old wells, principal Shiro Onoue said.

"The water in our wells began to flow immediately after the lightning strike," Onoue said. "Hallelujah! I know that God helped us."

Water began drying up at the school's eight onsite wells several years ago, and the problem became critical during the summer of 2014. The principal, fearing a shortage when classes resumed in the fall, ordered that new wells be drilled on the campus' hills about 1,500 feet (450 meters) above sea level.

"The campus water is very delicious because it comes from the well-conserved natural groundwater system of Japan," Onoue said in a statement released by the Adventist Church's Northern Asia-Pacific Division.

The first two wells came up dry. A third attempt near the end of the summer struck a vein that yielded enough water to meet the campus' needs.

But there was a catch: The well would not be ready to go online in time for classes because various legal procedures and water quality examinations had to be completed first.

Hiroshima Saniku Gakuin Academy reopened as scheduled, and the faculty and students began to pray fervently about the water.

"Every day we prayed to God to guide and protect our water supply," Onoue said.

The Lightning Strike

The morning of Sept. 4 broke with a cloudy sky and rumbles of thunder in the distance. At 10:55 a.m., five minutes before the students were to stream outdoors on a break between classes, an ear-piercing explosion rattled the campus.

Onoue was sitting in the principal's office, working with his back to the window.

"I quickly turned to the window to see what had happened," he said. "There was yellow and white smoke coming out from behind the gym, and I knew that lightning had struck."

Buildings went dark as the electricity failed across the campus. Onoue immediately called the gym and was relieved to hear that everyone there was safe. He ordered the students to stay indoors as the adults investigated the extent of the damages.

It turned out that the lightning had not hit the gym but a mobile phone antenna near a tennis court outside the building. Chunks of concrete debris from atop the antenna lay scattered on the ground after being blown off by the lightening bolt.

The electricity was restored in the afternoon, but other problems surfaced in the following days. Water pumps, extension phone systems, street lights, campus emergency broadcasting systems, and boiler systems in faculty houses had all been damaged by the lightning.

"It was a great headache to even think about the cost of repairing all the damages to our campus," Onoue said. Total repairs ended up costing the equivalent of US$5 million - all thankfully covered by the school's insurance.

More Than a Silver Lining

But faculty and staff members began to find many positive things as they considered the destruction. That summer, the school had replaced all the computers in its computer lab with new models purchased by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division, and not one of them was damaged. While boilers were damaged in the faculty houses, the only ones that wound up requiring replacement were old and in need of repair anyway.

Then a campus maintenance worker alerted Onoue that something had happened to the campus' water supply. Worried, Onoue asked whether the water had stopped finally.

"No," the worker replied. "The wells that were not producing water are now beginning to yield more than double the amount as before!"
Onoue could not believe his ears. He asked whether the water meter had been damaged and was giving the wrong reading. The worker said that was his initial concern, too, and he had double-checked the gauges and found them to be accurate.

Onoue said a lightning strike that had initially looked like a terrible disaster had turned out to be a miracle from God. "This one-time burst of energy from the lightning allowed us to upgrade all the old systems to new ones," he said. "Most of all, we are grateful for being able to experience firsthand God’s miraculous work of allowing lightning to strike the water vein and provide enough water for our campus."

A year has now passed since the lightning, and the school has not faced any water shortages. The newly drilled well is now ready for use.

Onoue said the incident has encouraged faculty and students in their belief that God is guiding Hiroshima Saniku Gakuin Academy, which traces its roots to a Bible school that opened in Tokyo in 1898. The school’s Japanese name means "threelfold educational school," referring to the mental, physical, and spiritual aspects of an Adventist education. Onoue said he found comfort in the words of the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord."

"Through this experience, we are once again assured that Hiroshima Saniku Gakuin is indeed a school that God intentionally built," Onoue said.

V. SULADS Story -- God Is With Us
Somchai Raonthao and Jeu Song, Huai Han Village, Chiangrai Province, Thailand

This month, God has used us to do a great task. We praise God that He gave us a task that we really felt we couldn’t do with our own ability. We visited the Sunday church members at Ban Sai Thong. They wanted us badly to help them do a natural remedy through a steam bath with herbs since they felt sick. We really wanted to go but we have the challenge of transportation to take our equipment. We went out and asked one of our church members here in Huai Han to let us borrow his car. But the thing is we borrowed a car but we have never driven one before! But we had faith that God was always with us and HE will drive on our behalf. And we thanked HIM that HE did! When we got there, we did the steam bath for them and we were able to make lots of new friends there.

Another story that we’d like to share is about a man who was from Laos. This man was a drug addict and has been selling drugs. So his relatives in Huai Han Village have rejected him. He badly needed food and a place to stay. At first we did not know his real background so we welcomed him to stay with us. He pretended that he wanted to be a Christian. We were excited to give him Bible studies. But as soon as we found out what he had been doing, we talked to him that we only allow someone to stay with us if he is willing to live up to a Christian lifestyle. With no drinking, smoking, illegal drugs, etc. because we are staying in a Christian center. So we told him to quit all his vices if he would like to stay with us.

However, he didn’t. We prayed that God would intervene. We were also careful as this man could be used by the devil to delay us.

We thank God that at times, we ran out of food. We were all hungry and he lost his patience and went back to Laos. We need your prayers for that man that he will come to his senses. If not, then help us pray that he will not come back as he is selling drugs and could potentially damage our reputation in Huai Han Village.

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