I. Report from Negros Occidental Conference

By Fred L. Webb, February 15-17:

I arrived in Bacolod about 2 pm Sunday and went directly to the Negros Occidental Conference Office. It is located directly across the street from the Adventist Medical Center-Bacolod. The hospital has a new wing that includes a cafeteria that is very nice with wide glass windows and a bright cheery look inside. The food selection is good and well prepared as well as fairly priced.

Pastor Luisito Tomado, the conference president met me and gave me the schedule for Monday. We left Monday morning about 7:45 am with the conference executive secretary, Ebenezer A. Orquesta; conference treasurer, Renito C. Inapan; personal ministries director, Renito C. Inapan; and a district pastor as well as a driver. We did not expect to see much results yet because none of the GO workers has worked more than one month in their field.

We traveled to Alcante where GO Worker, Levy Laput, met us and led us to the Barangay hall where he has permission from the barangay captain to hold meetings, medical clinics, etc. He has the support of a church located a few kilometers away which should help him to get a good program started.

He showed us to the place where they are now meeting with the few interests he has generated in the three weeks he has been in the village.

Adjacent to that meeting place is 350 square meters of land that could be obtained for the construction of a church. It is back from the highway some distance so would be rather quiet for services. Unfortunately, it is not easily accessible.

Levy was advised to continue looking for land for a church while he looks for more interests.

We then traveled on to Luna, Cadiz where we were met by Ur Caro and his wife Joanne. While there is a church not too far away, they seem to be unwilling to give support to Ur. He has been successful in raising up a church before so we have great confidence that he will be successful here in Luna. Ur’s wife, Joanne, had worked for a loan company as a manager for 17 years but resigned her job to work with Ur in missionary work. They have two children ages 3 and 8 who are currently living with her parents but will soon join Ur and Joanne when school is out. We expect to find a good accomplishment next year.
We then moved on to Mabini, Escalante where Melvin Gurana is our GO worker. We ate the lunch that Pastor Tomano had brought for us as well as fresh young coconut and ripe jackfruit. Melvin was given a list of 28 former Adventists in the area. He has visited them and within the 4 weeks he has been there, he has 16-24 in attendance each Sabbath in the little meeting area he has fixed up. Melvin is holding an evangelistic meeting at this time and has about 45 attending each night. He is hopeful that he will get a number of Bible studies from this series and will have a good report before the end of the first year.

The parents of the wife of a district pastor owns land in Mabini and have donated a 650 square meter lot for a church. This will be properly titled to the Negros Occidental Conference. We are praying that a church building will be erected within a year.

From Mabini, we moved on to Lalgsan, La Castellana. We were met along the road by the local district pastor who led us to the area in which GO worker Ever Gamuza is assigned. Ever immediately took us to the Barangay Hall where we met with the Barangay Captain who welcomed us to his barangay and offered the facilities for meetings, seminars, and medical clinics. After a prayer of appreciation for the Barangay Captain, we were led to a piece of property where a church will be erected. Currently, the elder of a church some 10 Km away is working on constructing a temporary parsonage for Ever and his family. This site is 1700 square meters and is up on a hill overlooking the road leading to the barangay. It appears to be an excellent location for a church. Ever is excited to have the opportunity to open this new field for the conference.

Each of these four workers have prepared a one-year detailed strategic plan and an overall five-year plan for the work in their barangay. I was well impressed with this. Further, my observation is that each of the conference personnel are excited about the possibilities and the future work of the GO workers. Please keep each of them in your prayers that they will take the good news of the gospel to the people in their respective barangays.

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II. The Rawlings Report from Thailand

Steve, Lynette, Elyssa and Micah Rawlings <rawlings@leadingtothelight.org> April 10:

The E.O.P. 7 day Bible Camp was a huge success. Our Chiang Mai E.O.P. dorm students descended upon the new Karen Bible School property for a very enjoyable time of spiritual growth and recreation.

One of the benefits of living at an E.O.P. dorm, is the many Bible classes taught throughout the year to prepare the students for baptism.

Four of the students--Kannipa Jenjira, Nareerat, Watsana--were ready for baptism decided that they wanted to celebrate this special event in the river bordering our Karen Bible School property. Publicly, they took their turn in sharing their decision to follow Christ. It was a beautiful baptism by Pastor Phamor--the highlight of the camp. God is good.

A big THANK YOU to all of you who are sponsoring an academy student this year. We've almost reached our goal...Thanks to more donor participation, we only have 12 MORE STUDENTS that need sponsors to attend the Chiang Mai Adventist Academy for this school year.

Next month the students will return early to paint the new Chiang Mai E.O.P. boys dormitory, and work on other miscellaneous projects. They are eager to join the other children at Chiang Mai Academy when school starts on May 18.

What makes this education exceptional you may ask? It's not only being able to attend a Christian academy, but by living at an E.O.P. dorm, the children are included as part of the family and enjoy:

- Morning and evening "family" worships. Helping with chores. Participating in community outreach and evangelism.

We are looking forward to another great school year.

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III. Latest Report from Laos

Khamsay Phetchareun <khamsay@apiu.edu> April 16:

I would like to give you a report on our water-sanitation project at Mok Jong Village, Ou District, Luang Prabang Province, Laos. The first phase of the project has just completed and the water is now flowing strongly and plentifully. There is also a progress report on Thunwa as well.
I am returning to Laos on April 21 and will be there till May 17. There are many activities planned for this trip, including training, teaching, meetings, visiting, and Bible conference. We will also visit Mok Jong to implement the phase 2 and 3 of the project. As I see it, our water-sanitation project is able to preach the gospel message loud and clear and continue to do so nonstop even when we are sleeping and resting. I am saying this because other projects like this are still available in Laos.

You can personally get involved, which will be excited, or let us do it for you. The blessings will be yours. The Lord has opened up opportunities in Laos. But, we still lack labourers and funds. Please pray for us. So, together we can finish God’s work and save more for the kingdom. Amen.

IV. Mission Story -- China
from the Office of Adventist Mission

This Quarter a part of the 13th Sabbath Offering is going to China to help provide more places of worship.

"A Divine Encounter
Taking her 6-year old son by the hand, Tang Yue didn't expect anything unusual to happen as she walked from her home to the nearby market. Little did she know that she was about to experience a divine encounter.

Tang Yue believed in God, and on Sundays she met together with other Christian believers. But at the moment her thoughts were centered on what she needed to get at the market. As she walked down the street, two kind-looking men approached her and stopped.

"You know," said one, 'keeping Sunday is not from the Bible.' He held up a Bible and showed the astonished Tang Yue texts regarding the seventh-day Sabbath. Encouraging her to see for herself, the other man told her, 'You can search the Internet and see what day is really the Sabbath day.'

Then the two men concluded their brief presentation by telling Tang Yue, 'Jesus came to this world, and the Saturday church is really the church of God.' Then as quickly as they came, the two men disappeared into the crowd.

"Astonished at this strange, brief meeting, Tang Yue went home and began searching the Internet for answers to the questions the stranger had raised.

To her surprise, she came across an amazing Web site in Chinese that had answers to the questions, including clear answers about the seventh-day Saturday being God's true Sabbath. The Web site also offered easy-to-follow Bible studies. Learning that the Web site was from a Seventh-day Adventist ministry, she wondered if there might be a Seventh-day Adventist church that she could visit.

During another Internet search, Tang Yue was happy to learn that there was an Adventist church in her city and she decided to visit. 'Surely there must be something special about the church,' she thought to herself.

Finding her way to the church the following Sabbath, she looked for the two men who had approached her on the street but she didn't see them; in fact she never saw them again.

But she kept returning to the Adventist church and believes that she has found her spiritual home. 'This church is teaching very closely to the Bible,' says Tang Yue. 'It's very different from the Sunday church. I believe that what the Adventists are teaching is the truth and Jesus is coming soon.'

Tang Yue continues to worship regularly with the Seventh-day Adventists who meet together in an apartment within a city in central China."

V. Luxury Travel in Thailand
by Joseph Thea, in April Adventist Frontier Magazine

"It was just before Christmas and I had to take a friend to the consulate and back. The trip was supposed to take a single day, but that wasn't God’s plan.

"We arrived at the consulate and told our problem to the official. The neighboring country would not allow my friend to re-enter due to a missing paper. The official referred us to a larger consulate north of our city, a 14 hour trip we hadn't planned for. That's where I became acquainted with the Tai-Kadia bus system, something I still deeply enjoy.

"The first part of our trip was uneventful, but the second part was more interesting. At one stop we had to transfer to a different bus. As we walked up the bus steps, I noticed something odd--tires. Not your everyday car tires, but huge truck tires filled the entire back half of the bus, perfuming the air with their rubbery scent. It ended up being a blessing because instead of being packed in with many people, we got to stretch out and put our feet up on the nice big tire footrests, making the hours of travel much more pleasant."
"Thankfully the trip was a success and my friend was able to return to the neighboring county with the right papers. On a different trip, I shared a bus with another odd cargo—dozens of large 50-lb bags of noodles! Piled high in the aisle and on empty seats, the bags proved to be wonderful pillows for the next 16 hours as we snoozed and watched the Tai-Kardai fields go by. It was like traveling in a luxury 'sleeper' bus (what they call buses with cots instead of regular seats).

Okay, maybe not luxury, but what do you expect for $10?

"As we work among the Tai-Kardai, I'm thankful for the evidences I see that God cares for us, even providing us with noodles for pillows and tires for footrests.

VI. Death of Andrew Evan Pearce

from Andrews University's Winter FOCUS magazine:


"Andrew was born April 10, 1971, in Grants Pass, Oregon. He attended Blum Elementary, Jefferson Academy, Chisholm Trail Academy, Southwestern Adventist University and Andrews University.

"He was a pastor in several churches in Oklahoma, Texas, Delaware and Maryland. At the time of his death he was teaching theology at Naga View Adventist College in the Philippines.

"Andrew truly served the Lord in a very unselfish way. His kindness touched many lives; we won't know until we get to heaven how many lives.

"He is survived by his wife, Cecile Mendosa Pearce, children Mia, Adiel and Aaron of the Philippines, and Cherish Pearce of Cleburne, Texas. . . ."