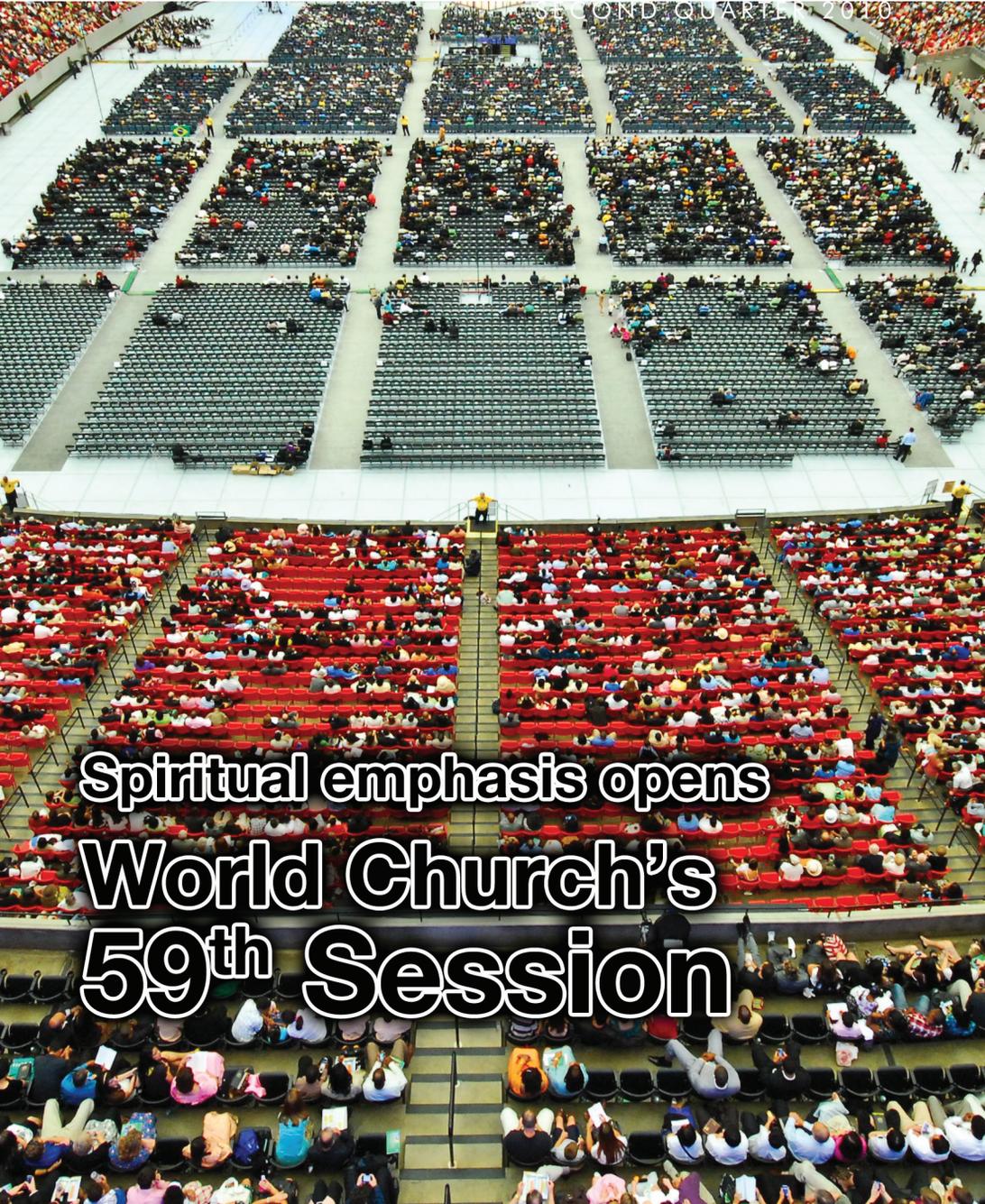


SOUTHERN ASIA-PACIFIC

OUTLOOK

SECOND QUARTER 2020



Spiritual emphasis opens World Church's 59th Session

outlook

SECOND QUARTER 2010

Southern Asia-Pacific Division

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COVER PHOTO by Robert East/Adventist News Network
ERRATUM: Cover photo of last issue was taken by RICHELLE ELISAN instead of Malou Escasa. Our apologies.

OUR YOUTH, OUR HOPE

IN HIGH SCHOOL, our teacher in Philippine Literature required us to memorize the 9-stanza poem entitled, “To the Filipino Youth” by Dr Jose P Rizal, the Philippine’s national hero. And in Rizal 1 in college, I had committed to heart what the poem really meant. But just like his other poem, “My Last Farewell,” now I can only recall the first two stanzas. And it runs:

*Unfold, oh timid flower! Lift up your radiant brow,
This day, Youth of my native strand!
Your abounding talents show
Resplendently and grand,
Fair hope of my Motherland!*

*Soar high, oh genius great,
And with noble thoughts fill their mind;
The honor’s glorious seat,
May their virgin mind fly and find
More rapidly than the wind.*

I heard Rizal challenging me at 13, barely shying out from childhood, 47 years ago; directing me to see the vast possibilities before me. “Lift up your radiant brow” he called out, pointing to the landscape that was borne naked before my eyes.

My strength surged within! “This day.” Yes, then, I told myself to engage on what a youth inherently has to perform: unleashing the “abounding talents...resplendently and grand,” to be the “fair hope of my Motherland!”

My dear youths, your talents abound. These are ‘givens’ in your search for meanings in life. And to you rest humanity’s hope beyond the borders of the present.

Today, barely three weeks to the world session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, I foresee a stronger body of youth that will stand in the august halls to speak on behalf of the church. It’s time to find them steering the wheel that maneuvers the church into the rough waves of postmodernism. Presumably, the youths have been nurtured into these experiences at their home churches by entrusting them the reins of leadership. Or else, we find them wanting in skills; worse, waning in moral issues.

Their talents are “resplendent and grand.” True. They are the “fair hope” of the church! They are the church’s strength “because the word of God abides in [them]” (1 John 2:14). They will be great, but only when “noble thoughts fill their mind.” They can soar high as eagles.

“Soar high,” our youth, our hope; bid farewell to your “timidity” and begin radiating God’s brilliance to a world apparently losing its grip on true morality. Hold fast to the “calling of God.” The Lord wants you to do greater things for the church—your church and mine.



Indonesia Publishing House *celebrates* 100 years of ministry

TO WITHSTAND THE challenges of the publishing ministry for 100 years in the largest Muslim country of the world is a feat in the Adventist church worldwide. The Indonesia Publishing House (IPH) on May 16 turned a century old and, during this time, committed itself to “keeping the vision alive.”

While the present publishing facility was only established in 1954, the publishing work began in 1910 with the arrival of Adventist missionary Ralph Waldo Munson in Sukabumi, Indonesia. He was later assisted by a young man named Immanuel Siregar.

Several milestones achieved by the IPH were recalled through a video presentation that particularly highlighted the history of the publishing work when it first published in 1910 the Malay Truth Messenger (*Utusan Kebenaran Melayu*) by the Java Mission Press, IPH’s predecessor.

Five years after 1910, the press was relocated from Sukabumi to Batavia (now Jakarta), then to Singapore, until it was moved back to Bandung in Indonesia in 1929 where the IPH now stands.

From the start of Adventist work in Indonesia, literature played a vital part in expanding the church’s ministries of winning people to God’s kingdom. Rising from the use of hand press machines to more modern printing equipment, IPH managed its resources well. And IPH continues to supply the need of the church for literature that goes to its members and to the public.

One highlight of the celebration was the launching of the book, “Ketika Sang Pencipta Berkata Ingatlah,” written by Mark Finley. Its first 110,000 copies are now ready for distribution by church members to their community. At this launching, Pastor Ven Bermudez, publishing director for the church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SDD), led a special prayer for this publication. [Bruce Sumendap/AND]

Women Ministries and HEALTH CONGRESS

THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH in northern Philippines (NPUC) conducted a health and women ministries' congress, April 22-26, at the church headquarters in the mountain province (MPM), Baguio City, in order to address what the World Health Organization in their 2008 White Paper reported.

The report stated that the health of women creates a tremendous impact on the health and stability of the family, prosperity of the church as well as the sustainability and development of the society.

In this congress, the church sought to give specific health preventions and interventions to help women achieve optimum health. Approximately 300 women from the region's territory learned about approaches and strategies in promoting health and empowering women toward a healthy cause. The theme "Excellence in Women's Health" gave emphasis on the quality of health of women as they are the life, the guardian of respect, the honor of the family, the torchbearer of our society, and the epitome and embodiment of morality.

Women's health congress, to p 12



photo courtesy of north philippine union conference

Preacher's Kids GO FOR RETREAT

HAS ONE EVER WONDERED that a preacher's kid (PK) copes with multiple problems that pertain to his or her life? True, indeed! And a retreat with fellow PKs allows them to find solace, comfort, and counsel with one another.

A total of 140 preachers' kids (PKs) representing several institutions in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in northern Philippines (NPUC) converged in Baguio City, occupying the multi-purpose hall of the mission headquarters (MPM), May 14-16.

This special event enabled these preachers' children to experience a grand time with fellow kids, and most of all, with Christ. All six objectives were believed met. These objectives were: experience an encounter with Christ, develop leadership potentials in in-reach and out-reach activities, renew love for the ministry with their parents,

form a deeper connection with fellow PKs, encourage the development of support systems among themselves, and have a deeper understanding of one's sexuality and relationships with others.

Unconventional activities were introduced to them, such as participating in panel discussions that touched on hot issues relevant to the life of a preacher's kid, audiovisual reports from past PK conventions, a homecoming program, fun and games, talents show, and visits to remarkable places in Baguio, and the activity designed by the Great Adventure for Christ team.

Myanmar church *initiates* writers' training workshop

NATIONAL LITERATURE award winner author Win Htut Aung; Daw Day Wi Thant Zin, editor-in-chief of Aung Pin Lei Magazine; Daw Moe Moe Hsam of the Voice of Myanmar Radio; and Reverend U Mya Thoung, a Christian author, were the resource persons at a writers' training workshop conducted by the communication department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Myanmar (MYUM), April 6-7, at the Yangon Adventist Seminary hall.

photo courtesy of myanmar union mission



mittee. He addressed the participants stating that "media plays vital role in spreading the gospel" to the world. He

has also commended the communication personnel for hard work in the communication ministry.

"News writing, media development, introduction to Web development and other topics were covered

Twenty-eight trainees from the different mission fields in the country, educational institutions, and Adventist World Radio Myanmar attended the training workshop.

The keynote message was delivered by Pastor Memory Tun, MYUM secretary and chairman of the Communication Com-

mitted in the training. And the topics have created impact to us and introduced to skills we can use to further our ministry." This was how Po Po Sit Lwin, a teacher from Southeast Mission Field, interpreted the enthusiasm seen from the faces of the participants. [Myo Chan]



photo courtesy of myanmar union mission

Healthy lifestyle campaign conducted in Myanmar

BOTH ADVENTIST CHURCH members and non-members have one need in common—better health—and this can be done by maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The health ministries department of the Adventist church in Myanmar (MYUM) provided information to the public on this needed lifestyle, May 6-10, as it conducted a health and lifestyle campaign in Myitkyina, the capital of Kachin State, in the northern part of Myanmar.

Health examinations were conducted to 100 people in Mankrine, a district within the venue, and another 155 people were attended to at the Wuyan Adventist Seminary.

This good gesture from the Adventist church was welcomed by the community. “We are grateful for the services provided by the Adven-

tist church and we hope the team visits us again and also to other places for the betterment of our community,” said local residents.

During the event, attendees were heard to say they were surprised at knowing that the lectures and demonstrations were “Bible-based.”

“Such assessment and acceptance of the process was interesting and has given us the inspiration to continue our mission to effect change to the health profile of the community,” said members of the team.

Organized by Dr Htwe Lay, MYUM health ministries director, the campaign generated lots of help from a team of volunteers. [Myo Chan]

SAUM president retires, SSD executive secretary accepts presidency

PASTOR RONALD W TOWNEND ends his 42 years of faithful service to the church, eight years of which as president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Southeast Asia region (SAUM), due to retirement.

“I have served my best years in this multi-cultural region of seven countries that I have learned to love so much—its people, its culture, its languages, and its multi-religious affiliation,” said Pastor Townend, during the Midyear Session of the Executive Committee of the Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD), May 4-5. Pastor Townend will go home to Australia, his country, on August 1.

He was honored by his colleagues of eight years who represented the 18 countries under the territory of SSD. A plaque of appreciation was awarded him by the leadership of SSD; and a Resolution of Appreciation to him and his wife was unanimously voted by the delegates at session held on May 5.

Immediately after the announcement of Pastor Townend’s retirement, the Committee chose from the many nominated names a new President to take his place. Rising out of eight nominees, Pastor Joshua W Mok, executive secretary for barely three years at SSD, was elected to take the vacated post.

Pastor Mok, who has been associated with Pastor Townend before assuming his current post as executive secretary of SSD,

brings to his new post a response to the desire of the field for a president who comes from their own region—southeast Asia, he being a Malaysian though Australian by citizenship.

In a casual conversation with the AND and Outlook editor, Pastor Mok admitted it would be a big challenge to meet the expectations of his fellow southeast Asians in a multi-cultural setting. Southeast Asia consists of Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, and Vietnam.

“If I were to choose, staying at my present position would be less demanding as I have been doing this function many years. The presidency of the Church in Southeast Asia poses greater challenges but I am willing, by God’s grace, to lead out in this venture for the church and for the Lord,” said Pastor Mok.

His colleagues at SSD were surprised by this new development and were sad at bidding farewell to a faithful co-worker and officer, but were appreciative of Pastor Mok’s acceptance of the challenging role. Pastor Mok will assume his new post after the 59th world session of the Adventist Church in Atlanta, Georgia in July of this year. [JC Catolico]

The congress started with the participants sporting their color-coded tee shirts as they marched through the hall. Keynoting the event was Pastor Abraham Carpena, health ministries director for the southern Asia-pacific region (SSD) while Ms Esther Daquila, NPUC Women Ministries, welcomed the delegates.

Experts in their disciplines: nutrition, obstetrics and gynecology, psychology, and public health, the lecturers identified, critically analyzed, and suggested best practices and new strategies to enhance women's health. The participants were divided into four groups, taking turns discussing how they can beat menopausal blues. They were also trained how to make homemade charcoal and vegetable poultice, cayenne drops, etc. Then suggestions were given on how they can conduct health programs in their own churches.

A favorite during the event was the CHATROOM experience, where the ladies each holding a booklet bearing different questions milled around to meet new acquaintances and discuss different aspects of women's life. Required to meet at least 20 new friends, the ladies and their new friends were asked to sign up with their contact numbers. This would later enable them to exchange notes and pleasantries after the convention.

A special vespers presentation was

prepared with the theme "Proclaiming God's Grace and Healing." Women from different walks of life gave testimonies of how they broke free from struggles and sufferings. One had an abusive husband, another death in the family; and two talked about how they were given a second life after near-death experiences. All of them, however, testified that Jesus and Him alone was their help in breaking free from the bondage of sin, strife, and suffering, to finally enjoy God's grace and healing.

The singing and Bible reading made the Sabbath special. Ms Helen B Gulfan, SSD WM director, inspired the delegates with her powerful message. "Go out of your shells," challenged Gulfan, and "share the wonderful message of Jesus through yourself by practicing a healthy lifestyle."

At the event, they took advantage of the free medical examination: cholesterol level, blood sugar, and uric acid; urinalysis and stool examinations. While cancer detection was one of the dreaded examinations given, a day after the health examination were done results showed that majority had clear approval of good health while a few revealed health problems.

The women committed themselves to caring for their health by practicing a healthy lifestyle and to being advocates themselves as they impart their knowledge to their family, church and community. [Lhalaine Ciron Alfanos]

A banquet designed to affirm PKs' love and gratitude to their parents for their support was held.

At the beginning of the retreat, May 14, Pastor Abner Roque, NPUC president, expounded this event's theme: "You & I: Connecting Together in Christ" while Dr Francisco Gayoba, NPUC ministerial secretary, challenged the PKs during his worship service message on Sabbath, May 15, "You and I: Upholding My Father's Ministry."

Some adult preachers' kids who followed in their parents' footsteps as church workers served as lecturers. Nerilyn Ann Roque Beratio and May Villosso-Rom, music instructors at the Adventist University of the Philippines, talked on Song Leadership; Pastor Glenn Lagabon, guidance counselor at Manila Adventist Medical Center (MAMC), gave a devotional message; and Pastor Mark Monreal, head of the MAMC pastoral Care Services, discussed the topic on Sexuality for younger men. Jun Bautista, Lani Malabad, and Pastor Lester Lagabon moderated the discussions on sexuality.

Also present were Leomer Batulayan, one of the leaders of The Great Adventure for Christ, and Pastor Jesse Acosta Jr. leading out in the reading of the PK affirmation and dedicatory prayer.

Other lecturers on sexuality issues were Arlene Gayoba, officer of the MAMC Nursing Service Coaching and Development Office; Dr Evelyn Almocera, AIIAS professor and physician; and Pastor Eliezer Fajardo, MAMC chaplain.

Pastors Hermogenes Villanueva, president of the Church in South Central Luzon (SCLC), delivered the early Sabbath morning devotional while Pastor Nephtali Manez, NPUC executive secretary led in the commitment ceremony.

"We are hoping and praying that these unique experiences of the PKs will provide them a broader outlook as they search for meanings in life, being special children of the royal priesthood of believers," concluded the organizers.

Other departments who gave a hand in the success of these retreat for the preachers' kids included Shepherdess International, youth, health, women's ministries, and children and family ministries. [Ellen V Roque]



photo courtesy of north philippine union conference

The waiting is Worth

by Jusuf Kalengkongan

AFTER GRADUATING with a Master's in Public Health, I purposed in my heart to start working for the church; and I went back to Indonesia hoping to find work in Adventist institutions. Two years after graduation, though, I was still waiting for a positive reply to my applications.

I was running out of options because I greatly needed income for myself and to build on the plan of starting a business in Bunaken, an Island resort. The bombing of Bali in early 2005 posed a threat to my plans. Worry was the first and last thing that occupied my mind. And it was tough, but prayer buoyed my spirit up. I knew God had something in store for me.

Yes, the Bali bombing ruined my plans. Tourism failed in Bali, and evidently would affect resorts in the surrounding islands. I almost gave up. I told the Lord in prayer that I want to serve His people whether it is directly under the church or through a humanitarian organization. And God answered my prayer: I got a job in Bandah Aceh under CARE International and also worked in affected areas in the Jogjakarta earthquake with the USAID/JHUCCP where 5000 lives were lost. On these work opportunities with charity organizations, I developed good relations with people in the area which made them

aware about the Adventist Church. It was during this humanitarian work that I met friends with good intentions to do more for the needy.

I finally understood why God wanted me to wait, because in 2007 I landed a job working for the poor and marginalized people in Papua under Oxfam GB as a Program Manager. Although the company is not religion-based, I put my faith on every task and circumstance. I understood that this was where God wanted me and had to do my best for Him taking every opportunity of sharing His love to the people around.

If I were to advise young Christians like me who would go through challenging and trying times in life, I would share my secret: always putting God as the center of my life. God has never forsaken me. Let's wait on the Lord. The waiting is worth. He always has something in store for the patient and the trusting son or daughter.

Reflection of a single Mother

BY FAITH BAYOT

REALIZATION

Tears welled up as I stared blankly at the pregnancy test stick I held; there was no denying, "I am pregnant!" A barrage of thoughts battered my mind... me, getting pregnant out of wedlock was something I never imagined; so did my parents. What am I going to do? Would my parents be considerate of me? What would other people think of me and my family? How about fellow church members who knew our family, would they be considerate or would they think badly of me? Or worse, perhaps, would they question how my parents raised me to end up like this? But what could one expect from a troubled teenager who now biologically bears an offspring.

There were two opposing paths: lose it or on with it.

I weighed each path, attempting to extract a decision on which to tread. In one path, I lose it and no one would know and I would save my face; problem solved. But conscience tells me that taking an innocent life makes me a murderer. If I continue to bear what is in my womb, shame, condemnation, and a heavily wrecked reputation definitely becomes mine. I struggled. My feeble mind was in limbo.

SUBMISSION

I woke up somewhat weakened, perhaps I cried myself to sleep. Bleary, my eyes wandered, and so I slowly fixed my gaze on the book on the top drawer; it was my NIV Bible. I gently picked it up and randomly split it open. The immediate verse I saw was Isaiah 1:18 that reads "'Come now, let us reason together,' says the LORD. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.'" I paused and pondered: this verse somehow assures me that I am not a hopeless case so I took a deep breath, my head up and closed the Bible. In a little while I opened

it again. This time, my eyes rested on 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." I felt convicted that, all of a sudden, I burst into tears. This confirmed that I, indeed, am not a hopeless case; what I needed was to admit that I had done wrong, no excuses and no one was to blame but me. There is no other way; I have to face the consequence of my actions.

With soft sobs, I knelt and submitted myself before the mercy seat of God, asked forgiveness and guidance.

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DECISION

After seeking God's guidance, my decision was set; I am going to give birth to this child. I no longer care what others think or say of me. People, I know, may be unforgiving, but God is simply the opposite. He is "faithful and just to forgive" if we come to Him with a contrite heart.

"With renewed courage, I finally decided to tell my parents of the situation at hand. So there I was, waiting for the right moment, my heart felt like it was stuck pounding in my throat. I struggled to find the right words.

Maintaining a good composure, I approached my parents and told them everything they needed to know. Shock perhaps was an understatement of their initial reaction, but I felt relieved however by their display of love and affection. I am indeed blessed with a family who truly loves me and are considerate when I falter.

DAMNATION

Physical changes eventually became apparent as my womb increased in size bearing the developing child within. When I went to church for worship, I heard whispers and at times even vulgar remarks of my condition. Some looked at me with searing eyes penetrating deep into my soul and burning it with "fire and brimstone."

The experience enabled me to filter those who truly cared and loved me. I was able to distinguish mere acquaintances from real friends but there was a time when I felt like bringing my life to a halt; the burden was just too much to bear as though I was "writhing in anguish and pain."

Like a shimmering light in the dark and lonely cavern of despair I stumbled upon the Epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians saying, "No test or temptation that comes your way is beyond the course of what others have had to face. All you need to remember is that God will never let you down; he'll never let you be pushed past your limit; he'll

always be there to help you come through it" (1 Corinthians 10:13, The Message).

Yes, I've seen the light and it was in this premise that with each passing day, I pressed on; moving forward with certainty that God would walk me through this trough of my life.

JUBILATION

Time flew fast like vapor dissipated into thin air. I have reached the full term of my pregnancy. Grasping for breath I struggled while I was being rushed to the hospital; I was in labor and in a lot of stress. Adding more stress was being nervous and excited of what was to become of me, soon a full-fledged mother.

Screams of excruciating pain filled the delivery room that perhaps even reverberated into the hallway. There was a moment of silence then a crying voice filled the room. It was like music to my ears; it was a cry that marked the beginning of a new life for both the new born and me. For the very first time, I shed tears of unfathomable joy cuddling the little angel to my bosom.

It pained my heart when the nurse took my little angel from me to the nursery for the eager grandparents to see.

CONCLUSION

I have to admit that raising a child is not an easy task and neither can it hone oneself to be a good mother. As though looking at the window pane of the past, I now understand the dos and don'ts my mother used to tell me; her words of wisdom became significant now. With a grin, I went outside of my humble abode where the warm summer wind touched my skin as I gazed upon the once verdant grass. Opening my lungs, I deeply breathe in: this is the present--my moment, and I look forward to a bright future for my little angel and me.

It excites me that my little angel will attend first grade at the AIIAS Junior Academy when school starts in June, but at

the same time, worries me a bit knowing it will financially be challenging for me. And that set me to thinking: In life every

step we take is always strewn with lots of trials. And as we trek life's pathway, God is always there to carry us through.

FAITH BAYOT resides in Silang, Cavite, Philippines with her family.

East Indonesia communication directors ready for TV production

FOR SOME YEARS the Adventist Communicators of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in East Indonesia (EIUC) had wanted to improve their skills for video production. The Communication Department of EIUC, holding on to this desire, organized a 3-day seminar that covered topics such as news writing, scriptwriting, and video production.

The seminar was held at the headquarters of EIUC in Manado, Indonesia, March 22-24, and was attended by 32 participants consisting of field communication directors, office secretaries, and lay leaders.

“We were happy for the lectures we’ve been introduced to but we long for that day when we will do production ourselves,” said Pastor Novry Kaumpungan, EIUC communication director.

“We will schedule actual production with the help of Hope Channel team from the Philippines,” said Dr Jonathan C. Catolico, communication director for the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD), in response to the request of the participants to get involved with real production activities as they prepare programs for the newly-established Hope Channel Indonesia. Dr Catolico was among the three presenters who came to conduct the said seminar. The two others were Jose F Sarsoza, Jr, vice president for editorial services of the Philippine Publishing House; and Welsie V dela Cruz, SSD communication assistant for video production. [Seminar Participants]

Administrators' spouses *hold retreat*

CHURCH ADMINISTRATION IS no easy task. Many administrators lose a great portion of their time from home responsibilities because of the demands their functions call, and their wives take these left-out role of their husbands in the home. More than that, their being spouses of administrators seem to occupy a higher level of regard as perceived by their husbands' subordinates or even church members. These and many more make these wives vulnerable to physical and emotional breakdowns. Therefore, 37 wives of administrators of hospital, college, and church offices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in east Indonesia (EIUC), considered it a treat as they gathered together for a 5-day retreat, March 17-21, at the Hotel Sedona, in Manado, North Sulawesi, Indonesia.

photo courtesy of east indonesia union conference

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Themed “Renewed by God’s Love,” the retreat was held through the initiative of Ms Helen B Gulfan, director for the Shepherdess International (SI) in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD). Knowing the participants’ concerns, Ms Gulfan invited presenters who addressed various issues and needs that helped alleviate the above concerns.

Ms Sharon Cress, SI coordinator from the world church (GC), in keynoting the retreat, dealt on the topic “Leaders Living Together.” She pointed out that “headship is an assignment while leadership is a gift.” She further said that “both husband and wife may be gifted with leadership but respect and love find their proper places in the home.”

On several instances, an administrator’s wife is likened to a pressure cooker that cooks tough food faster, hence, much is expected from her beyond her usual self. The problem, though, rests on her being less appreciated and accepted which subsequently puts her life at risk. “Wives, Christ commends you. He provides the strength to make you able to cope with the grinds of daily life,” Ms Gulfan assured the participants.

“The wives are often unappreciated,” said Dr Armand Fabella, a clinical psychology professor at the Adventist University of the Philippines, and one of the presenters. “But building up self-affirmation derivable from Jesus’ commendation to the seven churches of Revelation buoys your spirit.” He further noted that “wives should take the honor and appreciation their husbands received as theirs as well.” This, he added, is the essence of unity in the home.

In one of the sessions, Ms Poppy Lubis, SI coordinator of the church in west Indonesia (WIUM), discussed the issue of family finance. She said that right management of

finance spells out joy in the family as it enables it to be used as a powerful instrument to glorify God.

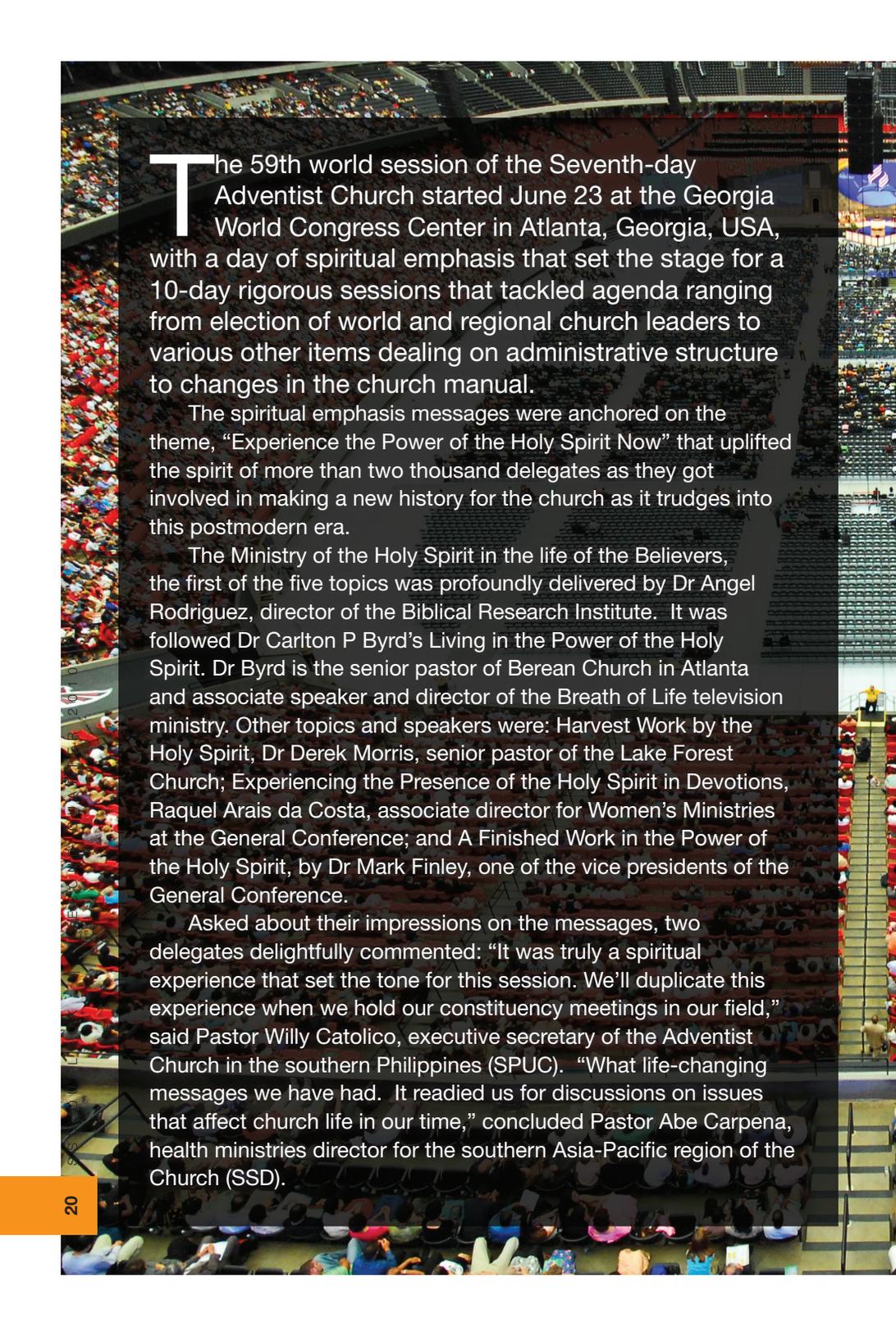
On Friday evening, all participants went for a special celebration of the Sabbath, the Jewish way. Called Kiddush, the Sabbath evening meal was held, with Pastor Noldy Sakul, president of EIUC, taking the role as Patriarch and leading out in the commemoration.

In Tomohon, the Sabbath day church service was held with Sharon Cress as speaker. She exhorted the ladies with Jesus’ declaration, “I know the plans I have for you ... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11).

In the afternoon of Sabbath, testimonies were heard from participants. Dubbed “Joys and Challenges,” women talked about personal experiences that were reflective of their reactions to calls, assignments, work, and challenges. At this moment, they offered prayer for each other as they continue to face the challenges of their role.

One of the ladies voiced out: “Tomorrow we will be going back to the reality of our daily life and service, but I believe we have gotten the stamina to be willing and ready to be hurt by criticisms from fellow ministerial spouses and a lot others. Now it’s time to embrace each other in prayer and resolve to exhort each other.”

One of the highlights of the event was a one-day visit to Bukit Kasih Hill. And the walk up and down the 3000 steps leading to Bukit Kasih was a test of endurance but exciting. On the hill, the ladies had the opportunity to dip their weary feet on a warm sulfuric spring that also warmed their bodies from the rainy, cold and windy hours. [Novry Kaumpungan/AND]



The 59th world session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church started June 23 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, with a day of spiritual emphasis that set the stage for a 10-day rigorous sessions that tackled agenda ranging from election of world and regional church leaders to various other items dealing on administrative structure to changes in the church manual.

The spiritual emphasis messages were anchored on the theme, “Experience the Power of the Holy Spirit Now” that uplifted the spirit of more than two thousand delegates as they got involved in making a new history for the church as it trudges into this postmodern era.

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Believers, the first of the five topics was profoundly delivered by Dr Angel Rodriguez, director of the Biblical Research Institute. It was followed Dr Carlton P Byrd’s Living in the Power of the Holy Spirit. Dr Byrd is the senior pastor of Berean Church in Atlanta and associate speaker and director of the Breath of Life television ministry. Other topics and speakers were: Harvest Work by the Holy Spirit, Dr Derek Morris, senior pastor of the Lake Forest Church; Experiencing the Presence of the Holy Spirit in Devotions, Raquel Arais da Costa, associate director for Women’s Ministries at the General Conference; and A Finished Work in the Power of the Holy Spirit, by Dr Mark Finley, one of the vice presidents of the General Conference.

Asked about their impressions on the messages, two delegates delightfully commented: “It was truly a spiritual experience that set the tone for this session. We’ll duplicate this experience when we hold our constituency meetings in our field,” said Pastor Willy Catolico, executive secretary of the Adventist Church in the southern Philippines (SPUC). “What life-changing messages we have had. It readied us for discussions on issues that affect church life in our time,” concluded Pastor Abe Carpena, health ministries director for the southern Asia-Pacific region of the Church (SSD).



Spiritual emphasis opens World Church's 59th Session

by Jonathan Catolico
photo by Robert East/Adventist News Network

SSD president, treasurer get fresh mandate, secretary named

PASTOR ALBERTO C GULFAN, JR, on Sunday, June 27, was elected president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the southern Asia-Pacific region (SSD) by the 2,410 regular delegates to the 59th General Conference Session of Seventh-day Adventists here in Atlanta, Georgia, along with the presidents of the other 12 regions of the world field.

A dedicated administrator and evangelist, having conducted several evangelistic meetings every year, Pastor Gulfan has been president of SSD since 2003. He is committed to vigorously pursuing evangelistic programs of the church in the next five years with the support of all church organizations and departments. Since he assumed his post, he has encouraged his fellow officers and associates and the directors of departments to conduct at least one evangelistic meeting each year. His leadership style has united his constituents in the region.

On Monday, June 12, after the 246 members of the nominating committee submitted the names of Pastor Samuel Saw and Mr Keith Heinrich as secretary and treasurer, respectively, the delegates voted to confirm the said nominations.

Pastor Samuel, a Burmese by blood and married to a Thai, has served Thailand Adventist Mission as pastor and seven years as executive secretary; and for the last one and half years served as ministerial secretary of the Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM), which is based in Singapore. Pastor Samuel takes the post vacated by Pastor Joshua W Mok, who accepted his appointment as president of SAUM. Asked by this writer how he felt being elected to the post, he said that he felt “so unworthy of the calling but by God’s grace and through the help of veteran colleagues I will be able to carry out the sacred task the church has assigned me to perform.”

Mr Heinrich, on the one hand, has been the SSD treasurer since 2005. With his able financial management skills, SSD has been consistently assisting the eight unions, two attached missions, and one field with financial allocations. He also has soft hearts for big projects within the division territory, foremost of which is the Hope Channel Philippines which is slated to have television coverage Philippine-wide soon. [Jonathan C Catolico]

SSD associate officers and directors elected

TWO DAYS to the end of the 59th General Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the 154 regular delegates of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) completed its work of electing associate officers, department directors and associates.

Those elected to serve the 18-country territory of SSD for the next five years were:

Johnny Lubis—Vice President for Administration
Sergie Ferrer—Undertreasurer
Moldy Mambu—Associate Treasurer
Kevin Costelo—Associate Treasurer
Gary Rustad—Associate Secretary, until January 2011
Houtman Sinaga—Ministerial Association Secretary
James Brauer—Adventist Mission Director
Wendell Mandolang—Stewardship/Trust Services Director
Jonathan C Catolico—Communication/PARL Director
Leonardo R Asoy—Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Director
Miriam Andres—Children/Family Ministries Director
Helen B Gulfan—Women Ministers/Shepherdess International Director
Vivencio Bermudez—Publishing Ministries/Spirit of Prophecy Director
Abraham T Carpena—Health Ministries Director
Jobbie Yabut—Adventist Youth Ministries Director
Lawrence Domingo—Education Director
Danny Rantung—Education Associate Director
Michael Bankhead—Information Technology Director
Rufo Gasapo—Adventist Health Care Director

In this election, a vice-president for administration has been added as a new position while the Philanthropic Services Department has been added as an additional responsibility in the Trust Services Department.

The retirement of Ms Thelma Selerio necessitated the appointment of a new director in the Adventist Health Care, while the vacancy brought about by the election of Dr Mike Lekic to the position of associate director of education for the General Conference of the World Church (GC) has elevated Dr Domingo to the directorship while a new associate in that department, Dr Rantung, was elected.

[Jonathan C Catolico]

Matthew — Indonesian

24:15-41

15Nabi Daniel telah mengatakan tentang, "Hal yang jahat yang menghancurkan." Kamu akan melihat hal itu di Bait Suci. Setiap orang yang membaca kitab Daniel harus mengerti artinya. 16Orang yang tinggal di Yudea harus lari ke gunung. 17Orang yang ada di

'Matahari akan menjadi gelap dan bulan tidak akan bersinar. Bintang-bintang akan jatuh dan segala sesuatu di langit akan berubah.'

30Pada saat itu tanda akan ada di langit yang menunjukkan Anak Manusia. Kemudian bumi akan menata ulang dan manusia datang

Follow
BIBLE

TRAVELING BIBLE ENDS WORLD TREK AT 59TH GC SESSION IN ATLANTA

In 2008 in Manila, Philippines, the hardbound 12-by-18 inch Bible started its journey around the world as the Seventh-day Adventist Church launched the Bible study initiative “Follow the Bible,” and on Thursday, June 23, it ended its 20-month trek at the opening of 56th General Conference Session in Atlanta, Georgia.

With representatives of the 13 world regions representing all nations of the world, the Bible was passed on to the hands of all representatives until it reached the hands of the five representatives of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) led by Dr Jonathan C Catolico, “Follow the Bible” coordinator of SSD and representing the Philippines, who was the last to receive the Bible, and handed it to Pastor Mark Finley in the presence of the church’s world president, Dr Jan Paulsen.

All presidents of the 13 world divisions, just as they did in Manila at the start of Bible’s journey, laid their hands on the Bible as prayer was of-

fered by Pastor Finley.

The official Session *Update* on June 24 reported that the initiative was launched to “promote Bible study in the community and among its members, following studies suggesting that only about half of members regularly study the Scriptures.”

Update further reported that the “Bible has been featured in stadium events, rallies, and parades in nearly 130 countries. It has been held by governors, tribal chiefs, presidents, kings and queens.”

In his message, Pastor Finley, General Conference vice president, said that the initiative has “brought Adventists around the world together.”

PROFILE

photo: ramhelyn gay deles



An interview with Jobbie Yabut (JBY), Youth Ministries director of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division.

The youngest department director of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division sits down with OUTLOOK to share what he is passionate about. He talks of his great responsibility, his family and says “no one can be too old to serve God.”

OUTLOOK: What joy is there in serving the Lord in the youth department?

JBY: My passion for the youth gives me joy in serving the Lord in the department; much more when such leadership influences young people to follow the Lord.

OUTLOOK: How long have you been working closely with the youth in the Adventist church? Do you still see yourself involved with youth activities 10 or 15 years from now?

JBY: My youth ministry started in high school when I was elected Pathfinder director in our church. I took the challenge of training young people for leadership since then.

I would love to involve myself in the youth ministry for as long as my strength serves.

OUTLOOK: What is your biggest task in the youth department?

JBY: I lead the youth in a region of 18 countries with a diversity of cultures. Dealing with young people is nothing close to mundane. It is



“Because
of my
children,
I under-
stand
young
people
better.”

a challenging task to mobilize their potentials and maximize their abilities for an effective leadership. I want them to be proud being an Adventist youth.

OUTLOOK: You are observed to spend quality time with your wife and kids. Has your family bond been influential in the culture of your work? Is raising three teenage kids helpful in understanding young people and the purpose of your work?

JBY: My ministry won't go this far if not for my family and God's guidance. In fact, my family is the backbone of my ministry. I always tell my colleagues in the ministry that if you want to succeed in your ministry, your family should come second to God. You cannot be upright with your brethren if you are not upright with your family.

My wife and I have raised three teenagers. My wife played the bigger role in raising them. In my absence, she's there for them. Because of my children, I understand young people better. Dealing with three teenagers at home with different age levels is just like dealing with the different maturity levels of youth as they grow.

OUTLOOK: What vision do you have for the youth of the Adventist Church?

JBY: My vision for the youth is to see them leading out others for God's purpose and taking a major role in the church ministry. And even if they're young they can be respected by elders.

OUTLOOK: What are the on-going projects of the Adventist Youth department?

JBY: Some of these various youth projects are centered on Pathfinderism, evangelism,

OUTLOOK: What are the contributions our youths do to the church?

JBY: About 75 percent of our church membership is young people. If they are properly directed, we have a strong army of God's workers in the field. Their involvement is the key for God's work to prosper.

OUTLOOK: What are the spoken and unspoken challenges of the youth today?

JBY: The spoken challenge, I think, is for every youth to earn a living by finding jobs in areas where they are trained and skilled and where they are to find opportunities of sharing Jesus to others. The church faces this challenge, as well, in providing job opportunities for our young people.

The unspoken challenge for the youth in the church is finding a future life partner within the church. This is true especially for ladies. It is not customary for ladies to approach men about this issue.

OUTLOOK: Do these challenges vary in the 18 countries of SSD?

JBY: In some places, yes. But this is generally a challenge to Asians.

OUTLOOK: If you're asked three lessons learned from young people, what are these lessons?

JBY: First, Patience. You must have a wide stretch of patience in order to lead them. Second. You have to be transparent. Youth love to see things simply and clearly. You have to be candid yet tactful. What they see in you is what they believe about you. Remember, leadership is influence. And finally, I learned to be a risk taker. Youths love to explore. They love to follow leaders who are willing to take the risk for them no matter what.

OUTLOOK: How well is our youth heard when it comes to voicing out their needs and suggestions to the church leadership?

JBY: Our youths are hardly heard when they voice out their needs. They want freedom of expression. One of the reasons our youths leave the church is when they don't feel loved and appreciated by our elders. We should recognize every involvement done by our youth.

OUTLOOK: You are now holding the banner that would rally the youth to the feet of Jesus Christ. What is your message to them?

JBY: It has been said that "You will only pass this way but once."

Let me tell you, this is the most challenging, most fulfilling and most exciting stage of your life. Make use of every moment of it. There is more to life. Involve yourself in the youth ministry so you may enhance your God-given talent because God is counting on you.

I challenge you with this thought, "Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith and your purity." 1 Tim. 4:12

AWR Myanmar sees new programs produced in 2011

A **TRAINING ON** radio production consisting of four weeks was held by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Myanmar (MYUM), March 22-April 23, for youth volunteers who desired to give their time to producing radio programs. These 20 youth volunteers will serve AWR Myanmar when the church goes into producing new programs in Kachin, Shan, and Pwo Karen languages in 2011. The plan goes along with the plan of the AWR Asia-Pacific regional office with headquarters in Batam, Indonesia.

AWR Asia Pacific regional director Jonathan Wagiran has shown great interest in AWR Myanmar's language expansion in order to reach other language groups in the country.

The trainees were delighted to learn techniques in broadcasting, production, and other details of AWR work. "It's exciting to hear my voice on air," said one trainee.

"We need to work harder now so that we can implement the new program extension," said Desmond Tamay Baw, AWR studio manager, "and by God's help we will be successful in this venture." [Myo Chan]

300 children hold health convention

THE ADVENTIST CHURCH believes that investing on children's health during their early years yields a good future for them. In an effort to accomplish this task, 300 children made history in a Children's Health Convention initiated by the Health and Children's Ministries Departments of the Adventist church in northern Philippines (NPUC), April 15-18, at the headquarters of the Adventist church in Mountain Provinces (MPM), in Baguio City.

A grand march of the delegates opened the convention. At the plenary sessions, topics on Child Safety and Policies, Nutrition, Helping Children Develop a Healthy Lifestyle, Mr. Junkie Monster, Health, TV and Video Games were well attended by parents and children. Every day workshop topics were done such as Health Policies, Health Resolution for Children, Food Fight-Recipe Making, Cooking Demo and Kids Biology. They were most enjoyed by the participants. Activities such as portrait of a hero, body explorer, health crafts, health gallery, and health examination promoted camaraderie and fellowship.

The four-day convention taught, motivated and encouraged the delegates to practice healthy lifestyle. [Norlin B. Cadapan]

Chin AWR listeners

accept message of hope

THE ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO (AWR) in Myanmar has been an essential tool in spreading the gospel throughout the country. This media ministry recently brought 14 new members from two Chin villages through baptism.

It all started when a group of people informed the AWR personnel that there were listeners at Voklak village Tedim circle in the Chin State of Myanmar. Inspired by this news report, AWR Chin producer Saun Sawm Sang conducted an evangelistic meeting, April 29-25, for 85 families who listened to AWR broadcasts. It was learned that these families, which made up the entire village, had been listening to AWR since 2003. Four were baptized.

About 70 miles from the Voklak village was Singzung of the Kalay district in

the Sagaing Division of Myanmar. Another evangelistic meeting was held here for attendees who were also ardent listeners of AWR broadcasts. This village is a community of 400 families. Saun Sawm Sang was assisted by three Adventist ministers in these May 13-30 nightly meetings.

At the final day of the series, 10 faithful attendees accepted Jesus Christ bringing the total baptism to 14 and with a prospect of more baptisms in the near future with the help of these newly baptized members. [Myo Chan]

photo courtesy of myan union mission



CONQUEROR 2010

CHOICES –

the secret of our success

IT'S REALLY ALL ABOUT OUR CHOICES. Des Cummings Jr. (2008) in his book, *Creation Health Discovery*, says: “We are what we choose” (p.17). Our ability to make decisions is one of the most important gifts we humans possess. Decision-making is the thread that separates us from animals. A person who is not given a choice feels like a victim – hopeless – as if life has been zapped off him.

Holocaust victim Viktor Frankl noted, as cited by Cummings (2008), that the last of human freedom is to choose one’s own way. Though he and his fellow prisoners could not control their environment, they could however control their reactions, and Frankl observed that this choice often made the difference between survival and death, hopelessness and persecution.

Some choices have no lasting consequences. For example, you choose what color of dress you wear to work, whether your shoes matches your handbag, whether you like chocolate or vanilla ice cream, etc.. Other decisions, however, may result in outcomes that we have to live with for the rest of our lives.

- ...the husband or wife we chose to marry
- ...the people we chose to be our friends
- ...the job we take
- ...whether or not to start smoking, drinking or take drugs
- ...whether to eat supper 5-7 times/week and snack
- ...whether or not to exercise...

Studies show that many of the conditions we’re dying from today – heart disease, hypertension, obesity, diabetes and some forms of cancers – are the direct result of our lifestyle choices. In many cases they are diseases of over-eating and under-activity; 80 – 90% of them could be eliminated with healthier lifestyle choices!

So, where to start then? Well, don’t look far...why not start on what I call “The 7 Habits of Healthy People.”

1. Start with a good breakfast! This is the best meal of the day. It boosts concentration, increases the level of attention and may help control body weight.

2. Sweat it out! Walking, cycling, swimming and other rhythmic exercises are the best! You don't need a gym or a club membership to do this. Choose to walk! Aim for at least 30 minutes a day.
3. As much as possible, avoid eating between meals – or if you REALLY have the urge, Snack Smart. Snacks are a great way to refuel. However, choose snacks which are low in calories. Empty calories such as soda, biscuits, sweets & chips are for occasional snacking or none at all. Tips: avoid snacking when reading, watching TV or being at the computer, it would be easy to eat when you are not hungry!
4. Sleep well. As the saying goes; “Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.” Enough sleep will rejuvenate your mind, body & soul. Achieve at least 7 – 8 hours of sleep a day. A 10 to 15-minute power nap is a great energy booster!
5. Maintain a normal weight. Asian's normal BMI (Body Mass Index) is 23. You get this by dividing your weight in kilogram over your height in meter squared: $\frac{\text{Weight (kg)}}{\text{Height (m}^2\text{)}}$
6. Say NO to alcohol and smoking – the #1 preventable cause of cancer!
7. Keep a positive outlook. An old proverb says: “A merry heart does good like a medicine.” True. Research done by UCLA showed that genuine laughter stimulates sympathetic nervous system to produce catecholamine which then helps in the production of endorphins – a hormone which acts as a relaxant in our body.

The world is full of choices. God gave us these choices so that we do not become robots, even if He knew that we might not always take the best ones. No matter how your genetic formation is or whatever the condition of your environment, you can follow a healthy lifestyle and participate in your own healing; be part of the process of restoration. God has made you the “manager“ of your own body, choose the best!

Reference:

- D. Cummings, M. Reed (2008); *Creation Health Discovery*; Florida Hospital Publishing; USA

KIDS' PAGE

Buster is a little lizard who makes really loud sounds. Whether you're tiny like Buster, or massive like bigger lizards, you can make sound praises to God! Color Buster to make him a beautiful creature God has created!

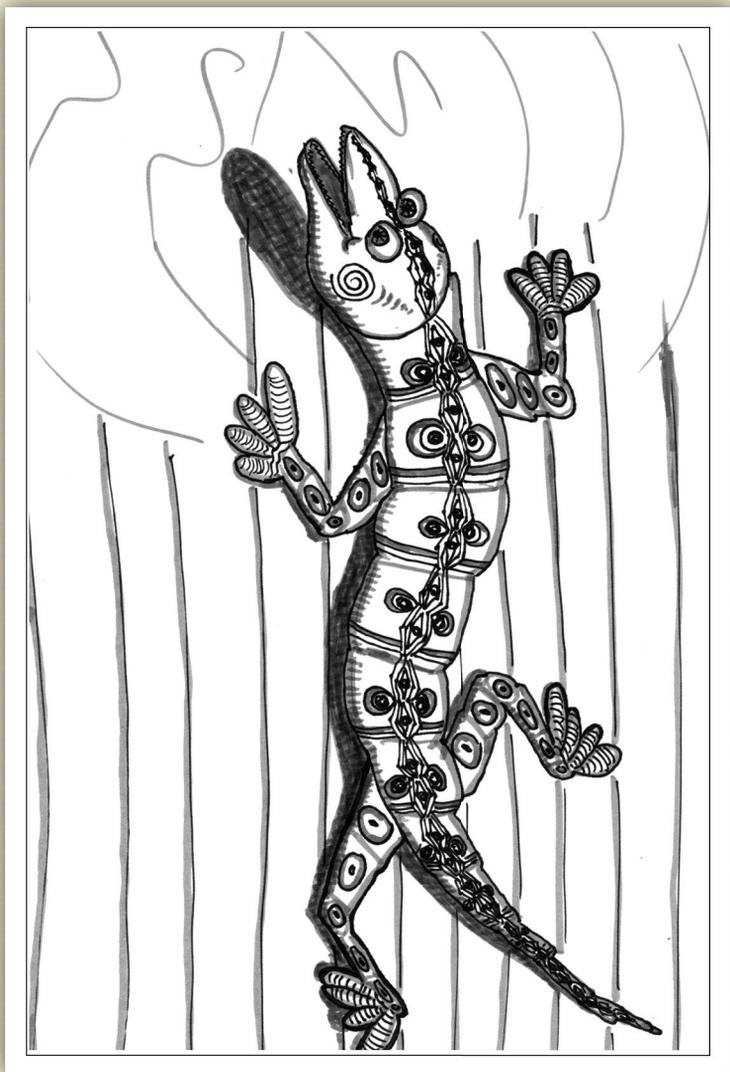


illustration by Janelle Brauer

FAX *of* LIFE

I was buying mangoes when a friend who just became a father came to buy mangoes too. “I’m going home right away to spend as much time with my son. I have another overseas trip soon,” he told me. “True,” I said, “but they say babies don’t have memories.” “But the father has,” he replied.

—Cath, Manila, Philippines

I was visiting friends in Taiwan and hung out one day with their daughters. Amy, the oldest, took pity on a familiar wandering dog and tried to lure him back to the apartment tower where she thought the pooch stayed. After a long moment of waiting in the car, Amy resurfaced looking quite happy. “He’s now riding up the elevator,” she said with pride. “How will he know what floor is his, asked her mother.” “Easy,” Amy quipped. “I pushed all the buttons.”

—Evie, Taipei, Taiwan

I asked a friend how many versions of the Bible she owns. Absentmindedly, she answered, “New International Version, King James Version, New Living Translation and crossword.”

—Lyn, Manila, Philippines

Into the sunshine

BY LILY LARE

TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS since birth I was single. I enjoyed life to the maximum. Four days beyond my 29th birthday, my status changed and I had 16 years of blissful marriage.

Before the day ended on April 20, 2007, my happy and fulfilled married life snapped! I was single again.

The moments immediately after this shocking episode in my life seemed eternity. The cremation and the funeral were blurring me literally. The ensuing days and weeks were filled with phone calls, texts and messages; email box clogged with condolences and words of comfort. These were 'band-aids' to my aching heart in my moments of grief.

My dreaded days came, barely a month after my husband's death: my phone stopped ringing; the emails stopped coming. My world came crushing on me but some streaks of light were peeping through the clouds.

My daughter, almost a replica of my late husband's physical feature, was a rare jewel. I often wanted to unravel our feelings together but she clammed up and wouldn't talk about her father. I knew she was fiercely fighting the pain of losing a father. But I understood her predicament. She didn't want to talk because she didn't want to cry. She was 13 and crying might disfigure her blooming face with eye-bags.

In those dismal moments, I was fortunate to live with my brother and his family because their daughter, my niece, became a source of comfort and joy.

One day, when I was answering a request to go to my late husband's school to sign insurance papers, I thought I would be able to contain my feelings so easily but I couldn't. While hopping from a bus to a train and finally to a jeep, my tears flowed unchecked. The tissue paper to keep my misty eyes dry was not enough to cover up my emotions. Thank God, I had accomplished my job sooner and was on my way home.

Upon reaching my brother's home, I felt glad nobody was around. I turned on the CD player, its volume to the maximum, I went into the bathroom and vented out the imprisoned gloom within me.

A recollection

The night after I received the news of my unwanted widowhood, I wailed but no tears soaked my eyes. Shock blocked my tear ducts and I was numbed all over. “My daughter, brother, sister-in-law and two nieces massaged my hardened muscles from head to toe and when I felt a bit relaxed I broke into tears. I continuously wept, when my husband’s ashes were brought home. Seeing me in that state, my father-in-law fainted. That day, I promised myself to cover up the grief within me.”

My vehement cries distorted a reflection of me. Despite recalling a reading some-time ago that tears have their therapeutic values, they were draining my energy; much more they were affecting my eardrums and disfiguring my far-from beautiful face.

One afternoon after school, I was so depressed. The emotion was so intense that I felt falling into the abyss of insanity. “In front of my computer, my tears fell again. There was also the urge to laugh and so I laughed! Students passing by my door could have seen me and could have said, “Oh it’s such a shame. Ma’am Lily is not only a widow but also a mental case!” The thought jarred me back to reality.”

In the months that followed, I spent much time in prayer. “I busied myself with activities in the school. With the company of my friend Welmer, I joined the Orpheus (Bangkok Opera) and the Bangkok Music Society Choirs. Every time I saw a need in the church, I volunteered to help.”

A year later, I started writing. At first, to my family and friends; adding details not usually found in ordinary letters. Then I wrote articles about my experiences where God was a tangible source of inspiration in my life and I sent them to Cyberflashes, Mountain View College’s online newsletter. I focused on the lighter side of life and discovered that my writing serves a great tonic for my grieving heart.

Looking back on my journey to emotional recovery, I was glad that God was my confidence in the dark valley. We walked and talked every night and day. God helped me dig a tunnel through it. He showed me the way to overcome the seemingly insurmountable mountains that blocked the light of happiness from reaching me. At some points, He helped me dig a tunnel through it, pave a road over it, or blaze a trail around it. He was there all the time. He firmly held my hand and together, we made it safely into the sunshine.

Three years back, my heart was shattered into a million pieces but God helped me pick those fragments and gently put them together again. It’s a slow process but I’m moving to recovery—just a few scars remain. Yes, there are still times I feel lonely and uncertain, and ask, “Why, Lord?” This was not because I doubt God’s will in my life but I am excited to know what good can come out of this adverse experience as God promised in Romans 8:28.

Only God knows what lies beyond today but I am glad that regaining my “single” status gives me a chance to really depend on the One who holds my hands.

*Lily Lare is a teacher in Thailand.

A change of ALL

MAY I SHARE with you some insights from Paul's writings that give meaning to our Christian experience.

Paul uses the “in Christ” motif in all his writings. “In Christ” is an expression of belonging, bearing soteriological meaning that Christ saves us and puts a claim on us. This motif sheds meaning on how we view ourselves in Christ. Notice that Romans 6:6 presents the reality that we all were “slaves to sin” in the past, which means that sin had been our master. This slavery ended when we were crucified with Christ. To be crucified with Him is to die to our old master—ourselves. John Wesley stressed that sin remains “thought not reign.”¹ Now, sin no longer reigns; but Jesus does. We are in Him, and He is our new Master. This change of allegiance is important to the discussion of atonement, because atonement is really “at-one-ment”² with God. This “at-one-ment” involves a forever friendship with God, a relationship that was broken by sin. Atonement is reconciliation. To be crucified with Christ is to be in union with Him, to experience justification and reconciliation with God, because we are “no longer slaves to sin.” For this reason Paul takes pride in calling himself a slave of Christ (Rom. 1:1). What a change of allegiance!

EGIANCE

With Christ as our Master brings us the assurance of salvation. Paul tells us that “Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5: 1, NIV).

He further states: “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1, NASB). Atonement is now a reality.

Now that we are servants of Christ, a new union emerges—a union consisting of a forever friendship with God, illustrating atonement at its best. Sin has no mastery over us now. Now we have a reason to rejoice (Rom. 5:11), for we belong to and are united in Jesus Christ.

¹ John Wesley, “On Sins in Believers” Sermon Number 13, *The Works of John Wesley: The Bicentennial Edition*, (Nashville, TN: Abington Press, 2005), CD-ROM.

² George R. Knight, *The Cross of Christ: God Work for Us*, (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald, 2008), 74.

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