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Outlook

An Elephant Tusk and a New Bible Course

By Beth Coffin

Give thanks for being stuck with the task of selling an elephant's tusk! I know the Bible says in Ephesians 5:20 "Always and for everything giving thanks," but did that include being thankful I had to sell a "white elephant," or at least his tusk? Don't misunderstand me. I was truly thankful for the gift of the tusk to the Voice of Prophecy and for the thought and interest that prompted the deed. It's just that salesmanship is not one of my talents.

How did I ever get involved in this anyway? My next-door neighbors, Paul and Pearl Genstler, had served a number of years in Africa before coming to Singapore. In Africa they bought a beautiful carved elephant tusk at a bargain price, and it was a real conversation piece. As the guests in their home admired it, talk often turned to mission work in Africa and of how they happened to buy the ivory tusk.

I was surprised one day to hear my neighbors comment, "We really wonder if we should keep the ivory tusk. It almost seems like owning an idol now that the price of ivory has gone up so much."

Nothing more was said about the tusk until one day shortly before the Genstlers left Singapore. They handed it to me and announced, "We are giving this to the Voice of Prophecy to sell. The proceeds are to be used for a special project. We have tried to sell it," they explained, "but time has run out and we haven't been able to finalize a sale. We have been told that it is worth



approximately \$2,000 (about US\$800). One man seemed very interested and we have given his name to Chester Damron, V.O.P. director. Chester is a good salesman and should have no trouble disposing of it for a good price."

I was thrilled with this gift and thought of many places we could use the funds. Inwardly I heaved a sigh of relief that it was not my responsibility to sell it. I was very happy to turn over the task to Pastor Damron.

Time slipped by and almost a year later the Damrons were preparing to return to the United States. I began bugging Chester about the sale of the tusk.

His answer was always, "Don't worry I am working on it and plan to have it sold before we leave."

But sometimes the plans of mice and men go astray. I was disappointed when I learned that the wealthy business man, who had shown interest in the ivory, decided not to buy it. He was more interested in Chinese or Indian ivory than African ivory. My hopes rose, however, when the tusk was advertised in the

Elephant Tusk (from p. 1)

newspaper. Surely some ivory collector in Singapore would be interested in a carved elephant tusk.

I was suddenly called to the United States by the death of my father, so was away from the office during the Damrons' last weeks in Singapore. As we talked over various phases of the work I would carry on after Pastor Damron left, I reminded him to be sure and sell the ivory tusk. He assured me that it would be sold and that he had some good prospects on buyers.

My heart sank when I returned to Singapore a few weeks later, and found the tusk sitting in my home. Now it was my responsibility to sell it! Chester had left me a note giving the names of two parties who seemed very interested. Chester suggested that I call them and offer it to them for \$1,000.

I called the first party, a Chinese gentleman who assured me he was interested, but at a price below \$1,000. However, he said that he would come and see it. I tried calling the second party several times but was never able to reach her.

Long Wait

I waited in vain for a phone call from the Chinese gentleman. He never rang or came to see the tusk. What should I do next? I had visions of the time of my return to the homeland coming and the elephant tusk still residing in my home!

One of my favourite chapters in the Bible, Philippians 4, says "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. . . . Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

Surely that includes selling elephant tusks. I knew that the money from the sale was really needed for the new course in Malay. God's hand is not shortened. He knew who would be interested in buying a piece of African ivory, and He knew how to put us in touch with that individual. I shared the problem with the Voice of Prophecy staff. We prayed that God would take over the sale of the tusk.

One evening at the supper table my husband and I were discussing the happenings of the day.

"Do you remember Mrs. Wong? (a fictitious name given for our story) I will be giving her an anesthetic tomorrow morning. She is going to have a small tumor removed."

Of course I remembered Mrs. Wong. She is an American lady married to a Chinese gentleman. She is an expert in Chinese art objects and antiques, especially porcelain and jade. Mrs. Wong operates a very successful art and curio store.

"The ivory," I thought, "Mrs. Wong can help us sell it!"

"That's a good idea," my husband agreed immediately. "I will mention it to her before she leaves the hospital."

Direct Approach

"There is something I would like your advice about since you are an expert on curios and art objects," he mentioned to Mrs. Wong before she left Youngberg Hospital. "An African tusk has been given to us to dispose of and the proceeds used for a worthy charitable purpose. We need to have this ivory piece appraised and find an outlet for its sale."

She responded immediately, and brushed aside my husband's offer to pay her a commission.

A few weeks later Mrs. Wong phoned. "Doctor, I have a friend who is passing through Singapore on the way to the States from Africa," she said. "He has looked at the tusk and tells me it would sell in Africa for US\$1,000. I have priced it at 3,000 Singapore dollars."

My husband assured her that if she found an interested buyer she could let it go for less than \$3,000. In the meantime we went on vacation. When we returned to Singapore there was still no word about the ivory piece. In the midst of an especially hectic week that seemed to have more than its share of problems, I was interrupted by a phone call from my husband.

"Do you want to hear some good news?" he asked excitedly.

I leaned forward eagerly. "Yes, that would be a very welcome change at the moment."

"Our hospital cashier has a problem she has come to me about, he said. She has received a check for the sale of one carved ivory elephant tusk! Would you believe it is for \$3,500? She doesn't know what to do with it."

Praise the Lord! I knew exactly what to do with it.

Beth Coffin was formerly assistant director of the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School for Southeast Asia. She and her husband returned to the United States in June, 1976.

Strand Publishes New Book on Revelation

Interpreting the Book of Revelation, a new and enlarged edition of *The Open Gates of Heaven* by Kenneth A. Strand, professor of church history in the theological seminary at Andrews University, was published in early August.

In addition to expansion of material on principles of interpretation, this new edition contains a brief study and diagram of the literary structure of the book of Zechariah prepared by Philip Payne, a teacher in Texas, and a master of divinity graduate of Andrews. "There is closeness in some of the imagery of Zechariah and Revelation," said Dr. Strand, "and Philip Payne's work is of special interest for this new volume."

Several of Dr. Strand's previously published works deal with the Revelation, including another one on principles of interpretation, *Perspectives in the Book of Revelation*, which appeared in 1975.

Strand presented papers on the Revelation at the 13th Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions held in Lancaster, England, in August 1975. He also gave a presentation at the May, 1976, annual joint meeting of the Northwest Section of the American Academy of Religion and the Society of Biblical Literature held in Eugene, Oregon.

In his two books on principles of interpretation for the Revelation, Dr. Strand called attention to the value and importance of Ellen G. White's "philosophy-of-history" approach to the book of Revelation.

Strand has gained international recognition for his scholarly work in Biblical studies and church history and is included in more than a dozen international and American

directories of scholars and writers, including *The Writers Directory* and *International Authors and Writers Who's Who*.

Missionary Dies in East Africa Plane Crash

A Seventh-day Adventist missionary died of massive burns inflicted during the crash of a light plane in Kenya.

Gene D. Hunter, 49, a mathematics and science teacher at Kamagambo Secondary School and Teacher's College in Kissi, Kenya, was one of the six passengers in a Piper Cherokee bound for a mission assignment. The plane went down on August 31 in the Ngong Hills. All six passengers, including Hunter's wife and two daughters, were injured in the crash, which totally destroyed the plane.

Hunter died on September 9 and was buried in Nairobi, Kenya. The other two persons on board were Pastor and Mrs. D. R. Breneman of the Zambia Union of Seventh-day Adventists.

Health Wise

High Blood Pressure

High blood pressure, or hypertension as it is known in medical circles, is the unseen villain behind a vast number of heart attacks and strokes. A recent book on the subject by Lawrence Galton is titled appropriately "The Silent Disease."

When something narrows the tiny arterioles that branch off from the arteries, the heart must pump harder to supply blood to the tissues, and pressure rises. This occurs without any noticeable symptoms.

Yet there is no excuse for letting this killer sneak up on you. A yearly trip to a doctor's office for a simple

blood pressure test will give warning in time to avert premature death.

If your blood pressure is high, you should follow your physician's recommendations for bringing it within normal limits.

There are now available antihypertensive drugs which help to control the blood pressure, although these may have adverse side effects.

The conditions most often associated with hypertension is obesity, and the blood pressure can often be brought down to a normal level simply by achieving normal weight. Therefore daily exercise and a diet low in fat and sugar are key factors in treating high blood pressure.

Here is a set of rules for keeping high blood pressure under control:

1. *Walk — never run.*
2. *If possible, rest when you begin to feel tired.*
3. *Relax or nap twice a day.*
4. *Eat lightly.*
5. *Avoid stimulants.*
6. *Enjoy an hour of light, out-of-door exercise daily.*
7. *Retire early and get adequate rest.*
8. *Maintain a normal weight.*
9. *Avoid worry, stress and argumentation.*
10. *Be moderate in everything.*

—Helen Andrew, M.S.

MOVING?

Don't forget to notify OUTLOOK when you move. Send old mailing wrapper with new address. Allow three to six months for a change of address.

southeast asia

Send Us Some More Just Like Them

A student missionary from Mountain View College in the Philippines means a young, but experienced pioneer missionary. Joel Valendez and Abe Carpena came to Sarawak ready to work. It was decided that Abe would assist Walter Dindahl with the new work around the flat top mountain in the Second Division. Joel would assist James Sagit in the recently established church at Nylicac



Joel Valendez

and from there reach out to fifteen other villages.

The "plan of attack" became the aggressive slogan and program of evangelism which both of these arrived workers used to inspire the churches to "conquer" new villages. Our local pastors in both of these places were already doing an excellent job of harnessing the laymen for action and the enthusiasm and zeal of Abe and Joel provided an additional spark.

After having been in Sarawak less than two months, Joel announced that he had preached his first sermon in the village without a translator. This would be a real accomplishment after several years of studying the Iban language. With a slight smile on his face he explained further, "Most of the sermon had to be in English, but I preached with such enthusiasm and so many gestures that I know they understood." At the end of three months both Joel and Abe could speak enough Iban to get along by themselves in the villages. After only six months they were actually preaching in the language.

Abe lived in the pastor's quarters at Kranggas, a small three room hut with a split bamboo floor. On the wall was a large poster which said, "Target 80." Being an artist, Abe had drawn a map of his territory showing the flat top mountain and the rivers reaching to his seven churches. Six of these churches did not have even one baptized member



Abe Carpena

but he and Pastor Dindahl had set their goal for the year — over 300 souls! Certainly God honors the faith of those who expect much of Him. On a recent Sabbath sixty-six souls were baptized in two of the villages, the first fruits of a greater harvest to come. Already over a hundred souls have received baptism in the Kranggas district.

Training classes for the laymen, baptismal classes, long rides in long boats and hundreds of miles traveled by foot kept these boys from getting too homesick. Everywhere they went they spread sunshine and laughter as well as encouragement to the people to follow the Lord.

A visitor to Kranggas around Christmas time would have been surprised to see a large rocket in the church and beside it a "time machine" automated and powered

by batteries that looked like something from IBM's ideas of the future department. That's one Christmas the villagers at Kranggas will never forget!

Not only will Sarawak ever remember the loving ministry and zeal of these two young men but undoubtedly their own lives have been enriched and strengthened as they have labored for God's children in this difficult and challenging place. Undoubtedly just about everyone's thoughts in Sarawak about Joel and Abe could be summed up in just seven words, "Send us some more just like them!" — *Paull Dixon.*

North Sarawak Youth Attend Camp

July 22 to August 1 of this year were days which will be long remembered by nearly thirty Pathfinders of Northern Sarawak, for during this period they camped under the towering trees and blue skies of Lambir National Park, located about 20 miles from the town of Miri.

Pastor Bernie Donato, youth director of Southeast Asia Union and a veteran of many campings, helped the campers in many ways and challenged them to win more of their fellow youth for Christ.

Speaking at the Sabbath service held in amphitheater-like surroundings, Pastor Bill Cochran, who is taking charge of the work in the northern area of Sarawak and the country of Brunei, inspired the youth to stand firm for Christ in spite of persecution from their loved ones and friends.

Although Lampir Camp was small compared to the other campings in Sarawak Mission, it is believed that many young people will someday be in God's kingdom as a result of this camping. — *Paul Nyungga.*

north philippines

Adventist Operated School Holds Distinction

That Adventist education is quality education was again proven by Oriental Mindoro Institute when this privately owned school, operated by our Adventist brother, Alfonso B. Bulahan, was rated highest in the province for number of graduates passing the national college entrance examination.

For three years this institute has held this distinction among the sixty or more high schools in the province of Oriental Mindoro in the Philippines. Mrs. Malacia Bulahan, the principal, operates the school on the same principles that denominationally owned schools are operated.

The school's eleven teachers are committed to quality education and to the spiritual development of their students. The high standards of the school have brought much favorable attention to it. The institute is much respected in the province.

Unforgettable Experience

For five minutes I knocked at the door. Finally a man with a loud voice came out telling me to get out. I was terrified by his mad look, so I just left him a tract and prayed for him.

I could not forget my embarrassment on that day, so I came back to try my luck the following day. I was just starting to knock when the door opened. The man was smiling and he welcomed me. He apologized for what had happened and thanked me for the tract, which he had read. On

that day he intended to murder his traitor wife but became interested in what I brought to him. I know that this man will be a candidate for heaven. — *Marilyn G. Pineda.*

Castillo Wins Souls

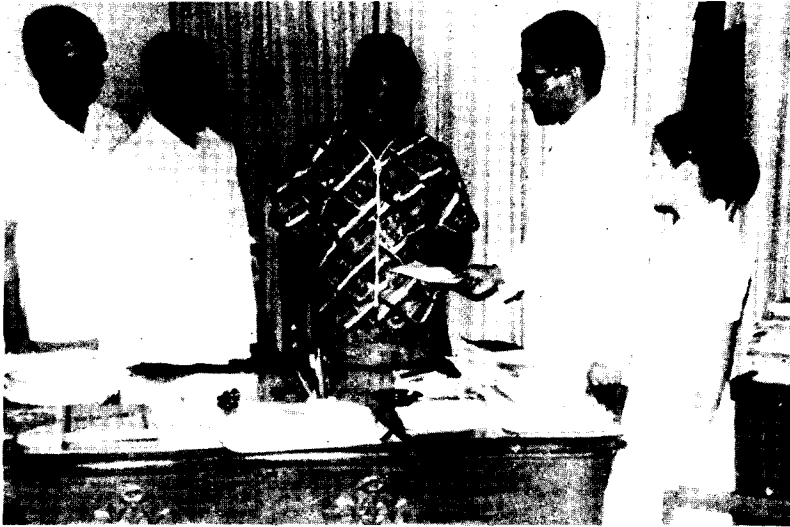


Pictured with Brother Castillo is F.M. Arrogante, president of North Philippine Union Mission.

Urbano Castillo, the world's layman of the year at the 1970 General Conference, is now 76 years old. The baptism of ten souls on May 8, 1976, made up his record of 1,800 souls he helped to accept Christ since he began preaching after his baptism in 1915. Following the baptism of the ten souls, when Brother Castillo concluded his 60 days effort in Bayani, Naujan, Or. Mindoro, his 32nd church was organized and dedicated.

Community Services Bring Relief

The Community Service department of Central Luzon Mission showed its concern for the victims of "Typhoon Didang" by handing two separate check donations amounting to two thousand (2,000) pesos to



Atty. Agustin Talavera (center), treasurer of Bulacan Province and director of Bulacan Relief & Disaster Center, receiving a check of 1,000 pesos from Pastor A.S. Canlas, CLM president, I.D. Hernando, Lay Activities director, Ben Flores, mission treasurer, and Miriam Tanyag, mission nurse.

Mrs. Leticia Angara Moises, Department of Social Welfare Region III director, and Atty. Agustin Talavera, treasurer of Bulacan Province and director of the Bulacan Disaster Relief Center.

Mrs. Moises, a long-time friend of the Adventists, was responsible for signing most of our "harvest ingathering" permits while she was with Licenses and Permits of Division of the DSW. After receiving the check, she remarked: "This donation of yours just came on time to help ten families in Arayat town, whose houses were completely smashed by the hurricane which took the lives of two persons." — *N.S. Pallas*.

Literature Evangelists Meet

"A New Measure of Excellence" was adopted as the theme for the union-wide institute for the development of literature evangelists recently held at the Treasurers' Camp in Baguio City. A total of 1,017 literature evangelists and publishing leaders attended this meeting.

A.R. Reyno, NPUM publishing

director, coordinated the program and activities of the institute with the purpose of developing a high level of excellence in the literature ministry.

In his keynote message, F.M. Arrogante, NPUM president, expressed his high regard to the literature evangelists, giving emphasis on the secret of success in this line of work — "God is Number One in this work - the publishing work. He should always be Number One in every line of work.

V.L. Bretsch, FED publishing director, was the main lecturer in the institute. — *S.C. Ada*.

Pilar Attends World Congress

Dr. Osias C. Pilar, head of the Anesthesiology Department of Manila Sanitarium and Hospital and concurrently president of the Philippine College of Anesthesiology Society, was one of the 9 delegates who represented the Philippines to the 6th World Congress of Anesthesiology in Mexico City.

Dr. Pilar participated in the discussions with authorities in the field of anesthesiology at the symposium

and also shared his knowledge as head of the anesthesiology department at the Manila Sanitarium, which is making a good name among the country's best hospitals.

Pilar's three-month itinerary included speaking engagements among our Adventist people in Mexico and across the United States bringing news about the tremendous success of the Advent work in the Philippines. He also observed the latest techniques of medicine in the affluent hospitals in Texas. — *N.S. Pallas*.

Ordination



Domingo V. Nacario, center, was recently ordained during the annual workers' retreat held at Camarines Sur in the Southern Luzon Mission. He is pictured here with F.M. Arrogante, NPUM president, and his wife.

Medical Teams Aid Earthquake Victims

When the catastrophic earthquake — the most disastrous ever in Philippine history — struck at thirteen minutes past midnight on Tuesday, August 17, 1976, the Seventh-day Adventist Welfare Services (SAWS) immediately leaped into action for an on-the-spot inspection of the worst hit disaster areas in and around the cities of Cotabato, Pagadian, and Zamboanga using their emergency facilities available at a moment's notice.



At the background is the Mountain View College Cessna SAWS plane. Volunteer Welfare Workers ready to lift relief goods for earthquake victims.

Don Christensen, pilot and business consultant of Mountain View College, and Don Van Ornam, Philippine Union College development consultant, who also are directing the Seventh-day Adventist Welfare Services, with a team of welfare workers from Cagayan de Oro Adventist headquarters and Mindanao Sanitarium & Hospital in Iligan City, flew into the spots of tragedy aboard the SAWS Cessna plane. The SAWS group was first to find out the extent of damages and to execute quick action to help neediest victims. After viewing the disaster areas aboard the SAWS plane, they transmitted reports to the SAWS offices in Manila and Cagayan de Oro. Food and clothing commodities were immediately rushed in for direct distribution to the starving, homeless survivors. In cooperation with the other relief operations, the SAWS plane served to ferry medical, health and welfare workers, including military officers back and forth to Cotabato and Pagadian cities which were the most severely damaged by the earthquake and tidal waves.

The finding of the welfare operations was that Cotabato City was hardest hit by the killer temblor wherein in fifty-eight seconds many buildings were badly damaged or destroyed, while the coastal areas in Southwestern Mindanao were hard hit by the tidal waves which followed immediately the earthquake.

An Adventist medical team organized by Dr. Manuel J. Tornilla, Jr., medical director of Miller Sanitarium & Hospital and director of the health department of Central Philippine Union Mission, was airlifted by army plane to Cotabato City to assist in relief work for earthquake victims in that city. With him were two physicians, Dr. Sebastian L. Ornopia and Dr. Miguel Perez; two nurses, Mrs. Virginia L. Niere and Mrs. Eldora A. Nadal; and Gerrie Macaya, business manager of the Miller Sanitarium & Hospital, who distributed the five bales of clothing donated for the disaster victims by the Central Philippine Union Mission Welfare Service. The medical team was fielded to barrio Pinansaran, a coastal town of Cotabato, a two-hour ride in the army

rotor truck boat from Cotabato City. During their few days in the barrio, the team saw 500 patients.

Another rescue and relief operation team of three doctors, five nurses and twenty first aiders from the Manila Sanitarium & Hospital was rushed from Manila into the scene of tragedy by the back-up plane of the First Lady, Imelda Romualdez Marcos, from the Imelda Relief Operations Center (IROC). The team was stationed in Governor Tecson's home in Pagadian City and was ferried by helicopter to the remotest areas of Zamboanga del Sur to serve the pitiful victims of the horrible tidal waves. The team included the personnel from the Manila Sanitarium & Hospital, the Medical Aviation Program, and the Crusading Voices of Philippines which was headed by Dr. Engie Domondon. They covered large areas and served with disinterested dedication, singing, and serving the victims for ten days until their supplies were consumed.

Oops! A Goof

The September issue of the *International Review and Herald* indicated that a portion of the Thirteenth Sabbath Offering overflow would go to the Korean Union Mission. This was an editorial error. There is no change in the projects which will receive the overflow funds. — *Editor.*

korea

Hospital Completed

Construction of the new Seoul Adventist Hospital building which first began in 1968, was recently completed.

The new facility includes two service buildings and the main hospital facility. Patient rooms are grouped around central nurses' stations, enabling nurses to give improved care to 160 patients. A large nursery provides space for 42 babies. The new hospital has central air conditioning and heating. Piped-in oxygen and vacuum to every patient room, a speaker system throughout the building and many other features make it one of the finest medical centers in Seoul.

The founder of the Seoul Adventist Hospital, Dr. George H. Rue and his wife, were present for the ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 16. The out-patient clinic opened in the new building on July 29. — *S.D. Kim*

Forgiveness saves the expense
of anger, the cost of hatred,
and the waste of energy.

— *Megiddo Message.*



Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony are, left to right, C.V. Johnson, hospital manager; K. W. Lee, hospital director; E.Y. Kim, Korean Union president; and Dr. G.H. Rue, former hospital director and founder.



Seoul Adventist Hospital.

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