I. Remembering Dr. Neville Matthews

II. Edison Samraj Meets Chief Minister of Maharashtra III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries: # 24 IV. Comprehensive Exams at Spicer V. Dr. Tresa Wycliffe Addresses GOPIO Convention ~~~~~~~~~~~~~ I. Remembering Dr. Neville Matthews

1. Gordon Christo <gechristo@sud-adventist.org> Feb. 19:
   I had heard some stories about Dr. Matthews from my dad but had not met him till I returned from Andrews in 1992 when he was president of Spicer College. From each administrator we learn something. From Dr. Matthews I learnt about responsibility and accountability. He gave authority but expected the work to be done properly. As College president he did not interfere with the work of supervisors and directors below him necessarily. Dr. Matthews also gave us an example of the separation of church and state. In the affairs of the Spicer Church he remained as a mere member. He fellowshipped with one and all freely. He greeted each person in his/her own language and frequently stopped on the roads to pray with a student. It was truly a privilege to associate with him those few years.

2. Raghuthaman Opeh <docopeh@gmail.com> Feb 19:
   Neville Matthews, the quintessential Spicerian, who was seen in India along with Elder Neal Wilson, be it International Religious Liberties or other initiatives of the Church worldwide, is no more.

   The bubbly and lively man was warmth exuded. Once, on a round of New Delhi meeting a number of Kerala members of Parliaments, our car had an accident. Actually, an inebriated motorcycle driver hit us from the side and went over the top and landed on the other side of the car and got up with a lot of abrasions. Like it happens in Delhi, the sympathy of bystanders lay with the two wheeler driver. We the four wheeler wallahs were unhurt. The crowd gathered around and one of them brought his hand towards my collar. Midway his hand was held in the wrist of another. I turned to find my younger brother there. Then I asked Dr. Matthews to go ahead as I was having help. My brother, a senior bureaucrat in the Govt. of India, called the cops and stood witness to the whole drama. Whatever, I had to pay an on the spot compensation of Rs 2000/- to the accident victim.

3. Dr. Meville Matthews' Contribution to Adventist Higher Education
   from Face Book, February 20:
   We are saddened to announce the passing of former CUC President, Dr. Neville O. Matthews. Dr. Neville O. Matthews, who tirelessly worked to achieve degree-granting status for Canadian University College, died peacefully this past Saturday at the age of 93 in his retirement home in southern California. Dr. Matthews served as CUC's 16th president from... 1971-1982 when the school was still known as Canadian Union College.
   "President Matthew's leadership reflected his deep faith and enduring passion for CUC," said CUC President Mark Haynal. "The Canadian University College community continues to walk in his footsteps and his steadfast commitment to Christian education. Canadian University College will always feel his influence."

   Matthews began his education career at Spicer College, India where he taught classes and went on to become the principal of the high school division. After completing his Bachelor of Education and Master of Education degrees, he became academic dean and registrar of the college. Matthews, his wife, Sheila, and their family moved to Canada in 1956. Between 1956 and 1963, Matthews worked in several capacities at Canadian Union College: teacher, high school principal, academic dean, and registrar of the college division.

   In 1964, Matthews was appointed dean of Medicine Hat Junior College, now Medicine Hat College, in southern Alberta and went on to become its president. In 1967 Matthews received his doctorate in educational administration from the University of Alberta.
In 1971, Matthews was invited to return as president of CUC. Using the same skills that had garnered strong growth in Medicine Hat-cultivating friendships with government and education officials and refusing to be daunted by a lengthy process-he worked to achieve degree-granting status for CUC.

In 1982 Matthews was asked to serve at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists as liaison between the Seventh-day Adventist church and the United Nations. In 1988 after the passing of his wife Sheila, Matthews returned to Spicer College where he served as president in his retirement.

He is survived by his children; Gwen, Jenny-Jeanne, Robyn and Ted.

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II. Edison Samraj Meets Chief Minister of Maharashtra

Adventist Media Centre <adventistmediacentre@gmail.com> Feb. 18:

It was my privilege to meet Pratiharaj Chavan, chief minister of Maharashtra, and talk to him for a short while during the tea break on concerns that we have for the modern Indian society. He responded to me, asking whether we could brainstorm the ideas that would be helpful in evolving family values for the Indian culture. He also spoke about the decline of values in India and how we must revive it through media innovative. I am grateful to the chief minister for the special time given to me to meet him in his office to discuss this national agenda. I am happy he is calling me to his office to discuss the ideas for further implementation. Kindly pray for me as I meet with him to discuss his important aspect of media posturing of values.

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III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 24

Mervin Myat Kyaw <mervinmk@yahoo.com.au> and his wife Nan are Karen Adventists who worked many years in Burma and Thailand and now live and work in Australia. He has written a manuscript covering Adventism in Burma from its very beginning to the present and of his work in Thailand.

24 Joseph Phillips (Mariam) (1921 - 38)
Joseph Phillips and his wife Mariam arrived from America in March, 1921. He was an Englishman. He studied in the U.S. when he was young. He came to Myanmar to take the place of Elder Lowry, who passed away with small-pox, to serve as the superintendent of Myanmar Mission. Elder Phillips could write Burmese well and he preached in Burmese. He preached in villages all over Myanmar and he formed many church groups. He was able to live and eat with village food. He worked enthusiastically for the gospel work in Myanmar. His historical achievement that could be acclaimed was the purchase of the land which we hold now as the headquarters of Myanmar Union Mission in 1928.

Afterwards the present Yangon Central Church was built on this land. The headquarter offices building and staff lodgings were also built. The staff lodging building was later destroyed and the present two-storeyed building was built in 1977 instead.

J. Phillips served as the principal of Meiktila Technical School from 1933 to 1936. He organised training for evangelistic works in his school as well as to the villages practically. J. Phillips had been a man who encouraged the young aspiring workers to its pivotal achievement. He molded the youths with kindness and much patience. He himself worked with the students during working time. Brother Phillips was a diligent and efficient supervisor of the growing mission work for 12 years, and then was principal of the training school at Meiktila for four years.

Mrs. Phillips carried Union departmental responsibilities while they were at the Union office, and then taught at the school which they were at Meiktila. She was known to be diligent and she would help the young girls tenderly just like their own mother to them. Failing health made it necessary for her to give up work in Myanmar and returned to America.

Pastor Phillips stayed on for a while, but finally returned to America in 1938. Their only son was Winston Phillips. (Pastor Phillips trained students and teachers as his assistants for evangelistic training.)

One of the outstanding things Pr. Phillips did while in Myanmar was to make the evangelistic training he was giving students at the school practical by holding an evangelistic effort in the town of Meiktila during the school year, using students and teachers as his assistants, so that they could get actual experience in evangelistic work. The young men and women who had that experience with him cherished the memory of it in their work later.

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IV. Comprehensive Exams at Spicer
Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> Feb. 10

This semester about 80 students have written their Comprehensive examinations, 55 of whom have just completed their undergraduate oral comprehensive examinations today (Feb 10). Though the written examinations are held for all programmes in their majors, minors and fields of concentration, the orals are mostly held for the undergraduate students not only in the areas of study mentioned above, but also in general knowledge, current events, etc. This time the Oral Comprehensive committee members were entertained with some hilarious answers reproduced below, just in lighter vein:

1. Question (Q) 1: Expand ATM.
   Answer (A): Any Time Money .. no, no .. All Time Money. (Automated Teller Machine)
2. Q : Expand STD*.
3. Q: What is a "mummy"?
   A: It is a dead body 'applied with masala' and put in the pyramid.
(Embalmmed with spices).
4. Q: Describe the Creation Week.
   A: 1st day light, 4th day birds & fishes, 5th day animals & man, 6th day Sabbath and 7th day God took rest.
5. Q: What is the meaning of "Tha-li-tha-ku-mi"?
   A: Why are you persecuting me?
6. Q: What is the meaning of "Mene, mene, tekel upharsin"?
   A: My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?
7. Q: How did we get our Bible?
   A: From the Super Market.
8. Q: What is the difference between monocot and dicot plants?
   A: Monocot is single cot and Dicot is double cot.
9. Q: Describe the image in Nebuchadnezzar's dream
   A: Head on gold, .... breast on chest ..... 
10. Q: Who taught you the course "Apocalyptic Literature"
    A: Lavanga Sir. (Mr Vanlaltluanga Khuma).

V. Dr. Tresa Wycliffe Addresses GOPIO Convention
Sunny Wycliffe <sunnywycliffe@gmail.com> Feb 16:
Global Organization of People of Indian Origin, Convention, Kochi, Kerela. January 5 - 6, 2013;
"His Excellency Hon. Governor M. M. Jacob, Mr. Inder Singh,respected chair, Distinguished speakers, Ladies and Gentlemen. My topic this evening is on Gadar Memorial Center in San Francisco, USA.

The Hindustan Gadar Party, when founded in 1913 to join in the struggle for India's independence, started its operation from 436 Hill Street, San Francisco. Its original home was known as 'Uganda Ashram' and it was from here that the freedom fighters of the Hindustan Gadar Party, also known as 'Gadri Babas' were active from 1913 to 1917. It was from this place that they would organize and launch a revolution and publish a powerful weekly called 'Gadar' to propagate the cause of Indian independence. The Party's Headquarters subsequently moved to 5 Wood Street, the present location. The activities of the Gadar Party were so intense, its popularity instantaneous, the edifice soon came to be called 'Gadar Ashram'.

"The three-storeyed building that preceded the present structure served several functions. Imbued with the spirit of revolution, it provided an environment for thinkers, activists and volunteers who came to live, work, organize and help run a printing press that sent their messages around the world. It remained their venue for all-important public and secret meetings.

So powerful was its influence that in August 1914, when the Party called on overseas Indians to return to India to fight for its freedom, most living in North America heeded the call and no fewer than 8,000 of them were said to have returned to India to take part in the revolution. Because of the strong British vigilance, most of them were captured en route or upon return, many of them sent to jail, some killed or hanged. But their determination, courage and sacrifice inspired thousands of others to join in and continued to carry out their mission.
"After India won its freedom, the Ashram along with its belongings including some historical records etc. was handed over in 1949 to the Government of India through the Indian Consulate. However, de jure transfer was effected in June 1952. The building, at that stage, was about 30 years old and it was very much in a dilapidated condition. Efforts were made from 1952 onwards to set up a suitable memorial, by the local Indian community and the Government of India sanctioned US$ 83,000 for the restoration work. The ground breaking ceremony was performed by Sardar Swaran Singh, the then Minister of External Affairs in September 1974. The Gadar Memorial was finally inaugurated by Shri T. N. Kaul, at that time India's Ambassador to US in March 1975.

"Then on efforts were made continuously by Mr. Inder Singh for having several Indian Ambassadors to the United States, including Dr. Karan Singh and the current Ambassador Nirupama Rao to visit this memorial and sign the Visitors Register.

"The Gadar Building is now the living symbol of the glorious sacrifices of martyrs, who struggled for India's freedom. During Dr. Satish Bhatnagar's visit to this center he writes, 'as I entered the main hall I was really overwhelmed by its vibrations. Though all alone in the hall, yet I felt surrounded by these immortals. It is at such moments that one realizes the difference between the longevity of a human being in physical form and legacy left behind with great ideals. Nevertheless the quality of an individual life is always measured by the amelioration brought in all life around. At the entrance of the Center there is a Visitors Register which has been maintained since 1982. In a small lobby there are five framed posters and a few memorial plaques.' Dr. Bhatnagar went on to say, 'There are 21 framed pictures of Gadar Party leaders and martyrs on two opposite walls of the main hall. While looking at those pictures I felt as if they were also peering at me. It was an eerie feeling that one gets in a cemetery.

"Twenty two open book shelves have an assortment books and four showcases displaying Gadar Party materials. I was really in awe in extending my hand to reach out and touch the displayed documents. They were alive in their own way, and kind of challenged me to comprehend the magnitude. At DNA level, they are very much alive, each and every document must have been held by at least one member of the Gadar Party. The concern is that with open shelves no checkout system and no regular open hours, this rare collection is likely to be lost and wither away. A framed poster titles: Remember our Gadar Heroes. Names of the Founding members are: Lala Hardyal, Ram Chandra Bharadwaj, and Baba Sohan Singh Bhakan. Figures of four hundred members hanged during 1915 to 1916 and five thousand imprisoned for life are noted.' He concludes saying that it is an awesome feeling to be part of this history.

"The heart of the Center lies in show cases displaying pamphlets, documents, booklets and photographs. What we need is the Government of India with the collaboration of Overseas Indian communities should establish Gadar Study Centers in Vancouver, Canada and London, UK where the Gadar movement had its wings.

"The First Indian Ambassador-at-Large, Dr. Bhishma Agnihotri is ideally positioned to explore such projects with Indian Diaspora. However the most urgent need is to save the display items from natural decay, mishandling and neglect. The entire collection can be electronically saved on a single hard disc and marketed. 'As an Educator, my personal appeal is to establish a Gadar Chair at a well-known University in California to have continued study and research for future generations.

"The centennial of Gadar Movement falls this year, 2013. India and overseas Indians should pay fitting and well-deserved tribute to Gadarites who, in the words of Former President K. R. Narayanan, 'faced untold misery and hardships in pursuit of their objective and even made the supreme sacrifice of laying down their lives.' The Gadarites had a flame of liberty lit in their hearts, and did not hesitate to make any sacrifice for the cause of freedom, dignity and prosperity of their motherland. They fought valiantly for their cause and showed their courage and conviction in standing up to adversities. Although the movement did not achieve its stated objective, but it had awakened the sleeping India, contributed to the politicization of Indians and left a major impact on India's struggle for freedom. The heroism, courage and sacrifices of the Gadarites inspired many many freedom fighters to continue their mission.

"Jai Hind!"

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