I. The GC Session in Retrospect

The following "From the Dome" is taken from the final GC Bulletin (#8) of the Adventist Review:

"As I boarded the flight from Atlanta to home, a thousand images of the 59th session of the General Conference competed for my attention. Yet the focal question is one: What would I remember about this session? I lost 6 pounds because of the long walks; I enjoyed the wonderful music and powerful preaching if the Word; I appreciated the efficiency of the Nominating Committee finishing its arduous task a day ahead of schedule; I witnessed the smooth change of guard in church leadership that sent a thrilling message to the world body of believers from Alaska to Papua New Guinea, from Japan to Chile that 2,410 delegates and thousands of observers were one in hope, one in love, and one in doctrine.

"All these are true, but the fifty-ninth session has etched in my mind three dynamics regarding Adventism. The newly elected General Conference president enunciated, affirmed, and reaffirmed three Adventist nonnegotiables, and challenged the delegates to cling to those principles as they live, witness, and march to the kingdom.

"Wilson is a child of Adventism. His grandfather, N. C. Wilson, served as president of three world divisions--Southern Asia, North America, and South Pacific. His father was baptized with the fire of Adventism--14 years as president of the North America Division, and 12 years as president of the General Conference. Ted and his wife, Nancy, are rooted firmly in an Adventist home, and served different parts of the world as missionaries and church leaders. At the GC headquarters he is known as the smiling Ted--he knows the names of most people who work in the building, from the humble to the onerous, and he always sends a message of care on each worker's birthday. Ted is a Seventh-day Adventist through and through, undiluted and absolutely committed.

"So it was not a surprise that he unambiguously called the world church to commit to these three imperatives: the Word of God and the Spirit of Prophecy as the guide of our faith and guardian of our conduct; the Creation account in Genesis--literal, six-day, recent mighty miracle of God; salvation through grace and grace alone, leading to a life of sanctification and obedience.

"With such a powerful call to safeguard and proclaim the faith delivered to the saints, the 59th session sent me home to ponder, to commit, to
proclaim, and to talk the walk and walk the talk." -- John M. Fowler, recently retired associate director of the Education Department of the General Conference.

II. Letters

1. Joysingh D. Charles <teachindia@aol.com> July 24:

   Once again its time, and you are invited to attend the Annual ASI International Convention which will be held at Orlando, Florida from Aug. 4-8, 2010. Come and enjoy and fellowship with thousands of Adventist members from around the globe. And if you have a ministry of your own and need funding, this is the place to learn how to access resources you need to promote God's work in your back yard. There are free seminars you can attend and gain valuable tools to improve your funding needs.

   If you are coming and have questions then please stop by TEACH International, Inc. booth # 308. Also visit www.Asimistries.org to register for the convention.

   Joysingh D. Charles
   Vice President for Programs
   Columbia Union ASI

2. Roseline Muthiah Davy <davyp@bellsouth.net> July 17:

   Dear Fellow Believers,

   It sure is time for many things. It is my earnest hope that you will take time to ponder over the ones I have picked, as the times we are living in are serious times & I am concerned about the lukewarm state some of us are in. Here is my list:

   1. It's time to wake up!
   2. It's time to search our own hearts.
   3. It's time for revival.
   4. It's time to unite.
   5. It's time to make changes & make a turning point in our lives.
   6. It's time to become born again Christians.
   7. It's time to leave our comfort zones & care about others.
   8. It's time to have an implicit faith in our heavenly Father.
   9. It's time to stop wasting time like.
   10. It's time to pray more.
   11. It's time to preach more on the second coming of Jesus.
   12. It's time to spend more time in the study of God's word.
   13. It's time to get excited and spread the gospel.
   14. It is time to be happy & sincerely prepare to welcome Jesus when He come to take us HOME!!!

III. Charles "Kumar" Edward Receives High Govt. Appointment

   Franklin David <liztutupetu@yahoo.com> July 25:

   It is always a joy to see Adventist Indians accomplishing great things in the United States. Last week, Mr. Charles K. Edward, (known to many as Kumar) the youngest son of Pastor and Mrs. V. D. Edward and the grandson of Pastor and Mrs. S. Thomas was appointed as the Deputy Inspector General for Homeland Security under the Obama Administration. This makes him the second in command in Homeland Security and the first Indian American to such a position. Congratulations and God bless you, Kumar, as you serve in this capacity.

IV. Honoring Francis Scott

   Malkanthie Ballowe <ballowes@aol.com> July 22:

   I was a little girl during the time Pastor and Mrs. Scott were serving
in Sri Lanka. Since our father was a Sri Lankan pastor (Pastor P. P. Dias) the Scotts came to our house on many occasions. I have fond memories of them laboring at Lakpahana. We children often went to their house to learn from Mrs. Scott how to knit. An added benefit we received on our visits was having our stomachs filled. Pastor Scott enjoyed taking us places in his car which for young children in that time was a wonderful treat. He seemed to especially enjoy telling us that he would perform magic by making the traffic control police smile. He would roll down his window and greet them with a genuine smile and a warm hello in Sri Lankan. Of course, the police would always respond with an appreciative smile. I can even remember Pastor Scott preaching in Singalese once. Those were good old days. May god bless him and heal him soon.

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Honoring Dr. John Fowler

D. L. (Eb) Ebenezer <dlebenezer@gmail.com> July 22:

Let me add to the many tributes that have been written on the retirement of Dr. John M. Fowler. In his concluding remarks during Sabbath School at the 2010 GC Sessions in Atlanta, on Sabbath, July 3, Dr. Fowler quoted Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." That, in essence, sums up the 52 years of service Dr. Fowler has given the church he continues to love. May he be of service until the return of Jesus.

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Honoring Mrs. Hepsiba Gurubatham Singh

Joy Kuttappan <joykutts@rediffmail.com> July 24:

Mrs. Hepsiba S. Singh, recently retired vice president/finance of Review & Herald Publishing Association (RHPA), demonstrated tremendous faith and courage as a leader to blindly support a young editor from Oriental Watchman Publishing House (OWPH), Pune, India, to do an internship at RHPA. She took the item to the management of Review, mobilized people to help, and also involved in every stage of the process to make sure that OWPH and Southern Asia are benefited.

I haven't met Mrs. Hepsiba S. Singh personally; but communicated through emails, and just one phone call. Nevertheless, through that little correspondence I understood that she has a special place for the publishing work in India.

I tried to collect as much information as possible about her from the internet, but much wasn't available. That doesn't belittle her position she held, instead it's a lesson for us to know that there are people who work for God and His Church silently and gracefully.

On behalf of SUD and OWPH I congratulate Mrs. Singh on her service at the highest level representing India and SUD. Moreover, I promise her that, if God willing, one day I would make it to Review or the Pacific Press to do an internship to support the publishing ministry of the Church in SUD.

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V. Knowing When To Stop

A newsletter reader shared the following:

"M. J. Akbar, veteran author and journalist, writing in the Times of India of Sunday, July 18 has a word of advice for our Indian politicians. He contrasted 'Paul the Octopus,' the most contemporary resident of Germany, who predicted the results of eight World Cup matches, retired at the peak of his career. 'Paul,' he said, 'knew when to stop.'

"He goes on to state that 'a perfectly timed exit is the key to history's judgment.' He further observes that if Indian Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, after winning his third general election in 1962, had concentrated on writing a few more books; Indira Gandhi instead of imposing emergency after the Patna High Court judgment faced the electorate; and
Vajpayee trusted his instincts and told his coalition partners that he rather write poetry than remain in politics after the Gujerat riots, had stepped down at the peak of their careers, history judgment would have been kinder in her verdict.

"Is there a lesson here for church leaders--to know when to step down before being forced to quit?"

VI. SUD to Celebrate Centennial with TIDINGS Special
Gordon Christo <drongo.ostrich@gmail.com> July 27

The Southern Asia Division will celebrate the centennial of the organization of the work in India at the Division Council this year. In 1910 the India Union was formed attached directly to the General Conference. A special commemorative issue of the Tidings will be released at the Council which will highlight the work of the pioneers and the early progress of the church. Advertisements are solicited from families of pioneer workers which may outline the service of the pioneer member and others of the family. The rates have been fixed as follows: Full page $150 (or Rs 5000 if in India); and half page $100 (or Rs 3000). The deadline for submission of requests for ads in the commemorative Tidings issue is August 31. For further details enquire from <rosechristo@gmail.com>.

VII. Lowry Memorial Reunion
Edwin Joseph <edwin.joseph46@gmail.com> July 29:

Sent for Pr. J. J. S Moses, Sr. Pastor of Calvary SDA Church in Burtonsville, Maryland.

There will be a RE-UNION of all former students of Lowry Memorial School/College on August 7, 2010 at the CALVARY SDA CHURCH, 14411 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, Maryland 20866. Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m., the Divine Service to follow at 11:00 a.m. Pr. Prakasam Jacob will be the speaker for Divine Service.

You are cordially invited to celebrate God's leading in this Institution during the past 95 Years. This Institution, which has grown from South India Training School to Lowry Memorial School, to Lowry Memorial Higher Secondary School and currently to Lowry Memorial College, has been the 'mother' institution for most of the Stalwarts in the SA Division, both current and past, who have faithfully served in the furtherance of God's Work. ALL ARE INVITED to participate and support in celebrating God's leadings in this institution. PLEASE invite family and friends to JOIN US IN WORSHIP.

There will be a Pot-Luck Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following the Service.

(For more information please contact: Mel (Rathan) Moses at 301-980-3389; or Vinita Singh at 301-384-1537 / 301-989-0194; or Suhasini Davy at 301-497-7971 / 301-483-4453; or Stanley Ponniah at 301-680-6226 / 301-384-7340)

VIII. Christo's Memoirs: New President Wilson Visits SUD

At the 1978 Annual Council session, General Conference President, Robert Pierson, announced his decision to retire for health reasons. This announcement was made two years before the scheduled General Conference session when GC presidents are usually elected, so now the process of electing a new leader had to begin immediately. Elder Pierson had wide experience, and was especially involved with the Southern Asia Division. He had spent twelve years working in this field, first as a pastor, then as section president, South India Union president, and finally as division president from 1950-1954.

Tuesday afternoon, October 17, 1978, fifty-eight-year-old Neal Wilson was elected General Conference president by a sixty-six member committee comprised of world leaders. Of the nine names nominated, Elder Wilson was almost unanimously elected in the first ballot. Elder Wilson had received part of his education at Vincent Hill School and College when his father was president of Southern Asia Division.
On July 4, 1979, ten cars formed a motorcade that escorted Elder Neal Wilson from the airport in Poona to the Salisbury Park division headquarters. The honour guard of several hundred students of the Hume McHenry Memorial School wearing school uniforms clapped and showered petals while drummers beat their drums as the motorcade entered the gate of Salisbury Park. While in Poona, Elder Wilson participated in a workers' retreat at Sangam and attended mid-year division committee meetings.

Elder Wilson's visit to Southern Asia gave rise to much speculation. Was Dr. Lowry about to retire? Dr. Lowry was in his fourth term as division president. He was forty-four years of age when he was elected president of the division. He was as yet not sixty-two, so he could be re-elected for another term. Would Elder Wilson's visit to Southern Asia give a new perspective to the future leadership for the division? Some were of the opinion that if Dr. Lowry were to retire, Weldon Mattison would be the logical choice as president.

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