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I. New Church Building for Shillong
   Jim Ashlock <jim.ashlock@comcast.net>

   After helping raise money for a little over 5 years, it is very exciting to inform everyone who is interested in our work up in Meghalaya that a new church is under construction in Shillong. This is a major undertaking as the new church will seat 600+ and will include Sabbath School rooms and parking.

   The original church that is still in use was built in 1940 by pioneer missionary, Frank Ashlock, and has been outgrown for many years. For me one of the very interesting facts is that almost every local church member has made a significant donation or pledge to help with project!

   For those of you who would like to make a tax deductible gift to help with this church project, please make your check out to the Ooltewah Seventh-day-Church, marking it "For Khasi Church" and mail it to Jim Ashlock, 10122 Crestmont Dr., Ooltewah, TN 37363. It will then be processed through the GC and sent directly to the Treasurer in Shillong. Absolutely every dollar of your donation will go for this Church. We will share progress reports. For additional information contact me at <jim.ashlock@comcast.net> ~~~~~~~~~ II. Letters & Season’s Greetings

   1. Janet Calebs <geojcalebs@gmail.com> December 29:

      This is my last letter as the communication secretary of the Cunningham Road Church. We had so many things happening in the church; for instance, on the 18th of December Dr. Alice Joseph conducted the carol "What Shall I Give to Jesus," interspersed with the school choir, children's choir, solos & duets accompanied by instruments.

      Gloria Calebs gave the message. Nalini, as a visitor, was so impressed with the way everything was planned—the way Dr. Alice took the time and had answers for everybody.

      Gloria told the legend about the fourth Magi with the gift of sapphire, ruby & pearl but who had stopped to look after a person in need that he spent 33 1/2 years looking for Jesus and when he finally found him he had no gift. He then said "What shall I give to Jesus?"

      In answer Mr. Gomes sang the song "Give Your Heart to Jesus..." inviting everybody to give his/her heart to Jesus. That Sabbath morning Sabbath School was taken by Mr. V. Raju's family and Mr. Raju who is 91 years on earth, whose relatives had come from far and wide. At the back of the church they gathered to sing happy birthday to him and the church gave him a bouquet.

      In the afternoon the whole church was invited to witness the young people gave testimonies how they spent their weekends in a 3-day camp at KodaiKanal, run by 2 Adventist sisters in the Adventist style. They also talked about what they enjoyed the most at the camp.

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   2. Basharat Masih <Basharat.Masih@khnetwork.org> December 29:

      Sheila & I wish you, our SUD friends, a Gracious, Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year. We would like to pass on to you these thoughts as 2011's Best Wishes; "The object of Love is to serve..." Woodrow Wilson, "Happiness is when what we think, what we say, and what we do are in harmony." Mahatma Gandhi. James 2nd chapter talks a lot about the cognitive dissonance we might be practicing in our lives. Let us pay attention to his inspiration on "love," "Faith," and "Works." Let us see the world as it is and not as we would like to see. Here is what we need to consider, "There are
only 3, colors, 7 notes, and 10 digits. It is what we do with them that's important." Ruth Ross. May your 2011 be the happiest year ever; that is our sincere prayers.

3. Margaret Solomon <solomon.margaret7@gmail> December 29:

After four months of lecturing and researching about the education of children from the slums and other deprived communities in India I have returned with great experience and much learning. Fulbright-Nehru Visiting Scholar award I received this year enabled me to do this work. I thank God first, then the governments of U.S and India for providing this professional opportunity for me. I also thank the La Sierra University Administration for giving me the time for engaging in this Fulbright Project. I delivered a total of 51 lectures in different schools and colleges in Bangalore, Pune, Hosur, Chennai, Varanasi, Roorkee, New Delhi, Sri Lanka and Tanjore. I have selected 5 slum schools as my case studies for explaining the education of the poor children in India. I have collected much data on those schools and will be highlighting their work in my scholarship efforts. Lowry Memorial College became the main institution for facilitating this experience for me.

I really enjoyed staying at Lowry after being a student and teacher there many years ago. I thank Lowry College administration for their kindness to me.

This is my summary of my experience. Young girls on the streets of New Delhi are still selling pencils for their livelihood without going to school. Many of our Adventist educational institutions in Southern Asia are very much disconnected with the educational issues of India. There is no plan to get involved. In spite of the progress India has made in many areas, the plight of the poor and underprivileged continues to be on the downward trend. The gap between the "haves and the have-nots" is widening. The Indian government is taking many reform efforts to improve the education of my target student population but there is no systemic process or structures to implement effective changes. There are many NGO's (Non-government Organizations) taking the lead in the education of poor children in the slums and Dalit communities. The importance of quality education for these children is not a primary concern but providing equal opportunity is the concern. The teachers in the 5 schools I have selected are not fully trained but have a great desire to teach well to their students. Three of these are Christian schools and two are not. I found out from the teachers and administrators that the compassion of Jesus in their hearts is the driving factor for their work. I plan to take this cause to the next level by bringing some solutions to the problems these schools face. I will discuss that with those of you who are interested in finding out more about this. I have posted some pictures on my "Facebook" site for those of you who want to have an idea of the type of children I worked with. If you have any questions please send them to me at <msolomon@lasierra.edu>

I wish you all a Great New Year! May God lead you into new experiences of knowing Him and receiving His power to represent Jesus to the world around you. May the Grace and the love of Jesus empower you to live for His glory!

4. Praveen-san Kishore Tamsang <pktamsang@hotmail.com> December 27

During this year, 2010 it was a great blessing to see in Himalayan hill (Sikkim-Darjeeling) that December 25 was on Sabbath Day. Oh! What a great joy to see thousands of believers from different churches attending and praising our Great Saviour who came to this world to save us. Melodious church bell was rings in this hill, early in the morning people in their new, clean dress walk in the church singing and witness the love of Jesus.

The Sunday church which used to be empty hall was filled with members praising on Sabbath. We Seventh-day Adventist believers went out for outreach program and witness before the non-Adventist during the afternoon. Our youths in this hills distributed pamphlets, "The Great Controversy" and the Gideon New Testament- Bible. Some visited hospitals, old age home, orphanages and door to door home in various villages. Beautiful songs and encouraging messages was shared before the mass people wherever visited.

Chocolates, candy and cake was shared to hundreds of people fund raised by our local members through selling of their kitchen garden vegetables, washing neighbor vehicles, cutting front home barn grass, cutting fire wood for Christmas bon fire etc... Yes! There is no text in the Bible to observe the Christmas, neither proof that Jesus was born on December 25 but we during this season we can share the early life of Jesus and remind the people how our Great Saviour was born and assurance for coming eternity for those who believe in HIM. Thank to all for cooperation and witnessing for our Lord. We hope and pray one day may there be a churches in every mountain top in this hill praising our Saviour. Amen.

5. Rodney Lord <rodneylord@yahoo.ca> January 3:

To all SUD e-News readers:
A Very Happy New year to all and may God grant that each one will find happiness in the Lord in this new year; may all your need be grand to you by our God almighty.

From all the members of the OSAAF Fellowship up here in Ontario, Canada----God bless,
Rodney Lord, President

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III. Untimely Death of Paul Jensen

Mel Lyon <<LyonMel@wmconnect.com >> December 29:
The following releases were issued by the Publishing Department of the Southern Union Conference, Decatur, GA

A Great Prince in Israel has Fallen! It is with great sorrow that we inform you that Paul Jensen died last night [December 21] from injuries sustained in a car accident. He and Shirley were hit by a drunk driver. Shirley stated it was foggy and the car came out of nowhere and crossed into their lane and hit them. She is bruised and hurting, but her life was spared.

A private family burial will take place within the next few days with a memorial service at a later date. We will keep you informed when new information is received.

We will trust in the Lord during the difficult days ahead. Please uphold the Jensen family and the publishing family in your prayers.

"At all times and in all places, in all sorrows and in all afflictions, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing and we feel helpless and alone, the Comforter will be sent in answer to the prayer of faith.
Circumstances may separate us from every earthly friend; but no circumstance, no distance, can separate us from the heavenly Comforter.
Wherever we are, wherever we go, He is always at our right hand to support, sustain, uphold, and cheer." Desire of Ages, 669, 670

Update December 29, 2010

Memorial Service for Elder Paul Jensen

The Memorial Service for Paul Jensen will be held Sunday, February 6, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. (Central Standard Time) in the Crossville Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2335 West Avenue, Crossville, TN. 38557.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the "Free Literature Fund," for literature evangelists to place small literature in the hands of their contacts gratis. Donations may be sent to:

Home Health Education Service
PO Box 1147
Decatur, GA 30031

and designated as "Free literature - Paul Jensen Memorial." A card acknowledging your donation will be sent to Paul's wife, Shirley.

Condoledances may be sent to Shirley at 980 Colby Circle, Crossville, TN 38571.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4: 7

Mel Lyon continues:

Note: If any of you have pictures of Paul or of Paul and his wife and/or family that you could share for the enhancement of a power point presentation at the Memorial service, please send to Melvin Lyon, PO Box 336, Silver Creek, WA 98585-0336 or by e-mail to LyonMel@wmconnect.com. If you wish a brief textual message of condoleence to be presented on your behalf at the service, please send to me by mail or e-mail.

Paul served overseas in publishing leadership in Pakistan and Africa. In 1967 and 1968, Paul and wife, Shirley, relocated to Japan where Paul served as the Japan Union Publishing Director.

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IV. Choppalas Ministry to India's Eunuchs

The following is from Andrews University's current alumni magazine,

FOCUS:

"Former professor ministers to the eunuchs of India; a first in church history.

"Johnson Choppala, who taught biology at Andrews from 1967-69, has served as a professor at universities in Kenya, Trinidad, Thailand, and India since retiring from government service in 1999. In 2007, Choppala began a unique service project: ministering to the eunuchs of India.

"On Sept. 4, 2010, he gave a sermon at the Southern Asia Church of Michigan, which meets in Burman Hall, and told his story.
"While teaching at Spicer Memorial College in Pune, India, Choppala and his wife, Mridul, stumbled across a verse that transformed their lives. They read Isaiah 56: 4, 5. 'To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, and choose what pleases Me, and hold fast My covenant... I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.'

"We immediately knew this was from the Lord,' said Choppala. Eunuchs 'are treated as outcasts by society; they have no rights; their parents put them out of their homes. They are forced to beg or dance for a living,' said Choppala. The Choppalas discovered that there are over four million eunuchs in India alone. They prayed for God's guidance and felt led to go forward.

"In 2008, the couple met Ammaji, the leader of a group of eunuchs in Bhimavaram, India. 'I talked to the eunuch, which surprised him, because no one talks to them with respect,' says Choppala. As the Choppalas established relationships with eunuchs in nearby cities, OASIS was born. The Choppalas co-founded the Organization for the Advancement of Special-gender Individuals through Education & Welfare Society in 2009. It aspires 'to reach every eunuch in India with the message that God loves them.' Its goal is to establish schools where eunuchs can learn trades such as tailoring, cosmetology and hairstyling to give them alternate ways of living.

"The Choppalas are currently raising money to build a school and residences. At the end of September, they will return to India to continue their work. 'One of the greatest lessons we've learned is to love people,' says the couple."

V. Christo's Memoirs: Return to Mongolia, Part 1 of 2

In the year 2000, the General Conference session was slated to be held in Toronto, Canada. How could we not attend the session when it was being held in a city where three of my sisters had been living for almost fifty years? We applied to the Division officers to include us in the Southern Asia Division quota and had our passports and visas ready. Then early in May, the telephone rang. P. D. Chun, president of the Northern Asia-Pacific Division was on the line. "Pastor Christo," he said, "Would you be interested in coming to Mongolia again? Dale Tunnel is a delegate to the General Conference and is also due a four-month furlough. We need you for another five-month period." Birol was standing nearby and heard the conversation: she nodded her head in assent. I didn't need another invitation and without hesitation, I asked, "When do you want me to come?"

"As soon as you are ready," he replied. There went our trip to Toronto.

We were all excited. We had kept in touch with our young friends through the three years we had been absent and they shared our excitement also. The first time we had gone to Mongolia in 1997, the Mongolian field was under the supervision of the Hong Kong Mission. Soon after our visit, the Far Eastern Division was reorganized as the Northern-Asia Pacific Division and Southern-Asia Pacific Division. This time, our journey took us through Seoul, South Korea, where we spent the night. The Division officers were busy in a heated committee session. We were met the next morning at the Ulaanbaatar airport by Dale Tunnel and a couple of other workers from the office. We drove to the site of the new three-story building, which had a residence for the director on the ground floor, the Adventist Mongolian Organization office, a worship hall, and the English Language School on the second floor, and the ADRA office on the third floor.

Dale and Cheryl Tunnel shared their apartment with us for a week. When they left for the General Conference session and a well-earned furlough, we lived in their home. We soon got into a busy schedule. Bold and Otozh had married in the meantime and were located in Darkan to look after the growing church there. Nyamdava went as a missionary to Ulaanbaatar. Tamira was the office secretary, and I took over as the leader of the Church of Mongolia, as well as the treasurer, a task that Cheryl had been doing.

The year before, Dale Tunnel's father had held an evangelistic campaign in Ulaanbaatar. Korean volunteers had started work in Darkhan and Edernet.

The young people were very enthusiastic. The English Language School was attracting quite a few students. Two volunteers from the United States and one from Hong Kong were running the school. Enkhebayar and I had a schedule of Bible studies. Munkjagral was busy translating books. Pastor James Wong and his wife of the Adventist Youth Department spent a weekend with us conducting leadership classes. He brought a couple of cases of soy-protein foods to supplement our diet. We appreciated that!

We started attending the International Christian Fellowship on Sunday mornings. They were a group of English-speaking Protestant volunteers representing the Commonwealth and the United States. We were the only Indians. A couple of Mongolian Christian families also attended the services. The organizers were happy to have us worship with them. During the four months that we worshipped with them, I had the opportunity to speak to them on two occasions. The first time, I spoke on the subject, "Why I am a Seventh-day Adventist Christian." Pastor Gibson from England was married to a Mongolian woman. He had been in Ulaanbaatar for many years and was acquainted with Brad and Cathy
Jolly. The majority of the American Christian churches had translated the name of "God" as "Burhan" a derivative of "Buddha." He opposed this translation because God can never be equated with or compared to Buddha. Pastor Gibson was instrumental in establishing the Mongolian Bible Society, whose work has the blessing of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

One evening, after office hours, we went for a walk on the street in front of our apartment. The streets were deserted. As we approached the corner of the street, I carelessly stepped on a cast-iron manhole cover. It flipped open. I lost my balance and as I started falling down into the manhole Birol caught hold of my hand, but try as hard as she could, she could not pull me up. Just then she noticed a well-dressed man coming out of a building with his secretary. They proceeded to a car parked by the curb. Fearing that she couldn't hold on much longer, Birol shouted as the couple started to get into the car. Fortunately they heard her. Sizing up the situation, he was by her side in a moment and helped her pull me out. The flipped iron cover had made a gash just below my knee, and it was bleeding profusely. The blood was running down my leg into my shoe. The woman could speak English. Her boss, a Korean executive, had a first aid box in his car, and he bandaged the wound and rushed us to a nearby government hospital. A nurse attended to me immediately, gave me a shot, stitched the deep cut, and placed a dressing on the wound. For three days, I went to the hospital every day to have the dressing changed. After the third day, the nurse kindly stopped by our apartment, and dressed the wound. She kept coming until the wound had healed. God had placed the Korean gentleman right where and when we needed him. We thanked God once again for providing help when we needed it, and for the excellent care and medical facilities in Ulaanbaatar. [End of Part 1 of 2] ~~~~~~~~~ To remove your name from the mailing list of this newsletter simply reply to this e-mail and put "REMOVE" in the Subject line.

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