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Northeast Adventist College President Dies in Auto Accident

Gordon Christo <drongo.ostrich@gmail.com> January 7:

On Friday, Dec. 31 Pastor Lalthanzika, newly elected president of Northeast Adventist College, died in a tragic accident in Mizoram when the vehicle he was traveling in went off the road and plunged into the valley below. Lalthanzika, son of Pastor Saikhuma, had served almost a decade as teacher and vice principal of Assam Training School/NAC under four or five principals and was elected the president at the Division Council last November. I was always impressed with his quiet dedication and his cool efficiency. Always impeccably dressed, he was a role model for the students of the institution. Let us pray for his family and the college which mourn.

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II. John Willmott to Speak at Remnant Church Revival

Maxwell S. Paul <maxpaul@comcast.net> January 6:

The Remnant SDA Church in Silver Spring, Maryland has planned a Spiritual Fellowship & Revival from January 26-29, 2011 where Dr. John Willmott, a renowned SDA scholar & international evangelist, will be presenting "Date with Destiny" (Experiencing the End Time Events).

**Daniel & Destiny Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at 7:30pm
**Jesus & Destiny Thursday, January 27, 2011 at 7:30pm
**John & Destiny Friday, January 28, 2011 at 7:30pm
**You & Destiny Sabbath, January 29, 2011 at 11:00am

On Sabbath, January 15, 2011 Elder Dave Weigley, President of the Columbia Union Conference of SDA will be the speaker during the divine service.

We cordially invite all friends and well wishers to join us in studying from the Word of God. For those that cannot join us in person, can watch our live stream at our website.

For more information, visit us at www.RemnantSDAChurch.org or facebook or follow us on twitter.

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III. Letters & Season's Greetings

1. Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> December 31:

A parody in the language of the Bible: Gerald Christo knew his wife and they begat many sons and daughters--five to be exact. The third one, Sonia, married Kish Poddar and they begat a daughter named Joanna. Joanna was betrothed to Andrew Evers and later married him and they begat Jonathan James on June 6, 2010. This same son, the first great-grand child of the tribe was dedicated by the patriarch of the tribe on Sabbath, January 1, 2011 in the Hosur Seventh-day Adventist Sanctuary. And great was the rejoicing thereafter and all the saints said a fervent 'Amen.' All the Christo family gathered in Hosur for this joyous occasion--Gerald, Birol, Glenn, Sandra, Kynsai, Jannai, Gordon, Rose, Gerald II, Naprissa, John, Priscilla, Rohit, Tanisha, Kish Poddar and Sonia, Andrews Evers and Joanna and baby Jonathan and Tennyson Samraj, Kris Samraj send the greetings and good wishes for the New Year 2011 to the readers courtesy of Dr. Tidwell's e-letter.

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IV. Visitors at Hosur

Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> January 8:
The week-end of January 7-9 was eventful for members of the Hosur Church. We celebrated our first Communion Service for year 2011. Mr. and Mrs. Aruldas, retired from Spicer College, will be dedicating their new house on Sunday and the Church will have its annual fellowship dinner on Sunday evening.

We were privileged to listen guest speaker Dr. Raj Attiken, currently president of the Ohio Conference for a record consecutive four terms. Raj was accompanied by his wife Chandra (Thomas) sister of Dora Willmott, daughter Christina and son-in-law Nathan French. Nathan, pastor of the Hollywood Church, was the speaker for the Friday vespers and featured in a trio with Joel and Joseph Narendra Rao at the Sabbath morning worship hour.

Dr. Attiken will spend a few days with his 86 year-old mother in Colombo.

It was a delight to see Lalitha Aruldas--the girl with the million-dollar smile--and her brother Paul on Friday evening. They have come for the house warming of the parent's home. It was a special treat to meet Drs. Harold and Beverly Giebel, called on a special assignment at Christian Medical College, Vellore. The Giebels were part of the SUD family and spent fifteen years at the Karachi Adventist Hospital. They are still energetic and spry in their eighties. It was good to talk to somebody who knows Urdu.

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V. Death of Chili Sam Prabhakar

Renati Solomon <renati.solomon@deakin.edu.au> January 3:

It is with great sadness that I am informing you all of the passing of Chili Sam Prabhakar, (Dabel) (age 55) Head Master, Maninager SDA High School, Ahemdabad. Prabhakar passed away early in the morning of January 2 due to heart failure.

Prabhakar studied at Spicer Memorial College from 1976-1983. He was seen as very jolly fellow for his ability to mix with all and keep everyone happy. He served as teacher in Vishakapatnam (1984-86) and as teacher, Head Master and Principal at SDA High School at Nagpur (1988-2006), SDA High School, Navsari (2006-2009) and at SDA High School, Maninager, Ahmedabad since 2009. He is survived by wife Sushila and daughter Swapnali. The funeral takes place on 04 January, 2011 at Pittapuram, East Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh. -- [R. J. Solomon an SUDite from Mumbai, India currently on a Post Doctoral Study at Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia] ~~~~~~~~~ VI. Rudi Maier New ADRA President

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

FOCUS:

"The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International Board of Directors appointed Rudi Maier as the agency's new president and executive director during the board's regular autumn meeting. Maier most recently served the Church as professor of mission in the Department of World Mission at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. His ADRA appointment became effective October 12, 2010.

"Maier, who has extensive experience in international development, becomes the fourth ADRA International president since its founding in 1984. He takes over the helm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s global humanitarian agency at a time of increased need for development and relief interventions.

"We are pleased to announce Maier’s appointment to this vital position,' said Dr. Ella Simmons, vice-chair of the ADRA Board of Directors.

'Ve congratulate him and wish him success in this new leadership.'

"Maier's long career in academia has been complimented by an ongoing involvement in international development. Between 1981 and 1988, he worked for ADRA, building the agency's monitoring and evaluation capacity, and implementing community-based programs. For more than 20 years Maier taught at Andrews University, and consulted for numerous nongovernmental organizations in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the former Soviet Union.

"Born in Germany, Maier served in various professional capacities in Pakistan and Sri Lanka. He holds a doctorate in Sociology and International Development from American University, and Master of Arts in South Asian Languages and Culture from the University of Chicago.

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VII. Youth Evangelism in Sialkot - Pakistan

Samuel Nazir <samuelyouthpku@hotmail.com> January 10:

Elijah Project Sialkot -- Northern Pakistan Section, November 14 - 27, 2010

The Youth Ministry Department, in association of with the Northern Section & the Sialkot local church, planned a youth evangelistic series (Voice of Youth Series) for 2 weeks with generously financial supported from the youth ministry department General Conference. The Trans-European Division also shared and supported in association of the Pakistan Union, the Northern Section, and Bhoth Cantonment Sialkot.

Sialkot city in northern section was the assigned area where youth can be mobilized to organized evangelistic series and also outreach community small project by the respective section & PKU youth ministry department.
Aims and goals were set: To strengthen church work, where young people can be mobilized, to evangelize & help in community through small projects like; spiritual activities and community services. Helping and inviting all to understand the truth of Bible and about God & those who accept this truth, to add then as church family into Seventh-day Adventist Church. . .

Through youth evangelism (Elijah project) at Bhot Sialkot, youth and youth leaders (TED Relay Trainees and others) have experienced & discovered their individual worth and spiritual talents and abilities gifted by the Lord Jesus. Also youth have gained experience and learned and are empowered for life of service in church (Seventh-day Adventist), and community in Pakistan. This has also proved that Youth leadership development by fellowship, nurturing God's given spiritual gift of leadership, through worship and understanding mission by experiment. . .

Young people were grouped with one senior leader and were assigned to visit in specific areas around and while visiting they carry along Urdu translated literature (Sunday Law, 200 Qasid Magazines,100 Patriarchs and Prophets, & 50 Urdu Bibles) for free distribution to non-Seventh-day Adventists.

Widows in the community were visited special by youth. There were special times of prayers with them in their homes and though the number indicated by the local pastor was small, when the youth visited they found there were 24 widows helped. People talk about the Seventh-day Adventist Church - the church that cares and loves!

The people attending the meetings belong to other Christian denominations--Pentecostal, Methodist, and Roman Catholics; almost 95% of people coming to meetings were non-Seventh-day Adventists.

The first two days went all well, but the 3rd day of meeting, November 17th, was a challenge for all of us; a sermon was preached about the change of Sabbath to Sunday and who changed it. the young man who preached presented his sermon with much prayer with confidence in the Lord. But at end of the sermon a Pentecostal pastor stood up unexpectedly and started shouting and calling members of his church to come out of meeting. God gave us insight and His guidance to take all this situation in prayer to the Lord for next day when visited people's home, inviting them for meeting, expecting much resistance and un-acceptance by local people. But to our amazement, there were more young people in meetings than older ones! Two days later, more people started coming back and day after day; more than 200 were attending each night, and by end of meetings number increased to 270 - 300. Praise the Lord God almighty who moved hearts of people. People did not care for the pastors those taught them falsely about the Bible - but now they knew for themselves the truth about the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

About more than 40 youth people participated in program facilitations on different days along with seniors pastors (TED Relay Trainees) and others.

People accepted the Sabbath day truth and did not listen to pastors who were stopping them from attending meetings. They continue coming. The Pentecostal pastor cut off membership of members who were still coming and attending youth meetings. They said; "What we can do now, and where can we go to worship? You Seventh-day Adventists do not have a place to worship."Now we very much need a church building for each church. . . Let's keep this urgent need in prayer of church building in Sialkot. . . .

There were 3 Bible study classes conducted each afternoon and more youth are attending these Bible study classes. And many questions are answered and church doctrines and beliefs are also taught.

In result of these youth evangelistic meetings (Elijah Project) voice of youth series - there were 39 people accepted Jesus as their personal savior and were baptized on Sabbath day on November 27, 2010. There was a celebration and fellowship meal served to all participating and on this day there were more than 450 in attendance.

Miss Marriam, a young girl regularly attending youth meetings; we did not know until the day she was baptized that she was a Muslim and now she has accepted Jesus and have salvation in Him. She said with tears in her eyes, "I'm saved!"

Let's offer special prayer for her safety and stronger commitment, that she remains in Lord till he comes to take us all to Him to heaven - she will be there - I believe!.

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VIII. Christo's Memoirs:

The highlight of our second trip to Mongolia was the weekend we visited Darkhan and Edernet with Byra and Enkhebayar. We spent the Sabbath at Edernet, a mining town where two thousand Russians worked and lived. We saw an enthusiastic Nyamdava ministering to a group of young people. We left after Sabbath and reached Darkhan at midnight. Bold met us at the railway station. Not wanting to wake his little family, Birol slept on a sofa and I slept on the carpet. In the morning we were delighted to see Otguh and the baby. Otguh gave us a hearty breakfast. We had a service with a few members on Sunday morning and in the afternoon we returned to Ulaanbaatar by car.

Our second love affair with the young Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mongolia was coming to an end. Winter had set in once more. The Tunnels were scheduled to arrive before we left, but their daughter Jessica was a freshman in high school, so she was not returning with them. We were happy that their cats had survived their absence. Birol readied the
house for their arrival. She put clean sheets in the master bedroom, made Ashley's bed, and we decided to sleep on Jessica's double-decker bunk beds. I asked Birol, "Why are you getting the beds ready so early?" I knew the answer. She doesn't ever leave things till the last minute, except her own grooming and dressing! The metamorphosis from her work clothes to a butterfly takes just an instant.

The telephone rang. It sounded far away, yet I detected an American accent. "Do you understand English?" the caller enquired. "I sure do," I replied. "No wonder the voice seemed distant. Whoever was calling, was calling from Russia, just beyond the Baikal Lake area. The voice continued, "Can you make reservations in a hotel? Three of us will be arriving from Russia tomorrow." Knowing that the beds were all made up, I said in my best English, "You can stay with us." The next day, Bob and Brenda Robinson accompanied by a Russian pastor arrived. Thinking that there was a shortage of food in Ulaanbaatar, they had brought a lot of food-Worthington canned goods, dry fruit, and dried bananas. They enjoyed Birol's rice and curry.

They talked with Munk about the possibilities of sending a Russian missionary to take the gospel to the Russian communities residing in Mongolia. In the evening, the Russian pastor took us to a Russian Club where the chef prepared delicious salads and vegetarian entrees.

Bob had been treasurer of the Euro-Asian Division. At the recent Toronto General Conference Session, the delegates had elected a Russian to be the treasurer and Bob was currently without a job. I had been a member of the General Conference committee when the transfer from expatriate to indigenous leadership began, so I understood his predicament and his emotions. The day of the expatriate missionary seeking a role in leadership in the mission field is coming to an end. Nationals are rightfully taking their places in leadership roles in their own areas. The Robinsons left with the Russian brother. I thought to myself, this is the last time I will meet them. A few months later, however, we welcomed the Robinsons as members of the Southern Asia Division family. They are filling a need in Southern Asia that very few could fill.

I washed the sheets. Birol made the beds up once again. The Tunnels returned from their well-earned furlough. We moved into Dayan and Hannah Eager’s apartment for a few days while they were away on a trip as we were scheduled to leave the next week for South Korea. Elder Chun wasn't in Seoul, but he had made arrangements for someone to meet us, put us up in a hotel, and treat us to a traditional Korean meal. The next morning, we were on our way home. Our driver to the airport was playing a CD that we liked very much. When we reached the airport, he very kindly took the CD out of the player and gave it to Birol. We appreciated his kind gesture.

Our flight from Seoul to Bombay on our return journey to Bangalore was uneventful. If our return flight to Bangalore was uneventful, what followed was certainly not. A popular Bangalore-based Bollywood actor Rajkumar had been kidnapped earlier in the day. Rioting and arson followed and the entire city observed a bund (shutdown). As we got out of the airport we were greeted with a cloudburst. We found a taxi whose driver was willing to take the risk of driving us to Hosur. A few minutes down the road he changed his mind and asked us to get out of the taxi with our baggage. He said that he would send another taxi. It was midnight. The otherwise busy airport road was deserted. We were nervous and afraid. Fortunately the torrential rain had changed to a light drizzle. We were stranded in the middle of nowhere, twenty-five miles (40 km.) from home. We had no mobile phone. We couldn't call John to tell him of our predicament. Then God provided another evidence of His constant care for His children as a red car screeched to a halt. After hearing our story the gentleman warned us of the danger of being on the road at that time of the morning and said he was going to stay with us till we found a vehicle to take us home. Fifteen minutes or so later we noticed a pair of headlights of an oncoming vehicle. As the vehicle slowed to where we stood we recognized a Maruti Omni whose driver offered to take us to Hosur. We thanked the owner of the red car for waiting with us. As soon as we got inside the van another a rainstorm hit us. We had to keep moving inside the van to keep from getting drenched. We don't know how the driver kept on the road in the blinding rain. The driver slept in our home till the morning and after breakfast he returned to Bangalore. We won't know till we get to heaven whether angels were commissioned to protect us. All we know for sure is that it was more than mere coincidence that the drivers of two vehicles intervened in our behalf that fearful and stormy night.

God's promises fail not. "For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes." 2 Cor.1:20 (NAS). He had kept us from serious illness. At our age and with the history of our medical problems our loved ones had every reason to be fearful during our trips to remote and isolated Mongolia.

Birol has had allergic reactions since childhood, had asthma attacks throughout much of her adult life and ever since my nephrectomy I have repeatedly had urinary tract infections and been under medication for chronic heart disease. But our God whom we trust has promised he will cover us with His pinions. "You will not be afraid of the terror by night, or of the arrow that flies by day; or of the pestilence that stalks in darkness."
Psa.91:5,6. (NAS) Thus episode two of our "Mission to Mongolia" came to an end. Mission accomplished. -- Return to Mongolia, Part 2 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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