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Dennis Dean Tidwell <deantidwell@yahoo.com> February 15, 2011 1:40 AM

Jacqui Patt told us a few hours ago that she had received news that her older brother Doug passed away in Ecuador where he had retired a few months ago. February 14 was her birthday and she was having a great day until she received this shocking news. She is still trying to find out details, but she commented that he has been ill since December and was having respiratory distress at the time he died.

Please remember the Patt siblings, Jacqui, Steve, and Greg, at this time.
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II. Life Sketch of George Stanley Calebs

Shyamala Bastiam Pillai <shyamalan@sjmsassociates.com> February 2:

On March 2, 1929, the bonny baby boy born in Sakleshpur, Karnataka to ardent Christian parents, Dr. T. Calebs and Dr. Mrs. N. Calebs, was named George Stanley Calebs. In 1950 as a young man, he his four siblings and parents received the Adventist Truth through the Voice of Prophecy and were baptised into the Adventist church at Cunningham Road, Bangalore.

George received his early education in Sakleshpur, but continued his professional education at the Government College of Engineering right here in Bangalore. He worked as a Civil Engineer for the Central Government in the Public Works Department. As an Assistant Engineer in Orissa his work involved land reclamation projects, building homes and a hospital for the displaced refugees from East Bengal. George later worked as a Vigilance Officer in New Delhi, Chennai and finally in Bangalore where he retired.

On May 18, 1959 he married Janet Bhaggian and they were blessed with a beautiful baby girl, Nalini Rosemary. Not very long ago they were blessed with a Sri Lankan son, in Surendra Bastiam Pillai and later with a grandson Nalindra who has bought much joy to his parent and grandparents. At the age of 10 he is a picture of his grandfather as a young child.!!

God bestowed tremendous talent on Sonnie, all of which was used to bless others. A voracious reader, and a prolific writer his works included essays, amusing letters and plays (even in Bengali). He was a crossword buff who specialised in cryptic puzzles. A man of honour and wisdom, he always had a ready wit for every occasion. When he came out of surgery for amputation of his right leg, he smiled and simply said, "Now I have one foot in the grave!!"

Sonnie and Jenny (as they are affectionately known by their family) always had some extended family or others living with them throughout their lives. Their home was truly a Bethany, a home for one and all and no one was turned away from their door without a meal or Jenny’s famous bakes and lime juice.

George had a close association with the Bangalore Central English Church for the last 60 years and quite recently he was ordained an elder of the church. His duties towards the church included his advice on all matters brought to his attention and his silent messages were a source of inspiration.

Humility, honesty, simplicity and charitable deeds were at the core of his character. A man of few words, shy and retiring from the public eye, he never made much of his achievements and went about his ways in a quiet manner. He would rather walk or go by bus and never believed in travelling by auto rickshaw. He sacrificed unceasingly to ensure that those in his care received what they needed and more. He bore all his adversities with the utmost patience and never wanted to burden anyone even right to the end.

He was well loved and cared for by his wife, his only remaining sister Juliet, daughter, son-in-law, grandson, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews and even three great grand nieces in reciprocation of his love and care towards each one of them.
III. TV Interview -- Mrs. Padmaja Medidi and Dr. Jaganadha Rao
Priscilla Shyam <priscillashyam@SAAA.ORG> February 17:
The message below is from long time SAAA members -- Mrs. Padmaja Medidi and Dr. Jaganadha Rao. May God bless them in their endeavor to spread His message through music:

Dear Friends,
I want to share how the Lord is blessing me. "Petals of Love" DVD was released in India October 2010. I was invited to appear for interviews on three major Telugu Christian channels (Subhavaartha, Rakshana, Aradana), reaching thousands of people in India. I praise God for the wonderful response in India. Please check the you tube link below for my Aradana channel interview. After watching, please feel free to comment, it will be helpful to receive some positive feedback from my church family. Please check out the link below:
<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5O1mrXSGdPo&feature=related> For further information contact me through my website:
<http://www.sweetsoothingmusic.com> or call me # 813-903-0044 or e-mail at padmaja925@hotmail.com.

Thank you for your support and may God bless you.

IV. Spicer Plans Centennial Celebration
Justus Devadas <president@spicermemorialcollege.org>February 16:
Spicer Memorial College was established in the year 1915 at Coimbatore and then the college was moved to Bangalore and then to Pune. Spicer has grown to be an institution of academic excellence and service to humanity. The College has provided workers for the church and graduates have spread to all parts of the world. The Board of Trustees met on January 20, 2011 and decided to celebrate the centennial program in 2015. This will be a time of joy, happiness, reunion and also an opportunity to thank God for His blessings on Spicer Memorial College and in each one of our lives.

We will be preparing various programs to culminate in a major celebration January 14-18, 2015. We will inform you of further details soon. However, we invite all those who are connected with Spicer College and Friends of Spicer College for this important occasion. We will be appointing various committees to plan out the program. I request you to share with us any suggestions to make this historical occasion a very very special one which will remain in our memory always. What a day that will be when we all meet together at Spicer campus!

Kindly write to us on my email <president@spicermemorialcollege.org>. This is the first information; we will be in touch with you as days go by.

V. Remembering Manorama Willmott
1. Florence Fernando <flfernando@hotmail.com> February 13:
I have just read Pr. Christo's account of Manorama Willmott's funeral and I also heard that her husband, Pr. Joseph Willmott, passed away last Monday and our hearts reach out in sympathy to their daughter Ruthie and her family and also the their other relatives. It is hard losing just one member of a family, but when two members pass away within a week, it is hard to understand their sorrow.

We hear of stories of angels in days gone by and in far-off lands but, right now, we hear of angels in Hosur--Millie Le Styne, Esme Smith and especially Leon Le Styne (Millie's son), who worked untiringly, in spite of their own health problems, etc., to care for Manorama. May God bless them and the families too.

2. Remembering Uncle & Aunty Willmott
Rosaline Muthiah Davy <davyp@bellsouth.net> February 15:
With sadness I am writing that we the, Muthiah kids, are also grieving after hearing the news that Aunty Manoramma passed away on Feb 3 and Uncle Joseph Willmott passed away on Feb 7. Many people around the world knew them and are sharing the message with each other. Some knew them at Spicer college before we kids came into the picture. When we lived in Bombay many years ago, the two mission bungalows were divided up into several apartments.
We lived at 11 Club Back Road and Uncle & Aunty Willmott lived at 16 Club Rd. We kids were so happy to go and visit them. Over the years when changes took place we did not see Uncle but Aunty Monoramma was a part of our family and we were able to see her on different occasions. Aunty Manoramma & her kids also became close friends and like family to my in-laws, as they all lived in Bangalore. We were able to get in touch with Ruth & console her. To lose an only
sibling and then to lose both parents four days apart is very sad. Ruth is full of courage & says that she is taking things one day at a time. She needs our prayers so that she can have the peace that passeth all understanding. May we all be ready by His grace to meet Jesus when He comes so we can meet all our loved ones again.

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VI. Remembering VHS Alumni

1. Eliot & Toni Bolst <tonelli01@bigpond.com> February 14:

Re VHSites in previous SUD News ... 

Dad, Noel E. Bolst, was quite chuffed to see the notice and hear of all those with whom he had previously worked, including several of my reasonably close relatives, viz, Desmond Homer (dec'd) my mum's brother, Hazel Rutland, now my auntie (married Hugh Bolst), my mum (Mrs. Noel Bolst nee Joan Homer), Hugh Bolst, dad's brother, not to forget Noel Bolst (dad).

And what a listing of those who have served or lived in the South Pacific Division: Marguerite Yettie (now Smith residing in Sydney), C. A. Hart, on of mum's first "bosses", (served with Adventist Media Centre Sydney for years), Phyliss Hart -- for a long time serving with Adventist Centre in Sydney -- Paula Hart, still around somewhere in Oz, Milton Lamb (Sydney), Pr. & Mrs. Rice (dec'd)-- Des is still around somewhere -- last I heard it was UAR or similar), Vere (Wood) Stotesbury and wife (dec'd), Ashley Lamb, Eric and Mrs. Austin (dec'd), Percy G. Harts and the Ritchies.

True, many have now departed this mortal coil ... but their memory and genes lives on in those they left behind. Even their children now are getting up near or into retirement age, and in some cases are also deceased.

Thanks from dad (now 89 - tells everyone he is in his 90th year!) especially, for the "honor" listing.-- Eliot Bolst, Melbourne, Australia

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2. Gerald Christo <christohsr@dataone.in> February 15:

I thank Dennis Tidwell for pointing out my glaring gaffe! How could I ever forget to include the name of VHSite George Johnson in the list of Union presidents on page 121 of my memoirs titled "Out of the Clay Pit"? 

George crossed the border several times when we were in Delhi and attended Division committee meetings in Poona and Delhi. He took me around in Lahore and the dried fruit bazaar when I was on itinerary in Pakistan. He arranged for me to take part in evangelistic campaigns in the Philippines where he was Ministerial Association Secretary in FED. My wife is indebted to Mernie for her book--"Cooking in Pakistan"... Sorry, George, for my oversight!

George's parents, Duane and Shirley, first came to Roorkee in 1941, replacing E. R. Streeter as principal when my mother was dean of girls and I was in my first year of college at Vincent Hill. Elder Duane Johnson became secretary of the Division when O. O. Mattison was the president and he planned my itinerary to include two camp-meetings when I attended the 1962 General Conference in San Francisco. I cherish the friendship of the late father and son.

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VII. Christo's Memoirs: A Tribute to Those who Have Helped Build [Part 2 of 3]

In the large cities in Southern Asia the English speaking Indians and Anglo-Indians were largely found in the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches. Large tent meetings were conducted by foreign Seventh-day Adventists evangelists and later by graduates from Vincent Hill College. The Biblical Adventist teachings appealed to small a segment of the English-speaking Christians in the cities, resulting in churches being erected, and schools being established. These Adventist city church schools were the forerunner of the largest system of city day schools/junior colleges operated by any other Protestant church in the country today.

When my mum and dad were baptized in Calcutta, the membership in the Division was 3262. When I began my work in the church in 1943, the membership stood at 7793. When Roscoe Lowry assumed the presidency in 1962, the Division membership was 27,312. Eighteen years later, when Dr. Lowry retired from the presidency in 1980, the Division membership had risen to 106,929. At the end of the two quinquenniums of my presidency, with the reorganisation of the Division in 1988 resulting in the formation of the Asia-Pacific Division, and the Pakistan Union included in the reorganised Trans-European Division, the truncated Southern Asia Division with the territories of the Republic of India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives Islands, the membership stood at of 170,969. When Ron Watts was appointed president (after Dr. Cherian retired because of illness in 1997) the membership of the Division was 239,887. It is interesting to note that it took fifty years in 1948 for the church membership to reach 10,000, another thirty-one years to reach 100,000 in 1979 and only twenty-six years to reach a membership of 1,000,000 in 2005.
The Lowry years will be remembered for the consolidation of the national leadership programme begun by A. L. Ham, and nurtured by O. O. Mattison. Being born and educated in his formative years in India, Dr. Lowry recognised the potential and the aspirations of the national working force. Not only did his administration encourage nationals in Southern Asia but he also attempted to bridge the wide range of salaries and living conditions of the nationals. Unfortunately, a lot of his administration's energy was spent in changes in policy and methods to prevent the organisation from coming under the purview of various tax laws.

I perceive my years were of strengthening the church in the matter of faithful stewardship and local church leadership. In the midst of my stewardship of the affairs of the Division administration, problems arising from the non-issuing of visas both to expatriates who wanted to work in India, and to Indians who needed to move in and out of the countries that made up the Southern Asia Division resulted in the reorganisation of the Division's territory and the relocation of the Division headquarters from Poona in Maharashtra to Hosur in Tamil Nadu. These were seen as bold and controversial decisions at the time. Change is not readily accepted. Looking back after two decades of the changes made during these years one is led to acknowledge that God was leading His church through this difficult period of transition.

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