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I. Letters
   1. Richard Samuel <samtrio@verizon.net> May 12:
      It is astonishing that a mind of Mrs. Pauline David could be that sharp to solve mathematic problems after 61 years of teaching. It’s not a surprise with Mrs. David; she has a God-given gift of intelligence. She taught me from eight grade at Spicer High school. We attend the same church and sure there seems to be no sign of her brilliance waning.
   
   2. SAAA <priscillashyam@SAAA.ORG> May 12:
      Long time community member and co-founder of SAAA in the 1960s, Mr. Sam Koilpillai, as a fund raiser for the orphanage and clinic, is offering retirement plots in Hosur, India to interested community members. You may contact Mr. Koilpillai at this e-mail address: sammargaret@sify.com or his phone in India: (91) 4344 262190

II. Death of Wilf Benwell
   Jim Ashlock <jim.ashlock@comcast.net> May 15:
   I just heard that Wilford Benwell passed away quietly in his sleep last Wednesday the 11 of May.

Ian & Georgine Grice <ieghg@hotmail.com>May 16:
   Els Hetke has just passed on to us news that Wilf Benwell recently passed away. We remember Wilf from our Salisbury Park days as an easy going hard worker with a dry sense of humour that made people instantly warm to him. Those of us who accompanied him on a memorable trip to Lasalgaon School will always remember him as a skillful driver too, for we made it through villages and culverts at great speed because the brakes in what Wilf called his black Stupidbaker quit working soon after we commenced our journey. The angels certainly protected us all that day! We enjoyed reacquainting with the Benwell family at the home of Ralph and Vi Jones at Walla Walla on our last trip to the US.
   Our sincere sympathies are extended to Hazel and family as they mourn their loss. Judging by the present state of the world we will soon have the privilege of meeting he and his family in that better land we have been longing for. What a wonderful reunion that will be!

III. Death of Judson Prasada Rao
   SAAA Office <priscillashyam@SAAA.ORG> May 18:
   The Southern Asia Adventist Association (SAAA) regrets to announce the passing away of Judson Prasada Rao, nephew of Thomas Prasad Rao. The funeral was held May 18th in Southern Asia Adventist Church at 2001 East Randolph Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904. The SAAA community passes its condolences to the family. God Bless!

IV. The Passing of Pastor Cherukuri Paul
Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> May 7:
I just heard a rumour that some senior pastor who translated some E. G. White books into the Telugu language had passed away in Hyderabad and I was quite disturbed when the thought slowly dawned on me that perhaps it could be my dear teacher of mathematics in Narsapur school. I finally called up my niece, Hannah Rajsekhar, in Hyderabad and she confirmed my fears and said that he was buried on Friday. My deep sympathies are with you all at this moment!

With the passing of Pastor Cherukuri Paul, the church in India, especially the Andhra field, lost a very versatile and dynamic minister of God. He was a very good teacher of mathematics and taught me maths in standards V, VI, VII and VIII at Narsapur High School during 1960-64, while Pastor K. Jesurathnam, the former Education Director of Southern Asia, taught me maths in Std IV (1959-60) and my own father, Mr. S. Somasundaram, taught me maths in Stds IX and X (1964-66). I give credit to all of these specially talented and dedicated teachers for enabling me to get 98% in mathematics (as well as my classmates and seniors and juniors getting similar marks in maths) in the Andhra Matriculation public examination those days.

Later Pastor Paul was ordained to the ministry of God, worked in various churches and positions in the erstwhile Andhra Section and also at Lowry Memorial Higher Secondary School as the Director of the then newly-established two-year Ministerial Diploma Programme during the golden reign of Pastor W. F. Easterbrook (1969 onwards) and trained many young men from all the four southern states for the gospel ministry. Later destiny brought Pastor Paul and me together and I had the privilege of closely associating with him in the summer of 1991 when I directed the Spicer College Extension School at my alma mater, Narsapur (Flaiz) High School, where he also taught the course Apocalyptic Literature, and where I saw him in a new light and appreciated his concern for the errant enrichment students as he pleaded their case with me as if they were his own children when I was quite tough with them in matters of punctuality, study habits and academic performance. Though he was quite dynamic and vibrant as a young teacher of mathematics, he mellowed into a very sober preacher and an erudite scholar by this time. And during his later years he devoted his time to the translation of many of E. G. White books into Telugu, a diligent feat that helped to evangelize the non-English speaking population of Andhra Pradesh. He fought bravely like a faithful soldier and now rests awaiting the crown and the Master's call on the resurrection morning.

To his children: may the love of our heavenly Father and the pleasant memories of your illustrious and industrious father comfort and console each one of you in this period of grief with the hope that we would see our beloved ones once again one day soon!

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V. Death of Former VHS Student Ian Wylie

Alethea Center <apcenter@comcast.net> May 16:

Former VHS student Rosemary (Rath) Rogers was asked by Ian Wylie's widow Viv to inform VHS ex-pupils of Ian's death in late March 2011. Ian was at VHS about the same time I was, in the late 1940s/50s.

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Dennis Dean Tidwell <<deantdowell@yahoo.com>> May 16:

Ian Wylie attended Vincent Hill School from 1934 - 1937 (4 years). He had two siblings attending at the same time...John and Joyce. Ian returned to VHS a decade later, from 1944 - 1948 (5 years).

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VI. NAD President to Speak at Loma Linda Southern Asia Church

George P. Johnson <geoprasad@aol.com> May 13:
Southern Asia Adventist Community Church At First Lutheran Church, 1207 W. Cypress Ave., Redlands, CA 92373 Invites you to join us for a special Sabbath Fellowship on May 21, 2011 With Elder Dan Jackson, President of North American Division Sabbath School starts at 10 a.m. Join us for a potluck following the service!! Invite your friends and relatives!! For further information, please contact: Pastor Sam Shadrach (909)810-3424 e-mail: pastor@sasdacc.org/srshadrach@hotmail.com Website: www.sasdacc.org

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VII. Hosur Girl Aces Government 12th Standard Exam

John M. Fowler <FowlerJ@gc.adventist.org> May 12:

Early this morning I rejoiced to receive the news that Fiona Dharmaraj, an Adventist student at the SDA Higher Secondary School in Hosur (near SUD...
headquarters) obtained 1183 out of 1200 marks in the 12th standard final examinations conducted by the Tamil Nadu State Government. Scoring 100% marks in mathematics, physics, and computer science, Fiona is expected to be declared fourth or fifth among all the students that appeared for the final examinations in the State. The accomplishment is a tribute to the high standards maintained at our school in Hosur, just as in many other schools, and also to the quality assurance of our institutions. Fiona, who has studied in Adventist schools throughout her life, says that she owes her success to God’s constant guidance in her life and her parents and teachers.

She plans to be an aero-space engineer. While I do not know results from other schools at this moment, I do wish to say that the flag of Adventist education is flying higher, swifter, and nobler in India. Thanks be to God, and congratulations to Adventist schools and teachers.

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VIII. Farewell, Friends, Farewell

John M. Fowler, May 1:

Thanks be to God--and to you, dear friends and colleagues:

Today, May 1, 2011, is my last day of official work in this great edifice that stands as the nerve center for the world-wide work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I have worked in this place since 1990, first, five years in the Ministerial Association, and the rest in GC Education.

With the service in SUD, I am retiring today after completing 53 years of joyful journey with the Lord and with a great company of God's people around the world.

As I get ready to leave the office, my heart is overflowing with joy and my eyes are filled with tears (for life will not be the same again after years of waking up to the same beat and call). I think of each one of you who have been part of my life some for a very long time, some for a short while, but all have been channels of God's blessings and mediators of His grace in order that I may do my ministry to the best of my ability and for the glory of the One who called me in the first place.

I have taken that call very seriously in everything I have done-in writing, in editing, in preaching, in evangelism, in teaching, and in other responsibilities that the church has laid upon me. But I could not have completed that service well, were it not for your support, your smiles, your taking me and treating me as a brother and friend.

For all these, I thank you as I take farewell from each of you. I am still going to be doing what I can, what I am asked, and where I am needed by my church. Although the future will be as glorious as one could wish because that future is in the hands of the One who never fails and ever loves, it will not be the same again without the friendship and the comradeship that you have bestowed upon me, undeserving as I am.

For all these I thank you, and seek your prayers as my wife and I journey on to that day not far from now when all our toils will be over and when all our hopes will be fulfilled in Him who ever lives.

John M. Fowler
15025 Atthey Road
Burtonsville, MD 20866
301-421-9715

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IX. Sikkim--Darjeeling Youth Mass Circulate Literature

Praveen-san K. Tamsang <pktamsang@hotmail.com> May 14:

SILIGURI METRO City is in the District of Darjeeling. It is the transit trade point for Nepal, Bhutan, North Eastern State, Sikkim & Darjeeling, etc. Currently we do not have any SDA Church in this city but people are interested to know about Jesus. Last week our Youth from Hill Circle (Sikkim-Darjeeling) voluntarily distributed 250 Bengali and 250 Hindi the 1858 "The Great Controversy Book between Christ and His Angels and Satan and His Angels" by E. G. White.

There was a positive response and people gladly accepted; beside that, all promised to read and our youth briefly explained to each person the value of this book during this end time. There were a handful of reluctant orthodox to whom we gave Voice of Prophecy Health Cards and they did agree to enroll and keep in touch. The books so freely distributed were financed by our youth by selling vegetable product from their gardens—cucumbers, beans and chilis. Yes! We are glad that our youth are energetic to spread the gospel in new target areas and save souls. We are expecting positive responses from the readers and plan to visit their homes after a month and contact them again. Please kindly remember in prayer the spirit of the Lord continue to move our young youth to share the gospel of Christ.

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X. Music in our Lives--Vignettes Through the Year--Part 1 of 2

Gerald Christo <christohsr@dataone.in>
Hill-leavers like soloists J. M. Steeves and G. A. Rodgers who came to Vincent left their mark on young minds as did students of Vincent Hill as Ivan Robert, Roscoe Lowry, Bob Ritchie, Desmond Homer and Caleb Paul, Edwin Joseph, Gnani Prasad and Chamiliana of Spicer College. Group numbers like the Men's Quartet of Spicer which featured several students over the years but it seemed Joy Kurian and Gentry Israel were always a part, the 1948 Ladies Trio made up of Barbara Whittaker, Poppy Melder and Birol Wallang set the Spicer College chapel on fire. One favourite duet couple were Howard and Evangeline Mattison.

Not to be outshone the VHS orchestra with violins, wind instruments. drums and cymbals featured among others I remember the McHenry brothers, the Thomas brothers, Leila Baird, Walter Mackett, Peggy Nolda, the Garners, the Woodward sisters and the I F Blues and their daughter Margaret made delightful music many a summer Saturday night.

When on vacation in Roorkee and later while teaching in Hapur I came to love Hindustani songs, most with western Christian tunes, zaburs (psalms) and ghazals. I could listen untiringly to songs composed and sung by Noble David, Justin Singh, Ed Dass, Sohaz Singh.

In my time favourite song leaders for Division councils and evangelistic series were Bob Ritchie, Charles Boykin, Roscoe Lowry, Milton Lamb, Charles Holford, Malcolm Stanley, and Terrence Davin. The audience is brought into the sweet presence of the Holy Spirit as they listen with rapt attention by an appeal in song by soloists Edwin F Buck, Roscoe Lowry, Terrence Davin, Gordon Jenson, K. Jesuratham, Babu Moses or a Telegu group in Hyderabad.

Birol learned her sight reading as did the boys and girls from the Lushai Hills with the aid of the tonic sol-fa charts invented by Sarah Ann Glover and popularized in the United Kingdom by the Rev. John Curven of Norwich. Strange and amazing as it seems, the Assam Training School needed no choir. The entire student group and teachers was the choir. Sylvia Lange, sister of the renowned Adventist song writer and composer Marjorie Lewis Lloyd was the pianist with her husband Oliver directing the Choir. The choirs gave concerts in Shillong. Birol recalls singing the anthem, "O Lord, How Manifold are Thy Works, In Wisdom Has Thou Made Them All"with the bass voices taking a leading part. And as the students from the Hills of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland came to school after the cold winter vacation all feeling of homesickness disappeared as they lustily sang "We Come Again with Songs to Greet You; With Happy Hearts Again to Meet You." I can only imagine the angels listening in awe to mere mortals singing heavenly music as the only tribals from the Northeast hills of India can make.

Birol and I have had the privilege of being part of a family who has brought blessings to large audiences with our duets and solos through our songs at camp meetings, services of the church, and weeks of prayer. Now into our 80s we still have this privilege! Imagine saints saved by grace singing with the angelic hosts with Gabriel holding the baton and leading the choir in glory land. Now, "That Will be Glory for Me."

** "Music is forever; music should grow and mature with you, following you right on up until you die." ~Paul Simon ~~~~~~~~~~~ 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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