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I. Letters

   1. Surendra Paul Gill <spgill05@comcast.net> May 26:

   Just this morning I got very joyful news that my brother, Pastor Samuel Gill, has been elected as the President for the North India Conference.

   Along with the joy, there is heavy burden on my heart that my brother will face with many challenges to carry on the work of the Lord. Last year I had the honor to work with him in the field and what I witnessed in every local church that the very few members are faithful to the church and the Bible truth. This compelled me to hold Bible Studies in my birth place church (Khan Pur-Mukerian, Punjab) and with the power of the Holy Spirit and blessings of our Lord and Savior, the 15 souls were baptized. The local pastors are facing various challenges. There is lots of work to be done to save the souls for His kingdom.

   I am writing to you because you are special in my hearts and I feel uplifted to write to you to request each one of you to place my brother and his new team in your special prayers. He is the man who has a burning desires to reach certain goals for the Lord and for the North India Conference. He hardly sits in the office and always in the field spending time and working shoulder to shoulder with the local pastors and church leaders. If I was not convinced that he needs our special prayers, I would have not put this burden upon you.

   Those who wish to contact him directly to assure him of your prayers for him and his new leadership team, I will be very happy to provide you his contact information.-- Res.: (301)-622-0006

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   2. Peter Mundu <peter.mundu@yahoo.com.au> May 26:

   Let me share our experience in the service of the Lord in Auckland, New Zealand. We have many friends over there whom we knew in Fiji Islands and some of them came through our efforts by the grace of God. They are attending different English churches. One of our friend had a burden for the Indian Community. His name is Mr. Amar Singh. For the last three years he telephoned us every now and then, inviting us to come over and help them in spreading the everlasting gospel in Hindi. We had made excuse after excuse to him. But finally we decided to leave our comfort zone plus even our sustenance allowances for three weeks. Thus on April 7,2011 we landed there.

   But we were told that it was not official therefore what we planned to do conducting the Revelation Seminar in Hindi could not be done. The hall was not available. Members were not prepared to attend. Nevertheless it dit not stop us doing personal evangelistic work, visiting in home and conducting Bible studies. Thus within three weeks we were able to establish a Hindi speaking congregation and they have started their Hindi SS class and Hindi service in the adjacent church hall. Yesterday, we received a telephone call from the church pastor stating that they have placed a call for us to run an evangelistic crusade in the month of August. The Macedonian call is still there if any Hindi speaking retired person wants to volunteer to nurture and evangelise the Hindi speaking people, they are welcome to have good holiday in that pleasant land.
We solicit your prayers for the success of God's work.

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3. Gladwin Mathews <gladwinmathews@hotmail.com> May 31:
On behalf of all the Roorkeewalas, I would like to congratulate our 'gurus,' Pastor and Mrs. Justin Singh for their 50th wedding anniversary. We wish them God's richest blessings as they continue their exemplary life journey together. May God continue to give them good health!

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II. Remembering Dr. John Oliver

1. John M. Fowler <FowlerJ@gc.adventist.org> May 26:
   Southern Asia was indeed blessed to have in its saga of missions someone like Dr. Oliver. Tall and majestic, simple and sacrificial, he walked in our midst as a model of true missions and typified the Great Physician in many ways. He left his impact for Jesus in Nuzvid and Nepal, and in many of our schools where he was an annual visitor, taking a health survey of students (and saving the lives of many young people from what could have been potential danger). We owe much to these great missionaries, and our prayers go out to the family members. One of them, a grandson, Ansel, works at the GC as a communication director, and he reflects his grandfather both in looks and in love of this great church.

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2. David Tamsang <sdevis@wlink.com.np> May 27:
I am indeed sad to learn about the death of beloved Dr. John Oliver. I know him personally since 1976. He was a dedicated missionary doctor who had served in Sheer Memorial hospital at Banepa, Nepal. Dr. John Oliver was the person who appointed me in Sheer Memorial Hospital in 1979 and I got an opportunity to work closely with him. I was his translator and used to assist him in the operation theater. Mr. Thulo Biko (now expired) and I were his close assistants.

He was a kind man and taught me how to work in the hospital. I was a young man then; he used to teach me how to work in the hospital. Apart from the medical doctor he was a good Bible teacher and used to teach people about the word of God as well. He used to invite me to his residence for the dinner and taught me about the Bible. I learnt from him many things. There are many frm the older generation who still remember Dr. John Oliver.

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3. Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> May 26:
I am sad to hear about the demise Dr. Oliver who touched many lives during his lifetime especially those 23 years he served at Giffard Memorial Hospital which was synonymous with his own name.

Dr. John B. Oliver was one of my childhood heroes. Though he served at Giffard Memorial Hospital, Nuzvid (1946-67), he was very much part of SDA High School, Narasapur, for he was the main sponsor for most of the students who hailed from the villages around Nuzvid and also visited Narasapur school with his team during its annual medical inspection during all those years of my student’s days there (1959-67). Many of my classmates and schoolmates were his wards and I used to wonder how he could sponsor and change the lives of so many students. It was said that he was so much involved in his ministry at Nuzvid that when he was invited to attend the Union or Division meetings elsewhere, he would tell those leaders that if they really wanted him to attend their committees, they better hold the meetings in Nuzvid itself as he cannot leave his noble work (patients), quite reminiscent of Ezra’s response to his antagonists. Dr. Oliver, along with other noted medical missionaries like Dr. Hiscox, Ms Miller and other noble souls had highlighted Nuzvid Hospital those days as the destination for patients from all over Andhra Pradesh, and his fame pervaded all over the country as it were as there was a continuous stream of patients making a beeline to this sleepy village of Nuzvid thanks to his excellent physical, as well as spiritual and educational ministry. One could say without much hesitation, Dr. Oliver was the main source God used to get many heathen children get an Adventist education and now serve the world field. May his tribe increase!

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4. Eric Moser <susanmoser@hotmail.com>
Susan and I are saddened to hear of the death of Dr. Oliver. I remember him coming to Poona for various Division meetings. A tall dignified person, yet quite unassuming.
Many of the delegates were in ties and suits, Dr. Oliver, in starched white bush shirt white trousers and sandals. He was asked to take part one Sabbath and he did not hesitate to go up front in his spotless whites. In all the photographs he is there in his spotless whites. This typified the down-to-earth man that he was. Later as medical students we got to know him as he attended council meetings in Vellore. He always asked how we were doing and if there was any problem he
could help out with. During our clinical weeks we spent four weeks of our vacation in one of our hospitals, many chose GMH Nuzvid. I went there, he was a brilliant surgeon and a clinician. Did so many procedures without the present day gadgets. All of us were full of admiration. One amusing incident--- one of the male nursing students used surgical spirits on a male patient's groin as preop preperation. Dr. Oliver was furious when he saw the reddened skin and found out what had happened. He called for the nurse, made him disrobe, laid him on the trolley and painted his groin with spirits!! I doubt that nurse ever forgot his lesson!! As Pastor Christo has said, many of the past generation have lived beyond their 'three score and ten.' They now rest and await their Master's coming.

5. Ptajule Shrestha <ptajule.shrestha@yahoo.com> May 29:
We are saddened by the death of Dr. John Oliver. He was my first mentor.
I graduated fromLLU and finished a residency in family practice and was immediately sent to Scheer Memorial Hospital in Nepal in 1979. Dr. Oliver was the only other physician there. We shared call every other night and I assisted him with surgeries. For call we had a pouch containing all the keys to the hospital and a receipt book so we could collect the bill if anyone left after hours when book keeping was closed. We soon named our little pouch that hung around our necks "the albatross," from The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner. It was a fantastic learning experience for me and I came to regard him with great respect and appreciation. Although we didn't always agree on every subject we appreciated each other's work and value. Only Dr. Oliver could keep my stubborn refrigerator running! He unfortunately had to double as the hospital maintenance man because of his fine mechanical abilities.
He also mentored Prakash Shrestha, a young Nepali who had just completed training in the health assistant program in Kathmandu. When Prakash and I fell in love and became engaged, he never batted an eye and gave us the counsel he would any other young couple, in spite of the fact that we had caused quite a bit of consternation at the GC level. When Prakash decided to attend medical school in Mexico, Dr. Oliver presented him with his first medical textbook which he still has today. Mrs. Oliver taught me the skills involved in shopping and food preparation in Nepal and in entertaining numerous guests. I can't wait to sit under the Tree of Life in Heaven and join them for conversation and some of Mrs. Oliver's wonderful garrlu. -- Sherry (and Prakash) Shrestha

Susan Smith <suetomsmith@gmail.com> May 21:
This is to let you know that my, father C. Murray Robinson, died this morning in his sleep. He had been going down hill for the last couple of weeks, but still was able to talk and get about. He had congestive heart failure and had been on oxygen recently.
Here is a little life sketch:
He was born in Canada on August 14, 1922 and died May 21, 2011 in Calexico, California.
He served in the Canadian Air Force during World War II in Burma and India. He met Hilary, his wife-to-be, in England on his way home from the war. He married Hilary in 1948 after 19 months of correspondence and then they lived a year in England working for Hilary's father.
They returned to Canada where he finished his studies and became an electrical engineer, graduating from the University of Toronto in 1952. He worked as a salesman for Westinghouse where he met an SDA secretary who studied the Bible with him and his wife. They were baptized into the SDA church in 1955.
It was difficult to practice his beliefs and work as a salesman so he became a teacher. At a camp meeting in 1957 there was a call made for missionaries. My parents signed up and when asked where they wanted to serve in the mission field, he had said anywhere but India! Well, they ended up going to India in February 1958 and stayed until June 1967.
After their years of service in India the family settled in the Berrien Springs area where he got his Master's degree in Education and worked at Andrews Computing Center. He taught at Andrews Junior High School, Eau Claire Elementary School in Michigan, Maui Mission School in Hawaii, and after retirement Janesville Elementary School in Wisconsin and also worked in Wisconsin for the CEO of Waste Management and then spent 6 months teaching English in Korea. They retired to Eau Claire, WI where Hilary preceded him in death in 2000. His final days were spent in Calexico, California where his daughters Susan Smith and Vivien Oxley work. Also surviving are his daughter, Carol Blehm, in Westcliffe, Colorado, son Peter in Dyer, Indiana and son David in Danville, Ohio. He has 13 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren.
The memorial service is scheduled for Andrews alumni weekend on October 1, 2011 probably in the Eau Claire SDA Church.

IV. The Ministry of the Gentry Lowrys
The Eastern Tidings--100 Years Later

LEST WE FORGET--From the Eastern Tidings of May, 1911 (Courtesy Office of General Conference Archives and Statistics)

J. S. James (Missionary to the Tamil field 1906-1935) writes:

"Elder and Mrs. Gentry G. Lowry left us recently for a well-earned and much-needed rest in the cool of Pulnel hills. The Lord has greatly blessed them in the study of Tamil, in which they are now able to teach and preach to the people. At the close of their leave they plan to locate at Trichinopoly and develop an interest which has already begun there. We regret to have brought to a close by this separation the cordial and profitable associations which we have enjoyed together the last eighteen months; but our eyes still look upon the fields with their great need, and we desire to place ourselves where our light may shine out to others with the greatest power and influence. We are thank fill for the health and strength which God has been pleased to give us thus far. We think of all the workers and remember them before God in our prayers constantly"

G. G. Lowry, 1909-1942, writes:

(He was serving as president of the Division, father of W. G. Lowry and R. S. Lowry)

After spending one year and five months of arduous labour in the study of the Tamil language, on the burning plains of South India, we felt it advisable to take a rest of a few weeks in the hills. Consequently, the first of this month we left our station in Tinnevelly and came to Kodai Kanal, which is a nice hill station located about twenty-four hours by rail south of Madras. We find it cool and pleasant up here, and feel sure that after a few weeks' stay we shall be able to go down to the plains much refreshed and invigorated for our future work. We shall probably not return to work in Tinnevelly district; as it was decided last December by our local committee, in counsel with Elder Prescott, that as soon as the way opened we should begin our work in Trichinopoly, a town of considerable size located on the South Indian Road south of Madras. We feel that undertaking to establish our work in this great Hindu and Roman Catholic centre is a very important step in the history of our work in South India. We therefore ask the workers all over the field to pray that when we do go and begin work we may be so guided and led by the Spirit of God that mistakes may not be made and that every thing may be done in such a way as to eventually redound to His name's honour and glory. There are already two young men there who are keeping the Sabbath, and as a result of their influence and work a few other young men are interested in the truth. We feel sure that within a short time, by God's help, these young men will be brought to the place where they will accept the whole truth and become lights for Him.

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V. Harvest Festival, Pragasapuam S. D. A. Church

Rajaratnam Jones <rajaratnamjones@gmail.com> May 26

When the Pragasapuram church was formed more than 100 years ago, most of the members were owners of farm lands and paddy fields. So the offerings were brought in kind. and were sold in auction after the Sabbath sunset service and ended with a traditional Tamil Nadu delicious meal.

Now none of the members own paddy field. No rice bags are brought as offering. But the traditional harvest festival brings joy and hope for the member and remind them about the Day of the Great Harvest, the soon Return of the Lord.

This festival was celebrated in a different way this year on 10th of May. An early morning special prayer session was arranged from 6 to 8 am.

Guest pastors presented five minutes spiritual feast in between each prayers session. This has kindled the spirit of the members. It was well attended by more than 100 members.

A breakfast (idliy, sambar, chutney, vadai and Kesari) was served.

Then began the regular harvest festival. Pr. Thangaraj David, the secretary of the South Tamil Conference was the preacher. He reminded the members how God blesses people and how manifold of blessings each of the believer is entitled to. The offering in kinds were auctioned for more than Rs. 11,500. they were, lamb, chicken, various kinds of fruits and vegetable. The traditional lunch was well attended by over 400 people.

We are eagerly waiting for the Day to hear the "crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe." Revelation 14:15

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