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I. Death of James S. Poddar

Sudhaker Borge <sudaborge@netzero.net> July 19:

I am sadly announcing the death of Mr. James S. Poddar in Salisbury Park, Pune, India. July 19, 2011 was the last day on earth for Mr. James S Poddar but as Christians we have the Blessed Hope that next will be his first day in heaven. Funeral services are set for July 20, 2011 in Salisbury Park at 11 A.M. He will share the same grave with his beloved wife, Jayashree Poddar, who passed away a few years earlier. Mr. James S. Poddar grew up in Salisbury Park and worked in Oriental Watchman Publishing House for 45+ years, from where he retired as Superintendent. He is survived by daughter Juanita Leigh and Jessica Leigh (Silver Spring, MD). His son Samuel Poddar is stationed in Dubai, and grandson James Poddar Jr. is studying in London (England). brother-in-laws...Lazarus, Sudhaker, Prakash, Chandrasen. Swarnalatha (all in U.S.A.) & Dr. William Borge (London)...That we all will meet in Heaven is our Hope. 'Oh Death, where is thy sting? Oh Grave, where is thy Victory?’ Please remember the family in your prayers.

II. Letters
   1. Ebenezer A. Manoharan <emanoharan@gmail.com> July 16:
      This is to let former workers in Ceylon/Sri Lanka know that W. Danoris (Banda), the gardener in the Sri Lanka Mission headquarters in Colombo for the past 50 years or so, passed away on July 14th. I am sure all the presidents of the Sri Lanka Mission especially will remember him.-- Office Secretary

   2. Jasmin Anand <jasminanand123@gmail.com> July 14:
      Tamil Revivals Scheduled for Malaysia
      Greetings from Vellore SDA English Church. Our church will be holding an 'effort meeting' in Vellore from 15 to 22 July, 2011 in a wedding hall close to the church.We have not had one in the last 25 years. The speaker is Pr. Shadrach Samuel. He will be covering some of our important doctrines. About 10 pastors/bible workers have been working for the last 3-5 months doing the ground work. We thank the North-Tamil Conference and the South-East India Union for providing us with these workers and financial support. Vellore has a large Christian population but they are strong in their beliefs and churches. We request your prayers for the meetings. Please pray that God will bring His children to the knowledge of His truth. -- Anand Manuel

III. Honoring Dr. John Fowler

Gnanaraj Moses <egmoses@gmail.com> July 7:

I am grateful to God for the distinguished services rendered to the Adventist Church by Dr. and Mrs. Fowler. My first encounter with Dr. Fowler was in 1955 -- looking at a little half filled suitcase set against the living room wall in the home of Pastor and Mrs. Sahayam David who were ministers in Kolar Gold Fields.

Having finished a degree in Business Administration at Spicer in March 1955 and worked for a few months in Bangalore, I decided to take a vacation to see Kolar Gold Fields. Mrs. Pauline David, who was then Pauline Thomas, volunteered the David's home as the stopping point. The Sahayam Davids
entertained anyone who entered their home like their own and I was no exception. I still so vividly remember their hospitality, compassion, humor, and the joy they shared as we spent a few days. Don't ask me how these old time pastors could entertain so many of us with the kind of salary they received. Only God knows.

When I saw that 'trunk' as we used to call these contraptions, I was curious to know what it was doing in the living room. It is then Pastor David told me that there is this brilliant young man who had scored the highest marks in the Statewide examination and is a new convert who wants to attend Spicer College and take theology. I said something like, "Why theology and why not business administration, if he is that bright?" Soon after I said that I knew it was the wrong thing to have said and have regretted it ever since. A big mistake! With the kinds of marks John Fowler got in the Statewide exam, he could have gone to any school for any program in India but he chose Spicer College, an unrecognized little mission college with no standing to speak of in the educational scene in India, particularly then. Don't get me wrong -- Spicer College -- to the Adventist church and believer -- has been a great blessing and many of us credit what we learned and experienced in that institution and God's blessings for the successes we have enjoyed over the years.

Now it is 2011 -- the John Fowler we know now did not suddenly come on the scene. He has been a giant in the making with his eyes fixed on being a servant of the living God with a focus on teaching and preaching with unwavering Christian discipline and love. What a job he has done. We are all better because of his service. Mrs. Fowler has provided the essential rock solid base for his family and ministry.

I had the pleasure being a member of the team Dr. Fowler put together for an evaluation of Spicer College by the GC a few years ago. I told him that I would be happy to participate if I can share my observations and thoughts openly and honestly seeking to strengthen Spicer and not merely rubberstamp whatever the administration wanted. He agreed and we all did our part. I am still waiting to see some dynamic changes for Spicer to be a more fitting tribute to Christian education in Southern Asia. It can happen.

My hope is that Dr. Fowler can speak his mind in improving the educational program of our church, particularly in India. Some of the best Adventist educational institutions are run by Adventist lay people in India while many church-run schools leave a lot to be desired. Why? I am sure there are many reasons and there are no easy answers. I trust the church can use people like Dr. Fowler to get to the root causes of the problems the church schools face and help fix them with our focus on a brighter future.

Dr. & Mrs. Fowler, our prayers are with you as you enter into another phase of your life and ministry. Thank you for what you have done to help us in our Christian journey. I believe some of the best days of your lives are just ahead. You both are creative enough to find ways to continue to be a blessing openly, honestly and with integrity.

May God bless you with good health and continued guidance in your lives to do His will in the days ahead. People like the Fowlers can never retire!

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IV. Baptism in Kathmandu’s Dhumbarahi SDA Church

The Dhumbarahi Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kathmandu is richly blessed by God Almighty. God is leading this church to do His ministry in this heathen land where many people are still in darkness who worship heathen god and goddess and idols and do not know about the true Master and Savior, Jesus, and guiding us to reach the unreached. All members old and young are quite supportive and always ready to serve for the Master and ever ready to cooperate with the church pastor to spread the true and everlasting message.

During the second quarter of 2011 we conducted Bible studies and a baptismal class for new believers in the church hall. There were altogether 25 people in the baptismal class and 19 precious souls were ready to take baptism by immersion.

The baptism was planned for July 2, 2011; we all have been earnestly praying that there should not be any problem and trouble with us from public and authorities while the baptism is being given to the new believers. And the month of July is monsoon season and it rains heavily all over in Nepal. On July 2 it was raining heavily from the whole night and we were so worried and did not know what to do or to cancel it because most of the believers had to come a long distance to the church and the baptism place also is a four-hour bus drive through mountainous roads. We prayed to God and said "Thy will be done." Lo and behold after some time there was a sudden change in the climate and the weather gradually became clear and the rain stopped.

God is wonderful and powerful. It was a great witness for our new believers who were going to take the baptism. They saw and sensed that God is powerful and mighty indeed.
Since we don’t have a baptismal tank, and at the same time we need to be cautious and take precaution while giving baptism publicly, so we had to leave for the usual place, the Sunkoshi river which flows from China and is 85 kilometer from Kathmandu. We hired a bus and we all left for Sunkoshi river at Dolaghat just close to China boarder. After three hours drive we got off the bus and went to the Panchkhal SDA Evangelist Training Center and had a beautiful Sabbath service and praised God together and gave thank to God. Pastor Chuck Jenson, Nepal Field Director delivered an inspiring and encouraging message, “Walking on the Narrow and Broad Road” to the new souls just before they took baptism. Pastor Kumar Adhikari and Elder Kapil Baniya assisted during the service.

We reached our destination about 1:30 P.M and started to give baptism to the new candidates. Pastor David Tamsang, ex-Director Nepal Field and Pastor Kumar Adhikari both conducted the baptism service and 19 lost souls who now believed in Jesus and had accepted him as their personal Savior in their heart were baptized by immersion in the water. Thirty-five old church members witnessed the baptism.

May I humbly request all of you whoever read this report or news kindly remember and pray for Dhumbarahi SDA Church and its ministry to reach unreached in this heathen land. There is another group are taking Bible study and ready to accept Jesus next time.

-- Reported by Vivek Sharma, SDA Youth Leader

V. Adrian Peterson and Adventist World Radio

Adventist World Radio (AWR) is celebrating its 40th Anniversary this year and in their current TRANSMISSIONS magazine it features one of its founders who continues making significant contributions to its world-wide work. The following is taken from that journal:

Adrian Peterson has been involved with Adventist World Radio since its earliest days. In anticipation of AWR’s 40th anniversary, we asked him to share a look back at his fascination with the radio work:

I was born into a secular family of 7 children in a small town in South Australia. Back in the era before World War II, good-quality radio receivers were not available, and many listeners made their own, particularly for shortwave. My uncle let me listen to his homemade receiver, and I marveled at hearing the distant radio stations in our state capital, Adelaide.

My first QSL (reception report confirmation) card from a radio station in another country was the giant 2YA in Wellington, New Zealand. For short wave, my first QSL was the familiar red, white, and blue card issued during World War II for the American shortwave station KGEX in San Francisco, California.

All our family joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I felt a call to serve in ministry. I gave up my employment as a trainee in industrial management and attended Avondale College where I met my future wife.

When H. M. S. Richards, Sr., the illustrious founder of the well-known American Voice of Prophecy radio program, visited Australia, I found him to be very approachable and interested in young, budding pastors. He challenged me: "Why don't you make this your life work, to combine ministry with shortwave international broadcasting?" This sounded like a good idea, so I accepted his mandate to serve the Lord, both in ministry and international radio broadcasting.

After ministering in Australia, we were appointed to the Pakistan Union, with particular emphasis on opening new work in Afghanistan. I listened to shortwave radio programming for news, information, and a touch of home and western culture. Many different shortwave stations—such as the BBC, Voice of America, and Dutsche Welle—requested I serve as their monitor, reporting on the strength and clarity of their signals.

In 1968, three years before Adventist World Radio started, Walter Scragg, from the General Conference, invited me to become an informal advisor to him for the purpose of launching an Adventist shortwave broadcasting service.

After graduating from Andrews University, we were appointed to Sri Lanka in Southern Asia. The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation asked me to launch a shortwave program on their behalf. So with the approval of church administrators, I created the program "Radio Monitors International" in 1975. Over the years we received mail responses from listeners in more than 100 countries, many of whom also enrolled in a Bible correspondence course. Later we were called to serve in the communication ministry of the Southern Asia headquarters in India. An existing radio production studio was already preparing programming in several Indian languages. The studio later became the AWR—Asia radio production studio, and we started issuing our own QSL cards. AWR was on the air in Europe by this time, under the direction of Allen Steele, broadcasting from Portugal.
Eventually our family moved to the United States, where my involvement with AWR’s ministry continued. I visited many AWR locations in Europe, the Americas, and the Pacific, representing AWR through presentations at radio conventions in many countries.

During such travels, the airplane captain would sometimes invite me into the flight deck, to sit by the radio in the jump seat and to tune in to many stations normally not heard on my receiver. On one occasion, while flying over the Indian Ocean, I heard the lonely medium-wave station VLU2 on Christmas Island. Another time, while flying near Cocos (Keeling) Island off Australia, the captain made a radio phone call to the little station on the island, telling them I was tuned to their station; the announcer on duty interviews me live on the air!

Today, my collection of QSL cards and letters has climbed to more than 35,000, the largest collection of its type in private hands anywhere in the world, and we are still on the air with a worldwide shortwave program, "Wavescan." I am grateful for the honor and privilege of having the longest continuous association with Adventist World Radio. I express gratitude to God for the privilege of serviced and ministry in international radio broadcasting on behalf of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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VI. Vellore SDA Alumni Retreat
Samuel Hansdak <hansdaksg@yahoo.com> July 12:
Second Annual Vellore SDA Alumni Retreat
Speaker: Dr. Benjamin Carson, Professor of Neurosurgery, Oncology, Plastic Surgery and Pediatrics; Director, Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery; Co-Director, the Johns Hopkins Craniofacial Center
***When: August 27th, 2011 9 am - 6:30 pm
***Where: Rocks Lodge - Harford County 4-H Conference & Retreat Center, 6 Cherry Hill Road, Street, Maryland, 21154
(Music, light breakfast, children’s activities, hearty lunch, and lively discussion included)
Several alumni living in the Maryland/Washington DC area have offered to host alumni who are attending from out of town and need accommodation for the weekend. If you need accommodation, please contact one of the Planning Committee members listed below.
Retreat Planning Committee:
Subodh Pandit, Advisor, (828) 329-8824
Devanand Jillapalli, Director, (301) 549-1031 Mariamma Phillip, Coordinator, (240) 461-6279 Ruth Joseph, Treasurer, (240) 601-5073 Helen Sheela Wilson, Associate Treasurer, (240) 688-1586 Vinciya Pandian, Secretary, (443) 655-3482
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Rajaratnam Jones <rajaratnamjones@gmail.com> July 4:
Ten of us (7 pastors, 1 teacher, and 2 lay people) are going on a mission trip to Malaysia to conduct revival meetings in our Tamil churches at Kulim, Bukit Mertajam and Penang. This is totally a voluntary trip and we meet our own expenses. Our pastors, lay people and teachers always wanted to experience a mission trip abroad. One of the nearest countries we can visit and do some missionary work is among the Tamils in Malaysia. So if God is willing we will be in Malaysia from July 19 to 25 conducting revival meetings, Christian musical programs, etc. Kindly pray for us. God willing, we are planning the next mission trip in December and May 2012. Some of them cannot afford to go to Malaysia, so we wish to take them to Sri Lanka for a mission trip.
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