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I. Death of J. N. Samuel
   SAAA <priscillashyam@SAAA.ORG> August 10:
   We are saddened to announce the passing away yesterday of Mr. J. N. Samuel, a long-time member of our association and community. He is the father of SAAA member Mrs. Hannah Koilpillai. Further details and funeral arrangements will follow.
   Please keep the family in your prayers for comfort and courage. If you wish to contact Hannah you may write to her at <montdent@verizon.net>

II. Letters
   1. Umesh Kumar Pokharel umsan@wlink.com.np August 9:
      I am very much pleased to read the news about the evangelistic crusade in Auckland, New Zealand, held by Pr. Peter Mundu for the Hindi-speaking community.
      We are praying for the meeting and hope God will bring great success. -- from Kathmandu, Nepal

   2. Rose Muthiah Davy <davyp@bellsouth.net> August 10:
      I wish to thank the friend of the Simpson family who had a message in the newsletter about their missionary work in India. God's clock is never wrong. I was able to contact them just in time and while returning from their interview at 3ABN they were able to stop and visit us in our home before my husband got diagnosed with cancer on July 11, 2011. They are sharing a lot to go to our country of India and many are hearing their testimony. They are ministering to the very poor who unfortunately are being called UNTOUCHABLES in India. In God's sight there is no such title. Before it is too late we must get the message in a loving way to the people in India so God does not have to say to them "I KNOW YOU NOT."
      Well the Simpsons have reached India safely. They will return in February. If anyone knows of cheaper rental property in Maryland for missionaries like the Simpsons who plan to be in India for 6 months at a time and live in Md. for 6 months, kindly send me an Email. Please pray earnestly for this family. On their first trip 100 men came to disturb the peace during a meeting but God intervened & their lives were spared. If you are able to support their work in India please let me know and I will send you their contact information. It is time to go HOME dear fellow-believers. Let us do our part to hasten the coming of Jesus.
      I would like to share with you the sad news that our senior church pastor, Lynn Schlisner who had brain tumor passed away after 6 years and he had mentioned this. I do not have to worry because I am in God's hands.
Those words give me a lot of courage and it helps anyone else then it is a blessing. Let us trust in our Heavenly Father Completely. He knows what is best for His children.

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3. David Olson <dwolson@southern.edu> August 10:
Last week mention was made of Union College hanging "golden cords" for such Southern Asia alumni as Harold Burr, Charles Robbins, Howard Mattison, and Charles Tidwell. My parents, the Wayne Olsons, were also such honored ones when they served in the Middle East.

The hanging of the "golden cords” is a quaint and perhaps strange thing to non-Unionites but to those of us who had cords hung for us-- it is a thing of beauty. Six of us in our family have had the cords hung for us. I suppose the symbolism is important-- you commit your life in service in a foreign land but those who remain in the homeland are expected to pray for us and support us while we serve. The call was to go, there never was a guarantee that one would return (there is a grave in Lebanon that was dug for me. The grave was used for another missionary’s child). When I was discouraged I could look at the golden cord and know I was in someone’s prayers.

[When his parents were serving in the Lebanon, David attended Vincent Hill School in India.] ~~~~~~~~~ III. Jim & Betty Ashlock & 60 Years of Wedlock
Jim and Betty Ashlock celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with their three sons, families and friends August 6 in Chattanooga, TN. Everyone enjoyed a full Indian meal at the "India Mahal". [Words of congratulation, commendation, or commensuration (-:-) may be sent to either or both: <jim.ashlock@comcast.net>]

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IV. Bangalore Church Honors Janet Calebs
Gloria Calebs <gcwc2000@gmail.com> August 14:
Sabbath, August 13, 2011 was a Landmark Day as the Central English Church, Cunningham Road, Bangalore honoured Sister Janet Calebs for her faithful ministry in the church for over 50 years! Church clerk, communications director and many other roles were efficiently played by Janet as she put into use her secretarial skills and God-given talents to bless and inspire the members. The church presented her with a crystal plaque, aptly inscribed and a bouquet of flowers and card to express our deepest appreciation. Her acceptance speech was filled with joy and gladness and all were blessed.

The same evening at the Women’s Ministry meeting held at her home, Sister Janet was presented with a giant print Bible—her favourite book and ours.

Our prayer is that her testimony will continue to inspire and bless all she comes in contact with. Truly a witness for the Lord!

Gloria Calebs, Director—Women’s Ministry, SDA Central Church, Bangalore ~~~~~~~~~ V. Remembering Mrs. Victoria Isaac
Justin Singh <JUWYL@aol.com> August 4:
Juanita and I are saddened to read in the Newsletter about the passing of Mrs. B. M. Isaac. This news came to us as a shock and took us by surprise. The Isaac family was very close to us. We had the privilege of teaching the Isaac children at Hapur and Roorkee Schools. We visited them in Toronto on a few occasions. When Pastor B. M. Isaac passed away, his children gave me the honor of doing their Dad’s funeral services in Toronto, Canada.

My first recollection of Pastor and Mrs. B. M. Isaac goes back to the days when I was studying at Hapur Elementary School. They visited Hapur School as newly married and were a very attractive couple. I remember them singing a special song during the worship service. Both of them sang well.

Victoria Isaac was a devoted mother and wife who brought up a family of seven children on a single salary. Thanks to Pastor B. M. Isaac who was a star literature evangelist and by canvassing during his yearly leave earned enough money to support his children’s education in Adventist schools.
Victoria was a quiet person who spoke very little among company. She was an elegant woman, always dressed decently, and she supported her husband in his work unreservedly. She loved her church and her Lord.

She will be missed not only by her children and grandchildren, but also by many who came to know her as a wonderful Christian woman and a friend. To all the children, Mrs. Singh and I send our heartfelt condolences. May the Lord help the children to honor their mother by following her legacy.

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Remembering Rajeev Shamgar Rao
Padma Solanky <padmasolanky@hotmail.com> August 8:
We are stunned to hear of Rajeev Shamgar Rao’s tragic death. Everyone who knew him is broken hearted at the loss of this bright, charming and lovable young man. There are no words to adequately express this devastating and profound loss. Please join us in holding his family and wife Sheryll in prayer during this sad and sorrowful time. John 14:1-3 comes to my mind, "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God..."

Rajeev was born in Hapur (near Meerut), Uttar Pradesh and was the youngest child of Shamgar and Sunithi Prasad Rao. He is survived by his wife Sheryll (Pakka), parents; two sisters: Sharmilla Siggurithu and Preethi Segamony; and a host of uncles, aunties, nieces and nephews.

He studied in Tamil Nadu, received a Bachelors degree from Spicer College and a Masters in Hosur. Rajeev worked in Pune and Bangalore for seven years and married the love of his life Sheryll Sampson in June 2010.

He was hospitalized in late July due to a brain tumor. Shortly thereafter fell victim to a stroke which led to pneumonia. Please continue to keep these families in your personal prayers.

Rajeev's life and memory will endure in our hearts and minds forever.

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VI. Gospel Evangelist Training Camp in NE India

  Praveen-san K. Tamsang <pktamsang@hotmail.com> July 29:

  Gospel Evangelist Training Camp Ended Successfully

  On July 21-24, 2011 Gospel Hill Evangelist (Sikkim-Darjeeling) had a Training Camp down in Relli Valley Kalimpong-Darjeeling Hills. More than 25 volunteers participated during the whole training camp and learned about Church Plantation, Gold Curriculum(Natural Treatment), and Daniel & Revelation. Pr. Jonathan and Pr. P. K. Tamsang were the main speaker and counselor to train these volunteers.

  The training camp was successful and there are more than 150 prospective candidates from Buddhist and Hindus currently taking Bible studies in this sub-Himalayan hill and preparing for baptismal classes. More than 200 copies of 1858 original Great Controversy by E.G. White printed in Nepali languages were distributed in this villages door-to-door and with home visitation/prayer.

  The work n the sub-Himalayan region is expanding and book brought great changes and today there are more than 500 candidates baptized in this sub-Himalayan hills of Sikkim-Darjeeling Hill. This is the last day and we need to share the 3 Angels' messages in every corner to save the lost. Work in these hills is a great challenge and there is a lot of scope to spread the Word of the Lord among Buddhist.

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VII. Maranatha Building Schools & Churches in India

  "Kishore is a young boy from the small village of Madavaram in India.

  His grandmother attended Bible meetings several years ago and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

  "Although Kishore supported his grandmother and two small siblings by herding cattle, she gladly sent him to school when a space opened up in Fajarli Adventist Academy.

  "Attending school is a huge opportunity for Kishore--an opportunity that is coveted by many parents and children in Madavaram. In fact, Kishore's brother and sister are on a waiting list to attend school also.

  "Maranatha is building One-Day School campuses in India. Hundreds of children like Kishore are desperate for a chance to obtain a Christian education. Your involvement is needed.

  "Maranatha is also building churches in India. Work continues in Ongole, Guntur and Jharkhand. As the Adventist Church grows in India, more churches are needed. Maranatha has received requests for 1,000 churches a year for the next five years."

--from Maranatha's president, Don Noble, in his July, 2011 letter ~~~~~~~~~ VIII. A Missionary Death a Century Ago

  Dave & Sandi Reynolds <dreynolds@canby.com> July 19:

  A Letter of Interest--

  The father-in-law of my first cousin on my dad's side of the family (Jay Boger) sent me the enclosed letter from the General Conference of SDA's. I thought this would be of interest to the Southern Asia Community. This letter was sent to his grandmother to explain the death of his aunt (his mother's sister) in India. Her name was Myrtle Leech. She was an RN who was married to a minister by the name of Roy Leech. Jay tells me they were home on furlough and staying in San Jose when the San Francisco earthquake of 1906. This letter is dated Dec. 9, 1919, and apparently she died in Lucknow sometime in September. Jay holds the original letter and would be happy to release it to an historical archive of the work in India, if you know of who might be managing this. Meanwhile,
he said to feel free to publish it in the news letter. Since there have been a number of stories of the early work in India, I thought this would be of particular interest. I don’t know where, but she is buried in India (probably Lucknow, though probably that grave is lost to antiquity.) The letter is two pages. I think you will find this of interest. Let me know if there is any further interest in the original letter. This letter is older than the man who sent it to me (he is 85). He is afraid that his son is not interested in this stuff, so would be glad to see it go to someone who is.

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GENERAL CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS TAKOMA PARK, WASHINGTON, D. C.
December 9, 1919

Mrs. Lettie E. Jones,
Doty, Washington

Dear Sister,

We wrote you in answer to your good letter of November 5, yet this morning we wish to drop you a few more lines of explanation.

I do not know just how it came about, but as we have a letter from Dr. Menkel out in India giving us a little more of the particulars concerning the death of Sister Leech. Possibly the workers there obtained the impression that over here we wondered if all had been done for Sister Leech that was possible during her illness.

These inquiries may have come from out your way, I do not know, but we take pleasure in writing you further to pass on just a few words of explanation concerning her case given us by the doctor. And by the way, Dr. Menkel is a fine man, if you are not acquainted with him, I can say as a result of my intimate acquaintance with him that he has a Christian heart beating warmly in his breast for the welfare of others.

He says: "With reference to the case of Mrs. Leech. She was brought to us in September and I found she was suffering from a serious heart lesion, which I believe to have been ruptured compensation of a longstanding condition. The altitude of Simla proved too high for her case and she was taken to Lucknow and placed in the General Hospital, under the Civil Surgeon. A nice room was provided and she had good attention. I saw her during the time of our committee meeting at Lucknow and it was evident that unless the Lord saw fit to do a special work she had only a short time to live.

"At the time Brother and Sister Leech returned from furlough I was in Calcutta and it was noticed that Sister Leech looked somewhat edematous about the eyes and hands but as she did not seem to be ill, we thought nothing more of it until her arrival in Simla. She gave a history of asthmatic attacks over a period of years, these were most likely due to a cardiac lesion.

"I am sorry it was not possible to have kept her under our care right through her illness but the hope that a lower altitude might have a favorable effect. We are sorry to record the loss of another worker from our slender force. May the Lord of harvest do a quick work and hasten the time of reunion.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,
H. C. Menkel."

In addition I wish to mention that apparently there has been a very serious delay in getting her obituary in the review. A word of explanation concerning this, I really feel is due you. I took up the matter at the time, and hunted out of our files, a picture of a group in which Sister Leech was prominently in front, with the view of the artist taking her out of the picture to run with the obituary. The artist found it would be impossible to do this. This caused some delay. I was just over at the Review this morning and Brother Caviness thought the obituary had already appeared, but in looking through his file reported that on account of some matter that came in, this was left over for this week.

A long appeal just comes in from India speaking of the depletion of workers, some by death, some by return home, and they earnestly plead for more help to be sent them.

Trusting these few words of explanation may serve at least to make clear what has seemingly been an oversight, and assuring that we regret the loss of Sister Leech still deeply in India, I remain

Very sincerely your brother,

T. E. Bowen [General Secretary of the General Conference] ~~~~~~~~ IX. New Media Approach to the Next Generation

Edison Samraj <amc3@vsnl.com> August 9:
SUD's Adventist Media Centre plans to extend space to the 'Next Generation' by developing new modules of interface with technology by and for the youth. A group has been instituted to study ways and means to engage in a meaningful encounter with the media especially through social network sites and use it as a platform to connect to 70% of India's non-Adventist youth. We trust that this initiative will be a blessing. It is already being launched and we will keep you posted on the latest development from time to time.

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X. Memo on a Missionary Kid

Today, August 15, is the 40th marriage anniversary of an MK who seems to doubly commemorate India, the land of his childhood and early youth years.

Born on January 26, another famous birthday in India, our second son, Dennis Dean, lived in India from the age of 5 until he had completed 12 years of education. Before leaving India for college in America, he met another MK, a Southern Asia girl, Lila Goertsen, daughter of missionaries in Sri Lanka.

A few years later, 1971, they were married on India's Republic Day anniversary.

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