I. Letters
1. Gerald Christo
2. Reginald Shires
3. Edison Samraj
4. George P. Johnson

II. Remembering Them
1. Sri Lanka's "Banda"
1. Gerald Christo <christohsr@dataone.in> August 31:
   There were several items in August 15 newsletter that I would like to respond to:
   The death of John N. Samuel was reported: I first met John N. Samuel when he came to teach maths in the Spicer High School from Lasalgoan where he was a teacher with principal R S Lowry and Neville Matthews. A year later he married Alta Mae, daughter of Pastor G. G. Isaiah and sister of George. Pastor Isaiah was a much respected Bible teacher at the College. Alta Mae and John had two daughters Rosetta and Hannah who I saw grow up to be outstanding women on my annual visits to Washington, D C.
   Mention was made of a letter written by Dr. H. C. Menkel, founder of the Simla Sanitarium and physician to the Viceroy of India. I am sure Southern Asia archives would be interested in the letter, written by Dr. H. C. Menkel, founder of the Simla Sanitarium and physician to the Viceroy of India. Gordon Christo, secretary of the Division, is the custodian of the Archives: <gechristo@sud-adventist.org>

   Belated congratulations to Jim and Betty Ashlock on their 60th wedding anniversary. We wish you could be present at the "India Mahal" to personally thank you for your friendship and service to Southern Asia and all your present efforts in raising funds of the New Shillong Church.

   Congratulations are also in order to Dean Dennis and Lila (Goertzen) on the celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary on India's Republic Day from a fellow VHS-ite. Was it just coincidence or careful planning that Dean Dennis was born on January 26 and married on August 15? May God bless Dean and Lila in their sensitive responsibilities.

2: Reginald <RegShires@aol.com> Sept. 2:

   A new book, "Women of Anglo-India," is a collection of 34 stories and articles by international writers. Far from conforming to any stereotypes, the women in these stories are mothers, wives, daughters, and sisters, who, while far from being perfect, demonstrate steadfast faith and initiative. When confronted with tragedies of loss and adversity, they face them with courage and ingenuity. They encounter challenges such as poverty, depression and uncertainty, and somehow still manage to open up paths for the successes of their loved ones. Another joy of this collection can be found in the voices of its narrators. They are as diverse as the women they describe, and yet, they are unified in their affection and their high regard for their subjects. In this sense, these pieces are also love stories. This is a book which will be valuable to your home, church, school, college or university library. Available from the publisher: Calcutta Tiljallah Relief Inc. P.O. Box 6345, Monroe Township, New Jersey, 08831, U.S.A. $22.00 in the U.S., including postage.

3: Edison Samraj <amc3@vsnl.com> Sept 6:

   I attended the Founder's Day and appreciate the interest taken by the college administration to begin a centenary celebration by 2011. The amount of thoughtful planning and vision is commendable. We want to congratulate the
college president, Dr. Justus Devadas, and the administration for this insightful preparation for the future. The weekend program taken by Pastor R. John and Pastor G. S. Robert Clive was spiritually uplifting. Congratulations on being given the approval to become university! We are looking forward to greater things in the days to come.

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4. George P. Johnson <geoprasad@aol.com> Sept. 9:
The Loma Linda Southern Asia Adventist Community Church invites you to a special Sabbath weekend of spiritual fellowship on September 16 & 17, 2011.
Anil Kanda, a former Hindu with a Sikh background will be speaking. Currently a Youth Pastor, Anil has done evangelism in different parts of the world.
Vespers: Friday, September 16 @ 7:30 p.m.
Sabbath School: Sabbath, September 17 @ 10 a.m.
Divine Service: Sabbath, September 17 @ 11:15 a.m.
Venue: First Lutheran Church, 1207 W. Cypress Ave., Redlands, CA 92373
Invite your friends and relatives!! There will be a potluck following the service!! For further information, please contact:
Pastor Sam Shadrach (909)810-3424 or George P. Johnson (909)917-6150 E-mail:
pastor@sasdacc.org and srshadrach@hotmail.com ~~~~~~~~~~ II. Remembering Them

1. Remembering "Banda"
Surendra Paul Gill <spgill@comcast.net> Sept. 2:
First of all I must say that I never met brother Banda but in many languages the meaning of "Banda" means "Real Man." However, I must extend my many thanks to those who have remembered and it appears that he had touched many people's lives, but the only sad part with the society is we only say many good things after the person leaves this society. We as the children of the Creator of creators must embrace a person like "Banda" while they can see and hear. This is my prayer for all of us.
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Linda Brown <president@slm.lk> Sept. 7:
I wanted to add to the kind comments regarding Banda who lived and worked here at the Sri Lanka Mission as a grounds keeper for the past 50 years or so. I know a little more of his history from Soma who has also worked for many missionaries here during the past 40 at least. We are fortunate to have his talent and dedication in our home several times per week even now.

Soma tells me that while out on shopping errands he often saw Banda, then around age 20, sitting on a wall, wanting work. He did not have family left, according to Soma, neither did he ever marry and have a family of his own. In time, Soma found out that a grounds keeper was needed for the mission and asked Banda if he would be interested. The answer is obvious after all these years!

Banda was very dedicated and methodical about the upkeep and security of the grounds, for example making sure the ever-present leaves were swept up on a daily basis (except Sabbath) and making sure the gate was opened and closed at the proper times for safety. He also manned the outside lights. I tried to ignore without comment his mowing the lawn in bare feet with a gas mower! He kept this up until a very few months before his hip fracture, at the age of 80 or 81.

He liked to make his way to the corner (where there is now a traffic light, unbelievably) and pass the time with the trishaw drivers who were waiting for customers. Perhaps he also purchased a few favored items while out and about. He would give a big smile when given a treat such as a fried savory (and spicy!) "short eat" or piece of soft fruit. Sometimes he brought us bunches of bananas or a bowl full of mangos from the mission trees when they were ready.

On Sabbaths I saw that it was his custom to sit quietly in the back of the Bethel Church during Sabbath School where he seemed to really enjoy listening to the music. I'm told he also attended the Sinhala lesson study regularly and would sometimes contribute to the discussion. He knew about Jesus and God. Even after his health started declining he continued to attend.

In the two years since we arrived, he was always quick to stop and smile using the polite Sri Lankan greeting "Ayubuwan" with palms together and elbows out. This even after he started using a walker. He had several hospitalizations after that, and was always very eager to return to his own little room at the mission rather than stay in any kind of institutional setting where he could receive a bit more care.
Now that he is gone we certainly feel his absence in the many small things he did, besides his careful work of keeping the lawn and tropical growth under control on the grounds. We do miss his work and presence here at the Sri Lanka Mission.

2. Remembering Howard Wilson Carter
   Angela Matthews <angela.j.matthews@gmail.com> Sept. 2:
   Hi, Grandpa. I'm sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Carter. He was the principal at Pakistan Adventist Seminary for part of the time my parents worked there. He was always kind and friendly, even to the bunch of us kids that ran around the place. One day we (the gang) decided we were to have a 'clubhouse' and selected an old garage at one of the unused houses. Our parents advised us that we had better get permission for any of our plans, so we duly filed into Mr. Carter's office, and asked him for permission, which we were sure we would not be granted. Much to our surprise he said we could use that garage. Although we never did a whole lot with the clubhouse, whenever I think of Mr. Carter I remember his gentle nature, and his willingness to take the time to listen, even to a bunch of young kids.

III. Death of Sukendu K. Sircar
   T. P. Kurian <tpkurian@sud-adventist.org> Sept. 3:
   The former treasurer of the Western India Union, Mr. Sukendu K. Sircar, passed away due to a massive heart attack on Thursday early morning in Pune.
   He had organized a thanksgiving service in his house to celebrate his birthday. He bid good-bye to every body who gathered in his house because it was his last day of work in the office before his retirement from the service. At the close of the thanksgiving service, he felt a pain in the chest and was rushed to Pune Adventist Medical Center where he passed away early morning of Thursday 1, September. His funeral will be held on September 4th Sunday at 11.00 AM in Pune.

Samuel Raj Sodadasi <sodadasi.samuelraj@gmail.com> Sept. 4:
   Today my heart filled with great sorrow to know of the sudden death of Pr. Sircar. When I was working in Salisbury Park in OWP as Telugu health editor, the church elected me as Lay Activities Department Director. In that year I noticed that he is for evangelism; he used to come with me to visit some sick people's houses and hospitals.
   In spite of his official tours, whenever he had time he used to come to a faraway place called Wadagoan Sheri for branch Sabbath school on Sabbath afternoons. In short I can say that he was all for ministry. May the almighty God comfort the family and take control of the family. This is my humble prayer in His holy name.

Pastor Samuel Raj S.
SDA Telugu Church,
Limbayath, Surat

IV. One-Day Youth Advisories in South India Unions
   T. P. Kurian <tpkurian@sud-adventist.org> Sept. 3:
   These advisories were attended by youth leaders of schools & churches, principals & other section leaders. The following presentations were made during these one-day sessions:
   These were held in the following locations:
   ***Mysore in the South Karnataka Section on August 7; 50 delegates attending. On the next day the first Ambassador club was inaugurated at Mysore. Incidentally this is the first Ambassador club of our division.
   Ambassador club is the new concept brought out by G C youth Department ***Belgaum in the Goa-West Karnataka section on Aug. 16; 40 delegates.
   ***Bangalore in the Bangalore Metro Conference on Aug 23, 75 delegates. The South ***Chennai in the East India Union on Aug 28. The advisory was held at Tambaram with 50 delegates.

--Ravindra Shankar, Director, Youth Ministries, Southern Asia Division ~~~~~~~~~ V. Spicer Launches Centennial Website
Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> September 4:

The centennial website of the college was inaugurated by Pastor Ramesh Jadhav on the Founders Day, August 28, 2011. The website <www.spicer-100yrs.in> has links to the facebook as well as twitter and also contains an application form for all the alumni to fill and forward to the college. Then the centennial brochure highlighting the various projects, the main being the "College of Management" with an estimate of INR 10.2 crores (about US$ 25,000,000) was released by Dr. G. N. Rao. And when the open invitation was extended by Dr. Devadas to the gathering to be the first person who wished to donate to this great project, alumnus Asir Devadas, Chairman of Jamnagar Adventist Academy came eagerly forward with a cheque of INR 1,50,000 and gave an inspiring testimony of what the college has done to him and his wife Violet Devadas. The Division Treasurer Pastor Robert Clive then prayed for Mr. & Mrs. Asir Devadas, the magnanimous donors, and for their thriving institution in Gujarat and handed over the cheque to Mr. R.Jeyam, the college Vice President for Financial Administration to start a special and separate account for this project.

Please remember to log onto www.spicer-100yrs.in for more news. Thank you.

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VI. Report from Darjeeling

Karen Lovitt <kjlovitt@gmail.com> Sept. 7:

***Ghorkha project update

We've been in the process of trying to buy a building for a permanent church location for quite a while. We knew it would be a lengthy process, requiring time and patience, lots of patience. The property owner continues to do his part to collect all the legal paperwork necessary from his end. However, unsurprisingly, there is now another strike involving the government offices. This one is a "kalam bhandh" = a "pen strike." The employees go to work, but aren't filling out forms, signing documents, etc. Sigh.. But our teammate Jared commented on it from a different viewpoint:

"Is this the best obstacle that Satan can come up with now? Stop a few pens?" So we wait in patience and expectation that God will prevail in His time. We'd appreciate your prayers.

***Monkeys in our house

A new occurrence this year is the presence of monkeys near our house - and in 2 cases, IN our house. More specifically, in the kitchen. It seems they're having to go farther afield to find food. They normally stay in town near the temple where people bring them food offerings. Maybe there's a shortage of offerings or the monkey population grew exponentially, I don't know. Nearly everyone I know has at least one monkey story of their own. All the houses directly around me have been "robbed" at least once. We have unwillingly contributed apples, pears, bread, and a package of oats to the clever little beasts. Thankfully, I haven't seen them come around in the last 4 or 5 days. But as mean and naughty as they are, I do feel sorry for them. They need food, too.

***Our English Language School

DEC, our spoken English school, is going well. We're in the last month of the course, then it starts all over again. Earlier in the spring there were lots of strikes that hurt the school operations and we were down to barely 20 students. Now we're up to 50 - just about where we like to see it.

It's very rewarding seeing the students progress and getting to know them as well. We're always on the lookout for spiritual opportunities and ways to connect on a deeper level with our students. Just recently, God gave me (Karen) an opportunity with 3 of my students. For whatever reason several students were absent one day so it was an intimate group of four, including me. The textbook had a section about ghosts and I waffled on whether to use it or skip it. I decided that I might learn a lot from hearing them talk about a subject that is very real to them. And just maybe I'd get an opportunity to share my thoughts, experiences, and a Biblical worldview, too! And I did! God gave me the chance to share a bit about spirits, death, God & angels - in a nutshell.

***Our American Schedule

Oct. 8 - Ooltewah SDA Church, Ooltewah, TN Oct. 15 - Floral Crest SDA Church, Bryant, AL Oct. 22 - Alvarado SDA Church, Alvarado, TX ~~~~~~~~~~~~ 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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