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VI. The Mother Jilani Story [Chapter 6 of 17] ~~~~~~~~~ I. Death of Edwin Charles and S. Jaya Joseph
   T. P. Kurian <tpkurian@sud-adventist.org> September 30:
   Pastor Edwin Charles passed away on 28th September after a prolonged illness for almost one year. He served the organization in different capacities in Salisbury Park, South India Union and Division. Lately he was the Media Center director. Funeral will take place in Salisbury Park, Pune on October 2, Sunday. He leaves behind his wife, Rajamma Charles and daughter Sophia Charles (Dolly). Let us pray for the bereaved family.
   Mr. S. Jaya Joseph died of kidney failure on 28th September, 2011 at CMC Vellore. He served as teacher and principal in a number of schools in East Central India Union and lately the principal of Ibrahimpattanam Seventh-day Adventist boarding school. He leaves behind his wife and daughter. Funeral took place in Nuzvid on 29th Thursday. Let us remember the bereaved family in our prayer.
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II. Letters
   1. Edison Samraj <amc3@vsnl.com> September 26:
   I would like to give a testimony to all members of God’s church how God saved my life. I was returning from a week of prayer in Narsapur and due to the Telangana agitation in Andhra Pradesh, all railways and roads were blocked. So the bus that I was traveling and nine other buses were stopped. They wanted to burn these buses but God in His infinite wisdom sent two truck loads of policemen that came to rescue us from the outskirts of Hyderabad. I want to praise God for the deliverance and His mercy towards me as it was a very trying experience. I believe that God delivers His children whenever we ask for it and whenever we are faced with a crisis. I request all the readers of this newsletter to pray for the media centre as we are moving towards expanding our services through the TV as well as FM levels. May God bless you as you continue to serve Him.
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   2. Edison Samraj <amc3@vsnl.com> Sept. 28:
   We are praying for your son, Lumin, that God will restore him back to normal health. God is willing to heal all our diseases and I believe that He will do the same for your son. My prayers are with you and for you. [Lumin Abraham, Dittu and Molly (Varghese) Abraham’s son, is at Johns Hopkins for treatment of a brain tumour.] ~~~~~~~ III. Remembering S. D. Charles
   1. M. C. John <mcj9211@yahoo.com> September 27:
   I am saddened by the news of the demise of Mr. S. D. Charles. I have known him for the past 49 years. He was the press manager at Falakata school when I joined in 1962. I worked in the press and built a very good relationship with Mr. Charles. Later, when I came to Spicer College, I worked with him on the printing of the “Spicerian” and the “Oreodoxa.” It was a pleasure to work with him, even during those nights when we slept in the press in order to sign the final proofs for printing! Mr. Charles was a solid Adventist and loved his church. He always had some words of encouragement when I needed them. His passing away is that of a dear friend.
   I look forward to meeting him where all friends will meet, never to part again.
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2. Richard Anderson <richardanderson38@gmail.com> September 27:
   I remember Sumarajan Charles or S. D. Charles as he was known to all at Raymond Memorial Higher Secondary School, Falakata during the sixties where he was manager of the school press.
   While Sumarajan was a man of small physical stature he had a wonderful smile and a very kind and courteous manner that made him a giant in God's work and a friend to students and staff alike. There was no task too onerous for S D, no one too humble for his care.
   Of him it may truly be said that "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."
   May our God continue to bring peace and comfort to the family of our dear brother as he sleeps in Jesus.

3. Joysingh Charles <joysinghc@aol.com> September 28:
   Although our families here [in America] could not travel to India for the funeral services of my brother Sumarajan Charles, we were fortunate and blessed to join the grieving Family through SKYPE and see the face of our dear brother before he was laid to rest.
   On behalf of my brothers and sisters families, I want to thank the pastoral staff of the college for leading out in the funeral services. And also to the many individuals and families for their visits to my brothers home with food and comforting words. Thank you once again, Global SUD E-news members. Let us always stay in God’s love and protection as that is the only safety net we have in this present world to hang on.

IV. Spicer President Justus Devadas To Speak in Maryland
   Southern Asia Adventists <priscillashyam@SAAA.ORG> Sept. 29:
   Invitation to SAAA October 8 Sabbath Services At Eglise Baptiste Du Calvaire
   10002 Riggs Road, Adelphi, Maryland 20783
   9:30 A.M.: Breakfast & Devotion: Merlin and Maharaj Ponraj
   10:00 A.M.: Sabbath School
   11:15 A.M.: Divine Service
   Speaker: Dr. Justus Devadas, President, Spicer Memorial College Fellowship Lunch -- follows the worship service

V. Dora Sharan's Cancer in Remission
   Gerald Christo <geraldjchisto@gmail.com> Sept. 29:
   Dora Sharan--Yesterday Jerry James and I accompanied Dora Sharan to the Bangalore Institute of Oncology (HCG) for her medical check up after completing a series of chemotherapy and radiation, and to hear her consultant declare that the cancer is in remission. He advised her to see him every three months and have a six-monthly PT scan. We thank God for answered prayer.
   I first met Dora when she came from Bhopal as the new bride of Prabhu C. Sharan in the early 1950s. She had a diploma in Canning and Preserving Foods which helped consolidate the fledgling food industry in Hapur. Early this year 76-year old Dora was diagnosed as having cancer in the lower abdomen region. For her sake and her family's sake she had to get well. She has a strong will and an unflinching faith in the healing power of her Saviour.
   Dora has to look after her an ailing 88-year husband and a differently disabled adult son whom she has given loving care all his life.

VI. The Mother Jilani Story [Chapter 5 of 17]
   Some time ago I came across a quite old book lying around our house by Goldie Down. I had never heard of it before though I had seen several of her other books. This one is about Mother Jilani, the mother of Dr. Mrs. I. R. Baziel who, with her doctor husband, WERE Simla Hospital for many, many years.
Chapter 6: The Missing Text

While they were living in Kuwait, something happened that changed the Jilani's whole outlook on Christianity.

In addition to the native Arabs and the British, there was a large Jewish community in the Kuwait district. Among these Jews were many rich, influential businessmen and government officials. In his dual role as local doctor and agent for the British, Gulam held a prominent position in the community. He was highly respected by rich and poor of all three nationalities. As time went by and his interest in public services increased, Gulam was elected to a position on the Kuwait body of councilors. This brought him even closer to the upper classes of the community and gave him more frequent opportunities for Christian witness.

Gulam noticed that the Jews never attended the clinic or called him on Saturdays except in the most dire emergency. He knew that Saturday was the Jew's Sabbath because they clung to the old Mosaic law and did not accept Christ as their Messiah. He idly wondered why such astute businessmen did not fall into line with the Western World and keep Sunday as their holy day, even if it was only good business policy. Their beliefs made it awkward for him, too. No Jews, and only a handful of Arabs, made use of his medical services on Saturdays. He had so little to do that he felt he might as well close the hospital on that day, and very often he did so.

But because his was a Church Missionary Society hospital. Sunday was the day for closing and rest. Only the most urgent work was ever done on Sundays. Gulam noticed, however, that more and more Jews came for "emergency" treatment on Sundays. When he finally protested, they smiled and asked why he should worry, because Saturday was God's holy rest day and not Sunday.

Shocked, Gulam assured them that he kept Sunday holy because it was the day that Jesus Christ had appointed for His followers when He was on earth.

His Jewish informants only smiled enigmatically and asked, "Is that in your Bible?"

"Why, of course it's in the Bible." Gulam nodded emphatically. Then a thought struck him. "Maybe it's only in the New Testament, and I suppose you don't believe in that. But Jesus Christ is our Saviour, and we do as He says."

"Have you ever read it in the New Testament?" asked Ben Cohen.

"Of course I have," Gulam smiled indulgently "I've read the entire New Testament through several times."

"And you've seen a text that says you must keep Sunday as a holy rest day?" added another Jew incredulously.

"Ok, yes," Gulam asserted positively. "We Christians keep Sunday in honor of Christ's resurrection."

"But don't you keep the Ten Commandments, too?"

"Of course."

"Then, what about the fourth commandment where God says to keep the seventh day holy?"

"As I said before," Gulam explained patiently. "the day was changed by Christ's disciples to honor His resurrection from the dead."

"Can you show us that in the Bible?"

"Oh, yes. I'll show it to you."

"I'll tell you what, Dr. Jilani"--Ben Cohen dropped his bantering tone and spoke seriously--"if you can find that text in the Bible and show it to me, I vow I'll become a Christian and keep Sunday holy."

"Fine," Gulam replied enthusiastically. This was going to be the easiest convert he'd ever had.

"But it's only fair," continued his friend, "that if you cannot find such a text, you should renounce Sunday and keep Saturday holy."

"Agreed!" Gulam said positively. "If I can't find that text I vow I'll join you in keeping Saturday holy. "But," he added, "it will have to be from the New Testament, you know."

"New Testament or Old makes no difference." His Jewish friend was smiling at his self-assurance. "We'll accept it from either, just as long as it is somewhere in your Bible.

"And I think I know just where that text is," said Gulam that night as he was telling Hagar about his discussion.

"I think it's somewhere in the first few chapters of Acts." He reached for his Bible. "Didn't Paul do most of his preaching on Sundays, or tell the people to bring their offerings then, or something like that?"

"Does it say 'Sunday' or just 'the first day of the week,'" Hagar asked tentatively.

"Oh, it probably says 'first day.' The days of the week weren't named then. But it means the same thing. I'm sure Ben Cohen wouldn't quibble about that."
Gulam thumbed through his Bible. "Now I'll start in about Acts 10, after Paul was converted and started preaching. I'm sure it's somewhere after that."

An hour passed, and Gulam was still reading carefully. At last Hagar ventured to interrupt him. "Haven't you found it yet?"

"Well, yes, I did find the text where it says, 'and upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.' That's Acts 20:7, but now that I've read it over a few times, it doesn't sound conclusive enough. I'd like something more positive to show Ben, Meshi, and the others."

"What about the last chapters of the Gospels?" suggested Hagar helpfully. "After the resurrection, I seem to remember the disciples said something about it there."

Gulam yawned. "I'll look tomorrow night. The lamp's nearly out and it's time we got some sleep."

In the months that followed, the little hospital remained closed on both Saturdays and Sundays while Gulam spent a great deal of time searching for the missing Bible text. He read every portion of the New Testament which he thought might contain a reference to Sunday or the first day. He found the text he wanted in 1 Corinthians 16:2, where Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gathering when I come." But when he read it over again in its context, it didn't seem to prove what he wanted. Gulam began to look worried.

"I'll read the whole New Testament through," he told himself doggedly, and I'll make a note of every time it mentions the first day of the week. Maybe when I put them all together, they'll give sufficient proof."

Every time he saw his Jewish friends, they would inquire, "Have you found that text yet?"

"Not yet," Gulam answered cheerfully at first, But as time passed, and they continued to question him, he became evasive with embarrassment. "I've been too busy to search," he would say, or "I've had a very heavy week and I was too tired at night to read."

At last Gulam finished reading through the New Testament. Sighing heavily, he closed the Book of Revelation and picked up his list. For several evenings more he sat with the Bible and list in hand, reading and rereading the texts that mentioned the first day of the week. Not one of them was exactly what he wanted. No matter how he tried to interpret or explain them, he knew that his arguments were weak. They would never convince his Jewish friends that any change in the original Sabbath had been made.

"What about the Old Testament?" Hagar asked when she realized that Gulam had not found the text that he sought in the New Testament.

"Oh, no, there's nothing there," Gulam spoke positively. "I'm absolutely certain of that I've heard Dr. Pennell and others scholars explain how God made the world in six days and rested on the seventh day. It became the holy rest day right from the creation until it was changed after the resurrection of Christ."

"I have a book that someone gave me at nursing school," Hagar remembered eagerly. "It might say something. I think it's in my trunk. She started to go after it.

"Don't bother," Gulam said despondently. "I had to produce a text from the Bible. No explanation from anywhere else will do. I cannot find any one, and that's it. The Jewish Sabbath must be correct."

Once again his Jewish friends came to see him. "Come on, Dr. Jilani,"

they teased good-naturedly. "We've been waiting for many months. Where's that Bible text you promised us?"

There was no use evading the issue any longer. Rather than bring out his list of texts and have them jeeringly rejected as inadequate, Gulam just said simply, "I couldn't find it."

For a moment there was total silence. His friends realized just how much it had cost the proud Pathan to lose face by admitting his defeat.

"Then you must keep your vow." Moshi Meyer smiled as he spoke, but there was a challenge in his tone.

"I shall keep it," Gulam replied.

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