I. Spicer to Become SUD's First Adventist University
II. The Rationale for Adding Pakistan to the SSD
III. Death of Lowry School's Long-time Teacher, Susan Thomas IV. Death of Eric Holroyd
V. Letters
   1. Le Roy Samuel
   2. Raghuthamman Opeh
   3. Ruth Sipkens
   4. Thambi Thomas
   5. Merlyn Fernando
VI. Remembering Edwin Charles
VII. Remembering Wes Olfert
VIII. Response to John Wycliffe's Serious Allergy on Plane IX. Spicer Theology Students Interface With AMC
X. Edwin Dass Retires from Roorkee After Record-setting Tenure

I. Spicer to Become SUD's First Adventist University
   Edison Samraj <amc3@vsnl.com> November 4:
   I am very thrilled to know that the first Adventist university is to be established in Spicer. I didn't realize that it will be done with such rapid pace. I heard from the president's office that they are waiting for the bill to be passed by the state government of Maharashtra which I believe will go through. I am also happy to hear that Elder Ted Wilson has endorsed the idea and supported it and our division president, Pastor R. John, has given his full support for it. I also hear that plans are underway in the collection from alumni from all over the globe. This is a great moment for all of us to be proud of. I am very happy that this idea is being followed up. I wish the college administration, the division and the General Conference the very best as they establish the first Adventist university in Southern Asia Division. May God bless the initiative and decisions taken in this regard.

II. The Rationale for Adding Pakistan to the SSD
   Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> October 26:
   The vote of the Annual Council making the Pakistan Union a part of SSD is a step in the right direction. When in 1984 the territory of the Southern Asia Division was realigned many thought that attaching of the Pakistan Union to TED was strange, but the option of making it a part of SSD was not favoured because of the distance involved. Pakistan, especially the Punjab and Sind areas, has lots more in common with the East Asians than it does with the Arab world. When a peaceful solution to the Kashmir problem is arrived at, when the sharing of river waters is agreed upon between Bangladesh and India, when the Tamil peoples of Sri Lanka feel safe and have a say in their future, when the peoples of the Indian sub-continent can live in peace and above suspicion of each others motives, when their nationals can freely travel to each others countries; maybe at some future time the Annual Council of the General Conference will reorganize and realign a new Southern Asia Division to include the territories of SAARC (South Asia Countries for Regional Co-operation--Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India.) Afghanistan joined SAARC in 2005. Till then I am inclined to favour the present SUD being attached to SSD. It's not healthy to have a single country organized as a Division.

   From what I have witnessed on a single trip to the Middle East to conduct a week of Prayer many years ago, is that the SDA membership in the Arab States is largely made up of expatriates from the Philippines, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India. There is an active mission
to other expatriates working in this area. I will be watching with interest what new initiatives will be taken for outreach to the local inhabitants.

May God bless our churches in these areas. May we feel the need of revival and reformation.

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III. Death of Lowry School's Long-time Teacher, Susan Thomas

Seva Chandy <sevachandy@rediffmail.com> November 3:

Mrs. Susan Thomas, Hindi teacher at Lowry Memorial School, Bangalore from 1963 to 1995, passed away at 01.25 A.M. on Thursday, Nov. 03, 2011. Funeral is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 04, 2011 at the Christian Cemetery on Hosur road, Bangalore. Please remember husband Thomas, daughter Indu, son Biju (Mathew), daughter-in-law Bharati, grand kids Diya and Daksh.

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IV. Death of Eric Holroyd

David Roberts <drobert1@adventisthealthcare.com> November 2:

[David is a son of Eric's oldest sibling, the late Dorothy Roberts of Madras, India.]

Mr. Eric Holroyd passed away to his rest on Friday, Oct. 21, 2011, at the nursing home in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada, where he resided with his wife, May Holroyd (nee Fanwar). He is survived by his wife, his son Richard, and daughter Betty, and their families; and also by two of his sisters, Mrs. Kathleen Hunter and Mrs. Norma Egan, both of whom reside in Oakville, Ontario, Canada; and a host of nieces and nephews, and their families, in Australia, Canada, India and the U.S. Mr. Eric Holroyd was laid to rest last Thursday, Oct. 27, 2011. Please keep the Holroyd family in your prayers.

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V. Letters

1. Le Roy Samuel <leroysamuel@sud-adventist.org> November 2:

We are very sad to know about Dr. Yvonne Bazlil and of her emergency surgery. We are happy to know that all vital signs are maintaining well. The Southern Asia Division will remember her in our prayers.

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2. Raghuthaman Opeh <docopeh@gmail.com> November 2:

Yeshashree, my foster daughter who was in Spicer High School in the 1998 to 2000 period, had a couple of East African students in her dormitory. Now that she is in Tanzania with my brother, the High Commissioner there, she is keen to meet some ex-SMC High School mates, if there are any. Can anyone please help?

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3. Ruth Sipkens <ruthsipkens@gmail.com> November 1:

Responding to George Babcock’s "Memories of Mission Life Back Then":

Yes, I DO thank the Lord every morning, George, not only for a wonderful gushing warm shower; AND no scorpions or snakes or rats about; but especially for water, too, thinking of the many people around the world who don't have adequate water supply. Thanks for the reminder.

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4. Thambi Thomas <thambi.thomas@gmail.com> November 3:

Sunder, thanks for the "r-r-rest of the story". Having grown up in Bangalore with you and your siblings, I was totally aware of your gift at the keyboard, for after all, you accompanied me on so many occasions in Bangalore and at SMC. Most folks may not know that sheet music was too expensive for us to buy . . . we wouldn't know where to get them even if we had the money. So we developed the talent of playing by ear. We would listen to music on the Binaca Hit Parade or at some other source and then play it. We never had music for "Oh, My Papa" or "Sail along Silvery Moon" or "Wonderland by Night" etc. But you and I improvised and put stuff together for various occasions at SMC. Again, thanks for sharing your story and for stirring up some memories . . . God has gifted you and you continue to bless others through your gift of music and your positive outlook on life. We have been blessed through you and your "silent" partner . . . Evan!

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5. Merlyn Fernando <merlynfernando@yahoo.com>
Dear Gulu and Yvonne,

We know you will share our concern, wonder and thankfulness with Yvonne of God’s way in her life. We were too distressed to write when we first heard of Yvonne’s fall, fractures and surgery. Then the second "newsletter" news of her second emergency and transfusions, and now her third in the series. Her complications with haematemesis and pancreatitis sound too severe to survive, and yet, with no more news after the Oct. 23 or deal, it has to be that Yvonne is slowing improving. Our admiration is for how God has used her surgeons and doctors to go through with all they have done so far, which also sound most sound, in the circumstances. Remember, even tho we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, God has a green pasture somewhere along the way, and God goes with us there.

Our frequent thoughts are also our prayers that Yvonne will be given the desires of her heart because she has continuously committed her ways unto God. Her will to live is our inspiration. Her most recent letter to us will be our enduring memory.

Praise the Lord!

LOVE, Betty and Merle

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VI. Remembering Edwin Charles

J. D. Moses <jdmoses36@yahoo.com> November 2:

I am grieved to know of the death of Mr. Edwin Charles, and the news came to me when I was in the METAS Hospital, Surating, just being operated for hernia. I know Edwin as a handsome, energetic worker here in the Division Office where he served as the Youth Department director. He was good in organising youth camps, Pathfinder club programs, excursions etc. He was a very good leader and how he can do this to us we do not know. We condole his death and offer our sympathies to his wife and daughter. I know when he lost his son in an accident just near our office. He suffered a lot, but never complained to anybody. We hope to meet him when the Lord comes to receive us all.

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VII. Remembering Wes Olfert

J. D. Moses, November 1

I am extremely sorry to know that Pastor Wes Olfert has passed away. If I am not mistaken this is the same Pr. Olfert who was stationed at Calcutta sometime during 1975/76 at which time I was serving as the treasurer of the East India Section, Ranchi. The Olferts used to visit Ranchi often and we had good fellowship with them. Once there was a meeting at Ranchi and the Olferts had come for it and due to some reason Pr. Olfert left for Calcutta immediately, leaving his wife Ericka and two children behind to travel the next day. On the day she was leaving for Calcutta and we went to Ranchi railway station and found to our disappointment that the train had already left! Mrs. Olfert was so unhappy, disturbed and even wept at the station.

However, we consoled her and brought her to our home. I made an arrangement for their sleep and they(including the children) had supper with us and they stayed the whole of next day and we entrained her to Calcutta. This is just one incident where we could get closer to the Olferts. I do send my condolence to Mrs. Ericka Olfert and pray the Lord will continue to be with her always. If she visits India she should come to Hosur and stay with us, but should not miss her train!

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VIII. Response to John Wycliffe's Serious Allergy on Plane

Charles David <cdmd@aol.com> November 1:

Because of the kind of life I live, I do not get to reading all of the SUD e-News postings. However, I read with interest Mr. John Wycliffe's near-death account. I would urge Mr. Wycliffe and anyone else with a similar history of severe allergy to nuts, especially peanuts/almonds/walnuts, to at least carry two EPIPENS with you, especially when on the road or in the air or when you do foreign travels. A subcutaneous shot of epinephrine will help you buy some time. The second epinephrine, if needed, will buy more time. However, after the initial shot, take a 50 mg Benadryl by mouth. Chew it as well. Chew a 50 mg or 60 mg prednisone tablet. and, finally, an H 2 blocker, like a pepcid would help as well. The above are life-saving measures. After the initial epipen shot, take the above-mentioned tablets by
mouth, chew and swallow. if condition starts to get worse (which, perhaps, should not happen), give yourself the second epipen.

Now, through these years, I have read about Mr. Wycliffe’s contribution to the church, both in the States and back in India. I read the front page article about Mr. Wycliffe in Adventist Review and many posts in the SUD e-News. I know that Mr. Wycliffe and many others like him, could enjoy many years of fruitful lives serving their CREATOR by making some changes in their lifestyle. (I am a vegan and eat two meals a day. At age 60, I am 5’7 and 7 and 1/2 inches tall and weigh 138 lbs). Life is truly a miracle...

[Dr. Charles David is the son of the late Pastor S. K. Samaddar, highly loved and respected by all who knew him in Bangladesh. Dr. David is an emergency department physician with one of the Kaiser Permanente hospitals near Loma Linda, California. He travels a whole lot, setting up self-supporting ministries wherever possible. He just came back from the Philippines, where they are setting up a vegan restaurant in a plush hospital near Manila.]

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Edison Samraj <amc3@vsnl.com> October 27:

Radio speakers of Adventist Media Centre had an interface with the theology students of Spicer Memorial College. Upon the initiative of our director, Dr. Edison Samraj, and Theology Department Head, Dr. Mohanraj Israel, theology students were involved in radio programs in two ways.

Firstly, to involve them in giving segments for radio programs. Secondly, as a research backup where researches will be submitted by students on issues related to theology, ecology, society, etc, which in turn will be used by the radio speakers and simultaneously train the students for it. And as a result both are benefitted and together work in the vineyard for Christ. It was a new experience for both groups.

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X. Edwin Dass Retires from Roorkee After Record-setting Tenure

The Roorkee Romance

The Roorkee connection for Dr. Edwin Dass began in 1947, a tumultuous year in the history of India. Due to the political upheavals preceding and following the partition of India, young Edwin moved to a number of schools including Chuarkhana [near his home in Amritsar] now in Pakistan, but he finished the year at Roorkee and that was the beginning of a romance that spanned three and a half decades.

The years spent in school are the most memorable and formative years of a person's life and Dr. Edwin Dass was no different. It was in Roorkee that his exceptional talent for music began to surface and grow. His remarkable singing voice too developed and blossomed. While he spent time with his studies and work at Roorkee, a leader of the Seventh-day Adventist was being formed and molded. Every evening, after a day's work and play, Edwin and his best friend Justin Singh would cross the road to a grove of trees which was their secret place. The young boys had built a tree house of sorts and would spend some time in the quietness and solitude of the evening in meditation and prayer. One can only imagine the solace and inspiration that the two boys received from this retreat, but among the many petitions that youngsters will place before the Lord were three special petitions by Edwin.

The first was that he would become the principal of school like Roorkee, the second was to see the world and the third was that the Lord would bless him with a good wife. The petitions were soon forgotten, but subconsciously guided his future.

After finishing his high school from Roorkee, Dr. Edwin Dass moved to Pune where he joined Spicer Memorial College and completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Sciences. In preparation to return to Roorkee as a member of the faculty, he completed a Bachelor of Education degree as well.

In 1963 he returned to his alma mater as a teacher and librarian with the lovely Marceline by his side. They worked at Roorkee till they left for the USA in 1967 where Dr. Edwin Dass joined Andrews University to complete his Masters Degree in School Administration. Time passed and the Dass' settled in the US. Edwin continued to pursue his studies to prepare himself to be a better teacher, and completed his Specialist in Educational Leadership and Management Degree (Ed.S) from the Western Michigan University. Alongside a very rewarding and
distinguished career as a teacher in the Benton Harbor Schools District in Michigan, Edwin continued his quest for excellence. Where is he received an outstanding teacher's award among 642 teachers of the district in 1978.

Soon forgotten were his boyhood petitions from the tree house in Roorkee, yet, the Lord who hears all had not forgotten and those simple requests. One had already been granted. Marceline had proved to be a good wife to Edwin and a great mother to the Dass' two sons and now the Lord was ready to grant his next petition, albeit not in the order that they had been asked for. In a sudden career change, Dr. Edwin Dass left his chosen profession of teaching and went into the travel business. It might have been his deep wanderlust that led to this decision, but the A-1 Travels Inc. was born in 1979. This was the vehicle that took Edwin around the world, to 180 countries to be exact and many were visited more than once. Edwin Dass' travels enriched his outlook towards life, furthered his knowledge and encouraged him to prepare himself to receive the answer to his third petition.

Elder Gerald J. Christo, the President of the Southern Asia Division was a regular visitor to the Dass home whenever he was in the vicinity. On one such visit Elder Christo asked Dr. Dass to return to the Southern Asia Division as the Principal of Roorkee School. The decision couldn't have been easy, notwithstanding the Roorkee Romance which still existed, yet the answer was 'No'. However, the romance worked its magic Dr. Dass agreed to raise a force of volunteers from Maranatha, convince its board and come to Roorkee to rebuild the east wing of the girl's hostel.

When he arrived at Roorkee, the condition was worse than Elder Christo's description and Dr. Dass began to feel concerned for his alma mater, however, he was a successful business man and even in his wildest dreams had not considered returning to India permanently or even for an extended period of time. The contrasting thoughts of helping his alma mater and running his business kept plaguing him and eventually Dr. Dass agreed to come to Roorkee for a year and do whatever was possible to improve the situation. The attraction to Roorkee won the battle and despite objections from his family Ed Dass agreed to take over the school for two years, a period that didn't end for more than 2 decades and even though the losses in his business, legal problems that erupted due to mistakes by his managers and by trying to run its affairs by remote control hurt him deeply, Roorkee won him over and after he sold A-One Travels Inc. he never looked back. The Roorkee Romance had won and the little boy in a tree house who presented three petitions to his God found that God does answer prayers, even when we have forgotten our petitions. Roorkee has been blessed during the 23 years of Dr. Edwin Dass and Mrs. Marceline Dass' service to the institution. The Dr. Dass worked through trying times, often there were insufficient funds and still the school had to rely on its own modest income, but progress was made. The ground work required for further development was done and unfortunately, time caught up with the Dass' and now another President will have to carry the development of the college forward. The Dass' have left a legacy of respect, hard work and strong spiritual commitment. Those of us who remain at Roorkee commit ourselves to keeping their legacy and the Roorkee Romance alive.

--Russell Edwards, Editor-in-Chief, Roorkee's NEWS FLASH, August 15, 2011

[When we went to Roorkee as principal in 1953 Edwin was just beginning his first year of secondary school. So we had the privilege of having him as our student for four years. When we went to Spicer in 1959 he was again one of our students until he graduated from college. After his graduation he joined the staff at Roorkee, and as Division educational director, I evaluated the program at Roorkee including his work there! Some years later we visited Berrien Springs and again had pleasant visits with Edwin and his growing family. We certainly wish them happiness and health in their retirement! --CHT/Sr.] ~~~~~~~~~~~ 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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