I. Letters
   1. Justin Singh
   2. D. L. Ebenezer
II. Remembering the Juriansz Family
III. Remembering Paul Essig
IV. Remembering Mr. T. D. Gnanakan
V. North India Union's Longtime Watchman's Son in Dire Need

I. Letters
   1. Justin Singh <JUWYL@aol.com> November 29:
      After I read Dr. John Fowler’s and Dr. Boxter Kharbteng’s tributes to Edwin and Marcelline in the SUD Newsletter, I felt that I should also write something about them as well. After all, Edwin and I have been friends for about 65 years, and no one has known him longer and better than I do.
      Edwin has always been a restless soul and a visionary, dreaming big things, attempting challenging things, and succeeding in whatever he purposed in his heart to do. Among his many talents, Edwin is a gifted musician. He is quite an Urdu poet and has set his lyrics to melodious North Indian Hindustani musical tunes. I well remember in our high school days he wrote songs for anyone who wanted to sing for worship services. His grasp of the Urdu language is the result of his personal effort to learn the Urdu language well. I remember him writing Urdu vocabulary words in a notebook and making up his own resource reference. After the Independence of India in 1947, the Hindi language replaced Urdu. Consequently, we had only two grades of Urdu language instruction.
      Edwin was a popular singer at Spicer Memorial College. The Voice of Prophecy musicians used to play for him whenever he sang at Spicer. One secular song that made him famous in college was "Shadi." To this day he is often asked to sing that song at various Indian functions.
      Edwin tells me that he took music lessons from a North Indian Hindustani classical music teacher in Amritsar for about three months. When his father heard that Edwin was learning Indian Classical Music, which he considered not Christian, his dad went to his teacher and told him to stop teaching his son Hindi music. Three months was all he had in North Indian Classical Music.
      While living at Berrien Springs, Michigan, Edwin, and his brother, David, and Rajan Daniel teamed up with him and put on concerts to the enjoyment of the India Communities in America and Canada. He held many musical parties at his home for lovers of Indian music. One day, however, he made a decision not to sing secular music in concerts any more. From that day he dedicated his musical talent to producing Christian music.
      During the 23-years at Roorkee (1988-2011), Edwin composed Christian songs and ghazals, for "The Kingdom Series" most of which are now available in five CD albums. These CD albums were produced in the Voice of Prophecy music studio at Salisbury Park, Pune. He hired professional singers and musicians to produce these CD albums. The lyrics for these albums are published in a book in Urdu and Hindi.
      Edwin also composed all the songs and music for a regular movie, entitled "Nazrana," produced by T. N. Mohan in concert with other Bollywood movie directors. "Nazrana" has been screened over India’s national television on several occasions. In the production of North Indian Christian music, Edwin stands taller than anyone I know.
      Some central government ministers and state legislators, whose children were students at Roorkee High School, recognized Edwin as an outstanding educator. He was awarded a "Gold Medal" by the Minister of Education in New Delhi for outstanding leadership in higher education in India, and the "Vikas Ratan Gold Award" for innovation and development in Higher Education.
The Chandigarh Sageet Vidyalay awarded him the highest degree in Hindustani Music production. However, Edwin regards his ordination to the Gospel Ministry by the Southern Asia Church as a Credentialed Minister his highest honor and blessing.

Edwin and Marcelline Dass left Roorkee Adventist College with heavy nostalgic feelings and one yet-to-be-fulfilled dream-upgrading the premier North Indian Adventist College to university status. They feel confident that God will fulfill this dream in their lifetime.

2. D. L. Ebenezer <dlebenezer@gmail.com> November 28:

News from SMC’s Class of 1963

Reading SUD e-News of November 7, 2011, # 45, brought back many fond memories of SMC’s Class of 1963. March 1963 saw 23 Spicer Memorial College students graduate with Pastor Amirtham as their sponsor and Mrs. Bonney as their pianist.

As graduates of any other institution, the 23 graduates of the Class of 1963 were ready to take on (Burma, Ceylon, India, Pakistan and the countries & Territories comprising Southern Asia in 1963) the world and change it for the better. Forty-eight years have gone by, and now it is 2011. Pastor Amirtham is now resting, awaiting the call of Christ at the second coming. So are Brian DeAlwis, Pastor I. M. Chand, and now Eric. W. Holroyd has been laid to rest on Thursday, October 27, 2011. The 23 grads along with Pastor Amirtham and Mrs. Bonney were very closely knit. The loss of any from this group is a pain that is difficult to endure.

*** Eric W. Holroyd:

The recent death of Eric Holroyd evoked in my mind the years we’ve spent together. I knew him at Spicer and later in Canada. Shortly after his retirement from teaching in Canada, he was the victim of a stroke. My wife and I recall visiting him shortly after that episode. Unfortunately, he never recovered back to normal to enjoy his sunset years or be of greater use in his retirement. My heartfelt condolences to Eric’s wife May, daughter Betty, son Richard and all the other members of the Holroyd family. We now await the call of our Life-giver!

*** Marceline & Edwin R. Dass:

I have known Edwin R. Dass and his wife Marcelline from our SMC years. Edwin and I graduated together from Spicer in 1963. Later, we were at Andrews together from 1967 and we graduated together.

During the years I was at Andrews, the Dass home was a second home to me. Brian & Shirani DeAlwis and Marcelline & Edwin, along with their two children Erni & Vizzi and I would get together at least once every week for a meal and fellowship. These two families provided me much support.

Edwin was the one who drove me over to Chicago to obtain my Visa to enter Canada. Coming back from Chicago, we had an automobile accident. Edwin still managed to drive his vehicle back to Berrien Springs. Shortly after that, I was invited to speak in one of the neighboring churches. I didn’t have much driving practice or have the necessary skills to handle a car. But Edwin had confidence in me and he let me drive his newer vehicle all by myself and go to church and back. Edwin also provided me free transportation to Henry C. Morton School in Benton Harbor during the time we both taught there.

In both Marcelline and Edwin, I saw the traits of somebody that really cared. I saw in them the attributes of what a good leader should be.

Oftentimes, I would say to Edwin that he should be the President of Spicer memorial College someday. Instead, he chose to spend the last twenty plus years at Roorkee. I’ll forgive you for that, Edwin!

II. Remembering Brian Juriansz & the Juriansz Family

Donald Fernando <clifferd@eureka.lk> November 23:

Through this piece of writing I am attempting to recall pleasant and historical memories of Pastor Brian Juriansz - Pastor/Evangelist who served in the Sri Lanka Mission in the 1940's and 1950's but also the 'Juriansz Family'.

Five brothers having graduated from Vincent Hill School, India, served the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Frank and Robert held responsible positions in the church while serving in India. Eric, and Brian were ordained gospel workers. Eric leading out in the Educational work, and Brian loveable Pastor/Evangelist in many parts of Sri Lanka. Ralph joined the Kottawa and later served in the Lakpahana schools. Not forgetting the youngest of brothers Allan who emigrated to Australia, completed his studies and served as a missionary doctor in the Far East. Two sisters Christobel and Claribel
taught in the schools in Nugeoda and Kottawa. The eldest sister Marjorie along with her husband J. C. McHeyzer (big made highly respected football referee) with their large family brought stability to the 'The Tabernacle' and later Shiloh church. McHeyzer joined the Literature Ministry and later led out in the Industrial work at Lakpahana School. Add to this the two Cortling sisters (Daphne and Joyce) taught in our schools, married two brothers Eric and Brian Juriansz.

We salute these torch bearers of the early Adventist movement that threw in such massive weight and enormous stability, whose fruits we enjoy now.

Pastor Brian Juriansz was the founder of the 'Lakpahana Seminary' in the early 1950's. His first set of graduates consisted of Tudor Perera, Alagappan, Leo Fernando and two girls (Mary's). Tudor and Alagappan married the two female graduates and served the church as ordained gospel workers till their retirement. That speaks volumes on the foundation laid by Pastor Brian Juriansz.

I pay my tribute to Daphne Cortling (Mrs. Brian Juriansz) who taught me English at the Kottawa school. My memories of Pastor Eric Juriansz lingers still. Specially with my mother's death (she was buried in the Kottawa premises). Pastor and Mrs. Eric Juriansz extended their hospitality to our family at the time of my mother's demise and when my father became a victim of an heart attack. Mr. Ralph Juriansz attempted to sharpen my mathematical skills.

When I join the gospel ministry it was Pastor Brian Juriansz, my mentor who guided me. I had the opportunity of working in the areas that he had worked as a evangelist. Places like Matara, Kandy, Matale, Kurunegala.

Facing difficulties and hardships in the ministry it was comforting to hear the language of love from Pastor Brian Juriansz. He had a way of putting others at ease. He spoke straight from the heart. His display of courage in very trying circumstances while he faced many challenges was something I did admire. He brought gentleness in his looks and rarely raised his voice in anger. His relationship with God the creator was displayed with a sense of honesty.

He was one of the most honest men one could ever have had the privilege of meeting. He embedded in us the sense of loyalty to the church and commitment to the church. Precious are the memories that linger in our hearts. Our prayers for his children.

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III. Remembering Paul Essig

Walter John <gwalterjohn@hotmail.com> November 17:

TRIBUTE TO A TOWERING MISSIONARY

When Mrs. Karen Essig wrote a few days ago, "I am losing my sweetheart," my wife and I were quite alarmed but did not anticipate such a sad end so soon.

Dr. & Mrs. Essig arrived at Lakpahana Adventist College & Seminary, Sri Lanka in the early 90's as missionaries. The day they arrived I was in charge of their welcome program. As part of the program I requested them to plant one tree sapling each at the entrance to the school. Today, those two trees have grown tall and strong. They stand there right in front of the school as monuments to the immense service they rendered Lakpahana and the entire neighborhood through their long years at Mailapitiya.

Dr. Paul Essig was one of the few doctors (PhD) that Lakpahana ever had.

The only other doctors I remember are Dr. Robert Stahlnecker and Dr. Fred Oshiro. Also, as far as my knowledge goes they were the longest serving American missionaries at Lakpahana. Correct me if I am wrong, Dr. Essig was one of the tallest missionaries to serve in Sri Lanka. He was one of the most professional Adventist educators my family and I had ever known. In his different capacities from time to time as principal, headmaster, registrar, and teacher he manifested an unmatched passion for maintaining the highest possible academic standards at the school.

I enjoyed the privilege of working so closely with him for so many years, an honor I still feel unworthy of. He just loved human companionship.

He was such a friend to all his co-workers and students. But more than everything else, to me personally, he was a loving father. The long journeys he and I traveled together in his car helped develop, strengthen, and seal that relationship.

The trees are not the only things the Essigs planted on Sri Lankan soil. They planted and nourished Christian characters for the future kingdom of God. They were instrumental in obtaining and providing financial sponsorships for hundreds of students who passed through these halls of learning. From the school and the Buddhist community around, they rushed sick patients in their car to hospitals seeking health and healing. Lives were saved and hearts were touched by their most Christ-like ministry. Neighboring villagers who approached their doorstep for any kind of assistance were never turned away empty. Their loving arms were always open wide to welcome and embrace all who came for help regardless of religion, color, or race. Dr. Essig preached, taught, helped, healed, served.
Our two sons, Jonathan and Andrew, were little boys when the Essigs arrived. For many years they grew up under their guiding wings and the fruits are visible today. Now back to the literal trees that Dr. & Mrs. Essig planted. Those trees are often referred to as weeping willows. Now as I reflect on those trees they appear to be as though they are weeping the sad demise of their planter! Nevertheless, the lives and characters planted and nourished by the life and ministry of Dr. Paul Essig will continue to shine as eternal monuments of God's grace in the kingdom of heaven. That's our hope! "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3).

IV. Remembering Mr. T. D. Gnanakkan

Donald Fernando clifferd <clifferd@eureka.lk> November 28:
Mr. T. D. Gnanakkan the man with the infectious smile is no more. We thank God for his life in Sri Lanka.

Early days of the Adventist movement in Sri Lanka there was this brotherhood of believers from South India who settle down in our island. Establishing industrial enterprises in different parts of the land. With it the right set of circumstances to glorify God as the creator in their homes.

It all began with Mr. P. S. Thambakaran having Sabbath worship in his home in Mutuwal. I had the opportunity of worshiping with Mr. Chelvadurai in Matara, Mr. N T N in Dandugama, Ekala, Ja-ela, Mr. S. T. Gomer in Divulapitiya and Mr. S. T. Jabez in Hendela and Mr. D. J. Gnanakkan at Bethel Tamil Church. The warmth and passion with which they conducted the worship services linger in memory.

These adventurous believers were a tower of strength to the church at large. Not only faithfully supporting the church with their tithes and offerings, time and time again they were there to contribute large sums of financial assistance to the needs of the mission.

When the Kandana church was organized it was Mr. D. J. Gnanakkan who bought the piece of land at Pantaeleon Mawatha, Kandana. Due to opposition an assembly hall was erected in his name (he owned the land). With the sale of re-condition Christmas cards we were ready to build the church. Then Mr. D. J. Gnanakkan donated the land for us to build the church. Hence it is called "Christmas Card Church". Such magnanimous gestures were experienced time and time again and inspired us to serve God.

We thank God for the lives of these witnesses. Members of Mr. Gnanakkan's family remain in our prayers at this time. We shall meet on the resurrection morning.

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V. North India Union's Longtime Watchman's Son in Dire Need

James & Janis Campbell <jcampbellm@sbcglobal.net> November 28:
A letter recently received:
"Dear Pastor Campbell,

"Thank you for your e-mail regarding the son of Mr. Motilal. A few years ago the son's kidneys (both) had failed and his father donated and the son was well for sometime. Now again even the kidney he received from his father has failed. His sister was ready to donate but unfortunately there are some medical complications in her case. Now the family has found a donor and it will cost over twelve lakh rupees ($27,000). This family will not be able to afford any amount as they have been spending constantly for years. Therefore, any help that will be rendered to this family towards his medical expense will be greatly appreciated.
"Thank you.
"Attar Singh, Treasurer"

The 27 year old son of Motilal and Shanti is desperately in need of a kidney transplant. About 4 years ago, Motilal donated one of his kidneys to his son. Now that kidney has failed and the son requires dialysis 3 times a week. A sister has offered one of her kidneys, but she is not a suitable donor. They have found a donor and the transplant will cost about $27,000.

The dialysis costs $100 each time. The father is retired after serving faithfully as a watchman at the Northern India Union office for more than 30 years. His pension is about $40 per month. Shanti, the mother is working at the Union headquarters caring for the guest rooms, doing cleaning and laundry and receives about $90 per month.
Janis and I can manage $1,000. It may just save this young man's life if we can help to make the transplant possible and to assist with the dialysis and other expenses.

If you are able to give, kindly make your check payable to the General Conference of SDA, designate it for medical assistance, and send it to us. We will forward the checks to the General Conference with instructions so that the funds get to the proper place. The General conference will send you an official receipt for tax purposes. Your gift will be helpful any time, but if I can send the checks to the General Conference by December 15, the money can be in India by the first week of January.

Since there is urgency, if I know how much is coming, I can let the family know and they may be able to go ahead with the transplant and be assured of funds for the dialysis.

Motilal and Shanti came to work at the Northern India Union while we were there. They were devout Hindus. Now they are dedicated Seventh-day Adventists.

Even more vital, let's all unite in earnest prayer. It is possible that God may heal this young man and His name be glorified.

James & Janis Campbell
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El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

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