I. Life Sketch of William L. Murrill
   --from the current issue of the Adventist Review:
   "Former Seventh-day Adventist world church Undertreasurer William L.
   Murrill, who helped support the denomination's presence in Myanmar [formerly Burma],
died December 5 in Shawnee, Kansas. He was 85.

   "Murrill held several church leadership positions in the Southeast Asian nation
   before returning to the United States to hold administrative posts for the church in
   Washington and the Lake Union region.

   "Shortly after his marriage to Ruth Elvira Wilson -- aunt of current world church
   President Ted N. C. Wilson -- the couple moved to Burma to serve the church's
   burgeoning Rangoon Adventist Hospital. William served as the hospital's
   business manager from 1951 to 1956. Ruth, who had trained as a nurse at
   Washington Sanitarium and Hospital, joined the medical staff.

   While in Burma, William oversaw fundraising for a new extension of
   Rangoon Adventist Hospital. The hospital was nationalized in 1965.

   "While on furlough from mission service, Murrill in 1961 earned a master's degree in
   Theology from the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in
   Berrien Springs, Michigan.

   "William Lawrence Murrill was born in Ripley, West Virginia, in 1926 and graduated
   from Washington Missionary College -- now Washington Adventist University
   -- in 1949 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

   "Murrill served as secretary-treasurer of Burma Union Mission from 1956 until 1962,
   when he was appointed president of the church's work in Burma.  In 1966,
   Murrill accepted a call to return to the United States and serve as
   secretary-treasurer of the Washington Conference, headquartered in Seattle.

   "Murrill later served as president of the Washington Conference. In 1972, he accepted
   the position of treasurer for the church's Lake Union Conference. While there,
   he received a call to serve the world church in the capacity of assistant
   treasurer, a post he held until 1980. Murrill was the world church's
   undertreasurer from 1980 until his retirement in 1991."

II. Dr. Yvonne Still Hanging in There!
   G. R. Baziel simlasan@sify.com December 13:
   What a stormy session these last ten days have been. The vomiting came under control,
   but the intestinal hemorrhage just carried on and on.
Yvonne's hemoglobin dropped from 10 gms to 6. Another 5 units of blood were transfused. Trying to find blood donors became a major task. Eventually I contacted a professor at the University. Long, long ago, Yvonne used to treat his wife, who suffered with severe Asthma. This lady had on many occasions come in, close to collapse, from hardly being able to catch a breath. Yvonne would spend long hours - and frequently the entire night with her-- till she was once again comfortable. The professor worked with and through a colleague at the University and had five donors with the correct blood group, donate fresh blood. This was exactly what Yvonne needed.

Six days ago her blood pressure suddenly dropped to 50/30. There was no palpable pulse. She started to fade fast. Fortunately the Internal Medicine specialist was right there. He resuscitated and worked with her for a long time. It seemed like 'ages' before she stabilized. Yet another miracle.

Over the past 48 hours the black colored Melina coming out of the colostomy site has started to change to the brown color that it should be. A few hours ago the attending doctors have accorded permission for Yvonne to have small amounts of thin porridge every couple of hours. The IV drip is still in place, but she no longer needs to be on the cardiac monitor. What a relief... !! This morning I put on a little soft music by the side of her bed. She relaxed. Thank you ever so much for your prayers.

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III. Remembering Them

1. Mr. and Mrs. Masilamony

Devasagayam Masilamony <dmasilamony@yahoo.com> December 8:

Remembering My Beloved Parents:

It's been 16 years since my father, Mr. Masilamony Devasagayam, passed away, and just two years ago my mother Mrs. Thennamal Masilamony was laid to rest. Yes, as the eldest son in the family, I thought I should write this obituary on behalf of the family and those who knew my parents personally.

My Dad, a resident of Pragasapuram, India, migrated to Sri Lanka in the 1950's, joined Mr. S. T. Gomer as the manager of his rice mill. He got married to a beautiful, Sri Lankan Tamil girl, Thennamal Thangaiya, with whom he would spend rest of his life. He started his own business in Panadura in early 1960's, but returned to Gomers when my brother, Rajarathnam, met with a serious accident while crossing the road. He worked faithfully for Gomers for the next 20 years in Divulapitiya until he retired in 1983.

My Dad, well known in Divulapitiya as the Kanakkapulle (the one who keeps accounts or counts), rightly deserved the nickname because of his exceptional ability in mental math; he could add, subtract, and divide faster than a calculator.

My parents were blessed with 10 children, 6 boys and 4 girls; being the third in the family, when I was 10 years old I had 7 younger siblings to take care. I am really not sure how my parents managed to raise all of us; the kind of sacrifices they made for us is beyond my comprehension. I would call my parents the SUPER HEROES; yes, they deserved that title for all what they have done for us. The sleepless nights they spent when we got sick, the meals they skipped to feed us, those are beyond my understanding.

My Dad had one intention: that was to educate all of us—even if you go hungry, don't stop learning, he often said; "I will try my best to educate all of you". Yes, he did educate us all: today as a result of his motivation; my siblings serve in different capacities in different parts of the world. I have two older sisters, Jothy, and Devanesam, and one brother, Johnson, working as missionaries in Micronesia. All three of them completed their studies at Spicer Memorial College.

Rajarathnam, the brother next to me, who moved to Texas, is a graduate of SMC as well. Joy, who is the vice-principal of Kendana High school, is also a graduate of SMC. The ninth in the family, Selvan, is doing tourism, and the last that we lovingly call, Sinne, is working in the X-ray department at Lakeside Adventist Hospital in Sri Lanka. Out of 10 children, 8 of us had the opportunity to study at SMC.

Here I wouldn't forget to mention the influence the Sri Lankan Adventist mission and the Gomers had in our future welfare and also not forgetting our beloved alma-mater Lakpahana. I should also express my gratitude for the dedicated pastors who ministered to our family and Divulapitiya church when we were small: Pr. Alagappan, Pr. Isaac, Pr. Appadurai, late Pr. Kurunathan, and Pr. Suvisesamuththu.

My SUPER HEROES, Mum and Dad, couldn't live in extravagance, but they spent every penny for our benefit and brought us up in the fear of the Lord.

My Dad was a perfect role model for all of our boys to follow; he never smoked, touched any intoxicants, or chewed beetle. I have never seen him as a parent who would lead the family in worship, but my Dad lived a practical Christian
life which was more powerful than any prayers he said for us. My Mum was so devoted to the Lord and a woman who spent hours in prayer for her children and others.

My Dad had a powerful and a beautiful voice, he used it for the glory of God in the Divulapitiya church, even when you have few members in the church it sounded so loud and sweet, soon the children and the older members would come inside to settle down for worship.

My parents moved to Lakpahana in the early 1980s. My Mum and Dad were lovingly called; Amma (mother) and Thatha (father) by those who came in contact with them, because of the hospitality they showed to both the students and teachers. My Mum would invite passers-by to have a meal, for a drink, or just to have a chat anytime they were free. They were always loving and lovable.

A few weeks before my Mum passed away, I called her from Thailand: she said she had a dream, the previous night; she saw me standing next to her cemetery dressed in white. Yes, that dream came true when we bade farewell to my Mum two years ago. But both my parents had another dream, that dream is for us to live a life worthy to be called God’s children and to see us in the kingdom of God. I am sure my brothers and sisters are preparing for that great day; when Jesus will pierce the blue sky and appear the second time. I have this hope that my SUPER HEROES Mum and Dad, who always trusted in JESUS our precious Savior, would definitely be among the righteous, ready to spend the eternity with all their ten children, and along with their spouses and grand children. To God be the glory for the greatest gift He gave us in His Son Jesus Christ and for our Beloved parents.

[Pr. Devasagayam Masilamony currently serves in Thailand in a leading International school as the Director for Students Support Service; He also volunteers to pastor the Adventist congregation which meets regularly on every Sabbath on this Roman Catholic school campus.]

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2. Remembering William ("Bill") Murrill
Ray Woolsey <RayWool@aol.com> December 13:

My wife, Challis, and our family lived next door to Bill and Ruth Murrill and their two boys on the mission’s residential compound in Rangoon.

Manufactured breakfast cereals were rare in Burma, but oatmeal was readily available. That wasn’t much help to Bill, who did not care for oatmeal. Ruth would prepare it for the family and put various kinds of fresh fruit on Bill's bowl of cereal to make it more palatable. If it was bananas, Bill would eat the bananas and leave the oatmeal. If it was pineapple, he would eat the pineapple and leave the oatmeal. (I don’t know what he would have done had the fruit been durian!) ~~~~~~~ IV. Letters

1. Reg Shires <RegShires@aol.com> December 13:

Happy to report that my two books, "The Leopard's Call: An Anglo-Indian Love Story" (which tells about our life at Raymond Memorial School, Falakata) and "At the Age for Love: A Novel of Bangalore during World War II," are now available through Amazon.com as e-books and can be read on a Kindle device.

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V. Arjun Motilall’s Kidney Transplant—Update and Progress
James & Janis Campbell <jcampbellm@sbcglobal.net> December 12:

All the Motilall family have sent their deep appreciation to all who are praying and to those who are giving so generously.

First a special appreciation to each of you who are praying for Arjun Motilall. (Now we can pray for him using his own name.) Several of you have responded so generously with gifts and assurance that you will be sending a gift. I have received the following message from Arjun’s sister--

"Thank you so very much for all the help. Yes, we do keep praying for my brother. All the people at Hailey Road are praying too. Mrs. Pansy Ram (Pansy is the wife of Robin Ram, Secretary of the Northern India Union. She is the Women's Ministries Director for the Union and a sister of Manzoor Massey of Loma Linda.) visits us every week to pray, especially for my brother. The Pastor also comes to our home to pray specially for Arjun. His full name is ARJUN MOTILALL and he is 27 years old. But if the money comes in his name he won’t be able to go to collect it since he is too weak to move around. You can send money in my name, JAYA LALL. That is how it appears on my ID Card and PASSPORT.

Sir, we do believe in the GOD ALMIGHTY because until now he has kept our family blessed and showered his love through all of you. We always believe that it HE who shows us the way.
"Once again thank you to all who are helping so much. Your wishes and also your prayers makes him and us strong to fight in these tough times.

"Thanking you."

Could we make this a special time to praise the Lord? Here is a young man whose parents came as devout Hindus, to work at the Northern India Union headquarters. Now the family have placed their trust in the Creator God and our Savior, Jesus Christ. I am confident that God would very much like to heal Arjun. He certainly can do it. And He will do it if it will glorify His name. Let’s invite others to pray for Arjun’s healing.

Thank you for your prayers and gifts that will definitely be a blessing to Arjun and his family and a shining witness especially to the Nepali Gorhka community.

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VI. HopeSide Christmas Sabbath Program

Milind Borge <blessedwaters2002@yahoo.com> December 15:

All are invited to a special Christmas program to be held at HopeSide Community Church on December 24th. The featured speaker is Richard Matthews (Deputy Division Chief serving on the staff of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence at the Pentagon). A fellowship luncheon will follow the divine service.

HopeSide is piloting free training courses to help those who may be interested in acquiring or upgrading their skills. The training courses start at 7 am every Thursday. Computer Essentials (C101) and Music Essentials (M101) are currently offered with a variety of other classes to be offered in the future. Visit HopeSide.org/train for further details.

Services are held at 12625 Galway Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904

Sabbath School: 10 AM
Praise Service: 11:15 AM
Divine Service: 11:30 AM
Website: Hopeside.org

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VII. Season's Greetings

1. Thomas A. Davis <tadthree@gmail.com> December 10:

Dear Family, Relatives, and Friends,

I write these words sitting before a glowing fireplace, while large snowflakes tumble from a deep, gray sky. It's a setting for reminiscing.

It is approaching five years ago since we left Armstrong, and eighteen months since we left Creston to live with our daughter Cheryl here in the Calgary area. Meanwhile the weight of years has been steadily accumulating—Tom his ninety-one and Margaret her eighty-five. Actually, in spite of the fact that Tom has a problem with vertigo our health is remarkably good for our years.

Our children have been following the Biblical admonition to "replenish the earth" -- Arlen to Walla Walla, Washington, Cheryl here in Calgary, and Lorna in Idaho.

The snow has stopped, the woods behind our place is quiet.

We wish you a Happy Christmas.

Thomas and Margaret Davis

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VIII. "Sold for 8,000 Rupees"

The following is the December 11 morning devotional by Rosenita Christo in "Love Our Land," the women’s morning devotional book for this year:

"In the mid 1980s my husband, Gordon, and I were members of the staff and faculty at Spicer College in India. A few months before my son's first birthday we bought an old 3-to-4-foot baby grand piano for Rs.2,000. My family loves music and acquiring a piano was very, very special. What prompted us to sell the piano five years later, I can’t remember, but we sold it for Rs.8,000.

"Recently I made a trip to Khurda, Orissa, to write about our church's school and its beginnings. The principal of that school, a former student of Gordon's, has often expressed his gratitude to us for helping him while he was studying for his master's degree. Prabhudas was one of the few students who regularly visited our home, as he was Gordon's reader for the undergraduate level. He made it a point to visit us even during his graduate work at the neighboring university."
One day he told Gordon that he had applied for work in Sweden selling books for the summer, and asked for his recommendation. Sometime later Gordon inquired about his plans for Sweden. Prabhudas said that he'd been accepted, but he didn't have the money for the fare--so he wouldn't be able to go. "How much do you need?" Gordon asked.

"Sir, I need a large amount. I need 8,000 rupees."

"My husband thought for a moment then said in wonder, 'We just sold a piano for 8,000 rupees. You can borrow the money and pay it back when you are able.'"

"Prabhudas did go to Sweden, repaying the loan as soon as he had enough money to send. Gordon and I often thought about the piano, especially since both of our children play the piano and would have loved to have a baby grand. But after my trip to Khurda, I realized how crucial that 8,000 rupees was to Prabhudas. I'm glad we sold the piano when we did."

"I feel so honored that God used us to fill the gap, and I am very glad that we responded. It took many years to fully understand the why, but it was well worth it. Prabhudas is now an ordained minister and a very successful and dependable worker and leader in his area. It was truly the Lord's doing that we had the money to loan him, and marvelous in our eyes!"

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