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Christmas Program Presented to 500 Non-Christian and Members
The Dhumbarahi SDA Church in Kathmandu, Nepal recently celebrated Christmas with great enthusiasm. The program was started with greetings and opening prayer by Elder Ashok Pradhan. The program, indeed delightful and stirring, was based on Jesus’ Birthday and was performed by the children of St. Devi’s Academy.

A Christmas message was delivered by Dr. David Tamsang (Former Director of Nepal Field of SDA) and Pr. Milan Dahal (Lumbini Zone Pastor). A witch doctor’s family which had been converted this year delivered an imperative testimony. After hearing the inspiring message and witness many local people (Non Christians) came to know about Jesus, and His purpose of taking birth on the Earth. Many of them have show interest to learn more about Jesus. The Christmas program ended with benediction prayer by Mrs. Sita Pradhan (former GO volunteer).

After the program a delicious meal was served for everyone. On behalf of the SDA Church I would like to extend my big thank to Mrs. Devi Tamsang, Principal of St Devi’s Academy for providing us needful things and giving us the place to hold such a wonderful program.

Please pray for us for showing the way of truth and life in Jesus Christ so that they may also receive the Savior the Lord Jesus. Nowadays many small congregations are running in different places in this locality under Dhumbarahi SDA Church.

Thousands of people are getting the privilege to know the words of God through Home Fellowship in different parts of this locality. In the year of 2011 SDA Dhumbarahi Church was blessed to set up ”Sister Cathedral” at Baluwani, Kapan and Mandikatar.

Please, pray for our church and fellowship. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2012.

Reported by Elder Ashok Pradhan
SDA Dhumbarahi Church Kathmandu, Nepal

II. Letters
   1. Nora Guild Marsh

I have been at this new [Orchards] nursing home since last April. It is quite near the St. Helena church. In fact I walked to the church a few times with my walker, but it is so easy to be taken to and fro in my wheel chair.

I am just glad I can go to church. I came to Orchards nine years ago, so I have been here since I gave up housekeeping.

I’ve been very interested in that column [in the SUD newsletter] about the mother of Guluh Bazliel. Goldie down was a good writer. Guluh married Yvonne Stockhausen. They were married in the Delhi chapel and I went up from Puna to Delhi to play the organ for their wedding. Now Guluh’s wife now [seems to be] at the point of death as is recorded in the newsletter.

... I am not 101 years old. The place where I am now has 24 hour care, so I am well taken care of. --[from a handwritten letter to us on 12/26/11. Used with her later permission.] ~~~~~~~~~ III. Death of Thankamma Johnson

George P. Johnson <geoprasad@aol.com>January 11
We are sorry to announce the death of our mother, Mrs. Thankamma Johnson, (widow of Pastor P. S. Johnson of Kerala, India) who passed away on Saturday, January 7, 2012. She would have been 90 years old in June.

She is survived by her children Rosemary Srampical, George Johnson & Joseph Johnson from Loma Linda; Margaret Tito from Bangalore, India; Elizabeth Charles & Valsa Samuel from Maryland; her brother, Davy Samuel in Pune, India; and a host of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Please note the following dates and times for funeral service:
Memorial service: 11:00 a.m. on January 15, 2012, Loma Linda University Church, followed by funeral service at the Montecito Memorial Park, 520 E. Washington St., Colton, CA 92324. Anyone sending flowers to the funeral home may have them delivered so as to arrive on Saturday, January 14 morning.

The family may be reached at:
George Johnson: (909) 796 7089 (R); (909) 917 6150 (C) Joseph Johnson: (909) 796 4074 (R); (909) 844 1774 (C) Or you may e-mail them at <geoprasad@aol.com> and <priya90@aol.com> ~~~~~~~~~~~ IV. Spicer Alumni to Write 2015 Morning Watch Book

Mohanraj Israel <mohanrajsisrael@yahoo.com> January 5:

In commemoration of the centenary celebration of Spicer Memorial College in the year 2015, we are going to bring out a morning watch commentary in the year 2015 which will be solely written by Spicer alumni and those who have been impacted personally by their association with Spicer. We are looking for a one-day message for the morning watch by one individual which means that the local committee here will chose the best 365 messages for the 365 days. I have been chosen to serve as the chairman for this committee.

We have set January 1, 2013 as the deadline for the entries. This will give us enough time for us to edit and get it ready to send for the press to publish the morning watch commentary for 2015. My email contacts are <israel@vsnl.com> or <mohanrajsisrael@yahoo.com>

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Adds Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> January 5:

Spicer Memorial College invites all its alumni, former faculty and staff, and other well-wishers who feel that this college has had made an impact on your life for good to share your testimony in the proposed Morning Watch for the Centennial year 2015. Those interested can send your write-up of about 250 words with an appropriate title, memory verse and a closing rhetoric to the Morning Watch Coordinator, Dr. Mohanraj W Israel, at <israel@vsnl.com> or <mohanrajsisrael@yahoo.com> on or before December 31, 2012. They may also view the periodic updates of the college news in its centennial website: www.spicer-100yrs.in and express your views to us at the following email addresses: <president@spicermemorialcollege.org> and <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> ~~~~~~~~~~~~~ V. Honoring Steve Vitran

Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> January 5:

Dear Joyce,

Biro and I were saddened to read about your dad’s health condition in the recent SUD newsletter. I have so many memories of our service together when your parents first came to India as missionaries. We have a slide photo of the family riding atop an elephant when you first visited Hapur. I was the principal of our Hapur Elementary School and your dad the Pastor of the 23 Curzon Road English Church. During Christmas we loaded the pedal organ, which your mom played, into a truck, and we all bundled up in our warmest clothes we could find in our closets, went carol singing in the Embassy Enclave and the five-star hotels. I helped out with your dad’s evangelistic campaigns in Delhi and was privileged to part of his evangelistic team in Jabalpur. I learnt to put up a three pole tent and how to conduct evangelistic campaigns from your dad.

When I visited Andrew University on my first trip to a General Conference session in 1962 your dad picked me up at the Niles railway station at 2:30 in the morning. I enjoyed staying in their home and made a point to visit your parents on subsequent visits. It won’t be long before we will all meet in the clouds at Jesus second coming. What a glad day of reunion that will be. May the assurance of Jesus’ promise give us hope and peace.

VI. Sabbath School Lessons in Napali

Bhaju Ram Shrestha <bhajupurna@gmail.com>

Begin 2012 with "Glimpses of God"
From being mesmerized by a poem that questioned the existence of God over 45 years ago making me leftist, agnostic, atheist, and a near Buddhist to translating the 2012 first quarter Sabbath School Lesson: "Glimpses of God" by JaAnn Davidson of AU, don't you think I have come a long way to procure the passion for the believers to have knowledge of God?

In the Scheer Memorial Hospital Church, during the Divine Service on December 24, the first thing several people asked me was, "Do you have the new Sabbath School lesson for us?" Over six years ago, the Nepali Adventist community experienced the famine of Sabbath School lessons; today they are blessed with a Sabbath School lesson in their own language. Thanks to the General Conference, the Southern Asia Division and the Nepal Field for playing their parts in making the manuscript available earlier so that the team can produce the lesson a few weeks earlier to dispatch all over Nepal and Nepalis living abroad too. The Sabbath School lessons seem to be bringing a revolution in learning the Adventist mind. It is a valuable resource for a growing Adventist and thus it is fitting that every Adventist should have easy access to the lessons.

The Sabbath School Lesson for the first quarter of 2012 was unveiled by Pr. A. M. Puri to a congregation of over two hundred who packed SMH Church on Dec. 24, and by Elder Kapil Bania, the treasurer of Nepal Field in the Gathaghar Church on December 25, 2011. Seventh-day Adventists are very fortunate to have the little light - SS Lessons - to lead to the greater light, the Bible, then on to the passion for learning about God.

Although "Glimpses of God" is really just the glimpses of God, this lessons provides the readers special revelation about God who have always been on the dock because we, as human beings, are prone to misunderstand Him and trying to understand Him through their perspectives rather than God's. The introduction of the lesson takes us to a satellite with a telescope that is sending amazing pictures of universe (for which the scientists say over 70 percent of the universe is still unseen). Seeing those pictures should make us feel awe toward God who created the universe. And of course to question the existence of God is like an ant saying there is no elephant because the ant's eye is too small to see the whole elephant. The contents of the lesson too are challenging as well as timely-Trinity, in the beginning what God did, God as a Redeemer-not just a Creator who left the universe (as Stephen Hawkins alluded in his new book, "Grand Design"), God is Gracious but a Judge as well, His holy character, the lawgiving God, the Lord of the Sabbath, God's concern for the environment, human history, prayer, God as an Artist, God of Romance, and the glorious Second Coming of Jesus.

Just as a physicist never finishes studying about a particle in this earth, nor will we come to the position saying, "Now I know all about God". The hard work of the author JoAnn Davidson must be appreciated because she has brought out the main elements regarding the knowledge of God that is needed for our salvation. We, as Adventists, do not claim that we are perfect but certainly we do claim that we are serving the Perfect God. It is highly commendable for the General Conference Ministry Department though the Sabbath School and other ministries for providing materials that make us refuse to live with our imperfection. It is hoped that each SDA brother and sister will study the Sabbath School lesson with passion. . . .

I am thankful to each person who made the lesson possible to be in the hands of hungry believers, and thankful to the SDA Church for giving me the honor to translate the lesson in Nepali language. Your prayers and good will toward Nepali believers will be rewarded when you will see them in the heaven as the result of the SS Lesson ministry.

With Grateful heart,
Bhaju Ram Shrestha dJC
Kathmandu, Nepal

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VII. A Visit with Dr. Neville O. Matthews

Sunny Wycliffe <sunnywycliffe@gmail.com> January 9:

My wife Tresa and I were with our youngest son, Joy and his wife Becky and their children Duncan and Rachel from Dec. 29 to January 7, 2012. They live in La Crescenta, CA. Becky works for NASA at JPL in Pasadena and Joy works for Raytheon heading a team of engineers in one section.

Thanks a lot to Karnik Doukmetzian, G. C. General Counsel, who helped me to get in touch with Gwen Matthews Ocampo, daughter of Dr. N. O. Matthews living in Glendale, CA.
Gwen is the CEO of one of our Medical Centers in Northern California.

On Thursday, Jan 5, 2012 with the help of Dr. Matthew's son-in-law, Samuel Ocampo, a musician, Joy, Tresa and I visited Dr. Matthews at the Solheim Lutheran Home near Glendale, CA. We spent a long time with him.
Elder N. C. Wilson used to send me with Dr. Matthews on various assignments in India, then to the United Nations in New York, to the embassies and also to the White House and the Congress where even now I have many contacts.

When I mentioned that he looks younger and healthier than me, at that time laughingly he lifted his hand and showed his biceps to us. We had a nice laugh. No wrinkles on his hands or face. He will be 92 years old on June 30, 2012. Thank God for his good health. He looks in his sixties! He is lonely, all by himself in one private room!

He repeatedly mentioned that we must convey his best wishes to Ted Wilson, the G. C. president. He is very pleased that Elder Neal Wilson’s son is the current president.

It took me a while to get him recollect his days at G. C., Canadian Union College, Spicer College, the trips to India and Nepal, meeting Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, President K. R. Narayanan, et al. He had a good laugh when I reminded him about organizing the FIRST ASIAN RELIGIOUS LIBERTY CONGRESS in New Delhi and how he and I were hosted as the guests of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi staying in presidential suites reserved only for the heads of state at the Asoka Hotel in New Delhi. The rest of the group like Bert B. Beach, M. E. Cherian, Jerry Christo, Ron Hedstad, Lowell Cooper, and others were staying in regular rooms. Next morning he told me that he could not sleep well at the first night for fear of the charges of the presidential suites. I told him then, not to worry about it and that we will explain everything to Elder Wilson, the G. C. president.

Dr. Matthews remembers very well Elders Neal Wilson, Jerry Christo, Gordon Christo, Bert B. Beach, Lowell Cooper, Dr. Vijayan Charles, I. R.

Thomas, Danny Samuel, Lazarus Borge, Kenny Cherian, Ravi Narsiah, Christopher Sadanala (his neighbor in Takoma Park, MD), Eric and Sue Khandagle, Dr. David Sukumaran, Johnson Christian, Dr. Moses Christian, D. Ron Watts, A. Joseph, C. N. John, C. N. Abraham, George Abraham, Bill Johnsson, John Fowler, I. D. Solomon, Edwin Dass, Karnik Doukmetzian, Samuel Jackson, Bill Murrill, Kernal Charles, Justus Devadas, Vincent George (Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi’s Secretary), Governors M. M. Jacob, Fathima Beevi, Ambassadors P. K. Kaul, Lalith Mansingh, Vijay Kumar, T. P. Sreenivasan, our children Jason, Jeff, Joy & Becky and Jeena Molly and a host of others around the globe. He was remembering about eating rice, curry and tapioca in my sister’s home in Trivandrum and also in our home in Seabrook, MD. He wants to go to visit India again.

I know very well that all of us are extremely busy but may I suggest that you write a nice greetings letter to Dr. Matthews with their photos. He will love to read and reminiscence on it. Here is his address:

Dr. Neville O. Matthews
Solheim Lutheran Home
2236 Merton Avenue
Los Angeles (Eagle Rock), CA 00041-1915

This home is near our church in Glendale. It is ultra clean and with no smell of any kind at all. I mentioned this to the lady who was at the front desk.

Before we left his room, Tresa prayed for him and we could see his eyes were filled with tears! We promised to meet him next time when we visit Joy and Becky in Los Angeles.

Before we left, he repeatedly requested us to convey his special greetings to Ted Wilson, the G. C. president. He was a close friend of Elder Neal C. Wilson from the Vincent Hill Schools in India. He is very happy to hear about Ted Wilson and said that he is a very nice person and will do a great job as the GC President.

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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BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

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