Wendy Halder

From: charles tidwell [charles.h.tidwell@gte.net]  
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2012 7:47 PM  
To: Self  
Subject: SUD e-News, January 18, 2012 #3

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I. Death of Promod Kumar Poddar

Kish Poddar <kishopoddar@onetel.com> January 15:
My father, Mr. Promod Kumar Poddar, passed away peacefully in his sleep at 4:00 AM on 15 January 2012 after a brief spell in hospital.
My dad worked in the OWMPh in Salisbury Park as the foreman of the compositor department for a number of years before he emigrated to England in 1964. In England he worked in the Granose Heath Food factory for a few months and then joined the Stanborough Press where he worked as a printer for ten years. He spent most of his retirement in the town of Grantham until he died.

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II. Letters
   1. Eric Moser <susanmoser@hotmail.com> January 13:
I have found the life-story of Dr. Mrs. Bazliel [sr] very interesting; this is because I was in school with their older sons, Pervaiz and Delaveiz [the spelling may be wrong]. They were younger than me and so in lower classes. We were together for five years, I then finished high school and left, they continued till they finished. I was quite friendly with Pervaiz.
I was small but in '47 he was smaller. We used to play rough and I was able to pin him down quite easily but this lasted for a year or so. He soon caught up and passed me and became a big strong handsome fellow. Must have been the royal genes he had in him!! He then took on the role of being my 'minder'; if anyone bullied me he would 'sort them out'. Both of them went on to become skillful doctors. Sadly they died prematurely. The twists and turns in our lives are strange at times but God has a 'master plan' for each of us. The plan He had for Mrs. Bazliel makes intriguing reading.

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III. Life Sketch of Mrs. Thankamma Ruth (Samuel) Johnson

George P. Johnson <geoprasad@aol.com> January 13:
Thankamma Ruth Johnson (Samuel) was born to Salomy and Jacob Samuel on June 21, 1922, in Trivandrum, Kerala, India. Her father was an officer in the Salvation Army Church. She was seventh in a family of eight children. She always cherished the memories of her childhood. However, her father passed away when she was only five years old and the family moved from Thiruvalla to Nedumangadu where her widowed mother worked as a Salvation Army officer to raise the children.

When Thankamma was 16 years old, Pastor P. S. Johnson came to her town to conduct evangelistic series. Thankamma attended these meetings and being a good singer, took an active role in the musical programs. Pastor Johnson was quite captivated by her musical talent and leadership qualities and this led to a marriage proposal. Pastor Johnson not only won a soul, but won her heart too.
After her engagement to Pastor Johnson, she attended the Seventh-day Adventist Boarding School at Kottarakara where she completed her high school education and was baptized into the Adventist faith. Pastor Johnson and Thankamma were married on April 24, 1940. From this union, six children were born. On a pastor's meager monthly income of Rs. 25, she not only raised her own children, but also supported other family members. Though she had only a high school education, she made sure that all her children had professional education.

Thankamma was not only a wonderful mother, but was also a very faithful servant of the Lord. Along with her husband, she served the Seventh-day Adventist church in various capacities. Her most recent affiliation was with the Kerala Adventist Church, Maryland, where she was a charter member and board member. She inspired many with her musical talents and organizational skills.

In 1983, Thankamma and her husband migrated to the United States to be with their children. After the passing of her husband in 1984, she lived with her children in California and Maryland. In December, 2011, she took ill and after two weeks of hospitalization, she was called to rest in the Lord on Sabbath morning, January 7, 2012, in Loma Linda, California. She would have been 90 years old in June. Her strong and cheerful spirit will always be remembered.

She will be greatly missed by her six children, Rosemary Srampical (Robert Sarkar), Elizabeth Charles (Rajan), Margaret Tito (A.J. Tito), George Johnson (Pushpa), Valsa Samuel (Ebenezer), Joseph Johnson (Lalitha), brother Davy Samuel, brother-in-law P.S. Cherian, sisters-in law, Mercy Dunson and Ruth Thomas, 11 grandchildren, 11 great grandchildren, 11 nieces, 7 nephews, and a host of family and friends in US and India. We know that she is only asleep and we shall see her again on that glorious resurrection morning.

[The above was forwarded by Sunny Wycliffe <sunnywycliffe@gmail.com>.]

Remembering Mrs. Thankamma Johnson

Sunny Wycliffe <sunnywycliffe@gmail.com> January 12:

The passing away of Mrs. Thankamma Johnson will be mourned by hundreds of her colleagues, and friends, besides her family. During her life-long service to the Seventh-day Adventist church in Kerala, she not only stood as a loving, loyal, and supportive wife to Pastor P.S. Johnson, but in her own way she touched the lives of many in Kerala, India and USA. Her husband called her blessed, her children will remember her as a devoted mother, and the rest of us will continue to think of her as a person of genuine faith. And in faith, she chose to rest. Our sincere sympathies are extended to the grieving family as they mourn their loss.

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IV. Honoring Dr. Neville O. Matthews

1. Sheila Chaman <sheila.chaman@gmail.com> January 12:

Thanks for letting us hear about Dr. Neville Mathews; I have been trying to contact him ever since he left India from Spicer College, Pune.

He showered me with his warm hospitality- making breakfast and pouring juice for me in his generous manner when I was invited by him and Dr. Gordon Christo- my old Hapur school classmate -for the Spicer College Memorial Day celebrations on 2nd Oct. That year the Latur earthquake happened and we talked about it at breakfast as I remarked that I found the campus very alive early morning....later it came to be known that the devastating earthquake had struck Latur and tremors were felt on the campus in Aundh!!!

I fondly remember the flag hoisting with the young students and the adulation, admiration of all around as I - the well-known TV News Anchor - was the Chief Guest in their midst...

I felt I could give back to the SDA what I have got from my wonderful years at Hapur...from my friends, colleagues and teachers, many of whom I am still in touch with....the years have only strengthened the bond with them all and my faith in the Lord.

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2. Terrence Davin <terrydavin@gmail.com> January 14:

Dr. Matthews is a good friend of ours. I took some classes in psychology from him while I was at Spicer (‘52 - ’55), and had met his wife’s brothers, Ashley, Milton and David before
that time. Milton was interning in Rawalpindi (then still British India, now Pakistan) after graduating from Vincent Hill college, that was way back in the early forties; I met David at Vincent College in '51, he was in high school and I was a first year ministerial student, then I joined Spicer in '52 because they closed the college section of Vincent Hill due to the lack of college students. My wife Jeanne (Webber) was Neville's secretary for a while at Spicer-- of course she was single at the time. We have pleasant memories of the Matthews family even long after our days in India. We met them again when he was president of the Medicine Hat Community College; we were passing through on our way to a Union Session at Calgary, Alberta, and stayed with them for a day or so. Then not long after that he was president of Canadian Union College and we saw them more often. I was pastoring in the Maritime Conference (Canada) at the time. I am glad you located Dr. Matthews as we had lost track of him after he left Oshawa. We will certainly write to him and send him some pictures as well.

I am retired now of course, retired in '96 but still very active in my local church. I turned 83 last December and still play badminton ~~~~~~~~~ V. Maranatha India Director Visits Western India Union

Ramesh Y. Jadhav <rameshjadhawju@gmail.com> January 15:

January 11 and 12, 2012 marked a happy days for our union. We have been praying for school buildings that have poor infrastructures. One such school has poor Adventist lay students who don't pay any fees. For such students Pr. and Mrs. Watts initiated starting schools.

Mr. Vinish Wilson the, director of Maranatha visited Hatkangale and Newasa schools to inspect their campuses and promised to make a strong recommendation to the Maranatha office to meet the need.

Elder Don Noble and Mrs. Noble are visiting these schools Feb. 20 and 21 to see the needs. Readers, we request you to remember our union in your prayers as we carry the gospel to reach the unreached.

Ramesh Y. Jadhav, President
Western India Union of SDA
Salisbury park
Pune 4110037

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VI. Dorothy Watts Still Being Published

In her devotional for January 13 in the morning devotional book, RENEW, by Adventist women, Dorothy Watts wrote as follows:

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13.

"Facing Life's Problems"

"I awoke this morning, legs stiff and painful. I don't know how it is possible to go through another day of pain and relearning to walk one more time. I don't even want to try. I feel like giving up before the sun has peeked over the horizon, but I don't.

"I'll tell my self, 'Dorothy, you can do this! The promise is there. Christ will give you strength to get up, dress, wash, get breakfast, exercise, and do everything that needs doing today.'

"I will admit that life has not been fair to me these past three years; two rounds of chemo, lymphoma twice, breast cancer, mastectomy, radiation, left knee operations three times, and right hip operation once. The struggle has been long and hard. Each time I nearly reach recovery, I get knocked down again. But by God's grace and strength I have been able to get up and keep going. God is good and has sent so many blessings my way in the midst of all these challenges.

"I'll never forget the first time I claimed today's promise. I was a freshman at a church boarding high school. I had piano lessons from Miss Soper, and was ready to perform in a recital. She had me on stage the afternoon before the program to run through my piece. I was scared. 'I can't do this.' I moaned. 'Take my name off the recital list.'

'You can do it,' my teacher replied. 'Go to your room and read Philippians 4:13 and memorize it. When you have to play, just remember that God will be with you to give you courage and strength.'

"I did as she said, and I managed to play my piece perfectly that night.
"Oh, thank You, Jesus!" I said. Since then I have claimed that promise many times.

"With God's help and that verse I found that I could do many things I never dreamed I could do, such as lead a cooking school, run Vacation Bible School, speak at a women's retreat, teach school one year with no textbooks, start an orphanage, finish college after marriage, learn to adjust to a new culture, write 27 books, begin Adventist Child Care India to care for thousands of poor children, lead out in women's ministries, and the list goes on.

"So today's challenges are something that can be conquered by God's grace and strength. He has not let me down so far. He will not forsake me now."

She and her husband Ron served in India more than 28 years.] ~~~~~~~~~ VII. New Church Inaugurated in the Village of Gambi, Nepal

Bhaju Ram Shrestha <umsan@wlink.com.np> January 7:
Come apart and "Walk for a while" -- Gimdi, oh, Gimdi!

With a definite purpose on our mind, we decided to go Gimdi again on the first week of January 2012. Though just to be a three hours bus ride to a transit Gotikhel village, due to the lack of fuel, it took all day to reach there. But trip both ways were the hair raising experience. The twisting, narrow, high up and low down mountainous, muddy, rocky and ever destructing misery and miserable road and the turbulent bus ride made us feel that we were riding in a boat during high tide. The bus reached the transit village where we stayed overnight.

The next day at 7:30 in the morning, we headed toward Gimdi that took us about 9 hours walk on the mostly pathless path. It was truly coming apart from the city life to walk for a while breathing fresh air of mountains.

Brother Arjun, the GW from Gimdi, came to accompany us and guide us to the village. When we arrived in Gimdi, my legs became flabby till they were charged by sleep.

Our main purpose to be in the village was to inaugurate the 15th by 30 feet church hall that was just suitable for the village where people live miles apart. Two doors, three windows, zinc roof, cow dung and the red mud plastered floor, white-washed wall church was simple, cute and a model landmark that stood on the ridge of a mountain overlooked by surrounding mountains. It was another of Pr. Umesh's dreams that came true, after rebuilding by his initiative the seven years neglected church in Tumpakhar that is 80 km east from Kathmandu.

On Tuesday, the village community gathered in front of the church, while Brother Umesh cut the ribbon and dedicated the church for God's glory and service for the community. Regarding the purpose of the building, Brother Umesh threw his wish saying that while the church was to be used to worship the Living God on Sabbath as a witness to the village, it was also to be a multipurpose building in which the classes for the children would be held, a library would be staled, and serve as a welcome place for community meetings.

The Gospel Worker, Arjun Sanjel Somnath, was the main pillar to have this church constructed. The land was donated by Arjun's father. Brother Arjun and Somnath worked together to erect the building. The village School headmaster, Devendra, too, was a great moral supporter.

After cutting the ribbon and prayer, over 70 people crowded into the building for the program. Brother Arjun welcomed and made remarks about the contribution that the SDA Church was making in the community. He sang a song that he composed about the love of Jesus. Somnath read his own composed poem to reform their life and turn to Jesus. Brother Devendra expressed his happiness to have a church in own village. Bhaju presented the meaning of the church saying a building without worshippers was not a church, and the Bible clearly said every believer was a mobile church. He challenged all to respect the body temple and come to the church to be closer to God by being with fellow believers. Bhaju also entertained the audience with the puppet show on the first sin. Brother Umesh spoke saying this was their church and to make the best use of it and have a shared responsibility to take care of it. After the prayer, rice and curry were served to about hundred people including the school children who came for the opening of the church.

We found there were several interest groups in nearby villages (several miles away from each other, of course) who want to worship in Adventist faith. We left the village with vision and prayer that there would be more low cost but sturdy worship places be built for
the believers to worship the Living God. The prospects of the school and health work are also bright in that Adventist friendly area.

To straighten the believer's faith, to construct the house of worship, showing the solidarity with the community, were the miracles that the Lord has wrought through us. And of course, to come back alive in one piece too is a miracle of rebirth experience.

--Bhaju Ram Shrestha with Pr. Umesh Kumar Pokherel ~~~~~~~~~~ VIII. Four Missionary Families Meet in Tennessee

Recently John and Irene Duroe and Brooke and Pat (McFadden) Sadler hosted a visit by John and Marla (Tidwell) Matthews and Charles and Evelyn Tidwell. The Duroes and Sadlers, both retirees from years of mission service, live in a beautiful rural area near Greenville, TN, overlooking a beautiful river with distant mountains completing the view.

The Duroes served in Pakistan and in the Philippines; the Sadlers served in Sri Lanka and Pakistan; the Matthews in Pakistan and Thailand, the Tidwells in Southern Asia and the Far East. John Duroe continues mission work in Bangladesh and Northeast India, sponsored by the Gospel Outreach organization; he is preparing for yet another stint over there very soon.

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