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~~~~~~~~~~ I. Letters
   1. Charles Shultz <charleshultz@yahoo.com> January 18:

   Let me share with you some exciting news. Last Friday, Linda Richardson flew in from Richmond, Virginia to spend the weekend with me. We drove for almost 3 hours to reach the beach. I found a log for Linda to sit on. While she watched the beginning of the Sabbath in the afterglow of a beautiful sunset, I asked her to marry me. I wanted to propose on Sabbath so that I could then pray that God would put His creative hand on us and bless our marriage. Also the beginning of the Sabbath for us could not only be a memorial of creation but also a reminder of our decision to marry.

   We will be married on March 25, 2012 in the Richmond, Virginia Seventh-day Adventist Church that my grandfather pastored from 1943-1946.

   I have a one way ticket from Oregon to Richmond February 2. On Feb. 4 I will help out with a Health Expo in the Richmond church. The following Sabbath, we will drive the 3 hours to the Greensboro, N. C. Seventh-day Adventist church and preach in Nepali (please pray for me) as we encourage a small group of Nepali people who are starting up a little congregation this February. This opportunity to help with a Nepali group makes me feel that the Lord is guiding me to live in Virginia for a year while Linda gets the needed time to receive retirement and also sell her home. We plan to return to our Brookings home in the spring of 2013.

   I know that all of these blessings are the result of prayer for which I am so grateful.

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II. Remembering Promod Kumar Poddar

   Justin Singh <Juwyl@AOL.com> January 18:

   We are saddened to learn from the SUD Newsletter, dated January 18, 2012, regarding the passing of Promod Kumar Poddar. Kish Poddar married Sonia Christo and therefore he is a nephew-in-law of my wife, Juanita. Our heartfelt condolences to Kish and Sonia and the rest of the Poddar family.

   Death is unacceptable at any stage of life; but death is inevitable! May the family find peace and comfort from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We look forward to his life sketch, perhaps later.

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III. SUDites Meet in Loma Linda Area

   Doris Kore <dskore@aol.com> January 18:

   Friends of Southern Asia Adventist Fellowship (FSAAF) will be meeting on January 28, 2012 at the First United Methodist Church, One East Olive Street, Redlands, CA 92373 at 10:00 am followed by a potluck. Featured speaker: Dr. Terry Swenson, Campus Chaplain & Associate Professor of the School of Religion, Loma Linda University. Special music will be provided by BINHI. Special Feature will be given by Dr. John Willmott and the Lesson Study by Mr. Ranjan Fernando. All are welcome.

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IV. The Simpsons & Their Mission to India

   Marion Simpson <werthesimsons@yahoo.com> January 14:
This has been our second time spending Christmas in India. There is a vast difference between Christmas in the US and Christmas in this Hindu land. In fact one would hardly notice that it was the Holiday Season unless you were to check your calendar. The Hindu temples continue their ubiquitous rounds of ceremonies dedicated to the over 2 million gods of India and the frantic pace of life in Tamil Nadu continued in its daily incessant rounds.

By the grace of God we were able to carry out our plans to do good for many widows, orphans, blind, and desperately poor people on this past holiday season; we were able to be a blessing to more than 600 people in India this year.

We were able to provide a suit of clothing, a school bag loaded with school supplies and a hot meal to needy boys and girls from many of the surrounding villages in Villupuram. Many of their families are day laborers who only make between $2 or $3 per day so many were greatly appreciative for these much needed items. It was such a blessing to see the smile on the faces of these beautiful children. The excitement in some places was almost uncontrollable as the kids received their gifts. For some, even though they were in school for years this was their first descent school bag and for others this was their only new dress for the Holidays. We learned experientially what the bible says that it is truly better to give than to receive.

Our friend Gunasekaren in the city of Bangalore invited us to come and celebrate New Year's day with him and his blind Church. This is an Adventist Church that was started to reach out to many in the blind community. As I shared in a previous blog, many of these individuals are abused and exploited in unspeakable ways. We met and conversed with some of these women and became painfully acquainted with some of their past history. I heard about how some were thrust out into the streets by their families and resorted to begging and even "soliciting" as a way to survive. We came to understand that there is not much available by way of social services to assist these unfortunate individuals, so our heart was moved with compassion to help. Our brother Guna has rented a house that serves the dual function of a church and a housing place for some of these blind individuals. He is quite a remarkable man who has become father, guardian, counselor and caretaker to many of our blind brothers and sisters in Bangalore.

We arrived in Bangalore at our blind church and were greeted by enthusiastic singing. We later discovered that many of the men and women who attend this church were quite talented indeed. Many played musical instruments and were also excellent singers. Many were mothers and fathers and there were even quite a few blind couples. Some even had their own employment and were sustaining themselves and their loved ones. One commonality among all these individuals however was their love for Christ. Even though they were without physical sight they were not blind spiritually. And they personally knew Him who was King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Through your donation we were able to provide for them a suit of clothes, a blanket, and Braille Bibles with some E. G. White books in Braille. It is truly amazing to me that God has provided a way for all to receive his holy word.

We also had the privilege a few weeks ago of dedicating our Adventist church in Meiyyur. Wow, that was quite an experience for our family. As long as time shall last I will never forget the feeling of standing in that crowded church on that inauguration day and looking into the faces of the more than 200 who were present. I remembered our struggles in that village as clearly as it were yesterday. I remembered the persecution that our brothers and sisters faced daily in that village. We promised the local pastor that we would put a place of worship there for our people even without the 1st dollar in hand. But with the riches of faith alone, in less than one year we were dedicating that church which we prayed for. I learned a valuable lesson on that faithful Sabbath as I stood to address that congregation in Meiyyur. With tear stained eyes and a thrill of victory in my voice I learned that my God could truly do anything. Even though we were surrounded on every side by Hindu temples to false gods, The Lord made a house of worship where his people can worship him in peace. No more worshipping outside in the elements or being crammed into a neighbor's houses. The people can worship freely in the first Adventist church for many, many miles around.

V. Tamil Church for Mumbai
Pastor Jeyaraj <jesusformumbai@gmail.com> January 16:
Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
We have earlier written regarding the plans of purchasing flats for the Virar Tamil Church in Mumbai.
We have already mentioned that the total area that we have decided to purchase was 1050 sq feet at the rate Rs 17,23,500. But now we have some additional space which gives us an area of 1175 sq. feet which costs us about Rs 18,80,000. We have given an advance of Rs 50,000 to secure the purchase. We also have raised funds of above Rs 2,
50,000 towards the purchase. We are still in the need of Rs 16,30,000. We are looking forward and praying that the Lord will help us raise the required amount of funds, so that our fellow believers here in Virar will have a decent place to worship. We make an appeal that you will send your contributions to the "SERVSDA" payable at Hosur as a Virar church building fund.

We the fellow believers of the Virar SDA church appeal for your financial support in building up of our church project and his glory.

We anticipate from you prayerfully.

For contact:-
Pr. Jeyeraj, No :- +91 9892237310

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VI. LLBN Southern Asia on Internet

Wesley James <wjames231@msn.com>

Since the launching of LLBN South Asia on September 30, 2011, we have received feedback from India, Nepal, Pakistan, Malaysia, Canada, Mauritius, and different parts of the United States. This is encouraging because we are able to reach the South Asians - in the continent of Asia and those scattered around the world - in the US, Canada, Africa, Caribbean's, Europe, and the Far East.

A Pastor in Canada said that LLBN SA would be a valuable tool for outreach - especially in Canada because of the many South Asians that live there.

Some have asked, "Why internet and not satellite?"

The answer is simple. Currently, we do not have the funds to go on satellite. In fact, we started without a budget. It took much prayer and the "seed" money provided by some gracious donors to launch the LLBN SA channel. Miracles happen even in our lifetime!

The current trends in telecommunications indicate that LLBN SA is on the right track. As of Sept 2011, there are 12.84 million broadband users in India. Moreover, the Indian Government is aggressively working on a proposal to provide "broadband connections" to all the village Panchayats of the country.

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VII. Life of Light Radio Ministry in Nepal

Umesh Kumar Pokharel <umsan@wlink.com.np> January 14:

The Life of Light radio program is produced and broadcast by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Gathaghar, Kathmandu, Nepal. Last December it completed 4 years of ministry.

The ministry began as the Bhaktapur FM 105:5 for only the Katmandu valley but after one year it was extended to two different parts of the country.

Now, however, it is aired from Nepali Ko Radio 88:8 from Kathmandu, and it covers whole central region of Nepal. We air our programs from Sunday to Wednesday at 8:30 to 9 pm and it can be heard on Internet in any part of the world; just go to the Nepali Ko Radio 88:8 Nepal and the online program is there.

We are planning to air our programs from Star FM Dharan to the eastern part of Nepal.

The Life of Light broadcast its program from Pathvara FM 99:6 (once a week, a half hour program on Thursday) Jhapa, the eastern Nepal-India border, which cover the 16 districts of eastern Nepal and some parts of West Bengal, India, where many Nepali-speaking people reside.

I would like to express my sincere thankfulness to our Lord for using me to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ through FM Radio waves; it has been such a blessings for us to be involved in to such a work which helps us to reach many people with the messages of everlasting gospel of the Jesus Christ to the every corner of the country. In Nepal there are mountains, hills, valleys and plains where the gospel cannot be carried by pastors, evangelists or Bible workers but through radio waves we can easily reach many houses in the mountains, hills, valleys and plains.

I would also like to express my sincere thankfulness to all who are behind this programs, for their prayers and financial supports; without them we could not have reached so many people with good news.

Further, we would like to express our sincere thankfulness to the leaderships of the Nepal Field and other well-wishers for their prayers and moral supports.

Umesh Kumar Pokharel, Pastor
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Gathaghar, Kathmandu, Nepal

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VIII. Positive Aspects of Pakistan College Gaining Official Recognition

George Babcock <gpbabcock@gmail.com> January 22:

Report on the PASC Affiliation with Sargodha University

As most of the PASC alumni and friends around the world know, I was deeply concerned when I read the announcement of the affiliation with Sargodha University. My concern focused upon the ability of our beloved school to maintain its unique and distinctive religious education program while joining with a Muslim government institution. Therefore, I wrote a list of questions and requested that the officers at PASC and the Pakistan Union give full and clear answers. I urged that they be completely transparent with the many, many people who love PASC and who want to see it become a better SDA Christian institution of learning. I am happy to report they have done so. Therefore, I shall attempt to summarize what I have learned:

1. I have been assured that the PASC Board of Trustees, the Pakistan Union of SDA, and the Division checked carefully the negative as well as positive possibilities. The General Conference Education Department of Education was kept informed and PASC and the Pakistan Union assured the GC that the affiliation will in no way undermine the identity and purpose of Adventist education at PASC. I have seen correspondence from the General Conference Education Department regarding the affiliation and it appears that the GC is Okay with what is happening; however, they do say that the situation must be closely monitored.

2. Fortunately, the affiliation expires at the end of each year and must be renewed if PASC and the Pakistan Union want to have it continue. Therefore, it is possible to rather quickly discontinue the arrangement if the terms of affiliation become such that it is difficult to serve God while serving Caesar.

3. Most of the General Rules for the Grant Affiliation are normal and would not cause us a problem; however, there are some that could possibly become a challenge.

***Rules 14, 15, and 16 have to do with the hiring of administrators and faculty according to University of Sargodha requirements and standards. This could be both good and bad for PASC, Good, in that it will force PASC to hire more highly qualified faculty and staff. Bad, in that there is the slight possibility that the university could insist that we hire Muslim faculty. It is NOT likely that the university would insist on this. If the university did insist on hiring Muslim faculty, the affiliation will not be renewed.

***Rule 20 has to do with library holdings. Some PASCAA folks thought that this would be a problem, but it is not a problem. A well-rounded college library must have research books and encyclopedias on all world religions.

***Rule 25 has to do with holding classes six days per week. The fact is that this rule will not be enforced. If it were enforced, classes would be held on Sunday. There would be no Sabbath classes.

***Rule 39 has to do with following all instructions issued by the University. Again the PASC and Union leaders will have to be on guard and, should something come up that we cannot live with, the affiliation would have to be terminated.

4. The University of Sargodha will actually issue the degrees. Fortunately, all courses required for each degree approved in the affiliation are already being offered at PASC and we can continue to tech as we have in the past. What this really means is that our students will be able to sit for the various degree exams as regular students rather than private candidates. One additional area that must be closely monitored is the matter of Sabbath exams. It appears that the University is willing to cooperate with us on this matter so that we can keep the Sabbath.

5. There will be no Muslim students living in our hostels. Our hostel facilities are only for Christian students; therefore, there should be no problem about having a mosque on campus. Evidently, the old rule regarding a mosque on campus is no longer being enforced. I have learned that the Karachi Adventist Hospital enrolls Muslim nursing students and some may even live in the nurses hostel but the Hospital is not required to have a mosque. There are currently many, many educational institutions that do not have a mosque. That is true even for some Muslim institutions.

6. PASC has not accepted a single rupee of government money and they will not do so. PASC has been strongly warned to never accept government money. In other areas of the world, where the Adventist denomination has lost control of their schools, it has usually been over the matter of taking government money. That should never happen at PASC.

7. I have been assured that the Spirit of Prophecy guidelines regarding SDA Christian education will be followed carefully. All levels of our church work from the local school to the General Conference agree that this is the most
paramount thing and the GC, the Division, the Union, and PASC itself will monitor what is happening at PASC in this regard.

Closing Comment

It is my belief that we (including myself) should not be so quick to criticize the leadership at PASC. But everyone needs to be ever watchful to make sure that we individually and our institutions remain very close to our Lord. The operation of all our educational institutions is becoming more difficult with every passing day. Only be staying close to Jesus and pleading for His wisdom can we be kept from being swept away. I’ve been an educational administrator for the church for 53 years and I’m still working.

I am amazed at the new and more difficult problems that I have to face here in the USA. The challenges in Pakistan are greater than in the USA. Therefore, it is good that we approach any question that we may have with Christian grace. Please pray for Dr. Selmon Dio and his team of faculty and staff. Pray that they will be guided by the Holy Spirit to make only decisions that will build up God’s kingdom in Pakistan. As they enter this new phase of affiliation with Sargodha University, may be ready to protect the interests of our Heavenly Father and have the courage to cancel the affiliation should that become necessary.

George P. Babcock, Ed.D.
Former President of PASC
Former Assoc. Director of the GC Education Department Officially retired but still working as Principal of Hinsdale Adventist Academy ~~~~~~~~~~ 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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