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Remembering Early Opposition in Bhutan
   Peter Mundu <peter.mundu@yahoo.com.au> February 19:
   Thank you very much for sharing, in the December 25 issue of SUD e-news, such wonderful news of the progress of
the everlasting gospel in Bhutan.

Praise the Lord!
   I forget the year, but this much I remember, that nine of us took the Falakata School vehicle and went to the capital of
Bhutan. Three of our senior members, the late Pr. S. James, Pr. P. K. Peterson and Pr. B.

Nowrangi were very anxious to share the gospel message in that city.
Therefore in the evening, as the cinema broke, they distributed "Signs of the Times," "Our Times," "Present Truth," etc.
to the people coming out of the show, and the next morning they departed from there by the first bus.
The government was alerted and issued a warrant for the arrest of the people who had distributed the Christian
literature in front of the cinema hall.

The next evening I had an appointment to speak to the Christians of that city, but early in the morning we were warned
by the Christians to flee if we want to escape from being arrested, therefore we immediately fled.

I am certain that the people who were in that group, reading the news of so many people being baptized, will praise
the Lord. Let us all pray for the Bible workers who are working very hard under the trying circumstances that the Lord
will grant them double portion of His Spirit and protect them from the evil one.

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II. Letters
   1. Cecil Samuel Marandi <cmarandi@rediffmail.com> February 19:
   What is the future of the education of our youth? And particularly those who would like to be teachers and pastors?
Have we lost sight of our heritage of Adventist education as outlined by the Spirit of Prophecy? We need to give this
serious thought.

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III. Charles Shultz Meets with Nepali Refugees in North Carolina
   Charles Shultz <charleshultz@yahoo.com> February 13:
   1000s from Nepal in North Carolina
   About a month ago, Rama Basnet of AWR who lives in Kathmandu received a request from Fabian Reid for someone
to be the spiritual leader of a Nepali congregation that he and the Greensboro, N.C. SDA Church hopes to establish.
She contacted me and last Sabbath, February 11, Linda and I drove the 3 and a half hours from Richmond to
Greensboro.

   What an exciting Sabbath! Thousands of Nepali people have been forced out of Bhutan. As refugees they have been
shipped here to the US. There are at least 2000 in Greensboro alone. So Fabian and Brian Jobe the PM leader in
Greensboro have been assisting the Nepali people. Rama has sent some literature and I sent them my old Nepali Hymn
Book. Fabian found an interested group of Christians and arranged for them to come to church. They grew tired of
English and wanted their own Nepali service. Since I know some Nepali, I was encouraged to come and lead out in Nepali. My translator, Biju is 24 years old and likes to lead out with his guitar.

So first I tried to lead song service using my Nepali Hymn Book. Several problems became quickly apparent. 1. They did not know these old Nepali hymns, 2. I could only read the first line or two of the hymn, 3. No one else in the congregation could read fast enough to sing with me, 4. Our Nepali guitar player could not read music and specialized in some Bollywood/Contemporary style cords that had absolutely no connection with what we were trying to sing. 5. Finally I found that they knew "I have decided to follow Jesus" in Nepali. But the lady who led out in singing this did not know the tune. 6. These people can not carry a tune very well.

So I started to sing some Nepali children's songs with plenty of hand actions. The half dozen 3 year olds were having more fun playing with the sound equipment and I do not think that they had ever been taught to sing.

I taught the Sabbath School lesson on "God the Lawgiver". Since Saturday is the official "day off" in Nepal, most Christian churches meet on Sabbath.

Some did not know that most Christian churches in the US worship on Sunday.

So I had a short Bible study on the Sabbath. They all agreed that Saturday is the day that God has set aside as holy. The next day when Fabian went to visit the Nepali enclave in Greensboro, he found Biju teaching the Sabbath using the texts that I had given.

Most of the Nepali Christians in Greensboro have a Pentecostal background. Fabian is concerned because now the Pentecostals in the area are also reaching out to the Christian Nepali people. So on February 28 I will ride the Greyhound bus to Greensboro and conduct a 4 night evangelistic series. During the day I will teach Biju our message. On Sabbath March 3 we may even have a baptism.

I am in a state of awe at what God has done for me. Finding me a lovely lady who wants to marry me AND providing me with my beloved Nepali people who I can witness to. God is SO GOOD!

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IV. New Church in South Kerala

Elwin Vedamony <elwinvedamony@yahoo.co.in> February 20:

For us in this small village, Vellarada, one third of the way from Trivandrum to Nagercoil, January 28, 2012, was a high-water mark in the history of local Adventists. We, a small group 50 members and children, mostly Adventist teachers and some lay Adventists too, gathered in the renovated UKG/LKG classrooms. The 1000 sq. ft. hall, accommodating about 150-200 people, was extensively renovated last September. Since then we have been waiting for the organization of our church so that we would be featured in the official reports of the Conference/Union.

Worship services had been started in November, 2008, and the school principal made to 'pastor' it. Our first elder is as good as a full time minister, though he is an AC mechanic in a five-star hotel in Trivandrum.

Even now we have only a part-time pastor.

The South Kerala Section officers led out in the church organization, followed by the sermon by the Conference president. This was celebrated with a typical Kerala lunch, followed by the first Nominating committee and the election of office bearers for the year 2012.

We are grateful to God Almighty for His great mercy in making this come to pass and also all the local Conference leaders who came for the function and stayed on to have fellowship and advise us on the proper functioning of the Adventist church. This church is very close to the R. M. Devi Hospital, where Jaya and I work. Our latest benefactors, Mr. & Mrs. Y. Andrew's (GC OFFICE, Washington, DC) sister, Amala, is the principal of the Colleges of Nursing, Basic BSc and Post Basic BSc and her husband is the principal of Paramedical Studies. We hope when the students enroll here our membership will increase.

We fondly remember our donors who generously contributed to the renovation. In the words of the Conference president, "This is the best church in my Conference." We felt proud that all your blessings and support had made this beautiful church possible.---Elwin Vedamony, Treasurer, Vellarada, School Church ~~~~~~~~~~

V. Death of Mrs. Busha Bashir

Calvin Mall <calvin_mall@yahoo.com> February 20:

This is to share the sad news that my cousin Pr. Edwin Bashir's wife Bushra who has been struggling with life and death has slept in the Lord on Monday Feb, 20, 2012.

It was an accidental death. She was hospitalised for about three months with her condition turning bad day by day, and at last she sleeps till the Lord comes to redeem.
Pr. Edwin and Bushra have three children, two son and a daughter. Please remember them in you personal and collective prayer.

Pr. Edwin is planning to have the funeral in Punjab and the burial at Pakistan Adventist Seminary cemetery, Farooqabad. All of his family and Bushra's family are in Punjab.

Pr. Calvin Mall
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Karachi Adventist Hospital
M A Jinnah Road
Karachi, Pakistan

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VI. "The Noisy Neighbor" a story from Maharashtra by Bobby Wagh

"Raju heard the singing coming from the neighbor's house and turned his music up as loud as possible. Sometimes he could hear the singing and he shouted abuses at the little group of Seventh-day Adventist believers who worshiped next door.

"Other neighbors avoided confronting Raju about his actions. They left the handling of the troublesome neighbor to the Seventh-day Adventists. The believers visited Raju and offered to pray for him and his family. But their kindness only irritated Raju more. He purposely chose the believers' worship time to bathe his idols and pray to them.

"Raju's first child died shortly after birth, but the man refused to let the believers pray with him. When his second child also died shortly after birth, Raju worshiped his gods with renewed vigor. But then his third child died, and Raju felt desperate. He ceased worshiping his idols and stored them inside his house.

"When Raju's wife became pregnant again, Raju was filled with fear that he might lose both his wife and the child she carried. Once more the Seventh-day Adventists offered to pray with Raju and his wife about the unborn child, but still Raju refused.

"The child was born apparently healthy, but soon he developed jaundice, just as his older siblings had. The doctor told Raju that only a full blood transfusion would save the baby. Raju felt powerless and desperate.

"The Seventh-day Adventists learned of the baby's illness and visited the family in the hospital. Raju was distraught over his tiny son's fragile condition. Desperately, he allowed his Seventh-day Adventist neighbors to pray for his wife and son. The group gathered around the bed and earnestly petitioned God in behalf of mother and child.

"As the baby grew stronger, Raju and his wife rejoiced. They realized that their son was alive because the God of the Seventh-day Adventists had shown mercy on them. Raju and his wife began attending the church next door to their house, and in time, they gave their hearts to the Lord. They threw their idols into the river and asked to be baptized.

"Now, instead of raising a ruckus with loud music during the believers' worship service, Raju sings God's praises loud and clear. He is sharing his love for God with others, and helping the little group grow."

[Bobby Wagh is treasurer of the South Maharashtra Region of the Western India Union. This story is taken from the current senior edition of the Sabbath School quarterly] ~~~~~~~~~ VII. The Mother Jilani Story [Chapter 12 of 17]

Chapter 12 Jamila

Jamila loved life. She was a fair, fun-loving girl who strongly resembled her Pathan father. Sakinah was dark and serious like her mother, a conscientious worker and student. Jamila, on the other hand, found study irksome. She really had no liking for the medical course, but her mother's word was law. It was an unheard-of thing to disregard the wishes of one's parents in any manner.

Obediently Jamila entered the Women's Christian Medical College in Ludhiana; but after she had tried for a year or two it became evident that she would never be a successful doctor. Hagar felt mortified that her plans to make doctors out of both her daughters had failed, but she was somewhat comforted when Jamila switched to a course that would make her a public health visitor.

Hagar felt that it would be best to get Jamila married off as soon as possible. She began to make inquiries here and there. Finally she learned of a young Muslim man who had recently accepted Christianity. He was fair-complexioned and settled in life, with a steady position and good prospects for promotion. His family had good references, and they were quite satisfied that Hagar's daughter would make a good wife for their son. The parents exchanged photographs of the prospective couple. This time Hagar had no objections. She was learning that times ARE changing. She had already adjusted to seeing Sakinah stop wearing her covering veils even when she went outside the house. Worse still, she had learned to ride a bicycle when her husband encouraged her to do so.
"What IS the younger generation coming to?" thought Hagar. "How shocked Gulam would have been to see his women unveiled in public!"

It was inevitable that Sakinah and Robinson should find out what Hagar was planning, since she was living with them. When Jamila came to visit after her graduation, Sakinah could not rest until she got her sister alone.

"Do you know that you are engaged to be married?" she demanded.

"No! To whom?" Jamila was wide-eyed with dismay.

"To this man!" and Sakinah triumphantly displayed the photo which she had temporarily "borrowed" from her mother.

"But I don't want to get married to anyone." Jamila pouted as she took the photo. She studied it carefully for some minutes before she declared. "I won't marry this man. I don't like the looks of him. He looks shy about the eyes.

Sakinah was sympathetic but shocked. You'll HAVE to marry him. All the arrangements are made,"

"But I simply won't marry him."

Sakinah was aghast. "You mean you'll tell mother that you won't marry this man?"

"Yes, I'll tell her."

"You wouldn't dare." Jamila tossed her head. Perhaps it was courage that she had inherited from her tribesman father, or perhaps, being the baby of the family, she was pampered a little and thought she could get away with it. Whatever the cause, Jamila dared to object when Hagar told her that she had arranged a marriage for her, and that soon her husband would be coming to claim his bride.

"But I don't want to be married yet," Jamila protested. "I can take care of myself. I'll get a job and---"

For a moment Hagar stared at her daughter as if she could not believe what her own ears had heard. Then she found her voice.

"You unnatural child!" she stormed. "Haven't I slaved all my life to give you a good education? And now, in my old age, you dare to defy me! How did I bring such a child into the world. How could you---?"

"But this man is not trustworthy," Jamila broke in desperately. "See how sly he looks about the eyes. He will not make a good husband."

"How many men have you seen that you can be a judge?" demanded her mother. "Who are you to judge the wisdom of your parent? Look at your sister. Didn't I choose a good husband for her? Isn't she happily married? Answer me that!"

So the row went on, and despite her rebellion Jamila was forced to give in and marry the man her mother had chosen for her.

However, time proved Jamila to be correct. They had not been married many years when her husband told her to leave. He had found a pretty little Muslim girl who took his fancy. By Muslim law he was at liberty to take four wives if he could support them. It was no trouble to him to renounce Christianity and return to his Mohammedan religion.

Heartbroken and homeless, Jamila made her home with the Bazliels for some time.

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