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I. Letters
   1. Gladwin Matthews <gladwinmathews@hotmail.com> March 5:
      I would like to wish our gurusis, Pr. & Mrs. Justin Singh, good health and God's richest blessings as they serve the Palm Spring, California SDA church community. They both have been good stewards and ministers of God in His service and have set a good example that God's ministers don't retire!
      May God continue to bless them both with good health.

II. The Nathaniels Attend Pudukottai College Retreat

Margaret Nathaniel <margaretnathaniel@gmail.com> March 5:
   My husband and I had the privilege of attending the yearly Pudukottai College Retreat for the 5th time. They also invited Mr. Daryl Joshua. He related well with the students and his messages were very applicable to the youth of that fine Institution. Fifty-four young people and five staff members attended this along with the three of us. There were students from both the Engineering and the Nursing colleges.
   I must mention that the youth displayed their talents and were very co-operative and well disciplined. The theme was 'An Invitation' and the topics Daryl touched were on 'Invitation to see and know God, to be able to reason with Him, and to commune with Him.' Friday night was the 'Invitation for forgiveness' and Sabbath sermon Pastor Nathaniel spoke on the 'Invitation to witness.' I offered a session on 'Self Esteem' and how important it is to be able to love ourselves for the values God places on us, which will help us to love others and most of all love God who is a God of amazing love.
   The food was excellent, the accommodation comfortable, the hills and nature all around added to the success of this Retreat. Kindly remember this fine Institution in your prayers, which has been established by the untiring efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Jeyabarathan and their 2 fine sons and their families. God has blessed them abundantly and they in turn are a blessing to 1800 Engineering students, 120 nursing students and 4000 plus students in the higher secondary school. There is no end to what God can do when we give our talents and our all to Him.

III. Edison Samraj Prays for Dada J. P. Vaswan

Adventist Media Centre <amc3@vsnl.com> March 3

It was a thanksgiving week from February 18 - 24, 2012. We were called to represent the Adventist church to pray for him. It was a very interesting event. People were praising God for the recovery and healing that he has given to the spiritual leader. In my interaction with him I made a very interesting point of request—that Dadaji should search for the
truth more and keep the search going. It was interesting also to note that our division president, Pastor R. John, also had earlier visited him before his surgery.

He has great regards for the Adventist church and for the work that we do.

We pray for his total healing and request all the readers of this newsletter also to continue to pray for his healing.

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IV. UK’s Stanborough School’s Humanitarian Trip to India

Kish Poddar <kishpoddar@onetel.com> March 6:

It was a chance encounter with a former student that initiated the venue for the February 12-27, 2012 Stanborough School IB CAS Humanitarian trip to India. Dr. Jacob Prabhakar, who is presently the Medical Director of the Ruby Nelson Memorial Hospital in Jalandhar, India, visited England in June, 2011 and made an unplanned visit to meet me. We met again in Jalandhar in August, 2011, and made plans to study the feasibility of a visit. The venue seemed ideal and the fine tuning and project planning began.

In September when the cohorts began the new academic year at Stanborough School, letters were sent out, applications filled, and the team was selected. Fundraising events included 24 hour sponsored badminton and packing bags for shoppers at ASDA and Sainsbury’s. Then began the work of booking airline tickets, attending meetings, applying for visas, taking the necessary immunisations, getting insurance cover, completing risk assessments, and finally packing to leave.

On a cold February Sunday, the team consisting of eight students and two teachers, met up in London’s Heathrow Airport Terminal 5 with not only their own luggage but several cardboard boxes of clothes, toys, shoes and other items to give away. At the end of the nine hour journey and a safe touch down in Delhi they were picked up and taken to the North India Union guest rooms at Hailey Road.

The following morning the team had the thrill of experiencing the hustle of travelling on an Indian train to Jalandhar. The five-hour journey and comfortable seats meant that they could catch up with some sleep. The hospital vehicle picked them up and brought them to the beautiful campus which was to become their delightful home for the next 11 days.

The next morning they travelled by minibus into rural Punjab to a gurudwar (Sikh temple) where about fifty elderly men and women were waiting to be screened for cataract operations. The screening involved an initial examination by the doctor to ascertain the extent of the cataract. If there was a cataract the patient was sent to four different stations to be screened for biometric measurement of the cornea, blood pressure, urine analysis and finally the optometric measurement of the lens. At each of the stations Stanborough students assisted the technicians. At first a little apprehensive about their lack of expertise and the exposure to unfamiliar body fluids of strangers, they quickly responded to the crash training course and fitted in with enthusiasm and interest. The successful patients were then transported to the hospital for the cataract operation.

With the assessments completed and the patients bussed to the hospital, the students were divided into groups. One group to be with the patients in the waiting room while their pupils were dilated, another would receive the patients into the anesthetic room while anesthetic was injected into the eye socket. The patients were then escorted to the anteroom to be gownned and prepared for the operation by another group. Once in the theatre a fourth group of students were responsible for ushering them to a seat and applying antiseptic over their eyes and surrounding tissue. Then the patient was assisted on to the operating table for the two minute procedure and then assisted off the table and led to the anteroom to be prepared to leave the theatre. Another team of students would be responsible for escorting them out and once out of the theatre other volunteers escorted the patients to their beds where they would recover and be treated. The recovery and treatment took just over a day after which the patients returned to the gurudwar The Stanborough students returned to the gurudwar for the post-operative assessment and final discharge.

The second eye camp was held in a different village near the Indo-Pakistan border and the students were divided into the same groups as before. Some patients were totally blind with cataracts, some were affected in one eye only, some came in wheel chairs, many were physically disabled so all the patients needed hands on assistance. The screening went on for hours and when the final count was made a figure of over 500 was reported.

Of those 400 were eligible for surgery and bussed to hospital. Beds were placed in every available space possible and the wards and corridors looked like a refugee camp. The following morning surgery began at 6 am and the same routine was followed. Dr Prabhakar carried on non-stop without a break supported by his team of staff and the Stanborough school volunteers until the last patient was successfully treated at 1:30 pm. That evening another batch of a hundred patients arrived to be operated the following morning.
The students continued their roles as volunteers helping to feed the patients and assist with personal care. However, it was not all work and no play for them as they enjoyed the opportunity of seeing some of the beautiful sights of India such as the Taj Mahal, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the Wagah Boarder flag lowering ceremony and the capital city of India, New Delhi.

This trip was organised as part of the community service ethos of the Stanborough School. The ethos was inspired by Jesus and He knew that there was a double blessing to be gained by serving others. The Stanborough students, who spent two weeks in India, gave a rich blessing to the patients and they received an equally rich blessing which was reflected by statements such as "I don't want to go back to England," "I miss Jalandhar hospital" and "I would like to do this as a career." If you would like to be a volunteer on a humanitarian trip come and join Stanborough School for a truly wholesome education experience.

V. Death of Jacob David Moses
Priscilla Shyam <priscillashyam@SAAA.ORG> March 9:
We are saddened to inform you about the passing of Mr. Jacob David Moses (J.D. Moses), a long-time member of the community. He passed away at his home on March 7, 2012. He is survived by his wife, Beatrice; their children Melwin, Melin & Marlin; and 6 grandchildren. Please join us in remembering the family in your prayers. May God grant them the comfort and assurance to carry them through this difficult time. The funeral service will be held in the Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2001 East Randolph Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

VI. Oldest Wallang Sister Loses Husband
Justin Singh <JUWYL@aol.com> March 7:
This afternoon, Wednesday, March 7, 2012, Thambiraj Thomas and I put our spouses, Patricia Thomas and Juanita Singh on the British Airlines plane on their way to Heathrow Airport, London. They will attend the funeral services of Basil Rogers (83), husband of Sandra Rogers, the oldest of the seven Wallang sisters from Shillong, Meghalaya. Basil Rogers passed away on March 4, and the funeral services are scheduled for March 13.

Sandra Rogers completed her nurses training as an RN at Nuzvid, Andhra Pradesh, with distinction. Sometime after their marriage Basil and Sandra migrated to England. They have one son, Russell Rogers, and Russell has 3 sons.

With the passing of Basil Rogers, the Wallang sisters have lost two brothers-in-law. The first one to go was Sunderdas Kujur. They have lost number four sister, Annie Kujur. Birol Christo--number two, Birdie Poddar--number three, late Annie Kujur--number four remained in India, while Amy Bogley, Juanita Singh and Patricia Thomas migrated to the United States.
This is quite a well-known Adventist family in the Southern Asian Adventist community and they have served the Adventist Church remarkably well.

VII. Asian Aid and Indian Orphans
--from March, 2012 ADVENTIST WORLD
"Less than half of India's children get an education. Many are orphans who live in extreme poverty in the country's slums. One Seventh-day Adventist supporting ministry in the region is interested in these children's futures.
"Asian Aid is building a new orphanage for 70 children now living in a cramped home on the outskirts of Bobbili, India. Sunrise Orphanage, slated to open in early 2012, can house more than twice as many underprivileged children.
"Sunrise's 12-acre plot means the orphanage can grow some of its own food and sell crops for income. Each child will plant a vegetable plot to learn gardening skills and the value of industry, a press release from the ministry said.
"Established in Australia 40 years ago, Asian Aid now operates an American office in Collegedale, Tennessee, in addition to its headquarters in Wauchope, New South Wales. The ministry operates more than 100 schools and orphanages in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Through sponsorships, Asian Aid sends 8,500 children to Adventist schools in the region.
"'We're not only giving them an education, but introducing them to Jesus,' says Asian Aid CEO Jim Rennie. 'Sponsorship is really a daily missionary activity. If someone wants to know that they're making a difference in the mission field every day, they can.'
"Basic sponsorships cover a child's tuition at a local Adventist school, with higher sponsorship levels providing shelter and food as well.
"Orphans in India are often abandoned and ostracized by society. Rennie says. In one recent instance, current Sunrise Orphanage staff awoke to find a child tied to a post in the yard.

"She went from being a little girl who was petrified to another of the bright, cheerful kids at Sunrise who've got a very loving, spiritual couple to look after them. To see the difference in that little girl was exciting,' Rennie says.

"Asian Aid ministry is not limited to sponsorships. The ministry also oversees numerous development projects, such as providing clean water sources, literacy and vocational training for adults and medical care for underserved populations, including Nepalese women, and leper communities. Asian Aid also provides shelter for women who have escaped human trafficking." --ANN ~~~~~~~~~~ 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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END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS