I. Death of Francis Scott

Francis Scott passed to his rest February 19 after a distinguished career as a pastor, principal, teacher, evangelist and departmental leader in Burma, Sri Lanka, Maryland, New York and Nebraska. He began a church in a dark county in Georgia which now has 115 members, a radio station and a Better Living Center. Francis and his wife Ernestine were a blended family with three children, nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren. -- from the Collegedale Adventist Retired Workers club's newsletter.

II. Celebrating Two 90th Birthdays

Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> March 12:

Devadason D. David and Prabhu Sharan on their 90th birthdays

A surprised Devadason D. David, not aware of the plans of his sons and family members, many of whom he didn't expect to see, celebrated his 90th birthday on Friday, March 9 at the spanking new CRT Trident Hotel in Vellore with his two brothers D. P., wife Pauline, John E.; three sisters, Esther Ponniah, Mary and John Fowler, Gnanaibai and Paripuranaraj. Taking charge of the programme were Pastor David's three sons: Elwin, Calvin, Ervin and Rosie. Elwin acted as the master of ceremonies. Grandchildren present included Calvin's daughter Amelia, a dentist, Ervin's son Denis who just wrote his MB.Bs examination and Kenneth. Tears mingled with laughter as siblings, sons and grandchildren related stories and anecdotes of their growing-up years. Extended family members came from several districts of Tamilnadu and from Nagarcoil in particular. Also present for this important milestone in the life of Pastor David were his nephews Franklin, Selwyn and Usha the sons of the late D. S. David, his brother.

Friends and colleagues who were privileged to be associated with Pastor David included Dr. John Willmott, who lead out in a praise devotional, and his wife Dora, Dr. John Stanley, Pastor Johnson Koilpillai, and the contributor of this report as we added our memories and tributes to one who played such an important role in the church during a life time of service.

A sumptuous buffet lunch followed to which the Vellore church members were also invited. The Sabath services were taken by the David family and the Worship service by Pastor Franklin David pastor of the Southern Asia Church in Maryland.

The next day, Sabbath, March 10, Prabhu C. Sharan celebrated his 90th year of life without much ado and fanfare with the singing of "Happy Birthday" by the residents of Maranatha Colony.

Both of these individuals have been a blessing in their respective communities. God be with them as their journey to the their 100th.

III. Oregon's Milo Academy Group in the Sunderbans

Rao Moturi <raosue@comcast.net> March 12:

Please pray for the Milo Adventist Academy group of 16 students and staff who are now in the Sunderban Islands, India to minster to children there during Milo's spring break, under the leadership of Mr. Hilde Barrera (treasurer of Milo
Academy) and Ms Wren (English teacher). Trust that they will be a strong witness for our Lord and pray for their safety and travel back home.

Rao Moturi,
Lebanon, Oregon

IV. Nepal’s Women’s Literacy Program

Umesh Kumar Pokharel <umsan@wlink.com.np> March 6:
The 2nd cycle of the Women Literacy Project of the Nepal Field has successfully completed its program. Graduation programs were held in two different places: on 29th Feb. in Lele village, 20 km away from Katmandu valley; and on 1st March at the Gathaghar, Katmandu Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In Lela 60 women completed the one year course and became literate and got the certificate and gift. For the graduation Dr. Gordon Buhler and his wife Judy, Dr. Garry and his wife Norma from USA, Mrs. Hephzibah Kore, of the women literacy project of the SUD, and Mrs. Premila Masih, director of the Women Ministry Department of the SUD were there to witness the graduation program. Mrs. Cathy Jensen, director of Women Ministry, Nepal Field and Pr. Umesh Pokharel, co-coordinator of the program were there from the field. After graduation program typical newari food was served to all.

On 1 March the graduation program was held at Gathaghar, Katmandu in the Seventh-day Adventist Church where 200 women gathered for the graduation program for Katmandu, Bhaktapur and Banepa areas.

The Women Literacy Programs of the Nepal Field are one the best such programs for literacy project in Nepal. There are no religious bar, though we talk about our loving Father and we pray also. In the 1st cycle we baptized 12 people and built one village church and now that we have finished the 2nd cycle, there are many requests for Bible studies and we hope soon there will be a baptism program. Some of our facilitators who are Hindus want to know more about our faith; we are planning to give them more Bible studies. . .

Umesh Kumar Pokharel, Field Coordinator, women literacy project of the Nepal Field ~~~~~~~~~~~~ V. Southern Asia Laymen Leadership Training

A. Malikah Perus <perus@rediffmail.com> March 13;
Theme: ARISE AND SHINE -- March 27 - 31, 2012
**Venue: Paradise Valley Lifestyle Center, Sambathnagar, Thenkanikottai (20 km from Hosur,) Tamil Nadu. You can temporarily stay at the Division guest house till we pick you up from the Division.

**Food, accommodation will be provided by the organizers.
**Travel is to be taken care by the delegates.
**Registration Rs, 100--starts at 9 am on March 27. 2012.
**Book sale-April 1, 2012
All the meetings will be in English-no translation.
The main objectives of the meetings are as follows:

**1. To mobilize the resources and talents of the laymen and to galvanize them to evangelize India. I believe that India will be evangelized by the humble and simple laymen, and by their unselfish service, the Lord will finish the work in India.

**2. To train our laymen in three angels medical ministry with the emphasis on health. To focus on city evangelism in Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta, Chadigharh etc. At present most of the evangelism is done in villages and the cities are neglected.

**3. To focus our evangelism in Northern India, where there are few Adventists. At present most of the evangelism is conducted Andhra Pradesh.
There are more than 250 tribal group s in India and they need to hear the 3 angels message.

**4. About 60 percent of the lay members are poor; and we like to develop cottage industries to make them self-supporting.

CONTACT INFORMATION
perus@3angelsmedicalministry.com
Cell: 978 608 4377
You are welcome to attend these meetings.
VI. Bible Conference Held in Chennai

C. D. Mathew <mathewcd@sud-adventist.org> March 12:

The Southern Asia Division Ministerial Association under the leadership of Dr. L. C. Colney conducted the second annual Bible Conference at the International Shrine, St. Thomas Mount, Chennai. Dr. Arthur Stele, vice president of the General Conference, Dr. Angel Rodrigues, former director of Bible Research Institute (BTI), Dr. Clinton Wahlen, asso. director, BRI, Dr.

Patricia Jo Gustin, director of the Institute of World Missions, and Dr.

Miroslav Kis, professor from the Andrews University, served as resource personnel. One hundred twenty pastors and administrators from all parts of the Division participated in the conference which was the second in a series of five annual conferences planned for this quinquennium. All participants were enriched with the classes and personal testimonies and were also privileged to receive a copy of the Bible with study notes and concordance.

C. D. Mathew, associate secretary, Southern Asia Division 

VII. The Mother Jilani Story [Chapter 13 of 17]

"What Church Is That?"

When their second son was born, Sakinah named him Dilavaiz. She chose Persian names for her sons, perhaps because some childish memory of the happy days in Kuwait, near Persia, still lingered in her mind.

Robinson was now Major Bazliel, and his reputation as a bone specialist was established. After two years in Poona, he was sent to a large military hospital in Lucknow which received the wounded flown in from the Burma front.

Dr. Sakinah did not practice medicine while her boys were small. She wanted more time to spend with them. Hagar still made her home with them.

She lived much in the past, dwelling upon the sorrows that in her younger years she had been too busy to weep over. The struggle to provide for herself and her children had always kept her mind occupied. Now every passing year brought news of the death of some beloved friend or relative.

Hagar became daily more depressed. "Will I ever see any of them again?" she would say. "What happens? Where do they go?" The question was always unanswered in her mind.

Wherever they lived, the family attended church. Usually it was the Church Missionary Society church, but sometimes a good preacher would attract them to some other Protestant group. In Lucknow they were strangers, and Sakinah began to search for a church to join.

Each Sunday morning she would ride around town on her bicycle, searching for a church to attend. She tried several different ones, but none of them appealed to her much. Sakinah was a good Bible student, and some of the preachers she heard left her disappointed. "He doesn't no as much about the Bible as I do," she would think. Occasionally she returned to hear the same man twice, but still she was not satisfied.

One Sunday morning she returned from a service and left her cycle on the veranda for a servant to put away. She had just sat down and started talking with her mother when there was a knock on the door. Opening it, she found a smiling man holding a paper out to her.

"I'm sure you will find this interesting reading," he said. "It is free. You are under no obligation at all."

Thanking him, Sakinah took the paper and tossed it into a desk drawer.

Hagar could not read much English and Robinson was too busy. Since she herself was not particularly fond of reading, the paper was temporarily forgotten.

A few Sundays later a European woman knocked at the door and offered another paper with a smile and almost the same words that the man had spoken. Sakinah took it, thanked her, and promptly tossed it into the drawer along with its fellow. "Must be some active missionaries around here," she commented to Hagar.

Robinson was working seven days a week at the hospital, but he always tried to get home fairly early on Sunday afternoon.

One Sunday as he and Sakinah wenr for a stroll in the twilight, they passed a church.

"I wonder what church that is," Sakinah exclaimed. "It's not far from our house, and yet I've never noticed it before. I cycled up this street last Sunday. How ever could I have missed seeing it?"

"Probably it wasn't open," replied Robinson, swinging his cane jauntily.

"It should have been open. It was nearly church time when I passed here."

"But they don't have church on Sundays," said Robinson, enjoying her perplexity.

"Not on Sundays? Why? Who are they? What sort of church is this?"
demanded Sakinah eagerly.
"Oh, don't you know? They are your mother's brethren. They go to church on Saturdays."
"Jews!" exclaimed Sakinah in amazement. "Look, the church is lighting up now. They must be having some sort of
meeting. Come on; let's go in and see."
"No, I'm not going to church," protested Robinson. "I've been cooped up inside all day. I want a breath of fresh air."
"Oh, come, Robbie," she wheedled; "do come. I'm curious to know who they are."
"No. He was decidedly obstinate. "You go if you like, but I'll not."
"Just come over and peep in the window then," she coaxed. "I must see what they look like."
Reluctantly Robinson stood at the gate while his wife daringly crept to a wide window and looked in. Coming back to
his side, she whispered, "They don't look a bit like Jews. I wonder who they can be? Why would they be having a
meeting on Sunday night if they are Jews?"
"I don't know anything else about them," declared her husband.
"Somebody just told me they keep Saturday for Sunday."
All week the identity of the strange churchgoers puzzled Sakinah. She told Hagar about it, and they both pondered
over a congregation that would meet on Sunday nights and not on Sunday mornings, and yet "keep Saturday as
Robinson had said they did.
Next time Sakinah passed by the mystery church, she noticed a signboard advertising the title of the next Sunday night
meeting.
"That sounds interesting," she said to herself. "I wonder whether I could persuade Robbie to go."
Robinson was not easily persuaded, but at last he gave in. "Just this once."
There were very few people at the church; consequently Major and Mrs.
Baziel felt rather self-conscious, but they were soon so absorbed in the sermon that they forgot about themselves.
"That fellow seems to know something, Sakinah observed as they walked home afterward.
"Yes, he's on fire," agreed Robinson. "He's only a little man but he's big in the pulpit."
Two Sundays later the man delivered another paper at the Baziel home.
Sakinah immediately recognized him as the fiery little preacher and hoped he did not recognize her. She took the paper,
another "Signs of the Times" like the first two. Just as she was putting it in the drawer, Hagar spoke up. "Call that man
back. I want to talk to him," she said.
Pastor A. E. Nelson was mounting his bicycle when Sakinah called to him.
"My mother wishes to speak to you," she said.
"Ask him what happens to people when they die," Hagar directed as soon as the pastor was seated and introductions
had taken place. "Tell him I've lost many loved ones and I want to know whether I shall ever see them again."
Hagar's English was not fluent so she was expecting Sakinah to translate for her, but to the surprise of the women
Pastor Nelson replied in Urdu. "Why, yes"--he smiled confidently--"the Bible has a great deal to say about the dead."
He took out his small pocket Bible. "Now I'll give you the references and you look up the texts in your own Bibles as I read."
Turning from text to text with a knowledge and rapidity that astonished the two women, Pastor Nelson explained the
Bible teaching that death is a sleep and that the faithful would meet their loved ones again at the coming of Christ.
It was all so clear that they wondered why they hadn't noticed it before. They knew their Bibles well, but this man
obviously knew the Book from cover to cover. Moreover, he spoke in their own language. "I've been in India for thirty
years," he explained modestly when they complimented him on his fluency.
During the conversation Pastor Nelson touched on several other Bible topics that were new to Sakinah. She was filled
with an intense desire to know more. A spark of interest lit Hagar's sad old eyes too. She was a deeply religious woman
and spent much of her time weeping and praying.
"Could you, I mean, would you--I know you are busy, and I will pay you for your time. I'll be glad to pay you a hundred
rupees a month if you will come here and teach us the Bible every day." Sakinah made her proposal eagerly and waited for
his reaction.
"Thank you for your generous offer," replied Pastor Nelson. I will be very glad to come and help you ladies understand
the Bible, but I will not take any money for it. I am paid by my mission, and that is enough. Just tell me what time will be
convenient for you."
"My husband goes to the hospital very early in the morning. Pervaiz goes to kindergarten at eight, and the ayah tales
Dilavaiz walking at that time. Could you come about 9 o'clock?"
"That will suit me very well. Do you mind if I bring my wife? I'm sure she would like to meet you ladies."
Thus began the series of Bible studies that changed the direction of their lives.

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