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I. Fanwar & Son Complete Missions in Meghalaya

Shann Fanwar <fanwar01@gmail.com> March 31:
   Tomorrow Daddy and I leave Shillong for New Delhi. I am very glad to report that both our programs went off well and we were blessed to have been a part of both.

   Daddy conducted his last meetings this morning and 11 more young people were baptized adding to the 57 from two weeks ago. Also at Northeast Adventist College, [former ATS] when he had made a call, over 100 students stood up and are now being prepared for baptism.

   My "Ride For Health" also went off like clockwork and I am also very pleased that my group and I were able to share with others through the ride our hope that the young in particular would pay better attention to their health and the choices they make.

   We completed 800 kms. in seven days as planned and we are grateful to all those who helped us along the way. My hats go off especially to the Assam and Meghalaya Police for their assistance in getting us through some very crowded and congested highways and cities.

   We will spend a few days in New Delhi and will arrive back in DC on the 4th of April. Thank to all for all your support for our programs and God bless.

Shann Fanwar
Fanwar Faith Inc.
<fanwarfaith.blogspot.com>

II. Letters

1. Ian Grice <ieghg@hotmail.com> March 29:
   I would like to join the many others who sent their well wishes to Pr.
   and Mrs. John Fowler on the celebration of their 50th. These folk have been a tremendous blessing to the church during their years of service to the church in India and internationally.

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2. Eric Moser <susanmoser@hotmail.com> March 30:
   Last Sabbath I attended the central London Church. As the name suggests this is located in central London. I was on my way to Croydon which is south of London to be with my sister, I was late so got off the train and went to this church. Divine worship is followed by the Lesson study. I was early, after a while a lady in her forties came in and sat next to me. I recognized the Bible she was using and figured she was Ethiopian. I recognised this as this was similar to the Bible that my Ethiopian friends in school used.
After the service was over I told her when I was in school many years ago in India I had Ethiopian friends and their Bibles were similar to hers. She then told me her mother studied in Spicer College. I did not study in Spicer but often went there from Salisbury Park on Sabbaths. The only name of the girls in Spicer I could remember was Abinesh, when I said the name Abinesh she beamed and said that Abinesh was her mother. We live in a 'small world.' Her mother is no more. This lady is married and her family are faithful Adventists. Later when I met my sister I told her about this and she was excited because she was in Spicer and was friends with the Ethiopian girls ~~~~~~~~~~

III. Two Deaths

1. Pastor Melvin Justin
Joseph Zahid <josuna4@gmail.com> April 2:

Last Friday, March 30, at 10 AM, Texas time, Pr. Melvin Justin had his funeral service, which was attended by his children: Jimmy and his family, Julie and her family; his sisters: Akhtar, Maxine and her family, Beulah; and his brother Maxwell Justin; plus cousins, Joseph with his wife Audrei, Emmanuel and his wife Yasmeen, Victoria and her husband Pervaiz Siraj. Also, at the funeral were Dr. Naveed Saleem, Mr. Ayub Sandhu, and several friends and relations of the family, along with church members from the town of Weslaco, Texas where Pr. Melvin Justin, his wife, Nihar, and the two children were residing.

He was born on March 16, 1939 in Pakistan, His parents were Pr. M. R. Justin, who was a Northern Pakistan Section pastor for many years, and Mrs. Begum Justin, who was a teacher in PASC and the girls' dean as well for many years. Including him, there were 3 brothers and 3 sisters in the family. He was the second oldest in the family. He studied in PASC, Farooqabad and in SMC in India. He was married to Nihar, a nurse from Bangladesh. He worked in Farooqabad as a teacher, in Peshawar as a pastor, and in Karachi as a chaplain of KAH.

He moved to USA on July 16, 1972. He worked as a chaplain, an interim pastor, and as an administrator in some nursing homes. He slept in Jesus on Sabbath, March 24, 2012, after a long struggle with sickness. Toward the end of his life, he was on bed and was unable to talk, although he could hear. He is missed by his wife, Nihar, his son Jimmy and daughter-in-law Jolly, his daughter Julie and her husband, and his 5 grandchildren, along with many cousins, relatives and his fellow church members and friends.

He was a faithful servant of God. He lived for representing Jesus through his preaching, his contact with others, and through his life. May God give them peace and comfort to this bereaved family. His son Jimmy Justin's phone no. is 956-571-6543, if some want to sympathize with the family.

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2. Dr. G. E. McWilliams
Dr. M. S. Jeremiah <mulpuri.jeremiah@gmail.com> April 3:

A gamut of emotions engulfs my heart as I pen my thoughts and feelings to pay tribute and obeisance to Dr. G. E. McWilliams who left us all, last week. She was, a caring, generous, and God-fearing woman of enormous intelligence and absolute integrity, with commitment and devotion to her work in the healing ministry.

Twenty-six years ago, Christmas celebrations were over, but the hangover remained, when she asked me to accompany her to California from India. Frail health and a rapidly failing memory, signaling the onset of Alzheimer’s, had forced her to return to the US and regain her strength. I remember vividly the evening of December 27, 1987 when I flew her to California—she was never to return to India the country she served with such sacrifice and devotion.

The burden of caring for the Gifford Memorial Hospital in Nuzvid, India was becoming too heavy, as many doctors left Nuzvid Hospital by then. She was working as a Medical Director and I was working as a Principal of the Nuzvid School during those years. The daunting and intimidating task ahead of her, instead of dampening her vitality and vibrancy, further fuelled her determination and strengthened her resolve to, come what may, stay the course.

Dr. McWilliams came to India as a young missionary, with determination and resolve to do His bidding. The abject poverty that she saw around Nuzvid moved her to tears. She saw that the task before her was overwhelming and that it would require her whole-time devotion if she was going to make a difference to their lives. She decided that she would not marry as she felt that managing a personal family, would dilute and water down her time for serving the ‘poorest of the poor’ serving whom she felt was her calling from God.

For the next 35 years Dr. McWilliams steadfastly served the poor and her capacity as a trained gynecologist and pediatrician brought medical succour to thousands of poor patients. During her 35 years of service at Gifford Memorial Hospital at Nuzvid, she was thrice made a Medical Director in a tenure that lasted 15 eventful years.

Dr. McWilliams was fortunate to befriend another missionary, Dr.
Elizabeth J. Hiscox. Together, like being yoked together, they ploughed doggedly on. No obstacle could block their path, no challenges were insurmountable. With faith and conviction they ushered in hope in the lives of the unfortunate.

Dr. McWilliams, charming ways endeared her to all and sundry. She was equally at home in the palaces of the local rajah’s (kings of petty kingdoms) and the palatial abodes of the upper gentry, as well as with the ones who were in the huts and modest abodes of the poor. She was admired, loved and respected by all those who came into contact with her.

Her stories of compassion are too numerous to enumerate here. She was actually known to treat patients free and then give them money to travel because she did not want them to walk back home.

Both Dr. Hiscox and Dr. McWilliams were of the opinion that their healing of the sick was not just curing a physical ailment, but to heal them for a life; it was necessary that the youth were educated, for only an education would enable them to unshackle themselves and get out of the rut they found themselves in. Hundreds of students, deserving students who could not afford to study, were sent by them to Adventist boarding schools in Narsapur, Nuzvid, Laslagoan, Lowry and Spicer. If you will review the lives of the Adventists from the Southern Asia Division, who have done well for themselves and are now securely ensconced in the high echelons in the Adventist Church, chances are that most of their schooling was funded by either of these two generous ladies.

While Dr. McWilliams was working as a Medical Director, she contributed large sums of money to develop the Nuzvid School. She personally financed construction of a complete wing in the school.

Time is too brief to paint a comprehensive picture of the great life that she led. My words can never do her justice. She scaled the highest peaks of professional excellence and that too in very challenging circumstances.

Her gentleness, humility, allied with utter self-conviction, ultimate selfless humanity and compassion for every human being with whom she came into contact, the unconditional love and compassion that flowed out of her and enveloped the person, giving him a feeling of relevance and self-worth and a warm sense of security.

During her stay in California, Mr. Albert Miller and Mrs. Florence Miller were in constant touch with her. This loving couple came to her rescue on many occasions along with her sisters and relatives. The campus of Gifford Memorial Hospital is struck with grief after hearing the demise of this great lady.

Her passing way leaves a gaping hole, a void that will surely soften with time, but I dare say, will never fill. Her legacy of living for a cause much greater than ourselves, has left her handprints, nay heartprints all over the Southern Asia Division. Thank you, Dr. McWilliams, for the gift to Southern Asia that your life has been.

Dr. M. S. Jeremiah
President and CEO
Metas Adventist College, Surat

IV. Remembering Them
1. Francis Scott

Remembering Pastor A. M. Job

Vilas Urtekar <loveborn7@yahoo.com> March 27:

In 1964 I was a student in Spicer Memorial High School in Poona when Pastor A. M. Job was the principal. His longevity is the proof of his advice to me: “Vilas, use your energy wisely because you will need it in the old age.” I have not forgotten those words of wisdom. God bless his surviving family members; I look forward to the great day when we can meet in heaven.

V. Life Sketch of Jacob David Moses

Beatrice Moses <beatricemoses@yahoo.com> March 26:

Jacob David Moses (J. D.) was born on July 24, 1936 to N. T. J. David and Gnanam (Abraham) David in Mudalur, India. He was the oldest of seven children and the first grandson of Nedi Thaveethu (David) Jacob, one of the pillars of the Prakasapuram Seventh-day Adventist Church. J. D. had his elementary education at the Prakasapuram SDA School. J. D.’s great grandfather, N. T. J. Nallamuthu, broke away from the Church of England in 1856 and became a Sabbath keeper--seven years before the founding of the SDA church in 1863 and fifty years before the founding of the first Adventist church in India in 1906. N. T. J. Nallamuthu begat N. T. Jacob who begat N. T. David who begat Jacob David Moses.

When J. D. was 10 years old, he went to Sri Lanka with his father who had a business in Galle. He went to the school at Kottawa and then to the Lakpahana Training Institute in Sri Lanka. He proceeded to Spicer Memorial College in Poona,

He immigrated to the United States on November 6, 1972. He worked as a clerk/driver at the Embassy of Belgium in Washington, D. C. while preparing a place for his family. He was rejoined with his family on January 21, 1975 when they immigrated to the U. S. He went on to be a night auditor at a hotel in D. C. His desire to be a part of the printing industry again, led him to start Orion Printing with his family. After the closing of Orion Printing in 1993, he worked at the Educational Funding Company until his retirement in 2006.

He enjoyed retired life by spending time with and caring for his grandchildren. He has been a vital part of the Adventist and South Indian communities. As his health failed, he entertained visitors, relatives, and friends at his home in Beltsville, Md. On January 23, 2012 (the 46th anniversary of his wedding), he was admitted to Washington Adventist Hospital after suffering a heart attack. On March 7, 2012, five weeks after undergoing triple bypass surgery and doing well with his recovery at his earthly home, he went to his heavenly home to be with his Lord and Savior.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Beatty, two sons, Melwin and Melin, daughter, Marlin, daughters-in-law, Sherin and Tammy, son-in-law, Myron, grandchildren, Megan, Shawn, Caroline, Kishore, Sherina, Anjali, and little Jacob, brother, Monickaraj, sisters, Nesamani, Karunavathy, Grace, and Chandra, brother-in-law, S. J. Louis, sister-in-law, Leela Louis, as well as a host of relatives and friends.

J. D. will be remembered for his caring spirit, his willingness to always stop and talk, his faith in Jesus, and especially his love of his children and grandchildren. He will be missed terribly.

VI. Adventists & Graduation Service in Non-Christian Nursing School

Manick Kisku <manickrapaj@gmail.com> March 29:

The programme coordinator announced: "After the song 'There Shall be Showers of Blessings,' let all stand up for prayer."

That Christian hymn and another, "Take My Life and Let it Be," were sung by Rocky Kisku & Jeffery Biswas (both Adventist Nursing students from Bangladesh) at the graduation held at the Nagarjuna College of Nursing, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh on March 28, 2012. It would be no surprise if these two songs were sung at a Christian ceremony but to take place at a non-Adventist convocation was totally unheard of, at least to me. One could feel the Adventist atmosphere throughout the whole programme.

This was the 1st graduation exercise to be held at Nagarjuna Educational Society Auditorium. Mrs. Merlyn Sharat, principal, College of Nursing and Mrs. Poorna Ranjitham Kisku, principal, School of Nursing and vice principal of the Nursing College, (both Adventist) stood tall beside the Vice Chancellor Dr. I. V. Rao of Dr. N.T.R. University of Health Sciences Vijayawada & Mrs. P. E. M. Susan, Principal of Govt. School of Nursing, Vijayawada. The "Best" out-going student was a Distinction student, of course an Adventist girl Miss Doris Dasari who is now employed at AIIMS, New Delhi.

(There are more than 80 Adventist students studying in this college where they have Sabbath privilege and work on Sunday; there is a strong English Adventist church beside the college.)

The graduation programme, though not ostentatious, was very impressive. Many who never expected any thing great were touched with the awe and expressed the hope that will be available for their children later on. Praise be to our God for this "Oasis in the desert."

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