I. British Conference President Speaks at Narsapur

II. Letters
   1. Thoma Raju
   2. Sylvia Dennis
   3. Johnson Choppala

III. Remembering Dr. Genevieve McWilliams

IV. Spicer Memorial College Organizes Summer Ministry

V. Large Telegu Church Dedicated in Gujarat (Part 1 of 2)

VI. Honoring Oliver & Sylvia Lange

VII. Birol Christo’s Morning Watch for April 2

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I. British Conference President Speaks at Narsapur

"India Calls For South England Conference President [Katie Ramharacksingh]

"It is a long flight from London to India, but worth every air mile for Pastor Sam Davis, President of the South England Conference. Starting Sabbath, 17 March he led a Youth Week of Prayer and an evening campaign in Narsapur, in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

"I was being driven down the road, toward the Flaiz Memorial Higher Secondary School of Seventh-day Adventists, and I see a big billboard with my face on it!" said Pastor Davis. "I was shocked, but it turns out the organisers of my visit had put up posters and billboards across the towns and streets in the nearby communities to advertise the evening meeting.'

"Pastor Davis spoke to 1,000 young people, from the age of 5 to 21, in the Flaiz Secondary School each day for their morning worship. Then, in the evenings, he spoke to a mixed group of over 2,500 students and adults that had gathered from the surrounding areas for his campaign themed 'Hope for the World'.

"Pastor Christian Ragu, Principal of Flaiz Secondary School, explained that 75 of the children that attended the school were from the nearby orphanage. Now back in England, Pastor Davis reflected that there was a real hunger for the Word in the Hindu people. 'People would travel from even an hour away on the rough roads for the campaign, which would finish around 11 pm,' he stated, 'then approach me afterwards for individual prayer for the needs in their lives.'

"Hundreds responded to the appeal made on the last night and the challenge now lies with those in Narsapur to follow up with those people who want to dedicate their life to Christ.

"I really had a blessed week,' concluded Sam, 'Additionally, speaking to the 1,000 young people in India has made me especially aware of the hunger our young people, in the UK, have for the Word of God too.'"

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II. Letters

1. Thoma Raju <thomarajuindia@gmail.com> April 4:
   In Kerala, 17 SDA Students did not write the SSLC Maths exam on Sabbath day in May of this year. Government allowed those students to write their exam on Saturday night. Praise the Lord and pray for those students who stood for the Lord in the time of test.

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2. Sylvia Dennis <sylvia_dennis08@comcast.net> April 4:
   I was very much impressed by reading the story about "Adventist Nursing Students" in a non-Adventist College and the way the program was presented.
   Maybe other Adventists colleges and hospitals nursing schools should take note of this.

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3. Johnson Choppala <johnsonchoppala@usa.net> April 4:
   Minu and I want to join the host of friends who felicitated Dr. and Mrs.
John Fowler on crossing a very significant milestone on the journey together as a married couple. We wish them increasing joy and happiness along with vibrant health as they keep passing each milestone knowing that the best is yet to come. I have been an admirer of John for over fifty years. It was only after my retirement that we have come closer. At the time of my retirement 12 years ago, Minu and I decided to give God the first two years in service as volunteers before we settle down to living a retired life. It was John who arranged for us to go to the University of Eastern Africa at Baraton (UEAB), Kenya. The experience while on the biology faculty there was like that of a Mount of Transfiguration. The story is long. Our perspective on service for God changed. We caught a vision of how blessed it is to serve God as total Volunteers (paying your way there and supporting yourself on your retirement money and helping many a needy student to finish college).

Strange as it may be but those two years of service for God stretched-- we went to Caribbean Union College for two years and one year in Mission College, Muek Lek, Thailand (upgraded to a university now along with the Caribbean Union College) from there to Roorkee Adventist College and on to Spicer. It was there we received a compelling commission to take the message of God's love to the eunuchs in India. Now our prayers have changed. We pray every morning ‘Lord if you keep us fit and slow the fading capacity to remember, see and hear, we will serve until we die on our feet walking for you. We want Dr. and Mrs. Fowler to know that the journey he set us on 12 years ago is still going on and we too say the best is yet to be. God bless you both.

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III. Remembering Dr. Genevieve McWilliams

Mary Small <smallmls@live.com> April 7:

I was sorry to hear about the death of Dr. Genevieve McWilliams. I was privileged to work with her at Nuzvid for a few months when I first arrived in India in 1970. She and Dr. Hiscox showed me the ropes, and shared meals with me. One of my favorite memories is of suppers of homemade bread, fresh ripe tomatoes, and mango pickle made in their home! She was patient with me (just out of training and knowing most everything). I had to learn a lot about doing things with the facilities at hand, and learned that theory doesn't work too well if you don't have the fancy tools. So I learned some simple remedies, and how to keep patients from infection, and even to be sure I sneezed three times if I had to sneeze!

Nuzvid and Dr. McWilliams will always be inseparable in my mind, and I am honored to have known her. -- Mary Small, M.D.

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IV. Spicer Memorial College Organizes Summer Ministry, 2012

Mohanraj Israel <ohanrajisrael@yahoo.com> April 6:

Spicer Memorial College with the assistance of the Department of Theology organizes its summer ministry program. Started in 2005, many groups of students involve in actual ministry during summer months. This summer 2012, fifteen different teams are sent out to do summer ministry in different parts of SUD which includes Bangalore city, Nepal, Garo hills (Chokpot & Dalu), Assam, Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya (Khasi Jaintia Conference), Jharkhand, Dharmapuri and Trichy in Tamil Nadu, Ranga (Jharkhand), Mizoram, Utter Pradesh, Uttrakand, Idayar in Kerala, Mandapetta in North Andhra and even the Andaman Islands. This is made possible through funds contributed through three different sources: the Southern Asia Division, Spicer Memorial College and funds raised by students. The teams will be headed by the teachers in the Department of Theology. Says the Dean, School of Religion, Dr. Mohanraj Israel, "For the first time, we have received such an overwhelming response from the field. Every unit we contacted was very enthusiastic to assist the teams from Spicer Memorial College by promising to provide food and accommodation for the teams." The funds will be used for travel expenses to and from the college, expenses incurred for local transportation and other ministry related expenses. The money contributed by the college will assist the teachers for their expenses to and from the site, their daily bata and other incidental expenses towards the program. The College also provides special allocated funds for particular areas of ministry like the Andaman Islands Ministry for which a lot of funds are required and students raise half the amount and the college helps with the rest of the amount.

The students work hard in raising funds towards the ministry. Some of them choose to work throughout the school year towards the project. Some of the projects undertaken by the students involve cleaning the well-known "Ram River", digging the ground to plant new grass, planting rose gardens, cleaning up vast areas and other similar projects. The money raised by these projects go straight towards the funding of the summer ministry. The College President, Dr. Justus Devadas, says that he is very happy to see students enthusiastically working towards this project. He is also very happy to see so many students being involved in the summer ministry. Some of the students receive academic credits
for participating in the summer ministry whereas all the students receive cognate practical hours which are a requirement to be fulfilled to qualify for graduation.

The summer ministry creates an avenue for young people throughout the Division to be interested in coming over to Spicer Memorial College to do further studies. Many students have come to Spicer as students as a direct result of the summer ministry program. Many new and unentered territories have been reached because of the summer ministry. Please keep the various summer ministry teams in your prayers.

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V. Large Telegu Church Dedicated in Gujarat (Part 1 of 2)

Samuel Raj Sodadasi <sodadasi.samuelraj@gmail.com>, assisted by Santhilal Gaddam

Southern Asia’s largest Telegu laymember’s SDA church was dedicated the weekend of March 23-24 in Lymbayat, Surat.

Many church leaders were in attendance, including Pr. R. John, Dr. M. S.
Jeremiah, Pr. R. Y. Jadhav, Mr. Sanjeevan Arsud, Mr. Rakesh Chawan, Mr.
Pankaj Parmar and above all the Holy God.

Friday evening vespers was the first meeting. Pastor Samuel Raj introduced the presence of great leaders of the church of Adventist denomination. He also honored the first two pastors of this new church: Pastor B. R. Raja Rao and Pastor Augustine were welcomed and garlanded. In like manner the W.I.U. treasurer Mr. Rakesh Chawan, W.I.U. educational director & secretary Dr. Sanjeevan Arsood and the local conference treasurer Mr. Nalli Sunil; METAS treasurer Mr. N. D. Solomon and METAS school principal Dr. Elia; METAS president Dr. M. S. Jeremiah, W.I.U. President Pr.

R. Y. Jadhav, conference president Pr. Pankaj Parmar. Lastly, the guest of honor, S.U.D president Dr. R. John was welcomed on the dais and garlanded, presented by the church committee members and a crown was put on to his head by Pr. Samuel Raj.

After the completion of felicitation, Pastor R. John was presented with an honorary doctorate degree by Dr. M. S.
Jeremiah, president and CEO of METAS, Surat from the Bible University of Holy Spirit, New Jerusalem and Bethlehem, Chennai. Dr. Jeremiah read citation:

"The Board of The Bible University of Holy Spirit, New Jerusalem and Bethlehem, Chennai 45, is pleased to depute Pastor Samuel Raj Sodadasi as its Ambassador, to award the Honorary Doctorate, Doctor of Philosophiae (Doctor of Philosophy, Ph.D.) to publically recognize Pastor Rathina Raj John's meritorious and meticulous services in God's vineyard... and his selfless and dedicated services for the growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in India and Nepal... May his tribe increase for the promotion of God’s kingdom on earth."

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VI. Honoring Oliver & Sylvia Lange

Gerald Christo >geraldjchristo@gmail.com> April 6:

All four siblings, children of the late Oliver and Sylvia Lange, were in Hosur last Sabbath. Lorita with spouse Harold Erickson, Marcella, and twins Marjorie with spouse Don Bankhead and Virginia were on the way to Jowai on a pilgrimage of sorts where the Northeast Adventist College is to celebrate the 70th anniversary of its inauguration. The Assam Training School, forerunner to the present the Northeast Adventist College was established by Pr. O. W. Lange in 1941 in Jowai town. A year later the school was moved to its present location and was inaugurated by Sir Robert Reid, the Governor of Assam. When Meghalaya attained statehood in 1972, the name was changed to Adventist Training School (ATS). The college is located on a beautiful pine-wooded 89.94 acres of rolling hills seven kilometers from Jowai town. The National Highway 44 passes just in front of the college gate making it easy to approach the college from all parts of the country.

Pastor and Mrs. Lange arrived in India in 1930. He was assigned pastoral and evangelistic work in Gujarat. I first met the Langes when I attended Vincent Hill in 1935 when the their girls were very young. From Vincent Hill School he was called to established a school for the young of the northeastern hills. The Lange sisters attended Vincent Hill School for a year. They chose to continue their education at Assam Training School with the young people of the hills. Students walked to the school, often spending the nights in villages on the way. Porters carried their luggage on the mountain trail on which pioneer missionary Oliver Lange drove the first jeep replacing the horses he and family had ridden on previously. Before the mountain trail which was the precursor of NH 44 many people would like to have named the existing road in honour of the pioneer missionary who drove the first jeep from Shillong to Jowai.
All six of the travellers visiting us in Hosur were taking advantage of the cheap second class air-conditioned discounted rail fares as senior citizens. Their first stop was Aleppy in Kerala where they were scheduled to spend a night in a house boat, then on to Poona where Dr. Harold will be the speaker for the Sabbath church service at Spicer Memorial College. From Poona their journey will take them to Delhi, Agra, Darjeeling, Kaziranga National Wild Park, Falakata, Shillong and Jowai where several first attendees at ATS are expected to be present including the Fernando brothers, Emil and Merle from Hong Kong. All the Wallang sisters would have loved to be present on the occasion.

VII. Birol Christo’s Morning Watch for April 2:
"Holding On to God’s Hand"
by Birol Charlotte Christo from RENEW, the women’s morning devotional book for 2012
"But I am always with you; you have held my hand.' Ps. 73:23 NCV"

"Ever since I can remember, I've been afraid of crossing roads, especially when traffic is bad. Even now I would gladly accept a helping hand when crossing a road. One evening my husband and I went grocery shopping and parked our car across the road from the store. On returning to the car, my husband walked ahead of me with the grocery bags, and of course, expected me to follow behind him. However, I became separated from him because of the traffic. Just when I was about to cross the road, an auto rickshaw passed by me at full speed, so close that it could have taken all my toes with it. I was terrified. My legs became jelly, and my heart raced wildly. When I finally got to the car, my husband asked, 'What took you so long?' I said something about the auto, but he wasn't really listening, as he was more interested in moving on. I didn't see the need to tell him any more.

"Since that incident, I've thought much about my fear of crossing roads.
I've asked myself, 'Why am I so fearful? Why can't I be like the cows that lay in the middle of the road, peacefully chewing their cuds? They don't seem to be afraid--no driver would think of hitting them. They'd drive around them out of respect. What do the cows have that I don't? Would I be as brave if I had two horns?'

"In the presence of fear, one can't relax. I knew I needed something better than horns. I needed to trust God and not be afraid unnecessarily.
(Of course a certain amount of fear is good so we will be careful.) I'm forever grateful to God for all His protection throughout my life. I've never been hit by anything--at least not since I've been an adult. When I was three years old, I went out on the road by myself and walked right down the middle of it. A cyclist hit me and then fell on top if me. It was a gentle fall--he had slowed down considerably, so I was not hurt. Two women on the road picked me up and told me to go home. Perhaps that was the beginning of my fear. But I thank God for always following me, watching over me, and holding me with His hand. I never want to let His hand go. He takes me through the storms of life safely. With Him by my side, I need never be fearful again."

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4