I. Death of Oldest Adventist in Southern Asia

Ada Violet Quinn was born on March 30, 1908 in an Adventist home. Her father was an Englishman and her mother a Burmese. When war broke out in Burma in 1942, they moved to India. Two years later, in 1944, she married Terence Joseph Quinn, a BSF Commandant in Amravathi. She was of great support to her husband in all the places they were posted across the county. She was very hospitable and generous and always helped and cared for the soldiers who worked under her husband's battalion.

When Mr. Quinn retired as DIG in Manipur in 1972, they chose to live in Bangalore. After the death of her husband, Ada and her older sister, Elsie, lived together but soon she was left alone for almost 30 plus years. Since they had no children, she was lonely but her faith and trust was in God which kept her cheerful all the time.

Mrs. Janet Caleb's was her closest neighbor. She would assist her to come to church, so she attended church faithfully. She was a great inspiration to the children, young people and older members of the church.

Her sweet smile drew people to her like a magnet. She was concerned about the welfare of every church member.

Her memory till she died was excellent and she always had a word of hope to everyone who visited. Among the many tributes that were given they all mentioned that whenever they went to visit and cheer her up, they would return cheered and blessed by her thoughtful and kind words. Once she was asked if she was not tired of being so old and feeble, to which she replied.

'As long as God gives me life I am happy to fulfill whatever purpose He has for me'. Her favorite song which she requested all who visited her to sing was 'When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be'.

She had advice and counsel to everyone who visited her. Always had a thankful and grateful heart which caused the smiles to break through.

Eternity alone will reveal the innumerable good deeds she had done and the many who were touched and blessed spiritually by her life.

There was a steady decline in her health condition since February 2012.

Her eyesight was failing, she found it difficult to hear, she could not walk but yet she said God had been good to her, because she had never ever fallen sick; not even a cold.

With hope in our hearts, we look forward to the second coming of our Lord Jesus, when we will meet and be united with her and all our other loved ones, who are asleep in Jesus.

II. Mothers' Day at Nagarjuna School & Nursing College

Manick Kisku <manickrapaj@gmail.com> May 13:

Adventist Group Church at Nagarjuna Educational Society, Vijayawada.

"No body will lend their church to SDAs because they believe in queer doctrines and generally steal their members." So we were warned. And so we ourselves were taken by surprise when our request of having the Sabbath services in an Independent Pentecostal Church was granted. Now the students of Nagarjuna School & College of Nursing have the blessed privilege of having Sabbath services in a real church building. Because of Sabbath privilege given by the Nagarjuna Educational Society--off duty on Sabbath, on duty on Sunday--these students do not miss any spiritual
blessing. The student leaders of these students (over 80 of them) use PowerPoint and other modern visual aids to present programmes and listen to messages from our eminent SDA preachers.

To break the wall of prejudice the church organised a "Mothers' Day" programme. The mothers belonging to the community were invited and many came and enjoyed the programme immensely and appreciated it. Then we presented tokens of love by the Sabbath School department. The students now want to have a "Fathers Day" next month so that this church also can be "in tune" with the this quarter's Sabbath School lessons on witnessing.

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III. Baxter Fanwar Publishes New Book

Shann Fanwar fanwar01@gmail.com May 11:

My father has recently published a book in Shillong, India. The title of the book is " THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.... Unveils the Future" and was released March 29, 2012.

Daddy uses this book to give a break down in interpreting the prophesies of Revelation and how they relate to the end-time events. It is a study guide that goes hand-in-hand with the Bible.

"The Book of Revelation has often been ignored because it is considered boring and difficult. The author uses his skill to make the book interesting and understandable. I believe this volume will explain the mysteries of the Book of Revelation.... " Gordon Christo, PhD

The books are available in India through the Khashi Jaintia Conference but I have a very limited number available with me here in the US. The books are not for sale but if you would like a copy, I would be happy to get a copy to you. A donation towards the republishing of the book would be appreciated. If there is greater demand, I can have more sent to me, so if you are interested, kindly let me know. Please provide your mailing address when requesting a copy.

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

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IV. Florida Church Members Impact Bangalore

--from the May "Southern Union [USA] Tidings"

"Once again, Elbert James, a member of the Crestview, Fla., Church and a team of three other individuals completed two weeks of evangelism in Bangalore in Southern India.

"The team's goal was to make an impact on the city of Bangalore, now known as Bengaluru. The theme for the two weeks was 'Impact Bangalore: Uniting the Family for Life.' They arrived on December 31, 2011, with each team member scheduled to preach at different locations in Sabbath morning, the same day of their arrival. Each morning a devotional thought was given for the Frazertown Adventist Hospital staff, students, and conference officials, in addition to holding a Week of Prayer for the 3,000 students and 176 teachers [of Frazertown Adventist School and College].

"The focus of the evening meetings was to get the members from the seven churches in the area together, and to inspire and prepare them to hold Bible study groups and evangelism meetings with their friends and neighbors. A prayer vigil started an hour before each meeting to pray for God's blessings on the congregation and speakers.

"Attendance at the first evening meeting was 485 and increased to 1,500 by Sabbath. A tent was erected to handle the overflow. After attending the first evening meetings, leaders from the Southern Asia Division headquarters and Union were happy to support the meetings, and invited the mission team to return in six months to run a month-long meeting to reap the souls that have been reached. James says, 'Many of the leaders declared that they had never had meetings that had so much impact on the members.' The group intends to return if the funding is available." --by Rebecca Grice ~~~~~~

V. New Programs at Spicer College

John M. Fowler <FowlerJ@gc.adventist.org> May 9:

Spicer College, returning to its original mould, is good news indeed.

The formal affiliation with Pune University did bring us the delicious fruits of Babylon in the form of recognized degrees, but the process had its own challenge and cost: the compromise of Adventist principles, particularly our commitment to Sabbath and Christ-centered education; the flooding of the halls of Spicer, including its hostels, with non-Adventist student and faith elements; the overshadowing and minimizing of the Adventist philosophy of education; and the eventual threat of losing Adventism's premier institution to Babylon's anti-Christic forces. So it is praise-worthy that the
college faculty, administration, board and the Division Committee acted in time to save the ship before the floodwaters overwhelmed Spicer.

While this is to be admired, I hope the college and the Division do not rest on laurels as if the battle is over. Christian education is a long journey on a perilous road to a glorious destination. Each of the three dimensions must be carved on our hearts. The immediate future may appear dark, the enrollment may appear weakening, and the support may not be as it once was. But what this calls for is not defeated hearts but prayerful and dedicated commitment to make the college the flagship institution of Adventism, drawing students once again from all parts of India with one determination: be a center of Christ-centered knowledge, an oasis of uncontaminated fruits, and bearers of that fruit to cover the entire country with the sweetness of evangelism, development, and readiness.

Toward that end, the college may have to seek the embrace of intellectual and scholastic acceptance--but let that embrace be without sacrificing our essential Adventist identity, and within circles that are defined by Adventism in its purest form. I wish the college well in its rediscovery, also wish that all other colleges and schools take appropriate lessons for their own future. The devil is not through with us yet, but the Master Teacher would not give us up so easily so long as we remain faithful to Him.

John M. Fowler, Class of 1959

VI. Down Memory Lane With Gerry

Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com>

Memory Trackers--My Mentors

This is supposed to be a "newsletter" not a "memory tracker". I don't get about much nowadays--just to church related functions so I just report about births (hatches), weddings (matches), funerals (dispatches) and the odd friends and "dignitaries" that attend church on Sabbaths in Hosur. I am running short of memories. I had to dig deep in the recesses of time and the crevices of my brain for these!

Charles Shad's mention of his dad triggered these thoughts. I had just completed Junior College at Vincent Hill and came into a world where senior workers with long years of experience and workers my age who had completed Junior College at Spicer. They had watched me grow up as the son of a widowed mother from age of ten first in Lahore, Chuharkana Mandi and Chichoki Malian in the Punjab where mother worked as matron of the girls, then at Roorkee when the Boy's School in the United Provinces became a co-educational school. Just about the same time Stanley Collins, a young adopted Indian by the Myers family graduated from Avondale College in Australia, also arrived to teach at Roorkee. Presumably taking his original family name Stanley Chawla, he never seemed to adjust to his new environment. He married an Anglo-Indian doctor; reverted back to his name as Collins, and later was appointed pastor of the Allahabad Church. The Spicer graduates were eager to learn what we graduates from Avondale and Vincent Hill could teach them. They were disappointed when Chawla not used doing things in the way which we Indians choose to do, soon picked up his bags, his new bride, his old name and returned to his adopted country.

After a three month stint at the OWPH and a three month apprenticeship in the News Division of All India Radio Station I was appointed as a ministerial intern at Lahore under Vere Wood Stotesbury whom I knew from College days. Lahore has a lot of memories for the Christo family. That's where dad made his fortune and lost it. The losing of his riches opened up another storehouse of opportunity. Lahore, that's where my vision dimmed and was dramatically restored. But that's a different story told in my "Memoirs".

As I travelled by cycle and tonga into remote dusty towns and villages with Pastors Munshi Ram, Hakim Din, Fakir Chand and M. R. Justin, my thirst quenched with big glasses of buttermilk, I came to the conclusion that I had much to unlearn and little to teach. We did Ingathering and home visitation by day and held evangelistic meetings and gave Bible studies in the evenings. After a meal of rodi dhal, and subji we slept on charpoy on the roof tops to catch the little cooling breezes that wafted by. I was awakened very early to care of my mundane ablutions down by the railway tracks for no other facilities were available. The railway track was a better option than were those contraptions called a "commode". Lest we conjure up scenes of a gleaming WC with the extras thrown in this modern age, we do well to let our imagination go back sixty years or so. The commode was an aluminium or enamelled metal cylindrical container with diluted phenol at the bottom fitted in a three or four-legged-cornered double-covered wooden stool so no part of the container touches any part of your anatomy into which you eliminate your body wastes. The large bathrooms held anywhere up to six such contraptions. Everyone likes to get up early to get first use of the metal containers which is cleaned by a sweeper who cautiously comes by a back entrance.
Later I moved to the United Provinces, still as a bachelor, and worked with men like B. M. Shad, I. M. Chand, A. M. Akbar, F. M. Sajid, B. A.
Howard, Edward Gardner, Ram Swaroop, Chander Sen and younger workers such as B. M. Isaac, R. M. Massey, L. D. Paul, Sunder Singh, Saudagar Chand and Lal Singh. They were my physicians and my mentors teaching me what life ought to mean to a Seventh-day Adventist Indian Christian. They looked after mama's boy, gave me meals, fomented and massaged my feverish aching body when I had bouts of malaria. They were truly my brothers and sisters I learned practical godliness from them. Their lifestyle was simple but their values were unique. They were fiercely loyal to the church and sacrificed so that they could give their children an education to become workers in the church.
In the early days expatriate and indigenous chairmen conducted committee meetings in Hindustani. Those were the days no one craved ambition and position. They were the good old days, "When men could not be bought nor sold, when men were as true to duty as the needle to the pole."

VII. Personal Item Included by Request
S. Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> May 10:
I was amused to read the headline "Charles, Jr. & Ruth Tidwell Retire" in the SUD e-News. In spite of the facade of his great grey beard, he always seems to be a young man, with vim and vigour, a bounce in his step and a spring in his walk, and the curiosity of a toddler and the romance of a teen, only dominated by the wisdom of a sage and the compassion and magnanimity of the Good Samaritan.
I first met him fifteen years ago during my visit to the Business Department of Andrews University in 1997 and then had got acquainted with him and worked with him more closely when he was appointed the Dean of Affiliation and Extension Programmes of Andrews University. In addition to his expertise in the fields of Business, Education, English and history, he has almost an encyclopedic knowledge of almost everything, specially of the Orient, its culture, cuisine, language, religions, etc, what with his growing up in India and employment in Hong Kong, etc. Of course, I met Mrs. Ruth Tidwell briefly during my recent trip to Andrews University during an Indian meal arranged by the School of Education for about 60 people in which I had a part.
I believe Dr. Charles Tidwell (Jr) should be 're-tyred' and still be used in the wide world church more extensively exploiting all his talents and virtues, for the glory of God, at least for another 25 years, like his illustrious father, Dr. Charles Tidwell (Sr), well into his old age.

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