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~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ I. Distribution of "Great Controversy" in Himalayan Hills

Pastor P. K. Tamsang <pktamsang@hotmail.com> May 3:
This week Adventist youth from our hill participated in the free distribution the 1858- "Great Controversy" in the following languages:
Nepali, Hindi, Bengali and English. About 500 books were distributed in hospitals, jail-correction home, old age home and Clubs centre. Also distributed were pamphlets printed in local vernacular languages on following topics: effects of tobacco, weigh control, diabetics, Who are the Seventh-day Adventists, How to know God's true church, Christ's Second Coming, etc. There was a good response from each person who accepted the books and pamphlets. We know these people have free time to read and again after a month there will be second round of visitation for feedback and interaction by our believers.

We raised the fund by personal free will and also selling extra vegetables-fruits from our gardens to print and buy the books for distribution. There are thousands of interested people eager to know the truth in this hill from Buddhist and Hindu families; even Sunday believers are searching for truth and are having debates among their members about Sabbath keeping. There is a great scope in expansion of evangelism in this hill; we need your special prayer to save perishing souls.

During this coming month we plan to organized cottage meetings and outreach programs in rural hilly areas. Currently there are 35 souls preparing for baptism from Buddhist families. Sometime it is difficult to enter the new areas but we go in with Sister E. G. White's health messages and then share the gospel good news. Work in this hill is difficult moving up and down due to its mountainous terrain, with difficulty getting timely transportation facilities; we walk by foot for hours and sometime sleep in villagers' homes. We feel joy in sharing the Good News of Jesus and getting positive feedback when they stand for the Lord. Your continuous prayers are most important to make our on-going ministry successful and save the lost.

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II. Report of LLBN Southern Asia TV Channel

Wesley James <wjames231@msn.com> May 7:
Since May 2007, when Ganim Hanna, President/CEO announced that "he felt impressed to start an LLBN India Channel," a lot of prayer, planning and work has gone into the development of this ministry.

LLBN Southern Asia was launched on September 30, 2011-- its programs can be viewed online at www.llbn.tv and on Roku. The station aims to reach audiences from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka (and emigrants from these countries). The programs are currently broadcast in Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu, Tamil, Telugu, and English. However, we are aiming at including seven more languages from the region by the end of 2012.

In April, I traveled to India to visit volunteers and supporters of LLBN Southern Asia in the cities of Mumbai, Pune and Chennai. I found that word was spreading quickly about LLBN SA and a strong spirit of volunteerism was emerging. Some of the ministry's supporters are originally from different religious backgrounds but their journeys to Adventism have made them passionate and eager to share their faith.

I am pleased to report that our production team in Chennai, under the leadership of Leonard D. White, Production Manager, is actively working towards producing more programs and achieving our goals. Despite their experience, skill,
creativity, innovation and dedication, they find themselves limited in their capacity by a lack of equipment and frequent unexpected power failures. Their only option is to make appeals for more equipment and funds to remedy the situation.

I am thankful for Leonard White, an ordained minister, who joined LLBN SA as a volunteer in 2010. He graduated from Spicer College, Pune in 1997; and is currently the pastor of the Arumbakkam SDA Church in Chennai. In 2008, he started a Tamil language television ministry - a program that is viewed in India, Singapore, Malaysia and the Middle East.

LLBN SA is also partnering with some existing television ministries such as "Abundant Life Ministries" (Punjabi) in California, "God's True Light" (Telugu) in Hyderabad, and "The Advent Fellowship Ministries - TAFM" (Tamil) in Chennai. We are also receiving invitations and requests from other ministries in different parts of India to partner with us.

One of the most important developments is the opportunity to telecast our Marathi programs on a private television network in Mumbai. This station has the capacity to reach 10 million viewers in Mumbai via cable (the total population of Mumbai is approximately 21 million). Interestingly, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has designated Mumbai as a center for urban ministry. We see the Lord is opening doors in this great city; and, we are making a special appeal for sponsors to support this project.

In addition, we will be working with the South Asian young people in North America to produce programs for the children, youth, and young adults.

We need your prayers and support! If the Spirit impresses you, do not hesitate to join the LLBN SA global network of prayer partners, volunteers and supporters. We are eager to hear from you: please write to llbnsa@llbn.tv or call 909-799-6509.

"All His biddings are enablings." Praise God that we can be servants in HIS work!

Wesley James, Volunteer/Director
LLBN Southern Asia

III. Adventist Youth Witness in Non-Adventist College

Cecil Samuel Marandi<cmarandi@rediffmail.com>
"The Young Samaritan Group"

Thirty young people meet every Friday evening for worship in the men’s hostel of B Sc., Nagarjuna College of Nursing. They have been meeting since June 2010. Kiran, Sunil and Sudhakar are the leaders of the group. These young men decided to do something for the needy in the community. So they set a goal of raising funds for the project. Contributions were kept in a piggy bank. A few non-Adventist young men also joined the group. They call themselves "The Young Samaritan Group."

They chose Premnivas where 60 mentally challenged (retarded) children between the ages of 5 to 21. Forty boys and twenty girls live and learn basic skills to help parents at home. Their learning is divided into four stages, pre-primers, primers, secondary and vocational. They are taught to brush teeth, bathe, put on clothes, and do simple domestic chores to be of help to their parents in their homes. On March 10 the children were very delighted to have the company of the young Samaritan group. Children were given clothes. At four in the afternoon they were served refreshments and payasam.

Seven fans were installed in the hostels and dining hall, and four steel food serving buckets were donated to the kitchen. Mrs. Sara, warden of the institution together with the staff from Premnivas were happy for the thoughtful gift to the institution. At 7:30 p.m. delicious special dinner prepared by the Young Samaritan group was served to all children and staff.

The Young Samaritan Group felt very happy to serve and make the special day a memorable one for the children. They come away resolved to do something thoughtful, even greater project annually and bring smiles on the faces of needy ones! Praise be to God.

IV. Two MKs Heard From

1. Susen Mattison Mole
   "Little Gifts Given"
   by Susen Mattison Mole from RENEW, the women’s morning devotional book for 2012
   "Psalm 25:5
   "Have you stopped lately to let God show you the wonderful gifts He has for you? In the morning there is the sunshine to brighten the day or the rain to help us stop and sit in the cozy corner of our favorite room and make time for a good
book Then there are the birds: amazing, singing and seeming so cheery, to help us through the day. Another day there is the snow. Oh, the wonder! And when was the last time you got up to see the sunrise—or even noticed the sunset? God likes to give us gifts; we just need to be taught how to see them.

"God is trying to help me see the gifts, even though my children are leaving home and starting out on their own. One daughter wants to make her own way in life, and I want her to stay home. But God has a gift for me—showing me that I have done a good work in them, and I need to rest in Him, to know that the gift is a young woman who is going to be a blessing to others. Both girls that God gave us are working toward the place that God has for them. The gift for me is to wait and watch Him work His good pleasure. God is there.

"My husband has been a gift to me for 28 years of blessings. In turn, my gift is to love, by showing him each day that he is a gift.

"In addition, there are my friends. Without them the world would be a lonely place. I give thanks for all my wonderful girlfriends who love and pray for me each day.

"There are so many ways for me to love and pray for others. Because of my husband’s military career, I move a lot and need to have a way to show my friendship. So I send a virtual hug; I call someone, send an e-mail or card. God gives me gifts of love. I want to pass them on, although I can never match His generosity.

"Another gift I can give is to look only for the good in people I can try to be kind, to bake cookies for someone, or buy a gift for a baby whom I have noticed in church. . . There are many possibilities if I only look around.

["Susu grew up as a missionary child in India and enjoyed moving around. She has two girls who are both in college. She enjoys hiking, writing, reading, painting, playing her cello, and eating food from different cultures. She travels around with her Navy doctor-husband, as she has for the past 28 years."]

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2. Dennis Dean Tidwell <deantidwell@yahoo.com>

Recently Charlie Shad paid tribute in the SUD e-Newsletter to his father, Pastor B. M. Shad. I was only a little boy when we were stationed at Roorkee. But I remember, Dad, one time you took me with you when you visited Hapur School in the mid-50s when Pastor Shad was either principal or head master there. On Saturday evening we joined the students singing songs around a camp fire. One song they sang was to the tune of "Vande Mataram." I remember only one phrase from the song: "...Pastor B. M. Shad ki." I was impressed that the students loved and respected Pastor Shad and sang their own ode to him. Thanks, Charlie, for reminding us of your wonderful father.

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V. New Programmes in Spicer College -- 2012

Rajendra Prasad rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com May 4:

The Spicer College Board and the Division Executive Committee resolved to withdraw our affiliation with the University of Pune to avoid various problems particularly those associated with upholding our church principles.

In the wake of this new development the college is looking for other alternative arrangements that would offer courses without compromising our church principles and also to retain the unique and special nature of Spicer College as an institution meant to educate SDA youngsters based on the Adventist philosophy of education. Several openings have been considered. We are negotiating with Andrews University, Michigan, USA to offer some undergraduate programmes at Spicer in addition to the present graduate programmes in the schools of Education and Theology.

Since this process may take several months we are reintroducing a number of autonomous courses for the benefit of Adventist youth starting from June 2012.

The following departments are being re-introduced with considerable changes in the bulletin which will enable students to complete their studies at prescribed time.

Autonomous Departments Currently Offered:

1. Elementary Education (B E Ed)
2. Office Administration (B L A)
3. Theology (B Th)
4. Western Music (B Mus)

Autonomous Departments to be Re-introduced:

1. Economics
2. English
3. History
4. Psychology
5. Public Health  
6. Biology  
7. Chemistry  
8. Computer Science  
9. Mathematics  
10. Business Administration (Accounting)  

All these major departments will have appropriate minor departments which are being worked out. We shall continue to offer BBA and MBA courses from Griggs University. We trust in God's guidance to retain the unique identity of Spicer Memorial College to be the flagship of Adventist Education in Southern Asia.

The College reopens with the Orientation Meeting on Wednesday, June 13, 2012, at 8:00 AM followed by registration till June 19. Instruction begins on June 20, 2012.

We shall continue to explore the possibilities of starting courses from SDA universities abroad and we do hope that this may take place in November 2012, if not in April 2013. Students who enter into the autonomous programme may be able to carry transfer credits if and when we start the programmes with our American universities with their approval.

We are also preparing a proposal to be submitted to the Central Government for a self-financing, minority university charter. This will remain our long-term goal.

We solicit the goodwill, co-operation and prayers of the world church in this venture. May this institution continue to exist for God's glory and honour!

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VI. Prayers Requested for Nepal

Prayer for Nepal <prayersamongbuddhists@gmail.com> Prayers Among Buddhists e-Newsletter April 19:

Nepal is a Hindu-majority nation of 27 million people sandwiched between India and China along the Tibetan border. The first entire Bible was translated into Nepali in 1914.

In the 1940s, it was illegal to change religions in Nepal. It was also illegal to preach anything other than the Hindu religion or to teach any other way of governance than the "Rana" royalty that was ruling Nepal. This included democracy, for example, and four pro-democracy activists were executed in 1944. That same year, eight Theravada Buddhist monks came to Nepal and began to preach and draw large crowds. As the government did not trust anything that might cause a crowd to gather, the monks were arrested and brought before the prime minister. They were told not only that they could not preach, write, convert or ordain, but they also must sign a written statement promising that they would not engage in proselytizing.

This they refused to do. They were escorted to the border by the army and crossed over into India. The effect of this action was the opposite of what the government anticipated. They received extremely bad international press and the eight monks received sympathy from around the world. Two years later, Theravada Buddhism was allowed back into Nepal with diplomatic urging and pressure from Sri Lanka. Kumar Bhanu, one of the original eight, returned to Nepal and died this year at age 85. His passing reminded reporters of his dedication and loyalty to his religion.

While persecution is not as common as it used to be, it is still a major issue for believers there. Attacks against Christians are especially frequent when one converts from Hinduism and they flex their majority muscles. Persecution can also happen when they convert from Buddhism, which is around 16% of the population.

While the anti-conversion laws are not officially in effect in Nepal, the Nepali government in their ongoing process of drafting a constitution has used anti-conversion law language. Nepal is particularly unstable during this process.

For Seventh-day Adventists the focus is that "grand old story within which all stories find their meaning." That quote is from a Nepali/Seventh-day Adventist Youth pastor. He knows that Seventh-day Adventists are called to be "witnesses" for their faith in Nepal. A witness tells a personal story. It is true because they testify of what they have seen, heard and handled of the living Word. These witnesses need to have a loyalty that exceeds the loyalty of the monks in 1944 because it is based on the living Truth.

We ask that this be our prayer focus. The Nepalese need to know what we know, and are experiencing with Jesus. Seventh-day Adventists organized in Nepal in 1989. Current membership is 8,447.

--Center for East Asian Religions & Traditions [formerly Global Mission Buddhist Study Center] PO Box 15, Nakhon Luang, Ayutthaya, Thailand 13260 ~~~~~~~~~ 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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