Adventist Heritage

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Subject: [Spam******* SpamScore] SUD e-News, May 28, 2012 #23

I. Death of Beth James Robinson

II. Letters

1. Romain Rabot

III. Prayers Answered for J. D. Moses' Health IV. Trivandrum Church Building Enlarged V. Spicer Professor Authors

MINISTRY Magazine Article VI. The Mother Jilani Story [Chapter 15 of 17] ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ I. Death of Beth James Robinson

1. Ruth Sipkens <ruthsipkens@gmail.com> May 22:

Beth James Robinson, wife of Art Robinson and daughter of the late Edgar and Florence James, died at 7:30 this morning. Beth has been ill and in a coma for several weeks. It’s a blessing she can now sleep in Jesus. Beth grew up in China where her parents were missionaries. She and Art served many years in both Southern Asia and the Far Eastern Divisions: Lakpahana Training Institute in Sri Lanka (Ceylon), Guam Adventist Academy, Far Eastern Academy, and several schools in the U.S. including Seattle Junior Academy and Mount Ellis Academy in Montana.

2. Judith (Judy) S. Schwarz <sjschwarz@bresnan.net> May 22: It is with sadness mixed with joy that I let you know that my precious mother passed away today, May 22, 2012 at 7:40 AM, Mountain Standard Time.

She was the best mom and grandma our family could have asked for, and to the end, she was a strong and independent woman, choosing to die in her own time.

Yesterday we helped celebrate dad’s 87th birthday. Mom was not able to be there, due to her lingering illness and medicated condition. Afterwards, Steve and I stopped in to see her last evening. Mom was in a drug induced sleep. She had received morphine every four hours for the past 2-3 weeks, to ensure that she was not in any pain. We have had warning and have been expecting her to die for the last 10 and a half weeks.

This morning one of the care providers went in to see her around 7:30 and noticed that she was not breathing normally. They immediately went to get dad, who arrived in her room just as she was taking her last breath. She died peacefully in her sleep. She waited to get well beyond dad’s birthday How like her to not want to “ruin” dad’s birthday.

May is a memorable month in our family. Our Julianne was born, dad’s birthday, mother’s dad, Edgar James, died on dad’s birthday, mom and dad and our niece, Jana, both have wedding anniversaries on the 26th, and Jana was born on the 29th! Now we add mom’s death on the 22nd.

Mom fully trusted in Jesus as her Savior. She was a missionary from before her birth (her parents were missionaries in China, home on furlough at the time of her birth), and to the end of her ability, she tried to serve the people who took care of her. We are assured of seeing her when Jesus comes back. For her it will be an eye blink, as the Bible promises. It is us, for whom the wait will be long --or maybe not so long!

We are planning a simple memorial service for mother sometime in the next few weeks. She will be cremated, and we will find a time that our Jon & Lauren can be here --maybe even after school is out for Jon in June. Julia has let me know that she and Gordon will not be out for the service. Julia has a hard time traveling and doesn't like to grieve in public. We respect her wishes. We don't know about her girls yet. We will let you know when the service will be, so you can remember her life that day. Our plan is to have a celebration of her missionary heart for God! Thanks for your love and prayers through this tough journey for her and for dad and our families!

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II. Letters
1. Romain Rabot <rrabot@aol.com> May 24:

Reading about Dilip Tapu in the SUD e-News, May 22, 2012 prompted memories of George Marimuttu, a blind student at Spicer College in the 70s.

He went on to Poona University and completed a Master's Degree in History if my memory serves me right. George was quite a character. I am sure that many of us have fond memories of George. I wonder where he is, and what he is doing.

--Romain Rabot, President, class of 1977  

III. Prayers Answered for J. D. Moses' Health

I would like to share my happiness and joy over the miraculous way in which the good Lord had answered my prayers and the prayers of everyone who prayed for me.

Sometime in November/December 2011, I noticed a small pimple inside the upper lips and I just dismissed it as something simple. But by the next two months the growth had spread its wings and covered the whole of my left chin and the ends of that growth were like small cauliflower heads. I was worried and hastened to a local hospital, where the doctor frightened me saying that it was a malignant growth and has to be checked immediately. I was horrified over the news and rushed to the head hospital at Bangalore, where I had to go through a lot of tests including CT scan and biopsy.

The results of the lab tests and the X-ray all were negative and the CT scan showed that the growth was 80% benign and 20% malignant. I was just at 'level one' of the cancer disease. The biopsy also showed the same results.

Being overly concerned I contacted the doctors of the Oncology Department at Narayana Hrudalaya Hospital who told me that I have cancer of the oral cavity and need to go for a surgery and a period of radiation. The surgery, they said will take about 10 and a half hours and I should be an inpatient for about two or three weeks. The total cost would be somewhere around Rs. 2.5 lakhs. After obtaining their opinion I went for a second opinion to a doctor who had cured the wife of Mr. Michael Prasada Rao, the GCAS Auditor here in SUD. She had her breast removed some years ago.

He had also cured Mrs. P. C. Sharon who had a cancer of the abdomen, and presently he is and was treating Pastor Sangma, who is one of the Directors here in SUD. He also suggested a surgery but I declined the suggestion and opted for chemo therapy and he prescribed the therapy of six sittings.

My wife was with me all through the discussions and she was a great source of help at the time of need. My nephew, Mr. Gerald James, was instrumental in taking me to the various hospitals and running with me for the tests etc.; my daughter, Chitra, and her husband, Calvin Sunderaj, were with me. My youngest daughter, Esther, from Nagpur was there when I underwent the first chemotherapy. My son, Reginald Moses, sent me some financial help. Fortunately, my nephew, Mr. George Samuel, and his wife Valerie were there at that time. The first therapy was on February 13 and it was a Wednesday. On Saturday that week the ladies under the leadership of Dr. Lizzie George came to pray for me at which time I showed them the growth inside the upper lip.

On Tuesday morning when I work up, to my surprise, the growth had vanished completely and I was so happy and praised the Lord for His goodness towards me. I continued the chemo therapy for six times and at the end of them I had a CT scan taken. I showed this to my doctor who said that I have responded exceptionally well, but still there is a 50% medical treatment to be followed and that would be radiation of 25 sittings. This alarmed me a lot, for there is no radiographer here in Hosur, where I am settled and to go to Bangalore this many times will be tedious and expensive. As it is each chemo therapy cost me Rs. 30,000.00 per sitting. My son-in-law used to drive me to the hospital for chemo therapy once a week. So I was much concerned about it and said it is through only fervent prayers that this should be solved. The whole Southern Asia Division institutions prayed for me and even the other countries where I have people known to me.

The next week we went to our doctor for consultation and he referred me to the oncology surgeon. After waiting for many hours we met him and he checked me physical with his hand-in-glove and read minutely through all the reports right from the beginning and studied the X-ray and the CT scan films;

After all these, he asked me "What to operate? There is nothing that needs surgery or radiation, and you are perfectly alright. If in case there is a reappearance then you can come and see me." This gave us all a great relief and we praised the Lord for His wonderful miracle on me. I told the doctor, "Doctor, if it does reappear let it come after five years or so, for at that time I will not be there to receive it." He laughed!

The main purpose for me to send this message is to show how God takes care of His people, when they come to Him for help. The God of Abraham, Jacob and Joseph is still concerned about His people and is willing to do anything for them. It is only when we approach Him at the time of need that He extends His hands to us. May this message of testimony be helpful to anyone who reads it and strengthen their trust in Him who lives and takes care of His people.
IV. Trivandrum Church Building Enlarged

Elwin Vedamony <elwinvedamony@yahoo.co.in>

The Vellarada SDA church has been able to add a 16x20 ft. extension to the church building which will serve as a stage for the church over weekends and as the 1st standard classroom during weekdays. The church members have been working hard carrying bricks and mud, etc. in order to save on the cost of construction. Once completed, it should be able to seat about 250 people comfortably—a beautiful monument for God.

The school principal is a happy man because despite all odds—the unplastered walls, the leaking roofs of some classrooms, the desks and benches salvaged from Mr. Noah's Ark—the school has more than 75 new admissions this year so far. This makes the school eligible to apply for ICSC Board affiliation—student strength wise. Right now, the school is riding piggy-back on the SDA school at Thirumala, Trivandrum, 45 kms. away.

The principal feels that the presence of the church in the middle of the campus has been a tremendous blessing for the school. The church members and the school staff would like to thank all our well wishers, relatives and friends for their prayers and generous financial support. -- Jaya Hutton Vedamony.~~~~~~~~~~~ V. Spicer Professor Authors MINISTRY Magazine Article

Dr. Vara Prasad Deepati's article, "The Ten Commandments: A law to be obeyed or promises to be celebrated," was included in the June, 2012 issue of MINISTRY magazine. Here are the two introductory paragraphs of the outstanding article:

"In my 40-year Christian journey that includes 20 years of Bible teaching and pastoral ministry, the Ten Commandments have also challenged me, despite being the only Scripture portion written by God Himself. Raised in an Adventist home and educated in Adventist schools, I always believed the importance of obedience to God's law. However, the question that haunted me was, 'Do I really keep the commandments according to God's will?' Further, the biblical assertion that God's people delight in His commandments deeply troubled me, for 'If I don't delight in God's law, I am not worthy to be called a Christian?' As I cried to the Lord from such a state of restlessness, He opened my eyes to see a few wonderful things in His commandments that have brought healing to my soul. "My eyes were opened by a statement by Ellen White: 'The Ten Commandments are ten promises.' The article provides several compelling scriptural evidences to show that the Ten Commandments are indeed ten promises." [Dr. Deepati is a professor of Old Testament at Spicer Memorial College.] ~~~~~~~~~~ VI. The Mother Jilani Story [Chapter 15 of 17]

Chapter 15 The Pastor Gets a Shock

The day that she asked Pastor Nelson about tithing was a day that Sakinah never forgot. Knowing the Indian weakness for hating to part with his money, Pastor Nelson had been very careful not to mention money matters to the Baziels. He had had too many promising converts disappear when he mentioned the question of paying tithe.

"Let them believe all the other Bible doctrines first," he told his wife. "Then perhaps they will be in a better position to accept the idea of paying tithe on their income."

So the pastor was surprised when one morning, as they sat down for the Bible study, Sakinah said to him, "Do you believe in paying tithe, Pastor Nelson?"

"Pastor Nelson jumped about a foot in the air," Sakinah told Robinson afterward.

The pastor asked in a shocked voice, "Who told you about tithing?"

"No one told me," she answered. "I found it out in the Bible by myself many years ago, and I and I've paid my tithe ever since. Do you pay tithe?"

"Yes, we pay tithe." But Pastor Nelson's expression of relief was short-lived.

"And what do you do with your tithe money?" he asked.

"I give it to the Red Cross, the hospital auxiliary, any orphanage or poor person--just any good cause that comes along collecting funds or any person who is in real need," Sakinah replied virtuously.

"Is that what the Bible teaches should be done with it?" Pastor Nelson asked cautiously.

"I've never been quite sure," Sakinah replied. "That's why I wanted to know what you think about tithing, Does your church pay tithe?"

"Yes, it is one of the important doctrines," replied Pastor Nelson, "and the Bible has a lot to say about it. Let's go over those tithing texts that you discovered and see what the Bible says we should do with our tithe money."
They looked up Malachi 3:8-11 and Matthew 23:23. Then Pastor Nelson turned to Numbers 18:21 and read aloud, "And behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.' This verse says plainly that the tithe was to be used to support the Levites so that they were free to perform the services of the sanctuary. Then verse 26 of the same chapter says they were also to pay tithe on what they received."

"But there are no Levites now," objected Sakinah, "so why can't we use the tithe in other good ways?"

"We should not use the tithe for anything other than what the Bible specifies," insisted Pastor Nelson. "Let me read what it says in Leviticus 27:30: 'All the tithe of the land... is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord.'"

"You see, it is quite clear," Pastor Nelson concluded, "that the tithe is not ours to use even for a good cause. It belongs to God and should be given to Him through His church. From the nine tenths that is left we should be generous to the poor and donate to other good causes."

Sakinah frowned. "It's impossible. I could never afford it. Why, I have reputation for generous giving, and people always come to me for big donations. How could I ever give to them if I pay all my tithe directly to the church?"

"But the tithe is not yours to dispose of at all," Pastor Nelson insisted gently. "It is God's. He says you are robbing Him if you use His money in any other way than that which He specifies."

"What does the church do with the tithe anyway?" demanded Sakinah.

"The tithe is used for supporting the priests and Levites, just as God directed. Today they are called pastors, ministers, and missionaries, but they are persons who devote their whole time working for God; hence God has provided this money for their support."

Sakinah could see the point, but still she was rebellious. She visualized her reputation for generosity crumbling away. That night with reluctance she related to her husband the gist of the morning's Bible study.

"What will you do about it?" Robinson asked a trifle maliciously. Sakinah had always believed all the preacher told her and urged Robinson to accept it too. Now the tables were turned, and he enjoyed seeing her struggle against truth.

"I haven't decided yet," she answered, dropping the matter.

They had covered most of the Bible topics, and since the Nelsons were getting ready to return to America permanently, the studies were now being held only once a week. How hard the Nelsons prayed for the Bazliel during that next week! Would the money problem prove to be their stumbling block also?

Sakinah could not dismiss the subject from her mind. At night she could not sleep for worrying about it. By day she had no appetite for food. She knew the Bible was quite clear, but surely what she had been doing all these years could not be wrong. She had really enjoyed having money to give to charity. Never was there a needy case turned from her door. Was all that to be changed? Hour after hour the struggle went on in her mind. She had a large amount of tithe in her dresser drawer now, waiting for the one who came asking for a donation. What would she do with that?

The answer was clear. If she wanted to serve God according to His will—and she did—then she must pay her tithe, and give to the poor from the money that was left.

Pastor Nelson had the air of one who is not sure just what to expect when he knocked at the Bazliel's front door the following week for the Bible study appointment. Sakinah was waiting for him.

"Here," she said, thrusting a thick wad of rupee notes into his hands, "This is tithe. Take it and do what you like with it. I must have peace of mind no matter what it costs."

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