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Joysingh Charles <teachindia@aol.com> June 21:
TEACH International, Inc. USA is happy to announce that a meeting is planned for July 2nd with Bhajuram at the Tiffin Restaurant, 1341 University Blvd. East (towards University of Maryland) (next to ISP in Langley Park or across from Walgreen Drug Store parking lot), Takoma Park, Maryland.
Kindly treat this notice as an invitation. Please come and listen to his stories as an Adventist layman how he is sharing Christ in that conservative Hindu Kingdom. Bhaju's adventurous missionary journeys are often published in the SUD e-News. Those who know him from Spicer College may remember his enthusiasm and zeal for Jesus Christ. Presently he is in Ohio spending time with his two sons and their families.
Anyone planning to come, please call me at (301) 693 4979 so we can have a seat ready for you. RAIN OR SHINE...MEETING WILL START AT 7 PM SHARP.
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II. Letter
Eliot Bolst <toneli01@bigpond.com> June 24:
I am Eliot Bolst (who, when in Pakistan, went by the nick name of 'Sonny'), son of Noel E. Bolst writing:
A Sabbath or two ago I somehow was directed to the old Eastern Tidings for something to do with the old Vincent Hill School (VHS) -- Dad and Mum's school. One thing led to another and I ended up searching the archives of the GC for more Eastern Tidings and the mention of Dad and Mum's names. We were pleasantly surprised to find in one of the issues where VHS was featured, several pages where students wrote "Why I like Vincent Hill School". And in amongst these was a small contribution from Joan Homer (Mum) from standard IV. We also found a significant number of mentions of "Pr. N.

E. Bolst" relating to his work in Lahore and Chuarakarna (I'm an Aussie now, forgive the spelling) generously written up by Pr. Duane Johnson, dad of Pr.
George Johnson (and Stemple and Arlogene(?)) and another sibling whom I understand is now somewhere in south California these days, after serving in Pakistan, SUD and Far Eastern Division.
I also came across this small clipping: "On July 2nd, at 5 pm at the resident of Pr. and Mrs. A. E. Rawson, a farewell social was given to Pr.
and Mrs. C. A. W. Ritchie and their little son (I understand this to be Lyman Ritchie) before they left for Madras.... After the opening remarks, the audience joined in singing... Next followed a number of interesting recitations and beautiful selections of music. The best of all the items was a dialogue by Neville Matthews and Noel Bolst, giving the life history of Pr. Ritchie and some idea of his service to the mission... " (Eastern Tidings, 1939 Vo 34 No. 14 pp. 4,5)

Dad celebrated his 90th birthday last December 25. Unfortunately, while he is still with us he has lost his mobility and now is in need of assisted care in one of the aged care facilities near his home.
Re Neville Matthews: Dad was very surprised to hear the news conveyed in this SUD News sheet a month or so ago when someone visited him in his aged care facility in Glendale CA (I think it was). Please can someone pass on to Dr. Neville Matthews my dad's best wishes especially as he celebrates his 92nd birthday.
The SUD newsletter is very much appreciated by both Dad and his new wife Leah (Samuels, of both Spicer and the SUD office in Salisbury Park) and myself as I catch up with a bit of the history and legacy of our family in SUD.

III. Spicer College Professors Demonstrate Professionalism
S. Rajendra Prasad <rajendra.prasad2000@yahoo.com>

**Dr. Noah A. Balraj Approved for Ph D Guideship in Management by Manav Bharti University**
Yet another faculty from Spicer College was approved by Manav Bharti University, Himachal Pradesh, approved by University Grants Commission (UGC), Govt. of India, as Major Guide for the Research Students of Ph D in Management of Manav Bharti University, Laddo, Sultan Pur (Kumarhatti), Solan, Himachal Pradesh 173229. Dr. Balraj claims that he is already guiding two high profile Ph D students and another four are on wait. While congratulating Dr. Balraj on this achievement, we encourage other prospective Ph D students in Management in any of our Adventist Schools and Colleges to make use of this opportunity of completing their Ph D programme under his guidance, of course, when he is free. It is heartening to see that after a string of Ph Ds sprouting at Spicer in recent years, now one by one is being approved as a Ph D guide too. God bless them all as they grow academically and begin helping even others to grow.

**Mr. Immanuel Paul Durairaj’s Research Papers Published by "IGNITED MINDS"**
Two research papers entitled "A Study on Leadership Strategies Used in Maharashtra Board Schools in Pune" and "Importance of Leadership Strategies in Educational System" and authored by Mr. Immanuel Paul Durairaj, a faculty in Theology Department, were published recently in "Journal of Advances & Scholarly Researches in Allied Education" of IGNITED MINDS (vide URI:http://www.ignited.in/ Web_Pages /JournalDetails.aspx?ID=14 and 15) respectively.

Congratulations, Mr. Immanuel! Hope more will follow soon!

IV. Nepal Hospital Administrator Needed
Gordon Christo <drongo.ostrich@gmail.com> June 26:

A few months ago we inserted in this newsletter an appeal for a couple that could direct Adventist Child India at our office in Hosur. We received several exciting responses and have appointed William and Nancy (Mattison) Mack. The exercise was so successful and so quickly, that we are trying it again -- this time for an Administrator for Scheer Memorial Hospital in Nepal. We do have some names, but have not come near finalizing anything. If any of you out there are qualified/experienced and feel a call to reconnect with Southern Asia, we'd love to hear from you.

V. Death of Jaya Rao Chokka
Saijjan Rayavarapu <rayavara@telus.net> June 22:

Jaya Rao Chokka was laid to rest on June 22, 2012. Jaya was born on February 6, 1944, in Nuzvid, Andhra Pradesh, India, and passed away at the Foot Hill Hospital, Calgary, Alberta, on June 16, 2012. He is lovingly remembered by his wife Pearl; his ex-wife Suryamani; his children Ravi, Susan, Vanessa, Sunder and Joshua; brothers S. Rao and Raghu Rao; his sister Vijaya; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Jaya was predeceased by his parents Sunder Rao, "thata" and Lakshmi, "nayanamma", and his brother Prabhkar Rao. May his soul rest in peace, while the Almighty God gives the family strength and courage to go through this difficult time.

VI. Mr. & Mrs. I. R. Thomas Celebrate 70th Anniversary
The Southern Asian Adventist Church in Silver Spring, MD was the venue where dear ones and friends celebrated 70 years of married life for the I. R. Thomases. The Fellowship Hall was filled with hundreds for the service which was held on June 24th.

The afternoon program included the following:
**Welcome by Harrison John and Rajan Thomas **Opening Prayer by William Isaac **Garlanding by Shilpa John, Sabitha John & Rohim Maris
   Garlands made by Edna Venkaraj
**Scripture Reading by William Maris
**Family Tributes by Kezia Bhaskaran, Koilpillai Siblings: Samuel & Margaret, Johnson, Arthur & Daisy, Hepsibah & Bobby Henry; Thomas Wessel **Cake Cutting **Special Music by Tamil Group

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**"70 Years in Pictures" by Joshua Koilpillai and Ruben Thomas  
**Grandchildren Tribute by William and Rohini Maris, 
Ruben and Sabitha Thomas, Iyanrick and Shiliba John  
**Message by Pastor Franklin David  
**Song of Praise; "To God Be The Glory"

**Grace for the Meal by Samuel Koilpillai  
**Thanks by Rajan and Rajee Thomas

VII. The Robinsons & the Founding of Lakpanha

Raj Abel Thambakara <thambakara@aol.com> June 20:

ARTHUR WILLIAM & BETH ROBINSON'S LAKPAHANA

By Raj Abel Thambakara

Lakpanha is named "Light of Lanka" is etched in stone on the hill leading to the administration building of the school. Ellen White's counsel on the location of Seventh-day Adventist educational institutions, the perseverance of the leaders of our church after a two-year search, and 20,000 miles of driving led them to this 172 acre coconut and rubber estate in the Kandy hills, loaded with cobras, vipers and pythons and other non poisonous snakes. 150 snakes were killed every year since 1952 for the next 10 years. A python caught was so huge, it was sent to the Colombo Zoo to be put on display.

The concept of the dignity of labor was realized by the abundance of labor that was available to the students from clearing under bushes, burning coconut husks, managing vegetable gardens, maintaining flower gardens, cooking the various meals for the students, and cleaning the dorms, etc.

Clean spring water from the mountainside collected in a tank and pumped out of a well by the side of the stream supplied our campus water.

Initial funds for establishing the basic school plant came from 13th Sabbath overflow offerings from around the world through the 1950's. Through the 1960's Lakpanha developed and operated an efficient industrial complex funded by tireless fund-raising efforts carried out behind the scene by the Robinsons, through donors in the US. This included a rice milling machine, a cereal puffing plant, a dairy and poultry farm, a bakery, a carpentry unit, and a copra production line, all housed in solid brick and mortar structures. The school even had its own means of transportation as these products; eggs, puffed rice, copra, and milk needed to be transported to vendors at the market in Kandy. Lakpanha was a living model of a school operated under the strict guidelines of the Spirit of Prophecy. The Lord blessed the campus abundantly.

Having set up an electricity generating unit, the campus was flooded with light at night, in a part of Sri Lanka that would not see electricity for at least another ten years. Coming up the road from Kandy in the darkness, as one negotiated the last three hairpin bends on that main thoroughfare, (Eric B Hare's "Big Yellow Truck" story happened here) there was a sudden burst of bright light up on the hill ahead, as one came around the last corner, akin to that of approaching heaven's portal. One could not mistake the concept that "Lanka's Light" or Lakpanha in the vernacular was indeed blessed of God, as a "City, Set on a Hill". The Robinsons were part of this institution right from the start through the years of 1949 through 1966. The move of the school from Kottawa to Mailapitiya in 1952, with Erur Jurianz as principal and subsequently his move to Canada within a year or two, made Arthur and Beth Robinson the principal architects of this new school.

The hills came alive with the 'sounds of music' with Beth at the piano and AW at the baton. With batons in hand the students were singing praises to God. Saturdays at sunset was conducting class time. As many as he could accommodate in the auditorium he taught how to count to beats of 2/2, 3/4 and 6/8. Music classes including piano recitals were periodically presented during the Robinson administration.

Mrs. Robinson, as I called her, made me drop by at her home every Friday afternoon where she gave me voice lessons inducing me to sing several solos during church service. It was a natural next-step for me to join the choir at Spicer, Mrs. Robinson not only taught the students to read, write and speak English, but also to diagram sentences. She taught many, myself included, how to speak the 'Queen's English'. Lakpanha students excelled wherever they went because of the strong English language base provided by the schools education system, built on what Beth created academically.

We would find Arthur pruning the bougainvillea and guava trees all around the beautiful campus on Sunday mornings. He was also never hesitant to use his belt or the cane to discipline students, but his love for us always showed in the tears in his eyes when he had to prune us for the kingdom.

A fellow Australian of Beth Robinson, E. M. Streeter supervised the buildings going from "rough-hewn timber and cadjan-thatched roofs" to "brick and mortar" in those early years. The Herculean task of manually laying the top dorm floor of concrete in a non-stop 36-hour operation involving nearly every hand on campus, demonstrated the high degree of cooperation and efficiency which Robinson inspired.
At the time of their permanent return to the USA, the whole Adventist community voted to have the new men’s dormitory named ‘Robinson Hall’. It was a monument to his diligent labor and love for the SDA people of Sri Lanka. “Pastor Robinson is also affectionately remembered by the people of the village of Mailapitiya. The influence of his quiet manners, dignity and integrity has established for him a lasting memory not only within the Lakpahana campus but also in the vicinity. His enduring gestures of goodwill to the Buddhist community around the campus are still spoken of nostalgically by the Buddhist clergy and the laity alike in the village.”

The annual camp-meetings of the SDA Church of Sri Lanka were held and still are, at the school campus that was well equipped to accommodate all the church members from around the island.

We must also remember the many diligent workers that labored with the Robinsons for the success of Lakpahana. Ed Beck stationed in Colombo as the President of the church, along with his wife Jackie, provided a lot of support. We enjoyed their duets during their many visits to the school. So did the Sipkens, the Geortzens, and the Scotts.

Personally, my family, even though we had access to many other private schools in Kandy and Colombo, Uncle Thambakara Gomer, being a graduate of Spicer College, and a strong believer in Adventist Education, made sure that our whole tribe of kids ended up at Lakpahana. To these leaders I had the privilege of knowing and associating with, I sing my praises today. To Judy, Julia and Pastor Robinson, till we meet on the golden shore, to see Beth Robinsons angelic face again.

**Ref: “The Isles Shall NOT Wait” by R. S. Fernando ~~~~~~~~~~ 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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BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

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