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I. Letters
   1. Ratnam Busi <vrbusi@rogers.com> July 3:
      Congratulations- Dr Anil Kumar and Drs. Eric & Susan Moser
      I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Anil Kumar for his outstanding achievement of PhD and the vice president of METAS and hospital administrator of Surat Adventist Hospital. May God bless you as you take the responsible position in hospital administration in the Southern Asia Division.
      I also congratulate Drs. Eric and Susan Moser as they celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

II. Honoring the I. R. Thomases
   1. D. L. Ebenezer <dlebenezer@gmail.com> July 3:
      Mr. & Mrs. I. R. Thomas celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, June 24, 2012! Amazing, Wonderful, Encouraging, Inspirational, Motivational, Marvelous Model, etc. of what a family should be.
      It is awesome to be married to the same person for three score and ten years. With the breakdown in family values, the rapid increase in the decline of vows taken during the matrimonial ceremony these days, one has to admire a couple that has lived happily for as many as seventy years. I had turned two years of age when the Thomases got married.
      I first met the I. R. Thomas family when I enrolled at Spicer Memorial College in March 1960. My friendship and close attachment with Rajan, Finnie, and Mr. & Mrs. Thomas began almost instantly.
      Later, I had the privilege of spending eight months in their home at #304 Patterson Court, Takoma Park, Maryland. I had come from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to the Washington, DC, area to make a new beginning for my academic pursuits and career. Mr. Thomas met me at the Greyhound Bus Depot and drove me to their home. From May 1966 to January 1967, I shared room with Rajan in their Patterson Court abode. I was treated as one of the Thomas children.
      Mr. Thomas helped me find a job at Hot Shoppes 6:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. and a part time job at Columbia Union College in the day.
      My own mother had passed away shortly after I turned three. My next home was the girls dorm in Kottawa, (Ceylon) Sri Lanka, in 1943. Mrs. M. Stanley and the older girls gave me motherly care. The next time I experienced what real home life was when Mr. and Mrs. Thomas took me under their wings from May 1966 to January 1967. Their home was every bit a model home-a home where I saw in practice what a true Christian home should be. Not once did I see the voice being raised or anyone cutting into the other person. The whole atmosphere was very good. The next place I was to experience this was at my in-laws place-the S. T. Jabez family.
      My deep appreciation and thanks to the Mr. & Mrs. I. R. Thomas family for what their life has meant to me. I pray for God’s continued guidance in the life of the Thomases so that their Golden Years will indeed be "gold"
until Christ returns.

2. Kernal SD Charles <charlesksd@gmail.com> July 5:
   It a joy to wish the Thomases on their 70th wedding anniversary. There are the senior-most family in USA among the Indian SDA group. I wish them long life and good health at this time.

III. Eric & Susie Moser Celebrate Their 50th
   Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com>
   The turn out here in England at the celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Eric and Susie Moser bore testimony to the blessing their lives had been to so many—comfort words for the distressed, a home for the lonely. opportunities for an education and financial help to help those tide over a difficult period. They all were represented — professionals making tidy incomes, people who have overcome their struggles after a helping hand, the homeless, (now comfortably in their own homes), friends who they had contacted along life's journey and a loving family of two daughters and one son.
   Present for the occasion were son Steven, his wife Kirra and grandchildren Nadene, Anjali, Eloise, and Seth; daughter Priscilla, husband John with grand-daughter Tanisha; and daughter Nora, husband Sam and grandson Christen and Joshua. Rohit was attending college in Bangalore.
   Master of Ceremonies John Christo introduced the special guests and participants in the programme which consisted of a short homily by Pastor Boyle, retired pastor of the Watford church where they worship now—Susie serving as elder, a solo by Susie's niece, tributes by friends and the three children, the anniversary cake cutting, the toast presented to the couple by John Shuen who was Eric's best man at the wedding at Salisbury Park 50 years ago. John and his wife had specially come for the occasion from Toronto.
   South Asians present included Mrs. K. P. Philip, the Thomas family—Molly and her two children, Sadanandarao, Ratna (Petersen from Salisbury Park) and her little family. Bobban Thomas, Joesy and Mrs. K. G. George, Renu Raju, Anita, Peter, Luke and Noah, Dr. Yesudian, William Borge and his daughter Viola, Chacko, Pastor and Mrs. Saudagar Chand, Dalbir Massey, Amelendu and Helen Bairagee, Shika, her husband and their two cute girls, Leonard Abesinghe (Astrid's brother) from Sri Lanka. We are sure there were other Southern Asians that you may have known. There were non-Adventist graduates from Vellore, and former members of the Ipswich Church where Eric and Susie lived in their working years. Leonard brought the proceedings to a close by singing, "Never Part Again." Congratulations!

IV. SUDite and Maryland Power Outage
   Gladwin Mathews <adventministries@gmail.com> July 4:
   I would like to praise God for His loving mercies showered upon all and also those who had been affected by the sudden wind storm that swept through the Eastern Coast last Friday night. I still do not have power but thank God nothing major happened. The tree that fell in front of my house missed my car and is still there. Thank God for His protection. My family took shelter at my sister-in-law's place and are still there. Praise God for her love and hospitality. I am sure each of has a story to share. Hope to hear from you!
   Please do, for it will build our faith in God more.

V. Gladwin Mathews and Sabbath School Lessons
   Quite some time ago Dr. Gladwin Mathews (see above item) began making available by e-mail his Sabbath School commentary on each week's lesson. I have been one of a large group of SS addicts who have appreciated studying them each week; I recommended them to many others including our own little SDA church members and they have expressed appreciation for his research each week and our many of our SS teachers are using his lesson plans.
   When we had a family reunion in the Maryland/DC area last month most of us visited the large Southern Asia SDA Church which is just a block or so from the General Conference headquarters complex. As we parked in the massive parking lot, whom we see almost immediately but Dr. Gladwin! When we asked for directions to the place where SS classes would be held, he invited us to attend the one that he usually attended, and who do you imagine was the teacher that day? None other that Dr. Gladwin Mathews himself. And we had a wonderful study on Witnessing! If you would like to receive his weekly e-mail Sabbath School lesson commentary, send him a request at the e-mail address in the item just above this one. Tell him Charles, Sr. sent you!
VI. Kerala School/Church Extension Dedicated
Elwin Vedamony <elwinvedamony@yahoo.co.in> July 5:
Earlier we reported the extension and renovation of Kerala’s Vellarada School/Church. Now hear this!

A Special Sabbath to Remember!

June 15 was a special Sabbath to remember for the Vellarada School-Church. On that August day, the President of the South West India Union, Pr. Y Selvamony, dedicated the extension, 20 ft X 16 ft, to the Church, which would also serve as the 1st Standard class during the week.

We also had the privilege of hearing an unexpected guest, the founding Principal of this School, Mrs. A. Nelson. She gave a moving testimony of how the School was started and expressed her gratitude for the amazing progress the School had made over the years.

This year the School has had 100% results with 4 distinctions, 6 first class passes, and two second class pass, out of a class strength of 12. The new admissions have crossed 135, which is half the previous year’s enrollment.

Dr. Prem Gaiwand, visiting us over the weekend, had also noticed the dramatic changes both in the physical infrastructure and in the student enrollment of the School in just one year.

The service was followed by a traditional Kerala style vegetarian lunch-'sadhya'

It was truly a memorable Sabbath, when we had the President, Treasurer, the Zonal Officer for Education and a lot of visitors. Thank God who made all these possible.

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VII. Death of Dr. G. Gordon Hadley

1. Robert E. Manley <remanley@comcast.net> July 3

"G. Gordon Hadley, MD, Dean Emeritus and Professor in the Department of Pathology and Human Anatomy, passed away on Friday, June 29 at the age of 91. Dr. Hadley served as Dean of the School of Medicine of Loma Linda University from 1977-1986. His career spanned more than six decades and his contributions to Loma Linda University were rivaled only by his contributions to overseas mission work. During his career he received numerous awards, including the LLUAHSC Lifetime Service Award, LLUSM Alumnus of the Year Award, LLUSM Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, and San Bernardino County Medical Society Award for Outstanding Contribution to Medicine. . . "

"Dr. Hadley was introduced to service perspectives early in his childhood. Growing up in Washington, DC, he observed this value modeled not only by his parents in their home, but also in his physician father’s selfless ministry to society’s underprivileged; and what he saw made a profound, lifelong impression. More than anything, he wanted to become a physician.

Dr. Hadley’s graduation from the College of Medical Evangelists (CME, renamed Loma Linda University in 1961) as a member of the class of 1944-B was preceded by the bombing of Pearl Harbor, modification of the medical school curriculum to ensure early completion of his class, and an abbreviated internship. He subsequently was drafted and assigned to the 138th Evacuation Hospital, which served the 15th Army in Europe. Following his discharge from the military in 1946, he completed a three-year residency in pathology at CME (one of the first four physicians to enroll in this residency), then moved to the city division, as the Los Angeles Campus of CME was then known, to join the medical school teaching staff.

"From 1949 until Loma Linda University (LLU) consolidated its two campuses in 1962, Dr. Hadley taught not only at CME/LLU; but also on church mission assignments at medical colleges in Vellore, India (1955-1958), and on multiple occasions in Kabul and Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

"For nearly ten years beginning in 1977, Dr. Hadley served as Dean of LLU School of Medicine. In 1986, he accepted an invitation to become director of the General Conference Health and Temperance Department, where he served until 1991. Upon his return to the medical faculty at LLU, Dr. Hadley fulfilled a request made in 1990 by Dr. B. Lyn Behrens, then Dean of the School of Medicine, that he serve as a mentor for the class of 1994. In his role as student physician, he reported his experiences to the Curriculum Committee.

"In 1994, Dr. Hadley responded affirmatively to a request that he assume leadership of a new medical facility in Hangzhou, China, Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital (SRRSH). Shortly after its opening, he became chief executive officer, a position he held until 2001. Thanks in large part to the pioneering role he played, SRRSH today enjoys a reputation as one of the premier hospitals in Asia.

"In 2001, when the decision was made that Kabul Medical Institute would rebuild its curriculum, which, like the country, had been devastated by the ravages of two decades of war, school officials turned once more to Dr.
Hadley, who for forty years had helped anchor the global outreach of Loma Linda University in this region. In response to yet another opportunity to serve, Dr. Hadley prepared to relocate with his wife, Alphie (Alice Ruth Wagner Hadley), to Kabul no later than early autumn. Although these plans were delayed after the events of September 11, Dr. Hadley did return for some months and continued to exert an influence on the region through his legacy of former students who now hold positions of influence in the government and in NGOs and other health-related endeavors."

"In recognition of his contributions not only to this academic and health care community, but also to the broader community of the world church, Dr. G. Gordon Hadley received the Loma Linda University Adventist Health Sciences Center Lifetime Service Award at the Conferring of Degrees for the School of Medicine last year."

2. Steve & Patty (Hadley) Atchison <stevenmaitchison@gmail.com> July 6:
G. Gordon Hadley, born to Henry and Anna Hadley of Washington, DC on May 3, 1921 died peacefully in his sleep Friday, June 29 at the age of 91. He never regained consciousness after emergency abdominal surgery. He complained of abdominal pain the day before and was admitted to Loma Linda University Medical Center where it was decided to operate for a possible appendicitis. After surgery the family was informed he had only two hours to live. His wife Alphie, and children Walter and Bonnie and one grandchild with her husband were present around his bed when he passed. Patty was blessed to speak to her father before he died by phone from Thailand where she and her husband are working at Chiangmai Adventist Academy.

Dr. Hadley served with his wife and two children at Christian Medical College as Professor of Pathology at Vellore, South India 1955 - 1958.
During this time a precious addition joined the family, Bonnie Shireen. He also served on numerous occasions in Afghanistan. The family always enjoyed memories of their time in India and Afghanistan, many of his students and colleagues have been lifetime friends.
The family would like to invite all who knew Dad to attend his memorial service at the Loma Linda University Church this Sabbath after vespers at 7:30 pm. Or it is possible to watch the memorial on the internet at www.lluc.org. Those interested may also go to the Loma Linda University School of Medicine's home page to read more about Dad at web page: <llu.edu/medicine>

VIII. Death of Mrs. Shanti Shaffi
Mehbub Khan <kashana2172@sbcglobal.net> July 3:
This sad news is very hard for me to break to all of my fellow alumni of Pakistan Adventist Seminary and College that Mrs. Shanti Shaffi, loving mother of Pastor Solomon Shaffi of Loma Linda, California passed away last Sunday, July 1. When Pastor Solomon heard the news that his Mom was very ill he left for Pakistan on July 1, but en route he was delivered the heartbreaking message that his Mom passed away in Peshawar, Pakistan. Let us all keep the Shaffi family in our prayers.

IX. Shillong Choir to Sing at Maryland's Southern Asia Church
Shann Fanwar <fanwar01@gmail.com> July 9:
It is my pleasure to inform you that after weeks of planning; we were finally able to arrange for the acclaimed Shillong Chamber Choir to visit Washington DC. We have arranged a free Sacred Concert at the Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sunday July 15, 20012 Address is: 2001 East Randolph Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20904
Time: 6:30pm
This is a free concert but a collection will be taken to help off set the cost which they have incurred.
The Shillong Chamber Choir is an Indian chamber choir based in Shillong, Meghalaya (State in the North East of India); founded in 2001, it shot to fame after it won the reality talent show, India's Got Talent in October 2010, on Colors TV, part of the Got Talent franchise, where it performed western chorals, as well as choral-style revamps of Hindi film (Bollywood) classics.
The choir also participated in the 6th World Choir Games held at Shaoxing, China (Shanghai) in July 2010 and was awarded with Gold Diplomas in all the three categories - Musica Sacra, Gospel and Popular.
The choir made its debut performance at Pinewood Hotel in Shillong, dubbed the rock capital of India, on 14 and 15 January 2001, with Neil Nongkynrih, a concert pianist as their founder and conductor, and continued performing ever
participating Development, Indian President

The choir performed with the visiting Vienna Chamber Orchestra in March 2009 at Shillong and Kolkata, and was invited to perform in Sri Lanka. Then in July 2010, the choir was selected by ICCR and sponsored by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region to participate at the 6th World Choir Games (Choir Olympics) held at Shaoxing China (Shanghai) in July 2010, where it was a lone Indian group amidst over 8,055 singers in 209 choirs from more than 60 countries, besides 14,072 Chinese singers in 260 choirs and took part in choral competitions in 20 categories, received gold diplomas in three categories: Musica-Sacra (sacred music), Gospel (medley of few songs) and Popular (medley of Bollywood and English numbers). This came after its earlier participation at the 2nd World Choir Games, in South Korea (2002), where it won a silver diploma in the folklore category.

The choir participated in the reality talent show, India's Got Talent (Season 2) in September 2010, on Colors TV, after participating in Kolkata auditions, where they qualified and then survived the elimination rounds, where they chose to sing Hindi film classics Ajeeb Daastan Hai Yeh from Dil Apna Aur Preet Parai (1960) and Yeh Dosti from Sholay (1975) in the semi final round. The choir grew immensely popular in Northeast India and even Union Minister of State for Rural Development, Agatha Sangma, appealed to the people of the Northeast to vote for the group in the finals, when she visited the group in Mumbai. It went on to win the show finale on 2nd October, where they sang a choral version of Hindi film song, Tu Aashiqui Hai from Jhankaar Beats (2003), while drummer Teji Toko from Arunachal Pradesh came second, and Sikh martial arts group Bir Khalsa came in third.

The choir performed at President Pratibha Patil's presidential banquet at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, for the U.S. President and his wife, Barack Obama and Michelle Obama, during their November 2010 state visit to India. They had previously performed at the Rashtrapati Bhavan at the invitation of then president, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam on Christmas 2002. On 28 and 29 October 2011, they performed again with The Vienna Chamber Orchestra in Shillong in a concert called "Bollywood Leitmotifs Also..." for which melodies from Indian Cinematic music were revamped for the choir and orchestra by their conductor Neil Nongkynrih. On 30 October 2011, they collaborated with top musical directors Shankar, Ehsaan and Loy at the second Global Indian Music Awards (GIMA) which was shown on Colors channel. Recently they composed and sang 4 songs for their debut upcoming Malayalam Movie, Goodbye December, and the song Madi Madi, had aired live by BBC Radio.

The Choir has been invited to sing at the finale of the World Choir Games in Cincinnati, Ohio, on July 14, following which the Shillong Chamber Choir will be visiting Washington for a few days.

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