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Remembering Aimee McHenry

[Correction; The following announcement was in the last newsletter:  
"On August 10, Friday, there will be a graveside service at Mount Hope Cemetery, College Place, WA at 3 PM."  The time is to be 2 PM, NOT 3 PM.]

1. Gordon Christo <gechristo@sud-adventist.org> July 30:
   Mrs. Aimee McHenry endeared herself to scores of youngsters in India. I had heard of the hospitality of the McHenry home long before I experienced it myself in Karmatar. Whenever we were home from college we looked forward to evenings of games and laughter at their home. They had brought piles of games back to India --mit, Touring, Careers, and much more. The McHenry's treated us like their own children and we loved hanging out there.

   I have two big reasons to pay tribute to her: (1) When my parents were both away on itinerary somebody poisoned our dog Tuffy, and she lay "dying" on our porch. We teenage kids fled to our rooms to sob. But Mrs. McHenry called the vet from the town and he revived our pet. She paid him and didn't accept our money for it. (2) She was the one that all wedding couples looked to, to decorate their wedding cake. When the McHenry's were to leave on PR, the next wedding was my sister's and it fell to me to decorate the cake.

   When Mrs. McHenry heard that, she sent me a decorating kit and gave me a few tips. That was the beginning of a new hobby for me. I know that scores more will have similar stories, and on their behalf I would like to inform her family members that we remember her and all of them fondly.

2. John M. Fowler <FowlerJ@gc.adventist.org> July 30:
   Aimee McHenry lived well and long, served and loved the people of India unselfishly, and now rests with her great husband for the sure and certain dawn. The McHenry family has contributed much to the growth and development of the church in Southern Asia like few other families have done. In more than one way, they made India their home, and hundreds of workers would recall their contribution to their making. With the passing of Mrs. McHenry, another saga ends--but it was a saga of fulfillment, joy, and service. One tribute I must pay to Aimee: when I was chief editor of OWPH and then later became Division Education Director, she and her husband contributed to a local original publishing venture. A series of English readers for grades 1-5, with a focus on Christian philosophy of education, were jointly produced by the three of us and published by Frank Brothers in Delhi. The series were used not only by our schools but also by non-Adventist institutions. That was the last contribution of the McHenry's to education in India, and Aimee was the inspiration and strength behind it. As we remember her life, may I on behalf of the family of Adventist education offer my tributes to a life so blessed. May her family members be ever assured that "blessed are those who die in the Lord, and their works do follow them."
3. Boxter Kharbteng <khar_btg@yahoo.com> July 31:

The news about the passing away of Mrs. McHenry came to me as a jolting shock. The missionaries that I used to know in my elementary and high school days are gradually bidding us their final farewell of life in this old, sin-infested world. Frankly, I did not have the privilege of knowing the McHenrys up-close because they lived far away from where I used to live, while in India. The only time I can recollect of pastor McHenry was when he was Youth Director of the Division (SUD). True, I had also heard very much of Mrs. McKendry, especially about her unusual aptitude in storytelling. I think I also saw her once or twice from afar. As I remember, she was tall and slim. The tragic news of the sudden death of their daughter, Mrs. Sarah Munger, also caught many of us at Spicer College with fear and deep sadness.

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

Fortunately, and to the praise of our Almighty God of love, the sting of death and its poison will be completely removed and eradicated when Jesus comes again. At that time, the Scriptures assure us that the trumpet of the Lord will sound and "those who have died will be raised to live forever."

For now, I take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt condolence to all the family members of Pastor and Mrs. William McHenry. To you, their children, thank you for giving us your parents to serve India for those many years. In heaven, many Indians will come to thank your parents for having brought them to Jesus Christ. A special message of sympathy to Ruthie (nee Ruth Rao), the only McHenry member that I came to know well because she was my high school classmate at ATS.

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Remembering Dr. Derek Beardsell

1. Jack Perera <mahatmayaa@gmail.com> July 31:

I am saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Derek Beardsell. We were partners in tending the grounds under the supervision of Edmund Roy in the early 1980's at Andrews University while Derek was completing his doctorate and I my masters. We were given a pick-up truck to drive around in while we mowed lawns in the summer, raked leaves in the fall, shoveled snow in the winter, and tended the upcoming tulip bulbs in front of the Pioneer Memorial Church in the spring. He did the driving and occasionally had a joke or two to share to keep us amused on the job. Derek was a joy to work with, full of fun. I remember he once told me in jest, that the name Derek was a derivative of the word 'derelict'. He shall be fondly remembered.

My deepest condolences to Joy and the rest of the family as we await the return of our Lord and Savior.

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II. Letters

1. Falvo Fowler <FowlerF@gc.adventist.org> July 30;

The last SUD newsletter began with the demolition of the Corner Shop and continued with the death of some memorable people. If it weren't for the Hope of the Second Coming (Cornershop not included), it would seem that we're losing some good people. But they are laid to rest after years of good service; service that touched, and changed, our lives and we are better for it.

Winnetta McHenry Martin said it best (and I paraphrase) "We share the same blanket" that keeps us all till Christ returns and we will reunite, and rejoice with them.

On another note: Gordon Christo, on a Facebook page, shared a photo, and details, of the Cornershop from the past. On that page, I suggested that Gordie should be the official SUD archivist because he has shown a consistent, and credible, interest for preserving the history of the Division that has shaped so many lives around the world. In this day of rewriting history (and science) to fit one's personal (and sometimes biased) narrative, I believe there is an immediate need for all good people to come to the aid of this country (Ah! Typing 101! Thanks, Sonia!) Division and utilize the memory of those still living who lead so spiritually and administratively well in the past. Their legacy allows so many of us to be who we are today. Legacy? Case in point: this newsletter.

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2. Rose Muthiah Davy <davyp@bellsouth.net> August 3:

My husband Paul & I continue to need your prayers even though healthwise he is recuperating. I read the SUD newsletter and am sad to read from time to time about people who have gone to their rest. I wish to send my condolences to all families of Pastor S. G. David & Mrs. McHenry & of others who have passed away. The world situation makes us feel that the second coming of Jesus is nearing. Let is be joyful and share with others quickly so they too will know about Jesus and Salvation. God bless.
III. Two Deaths

1. Death of Mrs. Annapoornam Wilson

Priscilla Shyam <priscillyashyam@SAAA.ORG> July 31:

Annapoornam Wilson was born on December 11, 1942 in Pragasapuram to Samuel Vaathiar and Gnanammal. As the daughter of a pastor, Annapoornam developed Christian values at a very young age, which became the basis of her blossoming relationship with the Lord. Although she was the youngest daughter of her six siblings, she was a dominant figure in the family, known for her quick wit and high intelligence. Due to the sudden death of her father, she was forced to discontinue her studies at a young age. Despite these unfortunate circumstances, Annapoornam continued teaching herself to the point where she could speak multiple languages, read and count both rapidly and accurately, as well as remember even the most minuscule details due to her impeccable memory. Nothing was insignificant to Annapoornam; everything and everyone had a place in her heart.

On September 22, 1960, Annapoornam married Wilson Vedhamuthu at the age of 18. She then made the big move to Pune where she brought up five children. In order to support her promising family, Annapoornam took her renowned role at the Spicer College Production Services in the peanut butter, soy industry, confectionery and the College bakery. When she arrived, her youth and hardworking attitude immediately resonated throughout the campus. Annapoornam would take any opportunity to evangelize to others by praying for anyone she met, talking to everyone and just portraying God's character through her own actions and life. Her memory was immaculate; internal prayer lists that addressed names of specific people as well as their individual situations constantly filled her head, never forgotten. Without fail, Annapoornam would read the morning watch every day and pray for that exhausting list of people. Aside from the campus people she befriended, Annapoornam selflessly cared for her five kids. She was the pillar of the family and pushed each child to pursue a master's degree, even if it took all of the strength in her body. She successfully raised five children to great heights, and in turn gained twelve grandchildren whom she also loved unconditionally.

In 2000, after twenty-seven years of committed work, Annapoornam retired from the confectionary. She then traveled around the world visiting her children and touring countries such as Sweden, United Kingdom, Singapore, United States, Sri Lanka, Canada and Thailand. In 2010 she was blessed to celebrate her 50th wedding anniversary. Unfortunately at the end of that year she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Annapoornam and Wilson moved to Roorkee, India to be cared for by her second son, Gladson and his dedicated wife Poorna and sons. She bravely endured nine cycles of chemotherapy while still retaining her strong faith in the Lord. Even in the hospital, she continued to evangelize to other patients in the same situation. In July 2012, the disease spread to other major organs of the body. Annapoornam wanted hopefully to travel to Tamil Nadu with her husband to visit her birthplace, Pragasapuram. However, God had an alternate plan for her and on July 21, she left her temporary home on this earth. She is survived by her husband, Wilson Vethamuthu, her sister, Grace Samuel Vaathiar, her children Martin Swanson, Richard Gladson, David Paulson, Ruth, Samuel; their spouses Jamila, Poorna, Grace, Stuart and Fe, and grandchildren Naomi, Tiarra, Dan, Debbie and Dorcas, Chris, Kevin, Alfred, India, Alex, Edrei and Elyza.

2. Death of John C. Daniel

Sunny Wycliffe <sunnywycliffe@gmail.com> July 31:

Robert Jackson <robertjackson500@msn.com> writes:

"This evening, Friday, July 27, 2012, we received news that Sheela's father, Mr. John C. Daniel died. He was sick for some time, and was on and off from hospital. We went this January to visit him.

"Sheela and myself are leaving to Kerala soon.

"Funeral will take place on Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Kunnel Parambil House

Pozhikool, P. O.

Kaduthuruthy

Kottayam, Kerala

"Please pray for the bereaved family in a very special way. May He send His Holy Spirit to comfort one and all of them and hold fast to their faith to see that bright Morning when Jesus will return to gather His own.

"Thank you."

The Jackson Family

Takoma Park, MD 20912
IV. Shillong Chamber Choir Visits Washington Area
   Shann Fanwar <fanwar01@gmail.com> July 29:
   I cannot begin to tell you about the last three weeks but to compare my personal experience and that of my family along with the Shillong Chamber Choir as wonderful and exciting roller coaster ride!
   For my family and me, I can really only say that we have been blessed beyond words. Yes, the events leading up to the SCC's arrival was hectic and remained hectic through out yet had any one of you been in our shoes...you would not have exchanged it for the world.
   The music of the SCC can only speak for itself. There is no disputing there that God has blessed them with talents and gifts that most of us only listen to and dream about yet the most outstanding part of getting to know them is not about their music....it was about them. Before I go any further...let me just rewind the weeks a bit for you.
   When they arrived by plane we rushed them directly to perform at the Southern Asian SDA Church here in Silver Spring. That was a sacred concert that brought tears to so many as in song, the SCC brought God's love down to earth and one could feel the presence of God that night.
   This performances that followed at the IMF, U. S. State Department, the Collington Home and the Indian Ambassador's home just added to the enjoyment that these young people and Bah Neil brought to our lives and as for my family and I, we will be touched forever.
   Of course the finale was on the 20th at the Silver Spring Civic Center.
   In my estimation, we had about 400 people in attendance and the music was just spectacular. Even tough I was busy with helping to keep things organised and taking pictures yet even I had to just stop and take in the beauty if the songs.
   Now here is what I am most humbled by and where my memories of this whole experience lay at...that is the attitude and humility of these young people.
   Most of you will not know this unless you have spent time with them but they are a God fearing and God loving bunch of people. Bah Neil has instilled in them the notion that God comes first...all else is secondary. That on it's own is a testament to their character as a group but also as individuals.
   As they move on...we wish them God's blessings and protection. We are already missing them but having made that bond of friendship; they live in our hearts.

V. Adventist Media Center's Work Advances
   Edison Samraj <amc3@vsnl.com> August 1:
   We successfully launched three dedicated channels for the Salisbury Park community on 30th July, 2012 in the presence of all the Adventist Media Centre Board members. The channels were released and launched by Dr. Bakul Bhosale, Dr. Calvin Joshua and Anil Kandane and the vice president, Pastor Jyothi Anbiah. Prayers of dedication were offered by Pastor J. N. Sathe and Pastor T. P. Kurian. Later in the day we had the Program Review Committee for eight languages. We also completed the formality of launching eight vernacular churches in Pune by five of our newly appointed radio speakers:
   Pastor William Mall in Punjabi
   Pastor Nakka Emmanuel in Telugu
   Pastor Ashok Kumar in Kannada
   Pastor Benoy Jacob Das in Malayalam
   Pastor Bannet Franklin in Tamil
   We look forward to a greater involvement and engagement of our work force in the outreach activities of the church.
   We also had the opening of the restructuring the Health and VOP departments. Pastor Jyothi Anbiah, Vice President of SUD, opened the VOP department with a special emphasis on seminar, workshop and organizing Bible-based prophecy in modern setting. The Health department was opened by Pastor Ezras Lakra. We have also now included beyond those courses that we offer through correspondence, workshops, seminars and various programs on areas of health that are relevant for modern India. We would like every reader of this newsletter to pray for these new developments as we serve the church in Southern Asia.

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