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Terrence Davin <terrydavin@gmail.com> August 27:

My brother-in-law, Ralph Juriansz, died in the early hours of Sabbath, Aug. 11. Ralph graduated from Vincent Hill School and taught in India for a while before going to Australia where he got his college degree from Avondale College and taught in several places in Australia before coming to Canada to teach at Kingsway College. This was around 69/70. My sister Myrtle had been nursing him for the last three months, he had a relapse of the cancer he had been fighting a few years ago.

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On another sad note, my sister Barbara (Davin) Thompson, who is in Australia at Bayldon, Coffs Harbor, N.S.W., has been diagnosed with cancer which started in her gall bladder and metastasized to the upper lobe of her liver. She attended VHS also for about four or five years in the mid-forties, worked for the conference in Bombay before leaving for Australia ('52) with my sister Myrtle. Both of them trained as nurses at the Sydney Sanitarium, Australia. The prognosis for Barbara is about three months. Please share this information with the VHSites, requesting prayer for her.

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II. Letters

1. Merlyn Fernando <merlynfernando@yahoo.com> August 27:

We are encouraged when we hear that Pastor George Johnson is headed back to Pakistan and that Elder Larry Colburn is headed for Sri Lanka. We are acquainted with the foresight and vision of these brethren and have been blessed through their leadership in Divisions we are familiar with. Their ease with which they communicate with others is bound to be a leadership trait that God will be honoured with.

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III. HopeSide Community Church Celebrates 1st Anniversary

HOPESIDE <contact@hopeside.org> August 27:

The HopeSide Community Church will celebrate its 1st anniversary on September 1, 2012. It was established just a year ago on September 3, 2012 with a primary goal to simplify and amplify the Gospel through innovative media and community projects. Through some unconventional approaches, precious souls from diverse faith backgrounds now actively worship and support the church every week. Some of them may be baptized into the Adventist faith in the future. We mark this anniversary also with the formalization of our ties with the sisterhood of Adventist churches.

The featured speaker for this occasion is Pr. Jose V. Rojas, [he with the l o n g, moustaches! cht/sr] Director of Volunteer Missions at the North American Division. The Sabbath School will start at about 10 AM and the main service will start promptly at 11 AM by a an inspiring contemporary praise service by Praise Live. The Anniversary special service will then be followed by a great vegetarian multi-ethnic luncheon. A Christian karaoke is featured for the afternoon followed by a contemporary music concert.

All are invited to attend. Please come early to get a seat. You may come to any or all scheduled events during the day. The address of the location is: Calverton Baptist Church, 12625 Galway Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904. For more info please visit www.hopeside.org.
IV. Remembering Them--Mr. Pylee Abraham and Mrs. McHenry
Johnny Philip <johnny.philip@gmail.com> August 28:

I must add my tribute to two wonderful families whose names have come up in this newsletter recently - the Pylee Abraham family and the McHenry family.

When I was about two or so (late ’50s) my parents got a transfer from Giffard Memorial Hospital, Nuzvid, Andhra Pradesh to what was then Lowry Memorial Higher Secondary School, on the outskirts of Bangalore city. Lowry School was the alma mater of both my parents and they have always loved it. Fortunately for us, when we landed in Lowry our immediate neighbours were to be Mr. Pylee Abraham and his family. Unfortunately, apart from their names which has always been very familiar to me, I cannot remember much more about Mr. and Mrs. Pylee Abraham. However, throughout my life I have had some occasion or other where someone, apart from my parents, fondly reminisced about them and mentioned them as wonderful teachers.

Happily, I have never had occasion to forget the children Alfred, Jean, Preethi, and Dittu. Living next to each other we became friends almost instantaneously. That friendship has lasted for over half a century. Apart from my memory of the happy times we had playing together, what stands out best in my mind is the time when Alfie and Jean, who were a year or two older than me, started going to school. They had been enrolled at our Spencer Road School in Bangalore. When they came back from school they were always excited and happy. That excitement was infectious enough for me to tell my parents that I too wanted to study where they did. So when I was old enough to go to Kindergarten my parents granted me my wish. They shared my enthusiasm because they had heard a lot about a great teacher at Spencer School - Mrs. McHenry. Alfred and Jean’s excitement to go to school was proof of how good a teacher she was.

I remember my first day at school. In fact I remember the previous night. I was so excited about going to school that I wore my uniform (grey pants, white shirt, red tie, black shoes, white socks?) and went to bed. A bit later when my mother came to check if I was in bed, she was surprised to see me fully dressed for school, shoes and all, and sleeping soundly. She broke into laughter and called my father. Hearing all the commotion I woke up.

The next day I went to school with Mrs. McHenry as my very first teacher. [Years later I discovered that the site of my class room was once part of a stable of the British military]. Though I had been longing for this moment, once my parents left me in her care and departed for their work, I cried my heart out. Though Mrs. McHenry did her best to cheer me up I was miserable. When I stepped out during recess I heard Alfred and Jean call out to me. That cheered me up immediately. Preethi was in my class too but I don’t remember how she adapted to the new environment on that day.

All of us - Alfred, Jean, Preethi, Dittu, and myself - owe a great debt of gratitude to Mrs. McHenry. We have all been academically successful. As far as I know, all of us have a great love for literature. The love of reading was inculcated in us by Mrs. McHenry. I remember the very first book I read cover to cover. It was the story of David Livingston’s life. Years later I often wondered if that book was still in circulation. Yes, it is. I was surprised to see it recently on the shelves of the local Adventist Book Centre - after over 50 years!

I met Mrs. McHenry years later (early ’70s) when she visited Spicer College when I was a student there. She said she still had a notebook with the names of all her students and that she tried to update each person’s progress in life. She reminded me of many of my classmates whose names I had forgotten. Let’s see, I think these are some of the names, if my memory is still reliable: Preethi Abraham, Franklin Benjamin, Mathew Benjamin, Noor, Elvanley Peterson, Rani Purushotham. I am sure I know a few more names, but I can’t get a handle on them right now.

I was blessed with excellent teachers throughout my academic life - almost all of them, if not all. That was truly one of the best blessings I could hope for. But Mrs. McHenry was my most favourite, and to her I owe the most. However, I also do remember that she never suffered fools. Once, while we were returning after chapel (in the auditorium across the road), I had the sudden inspiration to break off from the line and run for one of the swings in the playground. I was blissfully unaware of my surroundings until I felt a sharp stinging slap on my face. I turned around to see Mrs. McHenry pointing me towards our classroom. I have never forgotten that expression on her face, nor have I ever been disobedient since. Well, allright, at least in her class.

Mr. Pylee Abraham and Mrs. McHenry are no more. But the successes of their students are testimony to the quality of their lives and how it impacted us. They have earned their rest. Let them, for a while.

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V. Indian Delegates Attend ASI Convention in USA
Joysingh Charles <teachindia@aol.com> August 29:

For the past two years we have been attempting to bring Dr. Jacob Prabhaker from our SDA Hospital in Jallander to attend the ASI Convention. I am so happy to say that he not only attended this year’s convention in Cincinnati, but
brought his entire family to manage Ruby Nelson Hospital's booth. He was a real hit at the convention and got interviewed live by 3ABN.

Many agencies have come forward to support his eye team to reach out to other states. We pray and wish him God's blessings as he use his God given talent to touch thousands of lives in India as we have 1/3 of the world's blind population surly can use his talents in a mighty way.

Another person who accepted our invitation was Mrs. Lilly Choppala, owner of 100 bed T Holath Hospital and 300 student Priyadershni Nursing School. For the past fifteen years TEACH International has been assigning young girls to this school as their fees were affordable for our charity.

She was very happy she came and returned home with a promise to come back for the next convention at Orlando, Florida. A month ago Mrs. Choppala was honored by the governor of Andhra Pradesh at the governor's mansion for her outstanding service to the community through her hospital and school of nursing.

We would love to see an ASI India chapter. In 2005 we made the first move in that direction. Now we have sufficient resources needed to assist in the formation ASI India. We are looking for credible agencies who have a passion and vision for taking Christ and Adventist Message to all corners of India. Mrs. Lilly Choppala has agreed to host the initial meeting in her School Campus by providing food and accommodation for the people who plan to be there when the time and date is announced. We would love to hear from all those who have a Government Recognized Profit and Non-profit business or charity. If you want to learn more about our plans please contact us by e-mail at Teachindia@aol.com.

We appeal to all the readers of this mail to pass on this message to others who may not be receiving SUD E mail.

Our Church in India can do much better than what we are doing now. An ASI India Chapter can only enhance the growth of church similar to what is happening in other countries. For some unknown reasons we are deprived of this good organizations support. At the Cincinnati convention I met the man who is sponsoring 350 volunteers from US to travel to a neighboring country of India. I know the person from India leading that team. But, we have in India thousands of lay members who can take up the work to reach far corners of India, and that can happen only if we have an ASI India chapter which can coordinate work. We want to invite few more credible individuals for next years ASI Convention and if you would like to attend please contact us and we will help you in the process.

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VI. Dr. Moses Christian, A Loma Linda Runner Extraordinaire

Johnson S. Christian <JSCFRUIT@aol.com> August 21:

The following is from an article in the Loma Linda City News:

Performing surgery isn't the only thing Moses Christian is good at.

Christian, who has lived in Loma Linda for nearly 40 years and in May celebrated his 80th birthday is more active than most 20 year olds, running at least one marathon per month. In the past three months alone, Christian has run in five marathons, including the esteemed Boston Marathon in April.

In May he participated in the Moses Christian Marathon put on by Charlie Alewine, who owns a business organizing legal marathons and created the event especially for Christian. Also in May, Christian ran in the OC Marathon, which he has been participating in every year since it started, and the Pasadena Marathon. His most recent marathon took place on June 4, when Christian ran in the Rock N Roll San Diego Marathon in San Diego, California. His next marathon will take place in July in San Francisco.

Christian started running in 1993 at the age of 61 after his cousin convinced him to take up the sport.

After training for this first marathon which took place the same year, Christian received a piece of devastating news: he had prostate cancer.

Despite the diagnosis, Christian was determined still to take part in the event, and he continued on with the marathon while battling cancer.

His medical condition improved, and Christian credits his progress with the holistic attitude he took to aid in his healing and God's guidance. The treatment called for a natural approach to his diet and lifestyle that would ultimately boost his immune system. Christian steadily believes this his active lifestyle and his strong faith have assisted tremendously in battling his diagnosis. "He firmly believes in God," Christian's wife, Lena, said. "He's very devout and he believes that his religion, his diet and his running have already turned out to be a blessing," she concluded.

Because he runs so many marathons already, Christian finds that he doesn't need to train rigorously before the event. To keep himself in shape, Christian walks approximately two miles a day, six days a week, his wife said. "Even if he's traveling or in an airport, he gets that exercise," Mrs. Christian stated.
Christian's love for running has earned him recognition in years before. In 2010, Christian ran the Carlsbad Marathon, where he was named as one of the Marathon's "Heroes," defined by the Marathon as an "ordinary (person) doing extraordinary things: from surviving a devastating medical diagnosis, to being an inspiration or champion for others in their community." This year, he was also recognized with an interview in a Boston city publication for his outstanding athletic participation after he ran as a member of the American Medical Athletic Association in the Boston marathon, a race that Christian has run for the past 15 or so years. He is also a member of the Marathon Maniacs, an organization made up of runners who are crazy about running marathons.

Christian isn't the only in his family to run. His younger cousin, also a medical practitioner, used to run before a bad knee forced him to stop, and Christian's son Rajan jogs alongside him in most of the marathons. Christian also garners support from his wife, who registers him for all races and books all his hotels. Before his daughter Brinda married and moved to Virginia, she too showed her support by cheering him on his races. Christian was born in India, where he served as medical missionary with the Seventh-day Adventists Church before immigrating to the United States.

Christian moved to Loma Linda in 1973 with his wife and daughter in order to fulfill his residency as thoracic surgeon. After he finished residency, he opened and started his own surgical practice, and has been working as a full time general surgeon in the area ever since. Before moving to Loma Linda, Christian and his wife lived all around the country, including Tucson, Arizona, Cleveland, Ohio, and Baltimore, Md. He often visits his home country India to perform missionary work.

Despite his age Christian still lives an active, very busy life, splitting his time and between working as a full time surgeon, running and continuing to practice his faith. "When you look at him, he doesn't match that number, 80-0," He still works full time and he's always on the go. The only thing unusual about (his running) is that he's a little older.

When asked what Christian does in his free time his wife laughed, "There is no time". When he does get a moment to himself, Christian likes to garden and spend time with his wife and three grandchildren, Rachel, 8, Sean, 9, and Eric, 10. He hopes to persuade them into running, as well.

"I couldn't count how many people have said they wouldn't even walk in their spare time that he's convinced to run a marathon," Mrs. Christian said. She added with a chuckle, "But he hasn't convinced me yet."

Johnson S. Christian is Dr. Moses Christian's brother, who retired from the North American Division 16 years ago, and even since has been going to Southern Asia Division doing volunteer work in the schools and churches for few months each year.

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