Personal Note: It seems likely that I will be in hospital for some surgery in the near future, so the next issue of the newsletters will likely be delayed. Please pray for successful treatments -- CHT/sr.

I. Passing of Elsie Buck

Elsie Buck passed away on August 21, 2012. She was a longstanding member of the community, an Andrews alum and a former member of the Andrews Board of Trustees. A memorial service will be held at Pioneer Memorial Church on Sunday, Sept. 9, at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Edwin F. and Elsie L. Buck Endowed Scholarship Fund at Andrews University, c/o Mary Nell Rosenboom, Office of Development, Griggs Hall, 8903 US Highway 31, Berrien Springs, MI, 49104-0660 or online at www.andrews.edu/go/give (The Bucks served as teachers at Vincent Hill School.)

II. Spicer College Founders Day

Rajendra Prasad <rajendra.prasad2000@yahoo.com> Sept. 3:

Exactly 70 years ago, the first classes on this campus were conducted on August 28, 1942. And in 2007 this day was declared as "Founders Day", a day of thanksgiving and celebration every year. This will give an opportunity to remember and pay our homage and tribute, not only to all the great pioneers who strove hard to establish this institution and rendered yeomen service towards its growth, but also to our heavenly Father for His special blessings on this esteemed institution and His marvelous leading through the years.

This year, the celebrations started with the Founders Day weekend programmes on August 24. The speaker for the vespers service was Pastor Noble Pilli, Executive Vice President and for the Divine Service was Dr. Justus Devadas, President of the College, both emphasizing God's mysterious leading in establishing this college as the flagship of Adventist higher education in Southern Asia Division. On Sunday, Onam, the harvest festival of thanksgiving by the Malayalam Seminar was well celebrated with speeches, songs, cultural dance and a rich meal of nearly 15 items. In the evening the MA Education Department had a celebration of friendship and fellowship among the faculty and students which culminated in an international Food Festival with nearly 30 different food items prepared by the department faculty and students representing many countries and Indian states.

On Tuesday, August 28, the main celebrations of the Founders Day started with a meeting in the morning with songs and cultural items presented by the students and a fitting message by Dr. R. John, SUD President. The other guests were Pastors Ramesh Jadhav, Jacob Sathe and M. Shadrach from the Maharashtra Conference and East Central India Union respectively, joined by several friends and well-wishers of the college from far and near. During the meeting the first edition of the SPICERIAN for this year was released (the 4-page issue is also available on the college website) after which the college was sung by the students of the music department joined by the rest of the audience.

The people then gathered near the plot earmarked for the long-wished-for Children's Park (the project of Class of 2012) for its ground-breaking ceremony by Pastor R. John. Then they moved to the main library to declare open the newly renovated Reading Hall and then to the newly developed state-of-the-art Play School (the erstwhile College Press) on the south-western corner of the main campus, inaugurated by Pastor R. John. Then the crowd surged to the other campus for the inauguration of the newly built 12-apartment (6 - double and 6 - single bedroom) building next to the Lang Hall near the SASDA block. Many young families and couples were seen wishing and hoping to occupy these attractive flats with all modern facilities, including a separate toilet and bathroom, one day soon.

Then the venue was shifted to the ever progressing higher secondary school. First there was the inauguration of the newly built basketball court by the local corporator and the exciting inaugural game played by 12 school students and watched by about 2000 spectators. This was followed by the symbolic handing over of the bounty (food grains,
toiletries, clothes, etc, donated as usual by every member of the school staff and students, whole-heartedly supported by the parents) to the local St. Crispene Orphanage and Mother Theresa's Homes for the Destitutes and the AIDS Patients in the city. Then it was time for the delicious and sumptuous lunch served for the entire college family, guests and visitors on the premises of the school campus. The day ended with the Founder's Day football tournament played by the students. The Founders Day indeed helps one to meditate on God's special blessings to the institution and to humbly pay our homage to Him for the various facilities He has been providing this institution with year after year, especially as it is gearing up to celebrate the centenary year in 2015. "To God be the glory, great things He hath done"

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III. Spicer Celebration in Adelphi, Maryland
Priscilla Shyam <priscillashyam@SAAA.ORG>
The Southern Asia Adventist Association Welcomes You to Sabbath Forum on "Spicer College's contribution for Church & Community Growth-in light of 100 years of celebrations"
On October 13, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.
At Eglise Baptiste Du Calvaire, 10002 Riggs Road, Adelphi, Maryland 20783
Moderator: Dr. Ron D. Watts, Former Southern Asia Division President Guest of Honor: Dr. Justus Devadas, President, Spicer Memorial College & Division Officers and Union Presidents
Host: Bathini Prasad

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IV. Changing Leadership at Nepal Hospital;
Bhaju Ram Shrestha <bhajupurna@gmail.com> September 3:
After serving five years as a medical director of Scheer Memorial Hospital (SMH), Banepa, Nepal, Elder Lincoln Morikane passed the leadership torch to Mrs. Cathy Jenson to take over the hospital as interim director. On August 25, 2012, there was a special function to say good bye to Lincoln and his best half, Drucila, and to welcome Cathy Jenson flanked by her husband, Pr. Charles Jenson, who is the director of Nepal Field. On this occasion several officers and church leaders of SMH spoke recalling the contribution of Lincoln Morilane, while agreeing that the hospital was going through one of the most tried trying. They hoped that during the tenure of Cathy, the hospital would be able to see the new sun rise. Mr. Ramchandra, Mr. Rakesh Lamichane, Mr. Sunder Thapa, Pr. Abirman Puri, Pr. Kumar Adhikari, Dr. Fernando, the medical director. Mr. Simon Lewis, the ADRA Nepal director expressed their appreciation for the contribution of Lincoln to the hospital and the church. Leaving the admonition from Ecl. 11:13, 14. Mr. Lincoln told the audience to stay close to God and it is not the people but God who will bring everything including secret intention into His judgment. In a tearful good bye, Drucie said heaven was waiting for the faithful ones to meet each other. Accepting the challenge, Cathy said because there were people who loved the church and God's work, the hospital exists, and hopes that the same commitment to the hospital and the church would be seen in her tenure. Pr. Jenson made an appeal to pray for the hospital, church and the Nepal Field. In closing, Anil and his group sang "Side by side we stand."

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V. Remembering Ralph Juriansz & the Whole Juriansz Family
Merlyn Fernando <merlynfernando@yahoo.com> August 30:
Hearing of the news of Ralph Juriansz was news that we did not expect and was sorry to hear. Ralph was teacher in Sri Lanka at our boarding school at the turn of the 4th and 5th decades in the 1900s. His brother Eric was principal when we attended. His brother Alan, his brother was with my twin brother and me during those years as was his sister Claribel. We knew most all in that large family in those years. They lived a biking distance away from us. Another brother, Brian, and wife Daphne were in the 'tabernacle' where we worshipped as early teenagers. Brother Eric married Daphne's sister, Joyce. This family made up a strong chapter in Sri Lanka church history. Sister Christobel's husband joined the literature ministry after he united with the church. Two older brothers worked in the Central Union Mission in India.

Terrence Davin, both your sisters, Myrtle and Barbara, were with us twins during our second year at Vincent Hill School and we finished together with Senior Cambridge. Our first year was in Junior College with you, Terrence. Those were eventful years for us, as far as education went as prior to this we had very limited boarding school experience and totally different ethnic groups of students.
When we joined premed studies in Poona from '53 June to '55 April, Myrtle was working at the Division office. We communicated with both of your sisters after they joined nursing studies at Sydney and remember how tired they were after a week of work that they couldn't physically handle Sabbath worship except to sleep and rest up!

During our Poona years, we often met up with you and others from VHS at Spicer, especially on weekends. Myrtle married Ralph.

In 1999 we met almost all the Juriansz family in Canada then, at Astrid’s, and met Myrtle and Ralph, Brian, Eric and wife, Christobel and husband. My father, Pastor R. F. Fernando, was with us in his 89th year.

Ralph was about to come to Sri Lanka with a team of students to spend a summer ministering to our home church in Sri Lanka and the Mission College not far from the home church, which Brian ministered to, at its formation and dedication in the early '50s. Unfavourable political conditions likely denied that.

Alan served FED as one of four Sri Lankan doctors, including Eric Moser in SSD and between us twins in SSD, FED and SUD divisions. Since those years three other Sri Lankan Adventists have served at the Adventist hospital in Sri Lanka as doctors.

VI. History of Adventism in Pakistan

Written by then Union president, Younis Noor Bhatti, when Pakistan became a part of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division, in the Outlook magazine:

"We thank God for His blessings and care for the church work in Pakistan. There are many challenges but at the same time, there are many blessings. We now have many opportunities to hold evangelistic meetings in different cities. Most of the population lives in village areas but there are a large number of big cities like Karachi, Lahore, Faisalabad, Hyderabad, Gujranwala, Quetta, and Peshawar where our church work is growing.

"Pakistan is considered a developing country. The man sources of income are agriculture and industries. Our people are very hardworking and hospitable.

"Pakistan Union consists of two Sections, North and South. Within these sections, we have 13 schools and one college, Pakistan Adventist Seminary and College. We are also blessed to have a dental clinic, Karachi Adventist Hospital and an ADRA office. Currently our church membership is about 15,000.

"We do have freedom of worship so our members are able to worship together on Sabbaths, and we are allowed to conduct evangelism in the Christian communities. In previous years our church membership growth has been about 20% annually with much of it happening in the cities. In the future, we plan to hold more evangelistic meetings and grow as a strong, developed church in large cities like Karachi and Lahore.

"We are grateful for the support of our previous division, the Trans-European Division (TED), This support has enabled us to renovate churches and houses for our pastors.

"We are excited about the privilege of joining the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD). We hope many things will take place with new ideals and views. SSD is very positive in its plans and aims for Pakistan, and we are hopeful about the future church work. We were blessed and encouraged by the February 29 to March 3, 2012 visits by Treasurer Sergie Ferrer, Secretary Saw Samuel, and Associate Treasurer/Associate Secretary Kevin K. Costello. We believe our church will grow stronger and develop under the SSD leadership."

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"Pakistan Union of Seventh-day Adventists "Church Information, History, Challenges and Opportunities

"STATISTICS:
Churches 122
Companies 187
Baptized Church Members 14,225
Ordained Ministers 32
Total Employees 897
Institutions 4

"HISTORY:
"In 1901, colporteurs visited the area now called Pakistan, among the first of which was Anna Knight, an African-American missionary. In 1913 A. Wellman met an independent Christian minister S. Samuel from Gujranwala.
After accepting the Adventist faith, Pastor Samuel invited the Seventh-day Adventists to open the work in Punjab. Leaders traveled to the province of Punjab, and interests were developed through these visits.
"In 1914 F. H. Loasby and Mann began an itinerate outreach and medical work in the villages west of Lahore. At night, the missionaries slept under their ox cart to protect themselves and the oxen from thieves. In 1916 Mann purchased 10 acres of land in Chuharkana [now Farooqabad], about 35 miles west of Lahore for a medical training center, where men could be trained to operate village dispensaries. Pakistan Adventist Seminary and College were [later] established at the same place.

"Some 12 young men were trained to do evangelistic work in village areas. Six were sent out as village workers. Sabbath Schools and companies were formed in surrounding villages. in 1917 the first baptisms took place in the Punjab. In the same year additional land was purchased at Chichoki Mallian for a new station of medical work.

"In 1921 or 1922 the medical training center which was operated as a hospital in Chuharkana was discontinued and its building was converted into a school for boys. In 1929 a school for girls was opened at Chichoki Mallian.

"In 1947 a small clinic was opened in Karachi by a woman physician, G. Joy Ubbink, which by the end of 1951 had developed into the Karachi Seventh-day Adventist Hospital. Later the name was changed to Karachi Adventist Hospital. From the beginning, it was a modern 72-bed hospital, which later expanded to 120 beds, with a School of Nursing as well. Today it is a well-known hospital in Karachi. It serves the Muslim and Christian communities alike; they also have a charity clinic for poor and needy.

"Outreach work in English was conducted in Pakistan by several men. Later English churches were established in Rawalpindi, Lahore and Karachi.

"In November 1972, the Pakistan Union was re-organized with the administration of two of its largest institutions taken over by the Southern Asia Division. The institutions were Karachi Adventist Hospital and Pakistan Adventist Seminary.

"In 1974 the ministerial training institute began in Lahore. The school was to train young men to work in the villages. Outreach efforts in the 1960s and the early 1970s expanded the growth of the work in the interior of Sind. Churches were organized in Mirpurkhas, Hyderabad and Sukkur. A new church building was built in Multan.

"In 1973 the Union administration began to build a Publishing House in Pakistan that would print material in the vernacular languages and English. The Qasad Publishing House was completed in 1974.

"After 1974, the focus went form expansion to maintenance. In the 1990s the outreach focus shifted and moved to the big cities with large outreach meetings and a need for follow-up work to be done in the cities."

"CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

"Pakistan is Muslim country where 97% belong to the Islamic faith. Reaching various groups is a big challenge, as converting people carries the death penalty. Christians are given freedom to build churches, give Bible studies, and even arrange for evangelistic meetings for Christians and other religious, as long as no attempts are made to reach Muslims. Despite these challenges, there are people who want to study the Bible. The challenge is to find a way of meeting this need. Perhaps one of the best ways to accomplish this is to develop lessons through the Voice of Prophecy Correspondence School and through the specialized training for pastors in how to reach out to all people groups.

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