I. Merle & Betty Fernando Celebrate 50th Anniversary
   Merlyn Fernando <merlynfernando@yahoo.com> October 6:
   Merle was in his final year of medicine and Betty had just finished her senior house residency. We were both at Vellore. One year later, during Merle's residency, Betty made it known that this was her choice of a man! Other suitors and parents' picks had been turned down with various hard to debate reasons, and now it was her father's turn to turn Merle down.

   All through Merle's senior residency, Betty rose to Registrar, and pursued what she saw in Merle in her own quiet ways, beginning with chocolates!

   At the end of that calendar year, Merle was assigned to Pakistan. In the three months awaiting approval via Delhi, Betty and Merle decided it was for sure. Six months after going to Karachi, with no emails, no sms, no cell phones, no satellite links, we had had enough of letters which took two weeks to return with answers, we set our own date, our own budget, our own travel links and Merle came to Bezwada and embraced Betty in a small wedding at Merle's uncle's [Loretta Rao's father] church and fifty years of wedded life began.

   We celebrated 50 years, Sept. 26! All three of our children and their spouses came with us to Vellore where it all began two years earlier than 50. We walked over our footsteps, and went places in Bangalore, Madras and Kandy, where Betty's relatives are. They were limited by age and doctors, so we went to where they were. Have been cutting cake and celebrating for the past three weeks. The last was here in Kandy with our group of community and home care givers and team mates on Wed this week!

   Just moments ago Rosemarie and Altorro took off from Hong Kong for their return to the USA. We are in Kandy, helping Nigel to sort his stuff and he returns to the US on Wed. next. Lovella and the girls will go in Dec. when he returns to take them there. They have been approved for entry as residents. We will return to HK a week after for another while.

II. Death of Clarence Henry Goertzen
   Nathan Tidwell <nathantidwell@yahoo.com> October 9:
   Grandpa Clarence Goertzen passed away [at his resthome on Canada] on Monday, October 8. At 1:20 pm he peacefully breathed his last. At his side were Aunt Lois, Uncle Jason and his wife [Lila]. It was a beautiful Fall day, and it was Canadian Thanksgiving Day. He was a gentle man, and one of God's committed soldiers. His life made a difference for so many all around the world. Many people have many happy memories of him.

   [Clarence and his first wife, Alice, were missionaries in Sri Lanka and in Sarawak. They had 3 daughters, Lila, Lois, and Treva; the oldest two attended Vincent Hill School in India where our son Dennis and their daughter Lila began a life-
long romance. Alice passed away several years ago and Clarence some time later married a friend from his and Alice's youth, a Lila after whom Clarence and Alice had named their eldest daughter.

Clarence and I were "co-grandparents," for our son Dennis married his daughter Lila who had two sons, both "co-grandchildren" of Clarence & Alice and Evelyn & me.--CHT/sr.] ~~~~~~~~~~~ III. Letters

1. Hazel Benwell <hazelbenwell@gmail.com> October 4:
   Did you know that Weldon Mattison became 90 today, October 4! He lives in a nursing home now: Rest Haven Care Home, 11530 Orange Grove, Loma Linda, CA 92354. Congratulations Weldon! Best Wishes!
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2. Johnson Choppala <johnsonchoppala@usa.net> October 5:
   It is an achievement worth noting that Pastor M. J. Prakasam, president, Lowry Adventist College, has successfully defended his doctoral dissertation. Heartly congratulations to Dr. Prakasam. He is a brilliant educator and administrator and his leadership will continue to be outstanding. We are very proud of him. Blessings to his family.
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IV. C. D. Matthew Honored at His Retirement

Rajaratnam Jones <rajaratnamjones@gmail.com> October 4:
   Pastor C. D. Matthew, who began his denominational work as a Hindi teacher and continued to serve in various capacities for 44 years, retired on September 30, 2012. He was working as the Associate Secretary for the Southern Asia Division and Secretary for the SERVSDA at the time of his retirement. A grand farewell was given to him on the 3rd of October, 2012 in the division office. We wish him God’s richest blessings as he finishes his active services in the organization. He said that he will continue to serve the Lord and be a support to the church. He plans to settle in Vellore to spend his retired life. During his tenure he has also served as School Principal, Secretary of the Union and Section President. The same day Pastor Rajaratnam Jones was elected to his post and was inducted by Dr. Gordon Christo, Division Secretary, Pr. L. C. Colney, Vice President of the Division and Pr. Selvin Moorthy, Under-treasurer of the Division.
   Please continue to uphold this great Division and its ministries in your prayers.
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V. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 4

Mervin Myat Kyaw <mervinmk@yahoo.com.au> and his wife Nan are Karen Adventists who worked many years in Burma and Thailand and now live and work in Australia–Mervin as School Services Officer 1 (SSO-1) in a primary school and Nan as a full-time lay minister in the Werribee Karen Church, appointed by the Victorian Conference of SDA. He has written a manuscript covering Adventism in Burma from its very beginning to the present and of his work in Thailand. He has kindly given me a copy and permission to share portions of it with readers of our FED and SUD newsletters.

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(4) Robert B. Thurber (1909-15) Educator/principal

Robert Bruce Thurber arrived in Myanmar at Meiktila Technical School at the end of the year 1909. This came from the appeal of H. H. Votaw to the General Conference for an education man for Myanmar. Robert B. Thurber and Pastor H. H. Votaw struggled to build the school amidst much opposition.

Pastor Thurber was very successful in implementing Meiktila Technical School. For many decades the graduates of this school served as leaders in the many departments of the church.

The first superintendent of the Burma Union was Pastor H. H. Votaw who served until 1914. Pastor R. B. Thurber took over but had to leave for America in December, 1915, when Mrs. Thurber started to develop failing health.

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VI. Should SUD Become a Part of the South Asia-Pacific Division?

John M. Fowler <FowlerJ@gc.adventist.org> October 3:

Pastor Christo in his letter (9/21/12) provides a brilliant analysis of the shrinking of the glorious days of Southern Asia Division when it was made up of Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, Bangladesh and various unions of India into practically a one-country division with the appendages of Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives (read, no work there). Of course, Pastor Christo is well qualified to write on the subject, as he is the author of the new SUD without Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Burma, and he spells out the political, economic, and financial constrictions that led to the change. But now suddenly Pastor Christo raises the question: should SSD and SUD merge into one Division? The reasons he offers for such a possible merger are rather complex and mind-boggling: "Does a predominately one-nation multi-language Division inhibit her members developing into a mature body of Christ where regionalism diminishes church unity? When will we consider ourselves as being Christians rather members of ethnic and language entities? Will unity within a
country speaking many languages result when countries join a larger group of nations. I believe SUD and SSD would benefit by such a merger.

While I agree with his appeal to working together as Christians rather than as "members of ethnic and language entities," I do not think the problem of a dysfunctional organization at any level can be solved by mergers. If only the spirit of working together as a unity that marks SSD (and I know that Division and its various countries well) spills into SUD, and if only SUD puts the advancement of the cause over and above the advancement of personal power and position, perhaps we will see a different picture in SUD even now, and we will not need a parallel leadership from the GC advising the SUD leadership. Meanwhile, how wonderful it will be that if a leadership team chosen/elected at any level—from conference to the Division, from elementary to collegiate centers—is allowed to do its work during its term without criticism and disturbance but with lots of prayer and cooperation. Then and therefore, we need not think of a merger with another Division, but full and unreserved merger with the body of Christ, reaping the fruits of true growth and development under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. -- John Fowler, Editor, DIALOGUE ~~~~~~~~~ VII. News Update from the Nepal Field

Kapil Baniya <kapilrajani@yahoo.com> October 4:

We are so thrilled to share some of the wonderful news of our Nepal field. We have successfully registered our Adventist Church with the Nepal government as a social religious organization. When we got the affiliation with the Social Welfare Council, our organization is mentioned as a Christian organization. Our legal body name is Seventh-day Adventist Nepal with the logo of our world wide church. This organization is registered under NGO act.

Secondly we have registered another non-profit company under the Company Act with the same name and the logo. The name of the company is Seventh-day Adventists Nepal, Pvt, Ltd, which can be a back up in the time of need and trouble whenever the church and SUD decides to use it. We have successfully registered the Seventh-day Adventist school up to Grade V. At this moment we don't have any Adventist schools in this country and our church children need Adventist education very badly; so now we are in the position to move forward to start the first Adventist school from April, 2013. Please kindly remember us in our prayer. This is our step in faith; we don't have an resources right now, but we know our Lord is the source of all resources. We are not perfect but we trust the perfect Lord who knows our need.

Recently Seventh-day Adventists Nepal did the first social work as a social organization at Pokhara Hemja, Western Nepal. Due to some difficulties we have had a hard time to move forward with the gospel work at west Nepal and the church is struggling due to some reasons at this part, so we have reorganized to enlighten the gospel work with the help of social work with a dental camp for 5 days, Sept. 29 - Oct. 3. This camp was made able by our Adventist dental team from Korea and with the help of local club Bishnupaduki at Hemja, a very beautiful place 10 km from Pokhara. Almost 450 people were benefited, and free medicines, worth of $12000 were distributed.

As a social body we have to do 40% social work, so if any medical professionals are interested to conduct the health camps at the remote villages of Nepal, please kindly contact us; with your help at such camps we can help the poor people and we can spread the gospel in unentered area. The doors are open here for the gospel but who knows when it may close because Nepal is in such a critical situation and so many groups are demanding to make Nepal a Hindu country. We have touched only 20 districts out of 75 and we are praying to establish at least one fellowship in all 75 districts. We would like to request you all to pray and join the hands with us so all the Nepalese would be able to receive the remnant message.

Recently Nepal field's ADCom has decided to reopen the VOP Bible school; we were operating the VOP but it was closed for several years so we are on the process of making other arrangements and preparing the lessons.

This is my humble request to you all for your support and prayers for this field where there is so much need and more to do. -- Kapil Baniya, Treasurer ~~~~~~~~~ VIII. Pray for Paul Davy

Rose Muthiah Davy <davyp@bellsouth.net> October 5:

I am again in tears. Last year my husband was diagnosed with cancer [multiple myeloma] and had the strength to go through a bone marrow transplant. He was recuperating but recently found out that some areas are getting worse. He will be having some radiation soon. We are trying to do the best we can with all the good things God has given us. We are praying for God's will to be done. I have learnt over the years, never to give up.

Many are praying all over the world. This gives us hope and comfort. I pray for everyone as God has given us this special thing called prayer and I have seen for myself that there is truly POWER in prayer. Now we have left my husband in the BEST hands. He is in the care of our loving Heavenly Father and He has promised in His Holy Word that He will never leave us nor forsake us. I know that you will pray for us as we start another long journey. The road may be rough but our Saviour will carry us through. Thanks for caring and praying. If you don't hear from me for a while please keep sending
me messages and I will try to reply as time permits. I have been reading the newsletters and am very encouraged with the good news and accomplishments of different ones and the work progress in some places. I do want to help when I get the chance to do so. May God be with each one of you.

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IX. Academic Achievements of Scholars in India

Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> October 7:

**Immanuel Paul Durairaj Earns PhD in History

The latest addition to the list of doctoral degree-holders at Spicer College is Dr. Immanuel Paul Durairaj, eldest son of Pastor P. Durairaj. Dr. Durairaj was awarded the PhD degree in History from Nehru Gram Bharati University, Allahabad, a deemed to be University approved by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India, on August 10, 2012 for his thesis entitled "An Analysis of Resurgence of Religious Education in Post-Independence India and its Impact on Religion with Special Reference to Instruction and Information". Dr. Durairaj, an Assistant Professor in Theology here holds a BLA degree in Religious Philosophy from Spicer, an MA in Politics from Tilak Maharashtra Vidhyapeeth, and an MA in Religion from Andrews University and teaches courses mainly in Applied Theology and World Religions at the undergraduate level. He also holds the additional post of Director of Recruitment and Placements besides being involved in many other activities thanks to his multifarious gifts and talents. He is a talented singer, orator and organizer and a hot choice as a master of ceremonies and a commentator in any social or sports event. He is married to another vibrant young woman, Dr. Nanibala Paul, Dean of Women and Dean, School of Education, at Spicer and the couple is blessed with a daughter Nabila (in XI Std) and a son Nathaniel (in Nursery class). Spicer College congratulates Dr. Immanuel Paul Durairaj on his latest achievement and hopes his service here will continue to be a greater blessing to all who come in contact with him.

**Sheela Chacko Approved to Guide PhD Students in Education

Manav Bharti University, Solan, Himachal Pradesh, has approved Dr. Sheela Chacko in their letter dated January 10, 2010, for providing guideship to students of PhD in Education from Manav Bharti University.

While congratulating Dr. Chacko on this achievement, we encourage all Adventist aspirants wishing to do their doctoral studies in Education to exploit this opportunity to fulfill their dream through Dr. Chacko's guidance.

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