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I. Spicer College Alumni Enjoy Barakhkhana in Silver Spring

On Sunday evening, October 14, President Dr. Justus Devadas, at the Southern Asian Adventist Church in Silver Spring Maryland, welcomed the large fellowship hall full of Spicer alumni, former faculty and staff, and friends to a bara khana and entertainment program. Ramesh Thamby led out as Master of Ceremony. Following the congregational singing of Spicer's college song, Dr. Devadas gave a report of the progress and future plans for Spicer College, with stress on the Centennial Celebration planned for 2015. Of great interest are the plans for a new building on campus by the celebration year, the 5-storey College of Management building.

The evening's entertainment program included several dance items: the ladies' Peacock dance, the Mizos' Bamboo dance, and the Panjabi's Bhangra dance. The graduates of the '80's acted out Alfred Noyes "The Highwayman."

There were even two Hindi songs, sung by Deva Prasad Kokila and Nalina Bekkam. But the item that really brought the house down was Sunder and Evangeline Moses' humorous skit of "Dr." Moses and his patient's extraordinary heart thumps.

And of course, the Bara Khana was Indian cuisine at its finest.

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II. Remembering Clarence Henry Goertzen

Robert & Treva Burgess <bobtreva48@yahoo.com> October 10:
Thanks for keeping us up date on happenings in both SUD and FED. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Clarence Goertzen. He was a dear friend with whom we worked in Sri Lanka many years ago. It was my privilege to start the first Pathfinder Club in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), and Clarence and Alice helped greatly and were very supportive. He will be missed!

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III. Letters
   1. John McGhee <johnkmcghee@yahoo.com> October 10:
      I just want to wish Merle and Betty Fernando the warmest CONGRATULATIONS as they are celebrating 50 years of love, devotion, faithfulness, forgiveness, and commitment! Denise and I are honored to count you among our friends. Your example as dedicated medical missionaries is incomparable.
      Thank you for sharing just a glimmer of your love story. Be blessed, dear friends.

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   2. Honoring Dr. M. J. Prakasam
      Baxter Kharbteng <khar_btg@yahoo.com> October 10:
      It is with pure delight that I take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. M. J. Prakasam, President, Lowry Adventist College, for earning your doctorate!! What a wonderful news. Such an accomplishment belongs only to a few selected people amidst a sea of humanity. We praise God for your ministry to the
college and for all your contribution to the work of educating our Adventist youths and providing them a hope and a future.
Dr. Baxter Kharbteng, Assoc. Prof.
Systematic Theology
University of the Southern Caribbean
Trinidad, West Indies

IV. Sabbath School Lessons in Southern Asia Languages
Falvo Fowler <FowlerF@gc.adventist.org> October 9:
I read the vignettes about Burma. For those who read Sgaw or Burmese, we have Sabbath School lessons available for download at <http://bit.ly/lCDxpT> that link will also provide you Nepali and Tamil PDFs. The Burmese lessons are provided by the church in Myanmar, the Nepali by Brother Bhaju Ram Shrestha in Nepal, and the Tamil lessons by Brother Marshal Isaac in Chennai; these are voluntarily provided to, and appreciated by, the General Conference. We’re hoping other languages can be provided so expats everywhere can access Bible Study Guides in their own languages. And with the new Sabbath School app (coming out soon), we may even be able to add these languages (to the current roster of English, French, Spanish, Danish, Hungarian) if the Division so chooses.

V. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 5
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.

(5) Ollie Oberholtzer (1907-32 )
Dr. Ollie Oberholtzer arrived in Myanmar from America on February 7, 1907. She was a medical doctor. Heber H. Votaw, the first mission president in Myanmar was so happy she arrived. She opened a clinic at Mawlamyine (Moulmein). She gave Bible studies and soon raised up a small company of believers. Pr. Votaw introduced Dr. Ollie to David Po Hla who later became the first ordained Burmese Seventh-day Adventist minister. Dr. Oberholtzer usually worked among English-speaking persons as she did on her medical ministry and in giving Bible studies. At Mawlamyine she lived at 15 Tanintaryi Road.
Dr. Ollie married Mr. Tornbladan Seventh-day Adventist businessman in 1910, He came from Sweden and he was an engineer. Together they witnessed for a time as lay workers. Mr. Tornbladan had a farm at Heho, a town in the Shan States in Northeast Myanmar. It was not known how he fared in his work, as Dr. Ollie kept working with her medical ministry. However he died after a few years, and Dr. Ollie was again employed by the mission. She did some medical work in Mawlamyine and Yangon and Pyin-Oo-Lwin as a Bible instructor and soul winner. She served in 1928-29 at Myanmar Aayarwaddi Mission. She worked as a doctor at Brightlands Nursing Home. This nursing home was built in the land owned by the Adventist mission and Brightlands was the name given by Dr. Oberholtzer-Tornbladan herself. She was a valuable pioneer in Myanmar. She returned to America in 1932 after serving in Myanmar for 25 years.

VI. Should SUD Become a Part of the South Asia-Pacific Division?
Gordon Christo <drongo.ostrich@gmail.com> October 10:
The territory of the Southern Asia Division has changed over the years.
If you look at the maps at the back of past Sabbath School quarterlies you will note that the Southern Asia Division once included Afghanistan (1950s) and Tibet (1960s) besides Pakistan/Bangladesh, Burma, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives. Is it time for a realignment?
I have had informal discussions with several people at the General Conference about this in the last few days. Many do feel the need for it as Pastor G. J. Christo expressed, but they don’t see an easy solution. India cannot easily host the potential headquarters for a multi-nation division.
Resident visas for workers from other countries would be a challenge, and the flow of funds through India to other countries would continue to be difficult. South Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) which has accepted Pakistan recently and which earlier had accepted Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar from us, is bursting at the seams. They complain about
the complications of visiting far-away lands. (They could give Indonesia and some other Islands to the South Pacific Division, but mostly, SSD does not enjoy our local politics.) Recently in one of our neighboring countries a group of about 500 members protested violently (physically) against the election of certain Adventist leaders. The SSD leaders asked us at the GC annual council to pray for that section yesterday. This is the kind of reputation we in Southern Asia have. They often ask me if we can take these countries back. SSD will not want us.

Dr. Fowler has hit the nail on the head. He has had the opportunity to see the church functioning in other divisions and his observations are spot on. Our leaders and members need a change of heart more than a change of boundaries.

VII. Edison Samraj Featured Speaker at International Conference

Adventist Media Centre <amc3@vsnl.com> November 16:

It was my good fortune that I had a unique distinction of being invited as a speaker for the U3A International Conference held in Pune on October 13 to 15, 2012. The delegates were from over 50 countries and all over India. The theme was integration of values in education and technology and the topic assigned to me was the role of information, communication and technology in the 21st century. My presentation was for 45 minutes based upon basic principles that govern communication and technology. I expressed thoughts based upon Scriptural ideas to the secular audience and to my amazement, they were very enthusiastic about the reception of these ideas and the source of my research. It was a very unique platform for witnessing about the importance of information, integration, communion and communication. The chairperson was Mr. K. P. Daswani and the chairman for the organizing committee. The co-chairman was the vice chancellor of Dr. D. Y. Patil University, Dr. P. N. Rajdhan. It was a very interesting exercise for each delegate to be indulged in the broad parameters of our modern world in relation to technology. I am looking forward to following up with some of those who were very much impressed by the content. They have in fact requested me to meet with them in their respective institutions in the next few months. Kindly pray for these initiatives that we are taking in transforming the world through the Word.

-Dr. Edison Samraj, Director, Adventist Media Centre ~~~~~~~~~~ VIII. Mt. Zion Colleges Reach Out in Witnessing

Florence Jayabarathan <florencenaija@gmail.com> October 11:

Students of Mount Zion College of Engineering and Technology and Mount Zion College of Nursing [in Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu, a distance of 50 km from the city of Trichy, 110 km from the city of Madurai] enjoy their missionary activities every Sabbath afternoon. Around forty of them leave the college campus at 2:00 pm and branch out to various institutions to share their love for Jesus. One group conducts a branch Sabbath School in the Matric. School campus for the neighborhood children. One group consisting only of boys go to the Juvenile prison. Another group of students go to the Hearing Impaired School. Yet one more group visits the DERMA Home for the aged. The fifth group visits the inmates of the School for the Blind.

The young people love the ministry they are doing. We all meet together and sing that beautiful song I learnt from Pr. McHenry, "The Youth of the World, For the Man of Galilee", pray and then we get into different vehicles and leave for our places of ministry. By 4:30 pm we meet together again in the Matric School campus, where our home is, for a brief witness session and sundown worship after which all of them leave for their respective hostels in the college campus.

There are many non-Adventist students who join hands with the Adventist students in this ministry. The joy they bring to these needy people is untold. The prison inmates have learnt a lot of Bible verses, the 10 Commandments, and have learnt to sing a number of songs praising God. We have arranged for P. E. teachers to teach them to play net games as the prison has not appointed PETs. Every Sabbath the students take a biscuit packet for each of the prison boys. On October 2, Jail Day, a De-addiction Program was conducted by our Missionary Band both for the remand prisoners and the juvenile prisoners. The jail deputy warden could not believe the response from the prisoners as many broke down and promised that they would have a new beginning when they are released from the prison. A few even committed themselves to become messengers of temperance as most of the crimes were committed under the influence of alcohol.

The students who go to the Hearing Impaired School seem to be picking up sign language to get connected with those students. They put up skits and teach them some craft and help them with painting, etc. They also sing to them with lip movement.

The inmates of the Home for the Aged shed tears when our students hug them. They have not had anyone hug them in the recent past. They enjoy the girls singing about the love of Jesus and they too join them in singing.
They invite them to "pray to Jesus"! Each Sabbath they wait for the visit of our students. Sabbath is a Day of Delight for us here at Mount Zion.

The needs are many in the above places we visit. The Home for the Aged requires an inverter as they do not have electricity for many hours in the night. They find it difficult to move in the night without light. The Hearing Impaired School is asking us to arrange for a doctor to visit the students once a week and give medicines for the sick children. The funds they receive from the government is meager. The juvenile prison boys wanted sports uniforms to play with our school Matric School Team on Independence Day. What joy was written on their faces when they wore the sports uniform and lined up, ready to play. By God's grace we are providing all that we could to bring sunshine in the hearts of these inmates.

When the good Lord returns to this planet earth to take us home, I am sure He will smile at our students and say, "I was in prison and you came to visit Me." What a blessed privilege it would be! Since November 2011, we have a caring pastor appointed to our church after a break of many years. He and his wife are a great support as they come out each Sabbath with the students. Please remember us in your prayers. If you happened to pass by Pudukkottai, we invite you to stop by here for the Sabbath and encourage us and our young people.

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