From: charles tidwell <charles.h.tidwell@gte.net>
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Subject: [Spam:****** SpamScore] SUD e-News, November 7, 2012 #46

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I. L. D. Paul Celebrates 90th

Aruna Moses <arunamoses@yahoo.com> Oct. 31

The grand 90th birthday celebration of Pastor L. D. Paul on October 10, 2012 in Jaipur was marked by festivities and well-wishes pouring in from home and abroad.

Pastor Paul has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for more than 40 years in various capacities. With his vision and Christian leadership the Church progressed tremendously in the past and reaps its benefit today. He always thought differently and always stood tall in the crowd. A leader with total commitment and hard work always lived a simple and disciplined life. Pastor Paul always held the Christian values which became a part of his character. When asked about his longevity and good health he always refers to the phrase, "Daily commit yourself to God".

Pastor L. D. Paul's birthday celebration was attended by his family members, eldest son Roxwell Paul, daughter Aruna Moses along with her husband Rollakanti Moses from Maryland, USA, and other extended members of the family. The Jaipur church joined the function, which began with praise and worship by the Jaipur Bible Seminary students.

Well dressed Pastor Paul appeared cheerful as he cut the cake on his 90th birthday. May the Lord continue to bless him with good health and always be a source of inspiration.

II. Southern Asians to Meet in Loma Linda

Doris Kore <drskore@aol.com> November 1:

Friends of Southern Asia Adventist Fellowship (FSAAF) will be meeting on Sabbath, November 10, 2012 at the Chan Auditorium, Loma Linda Academy, Loma Linda, CA at 10:00 AM followed by a potluck.

**Featured speaker: Edwin Dass, former principal of Roorkee High School.

**Sabbath School Lesson Study by Selvaraj Vedamony.

**Special Music by "On Fire for Jesus Children's Choir" directed by Obed Asif

All are welcome.

III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 8

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. He has written a manuscript covering Adventism in Burma from its very beginning to the present and of his work in Thailand.

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(8). Robert A. Beckner (1908-41)

Robert A. Beckner arrived in Myanmar from America in October, 1908. He came alone but he went on a short vacation at Mussoorie, India, and there he met Mabelle McMoran and they were married on November 10, 1910. Robert and Mabelle Beckner did valiant pioneer work in Burma, he as evangelist, colporteur, personal worker, writer and translator, and she with her skill as a nurse. Robert Beckner was the first missionary to become efficient in the use of the Burmese language. Mrs. Beckner however worked beyond her strength and endurance that she became ill and they returned to America where she died on June 16, 1923.

Robert Beckner returned to Myanmar in 1924 with a new wife, Ethel May Beckner, who was also a nurse. Together they worked in Myanmar many years until they left for America in January, 1941.
R. A. Beckner had served as principal of Meiktila school from May 1925 to September 1928. He worked for Myanmar all his life and is well remembered as an editor, publisher, educator and evangelist. Pastor Beckner died shortly after their return to America, truly a life of service for the Myanmar he loved so much.

IV. Life Sketch of Hazel Matheson

Hazel Esther (Kay) Matheson passed away peacefully, surrounded by some of her children, in the Hospice House in Vernon B.C. Canada on October 2, 2012, eight weeks shy of her 92nd birthday. Her husband Warren predeceased her in December 1992.

Hazel Kay was born on November 27, 1920 near Clive, Alberta, Canada. She grew up with 3 older brothers and 1 younger brother in the Clive and then the Stettler area of Alberta. She decided when 13 or 14 that she wanted to be a nurse and pursued that goal by taking pre-nursing at Canadian Junior College in Lacombe, Alberta. In 1945 she received her Diploma in Nursing at Portland Sanitarium and Hospital in Portland, Oregon. Then she graduated from Walla Walla College with her B.S. in 1947.

On August 27, 1947 she married Warren Matheson. Warren and Hazel moved to Southern California in 1949 for Warren to finish his college education at LaSierra College. From then until 1959, they lived and worked in Southern California and Texas. When they moved back to Canada in 1959 they had four children: Murray, Lester, Margaret and Douglas.

Warren was principal at Okanagan Academy in Kelowna, B.C. from 1959-1964. In 1964 their fifth child Gerry was born. That year Warren also enthusiastically asked his wife and family "How would you like to live in India?!

Hazel was initially a little hesitant to go with 4 children plus a 3½ month old baby, but early in June they boarded the freighter "Java Mail". Hazel penned a letter to her parents in which she shared "Well, we are aboard our ship. We are exhausted. The staterooms look like they'll be comfortable enough, but the boat is a rusty tub!" They sailed on June 5 and that boat became home until they arrived in Calcutta, India and cleared their cabin baggage through Customs on July 30, 1964.

Their India years of service and adventure began at Vincent Hill School in Mussoorie where Warren was principal and Hazel the school nurse. Letters sent home share stories of unpacking their crates to find soggy, moldy and damaged items, school events, graduations, talent shows (Lester and friends won a first prize for an around the pretend campfire singing of "Mockingbird Hill"), dorm blackouts during India/Pakistan troubles, school campouts and interesting travel and trips on crowded trains and crowded roads.

In November 1967 Hazel and Warren moved to Raymond Memorial Training School in rural Falakata, Northeast India, where Warren was principal and Hazel school nurse. Letters home shared joys and frustrations, God’s leading, school farming projects and tractor maintenance, stories of monsoon and around-school flooding, some laments of no electricity, no refrigerator and sweltering heat, and of trying to feed the family when the local market only had eggplant and tiny potatoes and a few carrots to buy!

Hazel also ran a very busy front porch clinic for villagers that had to be limited to 2 days a week. Her success at treating vitamin B deficiencies and at treating skin infections and infestations by teaching basic hygiene won her a big following with this group!

Other places Warren and Hazel lived and worked in India included Spicer Memorial College in Poona, and then Bangalore. They furloughed in Walla Walla Washington 1970-71. Then took permanent return to the States in 1975.

In 1977 Warren, Hazel and Gerry moved back to British Columbia, Canada and in 1979 settled in the rural community of Cherryville, east on Hwy 6 out of Vernon. Warren pastored there and Hazel worked part time as an RN. Both kept busy with their church activities and gardening and hobby farm activities.

In 1984 a first grandchild finally arrived! Then in 1985 Hazel received the diagnosis of colon cancer. In December Dr. Hwang resected her transverse colon. That surgery, God’s healing, and a treatment course at Yucchi Pines in Alabama gave Hazel 28 more great years to enjoy her growing extended family, with grandchildren ultimately numbering 10.

Those grandkids loved the summer visits to Grandpa and Grandma's in Cherryville. The big yard and acreage, nearby creek, garden, cousin time and playhouse adventures in the converted goat shed, and a big rice and curry family "bara khana" dinner became a highlight of each summer.

Warren passed away unexpectedly in Dec. 1992, and Hazel continued living in their Cherryville home. While doing yard work the year after Warren died, Hazel lost 2 fingers of her right hand in a lawn mower accident. At first it didn't
seem possible that she would ever be able to play piano again. But in characteristic fashion she did not have her personal pity party, but adapted her playing style and amazed her family by playing again.

In 2010 Hazel fell on her back steps and fractured her left femur. She pulled through that surgery and rehab and made it to a granddaughters wedding and walked down the aisle on a grandsons arm. The next two years were good ones and family members always lived with her. She traveled with Margie to spend winters in the States and back to Cherryville for summer. On August 2012 she fell in her living room at home and fractured the left femur again. This time she gradually declined.

To the last, Hazel found a lot of comfort in her love of music and favorite hymns and songs that she loved to play and have family or friends sing every Friday evening. In the hospital and later in Hospice House she obviously enjoyed the melodies so very much when family would sing at her bedside. What a treat, at the Hospice House, when a volunteer or a nurse would play 'her songs' on the piano and her bed could be wheeled a short distance down the hall to be near the piano.

Family and friends gathered for Hazel's service at the Pleasant Valley Funeral Home in Vernon, B.C. on Saturday afternoon, October 20. Cremation followed and interment will be at a later date in the little Richlands Cemetery in Cherryville where Hazel's name will share her husband's headstone. She rests now until Christ returns and recreates her personal DNA code in amazing health and vigor. Hazel will love again the personal interaction time and especially the singing!

Hazel's children-Murray of California, Lester and wife Leona of Indiana, Margaret Ham and husband John of Nevada, Douglas and wife Micheline of Oregon, and Gerry of Washington state, all cherish the memories made and the adventures and love shared in her lifetime. Her 10 grandchildren hold great memories of Grandma's winter sojourns with them and 27 years of summer visits to Grandma in Cherryville. The family of Josias and Grace Lakra of India, and their daughter Vineeta (Sony) Mullapudi of Alberta also hold Grandma's memory close in their hearts.

Anyone wishing to make a memorial donation in memory of Hazel that will aid in student education costs may choose from a couple options:

1) Warren and Hazel Matheson Christian Service Scholarship with Walla Walla University, Office of University Advancement 204 S, College Avenue, College Place, WA USA 99324. This scholarship is available for college students who have spent a year as a student missionary.

2) To aid student need at Raymond Memorial Training School, Falakata, India any donation would be sent to Hazel's daughter Margaret Ham at Hazel's address 1080 Hwy 6, Lumby, BC Canada V0E 2G3. The funds will be sent directly to assist with student aid that Grace Lakra oversees (no portion goes to administrative costs!) ~~~~~~~~~~V. Comment on Brain Gain & Drain at Spicer

John M. Fowler <FowlerJ@gc.adventist.org> November 1:

Mr. Rajendra Prasad, writing from Spicer, shares both good news and not-so-good news. It is good to know that so many of our teachers and pastors are completing doctoral degrees. This shows a maturing, and knowledge-thirsty work force in SUD, and we need to congratulate each one.

My reactions are restricted to some of Mr. Prasad's concerns:

1. The wages. SUD has one of the poorest wage scales in the world field. Even the church in Bangladesh has a better one, and that may be because its merger with SSD some years ago led them to make some difficult decisions:

   membership audits, strict rules of employment (smaller work force, low or no recruitment for a while, the larger the wages), and other changes made—which were bitter pills to begin with, but are now bearing fruits. But even then Bangladesh workers also face the brain drain distraction. SUD is beginning to work on increasing the wages, but the process is slow. But the question to ask is: From where do we get funds to pay? A century after the church is established, how long should we depend on GC appropriations? How much of tithe is being generated within SUD?

2. The brain drain. Mr. Prasad is right that SUD has produced PhDs and MBBS doctors, and quite a lot of them have self-exported themselves. Mr. Prasad's one solution is something that anyone with a conscience of obligation would fulfill: don't leave the country until you finish the minimum sponsorship obligation which is signed on a bond paper. We can count those out of India who have broken their bonds of commitment and are doing well in their countries of adoption—and that is a lot. Only a few
obey the call of conscience--the rest choose their own way, and the church cannot implement the bond--it is only a paper. The problem is even more complicated: children of leaders are among the ones who break their bond, and how can such leaders implement the bond with others. Mr. Prasad is right that the institutions that employ such personnel should be asked to pay SUD for the investment it has made, but this is only possible if SUD takes the initiative through the GC, and this too is possible only when sponsored persons work in denominational institutions outside of India.

3. Let us not look at the issues too negatively. Most of the persons who have gone out of India have been loyal supporters of the field in India. Not all can of course be like the doctor who studied on his own, came on his own, and has spent his life savings building South Kerala Section, Kottarakara, and Spicer Church, or like the one who built the beautiful new church in Nuzvid, but the mustard seed of generosity has begun to grow to be a giant tree. If SUD treasury does an analysis of tithe, offerings, donation received from abroad from nurses, doctors, teachers who studied in our schools or studied through SUD assistance, the picture could be quite amazing. It is the economic condition of our workers in India that drive them abroad, but amazingly while abroad they and their children remain faithful to their God and loyal to the work in India.

4. So while we salute the toiling in India, let us look ahead and help toward the growth of a more prosperous and faithful church. On any Sabbath, a look on the campus of Hyderabad Church, Bangalore Cunningham Road church, High Street Church, Lowry Church, Spicer church, Nuzvid Church, Madras churches, Pondicherry church, Shillong Church, Salisbury Park Church, the entire Mizoram, and many more—that look will show how many young people, young professionals, cars and vehicles of all types reveal a new growth and awakening. Let us pray for more of these. Church and its institutions will not fail at all. We may fail, but we count nothing. God is over all. He reigns.

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VI. Should SUD Become Part of SSD?
Cecil Marandi <cmarandi123@gmail.com> October 30:
Pastor G. J. Christo, former SUD President, Dr. John Fowler, former Education Department Director of SUD and GC Associate Education department Director and Editor, DIALOGUE, and Dr. Gordon Christo, Secretary of SUD, these three prominent leaders from SUD have written on merger of SUD with SSD.
Former glorious SUD comprised of flung countries like Tibet, Afghanistan and neighboring Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, these countries have become part of other Divisions. Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Sri Lanka are reported to be bursting at seams. Praise God! And I am given to understand that present SUD growth is phenomenal and is one of the fastest growing Divisions in the world. It is heartening to know that now some of our Sections have become self sustaining:
**Mizo Conference of SDA has now extended their mission to Tripura state.
**Meghalaya Conference of SDA
**North Tamil Conference of SDA
**South Tamil Conference of SDA
**Banglore Metro city Conference of SDA
**Gujrat conference of SDA
**West India Central Conference of SDA
There are other units on their way to achieve the conference status. These are good indicators of development and growth of our church in SUD.

It was mentioned that SUD could not house the headquarters due to various reasons. Does it then imply that the headquarters be located outside of SUD? It would not appear logical and acceptable for the Government. And certainly, agencies not favorable to Christianity would find occasion to criticize Christian activities in SUD.

I fully concur with both Dr. John Fowler and Dr. Gordon Christo that our leaders and members need a change of heart and self-merged in Christ. Our sensitivity to the various hurts, a cry of a widow of a pastor or hurt feelings small or big issues, open to sympathetically respond will go a long way in preventing discord and protests. Communication and connectivity with the local churches will be healthy trend.

Whatever changes are made organizationally or realignment of territories, the paramount objective should be of evangelism in unentered territories, development and growth of local churches.

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