I. GC Officers Visit SUD

II. Letters
   1. Gordon Christo
   2. Augusta (Malkanthie) Ballowe

III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries: # 11

IV. Death of Earle Baird

V. Death of Elizabeth Charles

VI. The Bob & Betty Reynolds Story

VII. More on the Brain Drain

VIII. Note About Length and Content of News Items

I. GC Officers Visit SUD

Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> Nov. 17:

Early morning temperatures dipped to 12 C (57 F) as Hosur Seventh-day Adventists met for week-end services in the two Tamil churches, the Jeevan Jyothi English Church, and the Telugu Church. as they looked forward to meeting General Conference visitors who worked along with them in Southern Asia. Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division accompanied by his wife Donna, who worked in the Sri Lanka Union and at Spicer Memorial College; Lowell Cooper, vice president of the General Conference, who worked in Pakistan and in the Division Headquarters in Salisbury Park, and who was largely responsible for putting the finishing touches to the Jeevan Jyothi Campus in Hosur and who later was elected secretary of the Division; Harold Wollen, associate secretary of the General Conference who was president of the Bangladesh Union, were meeting with the Southern Asia Division executives for their year-end committees. Elder Jackson was the speaker at the vesper service at the English church and the Sabbath morning worship service at the main Tamil Church; Elder Wollen took the service at the Ananatha Ashram Tamil Church, and Elder Cooper spoke to the congregation at the Jeevan Jyothi English Church.

T. P. Kurian <tpkurian@sud-adventist.org> November 22:

The Southern Asia Division Executive Committee Yearend Meetings were held from November 19-21 on the Division Campus. The General Conference representatives were L. C. Cooper, GC vice president; Herald Wollen, associate secretary; Daisy Orion, associate treasurer and Dan Jackson, president of the North America Division & his wife, Dona Jackson. Members and representatives from various parts of the Division were present for the meetings. Pre-session began on 14th Nov. with the interview of division officers with leaders of individual unions, colleges and other division units.

The day began with devotion from various leaders: Rakesh Chavan, treasurer, Western India Union on 14th; Daisy Orion, associate treasurer, GC on 15th and Selvmony Yovan, president, South West India Union on the 16th.

Dan Jackson presented a beautiful message based on 1 Peter 2:4 & 5 during the vespers. He encouraged the leaders and church members to be "lively stones to be built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ". L. C.

Cooper challenged the congregation of leaders and members to ponder upon "the purpose of the church" during the divine service. He put forth four significant points to bring out the reason why we exist in the world as a church:

**1. To reveal God to the world
**2. To demonstrate the transforming power of God to change lives **3. To live as a redeemed community that is different from the world **4. To provide healing and reconciling ministry in and around us.

He also charged the leaders with the following admonitions:
**1. To give more attention to quality, and not to quantity **2. To improve trust and confidence as a community **3. To adopt and implement conflict resolutions **4. To engage every member of the church and empower laity **5. To pursue excellence in all aspects of our lives-both personal and professional.

He concluded by stating that the church should be a living witness for the Lord, Jesus Christ.

On 19th morning the committee sessions started with a devotional message from R. John, president, Southern Asia Division. His message was based on Proverbs 11:30, "He that winneth souls is wise". Herald Wollen took the devotion on the second day. He drew the attention of the listeners toward the Almighty God, who makes humanly impossible, the possible. On the final day Ch Victor Sam, president, East Central India Union, gave a message on "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain". Philippians 1:21.

Besides the morning devotion, special prayers were offered before each business session.

On the first day of the committee the room was filled with heated discussion on property sale issues. The members of the committee were seeking a solution for this issue. Finally a 3-member committee was appointed to enquire the details and present the report.

During the yearend meetings Vara Prasad was appointed as the editor-in-chief of Oriental Watchman Publishing House and Almgir Khan as treasurer of COSDAH. The Budget Committee made the decision to increase the Norm from 6300 to 7100 and an increase of Rs.15 to the previous DA for the 2013-2014 financial year.

Pr. D. Padmarj and Mr. Michael Prasad Rao were given farewells during the occasion. Each delegate was supplied with the book "Transparency & Accountability-A global Commitment of Seventh-day Adventist Church Leaders". In closing the dedicatory prayer was offered by Dan Jackson after a united reading of Ellen White's quotes on consecration by all the delegates of the committee.

--Ramani Kurian, Assistant Communication Director ~~~~~~~~~~~~

II. Letters

1. Gordon Christo <drongo.ostrich@gmail.com> Nov. 19:

   Roger Isaacs' words of commendation made me ponder what it is that has kept not only me but many others in the homeland while many have left for greener pastures. I am not sure it is all commitment and faithfulness. "Greener" suggests that the life abroad is easy. It is not. The pay is attractive, but one has to slog. It also takes great guts to uproot one's self, and transplant one's self in the unknown. What has kept us planted here? Perhaps just that. We've been planted here and should be able to grow, bloom and bear fruit here--like the lilies of the field. But having been exposed to the other side of the fence, it is our responsibility to bring in as much of what is good to our side. Words of encouragement like Roger's are appreciated. Thanks.

   ~~~~~~~~~~~

2. Augusta (Malkanthie) Ballowe <ballowes@aol.com> November 19:

   I was very happy to hear about the appointment of Pastor George Wambeek as the President of the Sri Lanka Mission. Our family have known the Wambeeks for many years, and we know that he is a God-fearing man who is calm and quiet but very active in God's work. As we are in the last days of this world, he has a great task ahead of him. We will be praying for God's blessing over him as he partners with Christ in leading His church in Sri Lanka.

   ~~~~~~~~~~~

III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 11

   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.

   ~~~~~~~~~~~

   11. Henry E. Baasch (1911-1912)

   Henry E. Baasch came from Germany to Myanmar in 1910, after having worked as a salesman for various German firms in Singapore and other Oriental cities for eight years. He called himself an atheist when he arrived in Myanmar. Some Christian ladies (not Adventists) at the boarding house where he stayed in Yangon seemed concerned about his being an atheist, and encouraged him to attend SDA meetings in town. He did and was converted. Baptized by Pastor Heber H. Votaw in July, 1911, he worked for the mission in Yangon from January, 1911, to September 1913, assisting Pastor J. M. Comer in evangelistic work. After 1913 he worked in India for sometimes, then for many years in Inter-America, witnessing for the truth he had learned in Myanmar.
IV. Death of Earle Baird

Eleene Jacobsen <eleenej@sbcglobal.net> November 9:

This is to inform you that Earle J. Baird died Friday evening, November 2, 2012. He leaves behind his wife, Irene, and three daughters; Audry Railey, Tracy Pacini and Kimmie Hertzog; two brothers, Ron and Raymond of Australia. Earle attended Vincent Hill School from 1939 to 1945. He graduated from Avondale College in Australia and came to the USA in 1952. He married Irene Mattison in 1952 and was a general contractor in Orange county, California from 1963. He will be missed by many; was one of a kind.

-- Eleene Jacobsen-Martin

~~~~~~~~~~

V. Death of Elizabeth Charles

George P. Johnson <geoprasad@aol.com> November 26:

[Relayed by Sunny Wycliffe]

Friday evening, Nov. 23 (2012), my sister Valsa (Samuel) notified us that Kunjamma Chechy (Elizabeth Charles) was not going to make it through another day. As you know all family members have been visiting my sister often throughout the past 2 years. I immediately took the next flight out of Long Beach, CA, and arrived Saturday early morning in Maryland. The same night at 10:50 pm Chechy passed peacefully at home in the presence of Rajachan (Rajan Charles), daughter Daphne, son Donny, Valsa and husband Ebby, Dr. Vijayan Charles and wife Jill, Ponnammacca (Rajachan's sister), and myself.

For the past two years Rajachan never left her side. She was well taken care of at home; he did everything humanly possible to sustain her life comfortably. But God had other plans for her. She had no pains or complaints. Rajachan is devastated, so are we.

Funeral services are on Sunday, Dec 2, at 10 am at Sligo SDA Church, Takoma Park. MD. (It was not too long ago in January that my mother passed away). All family members are arriving throughout this week for the services, including Ammini Chechy (Mrs. Tito) and her son Jathin from India.

All glory to God and to His Son Jesus Christ
With love and regards,
Aniyankunju (George Johnson) and the rest of the family members ~~~~~~~~~~~ VI. The Bob & Betty Reynolds Story

Betty Reynolds <bettyreyn84@airesurf.com> Nov. 20:

Our life story has been edited three times now, so I think it is ready to go to the typesetter. It has been condensed down to 22 chapters. Also some of Bob's story that was a series in The Youth's Instructor back in 1968 has been woven into it. The title of his series was "His Hand on Me". They are planning to title this book, "His Hand on Us", with subtitle of "The E. Robert and Betty Reynolds Story".

~~~~~~~~~~

VII. More on the Brain Drain

Benjamin J. Ninan <bigben6442@gmail.com> Nov. 23:

I was intrigued by reading [about Spicer's] Brain Drain in the SUD e-news. Having been a graduate of SMC (1965) and being one of those that did leave the home division, I have had opportunity to reflect on this problem. The reason I left was because of the fact that I was one of the graduates that did not have any positions offered upon graduating. I chose to come to the USA to pursue graduate education, which was the only option available to one at that time as there was no university in India that would accept Spicer graduates.

I recall in the mid 1950's when, for the first time, a high school teacher at SMC (whose name will be withheld) returned to SMC after receiving his graduate degree from the USA but who, within a very short period of time left with his family and immigrated to the USA. During that time a certain other professor from a well-known university visited SMC. He was asked to speak to us in chapel. After chapel there were many who mocked this fine professor for his talk. As near as I recall comments such as: "There is a great work to be done in Southern Asia Division..but I am going back to .., USA."

As I look back at the class of 1965 I find that a significant number of them have moved to the West. Many were sponsored but found ways to get out of those obligations and chose to remain here where their opportunities were/are unlimited. This is true not only of the SMC graduates but a significant number of Vellore graduates as well. These
graduates came here, to the USA, for advanced training and chose not to go back. Included among that group are pastors some who pastored in large SDA churches.

Many of the church leaders who when the travelled abroad and returned laid the ground work for their children to come and also for themselves to come and retire here. It appears that the church structure-educational and medical-serves, as you so well observed as an incubator from which they flee once hatched.

Many of these people who went abroad do what this professor did back in the 1950's and talk to the young people there at your schools. The impressions they leave behind are that America is the land of opportunity where one can find fulfillment to one's dreams. One can live in large, million dollar palatial homes that put to shame the fancy bungalows reminiscent of the homes of that missionaries used to live in while serving in India.

In contemplating the changing world that we live in today along with the changing attitudes towards mission what with the apparent delay in the Second Advent, I see that no longer is it a driving force that it once was. If it truly was then I believe that we who have had the opportunity to further our skills would have long returned and we would have given our all to further the gospel commission.

What the answer is I do not know. Perhaps an open dialog concerning these issues? Perhaps asking newer different questions that other churches are addressing such as dialog with the great religions of the world that have been around a lot longer than Christianity? The late Bede Griffiths did just that in India and he has made a lasting impact on the way Catholics work in Asia. Perhaps the SDA church needs to take a good hard look at their priorities-focus on being THE only group that God has chosen and works with/through? What does it mean to be Christian in this, the 21st century? What is the meaning of the gospel commission in today's global community?

VIII. Note About Length and Content of News Items

In the past week we have received three items for inclusion in the newsletter that were very, very long. Sometimes the items sent are of great interest but quite long and we often have divided such items into smaller segments and used as continued items for two or more issues. Of course short items are no problem, for we can just include more items in a newsletter. In general, though, items should not ideally exceed 50 lines or so.

We should also point out that these newsletters are supposedly made up of urgent "news" items. Of course some seeming news items are also concerned with "issues"; one news item that has turned into an issue item is that of the "brain gain" and "brain drain." Most of our readers (there are over 4,000 in the subscription lists) would most likely urge that controversial issues be given little or no space. We will try to honor such wishes.

To remove your name from the mailing list of this newsletter, simply reply to this e-mail and put "REMOVE" in the Subject line.

--
BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

Teach CanIt if this mail (ID 0alsLxWFa) is spam:
Spam: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=0alsLxWFa&m=bfb60756c3c7&c=s
Not spam: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=0alsLxWFa&m=bfb60756c3c7&c=n
Forget vote: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=0alsLxWFa&m=bfb60756c3c7&c=f

END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS