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I. Report of Asian Aid's Work in India & Nepal;
   Jim Rennie <jimrennie@asianaidusa.org> November 27:
   I've just returned from India and Nepal after participating in 2 significant events:
   1. Sunrise Home
      Asian Aid USA has been building a new orphanage on 12 acres of beautiful agriculture land in Boobili, Andra Pradesh. The first hostel will take the current 75 children and the 2nd will give a home to another 100 orphans. Although the official opening was cancelled due to heavy rains from the typhoon which hit the East Coast of India, a small group of Asian Aid staff and the ECIU president, Pastor Victor Sam, had a small ceremony to open this new home. Already the children are planting their own gardens and the farm has an excellent rice crop. Asian Aid sponsors over 8,000 children in Adventist schools in India, funds 4 homes, a school for the blind and a school for the deaf with the church.
   2. A School in Nepal
      I then flew onto Nepal to travel with the SDA's Nepal Field President to look at school opportunities in Nepal. The Nepal Field has just gained registration and can now operate its own schools. Asian Aid is excited to look for opportunities to establish the first church run school in Nepal.

   [Jim Rennie is CEO of Asian Aid USA whose office is in Collegedale, Tennessee. Asian Aid's home office is in Australia.]

II. Letters
   1. Edison Samraj <adventistmediacentre@gmail.com> Nov. 28:
      It was my privilege to participate in the release of a book written by Dr. Narendra Jadhav, chairperson of University Grant Commission—a 3 volume publication outlining the basics of writings of Dr. Ambedkar, the architect of modern India. It was well attended by the intellectuals all over India.
      Among those who were present were Dr. Mashelkar, Dr. Sawant, Dr. Majumdar, vice chancellor of Symbiosis and many luminaries who I do not know by name.
      The hall was packed and it went on for 4 hours. The president spoke with such clarity and depth. It was a vision of ideas and analysis of the present for the future. I was personally benefited by the presentation of Dr. Narendra Jadhav. During the conclusion he did mention the need for India to move from electorate democracy to substantive democracy. It was a challenging thought for the Indian form of governance. I believe that every power house in India must take note of it and move towards the meaningful dialogue that will enable Indians to become effective in its work against the backlog of history. I am confident that the 3 volume books that is translated in different languages will be of value in sowing the seeds for change. The meeting was followed by dinner in the President Hotel and the vote of thanks by Dr. Vinod Shah, president of Janseva Foundation.

   2. Caroline McGhee Wrightman <wrightmanc@juno.com> Dec. 2:
I would like to "weigh in" about putting controversial issues in the SUD newsletter. I am probably a "weird duck", but I really enjoy reading about the controversial issues. To limit their inclusion would be disappointing to me. However, I do understand the need to have some parameters re length.

Since I grew up in Pakistan (Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar) and went to VHS in India two different times, I am very committed to reading about topics that affect all of us. The Brain Drain discussion is an important topic that needs exploration.

Recently Larry and I moved to Hesperia, CA where we have been in the process of getting settled the past two weeks. This puts us in the same town with Bill and Julie (brother and sister-in-law). We are already enjoying their company more often.

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.

12. George A. Hamilton (Florence) (1912-20)

Pastor and Mrs. George A. Hamilton arrived Yangon, Myanmar in 1912. He served as a pastor and worked in ministry. During those times at Yangon they worshipped on the Sabbaths and also preached on Sunday nights.

In 1914 the mission committee asked him, assisted by A. H. Williams, an English associate, to look for a location somewhere on the Salween River for a Karen mission station. Kamamaung, Ohn Daw, was chosen as the site for the station, and the Hamiltons lived there for a time and began the work in that area. They were assisted by Mary Gibbs who opened a dispensary for Karen villagers. When Eric B. Hare arrived, Pastor Hamilton returned to Myanmar Mission in Yangon. Pastor Hamilton returned to Ohn Daw again only when he baptized Naw Hla Khin, Eric B. Hare's first 'treasure' when the latter requested him to do so, as Hare was not ordained as yet at the time.

Pastor Hamilton used to travel to cities in India and held evangelistic meetings. He was an eloquent preacher and did evangelistic work at various times in some of the large cities of India. He had a passion for taking photographs. He was later called to care for the growing church in Calcutta, India, in 1920.

He was in Myanmar again in the thirties, doing evangelistic work in the new church in Yangon. He was in charge of the Myanmar Union Mission from February 1936 to June 1937.

IV. Death of Shirley Johnson

Mernie Johnson <georgeandmerniej@cs.com> Nov. 27:

My dear mother-in-law, Shirley Johnson, passed away about an hour ago at Danetta and Bob Frost's home in San Marcos, California. She was 93. Though her son George is in Pakistan now, he had been able to talk to her and pray with her by phone only a few minutes before. As George had told her, now she can rest until she meets Dad (Duane S. Johnson) again at the Resurrection.

Her son, Dr. Stemple, and his family will be flying in from Maine on Thursday, so the family will put together, A life sketch to share with you will be sent later.

V. Death of Mrs. Keelan

Bruce Keelan <bkreuecle@sbcglobal.net> December 2:

This is to inform you of the passing of my mother, Patricia (Poole) Keelan at noon, December 2, 2012 at the Landour Community Hospital in Mussoorie. She had fought a long and courageous fight against Nephrotic Kidney Syndrome for the last 8 years. The graveside services will be held at 2 PM on Monday, December 3 at the Camels Back Cemetery. I will be heading to Vincent Hill shortly for a memorial service.

Bruce Keelan
4031 Karelia Street
Los Angeles, CA 90065
323-343-0279

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George & Mernie Johnson <georgeandmerniej@cs.com>

Priya Nath Mehta on Facebook --10 hours ago

END OF AN ERA IN THE HIMALAYAS

"And some we loved
The loveliest and the best
Have one by one
Crept silently to rest"

Today I have received news of the passing away of Mrs. Patricia Keelan, my former teacher at Vincent Hill School, a Seventh-day Adventist school in Mussoorie, where I studied many years ago, and where I remember her as a young lady teacher.

She was now 85 years old and was living all alone in the Himalayas in the house her husband had built. Her husband had passed away a few years ago. She had continued to stay on in the isolation of the hills in a remote area of Mussoorie, a place which was bitterly cold in the winter and wet with the rains in the monsoon seasons.

Her son Bruce is in an affluent position in the US as an engineer and had asked her to live with him in the relative comfort of America. But she refused to leave the Himalayas and stayed on here bravely all alone.

Many a time she was gravely ill but managed to bounce back to good health. Whenever I found out that she was ill I rushed over to meet her. The last was in November 27th. She had kidney failure but appeared to be doing well.

An American doctor, Dr. Roma Taylo, happened to be visiting me at the time and I took her with myself to see Mrs. Keelan. She was as cheerful as could be expected, but then she was always cheerful in all circumstances of life.

Once when she had been praising some TV Preacher on the "God" Channel, I said to her: "Mrs. Keelan! These TV preachers who strut about on the stage with a microphone held in their hands, shouting loudly at their congregations, do not have even an iota of the spirituality which you possess. They move around with a bevy of secretaries, assistants, managers, and cars, and preach the life of humility to the masses calling them sinners and asking them to repent.

"But you are sitting here alone in the Himalayan mountains with no one with you except God. They speak about God, but you have God with you all the time. He has been protecting you all these years. Your life itself has been a miracle!"

She had once fallen down a flight of cement steps and did not have even a scratch, far less any broken bones. What could have been a greater miracle than that! She had kidney failure with practically zero medical aid and always managed to survive!

Whenever I had come to see her she had bounced back into good health again. But as I left her on the afternoon of November 27, 2012, something in my heart told me that I would not be seeing her again.

There were tears in my eyes as I said to her as I left: "Mrs. Keelan! Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God!" And that is where she has gone - to God.

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VI. Spicer College to have Hospital on Campus

Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> Nov. 20:

Spicer College Signs Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a Hospital Project

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV), was the apt scripture text used by Pastor Noble Pilli, executive vice president of the college on November 29, 2012 during the Thanksgiving devotional service which started with a good song service led by Dr. Immanuel Paul Durairaj and invocation offered by the Division president, Pastor R. John just before another historic event in the life of Spicer College (SMC) and the Southern Asia Division (SUD) in particular, and perhaps the World SDA Church in general, of signing the MOU between the college and a popular private concern in Pune which runs various developmental projects including hospitals.

The proposed project was voted in the Division executive committee in the presence of the officials from the General Conference during the year-end meetings on November 19, 2012, after a thorough study made earlier by several sub-committees, and the college board.

According to the MOU signed by the college president Dr. Justus Devadas, SUD president, Pastor R. John, IFA secretary, Pastor Gompa Devadas, Pastor Noble Pilli, and the managing director of the firm, in the presence of the architects and attorneys, Pastor J. N. Sathe, president of the Maharashtra Conference and members of the college administrative committee, the company will build and run the hospital on a 3-acre plot on the western side of Spicer campus. The lease is for 30 years with substantial amounts of money paid as initial deposit and annual lease rent and an
increase of lease rent every 3 years. As per the provisions of the MOU, the company can build only the hospital and no religious structure of any kind on the premises.

Also the college has the right to start and operate a College of Nursing and other Allied Health programmes and the prospective students to do their clinicals in the proposed hospital free of cost. This will enable Spicer College to start health-related courses in the near future.

The College Board also authorized the College Administration to prepare and submit a proposal to the government for the University Charter. The application will be made on behalf of the Church as Minority Christian Group with its distinct educational philosophy.

The proceeds from the proposed hospital project will provide funds for the infrastructure development, endowment funds, etc, to receive the University Charter. Careful study has been given by the MOU to protect the interests of the College and the Church and we believe it will provide the much needed finance for our growth.

After this historic ceremony of signing the MOU, the company's managing director distributed "pedas' to all the members present there and later everyone was invited by the College president and treated to a very delicious and sumptuous dinner meticulously prepared and served by the president's family at his residence to celebrate this great occasion. Spicer College is grateful to the Almighty for His faithfulness and many new mercies to the college through the years.

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness" - Lamentations : 3:22 & 23.

S Rajendra Prasad, VPAA,
Spicer Memorial College

VII. More on the Brain Drain

Rajaratnam Jones <rajaratnamjones@gmail.com> Nov. 27:

Like everyone in Spicer College, I too had the great desire to go to the USA. I graduated in 1978 and joined the mission work. But I did not opt to go there even though there were ample opportunity to migrate legally. In 2000 during the GC at Toronto, I got my turn to visit the USA for the first time. During that time I was able to meet many, many old Spicer college friends. One of them offered a job and told me stay back in USA. I told them that I have a commitment back in SUD and I just cannot.

After that I visited the USA seven times. On two occasions I was offered jobs. I refused saying that I have my commitment to work back in India. I was even offered a job once in South Africa to be the pastor of an SDA church. I did not accept. It was just my conviction and I love to work in India.

At the same time, it is not sin to work abroad. Those who work abroad and live in greener pasture should have one thing in mind. Live for the truth wherever you are, like Daniel and Joseph. Daniel and Joseph were living in the greener side of the world, not by their choice. But they stood for the truth even though their lives were at risk. Remember you are planted in the greener pasture like that of Esther in the king's court. She was a great blessing to her people. Like wise, you who are abroad may be a blessing in every way possible to your home land, India. Despite problems in SUD, the work is advancing and the people are reached with the Gospel of Jesus. Many are coming to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. So support the work in SUD, dear friends who are in greener pastures. God bless you all.

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