I. An Historic Item: British Missionaries Serve the World Field

II. Letters
   1. Rose Muthiah Davy
   2. Gerald Christo

III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries: # 13

IV. Remembering Mrs. Shirley Johnson

V. Remembering Mrs. Patricia Keelan

VI. A Hospital on Spicer's Campus

VII. Sound System for South Kerala Church VIII. Death of Sadanala Joseph

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The British Union Conference News Edition #807 (7 December 2012) carried the following news item. It perked my attention when I saw India mentioned as having received one of the missionaries and upon closer look I found her name and picture:

"MISSIONARY ZEAL - 58 YEARS ON"

"A well preserved leaflet discovered among the valued treasures of Agnes Poulton has brought delight to a generation of Adventists who remembered their parents, friends, aunts and uncles in mission service.

"Stanborough Park church member, June Coombs, came across the 1954 Missionary leaflet, whilst sorting through Agnes’ possessions following her death in September. Pictured are 24 British missionaries serving in Africa, South America, India and the West Indies. Recognising that in 1954 the Adventist Church in the UK numbered only a 7,500 members this represents an astonishing commitment to mission. According to Adventist archives British missionaries accounted for over 12 percent of all missionary activity, worldwide."

When I brought the leaflet into greater enlargement, I saw the picture of the missionary to India and the following statement:

"Miss Ina White, of Stanborough Press, Ltd., Watford, went to India in 1948 to connect with the Oriental Watchman Publishing House, Poona. She is the new editor of Eastern Tidings."

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II. Letters
   1. Rose Muthiah Davy <davyp@bellsouth.net> Dec. 6:

   It is indeed sad to hear from friends and also read in the newsletter about people who contributed a lot to others and to God's service and have been laid to rest. They have run the race and finished their course and are awaiting the resurrection morn. The times we are living in should wake us up and we need to realize that time is running out. I can see that some are feeling the need to give us messages of sharing our means to help finish the work in India. Let us take this seriously and make it a matter of prayer. Maybe this will help those of us who need that born again experience, to make that commitment to God. I will also pray earnestly that God will help many of us to find ways to help out. It is time to go home. The world conditions are getting worse and we don't want to see people suffering any longer. I must say that I am thrilled to hear the news about a hospital which will be built on Spicer College Campus. God is Great and works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform. Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow.

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2. Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> December 9:

Second great-grandchild for Gerald and Birol Christo

Joanna (daughter of Kish and Sonia Poddar) and Andy gave us our second great-grandchild, Aasha Elizabeth Kharkongor-Evers, a sister for Jonathan, born at 12 noon on December 9. Aasha Elizabeth traces her lineage back
eighteen documented generations to the beginning of the Kharkongor clan to approximately 1450 through her maternal great-great grandmother, the late Queensilies Kharkongor, mother of Birol and her sisters of the Khasi Hills well known in Adventist circles. The Khasi society is also known as a matrilineal and patriarchal society. This is because the lineage of the family is traced through the mother while the eldest brother is considered to be the spiritual head and has a say in most of the family decisions.

III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 12

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.

13. A. H. Williams (1913-16)

A. H. Williams was an English businessman. He arrived Yangon as a merchant. He was doing business along Than-Lwin (Salween) river, and so he knew much about Karen people. A. H. Williams was baptized by Pastor H. H. Votaw. He was located at the Kamamaung mission station with Pr. Hamilton in 1914. He served the Myanmar Mission for a while. In 1915, he was in charge of Meiktila School for a year, relieving Pr. Robert Bruce Thurber who in turn relieved Pr. Votaw as the superintendent of Myanmar Mission, on account of the latter's failing health.

From 1916, for many years, he served the mission in India as treasurer in the office and also in administrative work. After many years he attended medical college and became a doctor. He served as the president of Stanborough Hospital in England. A. H. Williams later visited Myanmar once; we are proud of him for being one of the missionaries in Myanmar.

IV. Remembering Mrs. Shirley Johnson

1. Sunith & Millie Das <dasm@andrews.edu> Dec. 5:
We have come to know of the passing away of Mrs. Shirley Johnson, widow of Elder Duane S. Johnson, former SUD Secretary. Our sympathy goes out to Pastor & Mrs. George Johnson, our longtime friends in SUD, FED and now in the USA. We have this Blessed Hope that she will be resurrected at the Second Coming of Christ. You are in our thoughts and prayers, Pastor & Mrs. Johnson. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

2. Dennis Dean Tidwell <<deantidwell@yahoo.com>> Dec. 5:
I learned today that Mrs. Shirley Johnson died last week. She was 93 years old. She was my first and second grade teacher, but I never saw her because she was in Poona and I was in Roorkee. I was a correspondence student through Home Study. I finally met Mrs. Johnson in Mussoorie in 1954 when she spent a long stretch there while daughter Danetta recovered from polio. I was a little kid, but I liked to join them on the porch of their house "Koala Cottage" while Mrs. Johnson read to Danetta who was resting on a cot. Mrs. Johnson sometimes told me stories. Sorry for your loss, Danetta, George, and Stemple.

3. Justin & Juanita Singh <JUWYL@aol.com> Dec. 5:
We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Shirley Johnson. The Johnson family made a significant contribution to Southern Asia Division and we will always be grateful to them for their sacrifices. Even now, George Johnson is in Pakistan filling in until they can appoint a new president. May the Lord bless him as he mourns the death of his beloved Mom away from his family, although surrounded by many who knew Shirley Johnson.

V. Remembering Mrs. Patricia Keelan

Betty & Merlyn Fernando <merlynfernando@yahoo.com> Dec. 5:
Dear Bruce & Vicky,
If it were closer to us, we would have been very ready to come to Mussorie to say good bye to your mother and would have loved to be part of any help you would need.

We saw where your father was resting the last time we were there and believe that is where your mother will also rest. The cool hills of home will be a peaceful memory for you to cherish.

Your uncle Colin was Merle's room mate for one year. Will any of them be in attendance, too? Happily your mother has lived a illness free life, except for this "strange" illness that had a way of appearing suddenly at intervals. We are glad that it was so.

VI. A Hospital on Spicer's Campus

Joy Kuttappan <joykutts@rediffmail.com> December 5:

Cues from Spicer College's MoU

Let me express wholehearted appreciation for the MoU signed by SMC & and the Church with 'a popular private concern.' This is a bold move from the Church, and I appreciate Dr. Justus and his team for the persistent effort in achieving this goal.

There may be questions raised on the grounds of various issues by many, but if the project completed, as planned, would bring enough of income for the future prosperity of Spicer.

Having said that, the main point I would like to highlight is PARTNERSHIP. Only a 'partnership' can change the scenario of the Division, which could even become a model for the world SDA church at large.

In SUD we have various institutions with large plots that are unused; various institutions, particularly schools, that are facing closure. At the same time, there are a lot of committed lay members who are earnestly asking the church leadership at various levels to allow them to take over the institutions that are running in loss; so that they can work with the church leadership to develop the land or help the institutions to grow financially.

Also we lack good leadership in various institutions. Even in those cases there are talented, highly qualified and creative lay members who want to lead those institutions even without any pay.

So a partnership is highly essential, especially with lay members, to revive the work and to enhance the growth in the Division. If a private firm can contribute much to Spicer, then there are committed lay members who can do the job for the church too. I hope the Church will consider MoUs with interested church members in the future. Because lay members also have an equal role to play in the Great Commission.

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2. Johnny Philip <johnny.philip@gmail.com> Dec. 5:

I am glad to hear that SMC is planning to have a hospital on the campus. This will broaden its educational impact on the community and the Church. But what attracted my attention was the fact that SMC has decided to lease the land rather than sell it. Over the years I have noticed the eagerness of administrators to sell off some of the long-term assets owned by the Church. I have seen this happen not only in India, but also overseas. Ironically, those who buy these assets turn them into very profitable ventures. This I find hard to digest. We have lost many prime properties, often due to sheer neglect to pay attention to legal matters on time, but more often because we have not been able to see opportunities to make our assets productive. What I have learned by observing various people with foresight is that land, one of the factors of production, should be sold only if there was absolutely no other alternative. Our early missionaries were also visionaries. They were instrumental in the church now owning prime real estate. In their days they even made those assets productive enough to support the needs of those days.

I conclude by stating that the properties owned by our Church should not be sold, but leased if we are incapable of managing them effectively or efficiently. I am glad to note that there are a few administrators who are doing this and making our assets productive.

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3. Boxter Kharbteng <khar_btg@yahoo.com> December 5:

The news about Spicer of launching a hospital project is certainly significant. It has the blessing of the GC, to boot. Much thought and prayer must have gone into this venture. Let us continue to pray for Spicer College so that it moves onto something higher and better --- yes even to a university status. Without a dream, life becomes a dead-end. May this dream of Spicer become a reality.

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4. Justin & Juanita Singh <JUWYL@aol.com> Dec. 6:
Good News! For Spicer Memorial College to have a medical institution on its campus. It will open doors for providing medical professional training for our young people. We praise our Lord and the Division officers for launching this project in good faith. Thank you, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, for an excellent write-up.

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5. Robert Jackson <JacksR@holycrosshealth.org> Dec. 7:
After reading the proposed hospital in the campus of Spicer College, my first impression was that the idea is a major step of a much needed growth.
A full-fledged hospital in Pune will raise our status in the society and as said, will benefit the college for nursing and other health related courses.
At the same time, there are several questions remain in the minds of readers as to who is the sponsor of this project, what is the size, how many beds, what is the Church's investment and involvement, who recruits the staffs and who runs the hospital.

As the public involvement is getting more and more in the campus, will it negatively affect the normal function of the college? Spicer College is a religious institution and our emphasis is to train young people for the gospel work and medical work go along with it as part of gospel work which will be run by our Church administration only. That is what Ellen G. White has envisioned. No where in the world field I see outside people running institutions in our campus and the reason is that slowly their influence may grow to an extend that we may have to compromise our Church principles.

What about PADMAC in Salisbury campus, I am not sure it is still functioning or not; why not we build the proposed hospital in Salisbury Campus where the Church has large property?
I hope none of my doubts will ever stop moving forward with the project and with God's leading and guiding, we will accomplish greater things for His glory.

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VII. Sound System for South Kerala Church
Dr. Elwin Vedamony <elvinvedamony@yahoo.co.in> Dec. 8:
The Adventist Church, Vellarada, would like to share a blessing that came our way a few weeks ago. Mrs. Kezia Harris, the daughter of a prominent lay man, Mr. Lazer Samuel, 91 years, widely known as Lazer Deacon, from Kanjiramkonam, South Kerala, had come from Maryland, USA, with her family.
They had come for a special family reunion and had worshipped with us, sponsoring the Sabbath lunch. That Sabbath we were pleasantly surprised when the wraps of two large speakers were removed and the audio system was installed. The South Kerala president, Pr. Philip S. Jacob, offered a prayer of dedication and he was the first use it when he took the divine service.
The worship hall had been extended by 20 X 18 feet, and now up to 200 persons can be seated comfortably. Ever since the extension, we had been praying for a good audio system. God had moved this faithful Adventist family to donate a 'top of the line' audio system to the Church. We in Vellarada thank and praise God for this wonderful and timely gift. We also want to thank this God-fearing family once again. We want to share our joy with the world-wide church.

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VIII. Death of Sadanala Joseph
Priscilla Shyam <priscillashyam@SAAA.ORG> We are saddened to announce the passing of Mr. Sadanala Joseph on December 7, 2012. Mr. Joseph was a long-time, faithful and beloved member of SAAA. He is the father of SAAA community members Virginia Rao, Rosylin Yesudian, Merrylin Dawson, Franklin Joseph, Adeline Kelley, Julia Selvaraj and Martin Joseph. May God comfort the entire family of Mr. Joseph in their time of sorrow.
Funeral arrangements are as follows:
Viewing will be held at the Hines-Rinaldi Funeral Home, 11800 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD, on Monday, December 10, from five to eight o'clock in the evening.
Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, December 11, 2012 at Southern Asian Seventh Day Adventist Church, 2001 East Randolph Road, Silver Spring, MD at ten o'clock in the morning.

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