I. Death of Weldon Mattison
   Another VHSite passes on the following:
   Carol Myers just wrote to say her father, Weldon Mattison, passed away at 07:00 local time. (I believe he lived in California.) Weldon attended VHS in the 30s and 40s I believe. He served the Adventist church almost his entire life in India. While attending VHSC he set the still unbroken record of hiking from the school to Nag Tibba and back in 16 hours! I am glad you have hope, Carol, Susen, Nancy, and Stephen.
   Dennis Dean Tidwell posted in VHS "School of Mine" (1922-1969), Dec. 11th

II. Remembering the Mattison Family
   Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> December 11:
   Dear Eleene,
   Tears are welling up in my eyes as I write this letter. I was just reading the Tidwell newsletter when a message from Hazel flashed in my inbox carrying the news of Weldon's passing. away My my mind went back to the year 1934 and to Chichoki Mallian in the Punjab when I was playing with Weldon and you Mattison girls on a Friday afternoon oblivious of the fact that my father had died until your dad told me, "Go to my mum in the Hospital room."
   Weldon, Milton (Pinky) McHenry, Ed Streeter, Sheila Lamb (Matthews) and I were members of the high school class of 1940 at Vincent Hill School. We gave years of service to the church in Southern Asia as teachers and principals, treasurers, departmental directors and presidents of Unions. Ed and Milton returned to the States where they retired. Sheila immigrated to Canada with her Neville and in her later years she worked as a secretary in the Youth Department at the General Conference office. Weldon and I conducted evangelistic campaigns, schools of evangelism and held administrative positions throughout the R. S. Lowry's presidency until Weldon finally retired in 1985 and I in 1990.
   I'll never forget your father (the late O. O. Mattison) who was the Division president himself introducing me to the Southern Asia gathering in Calif. in 1980 when he so magnanimously stated, "I have two sons. One of them has been elected the Division president."
   Sheila was the first to pass away, then Milton and now Weldon rests awaiting the resurrection morn. I sorrow with you as you mourn the death of your brother Weldon Howard. Please pass my condolences to Irene, Eloise and his children Carol, Susie, Nancy, Steve and Malini.
   With heart-felt sympathies and love,
   Gerald Christo
   -----------------

   Gordon Christo adds:
   Because Pastor Weldon Mattison and my dad were playmates from childhood, we've been close friends of the family for years. I can remember Pastor Mattison from my earliest days. Later, he led out in the school of evangelism in Goa where my dad was the speaker and somewhat after, in the school of evangelism in Hyderabad, where I, a fresh
graduate, took several courses. I learnt much from this experienced leader. My sincerest condolences to Carol, Susen, Nancy and Stevie. Your loss is a loss for all of us in Southern Asia.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 14

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.

14. Eric B. Hare (Agnes) (1916- 35)

Eric B. and Agnes Hare, both nurses, arrived in Burma from Australia in October, 1915. They were asked to live in Yangon and study the Sgaw Karen language. In May 1916, they moved to the new Karen Mission Station at Kamamaung, Ohn Daw, where Mary Gibbs started a dispensary. Eric B. Hare was fondly known as 'Dr. Rabbit' by his patients. He opened a school which later became an important training centre. He formed a jungle brass band for preaching in villages.

Pastor Hare's work is quite well-known by those who have read any of his several books. After nearly twenty years of service in Myanmar, he was called to the Sabbath School Department in the Pacific Union Conference and later in the General Conference, and in that capacity traveled widely in America and other countries, speaking at camp meetings and other gatherings.

Pastor and Mrs. Hare also contributed to the work in Myanmar through one of their sons, Leonard, who served there for several years after the Second World War.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

IV. Life Sketch of Shirley Johnson

1. George & Mernie Johnson <georgeandmerniej@cs.com> Dec. 12:

Shirley Cavin Johnson, 93, passed away in San Marcos, California, on Tuesday morning, November 27, 2012, at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Danetta and Bob Frost.

She was born in Oakland, California, on August 13,1919, the only child of her older parents, George and Grace Cavin. She was so tiny when she was born that her father didn't think she would survive. Her dad was a rancher in the Auberry Valley just north of Fresno and Clovis, California. Growing up on the ranch, in the hills above the San Joaquin River, she developed a love for the outdoors and a work ethic that would serve her, her family and her community throughout her life. She was an excellent student and graduated from Clovis High School at the age of 16.

Shirley's Aunt Georgia and Uncle Bob Knapp, members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, had a powerful influence in her young life. It was because of the close relationship with her Aunt Georgia that she chose to go to Pacific Union College in 1935.

At PUC Shirley took pre-med, graduating in 1939, and went on to Loma Linda University to study medicine. It was at PUC that she met and fell in love with her future husband, Duane Stohr Johnson from Hutchinson, Minnesota, who studied religion and history. When he graduated in 1940, he received a call to Mongolia, China, conditional on his being a married man.

He took a trip to Loma Linda, and talked her into marrying him. Shirley sacrificed her medical school education and they were married in Reno, Nevada on June 10, 1940.

Because the Sino-Japanese war was in progress by then, they were redirected to India and then to Burma, where they started by studying the Burmese language. Eight months later, the Japanese attacked Burma so they left Rangoon on one of the last ships leaving for Calcutta. After arriving in India they were assigned to teach at Vincent Hill School. The next school year they transferred to Roorkee where Duane was principal.
Shirley and Duane had three children born in India: Danetta, in Mussoorie in 1942; George, in Roorkee in 1944; and Stemple, in Mussoorie in 1946. All three served as overseas missionaries. Danetta and Bob served in Japan. George and Mernie served in Pakistan and Singapore. Stemple served as a physician in Taiwan and Vietnam.

Shirley was always Duane's partner and ally. Whether at Roorkee, in Pakistan, or in Poona, Shirley served as secretary, teacher, mother, and partner. After 20 years in Southern Asia, they moved to Washington D.C.

While there, Shirley completed a Master's degree in Nutrition and Dietetics at Maryland University and graduated summa cum laude. She later served as registrar at Home Study Institute for 17 years.

Shirley and Duane were in Washington D.C. for a total of 20 years. They were remembered there for their activities in the local church, visiting shut-ins and staying involved in Takoma Park Church where they were members.

In December, 1981, Shirley and Duane asked for retirement after 40 years of mission and homeland service. Three weeks later they were in California, where they stashed their belongings at the ranch, renovated the old house, and then left for Indonesia, later going to Pakistan, to do further mission work.

They returned to California in 1983, and in the late summer of 1984 Duane was diagnosed with cancer and died on December 6 at home, at the ranch.

After Duane's death, Shirley soldiered on by herself. It gave her great joy to care for the varied fruit trees and the flower and vegetable gardens at the ranch. She loved to share the produce and beauty from the ranch with her family and friends. She also enjoyed climbing the hills that surrounded her to collect kindling or check on the water tanks. She was an avid reader and an excellent cook, always willing to share recipes or read with her grandchildren.

She was known in the North Fork church as a constant helper: cooking and sharing vegetables from her garden with many, for faithfully attending prayer meeting and being a really good influence and an example to others in the church activities. She was always quiet but would light up when she was with friends. It was easy to tell that she really loved people and especially her family. Shirley was both spunky and independent. When she was 67, she broke her hip -- water skiing with her two oldest grandchildren!

Shirley is survived by her three children and their families, including nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She is also remembered by the many extended family members of the Johnson Family from Minnesota.

'Shirley will be laid to rest beside Duane in the quiet little cemetery on Auberry Road just three miles from where she grew up and where she has lived for most of the past 28 years. There will be a memorial service in mid-April when family can be together again. Until then, we say to each of you, Maranatha -- Our Lord is coming. So it is not goodbye, but just goodnight, Mom. We will see you in the morning!'  

2. Remembering Mrs. Shirley Johnson  

Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> Dec. 10:

I had come to Roorkee from Mussoorie to spend the winter vacation with my mum when I noticed that the red bungalow just across from the girls' hostel had new residents. Instead of the elderly Maurice G. Champion family, Duane and Shirley Johnson were the new occupants as assistants to principal E. R. Streeter. They made a good looking couple. Shirley as pretty as a picture and Duane, handsome looking as ever, both with a twinkle in their eyes, made a handsome pair. Shirley befriended my mum and she shared her culinary attempts and art with her. I being just a few years younger than the Johnsons we found easy to be friends during the time they were in the Division. With their loved one I also await the trumpets' call.

V. Former Flaiz College Principal Continues Service

Baburao Chadalawada writes in the PRIA Ministries December newsletter:

We had been looking for several years for an experienced educator to guide the principal of Chadalawada English Medium School in the logistics a Christian educational institution. God answered our prayers by bringing us in contact with Mr. C. M. J. Suvarnaraj, a man of God, wise and experienced in Adventist educational system.

Mr. Suvarnaraj was retiring from 40 years of distinguished denominational service, lastly as president of Flaiz Memorial College. When approached to help us in operating a Christian school that fits well into a non-Christian community, he gladly consented. It was in July of 2009 he joined the Chadalawada School as its director.

To quote Mr. Suvarnaraj, "At this stage I found that the school had classes up to the 7th grade, and a dedicated teaching and non-teaching faculty headed by Mr. Ch. Bulibabu, a humble, sincere, and hardworking young man. The
school was being conducted in two different locations due to lack of sufficient classrooms in the existing building. We had many challenges to overcome, and we were directed to expedite them one after the other.

"We than the many donors who provided funds to add another floor. This enabled us to upgrade the school to a high school. We were also able to get government affiliation.

"Today I am pleased to report that this school in Tanuku, India is one of the prestigious schools in this area. It has good-sized classrooms, classroom equipment, and teachers and students are able to communicate well in English. There are five students preparing for the 10th grade board examination in March, 2013. Their names will be recorded in the annals of the school's history as the first batch. We are expecting all five of them to pass with distinction."

What we have penned here is only a small portion of Mr. Suvarnaraj's accomplishments for the school. We send a huge thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Suvarnaraj for their invaluable guidance and support for the Chadalawada School and PRIA Ministries.

VI. Remembering Sadanala Joseph

1. Sajjan & Ponnamma Rayavarapu <rayavara@telus.net> Dec. 12:

Ponnamma and I are very saddened to hear about the death of uncle Joseph. We remember Mr. S. Joseph from Nuzvid. He was a very simple, humble, and very honest man in his work. He was a much preferred Telugu translator for Dr. Oliver in his clinic with simple and practical examples so, patients could understand him easily. He worked long hours in the hospital pharmacy.

After work when night fell, he often walked back home with a hurricane lamp in hand. He was much young at heart. I remember uncle Joseph playing soccer, volleyball, and chedugudu,(a game played in Andhra), with young people much younger to his age group.

Virginia, Akkaiah, Rosylin, Merrylin, Franklin, Adeline, Julia, and Martin: our deep condolence to you, and may the Lord be your support and strength!

---------------

2. Paul Dara <darapaul44@hotmail.com> December 12:

It is with great sadness I notice the passing away of our pioneer, Mr. S. Joseph. My wife Grace and I join the scores of people who are sending condolences to Mr. Joseph's children, grand children and great grand children. We pray for the Holy Spirit to comfort you and give you strength to carry on in this dark hour of sadness. We wish all of you God's blessings.

---------------

3. Jane Jesu <jane_jesu@yahoo.com> Dec. 10:

My family received the message of the sad demise of our Uncle Joseph. We have very pleasant memories of him and (the late) Martha Aunty. I remember him in Nuzvid, a very active sports man, he played volleyball regularly. We both broke our arms almost at the same time, and carried our plastered arms in a sling. All my nieces and nephew called him lovingly 'White Tatha'. (You know, he never bothered to colour his hair!) May God comfort every member of the family.

---------------

4. Mohan Jaya Suvarna Raj <cmjsuvarnaraj@gmail.com> Dec.12

Our hearts are saddened to know the sad demise of our uncle Sadanala Joseph. We are far from hence we are unable to be present for the funeral programme. We value his life and the services rendered in Nuzvid hospital very high. He was a sincere friend of every one. He loved people wholeheartedly. We are close to many of his children and we respect them highly. We are even closer to all the siblings of uncle Joseph. We join with hosts of relatives, friends and well-wishers of his family in expressing our sorrow and wholehearted condolences and sympathies to the bereaved family members. It is our hope to seeing again when the Lord and the Saviour Jesus Christ appears in heaven. --C. M. J.

Suvarna Raj & Sudha Suvarna Raj ~~~~~~~~~~ VII. On a personal note;

There will likely be a delay in receiving the next newsletter. Tomorrow, December 17th, I am going into hospital for the repair of a heart problem known as aortic stenosis. I should be home before Christmas. Most of our children will be coming from Maryland, Michigan and Afghanistan to Tennessee to cheer us up. Please offer a prayer for the doctors and me.

~~~~~~~~~~

To remove your name from the mailing list of this newsletter, simply reply to this e-mail and put "REMOVE" in the Subject line.
Teach CanIt if this mail (ID 0aIAdmst2) is spam:
Spam: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=0aIAdmst2&m=3fe9b0a3344d&c=s
Not spam: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=0aIAdmst2&m=3fe9b0a3344d&c=n
Forget vote: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=0aIAdmst2&m=3fe9b0a3344d&c=f