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I. SUDites to Meet in Loma Linda

Doris Kore <drskore@aol.com>

The Friends of Southern Asia Adventist Fellowship (FSAAF) will be meeting on January 26, 2013 at the Chan Auditorium, Loma Linda Academy, Loma Linda, CA 92354 at 10:00 AM followed by a potluck. Featured speaker: Dr. William G. Johansson, former missionary from India and former editor of the Adventist Review. Lesson Study by Mrs. Powlyn Manoharan. All are welcome.

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II. Letters
   1. Grace Gramley <ggramley21@gmail.com> January 18:
      I am Grace Gramley (formerly Grace Ninan, daughter of Dr. Ninan). I want to thank you for allowing tributes to my father to be "published" in the SUD e-News. I also want to pass on the information about a web site that we started in his memory: http://naninfamily.com/:

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   2. Edward Samuel <samuelarchitect@sbcglobal.net>
      Grace Rao (Mrs. M. S. PrasadaRao nee Grace Thomas) will be 100 years old on April 15, 2013. We are putting together a book of memories for her for that occasion. She will be delighted to have your memory in that book. Please send a paragraph or two and any other material, such as a picture, to:
      Ed Samuel
      525 Edgewood Ave., New Haven, CT 06511
      <edsamuel@aya.yale.edu>
      203-782-2234
      ~~~~~~~~~~~

III. Remembering Them
   1. Remembering Dr. C. A. Ninan
      D. S. Poddar <pastor78_scdrid@bsnl.in> January 18:
      It was indeed very sad to learn that my friend Sonny Abraham (Dr. C. A. Ninan) passed away. He and I studied from Std I to Std 10. Up to Std 6 we were in the Elementary English School, Salisbury Park and then to Spicer High School for the rest of the high school. There was another student with us from elementary days and that was Purna Dawson. Wo studied up to Std 9 and joined the military. I did not see him at all. In fact he too died. Sonny and I completed the high school together, he beating me with one point, 61 and I with 60. He went on with medicine, and I remained at Spicer.
We met twice, once in his hospital in Pune and another time in his house. I have tried to contact him many times, including USA. Now I look forward to the great union in heaven.

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2. Weldon Mattison  
John M.Fowler <FowlerJ@gc.adventist.org>

Along with others, I too mourn the passing of Pastor Weldon Mattison and extend to Carol, Susan, Nancy and Stephen (and their adopted Indian daughter, Malini) my prayers and condolences. Tough as steel and tender as velvet, Pastor Mattison served the church in Southern Asia with great commitment to principles, firmness to integrity, and at the same time with a kindness that reached out to the suffering, the poor, and the helpless.

As an administrator, he served with no partiality; as a minister, he was always ready and willing to give a helping hand and share a comforting heart; and as an evangelist, he pioneered the schools of evangelism in Southern Asia and trained many to be fully immersed in the art of reaching out to those who need to hear the name above all names. He had no fear to detect hypocrisy and double-speak at several levels of the church, and spoke out that these have no place in church administration and life. I was ordained under his stewardship of the Division ministerial association, and I always felt a spiritual kinship with him, and tried to be like him "dividing the word of truth." As a long time resident of Salisbury Park, he lived as a friend to all, an example in Sabbath keeping, and a person with timely word. He was among the few missionaries who mastered the local language (Urdu) and could preach, live and talk with a sense of true contextualization. I will miss him a lot.

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3. Honoring the Memory of Merle O. Manley  
Priya Nath Mehta posted in VHS "School of Mine" (1922-1969) Jan 20

When I was at VHS, the principal was Mr. M. O. Manley during 1954-1955. His sons Bobby and Jimmy were also studying in the school. Jimmy was with me in the 6th class and most "feared" by me as the top boy in class, who would beat me to the first position in class to which we aspired. Mr. Manley used to teach us World History. I recall a couplet he recited while talking of the First World War:

"Kaiser William went up the hill
To have a war with France
Kaiser William came down the hill
With bullets in his pants!"

Though Mr. Manley had a "stern" British upper lip like appearance, the fact was that he was a very humorous man! But as students we all became nervous in his presence.

I recall the time I visited him at his home one evening and he showed me paintings on the wall which were made by him and his wife, Mrs. Manley.

I was so nervous being in the principal's home that I made a gaffe as I said:"That one is better!" pointing to the one made by Mrs. Manley. I soon became red-faced as I recalled my blunder. While parting at the door from Mr. Manley, I said to him: "Goodnight, Mrs. Manley!" It was the ultimate in gaffes and I have never forgotten it. That was the last time I saw him.

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IV. Another Spicer Professor Earns PhD

Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com>

Mushrooming in the latest spate of doctoral degree earners at Spicer College is Chacko Madathamchal Paul, a nephew of late Dr. M. E. Cherian. He successfully defended his Ph D thesis in History entitled "Major Milestones in the Growth of the Syrian Christian Church until the Arrival of the Portuguese in India- A Historical Analysis" at the Mumbai study centre of Manav Bharti University, Solan, Himachal Pradesh, a deemed to be University recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India on November 12, 2012. He has a BAA degree (Graphic Arts) from Spicer, MA in History from Pune University, and MSc (Counseling) from IBMS, Chittoor, AP, and holds the rank Associate Professor in History while also serving as the Director of Admissions at Spicer College. He is married to Dr. Sheela Chacko who now teaches in the School of Education and the couple is blessed with twins-- a son (MCom) and a daughter (MPT). Spicer College congratulates Dr. Paul on his achievement and hopes earnestly that he and his wife will continue to serve this institution more significantly for many more years with their advanced degrees.

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V. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 18
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.


Harry and Jessie Skinner of Australia arrived Myanmar in the late teens. Early in the twenties Harry and Jessie opened a station in brand new territory, at Hsi Seng, north east Myanmar. He had become proficient in the use of Burmese. He undertook a dictionary in Taungthu, a minority race, and he undertook preparation of a Taungthu grammar. He translated the gospel of Matthew into Taungthu, and his translation was accepted for publication by the British and Foreign Bible Society. Harry Skinner came to be recognized as the leading authority in Myanmar on the Taungthu language.

The Skinners could not endure the rigors of the climate and the unhealthful conditions at Hsi Seng. So this new station was abandoned. However, a new beginning was made. The Taunthuses were given the gospel of Matthew and seeds of truth were planted.

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VI. Obituary of Melvin Justin
from the December 27 Adventist Review
"Justin, Melvin--b. Mar. 16, 1939, Pakistan; d. Mar. 25, 2012, Weslaco, Texas. He served as a teacher in Pakistan Adventist Seminary, as pastor in Peshawar, and as a chaplain in Karachi Hospital. He served as chaplain in Ranger Park Hospital and Nursing Home. He is survived by his wife, Nihar, one son, Jimmy; one daughter, Julie; two brothers; three sisters; and five grandchildren."

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VII. More on Spicer’s Hospital
Reggie Shires <RegShires@aol.com>
It was a big surprise reading that Spicer College administration is to launch a hospital in alliance with a non-Adventist company. The college has forever sought some form of recognition but it has never happened. Now the administration is on a new venture.

Some months ago the administration announced that the college was planning a branch campus at Lonavala on the Pune-Mumbai line with engineering and theology. I wondered then what connection these two disciplines have to each other to be separated from the main campus. Possibly it is because both build highways and bridges for humanity! Imagine building a library for that type of campus. Since the last report about Lonavala, however, I have not seen anything more about this project.

Now the stunning news that Spicer College campus is to house a hospital. I went to Google Earth today to look at the campus and was surprised how beautiful and peaceful it is. The trees were in full bloom. Many of them planted by previous presidents and men like Pastor Rowe. It is still a good place to study and memories of my student days are pleasant and happy. I then worked under Laxman Mali. I was "Reggie Baba" to him. Today the campus is very crowded with large buildings and there is little room to spare to add much more. Imagine building a hospital where it is not needed, adding thousands of patients and relatives and the heavy traffic. How will this add to the peace a student needs at a beautiful corner of the world planned by our pioneers for Spicer (Missionary) College?

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VIII. A Day of Great Trauma at VHS, 1954
Priya Nath Mehta posted in VHS "School of Mine" (1922-1969)
It was one of my most terrible days at VHS as a student of Class VI. One my friends at the school, Darrel Storz, was ill. And then we were told that he was stricken with polio.

With horrendous efforts the students and the faculty of VHS were able to procure a rickshaw from Library Area of Mussoorie.
I recollect that the students of VHS also got together and pulled the rickshaw along with the coolies. Their destination was the Community Hospital at the top of Landaur!

And so they put the sick boy in the rickshaw and pulled and ran all the way along the Spring Road which was over three miles or so and then into Library Bazaar and then all along the Mall Road till the rickshaw went into Kulri and from there to the famous landmark Picture Palace-- which is where the tough and torturous climb to Landaur begins.

And then they huffed and puffed and panted and ran out of breath -- but they pulled and pulled and ran as much as their aching and tired muscles could take, while the patient in the rickshaw became more and more critical and his breathing became labored. Any moment it appeared he was going to die.

And then they pulled upwards past the Clock Tower at Landaur and further up and up until they could see Community Hospital far away on the top of a hill.

And there they were still pulling and panting and almost collapsing with the exertion themselves. The last was the steep climb to the Hospital.

One wondered angrily why they chose to build the hospital on such a steep hill at such a distance from humanity.

Finally the patient was in the hospital. But the news was not good. He needed an iron lung, which was obviously not available in Mussoorie or even Dehra Dun or maybe even Delhi.

The last we heard was that the iron lung had been called for from the USA and the flight was on its way. It is said that by the time the iron lung got to the Hospital it was already too late.

I recall a sad faced Mr. Manley, principal, informing the students at the Prayer Meeting that our friend had passed away. It was one of my gloomiest days at VHS. For years afterwards the mention of the word "polio" made me recall those dreadful days and my friend who had died there. It was the first death we had witnessed at VHS. And for us young minds it was quite a trauma.

The second death that I witnessed at VHS was that of Mrs. Patricia Keelan in 2012, almost 57 years later. And I still haven't gotten over that as yet.

Memories bring back a lot of nostalgia and happiness, and with it a lot of sadness. Somehow when I look at the Hill behind which VHS is located every day from my home on the Mall, an air of solemnity and sadness fills my heart of those days that were and which shall never come again- of the Manleys, Hoopers, Keelans...and schoolmates which I still recall from those times, and some of which no longer exist while others have aged, like myself...and I would not recognise them if I saw them on the Mall...

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IX. Salisbury Park Church's Week of Prayer Camp

Simon Pandey <simon_pandey@ymail.com>

The Seventh-day Adventist English Church at Salisbury Park, Pune was privileged to participate in a Week of Prayer and the A.Y. Camp conducted at Chandoli District near Karad from December 12-16, 2012. Pr. and Mrs. Michael Tuazon, the director of SOULS West Bible College (Pacific Union Conference) were the speakers. The theme chosen was 'DISCIPLESHIP'.

Pr. Tuazon, stressed on the importance of being an ardent Disciple of Jesus, reviewing many stories from the Bible, thus leading us to seek the pleasures of sharing the Gospel of Christ, and understanding the blessings involved. The sessions stimulated us to think about our efforts in bringing people to Christ, our own spiritual poverty, and challenged us to live a life, completely in accordance with the Lord's will.

The Journey ended with an enthusiastic sermon at the camp-spot, subjected from the Book of Daniel. He spoke with conviction and power, to a largely young audience, consisting of medical, nursing, paramedical students, engineers and staff, of over 300(including the Week of Prayer and AY camp). We sensed a vibe of revival with every message delivered and every question answered.

Candice (Pr. Tuazon's wife) was a blessing to the girls and women of our country. Couples like these can encourage both men and women of our country to live an exemplary life for Jesus and work for His soon coming.

We, as a church, would like to thank the Southern Asia Adventist Community Church in Loma Linda, California, USA, for making it possible for Pr. and Mrs. Michael Tuazon to minister to us.

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