I. Death of Samuel David
   J. John (Sunny) Wycliffe <sunnywycliffe@gmail.com> January 30:
   I just heard from Thampi Jackson that Samuel David, our classmate, died on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2013 at Beltsville, MD, USA. Funeral is yet to take place. He is the son of late Pastor & Mrs. Enos David.

II. Letters
   1. Barbara S. Wyman <barbwy26@gmail.com>
   When we went to Burma in 1949, we soon had the privilege of meeting Pr. Duane Johnson. He was a very friendly man, and since then I have gotten to know his son, George Johnson. Some time in the past I believe I met Shirley Johnson too. My thoughts and prayers are for their comfort and assurance that they will meet again. Some have commented that she went too soon, at age 93. As a fellow SENIOR, I can not agree that she went "too soon". There are many things about senior living that may make a time of "rest" come as a blessing, and relief.
   I never met Pat Keelan, but knew her son, Bruce, and I offer my condolences to Bruce. My daughter, Emily, knew her at VHS, and I heard only good things about her.

III. Remembering Weldon Mattison
   Joseph Zahid <josuna4@gmail.com> Jan. 25:
   A few months after my retirement from my active service for the church in Pakistan, my wife Audrei and I came to Loma Linda, California, in February, 2012, to live with our son, Adrian Zahid. As I recall, many years ago, Pr. W. H. Mattison, when he was Ministerial Director of the Southern Asia Division, he had come to our country, Pakistan, to have a seminar for the pastors. It was conducted in Pakistan Adventist Seminary, Farooqabad, District Sheikhupura. At that time I was a youth, and I was selected to interpret for him (to interpret from English into Urdu), as most of our pastors could not understand English. Oh, it was very hard to keep up with him, while he spoke, as he was a fast speaker. Of course, it gave me a good experience in interpreting fast. Since then, I have interpreted for many fast speakers, including Pr. W. G. Lowry and Pr. Adrian M. Peterson. In the recent past, Pr. John Mall had been taking some speakers from America to Pakistan, who were fast speakers, such as, Pr. Roy Patterson and Sergent Simms, and I used to be asked to interpret for them in camp meetings and seminars.
   I thank Pr. Weldon H. Mattison for training me as a fast interpreter. I looked up to him for his marvelous and dynamic speeches.
   I pray that his children and grandchildren and those connected with his family will find peace in God through promises in His Word.
IV. History of Falakata School Reviewed
  Gordon Christo <gechristo@sud-adventist.org> January 29:

  Maranatha is constructing a large number of classrooms in Falakata and they have asked me some questions about the history of the school. From Union and Division minutes I have found that the land was located by the union and a request was made to the Division in 1948 (for property in "Phalakata) for Rs 65,000. The Division had a Raymond Trust Fund and allotted finances from that. A few months later, the Union requested a further Rs 15,000 for land property and equipment. That too was approved. M. G. Champion from the North East Union was included in a survey team sent by the Division when they received the request. The high school section of the Karmatar school was transferred to Falakata by road. There are many actions in those few months for purchases and transfer. While building was going on Elder Champion (the principal) lived in a tent. The students lived and studied in bamboo structures with tin roofs while the Ad building was constructed. Wild animals wandered on to the campus for years.

  I am not aware of who the Raymonds were. I am wondering if there is any connection to the F. O. Raymonds who came as missionaries to India in 1901. If anyone has more information I would like to hear from them.

V. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 19

  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.

  19. Isaac Counsell (1920-22)

  Isaac Counsell arrived from America in December, 1920. Counsell took charge as pastor of the church in Yangon, relieving Pastor Hamilton, who was called to care for the growing church in Calcutta. Brother Counsell continued as pastor of the English church in Yangon until March 1923, when he was called to teach Bible at Vincent Hill School, Mussoorie, North India.

  Brother Counsell was single. He married Martha Matterand, a teacher at Vincent Hill School when he came to the school. They worked at the school for 6 years, then he spent many years in the Treasury Department of the General Conference at Washington DC, until time for retirement.

VI. Meeting of SAYJ at Northeast Adventist College

  South Asia Youth for Jesus <sayj.info@gmail.com> Jan. 27:

  SAYJ's fifth conference has come to an end and once again we have been witnesses of God's marvelous, transforming power especially in the lives of young people.

  On Tuesday 22nd of January, 2013, young people from all over India, especially the northeast were seen walking into the gates of Northeast Adventist College, India by 8 a.m. As usual it started with young people who were shy, fearful, and in need of direction. But as we started making our way through the conference the youth began overcoming their fears and finding the direction that God wants for their lives. By God's grace through the seminars and workshops that we ran the youth were able to be equipped with tools and gained knowledge that will help them fulfill the Great Commission - "Go and make disciples...". And throughout morning and evening devotions they learned how to be true disciples of Jesus. During the course of the conference we have seen young and old alike making hundreds of decisions for Christ. Fifteen souls answered the call to baptism and over 30 young people committed to starting evangelistic small groups in their communities.

  The Sabbath was a true blessing worshiping with over 800 people from all over India, especially the northeast. Through the sermon many came to a realization that God wants a true and personal commitment to Him and not just an external one. After examining their own lives they made a commitment to have a deeper, more honest and more faithful walk with our Lord. Our Sabbath closed with testimonies from the youth that attended. This was the most powerful part of the conference because this provided evidence that the Spirit of God was there. We heard a testimony of a young lady who had drifted far from God and doubted that the Seventh-day Adventist Church was true and even questioned the very existence of God. She was not even excited to attend the SAYJ conference. When she first arrived she really thought that she made a bad decision in coming. However, after attending the seminars and listening to the
morning and evening devotions, she herself publicly proclaimed that she knows that there is a God who exists and for the first time she is proud to be a part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This was the experience of just one among many.

God has blessed the SAYJ conference more than we could have ever asked. Lives have been changed including our own. Currently, there are young people who have found God for the first time traveling home, where they will be met with temptations and challenges that they have determined to overcome in Jesus. SAYJ is not just a weekend conference but a cooperative network in partnership with the church for training, equipping and supporting the young people of South Asia to be true disciples of Christ. Right now these young people need our prayers. Please join us in praying for these young people that God may empower them with His Spirit, teach them through His word and save them by His grace so that they can go make disciples.

[South Asia Youth for Jesus (SAYJ) is a youth-led supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. For more information please visit www.sayj.org. Email:info@sayj.org. Follow us on Facebook. US phone: (641) 715-3900 Ext: 67343. India Phone: +91-9972276107.] ~~~~~ VII. More on Spicer’s Hospital

1. Cecil Mirandi <cmarandi123@gmail.com>
   I congratulate! The Division and Spicer College for the MoU signed to have a Medical Institution in the college campus. It will be a blessing to the community, students desiring medical professional training, and for the church. We shall be looking forward to operationalization of the institution.

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2. Gordon Christo <drongo.ostrich@gmail.com>
   The announcement of a hospital at Spicer has naturally generated considerable interest and I would like to respond to some of the concerns.
   Firstly, it should be noted that the SASDA property on which it is proposed to be located is subsidized land obtained from the government to be used strictly by us for educational/industrial purposes. If we were to involve any outside party we would first have to buy out the restrictions. The first step taken is to have the developing company find out how much this will cost us. If is considered reasonable by the Division Committee, then the agreement will be signed with the developer. Joint development and leasing have the advantage of us retaining ownership of the properties, but because we are simple and ignorant we often get taken advantage of. Ownership of land is serious business out in the world and we are ill equipped to handle the big players. (At times we lose out on both the rental income and the property) and so experts have advised us to prefer outright sale. Perhaps we should do some of this and some of that, in different locations. However, we are informed that our Division is the richest in terms of value of property and that we need to start maximizing these lots for improvement of our situation. Nobody wants to help us unless we help ourselves. It is time to lay sentimentality aside or we could die clutching our treasure. To those who are suspicious of some getting personal benefit out of property transactions, I would say, we should do our best to keep deals clean. We cannot block all holes, but those guilty will have to answer God one day.
   Meanwhile please support the decision of the Division to move forward. This is a bold move, but a necessary one.

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VIII. Hindi FM Radio Launch in Delhi
    Edison Samraj <adventistmediacentre@gmail.com> Jan. 30:
    New Delhi has received a special privilege of having FM in Hindi. The launch will be on February 2, 2013. The union administration, the Delhi Metro Region as well as the church members will be present for the same. We kindly request our leaders to pray for this church event so that the FM in Hindi will be a blessing to the people of Delhi to have the knowledge of truth and make the church more audible, visible and credible.
    -Dr. Edison Samraj, Director, AMC

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IX. Mission Story: "The Rebel Rebels"

"Prakash was a Maoist terrorist living in the jungles of Asia. Although only in his 20s, he had risen to the position of commander of his political party in his village and the surrounding area. He had been taught to torture or kill anyone who did not follow the teaching of his political party or give in to his demands. His word was law!

"He left his home and lived with his troops in the mountain jungles.
They raided the nearby villages and terrorized the people. When the rebels needed food or money, they would simply enter a village and take what they wanted."
"One day Prakash and his troops entered a Seventh-day Adventist church, planning to steal the offering, terrorize the members, and burn down the church. But God had other plans. When Prakash demanded that the pastor give him the offering, the pastor answered bravely, 'Take God's money, but if you give your life to Jesus, He will change you completely.'

"Prakash thought little of the pastor's words, but some of his troops deserted his command and joined the church. When Prakash talked with these former rebels, he noticed remarkable changes in their characters. COULD JESUS CHANGE ME TOO? he wondered.

"The Prakash discovered a program on the radio called "Asha Bani'. The speaker talked about Jesus. As Prakash listened, he sensed that his life was changing, just as the pastor said it would. Prakash became aware that life was precious; he could no longer torture or kill.

"Prakash knew that he must leave the rebels, but he had taken an oath. 'Keep your promise or be killed,' he was told. But Prakash gave his life to Christ; he was not afraid.

"One day Prakash called the studio of Adventist World Radio which produces the program that had brought him to Jesus. 'I believe in Jesus, and know that you teach from the Bible.' he said. 'I listen to your program and tell my friends to listen, as well. Because of your program the word of God has reached my village, and people all around have come to know about the true God.'

"Recently Prakash was baptized. His mother, seeing the changes in her son, now believes in Jesus too.

"Adventist World Radio is an effective tool for reaching people who may never come to know Jesus in any other way."
--Daniel Chow, president of AWR

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