I. Remembering Dr. Ninan

John Curnow <jjcurnow@att.net> Feb. 7:

I, along with many others, was saddened to learn of Dr. Ninan's death. I worked in PADMEC, Pune, 1978-1979 and really appreciated Dr. Ninan's quiet and very professional dealings with both staff and patients. I remember one patient from a nearby village. She only spoke her village dialect which none of the staff could understand. Fortunately, the patient in the next bed was a Spicer student from the same village and could translate for us. Dr. Ninan removed stones from one of kidneys. When he showed them to her the following morning, she exclaimed, "I don't remember eating those!" When Dr. Ninan opened this very slim patient for surgery, he called those of us who were present to look at her 'insides,' pointing out that she had no fat.

"That's how we should all look inside!" he told us. It was Dr. Ninan's brother, Dr. Abraham (who was in that fatal Indian Airline crash) who diagnosed our middle son Ian's poor eyesight; and it was Dr. Ninan's sister, Dr. Susie Moser, who removed a rusty pin imbedded in the sole of our daughter Sally's foot in the ER of the hospital in Watford, England. This family has been such a blessing to ours! Our deep sympathy to Mrs. Ninan.

II. Letters

1. Jean & Jack Sequeira <jeansequeira@comcast.net> Jan. 31:

Even though Jack and I were never employed by the Southern Asia Division, we have spoken several times in India and love reading your SUD newsletter and keeping up with your news. BTW, when we were married in England 49 years ago, John Curnow (recently returned from India), walked me down the aisle ;-) and his daughter, Sally, was one of our bridesmaids.

With a name like ours, we would love to hear news of church happenings in Goa ;-) Is there any?
Blessings on you, and many thanks for all the energy you put into distributing this newsletter.

--Pastor Jack & Jean Sequeira

III. Honoring Grace Prasada Rao on Her 100th

Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> Feb. 1:

I was quite happy to read about Mrs. Grace Prasada Rao getting ready to celebrate her 100th birthday in April. God bless her heart! I am so delighted to learn that she is still around because I was somehow given to understand otherwise. I do...
remember her from my childhood days when Pr. & Mrs. Prasada Rao used to visit Narasapur High School (now Flaiz Adventist College) where my father (Mr. S. Somasundaram) worked for many years as the Headmaster/Principal. And there was always something striking about Pr. and Mrs. Rao other than the contrast between their heights, complexion, looks, gait and voice though Pr. Prasada Rao was a giant in other areas and well-respected by one and all. Mrs. Rao looked almost like a princess-fair, tall, stylish and pretty with her nylon sarees in pastel colours elegantly worn over short & loose-sleeved matching blouses. And she always wore an almost invisible hairnet decorated with small multi-coloured beads over her shampoo-cleaned gleaming hair, not very common those days. And she walked with a gentle grace and had a regal aura around her and looked very graceful fully doing justice to her name. The Raos and my parents were family friends and the Raos were always invited to our home for a meal. And another memorable thing about her was that she always visited our home about a couple of hours before the mealtime whenever they were invited home. My mother and we children often wondered why she vested us thus - was it to find out "what was cooking and how it was cooking?" Could be true; perhaps not. But that question still intrigues me whenever I think of Mrs. Prasada Rao and that is not very rare.

I do not know how strong, healthy, mentally agile, focused and oriented Mrs. Rao is at this advanced age, but am simply happy that she is alive and will even be completing a century soon. May the Good Lord continue to reward her for her faithful service along with her illustrious husband and bless her abundantly with good health and strength, wisdom and knowledge, and peace, joy and love, and protect from all harm, evil and danger as she stands as a witness to God's amazing grace. Grace, we admire you!

May God bless all her children and grand children and great grandchildren and use them mightily in His service as did use Pr. & Mrs. Prasada Rao!

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IV. Death of Pakistan's Noel Jackson

Samuel Nazir <samuelyouthpk@hotmail.com> Feb. 4:

Noel Jackson has passed away. He was Pr. Sardar Jackson's son. Mr. Ernest William's wife, Bashiran, was Pr. Jackson's sister. She used to work in cafeteria, and Ernest William from Larkana, Sind, was a teacher at PASC.

This gentleman, Noel, was a diabetic, I have heard that he slept one night, and never woke up the next day. Mrs. Jackson had passed away few years ago, but Pr. Jackson is still living in San Francisco, but many hours' drive from us in Loma Linda, California. Do remember Pr. Sardar Jackson and his married children and grandchildren in your prayers. I may not be able to go to the funeral this Wednesday at 10 am, but I have phoned Pr. Jackson and sympathised with him. His phone no. is: 001-925-437-6205. I called Pr. Jackson on the phone and sympathised with him. -- Joseph Zahid ~~~~~~~~~~~ V. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 20-22

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.

20. Molly Rae (1913- 19)

The work of treasurer was capably cared for during the teen years by 3 fine ladies - first Molly Rae for a time, then Mrs. Shannon for a further period. Rachel Jones from America continued until the Myanmar Union was organised in 1919 and L. W. Melendy became the first secretary-treasurer of the Union.

21. Mrs. Shannon (1913- 19)

22. Rachel Jones (1913- 19)

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VI. Dr. George C. Thomas' Book About President Obama

Several weeks before last November's election, Dr. Thomas sent me a copy of his book which had recently been published: "We Are the Change that We Seek [the Battles, Torments, and Triumphs of President Barak Obama in Leading a Nation Hungering for Change]"

On the flyleaf he wrote: "Dr. Tidwell: There were so many 'missionaries'
who shaped my life and education. Most of them have passed on. I am sending this [book] to you with gratitude as a representative of those teachers. -- George Thomas."

A short biographic sketch is on the back cover:

"George C. Thomas is a graduate of Spicer Memorial College, Pune, India, and the Newhouse School of Communications at Syracuse University. He has served as department head, project director and executive director affiliated with various U. S. universities, medical centers and nonprofit service organizations. . . He is currently semi-retired and occasionally teaches public health, business administration and marketing in San Diego and Universidad CETYS, Mexicali, Mexico."

Early on in the book he tells of his first meeting with the Obama family:

"It was in the spring of 1964 that I met him--my first of several casual meetings with Barak Obama, Sr. . . He was studying economics at Harvard and I was in a master's program in journalism at Syracuse University. We had a lot of things in common, both of us having grown up in former British colonies, Kenya and India, which shared the benefits of the English educational system."

"We both went back to our native lands after our U.S. education at about the same time: he to face cold and malevolent reception in Kenya, and I to face cordiality and benevolence in India.

"Obama Senior's wife of a short period--and the President's mother--and I worked with the U.S. Agency for Development in about the same time; she in Thailand and I in the Dominican Republic. . .

"I saw the son, the little Barak Obama, when he was about two and a half years old. when he and his mother came to Syracuse to visit Obama Seniors and his benefactors."

Included in the Acknowledgments are:

"Dr. Vimala Flora Thomas for encouraging me and sharing her no-nonsense political perspectives.

"Norman Thomas and Mona Thomas Klausing for general critique and overall support of this project.

"Pauline (Dr.) and D. P. David, my best friends who all my life rooted for me.

"Some 80 members of my extended family who are either naturalized or native-born American citizens, who have been my well-wishers."

VII. More on Spicer's Hospital

1. John M. Fowler <FowlerJ@gc.adventist.org> Jan. 31:

   I want to thank Gordon Christo for giving the official Division perspective on the recent "news" floating around about a hospital on Spicer property, on the lease of the property, on the proposed Nursing School as though it has already happened, on the Division voting the whole package, and being blessed by the presence of the GC officers. What Dr. Christo has mentioned sets the right tone to the issue: the need for development, the reason for preferring sale over lease of land, the carelessness of handling property and the moneys involved, the history of how we got the land, and the need for caution in unnecessarily hyping hurrahs or condemnations on the actions taken or appear to have taken by various denominational agencies. Gordon mentioned that there is a feeling that SUD is the richest in the matter of property holding; I might add we are also the richest in the hyper-emotional outbursts in discussing property issues, in accusing church leaders of all kinds of wrongful acts, and above all in arriving at conclusions that do more damage than good.

   It behooves us to think creatively, be cautious in attacking church leaders, offer constructive proposals for consideration by respective committees, and be slow with words and fast with charity to all. It also behooves church leaders to be more open, responsive, communicative, and as Gordon hinted be aware that we all must stand one day before God's judgment.

   Meanwhile, let us support our institutions like Spicer, Nuzvid, Lowry, Surat, Roorkee, NEUC, and others so that they may grow higher and better. In the near future SSD will have a medical college in the Philippines--they are in the process of methodical and global planning. Why not we support Spicer, and for that matter the highly successful Salisbury Park High School and PADMAC come up with a nursing school? The more we try to be positive in growth, the more glorious our church will grow. God bless SUD.

-- John Fowler, Editor, DIALOGUE

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2. Wesley James <wjames231@msn.com> Feb. 3:
For a church administrator that is trying to explain the current status of SUD, it is always a challenge as to how much can be disclosed. Therefore, I appreciate Gordon Christo’s attempt to make us aware of the issues facing SUD, such as its future, questions regarding our institutions, church properties, etc. Knowing that the work in SUD is the Lord’s and He has been faithful for the past 120 years, I am very sad to read that "no one wants to help us unless we help ourselves." Really! Is the sale of properties the best solution for "helping ourselves"? Who came up with the idea? Was it prompted by a trust in God’s leading? If so, what’s for sale and what’s the process of implementation? How far back do we need to look to see how we’ve failed miserably on property issues, as acknowledged by Gordon? Are there lessons to be learned? I am quite sure that there are many SUDites - workers and lay members in India and abroad, who would welcome opportunities to discuss and support the development of SUD. Have they been invited to be a part of the discussion? There could be other options, but, let’s start with

2 Chronicles 7:14.


3. Richard Samuel <samtrio@verizon.net>

It appears that Spicer is anxious to expand and makes its presence felt one way or the other. First it tried to become a university but thanks to prudence, dropped the idea due to various requirements that could have compromised our SDA beliefs. I just returned from India, visited Hapur Hospital which my wife and I started in 1984. We were very disappointed to see a very empty hospital. From what we hear most of our hospitals in SA are operating far below their potential. The SA Division leaders need to take this into consideration before embarking on another project at Spicer

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Victor Hulbert <VictorHulbert@adventist.org.uk>

BUC News Edition #814 (1 February 2013)

Watford-based charity STOP International raised over £2,000 thanks to an evening of Indian food and 'entertainment', and an auction of promises attended by 80 people. STOP International was founded by Kish Poddar, a teacher at Stanborough School in 2000 and helps children in orphanages in Tamil Nadu in Southern India.

During the evening founder Kish outlined his next humanitarian project. Next summer he plans to set up a sewing room at the Vocational Training Centre in one of the orphanages he helps. Asking for volunteers to accompany him, including paying their own expenses, he was pleased to note a positive response from some of those present.

The fundraising evening at The Stanborough Centre, Watford, on Saturday evening, 26 January, was organised by Pat Walton. She is one of the trustees for STOP International. Following the meal and some spoof ‘Bollywood-style’ dancing, there was an auction of promises. This sparked some lively bidding for 15 lots including: 5 hours of gardening, an Indian meal for six, 4 gliding, a spring clean, theatre tokens, sailing in the Mediterranean, a handyman offer, website development, a week in north Wales for 6, private tuition, decorative plates, birthday cakes and an antique coffee table.

The evening concluded with a final repeat 'Bollywood' performance - where guests paid extra to see some members of the organising team join the performance. This raised both a further £90 and cheers from the audience.

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IX. Maranatha Dedicates EEC in India

"Maranatha celebrated the completion of an Education and Evangelism Center (EEC) in Newasa, India, on November 24, 2012. More than 500 people gathered for the dedication of the school, including Maranatha President Don Noble and Southern Asia Division President John Rathinaraj.

"Elder John was the keynote speaker at the event, and challenged everyone to make good use of the facility to praise God and teach others about the Gospel message.

"The new school, which already has 300 elementary students enrolled, has multiple classrooms, offices, and an auditorium. Maranatha has built many schools in India, but this is the first EEC. Maranatha has constructed more than 100 EECs around the worked, most of them in Latin America.

"School administrators say that the unique design of the building, which is located at the center of town, is already drawing lots of attention from the community. Families have expressed interest in sending their children to Newasa, and the school expects enrolment to grow rapidly in the next few years." --from Maranatha’s Winter, 2013 journal, THE VOLUNTEER ~~~~~~~~~ X. Rebuilding Churches in Orissa

"The $10 Church program is a blessing to individuals, families, and congregations around the world. . . .
"Recently, Maranatha has been building churches in Orissa, India. In 2008, violence erupted against the Christians in the region, and hundreds of churches were destroyed. This destruction did not cause the people of Orissa to lose hope, and they reached out to Maranatha for help to rebuild. Through the $10 Church program, Maranatha was able to provide new places of worship in Orissa where members can fellowship and praise God together. In remembrance of their victory in rebuilding the church, members plan to place a 'Victory V' beneath the steeple of the new places of worship. 'V is for victory because we have won the battle,' shares one member. It will serve as a reminder of their hope in Christ, and the hope of a better future."--from Maranatha's Winter, 2013 journal, THE VOLUNTEER ~~~~~~~~~~~~ To remove your name from the mailing list of this newsletter simply reply to this e-mail and put "REMOVE" in the Subject line.

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