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I. Remembering Them

1. Florence Jayabarathan <florence.jayabarathan@gmail.com> Feb. 16:
   It was a shock to read about the passing away of Dr. Ninan; I grew up in Salisbury Park, Pune. It was again a shock to hear about the passing away of Pr. W. H. Mattison under whom me and my husband served in the South India Union while he was the president.

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2. Akhtar Anwar <roma333@gmail.com> Feb. 16
   Over fifty years ago my aunt, Mrs. S. Bhattacharji, got married under a big tent (shamiyana) which was set up in front of Pastor and Mrs. Weldon Mattison's house in Jalandar. Mrs. Mattison helped with all the wedding arrangements.
   They put up all of our family in their house. We had travelled from Pakistan and our other family members had travelled from different cities in India.
   Pastor O.O. Mattison (Weldon's father) treated my parents, Pastor M. R. Justin and Mrs. Begum Khan as his children. He arranged for their marriage.
   They were both teachers. My father became president of the local mission and was the first delegate to the General Conference from Pakistan. Pastor Mattison was so proud of him.
   When I was a student nurse in Karachi Hospital, Pastor O. O. Mattison was visiting and my father told me to put on my nurse's cap and show him how it looked. Pastor Mattison always knew how to be kind and to encourage people.
   Pastor Weldon Mattison and his father devoted their lives along with the lives of their families to the people of India and Pakistan. Myself and my entire family extend our condolencs to the Mattison family.

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II. Letters

1. Gladwin Mathews <gladwinmathews@hotmail.com> Feb 10:
   I had been following the "news" on Spicer's Hospital for quite some time but somehow held my comments back. I don't know what prompted me to do so but I guess better late than never.
   I have always been a supporter of my 'Alma Mater', especially the Department of Religion which received a video projector at one of my personal visits to Spicer. This was through the generous contributions initiated by me and the others. And I hope that it is being used profitably.
   After reading the comments on Spicer's hospital by Dr. Gordon Christo, Dr. John M. Fowler, Dr. Richard Samuel, and Wesley James, I must say that I appreciate their comments and thank them for their openness which had behooved me to think creatively to this issue.

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I especially thank Wesley James for mentioning 2 Chronicles 7:14 and setting the stage for me and to take this opportunity to introduce to all the leaders in SUD, my recently published book entitled, "The 21st-Century Nehemiah" which deals with the same issues confronting Nehemiah, the servant-leadership role of Nehemiah and the same issues that we are facing in the church in this 21st Century.

The book has a 'Foreword' from Dr. Gordon Christo, Executive Secretary, Southern Asia Division, Hosur, India. I recommend that everyone who aspires to be a god-fearing and humble leader must read this book. Truly, we need 'The 21st-Century Nehemias'.

The book is published by Xulon Press, a Christian Publishing Company. It is available on Amazon.com (Kindle), BarnesandNoble.com (Nook), Google.com. It is distributed by Ingram and Spring Arbor.

Gladwin Mathews M.A.; M.A., Ph.D
Founder: Glad Advent Ministries
www.gladadventministries.com
adventministries@gmail.com

2. Rose Muthiah Davy <davyp@bellsouth.net> Feb.13:

When Jesus was young and His parents found Him after having searched everywhere and His mother spoke to Him, His answer to her was "I must be about my Father's business". As we know the president, Elder Ted Wilson, has sent out the message about Revival and Reformation. Also the idea that everyone around the globe should pray every morning and evening is wonderful. I learn a lot from reading the SUD newsletters. I personally know some of the contributors and they are of different ages. I want you to know that some of the young men are younger than I am and we have been schoolmates and playmates in India many years ago. Their parents and my parents worked closely in God's vineyard. Some of them are taking a lot of courage to write some very important messages. The Holy Spirit is guiding them and so I hope that the messages are being taken seriously. I am urging the believers around the world to pray about the issues we as a church have to face. Let us pray that the leaders will understand what is the right thing to do about the properties in India. Some people have spoken every now and then about dishonest mission workers. After hearing about people who are retired at an earlier age and that some have to go out to work to survive I am wondering as a nurse whether they are doing such things out of desperation even though this should not happen. I do not know who makes the final decisions for SUD. I do hope that our mission workers will start receiving a better pay and not have to go outside to find work to take care of their needs. The properties anywhere around the world belong to God. No one should try to get any money from it. Since the message is out about the Spicer College property maybe the authorities and pastors may know who the person is and be able to stop the act from happening. Many who visit India including myself feel sad because we lived there and have enjoyed on the once beautiful campuses. To see the changes breaks our hearts. The interesting thing is that God has helped us over the years and no matter which continent we live on around the world, or which country we belong to or what culture, we all lived once upon a time in India and to this day we are like family and we do care. I thank God for this great privilege which I don't know if any other people from any other church are enjoying like we are. Let us all join hands globally to do great things for God the remaining months of this new year 2013. With the modern day technology we are able to do more, unlike our pioneers who toiled hard and made many sacrifices. I do know many missionaries but I did not know until I read the newsletter the names of other missionaries who worked in India and other countries. There are many leaving their comfort zones even today to travel to places where we may never want to go and doing their Father's business. We need to pray for them and for ourselves so God will help us understand what part we can play in helping to finish His work on earth. This year I want to do radical things for God. Have you been thinking the same thing? It is so wonderful to see young people and new converts doing such mighty things to proclaim the gospel message. It makes me start thinking for sure because I know that I need to be doing more. My concern is that when we have the religious liberty and be in a lukewarm state, a time may come and we don't know how soon it will be, it may be too late. For this reason I am urging everyone to take things more seriously this year. Just recently we heard about the elderly pope who is resigning. That made me think again. If the day of Jesus' second coming is going to be soon then Hallelujah! Let us consider it an honour to be ambassadors of God. Let us all be about our Father's business so the gospel will reach every place on earth and we can all be ready for that GREAT day when Jesus comes to take us home. God be with each one of you.

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3. Del Orser <dborser@gmail.com> February 17:
from FaceBook
We appreciate your prayers while Bonnie and I are on a 2 month mission trip in India encouraging churches we have helped establish since 2000. We are presently at the Ibrahimpatan School near Vijawada, Andhra Pradesh where 600 Gospel Outreach Bible Workers have gathered for their annual four-day training. Wishing you could join us as we experience the culture and several providential experiences. This territory is claimed by Satanic forces so your prayers are essential. We will be leaving the 27th for Chang Mai, Thailand to visit our friends, the Frichtls who are working for Jesus for Asia, then on home March 6. We appreciate those who have filled in for us making it possible for us to come.

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III. Two Deaths

1. Death of Victoria Florence Chokka
   Roscoe Benjamin <pastoroscoe@aim.com> February 16:
   I, along with many other loved ones, was saddened to learn of the death of my cousin sister, Victoria Florence Chokka, on February 8, 2013 in Red Deer, Alberta, Canada.
   She was born on April 10, 1939 in India. She was a trained nurse, worked in several places like Gudiwada, Vijayawada, Nuzvid, and Roorkee, India. She migrated along with her husband, Suvarna Rao Chokka, to Alberta, Canada.
   She left behind her husband, three children, five grand children and two brothers, William Moses Enjati and William Carey Enjati, and a sister Jenny Meesarapu of Bangalore.

   Wake was conduct by Pastor Roscoe Benjamin of Chicago, USA on February 11, and Interment by Pastor Ian Hartly of Red Deer, Canada on February 12, 2013 in the presence of nearly a hundred friends, relatives and her SAD church church members whom she loved very much. Our deepest sympathy to Mr. Chokka and children.

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2. Death of Neville Matthews
   Terrence Davin <terrydavin@gmail.com> Feb. 18:
   reporting on FaceBook
   I got an email from Gwen (Matthews)Ocampo a little over an hour ago telling me that her dad, Neville Matthews passed away yesterday, Sabbath, at 1:30 a.m. He was 93 years old and was in a Lutheran Care facility in Southern California where he had been for the last 6 years. Gwen says there was no suffering involved, he died of old age. Jeanne and I had been quite close with the Matthews from the time we first met them at Spicer College where Neville was teaching.

   He was a Vincent Hill School graduate from days of yore, the days of Roscoe Lowry and Walter Mackett and other "notables". Neville married Sheila Lamb, also from VHS. After he left Spicer he came to Canada and was president of Medicine Hat College, Alberta, for a while and then accepted a call to be president of Canadian Union (now University) College where he remained for quite a while after gaining "recognition" status for the college. As most of you may know, his wife Sheila died not long after their oldest daughter, Daphne did. The surviving children are: Gwen, Jenny-Jeanne, Robyn and Ted. After his presidency at CUC he was the GC rep. to the United Nations, if I rightly recall. He served the Lord and His church well.

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IV. Aruna Papp Appointed to United Nations Position
   Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> Feb. 10:
   Aruna Papp (known as Irene, eldest daughter of the late Pastor and Mrs. Barkat Masih Isaac to her childhood friends at Hapur and Roorkee) has been selected as a delegate to United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCfSW), to take place in New York, March 4 - 15, 2013.
   In a letter confirming her selection Suzanne Cooper Senior Advisor on behalf of the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister for Status of Women invited Aruna, as a non-governmental organization (NGO) delegate on the Canadian delegation to the 57th session. Suzanne Cooper also indicated that Aruna Papp has been invited to give the keynote address at a Canada-hosted event at the UN.

   This is the first time a South Asian women will be speaking at the UN on behalf of Canadian Government. She says, "I believe, and always have believed that God had a purpose for my life. This is nothing short of his blessings."

   Go to the following link to know about Aruna's work:
   Aruna Papp, MA, ADR, MEd.
V. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 23

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.

23. LaRue & Anna Melendy (1919-1925)

LaRue W. Melendy and his wife Anna had arrived in India from America in 1918, where they were called to Myanmar in 1919 to serve as secretary-treasurer of the newly organised Myanmar Union Mission. Mrs. Melendy was secretary of the Sabbath School Department of the Union. The Melendys were very active and lovable missionaries. Although their work was primarily office work, yet they found time, or took time, to do a great deal of visiting in Yangon where they lived and made many friends for the mission. They were especially active in Sabbath School work.

LaRue Melendy was truly kind and helpful. Missionaries working in the jungles of Myanmar, where for months at a time they had no opportunity for shopping, could send long lists of things they needed to Brother Melendy at Yangon, and everything on the list from needles and thread and buttons to engine parts for the mission launch would be carefully purchased and sent on their way.

VI. Spicer to Start Distance Education Programme

Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> Feb. 10:

The College Board which met at Spicer on Feb. 5th mooted the proposal recommended to it by its Academic Sub-Committee comprising of the SUD Education Director, VPAA, deans, department heads and senior faculty after a brainstorming session, to set up a Distance Education Programme at Spicer beginning from the next academic year starting with the curriculum for a two-year diploma in a Bible Instructor course, giving a fillip for a vast clientele like students studying in non-Adventist colleges and the teachers in SDA schools who never had the opportunity to study in Adventist Colleges but can hope to complete their Denominational Enrichment Course or at least a major portion of it at their work place itself in their own time and part-time, and hundreds of not so highly educated volunteers employed all over the division for preaching the gospel, who can neither afford money nor time to come and study on the Spicer campus. The modalities are being worked out and once the diploma course in theology is found successful the college plans to venture into other areas such as education, health, etc.

VII. New School Building for Guam-Micronesia

Walter John <gwalterjohn@hotmail.com> Feb. 12:

Could you please be kind enough to post the following announcement/invitation on the SUD and FED newsletters for the benefit of those interested.

"This is both an announcement and an invitation to all who may be interested:

"The Chuuk SDA school in Micronesia has been blessed with a new three-classroom building. The building project was jointly funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Development (RD), and the Guam-Micronesia Mission of SDAs (GMM). The new classrooms are large and spacious and well situated on the school compound. An opening ceremony for the new school is being planned for Monday, February 18. It is our prayer that the new building will be a great blessing to the work of Adventist education on these remote Pacific islands."

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