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VI. Betty Reynolds’ New Book
~~~~~~~~~~~~ I. Sabbath Exams
   Please pray that the board exams in India schedule for March 16, 2013, Sabbath, be postponed to some other day. Lot of Seventh-day Adventist Schools and students are affected by this. -- Nathan Tidwell, on Facebook, March 6
~~~~~~~~~~~~ II. Help Grace (Thomas) Prasada Rao Celebrate Her 100th
   Edward Samuel <samuelarchitect@sbgglobal.net> March 5:
   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. Thank you to the many of you that have responded, she will be delighted to have your memory as well in that book. Please send a paragraph or two and any other material, such as a picture, before the end of March
to:
   Ed Samuel
   525 Edgewood Ave., New Haven, CT 06511
   edsamuel@aya.yale.edu
   203-782-2234
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III. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 26
   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.
            26. Lindsay & Margaret Semmens (1922 - 25)
   Lindsay and Margaret Semmens arrived Myanmar in February, 1922. He relieved the Ludingtons at Meiktila School. Up to this time the school at Meiktila had been known as Meiktila Technical School, as its primary emphasis was on manual arts - carpentry, furniture making, cloth weaving, shoe making, and printing. Not long after Pastor Semmens came to the school, it was decided at that time that its primary purpose was should be to train workers for the mission ministers, colporteurs, teachers, Bible instructors, book keepers, office secretaries, and other workers. The name of the school was changed to the Seventh-day Adventist Mission Training School. Lindsay and Margaret Semmens continued at the school until 1925 when they returned to America.
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IV. Letters
   1. Barbara S. Wyman <barbwy26@gmail.com> Feb. 28:
      In response to memories of Neville Mathews, I remember him during our time in Burma; but also we met him several times in USA. His daughter, Gwen, was our pastor's wife in Brewster, WA. I remember Frank speaking of him with fond memories from VHS.
      Regarding VHS, Frank often spoke of Gerald Christo and Roscoe Lowry, as they were all in VHS at the same time. And Frank spoke of Sheila Lamb, and her marriage to Neville.
Then the Burma Vignettes story about J. O. Wilson......When we arrived in Rangoon Dec. 7, 1949, it was the Wilsons who served us our first meal in Burma. They were long time friends of the Senior Wymans, and of us......and I remember their 4 boys, and kept in touch with them for years, during retirement. So many fond memories of mission days in Burma, while we worked in So. Asia.

2. Edison Samraj <adventistmediacentre@gmail.com> March 5:

I am sorry to know about the passing away of Dr. N. O. Mathew. He was a strong Indian leader who worked relentlessly to develop the education program in Spicer. We want to thank God for his dedicated service. May God bless his family and loved ones.


"The church is more than the hierarchy of Rome Timothy Shriver’s March 1 op-ed, 'The Vatican needs a mystic,' was inspiring. Mr. Shriver's solution to the Catholic Church's loss of spiritual bearings is to sound a call for the 'pursuit of the purest love of God.' But it was unfortunate that he used as his model for this change the teachings of the mystics. Instead, it is in the life of the ordinary churchgoer where the revelation of a living God must first take place.

"As a boy, my mother would take me to Mr. Raju, a goldsmith in Bangalore, to get her gold rings. Mr. Raju had a son, about my age, who was badly handicapped and under his daily care. Many years later, I returned to the city and went to visit Mr. Raju. He was quite old. I asked him how his son was doing. He said to me: 'Every day that I take care of my son, who is now a man, I learn more and more about my God.' "

4. Sunny Wycliffe <sunnywycliffe@gmail.com> March 6:

Some of my Memories of Dr. Neville O Matthews

I wish to mention just a few unforgettable moments with Dr. N. O. Matthews. When my dad sent me to study at Spicer High school in 1955, Dr. Matthews and family were leaving India to go abroad.

I remember the time when Dr. Matthews was invited by the General Conference President, Elder Neal C. Wilson, to be an associate Secretary of the Public Affairs & Religious Liberty Department (PARL dealing with the United Nations). After meeting him in the GC, soon I found out that he and my dad, Pastor Japagnanam John, were friends.

We travelled together to India, Nepal and also to the UN in New York several times on GC assignments, visiting the ambassadors of India, P. K. Kaul, Dr. Karan Singh, S. S. Ray, Dr. Abid Hussain, President K. R. Narayanan, Lalit Mansingh and other officials like Mr. Vijay Kumar, IFS, Mr. Iyer, V. Balachandran, Ranjan Mathai and many others at the Embassy of India; this was a regular chore even though I was working in GC Plant Services. I had taken him to the White House and also to Congressional luncheons hosted by the Indian American community.

On GC assignment in 1986, before going to India to meet Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to invite him to inaugurate the IRLA Congress in New Delhi, my cousin Samuel Jackson (Thampy) took me to get my "silver" head as good looking as "coal". The hair cutter was in a hurry and she put the wrong dye (brown) on my hair. Without any success, I tried my level best to get my hair back to the original color. But I had to wear a winter cap during the summer when I went to see. Dr. Matthews in his office. He told his wife Sheila to look at my head with a winter cap. For a long time, my wife, Thampy, Robins Lazarus, Mrs. Matthews and Dr. Matthews had a good laugh making fun of my "golden" hair.

In 1987 Dr. Matthews and I helped Dr. M. E. Cherian, who was the Southern Asia Division PARL director, in organizing the first Asia International Religious Liberty Conference in New Delhi. Justus Devadas was Dr. Cherian's trusted assistant. The Southern Asia Division had booked us in the Ashoka hotel and made all other arrangements and paid deposits. Unfortunately Dr, Cherian had to under go an emergency heart surgery. Everything was in limbo. Two weeks before the meetings, SUD recommended to Elder Neal C. Wilson that in spite of the money advanced for various speakers, travel, etc. to cancel the 3-day IRL conference. Knowing my personal contacts at the Embassy of India in Washington, DC, the Prime Minister Hon. Rajiv Gandhi and his associates and officials in New Delhi, Elder Wilson called Dr. Matthews and me to his office and explained the situation stating that this will be a great loss of money to the church and enquired about our advice. Then Elder Wilson called for a GC committee and each member individually objected to President Wilson’s proposal to send me to India to salvage the IRLA’s conference in ten
days. (Elder Wilson personally told me this) He informed the committee that he will NOT send me (as I was not an
elected officer in GC, but working in Plant Services) and then in turn asked each member whether he can go to India
which each member declined to go. So Elder Wilson told the GC committee that he is going to send me to India to work
on the PARL conference because GC and Southern Asia Division has invested a lot of time, effort and money which will
be a loss to the church. Dr. Matthews joined me in New Delhi. We both went to see Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and he
gave us a personal message to be read at the opening session of the conference. The PM’s secretary sent telegraph message
to all the Indian Embassies to issue visas to the delegates coming to attend the meeting. Then I called Ashoka hotel
about our rooms and they told us that we have no reservation and the hotel was full due to the Chinese Table-Tennis
groups staying there. I told my friend, Prime Minister’s private secretary that Dr. Matthews and I did not have any room
and we may have to sleep on the foot path. The Prime Minister’s secretary called the hotel and told us to go to Ashoka
hotel and see the General Manager. We reached the hotel in the evening and mentioned our names. The General
Manager and other officials came to greet us and told us that they were waiting for us for the past four hours. We were
garlanded and then the Regional Vice President of the hotel escorted us to the Presidential suites on the top floor and
enquired us if this was ok. We were shocked to see the VVIP suites with five rooms, kitchen etc. We had complimentary
flowers, fruits and juices. Each one of us were given a suite. The next morning Dr.
Matthews told me that he could not sleep well thinking of the rent for such a suite. I told him to be at peace and we will
explain everything to Elder Wilson. Dr. Matthews’ colleagues, like Dr. Bert Beach, Dr. Gary Ross, Lowell Cooper, Gerry
Christo were staying in just regular rooms and paying nearly 4 thousand rupees per night. We were given each suite for
just Rupees one thousand only. Every time we came down to the lobby, we were always escorted by the hotel managers
and enquiring how we are doing and whether we were comfortable. Later our group was given the invitation to call on
Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and on behalf of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pastor Christo, President of SUD
presented a check for Rs. 25,000.00 to the PM’s Relief Fund.

In March 1989, Dr. Matthews and I accompanied the General Conference President, Elder Neal C. Wilson to call on
Prime Minister of India, Mr.
Rajiv Gandhi and had refreshments at his home. The Prime Minister mentioned to the group that as a Seventh-day
Adventist, Sunny does not drink coffee or tea and we all were served fruit juices, etc.
I remember when Dr. Matthews’ daughter’s and then his wife Sheila Matthews’ demises. Dr. Gary Ross and Dr. Bert
Beach arranged a memorial service for Mrs. Matthews at the Takoma Park Church. Elder Wilson was the main speaker at
this service. Elder Wilson, Dr. Matthews and his wife Sheila had all been fellow students at the Vincent Hill School in
India.

On our way to Nepal, on May 13, 1989, Dr. Matthews and I walked from 36 Park Street, Calcutta (We have our church,
school and guest rooms there) to Mother Teresa’s home. We had no appointment to meet her. We just went to the
front door and pulled the rope of the bell. A nun with a pleasant voice open the door and asked us the purpose of our
visit and enquired whether we had any appointment with Mother Teresa. We told her that we are from the World
Headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist church where we both work.
We told her that we had no prior appointment to meet the Mother. She asked us to wait and then in a few minutes she
came back and escorted us to Sister Nirmala, the assistant to the Mother. She told us that the mother had gone out but
asked us to just wait to see if she is still in the home. She came back and told us that she is about to go out but you can
go and visit her for a short time. We both were received by Mother Teresa with folded hands and we sat on either side
of her on the same bench and spoke to her for over 15 minutes. It was a blessed moment in our life. Before we left, Dr Matthews and then Mother Teresa prayed. On our
way out, Sister Nirmala showed us the students from Loma Linda University doing social service -- washing the inmates
clothes and we just had a word with them.

On Thursday, Jan. 5, 2012 with the help of Dr. Matthew's son-in-law Samuel Ocampo, Tresa and I visited Dr. Matthews
at the Solheim Lutheran Home near Glendale, CA. We spent a long time with him. When I mentioned that he looks
younger and healthier than me, at that time laughingly he lifted his hand and showed his biceps to us. We had a nice
laugh. No wrinkles on his hands or face. He looked in his 60s; had he lived he would have been 92 years old on June 30,
2012.

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V. Lowry Memorial School After 50 Years
Devadas Moses <devadas909@gmail.com>
This letter is to add to the conversation about the proposed 450-bed hospital in the Spicer campus. While I have not been to Spicer recently, it was my privilege to visit Lowry Memorial in Krishnarajapuram during a visit to India in January. During the visit Dr. James Prakasam, the Lowry president, showed me a proposed campus restructuring plan that included a 450-bed hospital among other projects in the Lowry campus. So I believe the issues are similar at least in some key areas.

Visiting Lowry after over a 30 year hiatus was like visiting a new place with some scenes that brought back memories of a pleasant past. The new Lowry is crowded in by the bustling city and encroaching businesses with their fancy buildings that rival any we find in a modern city. There is an overpass that looms over one corner of what used to be part of the Lowry campus and which adds to the feeling of being in a fishbowl with the world watching you. On our first pass from Bangalore we could not locate the entrance to Lowry! Inside the campus the buildings are packed in a in a small area so as to preserve a large portion of the remaining campus for potential sale or contracts with developers that would bring in the much needed money for the proposed hospital building. I was informed that there are offers on the table that would bring hundreds of crores of rupees for a slice of the campus that would pay for all the improvements needed to upgrade Lowry and have some left over for other things. Perhaps it is the pending sale or contracts or just a change in philosophy in our education that has allowed the fruit gardens, the grape fields, the peanut patches, the dairy and the rest of the farm to disappear. One cannot walk the periphery of the campus inside because of the accumulation of weeds over the years. Students do not work any more. I was informed that parents object to students working in the fields. I understood that the unused portion of the land could potentially be lost to government take over.

So then, it seems that more than one of our institutions face the dilemma of shrinking budgets while sitting on a gold mine. How do we leverage this situation? Somehow I imagine that the founders of our educational institutions had a philosophy that led them to areas with arable land where students can thrive in a natural surrounding and learn through work and study. Clearly, time and progress has moved us past our original landmarks and our institutions of the past are past!

So I would like to offer another solution for consideration to the ones already on the table. That is to sell most of the property leaving a portion to build the hospital and a hostel to house our nursing, paramedical, and medical students to continue our witness in the city, and invest the rest of the money to move our campuses to rural areas where we can resurrect and preserve our original philosophy of education. This has to be done in stages. Our leaders should be facilitators of the process; the resources of the constituents and alumni should not be ignored but brought into the discussion for reorientation into our vision and philosophy of education and be part of the solution looking for the means and places to move our campuses. If the Lord does not come soon and the city comes to our schools again, we would move again leaving a hospital and a hostel to continue our witness and would have the bounties to do so.

My Lowry Higher Secondary School class of 1963 mates are planning our 50th reunion in South India in October of this year and with the rest of the Lowry alumni would love to be a part of the solution to the Lowry quandary, and those of us who are Spicerians to Spicer’s as both institutions march towards their Centennial celebrations in 2015.

[This seems to be the pattern of change in many Adventist institutions.

In the 40s & 50s I attended our Adventist colleges in Texas and Nebraska. In those days there were farms and industries for working students. Now there are neither nor can students work their way through college even in part.

The pattern seems to be world-wide!--CHT,Sr.] ~~~~~~~~ VI. Bible Conference 2013 held from February 18--20 at Hyderabad

   T. P. Kurian <tpkurian@sud-adventist.org> March 2:

   The meeting started by welcoming the five Resource Personnel: Elias Brasil de Sauza, Gordon Doss, Miroslav Kis, Ekkahardt Mueller and Kwabena Donkor from the Biblical Research Centre of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Dr. Kwabena Donkor took the first session on 18th Monday, followed by Dr. Elias Brasil de Sauza. Dr. Gordon Doss led the third session and the day ended by a devotion by Miroslav Kis. Next day onwards, day started with devotion and after various sessions, the day ended with devotional message from the speakers.

   The following are the topics presented.

   **Ekkahardt Mueller: Conflict and communication, Challenges Apocalyptic Literature, Remnant and other religious movements, and Occultism.


   **Elias Brasil de Sauza: Sanctuary services and its meaning.

   **Kwabena Donker: Contemporary spiritualism, Contextualization, Duel Allegiance
**Miroslav Kis: Discipline, Competition and integrity.**  
All three officers of the Division were present for the occasion. Pastor Clive was present for all sessions. Around 100 pastors and ministerial directors from all over India participated in the conference.

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VII. Betty Reynolds Publishes New Book  
Betty Reynolds put a picture on Facebook of the cover of her recently published book, "His Hand on Us." She adds "It is available on line from Barnes&Noble or ASPECTBooks.com. The photo on the cover is cropped from a family picture taken on our first furlough from Pakistan 1956-7." She may be reached at <bettyreyn84@airosurf.com> ~~~~~~~~~ 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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BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

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END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS