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   S. Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> March 9:

   Regarding the Sabbath Exam scheduled on March 16, 2013 by the ISC Board, Dr Justus Devadas announced in the Spicer College Church this morning that the Board has finally agreed to allow all the 29 SDA schools affiliated to the ISC Board to conduct these exams after sunset the same day, bringing great relief to everyone concerned. Praise the Lord! Our prayers were answered ~~~~~~~~~~~ II. Adventist Church & Pastorage Burned In Lahore

   George Johnson <georgeandmerniej@cs.com> March 10:

   Good News & Bad News From Pakistan

   Over this past weekend, we were ending the LEAD Seminar put on by SSD and the G.C. Pr. Lowell Cooper was the lead speaker. Sabbath he spoke at PASC with 44 baptisms in the afternoon performed by Cooper.

   Sabbath noon we learned that one of our pastors located in Badami Bagh, Lahore had his church and home burned along with 100-330 other families in a Muslim incited riot in the area following the Friday prayers in the area. A group including ADRA is scoping out the area right now (Sunday noon). The family who escaped with their lives are now at Adventpura and are in the Badami Bagh area with the ADRA team contacting their members (there are about 40-50 members in the area) and trying to see what is left of their house and things. They are also registering for Govt. of Punjab assistance for the affected families. The Punjab Govt. has offered a cash settlement of 2 lakhs per family (about $2,000 ) to each family affected. [George Johnson is Acting President of the Pakistan Union.]

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   Samuel Nazir <samuelyouthpku@hotmail.com> March 10:

   On Saturday March 9, 2013 mob of Muslims torches 125 houses and belongings of Christian families during a protest in a Christian neighborhood in Joseph colony Badami Bagh area of eastern Pakistan's Lahore. During a protest in a Christian neighborhood in Badami Bagh area of eastern Pakistan's Lahore on hundreds of angry protestors on Saturday set ablaze more than 125 houses of Pakistani Christians over a blasphemy row in the eastern city of Lahore, local media reported. Muslim protestors turned violent over derogatory remarks allegedly made by a young Christian against Prophet Mohammed in a Christian neighborhood in Badami Bagh area. There was no casualty as members of the Christian community, including women and children, had left the area on Friday evening after police advised them to do so.

   Churches included Seventh-day Adventist Church along with the pastor's house is burned. Pr. Afzal Bhatti was able to get out unharmed, but on the way getting out of the area, his spectacle (eye glasses), mobile phone were snatched but the pastor, his wife and his 2 daughters and son were in shock.

   On Sabbath afternoon, they reached the Pakistan Union office - as instructed by Pakistan Union president, Pr. George Johnson. Here pastor Afzal & his family are being cared for and they are restoring to their normal senses after severe shock. But they have lost almost everything, their home, all belongings and they cannot start their normal life without support, morally and financially.

   It's a humble appeal for special prayers for encouragement & supports during this big crisis our Adventist pastor and his immediate family and about 50 church members as they have experienced same as other
They work.

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.

27. R. A. Hubley (1923 - 27)

Pastor R. A. Hubley, originally from Canada, came over from Bombay to pastor the English church and do evangelistic work in Yangon. The Hubleys were hard-working people and did excellent service in Rangoon. The Rangoon English church was served by the Hubleys from 1924-27. They were dedicated, hardworking missionaries and the Lord blessed their work.

While the Hubleys were in charge of the Yangon English church, an important forward step had been taken - a church school was started. Leila Baird, sister of Harold Baird of the Kamamaung Mission, Ohn Daw, came out from Australia to be the first teacher in 1926.

IV. Letters

1. Ebenezer Christy <p_ebenezer@hotmail.com> March 8:

I agree with Devadass Moses when it comes to moving Lowry to the outskirts of Bangalore. With city being so close and the hustle and bustle will not be a conducive place for our children to be educated. It there are no other options it is a different story but when there is an option, and a good one, leaders should give it a serious thought to sell portion of the property or lease it so that there will be enough money generated to move Lowry to another location where children will benefit. Prayer and sincerity is the key.

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2. S. Livingston <living_sam@yahoo.co.in> March 9:

Good to know that Lowry College president had plan to start a 450 bedded hospital. Lowry campus has potential which are not used.

When we travel in the road looking at Lowry campus it looks like an abandoned property, the closed gates, old college board, unmaintained boys hostel, unused land, etc.

A few months back I visited the Salisbury Park hospital in Pune; that small campus was not maintained properly - worn out equipment lying near an abandoned room, broken hospital board in the rear side.

Similarly Spicer college farm land is forgotten; the list goes on and

on: Kodaikanal property in Tamil Nadu, Pune mission property, Falakatta property in Bengal.

What happened to the visions of our leaders? People perish where there is no vision! I am sure there could be at least good managers if not leaders.

I hope and pray that we can learn from our mistakes. Let us pray for our leaders so that they will realize their responsibilities and be accountable to the task entrusted to us.

V. Streeters Celebrate Their 65th Wedding Anniversary

Alethea Center (Priscilla Haslam) writes from Collegedale

--from the VHS Chat Line:

Today is Sabbath, and Richard and I just got back from a super lunch to celebrate Verna and Ed Streeters’ 65th Wedding Anniversary, to which their daughter Beth had invited several of us who knew her folks from way back.

Ed, who will be 90 on his next birthday, was in fine form with all the India stories which he fortunately still remembers. They were married on March 28, 1948, so when they arrived at VHS in 1949 they were virtually newlyweds, and all of their children minus the youngest were born in India as also was Ed. 11

Merlyn & Betty Fernando <merlynfernando@yahoo.com> March 11 from Facebook

Congrats to Eddie & Verna!! We've met more than a couple of times after you went to live in the USA, at Andrews, first. We are 15 years behind you in marriage, and since those years the generation gap has narrowed!!! God is giving us plenty of time to remember with Whose grace and power we have come this far. Praise God!

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Tarence Davan writes in VHS chat line:
Congratulations, Eddie and Verna!
I have always remembered the accounting class I took at VHC in '51, and Ed's Aussie accent....my first encounter with that accent after hearing it from some soldiers stationed in Rawalpindi during WW II. Just the mention of his name brings a mental image of his youthful face as I knew it back in '51.

I remember the soccer games that Ed organized, and especially because I got kicked on my knee . . .
I thank Ed for being patient with us, his accounting students, and for what I learned becoming very useful, not just later in the ministry but for the time I was involved in cost accounting in England. Ed's dad was well-known as a builder, this I got to know when I went to Spicer College, and Ed was/is a builder too, building men out of the boys that he groomed not just in the gym. I met Eddie a few times after VHC but heard great comments about him from those he worked with.

Congratulations again and may the Lord bless this dear family and continue to make them a blessing.

VI. Remembering Pakistan Workers Lost Last Year
Joseph Zahid <josuna4@gmail.com>

Many of our Seventh-day Adventist believers - workers and laymen, most above the age of 60 - have passed away within the last few weeks:
1. Pastor Sharif Allah Ditta, 78: He worked in the Pakistan Union Mission as a teacher, hostel dean, church pastor, editorial worker, Union evangelistic, Southern Section president, and Pakistan Union president. Many of us, who are above the age of 60 (Dr. Michael Sardar in California, Dr. Bashir Khazzan, Pr. Maqbool Inayat and his brother Dr. Iqbal Inayat, Mr. Maqbool Inderias, Dr. Bashir Hazzan, Mr. Joseph Gulam, Pr. Robin Faqir Masih, Mr. Shafqat Khan, and myself, Pr. Joseph Zahid, have been his students in Pakistan Adventist Seminary, and we have been workers with him also. He was buried in PASC campus cemetery, Farooqabad town, where no less than 2,500 people from the surrounding places gathered to bid him farewell, before he was buried. For several years, before he was laid to rest, he was a principal in one of the ABC Schools (in Muridke Village, 2 miles from PASC campus), many people in Pakistan and abroad have mourned his death and are praying for the family members he leaves behind: his sons, Michael, Maxwell, Patrick, and Frederick and their families, brothers and sisters, and other relatives.
2. Pastor Rafique Arura Masih: He was sick and bed-ridden for the last many years. He was about 60 years of age at the time he expired. He was one of Pr. Ditta's students, and had served in the villages of Pakistan for many years. He leaves behind his 3 grown-up sons and 3 daughters (Robin Rafique, the oldest son, works in Lahore as a registered nurse).
3. Pastor Ashiq Paul: He also was a pastor in the denomination for about 15-16 years, and recently he was working as an independent pastor in Batapur, Lahore. He leaves behind his wife, younger sister of Pastor Yaqub Dean, living in Texas, his 4 sons (out of which the oldest got married on December 30, 2012, with myself. Joseph Zahid, officiating). The youngest is a girl of about 8 years. He was also one of Pr. Ditta's students in the Urdu Seminary.
4. Mr. Manzoor Nanak: He was a retired watchman about 64 years of age. He leaves behind his wife, his sons, and daughters (all with families of their own). One son, Arfan Manzoor, works in one of the ABC Schools.
5. Noel Jackson: He passed away in San Francisco, California, whereas others did in Pakistan. He was the son of Pr. Sardar Jackson, who served for a long time in the Pakistan Union as an L.E. and then as a pastor of the Rawalpindi Church. He leaves behind his father, a brother, two sisters (with families of their own), and many relatives.

Let us continue to pray for the bereaved families and their relatives.

VII. Unique Annual Day Celebration in Puducottai
Margaret Nathaniel <margaretnathaniel@gmail.com> March 10:

It was not just another Annual Day but a very special and unique one too. Way back in 1988, Mr. and Mrs. Jayabarathan started out in an Adventure of Faith and began a little school in Puducottai. This took root and God blessed their humble efforts abundantly since they worked hard with sincere dedication. It has now grown to 4 large Institutions with a newly constructed church as well. Here thousands of children are receiving a Christian education and pursuing their life work too, in both the Matric and CBSE schools and the two colleges, Engineering and Nursing.
Their 2 sons soon joined when they were ready, and are now supporting them wholeheartedly with their spouses as well. It is the combined efforts of this entire joint family which is such a blessing to the community in and around Puducottai.

So March 6th evening completed 25 years of its beginning, thus the Silver Jubilee and Annual Day celebrations were planned. My husband and I were invited to witness this special day so we landed at the Puducottai bus stop early Wednesday morning, and it was raining when their car picked us up and took us to their home.

God who has blessed them all these years further approved their sincere work that He performed a marvelous miracle on that day which was an eye opener to all, that there is a God who answers prayer. It rained all night and day on March 5 and 6. 6 p.m was the set time for the celebrations to begin. It had poured in torrents all that day right till noontime. All hopes of conducting the celebrations came to a standstill but the family continued pleading for God’s help in this impossible situation. According to the weather report this rain was supposed to continue for 3 days, so all schools were requested to shutdown. The chief guest, Thiru T. Radhakrishnan IPS, Additional Director General of Police, TN, and Thiru S Balarajamanickam MA.,BL., the Chief Judicial Magistrate, of Trichy, the guest of honor called to ask if the program was postponed, but received an affirmative reply. Many Hindu parents kept urging them to pray to God for they believed He can do wonders, that is what the little ones had told them time and time again. So earnest prayers were offered all that day. The grounds for this celebration were flooded and it continued to rain till noon. They dried the grounds but there were still little puddles of water all over the place. The sun slowly broke through the clouds and gave a little ray of hope and then it happened. The rain stopped by 3 p.m. and did not come throughout the program. When it was al over it rained but not too heavily, thus allowing everyone to get back safely to their homes. We all witnessed this wonderful miracle that God had performed. Every speaker on the Dias thanked and praised God for His miracle working power, including the chief guest and the guest of honor. One of them said the quote "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of". It was a privilege and opportunity for so many Non-Christians to acknowledge that the mighty God whom the organizers worship, is truly a wonderful mighty God who can even command the wind and rains to stop.

The program was truly unique. They had 2 stages. After the formal speeches were all made they started the cultural program with a Barathnatayam dance by some high school girls. On the other stage they had their school band, 2 students who played the key board, one with the violin, one with the guitar and one with the drums. One item each was by kids from KG up to grade 11 singing religious, Sabbath School songs, and the older children singing songs from the Adventist hymnal. They had memorized all the verses and with the music it was simply grand. Also each class had special colors and dress patterns which the faculty carefully selected and parents paid for the material including tailor charges. Alternately on the other stage they had dances from different States of India along with some very thought provoking incidents that happen currently in India like saving the unborn child, dowry, rape, hurting the environment, etc. All the skits were enacted without words but children held up posters so we could follow what each act stood for. I have attended many Annual Day programs but nothing compared to this. Everything went so smoothly and there was cooperation by all staff, and all children in each class were also involved. And to see everything going so meticulously and on time was a rarity.

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VIII. Radio Listeners on the Rise in India

Edison Samraj <adventistmediacentre@gmail.com> March 11:

We are happy to inform our members and leaders that the AWR speakers of 10 languages have increased their listenership from 1,10,000 to 2,25,000.

It is a sharp increase this year. We would like you to pray for all the listeners regularly in your personal and family prayers.

Secondly, all the radio speakers have taken the responsibility of reaching out to their respective unions for evangelism this summer. We would like you to pray for them. You may be interested to know that we had our Hindi radio speaker visit Kandmll, a place where Graham Stains was murdered. We plan to establish a church there. We have done the preliminary planning and hope to start the work by the end of the summer. We solicit your prayers for this as well. We also reached out to a very remote area in the Dang area near Surat namely Aarcat. I have personally been to this remote area. We are planning to establish a listeners club as well. Kindly pray for these initiatives in these two states where Christianity has always been challenged. May the Lord challenge them to the truth and may they surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ is our prayer.

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