I. Death of Mrs. Dorothy Willmott

II. Burma Vignettes--Early Missionaries: #29

III. Letters
   1. Gerald Christo
   2. Ruth Sipkens

IV. British Students Turn Teachers at Indian Orphanage

V. Praying for Azeb

VI. Revival Meetings in West Andhra

VII. Sunny Wycliffe Addresses Pravasi Bharatiya Divas VII. Bhutan--The Land of the Thunder Dragon

I. Death of Dorothy Willmott

Priscilla Shyam <priscillashyam@SAAA.ORG> March 21:

We sorrowfully announce the passing of Mrs. Dorothy Willmott early this morning, March 21, 2013. She was admitted to Suburban hospital in Maryland for an after open-heart surgery and developed complication. Your prayers for Mrs. Willmott during the time of the surgery have been appreciated. Please continue to pray for the family during this difficult time.

---------------
John M. Fowler <FowlerJ@gc.adventist.org> March 21:

Early today (March 21, IST), we received the sad news of the passing away of Mrs. John Willmott after a surgery and a brief struggle with the after-effects. Death at any time is an affair of sadness, challenging each of us to reflect on its unknown timing and sudden surprises. But when it comes to someone like Dorothy, the surprise is so sudden and beyond belief.

Mrs. Willmott lived the life of a pastor’s wife and stood by her husband both in the urgency of evangelism and the broader needs of the ministry.

Many believers in India, particularly in the South, would feel a void in her passing away. But at this moment, along with others, I too want to raise my prayers that the Lord will comfort, care, and provide every solace her husband needs and her children crave. May the fullness of the hope of the resurrection fill the void felt in the hearts of all her family members, friends, and the extended family of grieving saints.

~~~~~~~~~~

II. Burma Vignettes--Early Missionaries #29

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.

-- -- -- -- --

#29. Leila Baird (1926 - 33)

Leila Baird arrived Myanmar from Australia in 1926. Leila Baird came out to be the first teacher for Yangon English Church School. This school was opened by Pastor Hubley when he became the church pastor of the Yangon English Church.

Leila Baird was the sister of Harold Baird. She worked in the 1930’s. Esther Sparks, Elsie Lonsdale and Phyllis Mainstone assisted her. In 1933 she was transferred to the Vincent Hill School in India. She was a dedicated teacher and would never be forgotten by the children who were her students. They loved their rhythmic band and the other interesting things she taught them.

After the Second World War, she returned to Yangon Church School and again she was called to Vincent Hill School.

~~~~~~~~~~
III. Letters

1. Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> March 19:

The children of Y. Robert Samraj celebrated their dad's 90th birthday on March 17 in Hosur, eight days after he joined the 90+ club. Pastor Samraj a green-card holder chose to remain behind in India where his sons Franklin, Director of Human Resources at the Division headquarters and son Edison director of the Adventist Media Centre are now working. Both sons are ordained ministers. The third son, Dr. Tennyson is a professor at the Canadian University College in Lacombe, Alberta. Pastor and the late Mrs. Kezia Samraj had three sons and a daughter, - Lt.Col. Clara Moses serves in the Medical Corp. She resides with her husband Rueben in the United States. Others who I remember have joined the 90+ club from Southern Asia are Grace Prasada Rao, S. John, I. R. Thomas, Mrs. A. M. Job, R. S. Lowry, C. H.

Tidwell, R. L. Stahlecker, Edward Streeter, Perhaps there are others that readers may recall.

-------------

2. Ruth Sipkens <ruthsipkens@gmail.com> March 21:

So very sad to hear of the terrible mobbing and burning in Pakistan. Our prayers are with these dear people. It was fun to read the letters from the two Christos. March 28 is truly a special day in their family. Hard to imagine our friend Gerry Christo will soon be 90 years of age. John and I will also have been married 65 years in June, but we married a bit younger than the Christos and Streeters. Heartly congratulations to the Christos and the Streeters.

~~~~~~~~~~

IV. British Students Turn Teachers at Indian Orphanage

by Kish Poddar in the latest BUC Newsletter

"Five students from Stanborough Secondary School, Watford, spent two weeks teaching at an orphanage in India during their February half-term break, 17 February - 3 March 2013. The trip was organised by Mr. Kish Poddar, Assistant Headteacher, as part of the community service ethos of the school.

"The students each raised their own airfares and costs to travel to the city of Hosur in Tamil Nadu and teach at the BESSO Children's Home. The freezing 4:00 am start on a cold February morning transformed into a warm and colourful welcome at the gates of the Children's Home!

"The BESSO Children's Home, built by STOP International in 2002, houses one hundred orphan children. It also runs a Primary and Nursery School that the orphans attend. The children immediately warmed up to the team of new 'young teachers' from England. While Stanborough students were challenged by the basic facilities at the orphanage, such as using chalk and blackboard, no computers or internet, and the 30 degree temperature; they nevertheless soldiered on teaching English, Maths, Geography, English, Citizenship, History, Science, Spelling and Grammar.

"The students used their evenings to prepare their lessons. Their dedication and commitment to teaching the orphans inspired the children to complete their homework assignments and study for class tests. The young teachers were so impressed that they were moved to reward the little children with gifts and sweets for their effort in class.

"Daniela, one of the 'young teachers', commented: 'I had the time of my life. I will keep memories of this trip in my heart forever. To teach such adorable and sweet children was a touching experience. They are orphans yet there seems to be a special joy and happiness about them. I now want to have an Indian sister.'

"Elizabeth added, 'The children out there use a pencil right down until it is finished, whereas in England if we lose it we are able to buy another.

I am personally going to stop complaining about things I do not have and start being thankful about things I do have.'

"The Principal of the school, Mrs. Josephine Ganesh, assessed and rated the student teachers and presented awards. Tanya, Elizabeth and Phoebe received Good Teacher awards; Buya, the Best Teacher award and Daniela received the Excellent Teacher award. But it was more than teaching. Before the team left for India, Miss Gautran, an accompanying teacher on the trip, organised a collection of new underwear from the Stanborough School students and parents. Several dozen sets of underwear were received, packed and taken to India. When these were distributed to the children of the BESSO and the Way To Life orphanages, the delight on their faces was incredible.

"Of course it was not all work because the team took two days off for sightseeing, travelling by train to Mysore to see the world famous Mysore Maharajah's palace, the beautiful bird sanctuary at Ranganathithu and a tour of the city of Mysore, shopping for gifts and souvenirs.

2
"Tanya summed up what a trip like this is all about. In her words: 'I will never forget the laughs, the fun, the exploring of nature and what God has created, to bring us to an understanding as to why we were placed on earth, to help others and that's exactly why I will never forget India."

~~~~~~~~~~

V. Praying for Azeb

Pramod Gaikwad <gaikwadpapag1@comcast.net> March 19:

It was very disheartening to read about Azeb's health challenges. Diabetes is a silent disease as we all know. She has had her share of challenges through her life with this disease. We sincerely pray and lift her up to His throne of grace where His healing hand could be stretched out over her for quick healing, that His beautiful and loving face shall shine upon all her physical challenges and strengthen her to a functional life.

May His ministering angels stand guard around her bed and shield her. Azeb, God Bless and Keep You ~~~~~~~~~~~ VI.

Revival Meetings in West Andhra

Samuel Raj Sodadasi <sodadasi.samuelraj@gmail.com> March 24:

Sangareddy (West Andhra Section) Adventist members were blessed with Spiritual manna for three days. The Section put a request to Dr. M. Wilson (SUDivision) to conduct revival meetings. He gladly accepted and requested his brother who is in London (Pastor M. Anand Babu & family) to sponsor the expense along with our President, Pr. A. Kumar. For the glory of God he sent Rs. 25,000. With this amount, starting from 21st (Thursday) to Sabbath, all the pastors and members were greatly blessed with valuable messages. During the day he conducted Bible classes for the volunteers and pastors. During nights he preached publicly, and as a result 15 precious souls were baptized. On Sabbath Dr. Victor Sam preached about 'Baptism" and explained the real meaning.

Unfortunately 95% of the churches conduct worship on Sunday morning or evening. (This area is Methodist-dominated). Dr. Wilson and the three officers requested the pastors to conduct service on Sabbath with referring Bible texts. All the workers took an oath and signed on paper. Kindly pray for the pastors and the volunteers to conduct Sabbath services.

The Section officers and the pastors wants to thank Pr. Anand Babu and his beloved wife for their sacrifice to glorify God. God bless.

Pastor Samuel Raj. S, Exe. Secretary, West Andhra Section of SDA,
Po. BOX-30, Ganesh Nagar,
Sangareddy, Medhak Dist,
AP- 502 001

~~~~~~~~~~

VII. Sunny Wycliffe Addresses Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

J. John (Sunny) Wycliffe <SunnyWycliffe@gmail.com>

The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs invited J. John (Sunny) Wycliffe to be the speaker at the Meeting of Diaspora Organizations (safe environment for overseas Indian) Tuesday, 8th January 2013 at the Le Meridian Hotel, Kochi, Kerala, India. (January 9, 1915 is the day when Mahatma Gandhi finally returned to India from South Africa to start his non-violence movement to free India from the shackles of the British rule. So every year, January 7 to 9 is celebrated as the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. Non-resident Indians from many countries come together to celebrate this event and do their best to support India.)

God has helped my wife Tresa and me to attend 4 such conventions and where we had the opportunity to witness to many about our faith and church and was able to make new contacts. For this year's convocation, I was given a business class round trip ticket from Washington, DC to Kochi, Trivandrum and back to Washington, DC by Air India. Between New York and Delhi, it was a non-stop flight for over 14 hours.

The following is from my address to that convocation:

"May I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Union Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs, Hon. Vayalar Raviji for inviting me to be a part of this distinguished assembly. I was given round trip business class air ticket from Washington, DC to Kochi and back and a car with a driver and an assistant to help us. The President of India, Prime
Minister of India and other ministers and about 2,500 guests of Indian origin from around the globe were in attendance at this meeting.

"This is indeed a prestigious and unforgettable moment and day for me, unforgettable because of the rare honor conferred upon me to address you. I consider this invitation as recognition of the role of individuals like me in serving the cause of India from abroad. I was born in Trivandrum, Kerala as a third generation Seventh-day Adventist Christian and educated in various universities in India and in the USA. I lived with my parents in Trivandrum, Calcutta, Karmatar (Bihar), Poona and then worked in Bombay. I migrated to the US four decades ago with my wife, three sons and a daughter when the American Dream was vibrant in the minds of all the educated youths of my time. I am indebted to the Almighty and to the country where I was born and educated and to the country which made me what I am now. I even had the highest honor to work for the 4 "Popes" (World Presidents of the SDA church), especially with Elder Neal C. Wilson, an unique honor.

"At this point it is worth noting that up until 1991, Indians were discriminated against and not given Minority Status in several U.S states.
It was for this very reason that unlike other ethnic groups, Indians were not residing in the US for an extended period of time. This matter was brought to the attention of the Indian American Forum for Political Education by several concerned Indian community members in the U.S. As a result, I was appointed the Chairman and Tapan Mukherjee as the Vice Chairman to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the First Recorded Arrival of an Indian to America. Dr. Mukherjee and I conducted extensive research and discovered the first Recorded Arrival of an Indian to the U.S. This crucial piece of evidence which occurred on December 29, 1790 and likewise documented in the diary of Rev. William Bentley of Worcester, Massachusetts, would prove to be vital in establishing Minority Status for Indians in the U.S. In 1990-91, with the combined efforts of community leaders like Dr. Joy Cherian, Mr. Sunny Wycliffe, Dr. Tapan Mukherjee, Mr. Inder Singh, Dr. Sambhu Banik, Dr. Thomas Abraham, Dr. Partha Pillai and various organizations such as the IAFPE, GOPIO, NFIA, FOKANA and FIA, we celebrated the 200th Anniversary of the First Recorded Arrival of an Indian to the U.S. Thanks to late Elder Neal C. Neal C. Wilson former World President of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, His Excellency late K. R. Narayanan, former President of India, Ambassadors Lalit Mansingh, Naresh Chandra, late Dr. Abid Hussain for their enthusiastic support and participation. A special thanks to the Indian and American Media for bringing this issue to light, their efforts served as a catalyst for establishing Minority Status for Indians. This special designation has conferred equality and inclusion for all Indians throughout the US in areas such as education, employment, Minority Business, etc. And I personally can stand before you and confidently state that we all in some way, shape or form have benefited from this special designation. [End of part 1 of 2] ~~~~~~~~~ VIII. Bhutan--The Land of the Thunder Dragon

by John Baxter, in the current Adventist Frontiers magazine

"In the Dzongka language Bhutan is called Druk Yul--the land of the thunder dragon. Although there are no literal fire-breathing dragons belching out flames and smoke, there can be no doubt that the dragon--that old serpent, the devil--has held the people of Bhutan captive for too long.

"Land-locked between China to the north and India to the west, south, and east, Bhutan has a population of approximately 800,000. The Himalayan Mountains burst forth from the soil of Bhutan, creating scenes of incredible beauty. Bhutan's topography and legal restrictions make it one of the least-evangelized countries in the world.

"Bhutan is the only country in the world to have adopted the tantric form of Mahayana Buddhism as its official religion. The Bhutanese follow the Kargyud sect of Tibetan Buddhism, known for its supernatural experiences, spiritualistic rituals and devout following of 'reincarnated' lamas.

"Presently in Bhutan, it is illegal for other religions to proselytize or have a church building. Bhutanese citizens who convert to Christianity are barred from national benefits, including free education. 'In the West, Buddhism has been portrayed as a religion of peace and tolerance, but Christians in Bhutan have had very different experiences. Many have been imprisoned, beaten, fined and persecuted for their faith in Christ.'

"Adventist Frontier Mission is looking to partner with the Adventist Church in placing families in India along the border of Bhutan to reach out to those who cross into the surrounding communities. A strong sense of calling to this ministry is essential.

"Families who accept this call should have experience in soul winning or medical-related areas, or perhaps a background in business. Because of Bhutan's restrictive laws and active persecution of believers, this is a creative-access
call. Those who respond to the Holy Spirit will be putting on the whole armor of God as they do battle for the precious men, women, and children held in oppression by the Thunder Dragon.

~~~~~~~~

To remove your name from the mailing list of this newsletter simply reply to this e-mail and put "REMOVE" in the Subject line.

--

BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

-----------------------------------------------

Teach CanIt if this mail (ID 0aJfTN4bQ) is spam:
Spam:   http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=0aJfTN4bQ&m=89b55895b831&c=s
Not spam: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=0aJfTN4bQ&m=89b55895b831&c=n
Forget vote: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=0aJfTN4bQ&m=89b55895b831&c=f

-----------------------------------------------

END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS