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M. Wilson <mwilson@sud-adventist.org> April 1

One of the church programmes I have thoroughly enjoyed and been deeply blessed in recent times is the vesper service at Hosur last Friday (March 29). It was Good Friday and church choir presented "By the Sea". It was a skit enacting life of Jesus. The first scene started with three people 'like us' looking for a friend who will give peace, rest for the tired and feed the hungry. They went around enquiring, when they heard of Jesus, they were eager to meet Him in person. On their way they found different eager minds having been touched by Jesus preaching, teaching and healing. One Mr. Jabadee, father of 'sons of thunder' (James and John), gave a not-so-encouraging note for he lost the business of fishing since his sons left and followed Jesus, while all others were so excited upon meeting this great teacher from Nazareth.

The program climaxed with death and resurrection of Jesus. There were tears when they sang and talked about their beloved teacher suffering in the cruel hands of Romans and death on the Cross. Soon there was a different scene, a group of little children came running into the church from the front door shouting with joy about the broken grave and their resurrected Lord, there was joy and celebration.

Being a high Sabbath and a long week-end, with many young people visiting their families and guest attending from different places, the whole church was blessed. It was indeed a very touching programme presented by the youth of the Hosur Church (choir) coordinated and trained by Dr. Gordon E. Christo and his good wife Mrs. Rosenita Christo. We thank the Christo's family. God bless the young people of the church and the leaders who take time to train and tune them to inspire others for Jesus.

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II. Memorial Service for Shirley Johnson

Mernie Johnson <georgeandmerniej@cs.com> April 3:

A memorial service for Mrs. Shirley Johnson will be held Sabbath afternoon, April 13 at 3:30 PM, in the Clovis SDA Church which is located at 2370 Helm Avenue, Clovis 93612.

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III. Letters

   1. Justin & Juanita Singh <JUWYL@aol.com> April 1:

   We want to join the global Adventist community to congratulate the SUD's growing "90+Club," highlighted by Pastor Christo and others. We join the families of these "90 plus" individuals to thank God for their nine decades of fruitful lives and wish them more prolonged years of good health and joy in the Lord.

   We especially want to congratulate Pastor Y. Robert Samraj, as I, Justin, had the privilege of working with him in the South India Union.
Pastor Samraj has the gift of humor. I remember him keeping me laughing telling his personal fun stories. His sense of humor may be one of the secrets of his long life. May the Lord bless him as he continues to make people around him laugh.

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2. Rose Muthiah Davy <davyp@bellsouth.net> March 30:

I am sad to hear that Azeb is not well and admitted at a hospital in Calif. I know that prayers are ascending to the throne of grace all over the globe as she is well known to many of us and many of us have known her for many long years. She is not only my classmate and friend but I consider her as a sister too. May God be with her and her family and give them strength to bear all the trials.

Many have been praying for my husband and for me. We truly wish to thank each one and I want you to know that I pray daily for each one of you. I am grateful to God for helping us learn so much about good things in nature from the time I was diagnosed with thyroid nodules in 2005. We have tried a variety of things and we have made lifestyle changes and have improved in many ways. We both have been anointed and keep trusting in our loving and merciful heavenly Father. However the thyroid goiter which is growing slowly inward and has nodules which can become cancerous needs to be removed. I need special prayers for my protection and healing and to be able to handle the side effects of the medication I will have to take lifelong after the surgery. I have had regular US and some CT scans so was able to avoid surgery all these years. Since my thyroid blood work was coming normal I was not given any medication either. The first lab work was showing hyperactivity that is why I was being tested and I do thank God for good doctors who have helped me so far.

The other special prayer request is for the people I have contacted in India who are receiving the DVD from AWR INDIA. In villages close to the town of Nagercoil way down close to the southern tip of India, there are people who need to hear the truth. Some are Christians but I want them to hear the SDA truths. I have made arrangements for 2 people to get the DVD Player (All Purpose). The DVD with 50 programs is being sent from Pune by AWR worker. I will give reports when I get more information in future. Some people don’t have TV or Radio to listen or watch our SDA programs. The good thing is that the DVD player costs only around $40 (Rupees 2000). Please pray that these 2 brethren will be able to do a mighty work for God. In these places I have relatives too. Some are SDA and others are Salvation Army. If you know of anyone who wishes to distribute DVD or CD from AWR to people who are willing to listen to the programs or SDA workers who wish to get it for distribution to people who will be willing to listen, please send me the addresses or contact AWR in Pune, India. Very soon we will have only 9 months left in 2013. I already heard about one revival meeting and hopefully many are being planned. I am NOT talking about meetings where you have to collect large sums of money but in our own churches. The revival must first begin in our own hearts so our prayer life has to be improved.

Also when we hear sad and scary stories from India it opens one’s eyes. The latest is that 2 girls were kidnapped from SDA school in Manipur. I hope they find them and the kidnappers soon. Since SATAN is working overtime, let us ALL join hands together and do simple tasks which don’t cost too much money. When you go shopping or for a walk or travel, carry few DVD or CD or religious tracts and books and someone may be willing to accept this from you. I have given some reading material to the clerks at the grocery store. I will follow up on that when I go next time. The Holy Spirit can help them understand the message. Hopefully they will accept the truth. We must sow the seed and the Holy Spirit will do the rest. If we each take an active part and reach people around us then the work will go faster and even some wicked people may change their ways and stop hurting innocent people. I know that many of us are wishing and praying for Jesus to come soon and the signs are fast fulfilling but at the same time there are people who are hungering for the truth and we MUST do our part to share it with them. Hopefully I will hear GOOD reports from around the world that more people are willing to receive these AWR programs and other truth filled literature and books. May God be with each one of you and thank-you in advance for praying for my husband and for me.

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3. Pramod Gaikwad <gaikwadpapag1@comcast.net> April 1:

It was a wonderful thought to know the ’90s Club’ especially with the specific names of the honorable members mentioned. It is good to know that you are a living testimony to many of the Bible promises–one in particular referenced in Exodus 20:12–to ”nor your father and mother, that you may live long time in the land the Lord your God is giving to you.” Praise God for your longevity and the blessing you have been to others.

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Now that there is a awareness of the "90s Club", it gives the thought of recognizing the "THREE SCORE AND TEN Club" as well. I know that most of us who were in Spicer High School and College during the late 50s and 60s are bonafide members of the "70s Club" it is just the matter of one accepting it and openly declaring it. I just turned 70 on the 28th of March of this year. While standing in line at a fast food place, I asked for a senior drink, just then the man behind me turned to me rather upset and said, "Sir, this is only for the senior citizens." I smiled at him, got my senior drink and walked away. So come on dear SWEET SEVENTIES Club members and suck it up!

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IV. Honoring Grace Prasada Rao on Her 100th

Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> March 27:

Grace Rao is a hundred years old. Congratulations! Can you imagine it?
She is an institution on her own. She has made history and a little history is in order. I remember Grace and her late husband Sam when we first came to live in Poona in 1962. I briefly may have met her earlier in 1943 when I began my denominational career as a stenographer for L. C. Shepard. I was a frequent visitor to Bungalow #4 on the Ridge where her late youngest sister Gloria was home on vacation from Vincent Hill. We, Desmond Homer also from Vincent Hill College, and I spent Sabbath nights playing games at the E. D. Thomas home.

Prior to 1980, as I recall, only three Indian families lived on the Ridge--the venerable L. G. Mookerjee family, the E. D. Thomas family and the commoner like us, the I. K. Moses family. All lesser lights, including the Anglo-Indians, lived in homes just below the Ridge and the Prasada Raos lived with her mother, Mrs. E. D. Thomas, in a duplex shared by Noni B.

Mookerjee and his Anglo-Indian spouse, Noreen-nee Dowman who previously attended Vincent Hill with me. Along the same level as the Prasada Rao house, lest we be considered superior/inferior, three 3-bed homes were constructed after the GC session in SFO in 1962, when R. S. Lowry was first elected the Division president. They were for the OWPH Manager, V. Raju, and the two new national departmental secretaries as we were then called (not directors), V. P. Muttiah and G. J. Christo.

We became friends with the Grace and her husband. I had met him in the northeast and in Delhi and Grace and her mother had a connection through Judson, Charlie and Gloria whom I knew as students at Vincent Hill. We spent years living as neighbours, even after we returned to Poona nine years later to live in the same line of houses but in a different home. Grace was a modest lady of quiet manners, gracious as a host and a very faithful member of our church congregation. She was faithful in attending all the services and functions of the church including marriages, funerals, birthday parties and potlucks with familiar her tiffin-carrier in tow as the custom of many were even in those days.

The Raos have two lovely daughters-- Loretta, a physician, and Stella, a piano teacher. The era. which saw Pastor E. D. Thomas begin his career as Tamil teacher and translator, later becoming the Division Sabbath School Departmental secretary and a leader in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Southern Asia, ended when the Raos immigrated to the United States. The Lord has blessed Mrs. Prasada Rao with extended years. Long live Grace Rao and she may continue to share a life perfumed by her good deeds.

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V. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 31

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.

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31 T. J. & Mrs. Michael (1927-29)

T. J. Michael came from India. He arrived as a substitution for Joseph Phillips who went back to America on furlough. He was Myanmar Union Superintendent during Myanmar Union Headquarters building period. It was during T. J. Michael's time that the Myanmar Union Mission headquarters was first built. It was 1928 and the new church in the mission compound was also erected. He was assisted by C. H. Mackett, who oversaw the building work. When the construction work in the headquarters was completed T. J. Michael moved from the former headquarters at Lower Kyitmyindine Road to the new headquarters of 30 Voyle Road (later 68 U Wisara Road)

T. J. Michael was an Englishman. He was a handsome man and he was also a good soccer player. He played soccer with students at Meiktila Technical School whenever he visited the school. He taught them the art of playing soccer.
was a kind and good-natured man. Referring to T. J. Michael, students at the school would comment that you can judge how good-natured someone is by watching him play soccer. When J. Phillips returned from America the Michaels returned to India and continued to serve the Lord faithfully.

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VI. Adventist Radio in Hyderabad & Secunderabad

Edison Samraj <adventistmediacentre@gmail.com> March 26:

Mr. Sudhakar Aakriti Honors FM Vennela in Hyderabad for Quality Communication

This invitation was extended to the director of Adventist Media Centre to participate in the felicitating service of those who excel in communication. We have been in the air for four months now in the city of Hyderabad. Mr. Sudhakar Aakriti, the chief coordinator and chairperson, had made the introduction on the role that the Adventist Media Centre is playing in today's India and also the quality service that we are rendering in the cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. The honor was given by the person no less than Dr. Narayan Reddy and Dr. Nageshwara Rao. It was well attended by Dr. Nelson, Dr. Edward Baley, Dr. Chinnaya and Pastor Charles. It began at 6:30pm and ended at 9:30pm. The audience were spellbound by the achievements of those who have come there and the contribution made by the luminary giants of the city of Andhra Pradesh. It was my privilege to share the dias with luminaries from all over Andhra Pradesh and to also be honored by the chief justice, Mr. Chandra Kumar. It is indeed a wonderful feeling to receive recognition from a group that is carefully monitoring quality and direction. Their comments and observations come from a careful review of the work done by the Adventists consistently for four months. We praise God for this honor and truly goes to the individuals who have worked for FM production-technician, Mr. Melchizedec Sundaram, the producer, Pastor Ashok Kumar. We want every reader of this newsletter to pray that all the FM programs that we plan in other cities will also become impacting and very instructive so that it will be a great blessing to the people of India.

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VII. Washington's Southern Asian S. D. A. Church Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Anu Lakra <sasdac@sasdac.org> April 1:

The Southern Asian Adventist Church has completed 25 years of ministry in the Washington/Baltimore area and will be celebrating this important milestone in our journey on May 10-11, 2013. You are invited to this important event. Please join the church family as we praise and give thanks to our God who has led us so marvelously. Great things He has done, to Him be the glory. He has enabled the establishment of a congregation that is nearly 900 in membership with a building at a cost of ten million dollars.

A special invitation is extended to all missionaries and their families who have served in Southern Asia. Your presence will mean much to us and we will be blessed. Please join us in this celebration.

Anu Lakra
Office Manager
Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church
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Phone: 301-879-7222
Fax: 301-879-5151
Website: <sasdac.org>

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VIII. La Sierra Academy's Mission Day

Scott Jones <sjones@lsak12.com> April 3:

The Humanities and Religion Department of La Sierra Academy extends an open call to those who have served as missionaries to a special day of celebration and interaction with students at La Sierra Academy on April 19, 2013. The Department believes that the experiences and stories of returned missionaries form a valuable resource for La Sierra Academy students to draw upon as they become active scholars and servants of God. Therefore, the Department seeks 10 or more missionaries willing and able to share their mission experiences with groups of 3-6 La Sierra Academy students during a short oral interview session designed to aid the students in the writing of a research paper on missionary work. If you are interested in sharing your experiences with groups of 3-6 students on the morning of April 19, 2013, please contact Scott Jones at La Sierra Academy through email <sjones@lsak12.com> or by telephone (951-351-1445 x235).

Scott E. Jones, M.A.
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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