I. Prayer Request for Pastor A. I. John

II. Letters
   1. Richard Samuel
   2. Umesh Pokharel
   3. Falvo Fowler

III. SUDites To Meet in Loma Linda May 11th

IV. Meet With Sadlers Before They Visit Sri Lanka Again

V. Eric B. Hare Book Published Again

VI. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries: # 36

VII. Largest Southern Asian Adventist Church Celebrates 25 Years in Ministry VIII. Spicer University and/or Spicer Hospital [Continued] ~~~~~~~~~~~~~

I. Prayer Request for Pastor A. I. John

Sunny Wycliffe <sunnywycliffe@gmail.com> April 30:
Pastor A. I. John is very seriously ill and admitted in the ICU at Washington Adventist Hospital, Takoma Park, MD. The family is earnestly requesting all to pray for his recovery.

You may contact Susy, Sweety or Steve John at the following e-mail <susiejohn99@yahoo.com> ~~~~~~~~~~~ II. Letters

1. Richard Samuel <samtrio@verizon.net> May 1:
   I commend Dr. Gordon Christo for recognizing Sean Sunderaj's God given talent. My family had the privilege of listening to Sean play the piano at a wedding in Hosur last January, 2013. I understand Sean is Also an A-grade student. But what impressed me most about Sean was his humility and constant readiness to witness for Christ.

2. Umesh Pokharel <umesh.shantipokharel@gmail.com>
   We are so sad to hear sudden demise of Pastor Gnanaraj Kore. We knew Pastor Kore since 2000. He was a very dedicated and humble servant of God; he used to visit Nepal often and conduct evangelism programs and visit different churches in Nepal.

   We worked closely with Mrs. Hepzibah Kore since 2009 when we started the women literacy program in Nepal. Mrs. Kore used to visit Nepal at least twice a year and Pr. Kore used to come with her and help in training and other religious activities.

   We know Pr. Kore and Mam Kore very well; they had thought many good lessons in our lives and because of their effort many people came to know the truth.

   Especially through women literacy programs we were able to reach many unreached areas because of Mrs. and Pr. Kore.

   Recently when I was in India I called Mam Hepzibah and she mentioned that Pr. Kore is in the hospital and asked me to pray for him. I came back from India on 16th and heard that Pr. Kore passed away on 14th April, I felt so sad and I shared the bad news to my wife Shanti and we knelt down and prayed.

   At this time of great sorrow and pain we would like to express our sympathy to Mam Kore and other family members.

   We know that Pr. Kore had lived a noble life and through his life many people came to know the truth and he will be remembered in many people's hearts. Soon Jesus is coming and we will see Pr. Kore; we're waiting for that day.

   -- Umesh and Shanti Pokharel

3. The "Over 90" Club

Falvo Fowler <FowlerF@gc.adventist.org> May 3:
I may have missed it, but I didn’t see Dr. R. S. Lowry’s name on that list. Yes, I know he acts younger than he is, but the other name I know I didn’t see was Mrs. Nora Guild (Marsh). I will always remember her for Bungalow #1 in India and her VW Bug here in the States.

I’ve been blessed by growing up with leadership that I admired then and still look up to now though most of them are no longer employed by the church (don’t get me wrong, they still work! Case in point..this newsletter). It is a pity we do not engage our retirees and record them so that future generations may realize that the current state of their church (local or otherwise) never was and doesn’t have to be. The Onieda nation in New York have a community facility where the elders/retirees meet on one side and the children are taken care of on the other. During the day, for certain periods, the two meet in the middle so that the older people can reconnect with their youth and the young ones can learn the wisdom of the past. This was one of most moving demonstrations of cross-generational community that I had ever seen.

Speaking of cross-generational: Congratulations to Uncle and Aunty Edwin Dass on 50 years of marriage! Berrien Springs wouldn’t have been the same without you!


Doris Kore <drskore@aol.com> April 26:
Friends of Southern Asia Adventist Fellowship (FSAAF) will be meeting on May 11, 2013 at the Chan Auditorium, Loma Linda Academy, Loma Linda, CA 92354 at 10:00 am followed by a potluck. Featured speaker: Dr. David Davamony. Lesson study by the Class of 2013 (Southern Asian Graduates) of Loma Linda University. Special Music by Enoch Samraj & Ashish Sharma & Group. All are welcome.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

IV. Meet With Sadlers Before They Visit Sri Lanka Again

Merlyn Fernando <merlynfarnando@yahoo.com> May 1:

This is inviting Sri Lankans, Lakpahana alumni, former workers and others in Maryland to meet the Sadlers who are returning to Sri Lanka at the invitation of the Mission to renew the Lakpahana estate for income generation. Meet at SASDAC on June 2, 2013 for vespers at 7 pm in the Youth Room over a light supper. For further information, contact Nigel @240 505 680

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

V. Eric B. Hare Book Published Again

Scott Cady <scocad@pacificpress.com>
"Christian Storytelling" --now available after being out of print for many years!

One of the most beloved storytellers our denomination has ever had was Eric B. Hare. Children and adults alike sat spellbound as he would share stories. Many years ago Eric B. Hare took a small book about storytelling written by another great storyteller, Arthur Spaulding, and expanded and added to it. The result was, "Christian Storytelling", a classic filled with details on how to tell a great story. The book also is full of wonderful stories that can be used at church, at school, at home, and around the campfire.

This book is a MUST for all pastors, teachers, children’s storytellers, and anyone working with children.

Christian Storytelling is available at Adventist Book Centers:
1-800-765-6955

Online: http://www.adventistbookcenter.com/christian-storytelling.html

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

VI. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 36

Mervin Myat Kyaw <mervinmkk@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.

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

# 36. Alfred A. Sargent (Eda) (1929-42, 1946)

Alfred J. and Eda Sargent, both nurses, had arrived from America in 1929, to take their place in medical missionary work throughout the Delta region of Myanmar. Pastor Sargent teamed up with Po Shwe, a national pastor, and these
two did valiant soul-winning work, sometimes wading water and mud to their waists to get to the villages. He worked until the beginning of World War II.

Elder Sargent was the first to arrived back Myanmar after the war on the day after Christmas of 1945. He arrived from India, bringing boxes of used clothing for distribution to those in need of them. His arrival brought great joy to our people in Myanmar. There was a general meeting on January 1, 1946. It was a very happy New Year with clothes given out by Pr. Sargent. However, he was so sad to know that his best friend, Pr. Po Shwe was murdered. He saluted Brother Po Shwe for his martyrdom.

VII. Largest Southern Asian Adventist Church Celebrates 25 Years in Ministry

The Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church will celebrate 25 years in ministry on Saturday, May 11, 2013, at its large worship center on Randolph Road in Silver Spring, Md.

The first Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist congregation in North America and the largest in the world, with a membership of nearly one thousand Christians primarily from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal and neighboring countries—and a variety of other ethnicities—began in 1988 with less than 50 members.

In 2006 the group opened its new church building at 2001 East Randolph Road, just west of SR 29, enabling the Church to extend its ministry to more than five thousand Southern Asians who live in the Baltimore/Washington metropolitan region.

Anniversary weekend events will highlight the strengths of cultural diversity in this unique congregation, celebrating the remarkable variety in clothing, language, music, and tastes of Southern Asia. The public is invited to the May 11 festivities, which will begin with the celebratory worship service at 11 am in the church sanctuary, followed by a fellowship lunch.

Other highlights of the day include a Concert at 4 pm in the sanctuary featuring international gospel singer Vijay Benedict and the instrumental and vocal talents of members of the congregation. An 8 pm Social Program* of fun and friendship will showcase the more secular talents of the congregation and will be held in the church's fellowship hall.

For more information about the 25th Anniversary Celebration, visit www.sasdac.org.

Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church is located at 2001 E. Randolph Road in Silver Spring, Md. Weekly services include Vespers at 7:30 pm on Fridays, and Sabbath School at 9:15 am and Divine Service at 11 am on Saturdays. To worship with us online, or for more information on the ministries and services of the Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church, visit www.sasdac.org.

Contact: Richard Christian, Communication Director
   Phone: 301-879-7222 Email: sasdac@sasdac.org

VIII. Spicer University and/or Spicer Hospital [Continued]

1. Steven George <steven_grge@hotmail.com> May 1:
   I fully agree with Raj Abel to involve the laity. Often the Southern Asians residing abroad are looked as cash cows not as think tanks.

   Also I would have to say a suggestion like this could only be discussed in this newsletter. Thanks again to the editor for the glasnost aspect of this newsletter which is providing a platform for the exchange of ideas/innovations - may it be used wisely to further His cause.

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

2. Philip Sargunam <philip.sargunam@indiaskills.com> May 2:

   Humbly and sincerely I’d like to share a few thoughts with regard to the discussion on the new project under consideration. The suggestions are noteworthy and ingrained in them are strains of wisdom. The people nominated by Bro. Abel are people who are well-respected for their qualifications, leadership qualities and vast experience. However, I was rather concerned that only Dr. Devadas Moses was one of the only ones who wrote about the need for a "reorientation into our philosophy and vision". Why hasn't the Lord blessed our initiatives in Southern Asia Division? The discussion appears to suggest that a lot of the failed projects or ones that haven't lived up to their potential are primarily the result of the short-comings of our church leaders (poor decisions, no decisions, lack of transparency, lack of openness, lack of opportunity for lay to participate etc). While the analysis of the leadership in SA may be fairly accurate, there are questions we may want to consider:
1. Are the "successful institutions" functioning according to the divine vision and philosophy given to us through Scripture and Ellen White? My understanding is that the primary purpose of any institution related to the church (for that matter, any believer be it lay or otherwise) is to be a witness to the world, leading to the finishing of the work in this world.

Profit and worldly recognition without the "finishing the work on earth" focus is just not why God wants us to establish institutions. There are many flourishing schools that have Bible on the curriculum but put very little effort in ensuring that it is really taught and with the primary intention of saving souls (God will help us be wise in areas where conversion is frowned upon or illegal). Often teachers use this period to teach other subjects as Bible does not contribute towards the state examinations and the reputation of the school. While we search for souls through evangelistic efforts and other avenues, the thousands of families represented in many of our large educational institutions go unnoticed and unreached. Hospitals are to be the right hand of the Gospel, suggesting that healing should go hand-in-hand with soul winning. Mere medicine for the body falls very short of God's vision for the sin-sick soul. These are just two examples I have used to try and bring a point home. What initiatives and serious programs do we have to make sure our institutions are soul-winning avenues? Have much of our efforts have just been token in nature?

2. The questions stated in point No.1 appear to place the responsibility on Church/institutional leadership. However, how many lay people have established institutions or businesses primarily focused on finishing the work? I am a lay person and believe that I have truly fallen short of God's purpose for my very existence because finishing the work has not been the center of my life. It is not sufficient to have a pocket full of noble intentions and not have the time or the desire to share much more of our money to reach out to souls, driven by the love of God in our hearts to save lost brothers and sisters. I don't know of too many lay who are willing to "fill in the gap" in our church run institutions, without decision making privileges and recognition. There may be resistance to lay efforts but much prayer and humble persistence will yield results because, after all, this is God's church (institutions included)- He loves it more than we do...He died for it. It is not enough to give money for the saving of souls...we need to give of ourselves. God can produce wealth out of nothing but He cannot secure our hearts unless we give it up to Him. Besides, why would we want to miss out on the joy of saving a soul. Is the joy and satisfaction experienced less than a great business deal or the acquisition of a doctoral degree? I have had several dynamic persons (lay and organizational) speak to me of a need for the Church to have a "presence" in this world. What kind of a "presence" should the Church have? Is it only success as defined by the world? Just great leaders and flourishing institutions? Is it just setting up of great edifices of accomplishment? Yes, we are to be the "head" and not the "tail". But why do we tend to leave out spirituality - character that reflects the self-sacrificing love of God? Are we sometimes trying to "add" to the wisdom of God? Are we trying to make things happen because we have, in our human wisdom discovered the "reasons" why things are not moving forward? "Perspective" is a problem with many of us. If you were to ask many of our SDAs believers (be it lay or church worker) how they were doing or how someone else was doing you would probably get one of two answers - "he/she is doing well" or "not doing well". If you were then to ask them to define "well", many would define it as financial, or career, or physical health. "Well" would rarely mean being ready for the Lord's coming or great success in soul-winning. How different are we from the world? Is that why, especially in India, the world feels very little need to join us?

In my humble opinion what we really need is for great minds (lay and organizational) to come together for revival and reformation. It may be wise to individually and corporately accept responsibility for the poor progress of the Gospel in SA. We may need to take a re-look at God's plans (through the study of His Word and the Spirit of Prophecy), accept God's goals and humbly offer ourselves to fulfill God's purpose in our lives (individually and corporately). Success will come but it will be as God defines it. The world will sit up and take notice of us but it will be because they see Jesus in us (individually and institutionally). We will be powerful because God's power is in us. We will be courageous and face any challenge because we depend on someone who is truly trustworthy and "able". We can become all that we can ever dream of being because that is what God has destined for us to become.

These thoughts may seem simplistic in nature. It is probably because I am simple. I see God's ways as being "simple" to understand and follow.

Often it is us humans who complicate things.
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 08JwK180h) is spam:
Spam:  http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=08JwK180h&m=322a1e0adb93&c=s
Not spam:  http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=08JwK180h&m=322a1e0adb93&c=n
Forget vote:  http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=08JwK180h&m=322a1e0adb93&c=f

END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS