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I. Letters
   1. Raghuthamnan Opeh <docopeh@gmail.com> May 3:
      Thanks to John Wycliff for his letter or appreciation of my baptism. My parents names are Mr. and Mrs. R. Velayudhan. They were married in the Gandhi Ashram at Wardha in Central India. Mahatma Gandhi gave away the bride; Kasturbha Gandhi gave her a khadi sari made from the thread spun by Gandhi on his charkha (spinning machine) and woven on a hand operated machine. The prime minister was not present. The appointment book of Gandhiji has the marriage listed. But there is no mention of Nuhrujji's name.

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   2. John M. Fowler <FowlerJ@gc.adventist.org> May 9:
      I want to congratulate the pastoral staff and church members of the Southern Asian Adventist Church as they celebrate the 25th anniversary of the sweat, toil, sacrifice, prayers, and togetherness with which they built a great monument--perhaps one of the best--for God's glory, Adventist affirmation, and the community that binds the migrants from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and beyond. No other institution, in my brief and at timed fading memory stands as tall as this church. This began with great birth pangs in the minds of a few men--not more than 10--and with a volunteer pastor, himself a new immigrant with great challenges to root and bring up a family of two children. But he accepted the challenge, and for now wrote a history of commitment and sacrifice for the glory of God and for the continuity of the global faith to which all pastors are called to commit themselves. No church succeeds with brilliant philosophers, great accountants, unimpeachable teachers--but a church succeeds where there is pastoral vision, evangelistic fervor, ecclesiastic unity, caring and nurturing commitment.

      So I congratulate this church--set up in God's own plan--opposite the world head-quarters of the Adventist faith--its pastoral staff and its devoted members. Its past is one of sweat and glory; its present is one of community and faith; and its future is sure and certain--all within the circle of the One who never fails, and ever cares.

      --John M. Fowler, an eyewitness to the pangs, a beneficiary of the church's blessings.

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II. Remembering Mrs. Priyani Anthony

Shyamala Bastiam Pillai <shyamalab@sjmsassociates.com>

Mrs. Priyani Anthony (nee De Silva), wife of Pastor W. D. Anthony, former president of the Sri Lanka Mission passed away after a short illness, to her rest in the Lord on Saturday, 13th April, 2013.
Priyani was a very unassuming person, very quiet, but a steady support to Pastor Anthony in his ministry during their 42 years of marriage. Though she did not enjoy the best of health, she did her best. One of her great strengths as a minister's wife was that she kept her own counsel and never gossiped or had an unkind word to say about anyone. As a mother, she raised her sons to have faith and confidence in God.

During the last few years, after the retirement of Pastor Anthony, she found great solace in interacting and associating with the children and staff of the REACH orphanage in Chilaw.

Priyani was the daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. A. H. De Silva of Katunayake and is the sister of Lalitha Jansz, Indrani Ariyaratnam and the late Ranjith De Silva.

She leaves behind her husband, Pastor W. D. Anthony, her two sons, Ravi and Ruwan, their wives Nishamani and Anurukshi and her three grandchildren.

We thank the Lord for the assurance we have in His promise that "whosoever believeth in Him will not perish but have everlasting life". Her life reflected her love and belief in her Lord and hence, we know for sure that "there is the crown of life" ready for her when the Lord comes to claim His own.

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III. Deaths

1. Death of Mrs. Sosamma Mohan Boddeti
   Melvin Rao <drmelvinrao@yahoo.com>

   It is with an immense grief in my heart that I send this notice for the benefit of those family and friends that Mrs. Sosamma Mohan Boddeti passed away in her sleep on April 14th, 2013 at her home in Nuzvid, Andhra Pradesh. The funeral service was on April 18th. She will be terribly missed by her husband: Mr. Boddeti Mohan Rao and her Four children and their families: Dr. Melvin Rao Boddeti (Mrs. Norma Melvin Boddeti, Nicole & Nathan), Mrs. Merlin Sharath (Mr. Sharath Bapaniah, Shawn Sharath), Mr. Meshach Theophilus Boddeti (Mrs. Saroja Meshach, Melody Boddeti) & Mr. Michael Raj Boddeti (Priyanka Michael). She also leaves behind her sisters Mrs. Catherine Kisku & Mrs. Sheela Jayaraj. Her untimely death, while it might be perceived as an escape to her many illness, cannot be considered as relief to the family and the hosts of people who have come to love Mrs. Sosamma's easy smile and her unsullied life. In the words of King Solomon as recorded in Pr.31:10,29 "Who can find a virtuous Woman? for her price is far above rubies...many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellst them all." Until that glorious morning, when the Trumpet sounds my dear Mother, sleep on in Sweet Jesus, may the Lord make us thus faithful.

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2. Death of Steve Vitrano
   Joyce <joycedv@wavecable.com> May 8:

   It is with a sad heart that I am have to tell you that Dad passed away this past Sabbath. He fell and hit his head and we don't know exactly why as it was early in the morning. He had been enjoying activities & a wonderful chef who prepared excellent vegetarian meals in assisted living since February 1. Alzheimers had been stealing his mind for some time which he hated.

   Roger, Ed and I of course will miss him but are happy that he is with Mom in a place so much better than this earth has to offer. We will be having services here in Auburn and at Andrews.

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IV. Correct Date to Meet With Sadlers Before They Visit Sri Lanka
   Merlyn Fernando <merlynfernando@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 1, 2013 for vespers at 7 pm in the Youth Room over a light supper. For further information, contact Nigel @ 240 505 6800

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V. Early Missionaries--the Meleens
   Shared by Karnnel S. D. Charles <teachindia@aol.com>
   [From: Gertrude, daughter of Eric and Minnie Meleen]

"Reports and stories of mission work are not to praise any man but to let the dear people know that our 'works' follow us, life is short, and our purpose to be on this earth is to serve the Lord. These dear ones are resting in their graves, but
none of us should miss the resurrection morning when Jesus comes and we will meet all the faithful loved ones, those who have indeed lived to serve God. Grandfather Eric, Grandmother Minnie, Aunt Helen and Uncle Willis, all loved the people in India for whom they labored, their greatest desire was to meet many of them in Heaven."

"As I understand it, the first thing my parents did when they arrived in India was to hire a language teacher and learn to read and write Tamil since their work was to be in S. India. One of Grandfather’s first assignments was to be principal of the boarding high school in Krishnarajapuram. When he started he discovered that most of the students were paid to attend and given personal items like blankets and pillows and soap and toothpaste on top of the free tuition.

"Grandfather, I am told, speedily put a stop to this and told every student that if they wanted to stay they had to work for their tuition and pay for personal items. He started a farm and poultry industry and expelled all the students who did not want to go along with the work-study program. A few stayed and became the backbone of the fine scholastic institution that later was moved to Poona and was the beginning of what was later to become Spicer College.

"The Lowrys were the ones who got Spicer up and running. I remember once that when our family left the US after completing one of our furloughs, Grandfather took a dozen or so Rhode Island Reds (hens and roosters) in cages and sacks of grain back to Krishnarajapuram to improve the poultry industry. These cages were kept in a secluded spot on the deck of the ship and every day grandfather would go and attend to them! Some time later grandfather was appointed President of the South Asia Division which kept him traveling a lot all around the country. Later he became the Educational Secretary for the Division. He always traveled third class on the trains in order to save money for the Division. If you have seen the hard benches in third class compartments you know what a sacrifice that was. He carried his bed roll and mosquito net, boiled water and tiffin basket for his food wherever he went so as to provide for his own needs while traveling. Though he was a "Burrah (big) Sahib" (boss) and entitled to an adequate expense allowance his thought was always to save money for the mission.

"On coming home from one of his trips, he always had our house servant spread his bedroll and other luggage out in the sun in order to kill the bed bugs.

"During one of our furloughs, Grandfather spent his time continuing his education at Cornell University in the state of New York. At his graduation he was invited to join the faculty to head up one of the English departments at this prestigious university at four times the salary he had been getting as a missionary. But no, we all went back to India, and he and grandmother spent two more terms (each term was 7 years) doing what they loved best, helping the church to grow in India.

"Once Grandfather was in charge of the publishing work for the Division and was the editor for the Eastern Tidings. He wrote a book called 'The Soul of Man' for the colporteurs to sell to educated Hindus. I would like to see the book redone for use in this country. There are so many right here who do not understand what happens to us when we die. In all your grandparents spent 35 years serving in--Krishnarajapuram; Bangalore (where we three younger children, Alice, Gertrude, and Margaret, were born); Poona; and yes, some time at Vincent Hill School in the Himalayas helping to build up that institution also. Your grandmother, Minnie, always started a church school wherever we went and those were my first schools. Pretty good ones, too!"

VI. A Century Ago: "A Tale or 2 Travelers"
--from the May 9 Adventist Review
"Jagatjit Singh Bahadur was the ruling maharajah of Kapurthala of India in 1915. He traveled extensively, spending as much as 6 months a year away from his home. In March of that year he left on a tour of the United States, Canada, England and France. In December he booked passage on the SS Persia, leaving from Marseilles, France. Loaded onto the ship was a secure vault where gold, silver and precious gems valued at Pounds 1 million he had collected on his journey.

"Homer Russell Salisbury, superintendent of the India Union Mission was finally on his way home. A missionary, he had left India in September, 1915 to attend the Annual Council in Loma Linda, California, mostly at the urging of other Adventist leaders. The meeting completed, he booked passage to India via the European route. World War I made the Pacific route safer, but Salisbury had work and a wife waiting in India, and this route was faster. He made it safely to London, and then to Marseilles on the SS Persia. He was one stop away from home.

"On December 10, just as passengers were sitting down to lunch, a German U-boat torpedoed the Persia, hitting it broadside. The ship listed and sank in less than 10 minutes; most of the 519 passengers were thrown into the frigid water. Survivors floated for 30 hours before being rescued. Salisbury did not survive. The maharajah, being tipped off that the ship had been targeted by the Germans, did not get on board, but sent a stand-in instead, who did survive. His fortune of gold, silver, and precious gems went down with the ship.
"In 2003 the wreckage of the Persia was discovered--the treasury cargo of primary interest. Eventually more than 200 priceless gems were salvaged from its vault. Salisbury, a committed worker for the gospel, waits for an even more wonderful 'salvage operation' when his Lord and Savior returns to rescue him from his watery grave."

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VII. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 37
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.

# 37. Oliver Asprey (1928 - 31)
Oliver Asprey arrived Myanmar in 1928 as secretary-treasurer. He came from Poona, India, and served well as a secretary-treasurer until 1931. He came to relieve the Killoways, also from India, who suffered from failing health, after both served efficiently.

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VIII. A Conversation Without Words
Candace Zook Writing in "Blessed" --the current women's Morning Devotion book.
"Peace & Presence
" 'But let the godly rejoice. Let them be glad in God's presence. Let them be filled with joy.' -- Psalm 68:3
"It had been a long day of traveling in the Cassie [sp?] Hills in northeast India. We were very close to our destination Haflong [sp?], Assam. The day that had started out with fog and dampness had given way to bright sunshine, and the hills through which we traveled were beautiful. This was my first trip through these hills and I enjoyed new the visa at each curve in the road.
"Because we had gone through some mud puddles, remnants of the recent rain, our vehicle had become very dirty. When a shallow river came into view, the driver thought it was a good opportunity to wash the mud and dirt from the vehicle. Of course he would not let me help. I had gotten used to this, so I wandered a short distance down the wide bank of the river and found a great rock where I could sit and watch. It wasn't long before a woman from the nearby village walked up and sat on another rock very close to me. We smiled at each other and said hello in our respective languages.
We then turned our attention to the driver washing the car, the children playing in the water, and the dogs who enjoyed running after them.
"The beautiful woman and I talked without words. She pointed to the children, then held up a number of fingers, indicating the number of children she had. I did the same. We continued our silent discussion for about 30 minutes. I was very much at peace. Then she stood, smiled, and bowed in the Indian tradition. She turned and walked toward the village.
"I sat watching her go and realized I had just had one of the most wonderful and interesting conversations I have ever had. Though we did not speak the same language, we had a great conversation. It included just sitting and enjoying the presence of each other.
"Isn't that how our relationship with God should be? How much richer our relationship is when we are able to 'be still in the presence of the Lord.
and wait patiently for Him to act.' (Ps. 37:7) David must have spent much time sitting and enjoying the presence of God as he wrote a great deal about this. . . ."
[Candace Zook recently returned to Indiana from the mission field in India, and is writing her first book--about India.]

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1. Pramod Gaikwad <gaikwadpapag1@comcast.net> May 7:
I humbly wish to respond to the news item that appeared in the May 1st issue of the SUD news letter regarding Spicer University and or Hospital. I read the constructive comments and observations presented by some of the well-wishers. I would like to think positively as well, and wish to present a very deep rooted, reality oriented, concern about the existing medical facilities in SA, where we do not have well trained, educated, experienced executive level administrators to manage these institutions not only on the professional level, but also with deeper understanding and commitment to the blue print given to us by the inspired writings about the work and mission of medical ministry and the Adventist philosophy. Our medical mission work will not progress unless we get back to the drawing board.

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2. Pierson David <secretary@adventisthealthindia.com> May 1:
The Medical Trust of Seventh-day Adventist which operates eight hospitals in India invites lay representatives in the hospital Boards. Each hospital has two representatives in the board and some slots are vacant. You may recommend names of lay members who like to actively be involved.
(Eligibility- Baptized lay members with or without Medical Background with a passion to support the work of God.)
Pune- 2 Slots
Bangalore- 1 Slot
Ottapalam- 1 Slot
Thanjavur- 2 Slots
Jullundur- 2 Slots
Hapur- 2 Slots
Shimla - 2 Slots
Aizawl- Nil
For information about the hospitals please log on to www.adventisthealthindia.com Pierson Sam David, Secretary
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