I. Letters
   1. Dennis Tidwell
   2. Ruth Sipkens

II. Indian Adventist Professor to Head Africa's Heldeberg College

III. Mrs. Ruby Berger Seriously Ill

IV. A Hand Bell Choir for Spicer

V. Deaths this Week
   1. Death of Grace Harry
   2. Death of C. I. John

VI. Navi Mumbai Television (NMTV) features Loma Linda

VII. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries: # 38 VIII. Raymond Memorial, Then and Now

IX. Youth Retreat in Andhra Pradesh

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

I. Letters
   1. Dennis Tidwell <dennis.tidwell.adra@gmail.com> May 13:
   Phu Tha Moo (Ah Chu) recalled that Pastor Meleen always traveled by Third Class train cars. He said the boys at Rajahkrishnapurum once asked Meleen why he did so. His reply was, "Because there is no Fourth Class.

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

   2. Ruth Sipkens <ruthsipkens@gmail.com> May 14:
   It's a sorrow to learn of Priyani Anthony's death. We send sympathy and love to the family. One more reason to look forward to Jesus' coming. Love and prayers to the family.

   Also sending best wishes to the Sadlers as they make changes in their lives to return to Mailapitya, Sri Lanka. We know they will do a great work out there. They were well liked and the people will welcome them to help get their school and estate in good shape.

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

II. Indian Adventist Professor to Head Africa's Heldeberg College

   John M. FowlerFowlerJ@gc.adventist.org May 14:
   Earlier this week, Southern Asia Division was honored in a unique way, and my heart leaps with joy in sharing this good news. The Board of Heldeberg College in Capetown, South Africa, was searching for a president to head up that historic institution ever since December 2012 when the then president was moved to the South Africa Union as its ecclesiastic head. The search process proceeded according to established norms and conventions, and the final choice was made this week. The choice fell on Dr. Vincent Injety, a native of Andhra Pradesh, a graduate of Narsapur High School, a graduate and former professor of Spicer College, and a doctoral degree holder from India. His wife comes from Tamil Nadu. His father is the late Pastor I. V.

   Rao, well known as a literature evangelist who helped many students gain their summer scholarships.

   Dr. Injety’s appointment brings a certain thrill and joy to all those who claim India as their home and Spicer as their stepping stool to climb high, higher, and still higher to serve their God and serve Him with dignity, honor, and honesty. Among many nationals who have the opportunity to serve abroad, this is perhaps the first time when an Indian is called to be the president of a historic Adventist institution, such as Heldeberg. A few years ago Dr. Injety was called from Spicer to Solusi University in Zimbabwe to be a professor in the Department of Business. He not only built that department, but introduced a master's program which soon gained national preeminence. From there he was called to South Africa, where he introduced many new academic innovations. Internationally he was respected for his academic acumen, and business analysis in many visits of the Adventist Accrediting Association.
A life of faithful service has now been blessed with this new responsibility. Thank you, I. V. Rao family, thank you Narsapur, thank you Spicer, thank you Pune University, and thank you Adventist Church in India for nurturing young people with such vision and humility and making them service-minded for the global church. I am reminded of what Ellen White wrote: "There is no limit to the usefulness of one." let the faithful complete the quote. If someone does not know the quote, let them look it up and live it up.

Congratulations, Vincent, and God bless you.

III. Mrs. Ruby Berger Seriously Ill

--Bonnie Berger writes in Face Book, May 15:

With much sadness, I want my friends to know that my mother Ruby Berger is very ill. Was admitted to the hospital a week ago Friday with pneumonia; at first we thought she'd be home in no time, and in fact, she did go home the next Tuesday. She was readmitted 2 days later and has become progressively worse. Last night with her full participation, the decision was made to take her off all the antibiotics, and provide comfort care. She had been a good mother, and friend to many people, and is sweet and at peace with her decision.

IV. A Hand Bell Choir for Spicer

Charles David <cdmd@aol.com> May 14:

It was an absolute joy to visit Spicer a year ago, a school I dreamed of attending but never got a chance! Dr. Mary Davy so very graciously showed me around in the music department. We talked about a hand bell choir at Spicer. Needless to say, she was excited about the prospect. Realizing the impact such a choir could have, perhaps all over India, I have been working for months to find a maestro of hand bells who would teach hand bell ringing in Spicer. The effort has been futile so far. If anyone who reads the e-news is a hand bell choir director and would like to teach the art at Spicer, or knows of such a person, please let me know. I will take the hand bells to Spicer (they are not cheap) and help start the program. Return ticket will be provided plus a monthly stipend. and I would want to think that Spicer will provide the lodging. Incidentally, I started a hand bell choir in the Philippines; and in less than a year, they have made a positive impact.

V. Deaths

1. Death of Grace Harry

Rose Muthiah Davy <davyp@bellsouth.net> May 15:

For those who knew Grace Harry in India, I am informing you that another pillar in our SDA church has gone to her rest at the age of 97. She was like a family member, along with a few of her relatives, to the Muthiahs. I do not have all the details but she worked in Surat at the Adventist hospital and till recently lived in Salisbury Park at the retirement house built by Mrs. Eleanor Hetke. She used to walk and attend the Salisbury Park church till she got ill and was unable to attend. She passed away on May 1 and was buried on May 2, according to a family member I spoke to. In 2008 I stopped to visit her and she put her hand on my head and prayed with me before I left for the airport. I again am grateful to our Heavenly Father for giving us the hope of the resurrection. I am looking forward to that Great day of the Second Coming of Jesus. We will meet Him face to face and be able to reunite with many who have been laid to rest and are awaiting the Lord's trumpet call. Even so come Lord Jesus, quickly come.

2. Death of Pastor C. I. John

Joysingh Charles <joysinghcc@aol.com> May 12:

It is with deep sorry we announce the death of Pastor A. I. John on Sunday May 12, 2013 at 10 am at Washington Adventist Hospital. He has been sick and admitted at WAH almost a month. Please remember Mrs. Elizabeth John and children Susy, Sweety and Steve John in your prayers. You may also contact them directly to the following E mail address: <susiejohn999@yahoo.com>

Anand K. Chavakula <contact@hopeside.org> May 14

Pastor C. I. John served as the Publishing Department Director of the Northeast India Section (Bihar) and the then Central India Union (Mumbai) of Southern Asia Division, and continued in this line of work at the Southwest Region (Texas) and Potomac Conferences.
During his long and dedicated service in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Pastor John touched many lives as he served the Lord in humility; assisting others selflessly, and living an exemplary life.

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

VI. Navi Mumbai Television (NMTV) features Loma Linda:

Wesley James <wjames231@msn.com>

Navi Mumbai Television (NMTV) made a special report on the City of Loma Linda as a "disabled-friendly" place. The Chief Editor of NMTV, Ravi Subbaiah, a physically-challenged person, and his team spent four days in Loma Linda to observe and learn about the programs and resources that are available for the physically-challenged. Subbaiah, a Christian, also shared his testimony during the LLU Chapel service, and was interviewed on Loma Linda Broadcasting Network (LLBN).

If you wish, please copy and paste the links to your browser to view the chapel talk and reports:

**Subbaiah's LLU Chapel Talk -

(You may need to download an apple iTunes app - it's free).

**NMTV interviews the Mayor of Loma Linda -
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jYSpuF_TZa0 (On YouTube)**

**NMTV report on the City of Loma Linda -
https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=X8IJC9bNE (On YouTube)**

This trip was coordinated through the efforts of R. J. Solomon (Mumbai), Ravi Sighamoney and Babloo Henry (Pune), and Leonard White (Chennai) - volunteers of LLBN South Asia. Ravi Subbaiah was deeply moved by the story of the beginnings of Loma Linda and its mission. He has invited LLBN South Asia to partner with NMTV in sharing the gospel via cable television in Mumbai and surrounding areas.

We praise God for this opportunity to tell about Jesus to the masses in Mumbai, a city of over 20 million. Currently, LLBN South Asia has programs in Marathi, but, we need to produce more programs - quickly! The Marathi programs will be coordinated by our volunteers and the LLBN SA production team in India. I am pleased to announce that Sudhir Chavan, living in Maryland, USA, is our volunteer-coordinator and will help with the marketing and promotion of this special project.

LLBN SA is a viewer-supported, volunteer-based, faith ministry. We request you to partner with us through your prayers and financial support as we respond to this God-given opportunity. For more information, visit www.llbn.tv or write to llbnsa@llbn.tv.

Thank you!

Wesley James, Volunteer/Director, LLBN SA

~~~~~~~~~~~~~ VII. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 38

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.

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

# 38. Wallace W. Christensen (Dr. Doris- Dentist) (1931-1942)

Elder Wallace W. and Dr. Doris Christensen came from America early in 1931. The Christensens did excellent job. Pastor Christensen studied Burmese as soon as he arrived and he looked after Yangon church. He held evangelistic meetings at western Yangon of Ah Lone at White Hall, a famous public meeting place. He could speak Burmese fluently. In later years he worked in literacy and publishing work. When A. J. Johanson arrived and took over the literacy department, Pastor Christensen served as the pastor to Yangon church till 1942. The Christensens went on furlough in 1938 and came back to Myanmar serving in the same position he left before furlough. Before the war he sent his family to India where he continued for some time in Myanmar. He left on foot for India when the situation worsened. During the Second World War Pastor Christensen served the Lord by teaching Christian faith to African youths a seminary at Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).

After the Second World War he came back to Myanmar. The seminary established at Myaungmya in 1958 now called Myanmar Union Adventist Seminary (MUAS) got Pastor W. W. Christensen as its first principal. This godly man gave himself whole-heartedly to this task for several years, until 1964 when his health broke and he had to return to America where he was laid to rest.
He was a willing martyr for missions in Myanmar.

Dr. Doris Christensen was a dentist who kept herself busy in the Yangon area, before Elder Christensen broke down in his health and returned to the US where he fell asleep in Jesus. The Christensens had three children. They were all serving the Lord in their respective fields.

VIII. Raymond Memorial, Then and Now

by Dick Duerksen in the current THE VOLUNTEER, Maranatha’s magazine:

"Mina, One of 'The First Batch'

"I remember the first day of school. You know, they paid us to attend school that year. It was nothing but jungle all over, but Elder Champion had pitched tents for us and we lived right over there near the river. Well, on the very first day we had school for one hour, and then spent the rest of the day helping pull up the jungle.' says Mina.

"Mina was in 'the first batch' of students at the Raymond Memorial Higher Secondary School in Falakata, India. The Adventist had started a school in Karmatar, near Calcutta, but the need was great, and the Karmatar property was too small. Elder Champion was the church education director.

and after considerable searching, he located 600 acres in Falakata and set the stakes for a secondary school.

"It was 1949,' continues Mina. 'I had been attending the Adventist school in Karmatar, but since I was 18 years old and ready for secondary school, my parents sent me here with Elder Champion. There was jungle everywhere!' "The jungle got 'pulled up,' and soon the education extended far beyond the 'one-hour per day.' Standard high school courses were augmented by classes in agriculture, family life, evangelism, and leadership.' "See those big, tall trees? We planted all of those. And we kept the school gardens, too!' remembered Mina.

"Great-grandma Mina is the last surviving member of Raymond Memorial's 'first batch', but lives nearby and at 82 is still an active part of the Falakata school family.

"She concludes, 'Principal Fendall tells me there are more than 1,200 students here now and that the new Maranatha classrooms will make room for even more. I am proud that you have come to help grow my school. This is God's school, you know.'"

The following tells how Maranatha is helping the school grow:

"Nearly 60 years ago Adventists established a school in the small town of Falakata. The institution became a thriving part of the community and a respectable educational institution, drawing families from all over the area and from various faiths.

"Today Raymond Memorial Higher Secondary School has more than 1,200 primary and secondary students. Enrolment surpasses the facility's capacity and students had to be turned away. The Adventist Church requested Maranatha's assistance in expanding the campus.

"In January, volunteers built 8 One-Day-School classrooms on the Raymond Memorial campus. In March, a second team headed over to build 8 more classrooms. During the projects, volunteers also ran medical clinics and treated hundreds of patients."

IX. Youth Retreat in Andhra Pradesh

R. J. Solomon <rj_solomon@yahoo.co.in> May 13:

I am thrilled to share with you about a successful Youth Retreat held at Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh from April 25-28, 2013.

Kurnool is one of the four districts that comprise the Rayalseema Region of Andhra Pradesh. The improvised Kurnool is one of the last districts entered by Adventists. A decade ago there were just three churches in Kurnool district but today Kurnool boosts of 258 churches spread over several villages. Most of these new churches are cared by workers who have anywhere between 5 to 10 churches to cater.

A visit to some of these churches last year made me to realise that there are several educated and talented youth in the churches but are not trained to shoulder the church responsibilities. As a youth researcher I was fully aware that if we provide some training and give direction mighty things can be achieved through the involvement of youth in our churches.

Hence this retreat was planned with the support of officers at North Rayalseema Section, Kurnool and East Central India Union at Hyderabad.
The Theme of the retreat was "DISCOVERING JESUS: THE WAY, THE TRUTH, & THE LIFE". The goal of the youth retreat is to make optimum use of the potentials of Adventist youth for the glory of God. The focus of youth training is on discipling and mentoring the youth to be vibrant witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Specific Objectives of the Youth Retreat include:
To lift up Jesus and to draw youth to Him To train youth in assisting the local church in its growth To train youth for witnessing in the community.
To orient the youth in seeking Adventist education To motivate the youth in perusing career in ministry, pointing out Spicer College as an option.

The youth retreat was organized at Jeeva Sudha Pastoral Centre at Kurnool. It was a unique program targeted to rural youth. The youth in urban areas often find several opportunities to attend camps and retreats but not the rural youth. With the best efforts of North Rayalseema Section officers a total of 113 youth- 51 boys and 62 girls participated in the 4-day retreat.

Pr. Gladstain Pitta Jacob of the Spicer College Church was the main speaker of the program. Drs. Narendra Rao and Rani Rao from Bangalore provided health messages. Ms Kimberly Azalton from Weimar Institute, California shared some health remedies. Mr. Sam Livingston from Asian Aid encouraged the youth to pursue education and build career to the glory of the Lord. Mr. Priston Pitta from Hyderabad made a lasting impact on the youth through praise and worship service. Pr. T. Charles representing the Union office challenged the youth to live up to Christ's message.

In spite of hot summer the youth remained attentive all through the 4-day program. They were self-motivated and eager to learn more about Christ. They showed great interest and actively participated in praise and worship, group discussions and in giving testimonies. The rural youth were very simple, humble and remained well disciplined all through the program.

It is to the credit of the rural youth that they could make maximum use of the retreat for their own spiritual growth. The youth have requested the organizers to make frequent visit to their churches and to conduct similar programs so that more youth can be benefited in the villages. If it is God's will we will certainly want to do more for the Rural Adventist Youth.

Let us not forget that the youth are not only the future of the church; they are also very much a part of it today! "The youth, if rightly trained, could sway a mighty influence." (Messages to Young People, p. 204). I foresee the Rural Adventist Youth (RAY) as a RAY of Hope to the Adventist Church.
Dr. R. J. Solomon
ICSSR Senior Research Fellow, Mumbai.

[I wish to thank Wesley James form Loma Linda University, CA., Surendra Bastiam Pilli from Muscat, Oman, Prin. J. Peter from Sanpada, Navi Mumbai, G. Vijayaraj from Bangalore, Prs. Victor Sam and Vara Prasad from Hyderabad for their whole hearted support in successfully organizing this retreat.
Above all I thank our Lord Jesus for granting me this opportunity to organize the retreat.] ~~~~~~~~~ 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 08JBTOPC2) is spam:
Spam:     http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?id=08JBTOPC2&m=2dc66893d97f&c=s
Not spam: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?id=08JBTOPC2&m=2dc66893d97f&c=n
Forget vote: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?id=08JBTOPC2&m=2dc66893d97f&c=f
----------------------------------
END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS