I. Letters
   1. Boxter Kharbtent <khar_btg@yahoo.com> May 19:
      Congratulations, Dr. Vincent Injety!! What great and thrilling news. I can feel it down to my toes! What an infinite surprise! It's just amazing.
      You did us Indians proud! Yes, Heldeberg College is indeed a venerable institution for South African Adventists, like Spicer College for Southern Asian Adventists. To be appointed as the president of such a historic institution speaks volumes for Dr. Injety. You already have impressive accomplishments under your belt, and with God's help I am confident you will take that institution to a higher plane.
      Dr. Boxter Kharbtent, Professor
      Systematic Theology
      University of the Southern Caribbean
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   2. Reggie Shires <RegShires@aol.com> May 16:
      It is encouraging to see Spicer College now drawing on the advice of those who once served Southern Asia as plans are laid for the future of the college. It is with this in mind that I would like to suggest the idea of developing our college to a seminary. Many of our Adventist scholars in India have obtained advanced degrees so it would not be too hard a task to build a strong faculty. In the past our theology students have journeyed to the Philippines or to Andrews for seminary degrees. Spicer College has earned the right to be an advanced institution like a seminary. It is something the founders of Spicer would have been proud to see.
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II. Edwin & Marcelline Dass Celebrate Their Golden Wedding Anniversary
   Dr. Edwin and Marcelline Dass celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 5, 2013, in Riverside, California, three days before the actual date, May 8. Their two sons, Elzever (Vizie) and Erwin (Ernie), planned, funded and organized the event.
   Their sons mailed elegantly crafted anniversary invitations to some 200 friends and family in California, other States in the U.S., and India. Over 172 attended the celebration. Some came from as far away as India, Canada, Michigan, Arizona, Florida, Illinois, and Ohio. Marcelline's eldest sister, Shirley, her daughter, Madhulika, and grandson, Ryan, came all the way from New Delhi, India. They, and Gracy Dass, from Ohio, were their special family guests. The event was held at Bombay Banquet Hall in Ontario, California.
   The Dasses have made literally thousands of friends around the world.
While they lived in Berrien Springs, Michigan, their home was always open to the students and friends who visited them. There they owned and operated the A-1 Travel Agency and organized many tours around the world for large and small groups. Many folks from these tour groups have become their life-long friends, among whom, a good number are Seventh-day Adventists. Then, while they labored at Roorkee Adventist College, India, for almost 24 years, scores of teachers and thousands of their students considered the Dasses as their heroes. Today, a host of them are married, have become successful business men and women in India and abroad. The Dasses, through travels and work opportunities have had the pleasure of meeting people from various walks of life and making friends with many.

Their family and friends felicitated the Dasses, on their reaching this milestone, with gifts, greeting cards and personal calls. For those who wish to join in wishing the Dasses well, for their fifty years of marriage and many more to come, here's their home telephone number, 951-353-2015, and email; <eddasspres@yahoo.com>

--Submitted by: Drs. Justin and Juanita Singh, their close friends for many years.

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III. Suggestions for the Future Spicer College

1. Reggie Shires <RegShires@aol.com> May 16:
   It is encouraging to see Spicer College now drawing on the advice of those who once served Southern Asia as plans are laid for the future of the college. It is with this in mind that I would like to suggest the idea of developing our college to a seminary. Many of our Adventist scholars in India have obtained advanced degrees so it would not be too hard a task to build a strong faculty. In the past our theology students have journeyed to the Philippines or to Andrews for seminary degrees. Spicer College has earned the right to be an advanced institution like a seminary. It is something the founders of Spicer would have been proud to see.

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2. Paulsen Yesudian <yesudian.family@hotmail.co.uk>
   We often hear of different developments in Spicer Memorial College but never once about the theology department which is the main reason for its existence. We want a department equivalent to Andrew's university where scholarship is respected and good students are trained for the field.

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IV. Remembering Them

1. Remembering Pastor A. I. John
   Eric Moser <susanmoser@hotmail.com> May 17
   We had a letter from Susie John telling us about her father's death. We are very sad to hear about this. He had been ill for some time and we were able to get in touch with him and the family then and are glad for this. One more of God's warriors is now resting awaiting The Life Giver's call.

   We first met the family when we went to Ranchi, our first place of work, in September 1963. The A. I. Johns were on leave in Kerala when we got there. Sadly their son, a toddler, fell ill and died when they were on leave; they returned without him. I don't think they ever got over that child's death.

   He was a quiet, hard working, unassuming, godly, person. He and K. S. D. Charles were in the literature ministry; they formed a good team. There were many regular literature evangelists in that section and they had good sales.

   In the summer many students from Spicer would want to come there because these men had a good reputation. Most of those students went back with a scholarship for the year ahead. The heat of summer was oppressive but that did not prevent him from going out taking these young students to the coal and mica mines of Bihar, to the schools, to the tea estates in the hills and into Nepal. Before starting they would put these students up for two or three days for an orientation programme and feed them, he could not have done this without the support of his wife, Elisabeth. Many of those students were not used to this kind of hard work, he was kind but a disciplined man and would somehow encouraged these young people and take them out. We will not know, this side of Heaven, the results of his work.

   May God's blessings be on the family in this sad hour, we do not mourn as those without hope, even so come Lord Jesus.

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2. Remembering Steve Vitranu
   Boxter Kharbteng <khar_btg@yahoo.com> May 13:
Old age is the greatest and meanest humiliator of all. It not strips a person of strength and vitality, but reminds him or her of death every single day. It also brings in its train all sorts of maladies and sufferings. It turns an old person into a child all over again where at every step of the way he/she needs help. And then in certain cases, old age even strips a person of his/her mind via Alzheimer's. And once a person loses his/her mind, everything is lost for that person.

The passing away of Dr. Steve Vitrano (and his wife, too) brought a sinking feeling in my heart. Perhaps I knew him more than he knew me. I believe he was in India as a missionary in his young days. I met him a couple of times while I was at Andrews in the 1990s. I regret that I did not get to really spend much time with him. Each time I met him, however, was something special for me. I treasured those moments.

The Vitranos have gone to their rest. They are waiting for the trumpet call of the resurrection when they will be wakened to life eternal and taken to heaven to be with the Lord and all the redeemed. "And there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

(Rev 21:4, NLT).

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V. Death of Mrs. Ruby Berger

1. Fern Babcock <fbabcock@southern.edu> May 19:

When we got the SUD newsletter today, we saw that Ruby Berger was terminally ill. I called her daughter, Bonnie for an update and learned that she had died on May 15.

Ruby went to the hospital with pneumonia, seemed to improve and went home, and went down from there and back into the hospital. After unsuccessfully trying to draw fluid from her lungs, and admitting that the antibiotics were not doing a thing, the doctors suggested tubes in the lungs, and Ruby firmly vetoed that. At her insistence, all antibiotics were stopped and she died the next day.

After Christmas last year, George and I and David and Sherri and their families all went to Nashville for the day to visit Ruby and meet her new husband. She was as happy as a teenager, her husband was a delightful person, and we enjoyed an Indian meal at their home. Then we took Ruby with us to see the decorations at the Opryland Hotel. She walked all over, marveling at the flowers and Christmas trees, and we had a great afternoon together. Since she’d been Sherri and David’s teacher in Pakistan, they had all sorts of memories to bring up and laugh about. I’m so glad we spent that day with her.

When we talked with Ruby, we found out she was going to an exercise group regularly, walking a lot, still driving, and working as a volunteer at the SDA Community Services, a thrift store and facility for helping the needy. She loved that place. Her daughter Bonnie suggested that anyone who wished to make a donation in her memory in lieu of flowers should send it to SDA Community Services, 403 Gallatin Pike S., Madison, TN 37115 Her daughter's address is Bonnie Berger, 836 Walnut St., Madison, TN 37115.

Ruby’s ashes will later be buried beside her former husband, Clarence, in Michigan. There will be a memorial service for her at the Madison campus church on June 2 at 11:00 a.m.

Ruby was a godly woman who loved the Lord and all his people. She always found something good to say about everyone, and always looked on the bright side of a situation. Her cheerful personality and loving heart made this missionary loved everywhere she worked.

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2. Rose Muthiah Davy <davyp@bellsouth.net> May 19:

With deep sorrow I am writing this message today. I was surprised to read the message that Ruby Berger Wilson was seriously ill. I had seen her not long ago in good health. Then when I desperately called some phone numbers, I was given the shocking news that she had passed away on May 14. Well I know now that God helped me meet her that day and it was no coincidence that one day recently she had stopped with a friend at our home and prayed with my husband and myself. This weekend both my husband & I shared with each other that we had been thinking about her. She was already asleep in Jesus but we did not know.

Now I want you to know that over the years here in Madison, TN, I had the privilege of visiting the Bergers in their home and spent many happy Sabbath days with them and after Mr. Berger passed away she and I would share our food. She did enjoy Indian food a lot and I enjoyed the western food she made. We would spend some quality time chatting and watching the birds from her front room window. She loved mango pickle I must say. and she loved the Indian food at the farmer’s market Indian cafe, as she would talk about it. Many of us knew how hard-working the Bergers were and a very good example for everyone. They were good people and very God-fearing. She was like a mother to me and I miss her a lot. I am looking forward to the day when Jesus will come and we can once again reunite with all our loved ones.
who have gone on before us. May that day come soon. The song which came to my mind today is,"When all my labours
and trials are o'er".I like the part which says, "Friends will be there I have loved long ago." May God be with each one of
us who are on this earth so we will be faithful, till we meet our loved ones once again.

VI. GC Advisory Group Meet With Division Committee
   Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> May 19:
   The Southern Asia Division is one of two world Divisions to have GC Officer appointed Leadership Advisory Teams to
work with the officers elected at the General Conference session. Lowell C. Cooper and Robert Kloosterhius members of
Advisory Leadership Team are presently in Hosur to meet with the Division committee in their mid-year meetings.
   Contributors to this newsletter allude to the need of "advisory" groups or study committees in addition to the Division
committee. One writer wrote that Division officers seemed more eager to receive his cash rather use his skill, not
realising that the church probably invested thousands of rupees in equipping many for the skills they now possess. We
thank those who have honed their skills and returned, however temporarily to share their knowledge or helped out with
cash gifts for projects close to their heart; but to expect those who have membership abroad to sit in an advisory
capacity is a different matter. By their choice they are no more a part of the Southern Asia Division's constituency. To be
considered as laypersons they must be members in good and regular standing and recommended and voted by the local
section/conference committee. Your interest in work of church in your homeland is natural and your prayers for it's
success are appreciated.
   Our membership is made up of a diverse population within the borders and a vociferous group made of well wishers
of a south-east Adventist Indian diaspora outside of our territorial borders. The struggles and challenges that church
leadership face in such a situation are unknown. The silent prayers for wisdom and discernment to quell the discordant
and often strident voices of employees, laypersons and friends are often unheard.

VII. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 39
   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.

   # 39. Frank & Phyllis Mainstone (1931-37)
   Mr. & Mrs. Mainstone came from India in 1931. Brother Mainstone worked as secretary-treasurer of the Myanmar
Union Mission. Mrs. Mainstone taught in the Yangon Church School at various times. Both Frank and Phyllis Mainstone
did excellent jobs in performing their duties. Frank and Phyllis Mainstone worked well until they returned to India in
1937.

VIII. Pakistan Union Has New President
   Samuel Nazir <samuelyouthpku@hotmail.com> May 16:
   Pastor Michael Ditta New President Appointed in Pakistan Union
   Greetings to all brethren! There is good news about PKU; that we have new president appointed by South Asia Pacific
Division... you already know about Pastor Michael Ditta. May God use him to uplift the work in Pakistan. Thank God
things will be improved to glory of God. Please keep the Pakistan Union officers, departments, ministries and other
friends and institutions in your personal prayers. More blessings and power of God only through more prayers! Wish
Best of God's blessings for Pastor Michael Ditta and his family. God bless you all --Samuel Nazir, Communication
Department, Pakistan Union.

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BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

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Forget vote: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=08JDUJBzw&m=bfb53a87f0c2&c=f

END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS