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I. Letters
   1. Dennis Dean Tidwell
      Writing on FaceBook from Myanmar on May 23:
      "Traveled up the Salween River by boat today to monitor a rural clinic ADRA is constructing. This was the same route Eric B Hare traveled 8 decades ago en route to Ohn Daw school and clinic. The view would have been much the same in his time. Not much has changed. Hare would have loved to have one of ADRA's clinics with solar lighting and refrigeration."

   2. Reggie Shires <RegShires@aol.com> May 19:
      It is so encouraging to read the progress at the Raymond Memorial School at Falakata. Maranatha has picked a beautiful outpost of the church in which to work. Our prayers are with them. Norma and I both worked at the school under Principal Edward Streeter and became very attached to our students and the land. A book of mine on the school, "The Leopard's Call: An Anglo-Indian Love Story," is in the school library and it has two chapters, "The Grasslands," and "Milk and Honey School" about the founding of the school that are based on my interviews with Pastor Maurice Champion and the building engineer Streeter who remembered the Union President, a Swede, who found the land while ingathering among the tea gardens. The book covers the move of the school in great detail as I was able to interview students who made the long journey. The money for the school came from the estate of an Anglo-Indian church member at Calcutta, Mrs. Raymond. If someone at Maranatha working at the school would like to have a copy of my book I'd be happy to mail one as gift. The book is available at Amazon and Google.

   3. Gladwin Mathews <gladwinmathews@hotmail.com> May 26:
      Congratulations, Dr. Vincent Injety! We are delighted to know about this historic achievement in your life. Truly, we are proud of you and thank the Lord for His guidance and leading. May the Lord continue to guide you as you lead out this great institution of higher learning in Africa! God bless you and your family!

   4. Nigel Fernando <nigel_fernando@yahoo.com> May 29:
      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. The
meeting is at the Southern Asia SDA Church, 2001 E Randolph Rd, Silver Spring, MD on June 2, 2013 for vespers at 7 pm in the Youth Room over a light supper that will be accompanied by the presentation. For further information, contact Nigel @240 505 6800 or the above email address.

If there are any further clarifications that the church office needs to make, please feel free to contact me via the info given above.

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II. Death of Sushila Simpson Poddar

Sushila Simpson Poddar, the last of my three auntsies, passed into His rest on Friday evening in her beautiful retirement apartment in New Delhi while her son-in-law, Dr. Paul Frances, was at her bedside holding her hand.

Mrs. Poddar was one of the eight children born to late Ganpathrao and Harnabai Mahapure in the prosperous village of Pargaon Kodoli, Kolhapur District. Sushila was contemporary to Mrs. Pramila Cherian, Margaret Koilpilai among others who completed their education at Spicer College. She married Simpson Poddar in 1953 and had two daughters--Dr. Suzie Paul Frances, and Sheikha Satish Hivale. She is survived by her two daughters, and sons-in-laws Dr. Paul Frances and Satish Santosh Hivale, and one grand son Mark Rohit Frances, Pastor Sadanand Mahapure and nephews, nieces, and grand nephews and nieces.

Sushila taught at Spicer College all her life until she retired in Sanghvi near Spicer. She then moved to New Delhi where she passed away.

Suzie, Paul, Sheikha, Satish, and Uncle Sada, please accept our heart felt condolences and prayers for your peace and comfort as you grieve the loss our your mother, sister, and our aunt. God bless! Keep looking up.

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III. Suggestions for the Future Spicer College

Raghuthamnan Opeh <docopeh@gmail.com> May 24:

The perceptive mail by Reggie Shires has opened the possibilities of making Spicer College what it once was, i.e., a Theological Seminary.

Business courses were added to train people dealing with that aspect of the SDA movement. Though we opened Business schools in places like Maharashtra, the arrival of cyber programming changed the shape of academics in Spicer. Now we have a Spicer College with infrastructures for a business , computer, and science courses. While the original aim was to perhaps have a seminary in Aundh, the conversion of the infrastructures for business, computer, science, and other courses to that of theology would be difficult, but not impossible.

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IV. Remembering Them

1. Remembering Steve Vitrano

Len Tolhurst <lpthrst@bigpond.net.au> May 9:

I have just received an e-mail letter from Joyce telling of the passing of her father Dr. Steve Vitrano. Steve and I worked together in the North West India Union back in the 1950ies. In fact we teamed up together with Pr. Jerry Christo to conduct an evangelistic campaign in the city of Jubbulpur in 1956. When Val and I arrived there we had no church in the city, so it was pioneer work. In fact for a time I and I and Valerie and I all lived together in the same house.

When the Vitranos left India Steve became a professor in the Seminary in Andrews University teaching evangelism, and I was happy to catch up with him there on one of my visits to the USA. That was in 1973 if I remember correctly. Then after I retired Valerie and I went on a trip around the world and met up with them in California, where they very kindly opened their home to us for a short visit with them. Steve was a tireless worker for the Lord, and made a real contribution to the work of the SDA Church in India. He was also a very good Bible student, and I enjoyed the discussions we had together. May God comfort his family members at this time, and we all can look forward with confidence that we will meet him again when Jesus returns.

Gordon Christo <drongo.ostrich@gmail.com> May 24

My dad worked with Steve Vitrano in city evangelism in India. Dr Vitrano was an avid movie photographer and filmed several important events in India in the 1950s. I visited his home in Berrien Springs often and copied many of those super 8 and 16mm movies to videotapes. One is of his dinner at the Rashtrapathi Bhavan. Some are of his travels in India. One is of a quadrennial session in Pune. In that are scores of leaders we would consider pioneers today. One day when we have a heritage museum, those movies will find a permanent home.
2. Remembering Mrs. Ruby Berger
   Pramod Gaikwad <gaikwadpapag1@comcast.net> May 25:
   It has always been a saddening experience to learn about the passing of our elders, leaders, missionaries and others connected with SUD. Ruby Burger was known for her kindness, culinary skills, and motherly patience while in Spicer College when I first joined Spicer High School. She made up for all of Mr. Burger’s hefty strength and tenacity at work on the Farm with a beautiful, caring smile. They were missionaries in the truest form and fashion. God bless Joe and Bonnie now that you have joined the orphan's club like us! The Lord is returning soon!

3. Remembering Priyani Anthony
   Malkanthie Senarah Ballowe <ballowes@aol.com>
   I was shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of my dear friend Priyani Anthony. We had been friends for a very long time. It was my privilege of being her classmate and roommate at Lakpahana. While attending Lakpahana we worked and studied together. Later, we wrote the GCE exam at the same time. Many fond memories remind me of the good times we had together. Her warmth, intelligence, friendliness, and persuasive personality are as easily remembered as her beautiful smile was contagious. She was one of those individuals that people could not find it easy to say no to. Our condolences are with Pastor Anthony and children and their families. It is assuring to know that her name is in God’s Book of Life, and that her peaceful sleep will soon be interrupted by the call of the Lifegiver for her eternal reward. We'll all see her again. Good night my friend, and rest in peace.

V. Burma Vignettes—Early Missionaries # 40
   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.

   # 40. Eugene A. Crane (Ethel) (1934 - 41)
   Pastor Eugene A. Crane and his wife Ethel arrived Myanmar from America in 1934. Both of them were nurses. He studied Karen as soon as he arrived Myanmar. They came as a substitution for the Hares. They were in charge of Ohn Daw and the surrounding area, known as Tanintharyi district. They were later in charge of Delta Region. Pastor Crane trained Myanmar nationals into the ministry as there was no seminary as yet at the time.
   Pastor Eugene A. Crane gathered about him some of the best evangelists and village teacher-evangelists in the field and taught them how to conduct full-time, long-term evangelistic efforts in the villages. They followed a well-organised program. A vigorous program of evangelism was carried out during those years when workers were so few. He worked together with Pastors Alfred A. Sargent, Frank C. Wyman and R. A. Beckner, and associated with them was some national workers. Since there was no seminary as yet at the time, he worked as educating workers in the field of the Gospel. He had lots of visitation during the days. He went into the villages to see the members personally. When J. O. Wilson was called to India, Pastor Crane had to supervise the literature ministry work around Myanmar.
   Pastor Crane and U Po Shwe, a national, once held an evangelistic meeting at Hsin Doh village. One night while the meeting was in progress a disruptive person threw a torch into the tent. The roof of the tent was made of thatched leaf. However the roof was not burnt. God prevented the fire from burning the tent. The evangelistic effort finished with the baptism of a group of Adventists and a primary school was opened at Hsin Doh village.
   An active Seventh-day Adventist Church was later established.
   Pr. Crane and his wife worked very hard. He was superintendent of local missions for sometime. For a couple of years (1939 to 1941) he served as superintendent of the Myanmar Union.

VI. Bangladesh Union Has New President
   Benjamin Raksham <braksham@baum-bd.org> May 19:
   The Southern Asia-Pacific Division (SSD) in its mid-year meeting appointed Dr. Myun Ju Lee as president of BAUM. When Pastor Jim Brauer left for the U.S. with PR at the end of April 2013 due to medical reasons the presidential chair was empty for sometimes, Dr. Lee fills that chair. Dr.
Lee comes from South Korea. He holds the reins of BAUM with his rich experiences. Prior to this appointment, he has been president of our Bangladesh Adventist Seminary and College since October 2005. He graduated from Korea’s Sahmyook University in 1986, and earned masters and doctorate degrees from AIAS, Philippines.

He started his career right after graduation, shepherding the Seoul Dongbu SDA Church in 1986, Yangpyeong SDA Church from 1987 to 1989, Seoul Saemoon SDA Church from 1989 to 1992. Then he went to Argentina as a missionary to serve the Argentina Korean SDA Church from 1992 to 1998. He returned to Korea and worked at Seoul Jangandong SDA Church from 1998 to 2001. His wife, Mrs. Young Moon Kim (Lee) is also serving BAUM as director of Children and Women's Ministries. They have two children, Hanna Lee (27) graduated from Sahmyook University in Nursing, and Joseph Lee (25) also graduated from the same university in Theology. We welcome Lee family to BAUM! - Benjamin Rakham, BAUM Communication director.

VII. New Mission Magazine - Mission 360°

Many of you are interested in mission and may want to check out the Seventh-day Adventist Church's new mission magazine introduced at Spring meetings at the General Conference. The new magazine called Mission 360°, is available for Ipod, Android, and Kindle HD. Please share the link with your Adventist friends who have an interest in mission. We are also looking for stories from IDE missionaries, so if you have a story you'd like to share, please let us know.

-- Rick Kajura <information@adventistmission.org>

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VIII. Follow-up on Adventist Review's Article About Elder Salisbury

In a recent newsletter we carried an article from the Adventist Review about Elder Salisbury and an Indian Maharajah and the sinking of a ship during WW1. When I read it I immediately e-mailed a letter to the Review about it. Here is what I sent:

"As a long-time missionary to India and the Far East, your Page 7 feature in the current, May 9 Review was of extreme interest to us. We had the privilege of living for eight years in Salisbury Park in Poona (now Pune), India and heard the story of Elder Homer Salisbury many times over. However your beautiful account of his 1915 experience of going down with a torpedoed ship leaves out perhaps the most wonderful deed Elder Salisbury ever reportedly did: he gave up his place in a lifeboat to another passenger. Otherwise he would have been one of the many survivors of the disaster."

"But even before we took up residence in Salisbury Park where the Southern Asia Division headquarters were then located, we lived for a five-year term in North India and had the privilege of frequently visiting our Adventist school in Mussoorie, India. Each trip took us up the hill right past the summer palace of the Maharajah of Kapurthala. How delightful it would have been had we only known then that the then maharajah's father was saved from the same disaster that took the life of our wonderful missionary leader."

The Review acknowledged receiving the above, but whether they will publish it as a letter to the editor remains to be seen. The following letter corrects my story somewhat; it was a life jacket Elder Salisbury gave up rather than a life boat position:

Margaret Blue Jackson <jwinchell@centurylink.net> May 27:

My parents, Elder Irvin and Lillie Blue, were missionaries in India and well acquainted with the Salisburys. My mother told me that Mrs. Salisbury went to Bombay to meet the boat bringing back survivors of the Persia. Mrs. Salisbury met his cabin mate and he told her that her husband had given his life jacket to a woman.

On a personal note: Elder Salisbury was bringing a package to my parents from my grandparents who lived in Loma Linda. My mother wrote my grandmother later and asked her what was in the package because otherwise she would never know since it had gone down with the ship. May parents thought he was a man without equal, not only for his dedication but also for his vision for the work in Southern Asia.

[When I was a student at Union College during WW 2 Dr. Blue was a Bible professor there and also offered a course in the Urdu language for future missionary candidates. At least four families of us students later became missionaries in Southern Asia.--CHT.Sr.] ~~~~~~~~~ IX. Safe in His Arms

by Jothi Gnanaprakasam in BLESSED, the women's 2013 Devotional Book

"They shall bear thee up in their hands lest thou dash thy foot against a stone." Ps. 91:12

I would like to share two separate incidents that have happened to me.

In each I was saved miraculously. One happened when I was a child, and the other after my marriage.
When I was 7 years old, there was a great famine in my village, as there had been no rain for three consecutive years. It was dry everywhere. One day I went to a nearby well with my dad to wash our clothes. It was a deep well with a little water at the bottom on one side; the other side was dry. Steep steps led down into the well. My dad was washing the clothes at the bottom of the well. I was standing on the steps approximately 80 feet (25 meters) above, grabbing the clothes that were thrown up to me by my dad. I was to take them to dry. All of a sudden I slipped and screaming, fell into the well. Instantly my dad stretched out his arms and caught me before I touched the water. When I opened my eyes, I was safe in his arms. All of this happened in a fraction of a second. If I had fallen on the other side where there was no water, I would certainly have died on the spot.

The next incident was an accident involving my husband and me. My husband was riding a bicycle, with me sitting behind him. When he failed to see the speed bump on the road and bumped over it, I fell from the bike, and my shoulder hit the ground. In that instant my dress got hooked onto an auto-rickshaw which came from behind. It drove on, dragging me about 65 feet (20 meters) farther. By God's amazing grace, not only did I sustain no serious injuries, but God made sure I was not run over by any vehicle from behind.

In today's text God says that angels will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone. But the Bible holds other promises that are true for us. Proverbs 1:33 says, "But whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm." I found that was true. A long time ago God told Israel, "See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared." Ex. 23:20. He is still keeping that promise.

[Jothi Gnanaprakasm writes from India where she is the women's ministry director for the Erode Nilgris Section.]

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