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I. Honoring Dr. Vincent Injety
   1. Gordon Christo <drongo.ostrich@gmail.com> May 24
      Dr. Vincent Injety is the new Helderberg College president. I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Vincent
      Richard Injety for several years at Spicer College. We have spent hours talking while our wives busied
      themselves at the Office Administration Club. I have always been struck by his keen perception and ability to
      organize. As he moved up the ranks in overseas colleges I have had occasion to talk to him from time to time. The
      knowledge and experience he has gained abroad can be very useful to us in India. Though many here in India
      think we have enough talent here in India, we should try to benefit from the talent abroad. My prayers and
      wishes are with Dr. Vincent Richard.

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2. Rajendra Prasad <rajendaraprasad2000@yahoo.com> May 31:
    Hearty congrats on your new appointment! Little did I realize about 38 years ago when you first joined the Pathfinder
    Club at Flaiz High School as a tiny tot when I was the director there that you would one day head a prestigious
    institution in Africa, though through the years as I observed and followed your progress at Flaiz, Spicer and Africa, I
    was convinced you were destined for a top notch one of these days. Though the youngest member of the Pathfinder
    Club you were the first one to come to the meetings and with the offering intact almost every time. In 1986 when I
    was the Telugu Seminar sponsor at Spicer, you were elected the president for the second semester and you did a good
    job. And though there was a lot of demand for you to stay back in the Business Department at Spicer, you responded to
    the call to serve at Solusi University, Zimbabwe and perhaps you made a wise choice! May the Good Lord continue to
    bless you as you shoulder this major responsibility!
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II. Letters
   1. Sven Pauliah <sayj.info@gmail.com> May 30:
      Our organization, South Asia Youth for Christ (SAYJ) is a mix of young professionals, seasoned church leaders and
      missionaries who have invested time and effort into building deep relationships with young people to be the change
      they desire to see in themselves, their homes, churches and communities. . . .
      I’d like to share with you about the impact SAYJ made this last year in Northeast India. We wanted to inspire young
      people to take time out of their busy day to build friendship based small groups where Jesus is shared. After one week of
      intensive training we have 150 young people meeting in small groups all over Northeast India sharing the gospel. These
      groups allow our young people to share Christ in a non-threatening way and to learn the essential art of witnessing to
      others. . . .
      I got my start empowering young people to plant a church in a community while at Southern Adventist University in
      Tennessee--a long way from Assam, Northeast India. As youth leader & organizer, I know it all starts in our own
      backyards. Committing to a campaign is a huge first step, but it's the decisions we make from that point on that
      determine success.

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We thank you for your prayers and your contribution however big or small (every dollar is multiplied by 55 because of the foreign exchange rate) is appreciated. Write me at the email adress for information as to how you can make contributions of time, talent and finance. Our postal address is SAYJ, c/o Jesus for Asia, P.O. Box 216, McDonald, TN 37353.

Sven Pauliah
President, SAYJ
president@sayj.org

III. Suggestions for the Future Spicer College

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

Seminary in India. My former dean, Reg Shires, has mooted the idea of a seminary here in SUD. He speaks of an advanced institution, but some may misunderstand. In India the concept of a seminary is that of an unaccredited non-academic ministerial training institute. We have seven of them. One is not required to have passed high school in order to be admitted. But Reg Shires has hit an important point. A theology program does not need validation by a university. We can develop our own programs irrespective of Pune or even Andrews University. All we need is accreditation by the Adventist Accrediting Agency. We have a masters program in religion -- missions and ministry, at Spicer awarded by Andrews. We have had in the past offered a D. Min. from Andrews, and graduated more than twenty. Spicer is looking forward to starting another cohort shortly. Operating our own program would be nice. We have several faculty with terminal degrees, but almost nobody is qualified to direct research at the doctoral level, because they have not written for academic journals. This is a serious deficiency and the faculty must be urged to rectify this. At almost any given time through the years, if one were to ask the seminary in the Philippines, we would be told that the smartest students came from India. We need to build on that reputation.

IV. Remembering Them

1. Edith Willis <ediretire@yahoo.com> May 30:

   Mrs. Poddar was such a sweet gentle neighbor who helped me regularly with learning how to cook Indian food. It was a pleasure to meet her daily on our walks on campus. Also, we were not privileged to work with the Bergers but on our arrival in India, they were super helpful in all aspects of adjusting to a new lifestyle in a new country. Ruby was always so practically helpful, and loved to babysit Robyn when we needed to go to Bombay for necessary business. Both were wonderful women who leave a lasting impression on how to live a practical Christian life.

   2. T. S. Edward tsedward@gmail.com

   I was student of Mrs. Podar. She was our registrar at SMC high school. We all loved her and she was like a mother to all of us. Susie, I don't know if you remeber me! I was your classmate doing ISC. Please accept our heart felt condolence. She is so fresh in our memory and its so painful to note that she is no more. Any way we have the hope to meet our beloved ones and sure enough we will meet her on the D Day!

   3. Rudi Maier <rmaier@andrews.edu> June 3:

   Tribute to Ruby & Clarence Berger by Rudi and Hilde Maier

   We attended yesterday (June 2), the memorial service of Ruby Berger. We think that we have learned to appreciate memorial services over funeral service. It was wonderful to hear the great testimonies about Mrs. and Mr. Berger not only at the actual service but the family gathering that followed. I think Dr. Naveed Saleem summarized it best in his tribute--turning not only to Bonnie and Joe but to the larger Berger family that attended--thanking them for sharing Mr. and Mrs. Berger with many of us who worked with them in Pakistan (and with some of you in India).

   We saw Mrs. Berger three weeks before she died. For all the years we knew the Bergers, my wife and I never called her Ruby but Mrs. Berger and Clarence we addressed as Mr. Berger (we would say that not only out of respect for their age but we also looked up to them as "experienced missionary examples" when we met them the first time). We told her at our last meeting that we have a hard time calling her now Mrs. Wilson (she had remarried after Clarence died). She told us that in that case it would be high time that we would start calling her Ruby now. And we started doing that reluctantly.

   Let us share our own tribute to Ruby Berger. We went to Pakistan in 1975 as very young and in retrospective probably very inexperienced missionary.
It is impossible to give tribute to Ruby without mentioning Clarence. They just belonged together. It is true they were different. And those of you who knew them, know what I am talking about. But it was their difference that truly complemented them. Mr. Berger made (no, taught!) you how to work. And you really worked every 60 minutes in an hour (and he himself would work those hours next to the students). But after that Ruby took over and spoiled those kids (especially when Clarence went to deliver goods to Lahore, Islamabad or Peshawar. I have been with him on many of these trips when he left after work, travelled all night, distributed the goods and maybe purchased new supplies and returned the next night so that he could again be working with his students the next day).

We always will look upon them as our mentors and eventually as parents.

Later we found out that they saw us as their substitute children (I happened to be Bonnie's age). It is so easy for older experienced missionaries to look down on new and inexperienced newcomers. That was never the case with the Bergers. We believe that the Bergers' presence in Pakistan helped us to survive and enjoy our nearly 6 years there. I remember quite vividly when my wife one day nearly totally lost it. We had to entertain guests usually for lunch with a meal (there were no local restaurants close by). Some of these guests came from the division and other "high places". Some of you readers will know what I am talking about. We had the feeling that every time it was our term to provide the lunch, in the middle of the cooking the electricity went out. My wife was desperate until one day Ruby made it very clear to her that sandwiches were perfectly acceptable in those situations.

Ruby had experienced electrical blackouts and I guess half cooked meals before. She also made us understand that these "big shots" from the division (and the GC) were not that important to get desperate about.

Ruby and Clarence were for us example missionaries. There were never access things in their home, but there was always an abundance of Christian love, concern and fellowship. They were not "uphill" but they were down to earth Christians who cared to train young Pakistani students (and young German missionaries such as us) to be successful. Ruby was a wonderful teacher. Our son, who really did not feel that he needed to go to school when he turned six, but liked to enjoy the freedom of the campus in Chuharkana, finally went to "school" at age 8 (he was Ruby's only missionary kid at that time). In one year (attending between 2-3 hours daily around the Berger kitchen table) he not only finished two grades but became Ruby's "teaching assistant" in the local Urdu elementary school (he helped students in her English class to read English). He has been an exceptional reader ever since. Ruby had a tremendous influence on his mind for which we as parents will be forever thankful.

We have learned from the Bergers' that you don't have to have great positions (and for that matter big titles) in order to be great missionaries. But we have seen through their commitment and life the importance of living out a Christian life. Fortunately we do not have to make the judgment who will make it to the kingdom of God (God will do that for us).

We just hope that we will live again as neighbors next to the Bergers (and it would be great to eat Ruby's nicely buttered popcorn again and go to the Mandi and look for Polka ice cream with Clarence. Only Pakistanis know the delicious ice cream made out of the heavy buffalo cream which Clarence introduced us to). I know it must have been hard for Joe and Bonnie and all the grand-children and great-grand-children (and some of us adopted children) to say good bye to Ruby and earlier Clarence, but these memorial services are not only of importance for us to reflect on the lives of the deceased but also on our own lives. We want to be as ready as Ruby and Clarence were. It is wonderful for us to know that there is truly a hope in the coming of the Lord.

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4. Sunny Wycliffe <sunnywycliffe@gmail.com> June 3:

My Recollections of Pastor Azariah John

My earliest recollections of Azariah annan (= big brother) goes back to Spicer College in 1955. I was a student at Spicer High School. My dad’s younger brother, Jason John, was my guardian and his friends Kernal S. D. Charles, M. J. Boaz, A. I. John, Seeho A. Thomas were studying at Spicer College. M. J. Boaz was our neighbor at Vadacode, the first SDA Church in Kerala, built in 1914.

My dad, Pastor Japagnanam John, was the Northeast India Union Publishing Secretary (PDS) at that time. During that period my dad was the Super SDA books sales person in the Southern Asia Division whose achievements were printed in the Southern Asia Tidings. My dad came to Spicer along with other PDS from other Unions including, Burma, West Pakistan, East Pakistan (Bangladesh), Ceylon (Sri Lanka) in the Southern Asia Division to conduct colporteur institutes and to recruit student colporteurs to work during the summer selling religious and health books and magazines to earn their scholarships to continue their college studies. Jason John uncle, Azariah I. John, Kernal S. D. Charles, M. J. Boaz, Seeho Thomas did exceptionally well in their training institute coaching class and they met with my dad, requested him to invite them to Northeast India for summer canvassing.
With much difficulty my dad was able to convince the union officers to give them territories to canvass. With the help of God and their hard work helped them to earn two to three scholarships each. As a high school student, my dad sent me with them to canvass and I also got scholarship. During that time the Voice of Prophecy had a promotion to recruit people to sign up for VOP Bible studies. For this we also received cash prizes.

In 1959, when I completed high school at Spicer, I went to Kerala to begin my college studies. K. S. D. Charles and A I John continued to publicly confess and thank my dad to the fact that it was he who helped them to come in life. K. S. D. Charles, A. I. John, Seeho Thomas, and M. J. Boaz were employed in the Northeast India Union territory and come up in life to what they are today. They all did marvelous work for the Lord.

In 1966, my wife and I were invited by Pastor M. D. Moses, President of the Western India Union to join as the teachers of our English medium boarding high school in Lasalgaon, Nasik District, Maharashtra. The school board was frantically searching for teachers with government recognized degrees so that the school will not lose its government recognition. Spicer College degrees are not recognized by the government.

When Pastor A. I. John was invited to be the Publishing Secretary of Western India Union (Central India Union) in Bombay, he used to come year after year to Lasalgaon to conduct colporteur institutes. He always stayed with us. Our relation became more bonded. When ever I’d go to Bombay on school errands, A. I. John’s house was like my home. His wife Elizabeth Akkan’s father, a pioneer worker of the SDA Church, Pastor S. Nallathamby, was our church pastor in Neyyattinkara, Trivandrum. I met Susie, Sweety, Steve in Bombay.

I came to the USA in 1973. Later Pastor A. I. John came as a delegate to the General Conference Session in Dallas, Texas. When they came to Maryland, my wife, Tresa, used to take Mrs. John around for shopping.

I remember Pastor John's enthusiasm in starting Malayalam churches in Bombay Central and in other parts of Bombay. He persuaded the church officials to buy apartments so that our colporteurs could stay while canvassing. These are his monuments.

American family life did not give us enough time to be in touch with each other except through telephone. Yet we did maintain contacts. Susie informed me about Pastor John's recent hospitalization. About two weeks before his passing away, I had the privilege of visiting him at the Washington Adventist Hospital. On May 12th, when he passed away, my wife and I had gone on a 7day cruise from Baltimore to Bahamas and returned on May 19th. Thanks to Jason, our eldest son, for picking us from the Baltimore port and taking us straight to the Spencerville SDA Church to attend the funeral service. My wife and I had the last glance of Azariah annan. We hope to see him again at the Second Advent.

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V. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 41 & 42

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.

# 41. Emma Lehman (1926-1933)

She rendered excellent service in Yangon English School for a term of years in the 1930s. Emma Lehman was from Canada.

#42. I. S. Walker (1939-1942)

Dr. I. S. Walker came from America and pioneered in starting a hospital in Yangon.

A building was rented for clinical work on Dalhousie and Oliphant Streets in Rangoon, and work was begun in 1939. It was a success from the beginning. He operated the clinic well until forced to leave by the Japanese invasion early in 1942. Dr. and Mrs. Walker joined the hundreds who were fleeing for their lives and trekked out on foot over the mountains to India.

There Dr. Walker died, after serving a short time in one of the SDA hospitals, truly a dedicated worker and a willing sacrifice for the cause of God which he loved.

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VI. New ADRA Director for Bangladesh

Benjamin Raksham <braksham@baum-bd.org> June 4:

Pastor Serpa Santana Landerson accepted the call to be country director of Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Bangladesh (ADRA,B). He arrived in Dhaka with his family to resume duty in mid-February this year. He took the reign of
ADRA, B with his rich experiences and past tract records—prior to this appointment, he served as executive director of ADRA Amazon, ADRA Northeast, and ADRA Bahia—all in Brazil; he has been Vice President of Santana (shoe company with more than 140 outlets/stores in Northeast Brazil), Director of Franchising and Quality Management of Santana Company, Salvador, Brazil, and the owner of a small vegetarian restaurant chain in Salvador, Brazil. He is an ordained minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He completed MBA, specializing in Development Economics; and has been trained in areas of Security, Human Resources, Planning and Public Relations, Crisis Communication and Economic Development Productive chains among others.

VII. Update on Adrian Zahid's Health Recovery

Joseph Zahid: <josuna4@gmail.com> May 26:
Our son, Adrian Zahid, who had surgery for appendix on March 18, has had two chemotherapy sessions already: one at the end of March and another one the end of April. Session means Adrian staying at the hospital for a week at a time, getting his chemotherapy treatment (his father stays with him day and night during that time). Now he is going for his third session on May 30, Thursday. Other than that, he has to go to the doctor’s office between the sessions at least once a day (as an outpatient).

Since Adrian's sickness, some of his and our friends have come to see him at the hospital and at a friend's house (where we stayed for more than a month, beginning March 31). We thank you for coming to see him, for praying for him, and for bringing him food, etc. at times, both to the hospital and to the house. Most of all, we thank you for your prayers and for your sympathies in this perilous time. God, who cares for the birds, which never sow, nor reap, keeps taking care of our needs and is our ever present to help, and we thank Him the most.

**Update on June 2:**
Dear Family members, relatives, friends, and supporters,
Congratulations to you. God has answered your prayers. Last Thursday, May 30, morning, as Adrian went to the hospital to stay there for another week (Saint Bernadine's Medical Center), Dr. Malik, Adrian's oncologist, had a scan taken of Adrian and reported to him on Friday, May 31, morning, with a smile of his face in these words: "Congratulations, Adrian, your tumor has shrunk a bit. Good sign!"

We thank you all for your prayers in the past and anticipate your future prayers. God's hand is not shortened that He cannot save, nor His ear heavy that He cannot hear (Isaiah 59:1). We find this promise of God fulfilling for us.

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