I. Letters
   1. Richard Samuel

II. Recent Deaths
   1. H. G. M. Fernando
   2. Dr. Helen Masilamony
   3. Retnabai Pakkianathan


I. Letters
   1. Richard Samuel <samtrio@verizon.net> June 9:

   Earlier this year we visited India and enjoyed our trip. Our spirits were dampened seeing our childhood churches, namely the central churches in Bangalore and Chennai. The Chennai church had the same old wooden pews, walls cracked and paint peeling off the wall. The Bangalore church SS classrooms at the back were the same structure in which my wife attended primary SS. Folks, SUD can do better. Our SS lesson last Sabbath reminds us in Haggai 1:4-6 that we need to rethink our priorities. God is a God of perfection. The SDA church is one of the richest organization blessed of God and we have no excuse to neglect God's houses of worship. It is sad that we don't have western missionaries anymore; let's face it, they were particular about good upkeep of campuses and churches. My appeal to local church pastors and conference presidents: please pay attention to our churches because God cares.

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II. Recent Deaths
   1. Death of H. G. M. Fernando

   Ranjan Fernando <ranjanfendoza@hotmail.com> June 12:

   My father, H. G. M. Fernando, passed away peacefully in the presence of my Mom on Sunday, May 26 at 4:45 AM at home in Ja Ela, Sri Lanka. He was seventy-four and lived a fulfilled life because, I believe, God blessed him.

   His funeral was on Wednesday, May 29 at Kandana SDA High School, Sri Lanka and the words spoken by students, teachers, alumni, administration, church leadership and government officials was a testimony to his Christian journey. Their tribute to his service as a seasoned educator and a fearless and passionate servant of God was a common theme. For almost fifty years he gave himself to the service of the Lord and praised God till he breathed his last.

   My parents (H. G. M. and Hester) were baptized into the "Christmas Card"

   Church which is Kandana SDA Church in 1964 by Pr. D. M. Fernando and it is at the same church that we paid our last respects to him. He started as a teacher at the Deaf and Blind school, Ratmalana, Sri Lanka but later served in many capacities but mainly as a Sinhala Scholar at Lakpahana Adventist College up until 1983 and then moved to Kandana SDA School. It was here, under Dr. Tidwell's tenure as Sri Lanka Union's president, that he was able register the school and with the help of a dedicated team build a school, that stands tall and true to its mission for the next twenty years. His time at Lakpahana with missionaries and colleagues prepared him for the service ahead. The Robinsons, the Schleheubers, the Becks, the Sipkins, the Goertzens, the Pinghos, the Sadlers, the Skaus, the McCormicks, the Tidwells, the Bankheads, the Highlanders, the Eagans, the Maiers, the Rajas, the Nugeras, the Peters, the Marambes, the Davamony, the Disanayakes, the Isaacs, the Oshiros, the Ondreeseiks, the Stahlneckers, the De Silvas, the Selvarajas, the Balasinghams, the Thuraisingham, and the list can go on, were some of them and some of them are no more. His prayerful life and steadfast leadership is a tribute to what God can do through a person. Thank you for the support through his ministry.

   We had a lovely farewell at our home with family and village community on Monday, May 27, then we had a spiritual feast focused on the Blessed Hope where the Kandana SDA church family paid their last respects on Tuesday, May
28 and his last journey with a marching band and a Pathfinder honor guard to the Kapuwatta Cemetery from the Kandana SDA school on May 29, 2013.

We look forward to that resurrection morning.

Anyone wishing to contact my mom could do it via email to me:
<ranjanfernando@hotmail.com> or my sister <rohini_saku@hotmail.co.jp>

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2. Death of Dr. Helen Masilamony

John Fowler <johnmathewfowler@gmail.com> June 12:

Not too many, perhaps, would know Dr. Helen Masilamony, who passed away to her rest in Jesus early today in Loma Linda, California, surrounded by her children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters and a large extended family. Older church members in Veperry, Chennai, and those in the Cunningham Road church in Bangalore, will fondly remember her faith, friendship, and devotion to the healing ministry. She is perhaps one of the earliest Adventists to complete medical course in India, and in spite of much pain and problems, persisted in her faith in God, chose to spend all of her life in bringing healing where there was sickness, joy in the midst of sorrow, dignity to those less fortunate, and even in her last days a sense of Christian hope and help to those who sought for a thread to hang on in the home where she visited daily with those who lived there.

Her children would no doubt call her blessed; her siblings would hail her for the model of Christian charity and patience that she lived; her large band of nephews and nieces would see in her a life to emulate; her large army of friends and admirers would say, when would we see again an Adventist who lived (that is a lot different from preached) her faith?

Dr. Helen, who walked this earth for eight decades or so, is the oldest daughter of Pastor and Mrs. S. Thomas. If Pastor Thomas was an evangelist and a pastor par excellence, Dr. Helen was the physician in whom I could leave my mind, body and spirit in safe and healthy custody.

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3. Death of Retnabai Pakkianathan

Joseph Pakkianathan <josephpakk@aol.com> June 12:

I am deeply saddened to share the news of the passing of a dear aunt Ms Retnabai Pakkianathan on Tuesday, June 11, 2013. She was 82. At the time of her peaceful demise, she was cared for by her niece Grace (Jeyaraj) Swamidoss and her family at the Mount Zion High School campus in Pattukottai, Tamil Nadu. The funeral services are being held on Wednesday, June 12th at our home in Mukuperi, Tamil Nadu.

Ms Retnabai is survived by her brothers Arulraj Pakkianathan, Martin Pakkianathan, Samuelraj Pakkianathan, and sister Glory Jegan Nath and their families, nieces and nephews, and a host of relatives and friends.

Ms Retnabai lived alone for many years after retirement as a grade school teacher and she will be lovingly remembered for her support of many financially needy students. Her former students from James Memorial School in Pragasapuram fondly remember her for her strict discipline both in and off the classroom.

My aunt had a strong demanding character, yet was affectionate, loving and understanding. She was well respected and highly revered by her students, who have in recent months called on her from various parts of the world. She was always respectfully referred to as 'teacher amma'. She lived true to her faith as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian and in the constant hope of the soon return of her savior Jesus Christ.

Please keep our families in your prayers as we mourn and grieve her passing, and be strong in the faith as she was. Joseph Pakkianathan
202-258-7279

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III. Burma Vignettes—Early Missionaries # 44

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.

#44. Pr. & Mrs. O. A. Skau (1939- 1942)

Pastor O. A. and Mrs. Skau came from India in 1939. He had worked many years in the education department in India. When he arrived Myanmar he worked also as the principal of Meiktila Technical School. He raised the level of education in Myanmar by travelling around giving valuable advice to all schools.
Pastor Skau could speak Tamil fluently. On one occasion in Myanmar it was said that he spoke to a Tamil who was so surprised the pastor could speak his language that he stood with his mouth wide opened not being able to utter out a word for many minutes. Pastor Skau had three children. They were Paul, David and Phyllis. David Skau was later known to be the president of the Bangladesh Union Mission.

In 1941, World War II started in Myanmar. Pastor Skau and family were flown out from Pyin-Oo-Lwin to India at the last minute, through the kindness of General Stilwell, who himself trekked out on foot.

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IV. AFI Camp 2013 at Camp Blue Ridge

Sue Khandagle <skhandagle772@gmail.com> June 14:

The AFI 2013 camp to Blue Ridge is underway. The committee has been meeting regularly to plan for this happy event. Please note a minor change in the dates. It will now be held from August 8-11, 2013 (Thursday - Sunday).

As always, organizing such a camp is a gigantic task, and as such we hope that, if you are called upon to help out in any way, you will gladly oblige and give us your support. Most of all, we want you to be there to enjoy this time and make it a memorable experience for you and your family.

If you have not made plans for your vacation this year, we urge you to consider attending our camp. You will truly enjoy the friends, the food, and the fellowship.

We will be emailing to all the email addresses we have on file some important information. However, we do not have all the email addresses we would like to have to do this. So, if you would like to receive information regarding this AFI 2013 camp, please send or call in your email address to any of the following persons listed below:

Franklin Khandagle (Director) <fskhandagle@yahoo.com> (240-441-5739) Kathryn Solomonraj (Asst. Director) <smokyzoo3@aol.com> (240-461-4033) Julie Ressalam (Asst. Director) <jules330@gmail.com> (301-537-6713) Shereen Khandagle <shereen_samuel@hotmail.com> (301-346-6172) Sue Khandagle <skhandagle772@gmail.com> (301-388-0331)

We will be in touch again. Till then, The Camp Committee ~~~~~~~~~~~

IV. Spicer Breaks Ground for Centennial Monument

Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> June 6:

June 3, 2013 is a significant date which sort of kick started the Spicer College centennial events with the groundbreaking ceremony for the centennial monument - College of Management Building. Quite unexpectedly even nature was quite benign and sent its first refreshing showers of the pre-monsoon, though for a moment caused anxious moments especially to the invitees from outside. But they subsided exactly at 6.00 PM, the scheduled time, as suddenly as they started two hours earlier. The college family, dignitaries from the field and Pune city, armed with their colourful umbrellas gathered in the middle of the college football ground, now neatly barricaded all around by tin-sheets, for the ceremony. Pastor R. John, SUD president and now Chief Guest of the do was there in his impeccable suit, along with other leaders from the Division, Union, Maharashtra Conference, etc. After a lively song service led by Dr. Immanuel Paul and his team, the warm welcome from VPFA R. Jeyam in spite of the drizzle, opening song "To God Be the Glory", prayer by ExVP Pastor Noble Pilli, and introduction and felicitation of dignitaries by College President Justus Devadas, Pastor John made his remarks and broke the ground, followed by Dr. & Mrs. Devadas, guests of honour, Architect Godbole, Contractors Chitale brothers (who later distributed pedas), structural Engineer Sahane and college administrators. After Pastor John’s prayer of commitment and song "He Leadeth Me" gustily sung, Pastor Ramesh Jadhav offered the benediction.

The proposed Management Building is a 2 million dollar (Rs 10.2 crores) project and is expected to have 5 floors with the state of the art facilities and house both the business and computer departments. The main structure is expected to be completed within 15 months and the interior work, in another few months and hopefully be ready by the centennial year.

This would perhaps be the best centennial monument built in Southern Asia Division and serve in providing the best education possible in the area of business management and computer science in SUD. As Dr. Immanuel Paul remarked during the ceremony that since Dr. Justus Devadas started his construction spree with a beautiful edifice for God (Spicer's House of Prayer) first, God would certainly bless him to find sponsors and money to build this monument too (Amen!), like the recently built Student Centre and high school blocks. Spicer is proceeding with this gigantic project just with a seed money but great faith in the Almighty and His people that funds would come at the right time to complete this
centennial monument for His glory and honour! Blessed are those who are willing to have a share in this great enterprise and fulfill this dream!

After this moment of elation and the pedas still melting in the mouth everyone made their way to the College auditorium for the Spicer Higher Secondary Faculty Pre-session meeting. Pr. R. John again addressed the gathering beautifully expounding on the chosen theme "Committed to Serve..".

He began with the question about how much we knew about "JOYALUKAS" and himself answered that they are famous jewelers in India with 2000 branches scattered all across the country and who interview their would-be-employees at 2:00 AM making sure that they employ only those who are willing to work
24 hours of the day. He then made an exegesis of the Biblical passage where Christ repeatedly asks Simon Peter, almost to his embarrassment, to feed His sheep. He also narrated the exemplary lives of Dr. Ida Scudder of Vellore, William Carey of Serampore, and some others who were on fire for their God and committed to their mission and service almost every minute of their life bringing great blessing to the people around them. Finally he stressed on the great role and responsibility of pastors and teachers for their flock - the students, both young and old. After this inspiring meeting all were invited to a delicious supper in the college cafeteria to mark the occasion.

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V. Adventist International Power Awards 2013
<adventistmediacentre@gmail.com> June 12:

For the first time ever India was host the Adventist International Power Awards for 2013. This award is bestowed on the most deserving civilians from across various verticals of life that have made achieved milestones in their chosen field of expertise. An annual event, it is presented by the Adventist Media Center which is owned and operated by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. Dr. Benjamin Carson - the world's topmost Neuro Surgeon and Dr. Edison Sam Raj, Director, Adventist Media Center felicitated 11 awards across the seven categories which covered sectors of health care, sports, social work, hospitality, technology, education, HR & Administration and rural at a high profile event at the Hotel Taj Mahal Palace and Hotels, Mumbai.

Food Drug and Association commissioner of Maharashtra Mr. Mahesh Zagade was the chief guest for the evening. The awardees who were honored included the following:

**Dr. Benjamin Carson - the world's topmost neurosurgeon in medical field**

**Sanskriti Wankhede - The youngest chess player winning the Asian Chess Championship at the age of 4, earlier she received three big awards from various institutions.**

** Hemant Oberoi - International Chef, Hotel Taj Mahal; for his marketing acumen that helped increase the corporate image and brand value of the hotel**

**Sanee Awsarmmel - Chairman & Managing Director, Indian Hospitality Ventures; for Innovations & Developments in the Hospitality Industry**

**Pravin Bob - Administrative & CEO of SIMLA Sanitarian Hospital, Shimla for Community based services for rural healthcare in Himachal Pradesh**

**Michael Waidande - Director, Media World for his dedication, diligent work and contribution towards the Seventh-day Adventist Church**

**Dr. Jacob - Doctor, Ruby Nelson Hospital; for his record breaking cataract surgery**

**Peerbhoj Munawar - Chairman, Haji Gulam Mohd Azam Education Trust, Pune; for his commitment and dedicated work towards Azam Campus for the last 40 years**

**Shekhar P. - VP and Educationalist, Lowry Memorial College; for his excellence in academic growth.**

The Lifetime Achievement awards were given to Dr. Philip - CMO, Adventist Hospital, Pune and Bahri Malhotra - President, Top Management Consortium (TMC). The evening also included Dr. Benjamin Carson's views on latest trends of neurosurgery.

"We are extremely proud and happy to host this prestigious award in India for the first time to celebrate and salute the spirit and honor the perseverance those who are driving innovation, setting new benchmarks and achieving best practices for the world to follow. We hope this will continue to motivate more individuals, companies, foundations and many more to drive innovation and inspiration and achieve new heights. We hope that the work of our distinguished laureates honored this year will prove to be an inspiration for generations to be encouraged to be the creators of positive changes that they want to see in the India of tomorrow." said Dr. Edison Sam Raj, Director Adventist Media Center.
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