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I. Letters
   1. Raymond H. Woolsey <RayWool@aol.com> June 19:
      Challis and I celebrated our sixtieth wedding anniversary on June 14. We recently moved from Maryland and will be building a home at Greenbriar Cove, a retirement community in Ooltewah, TN.
      In 1995 I retired from the Review and Herald Publishing Assn. as vice president of editorial services. I had served the Review as a book editor since 1971. For six years I was editor of the Philippine Publishing House, Manila, and Challis helped with the children's Sabbath School program. From 1956 to 1961 I was a pastor/evangelist in Burma (now called Myanmar). We have three daughters (all born in Burma), and nine grandchildren.
      [The Woolseys will very likely be joining our Adventist Retired Workers (ARW) here in Collegedale. Welcome, Raymond and Challis! -- CHT, Sr.]
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II. Remembering "Old Friends"
      Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> June 29
      I have chosen to entitle this piece "Old Friends" after the Old Friends Quartet in the Gaither Gospel Series of George Younce, Jake Hess, Wesley Pritchard and Ernie Hasse. What would life be without buddies you could share your burdens and your joys, your secrets and your hopes—childhood friends, school pals, colleagues in the work places and retirement acquaintances? I have lost five in past one year, -- Patrick Poole, Weldon Mattison, Steve Vitrano, Neville Matthews and Bob Stahlnecker. Precious memories linger?
      As long as Charles Tidwell's Sud- newsletters are regularly published and there are a few of us old codgers left to write of the "good old days"
when fancy Chinese fountain pens bought on an itinerary in Nepal were used to store our experiences and thoughts in diaries or in the back recesses of our brains. Nowadays with a maze of electronic gadgets to help record your thoughts and sharpen the memory, like mobile handsets. laptops and i-pads, correspondents some professors write lengthy essays on the merits or the short-comings of what was once our premier educational institution.
      I am amazed at VHS school mate Gerald Reynold's memory going back to a few months in Lahore as a ten-year old with his dad Earl as the pastor of the church on Davis Road. Yes, Gerald, Gifford Mission Hospital where Gladys Hurd served is still functioning—just functioning after being many times on life-support. There are number of churches clustered around in the area. The membership in Andhra Pradesh exceeds a million. The East Central India Union president Ch. Victor was recently eased into a Division Vice-president position vacated by retiring L. C. Colney, M. Wilson is the newly appointed president of the East-Central India Union.
      Earlier this week one of the worst tragedies in the state of Uttarkhand, the state where Roorkee, Vincent Hill and Garwhal area are situated. Flood waters surrounding Hindu pilgrim centres such as Kedarnath washed entire hillsides, 70 villages and hotels claiming thousands of lives. Of first priority was the evacuation of the lakh pilgrims from all over in India. Air Force helicopters were drafted into service in airlifting pilgrims to rail heads and motor able roads, one
helicopter crashed with 20 air force personnel and passengers on board. Only after the mass cremation of the dead did attention turn to the local Pahari population who bore the brunt of the tragedy. The flood waters washed everything in their way, human lives, homes, livestock, businesses and donkeys. The daily newspapers carry heart wrenching stories of heroism and tears...

This is the area where the first outposts of Seventh-day Adventist missionary activity was in the north. Before Uttarkhand was formed the United Provinces covered the areas where Papa R. P. Morris, the P. K. Simpsons, the Mattison brothers Ole O. and Milton M., E. R. Streeter with treasurers Marion Belchambers and Leonard Allen with the local stalwarts B. A. Howard, Chander Sen, A. Gardner, Sher Singh, Nihal Singh, Babu Nirmal Singh and Masih Dayal laid the foundation of the Upper Ganges Mission. I. F.

Blue and R. A. Garner were principals of VHS when we first attended in 30s and early 40s. Thank you Gerald for jogging my memory. God uses our weak efforts to glorify His name and advance His cause.


1. Remembering Ruby Berger
   JoAnne Lafever <ymscsprin@gmail.com> June 7:
   I just read Rudi Maier's tribute to the Bergers. He was the one that called me within hours after Ruby died to tell me she had gone so quickly. I would loved to have been at her memorial for would like to have expressed how much they both meant to us as fellow missionaries in Pakistan.

   We lived in Karachi for six years and often entertained them on their way in and out of the country for hill leaves or furloughs as they were called in those days. I will never forget and often tell the story of how they were staying with us one night to catch the 2 AM Pam Am flight to New York. We set our alarm to get them to the airport on time. The alarm went off. I sat up and woke Beech up. Beech sat up. The next thing I knew Clarence was banging on our bedroom door hollering, "Beech get up, we are late for the plane!" Oh how we scrambled to get them to the flight on time but they were too late!!! How embarrassed we were! They had to call the USA (which was not easy in those days) to let his son who was driving all the way to Chicago that they would be a day late. So many connections had to be changed. The next night, Clarence did not sleep for fear we would not wake up again!

   I was the delivery person in Karachi for the puffed rice, wheat, peanut butter, and etc. that Mr. Berger produced in the factory there in PASC which would be sent down by train. I would go to the train station and take delivery of those foods. Even at times we would get frozen corn and peas to sell to the expats in Karachi. It was quite the treat to be able to get those beloved foods that reminded us at home.

   After we moved to PASC in 1980, we spent many wonderful times together in each other's homes. We often made the shopping trip to Lahore with Mr. Berger on his delivery runs eating at the "Alley Hilton" which is very different from the "Hilton". Mrs. Berger did not want superfluous things in her home so gave away all her knick-knacks since she didn't want to spend time cleaning or taking care of them. I have often thought of her and wished I could be ruthless and detach myself from all our souvenirs collected in our 27 years overseas! We were able to visit with them once while we lived in S. Texas in the mid-nineties for she had a brother that wintered there.

   We were so happy to connect with her and have a Pakistani meal with her, the Maiers, and the Babcocks when we were in TN last summer. She was so excited to be getting married and we were so happy to see her in good health and good spirits. So many wonderful memories of our times with them and other missionaries from those long ago years. We look forward to seeing them in heaven where I want to live on the other side of them!

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2. Remembering Robert Stahlnecker
   Sherman McCormick <icanoe2@live.com> June 25:
   I read with sadness the account of Dr. Stahlnecker's death. I first knew Dr. Stahlnecker when I was a student at Walla Walla College. He was teaching in the education department. Later, I worked with him for 3+ years at Lakpahana. When I was at Mission Institute, before going to Sri Lanka, Dr.
Oosterwal made a profound observation. He said, "Mission is much more a model than a message." I thought, and think, of that often. If that is true, and I know it is, Dr. Stahlnecker as a model missionary. He was ever kind and Christ-like in his dealings with the students and faculty. I look forward to meeting Bob in heaven.

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IV. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 47

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.

#45.47.  M. O. Manley (1946-51)

M. O. Manley and family were one of the earliest families to arrive back Myanmar in February 1946. Pastor M. O. Manley was sent by the Division to superintend the rebuilding of the work in the Myanmar Union. He was the principal of Spicer Memorial College. As soon as he arrived Myanmar, he summoned national workers of Chit Maung, Ah Chu, Pein Kyi, Myat Po, Tun Maung (1), Saw Oo, and got their advices on rebuilding the works around Myanmar. Pastor Manly then returned to India and brought his family to Myanmar. He then started implementing and rebuilding Myanmar Union Mission:

1. Getting back Myanmar Union Mission Headquarter from the military.
2. Refurnish Yangon English Church
3. Re-appointing mission workers
4. Reopening of Myaungmya school

Pastor Manley used to consult with local workers with regard to the condition of various works that were underwent. It was the time up from the ashes of war. Except for the Mission Headquarters in Yangon, most institutions were destroyed. Meiktila Technical School, Myaungmya Seminary, and Ohn Daw School were partly in ashes. Meiktila School was abandoned for a more central location of Myaungmya. Myaungmya was urgently re-established for furtherance of the Gospel and for training young people for the teeming field. Ohn Daw School was rebuilt for children to study.

Pastor M. O. Manley worked very hard looking for a hospital in Yangon, which he and Dr. Johannes finally found at Sule Pagoda Road. It turned out to be a most successful institution.

Pastor Manley served as president of Myanmar Union Mission till 1951 when he was called to serve as the principal of Missourie school, India.

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V. Tribute To Two Teachers

Elwin Vedamony <elwinvedamony@yahoo.co.in> June 27:

I'd like to pay tributes to two teachers who had made a positive impact in my life while they are still able to read it. (We tend to write thousands of words after the person has taken the last breath).

When my class entered eighth grade in Spicer High School, we were surprised to know that we'd be having two college professors teaching us.

Mrs. Edith Willis brought along her exuberance and enthusiasm to the English class. Whenever she thought that we were restless and distracted, she'd read us a story. We'd listen, anxious to find out what "The Contents of the Dead Man's Pockets" were, hardly daring to even breathe. Sometimes she'd take us home to listen to some hilarious cassettes. It was only in her class that we could get beautiful marks like 110 out of 100. Thanks, Aunty Willis, for the wonderful memories.

In addition to the shock having an English professor, Juanita Justin Singh, teaching us Mathematics, we were in for another surprise. Our text book did not have an answer section. We were quite sure that our teacher was hand in gloves with the publishers. (We were so used to solving equations with one finger stuck in the answer section. Tell me, who hasn't done that?). When we confronted her, she had only two words to say,"SO WHAT?"

That was the year that we really learnt that Mathematics was not such a scary subject after all! Thank you, Aunty Singh, for taking the sting out of Mathematics. Thank you teachers - I'll never forget you as long as I live.

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VI. Nepal Mission Gets National Director

Bhaju Ram Shrestha <bhajupurna@gmail.com> June 27:
After 10 Richter scale earthquakes in Nepal Field, to salvage what is left, the Southern Asia Division in accordance of General Conference appointed Pr. Umesh Kumar Pokharel to direct the Nepal SDA Mission. He is the first Nepal-born Nepali to be the head of the Nepal Mission. He has a Master's degree in education both from the government university of Nepal and Spicer College. He also has a law degree from Nepal, which he could practice if he so desires. He has been working in the Adventist Church for more than 15 years; as pastor of the Central Region SDA Church, publishing department director, and recently appointed to be the director of AWR Nepal.

He is young, energetic, dedicated and loyal to the Adventist Church and its authority. Not seeking his own reputation, he has been working hard to uplift the Lord on the Adventist platform. In his report that he presented to the Division Council, he said there were 9000 Adventists recorded in Nepal, 50 organized churches and 60 companies. He feels it is a great challenge that the Lord has placed on him to be a chief servant of His flock in Nepal. Presently he works with no treasurer, accountant and treasury, but under the leadership of Southern Asia Division, support and cooperation of likeminded believers, he believes that he could carry out the sacred task entrusted in him. The entire Nepali Adventist believers who want to build of the honorable SDA Church and its moral are looking forward his able leadership under our Heavenly Father. We would like to express appreciation to the Southern Asia Division and the General Conference of SDA for their untiring dedication to lift Nepal to the throne of grace.

-Bhaju Ram Shrestha, Lay pastor, SDA Church, Nepal

EARLY WARNING: Several parties or individuals have shown interested to come to Nepal to hold meetings or whatever. We welcome anyone who wants to come to lift Jesus on Adventist Church ground. However, I found there seems to be a trend that anyone who comes, come to do the favor for Nepalese brethren, therefore expect us to be good host by providing food, lodging, traveling etc or to meet the expenses for them and those Nepalese who accompany with them to the villages or so forth. Though our heart is big and our smile is longer than the mile, and majority of us are just trying to survive (not even live), we request those interested parties to come with own resources to meet all the expenses, especially when the Nepal mission is functioning in a zero budget for the evangelism. Please be sensitive to Nepalese back breaking inflation for Nepalese that has over 55 percent live in less than a dollar a day, and most of our believers come into that category according to my experience. Thank you for your understanding. I would be happy to answer any query you have on this matter.

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VII. Terrible Train Wreck Remembered
--by Valsa Edison in "BLESS", the current Morning Devotional book for women

"God Is Only A Prayer Away"

"Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today.' Ex. 14:13."

"Our family will never forget June 8, 1988. I was a young mother of two ages 3 and 5 and we were awaiting the return of their daddy and my husband, who had been attending church meetings in Bangalore. It was Friday evening.

I was busy with Sabbath preparation. Time passed, and he had not arrived at home. Finally about 9:00 p.m. we saw him at the door--in torn and wrinkled clothes. Stunned at the sight, I stood motionless, staring at him with mouth wide open. 'Valsa, open the door!' he cried. It brought me back to myself, and I ran to do so.

"He then told us of the terrifying train accident at Quilon, where Ashtamula, the biggest of eight lakes, meet. My husband and the church section president were chatting in the train when they felt an unusual jerk. Then, before they knew what was happening, they found themselves immersed in the water that had rushed through the train windows when it derailed and fell into the lake. People were trapped inside like rats. For 45 minutes my husband hung onto a fan, yelling and praying for God to save him. How true is the saying, 'God is only a prayer away.' At last some men fishing nearby ran to the rescue, broke the train window bars, and dragged him out.

"He was wonder-struck to see the hundreds of dead on the shore. Most of those had drowned in the fully submerged cars. Among the few survivors were my husband and the church section president. The hands of the omnipotent God held them safe while 1,500 died on the spot. Newspapers and television portrayed the horrible accident. As God said, 'When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee, and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee.' (Isaiah 43:2).

"God preserved the life of my husband to live and work for Him.

Twenty-four long years later I still recall that terrible day, and when I do, I sing the song that portrays God as being so good and so strong and mighty that there is nothing that He cannot do. That same God lives today and is able to save anywhere.

"My friends, if He could do this miracle for us, don't you think He is kind enough to do that for you as well? Yes...yes...yes!"
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