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I. Letters
   1. Raj Attiken, letter to editor, recent Adventist Review
    Seventh-day Adventists and Other Churches
    A dominant message heard from church leadership in recent years has been that Adventists should not listen to speakers who are not of our faith, should not invite them to address our gatherings, or read their publications. In that context it was refreshing to find "Seventh-day Adventists and Other Churches" published in the Review (Jun. 20, 2013)! We applaud the efforts of those who are initiating and engaging in these formal conversations with various faith communities.
    These interactions can be "the never-ending quest for understanding" (as the subtitle on page 16 reads) only if we remain open to learning from those of other faiths as we hope they would be to us. Much of who we are as a church has been learned, adopted, and adapted over the decades from the teachings and practices of other churches.
    William Johnsson's claim that "we ourselves have become less exclusive, more open to work with and learn from other agencies that the Lord is using" is undoubtedly true for some. It needs to become more so at all segments of the church.
   --Raj Attiken [Conference President]
   Columbus, Ohio

II. Dr. Vera Prasad Deepati Checks In as OWP\H Editor-in-chief
   We are pleased to inform you that we thank God for His leadership in our lives. We are now transferred to OWP\H, Esther as one of the editors and I, editor-in-chief. This came as a surprise when the action was taken in the Division in Nov., 2012. We moved to Salisbury Park in June where our girls are studying. We did not have any hesitation to move to this place since we know the importance of the publishing work. Our only concern is that we are not trained for this job and that we never even thought that we would be able to contribute for the Lord's work.
   We had an excellent time at Spicer teaching for four years, of course, Esther was Research Director too. We are sure that the Lord has brought us here and He will accomplish His purpose. We request you to remember us in your prayers and in a very special way the Publishing House which is a sick unit right now. We hope the Lord will heal it soon.
   We would like to also request you to contribute to the magazines that OWP\H publishes--"Herald of Health" (English and Tamil) and "Our Times." We do a lot of work--teaching, preaching and even otherwise. Please do share with us and we are anxiously waiting to publish your works. We want to hear from you if there are some other ways of strengthening our Publishing work.
   We will be glad to hear from you. You may contact us at OWP\H. My email is <varadj@yahoo.com>; phone--0091-9766578996.
Thank you very much for your kind reading. God bless you and OWPH.
"Serving God is a privilege."
Pastor Deepati Vara Prasad, PhD
Professor of Old Testament Exegesis
Editor-in-chief, OWPH
Salisbury Park
Pune 411037, India
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Phone 0091-9766578996

III. Church Buildings at Bangalore and Chennai

Reggie Shires <RegShires@aol.com> July 16:

Richard Samuel’s report on June 9 about the run-down conditions of our churches at Bangalore and Chennai has been on my mind. It brought back memories of the time I found out for the first time about the Adventist message through two tent efforts which Pastor E. L. Sorensen held in Bangalore and I went looking for the church which kept the Sabbath. Later as a young graduate from Spicer I had the privilege to serve my pastoral internship at Madras, spending months with Pastor Lyndon Watts on building the school and the Silver Tabernacle, by hand, for evangelistic meetings. This structure became the Food Factory at Spicer. The thought came to me that if Richard Samuel can give us his address many of us can send in donations to correct the conditions to these church buildings right away. Richard can then select a small church committee at these two cities to get the work done. Norma and I will be happy to send in $25.00 for this project.

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IV. Remembering Robert Stahlecker

Nigel Fernando <nigel_fernando@yahoo.com> July 16:

Being the proverbial needle in the haystack of people, places and causes that he has lived to serve, by the grace of God he did more for individuals than what can be put to pen in terms of making a difference in the lives of those of us from the Sri Lanka Mission as the principal of Lakpahana.

What added worth personally was being a part of a church organization that provided ample diverse opportunities for learning within the singular task of operating and building up what was then Lakpahana Adventist College and Seminary. I appreciate very much the impact thanks to the building of potential in opportunities for others, students and staff alike at Lakpahana. Offering the balanced life total learning experiences incorporated in programs based on SDA academic principles that included a solid curriculum, a skilled faculty and extracurricular activities realized by the grace of God blessings both tangible and intangible. The dedication in, vision for, and recognition of what makes an educational institution worthy of its calling will always leave an indelible mark in the lives of those who passed through its corridors. Much obliged, sir as we are indebted to you for being a blessing to God as you were blest!!

So it is only fitting that the Sadlers, numerous alumna, and the local mission have a project currently underway to do the same and more for this institution that did so much and is now reaping the rewards of its contribution to the Lord’s work in this island nation. All praise, glory and honor to God for this!
A school band member,
Nigel Fernando

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V. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 50

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.

# 50. John. F. Hamel (Goldie) (1946-51)

Pastor John Hamel and family arrived Myanmar together with other missionaries for rebuilding the mission work in 1946. The situation at the time was so dangerous. There were insurgents, sabotage, and bandits abounding. There was fighting in Yangon itself in the suburbs of Ah Lone and San Chaung. Pastor J. F. Hamel risked his life on his way from Yangon to Myaungmya when the bandits shot their boat from the shore and he was hit in the thigh. The woman beside him died instantly. Pastor J. F. Hamel served the Lord in Burma at the time of much peril.
VI. Joyce Ballantyne to Celebrate 100th
   Winnie Kurian <winnek2006@yahoo.co.uk>

   My mother, Joyce Ballantyne, will be 100 years old on September 4, 2013.
   Bobbie & I are putting together a book of memories for her for that occasion. I would like to thank all those who sent her birthday wishes for her 95th birthday; she was so touched that so many students and friends still remembered her. She enjoyed reading each of your messages. Now once again she will be delighted to have your memory as well, in that special book. Please send a paragraph or two and any such material such as a picture before August 15th to <winnek2006@yahoo.co.uk>.

   My mother opened three schools in Andhra during her time. One in Vishakapatnam, Vijayawada, the other in Palakol, which had to be given back to the village as she was only lent to them for three years, then later she opened the Nuzvid boarding school, as they had just a small day school there at the time. She also worked in Bangalore Spencer Road School, and at Lowry for some years. She also worked as the dean of girls for the Giffard mission hospital in Nuzvid. That was her life work in the mission. Now she lives with us here in the UK.

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VII. ADRA India Poised to Assist Flood Victims
   --by Adventist News Network

   Seventh-day Adventist humanitarians in northern India are monitoring needs and preparing emergency relief in the wake of an unprecedented monsoon season in the region.

   The torrential rains arrived a month early this year, in June, triggering flash floods and landslides that swept through mountain communities and religious sites. The monsoons destroyed homes and businesses, killed more than 1,000 people, and stranded tens of thousands of pilgrims and tourists visiting Hindu shrines in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand, according to news reports.

   While government and relief agency efforts so far are centered in the district of Uttarkashi, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in India is preparing emergency assistance for Rudraprayag district, where 20 riverside villages were severely affected, said Gladwin Bol, emergency response coordinator for ADRA India.

   "These local communities have lost everything—their homes, land, livelihood, and belongings," Bol said. Other nearby villages remain inaccessible because of ongoing inclement weather and blocked roads, he said.

   ADRA India is prepared to provide utensils, blankets, clothes, mosquito nets, hygiene items, tarps, buckets, and other relief items, Bol said.

   Meanwhile local officials have set up 40 relief camps to provide food, water, and other emergency aid to tourists and locals, according to an ADRA Situation Report. News reports indicate that military helicopters have also rescued an estimated 30,000 stranded people, but bad weather continues to thwart efforts.

   Bol said ADRA India will implement its initial emergency response based on the findings of an assessment team currently at work. The team is backed up by local nongovernmental agencies with more ground presence in the affected region than ADRA, which is headquartered further south in Delhi.

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VIII. Chadalawada School Teaches Children to Pray
   Krishna Kumari comes from a strict Hindu family, but she has studied at the Chadalawada since kindergarten. She is now in the 7th grade Chadalawada English High School.

   One day her mother came to the school and confronted the principal.

   "What is this you are teaching our children? Christian songs and to pray to Jesus? Our daughter prays while eating food and prays while going to sleep. There is a church near out home. If my daughter hears them singing, she starts singing these songs. We are sending our daughter to your school because you are giving her a good education, but she is learning Christianity."

   Her father who stood nearby said to his wife, "What is wrong in singing and praying? Why are you so concerned?"

   The mother replied, "If she becomes a Christian, we will not find suitable husbands for our children. When her parents left to enroll her in another school, Krishna wept and said, "I want to study at Chadalawada School only." So they brought her back to our school.

   When she returned to school the principal, Mr. Bullababu, asked Krishna about her singing and praying. The child told him, "I love God and I like to sing and pray without my parents knowing."
Please pray for her and many children like her who want to stay faithful to God. They are witnesses for the Gospel. -- from the Chadalawada's July PRIA (Pure Religion In Action) Ministries newsletter.<info@priaministries.org>

IX. Daughter Marla's Childhood Religious Training

Recently Marla shared a bit of her talks at her St. Joseph, Michigan SDA church’s week of prayer. I will include portions of it.

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My conscious choice to start my spiritual journey did not begin auspiciously. At Spicer when I was 11 my best friend, who was 10, was baptized. I was surprised and even envious that she was getting baptized before me and she was younger than me!! I promptly told my parents that I wanted to be baptized. They were pleased with my choice, though I don’t think they knew what had prompted my decision. So, I had baptismal studies to get me prepared. Though I may not have had the purest motives for wanting to be baptized, I remember those baptismal studies and the impact they made on me at the time and my heart was ready. On December 18, 1965, I was baptized in the mali tank (gardener’s tank) beside the girls dorm there on the campus at Spicer College.

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X. 90 + Club Update

Ratan Raj <raj@loc.gov> June 16

You forgot your friend and colleague, Pastor Zill who is going to be 94 in October!

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Pastor John Curnow, who with his wife Joan, were missionaries in Southern Asia from 1964 to 1979, reached his 90th birthday on June 30, 2013. He and Joan who now live with their daughter and son-in-law, Mrs. Sally and Joe Mashburn, in Ohio, continue to enjoy good health.

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Raju, P. C. Sharan, Ed Beck, Mrs. Nora Guild (Marsh), Tom Davis, D. David, Mrs. June Hooper, William F. Zill, John Curnow, Joyce Ballantyne. Total = 20 ~~~~~~~ To remove your name from the mailing list of this newsletter simply reply to this e-mail and put "REMOVE" in the Subject line.

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