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I. Letters
   1. Umesh Pokharel <umesh.shantipokharel@gmail.com> August 5:
      It is very encouraging news to know that the Spicer Memorial College is in the process of becoming a self-financed university. The Southern Asia Division and Spicer College have filed the application for a university charter. It is the pioneer higher education centre for the Southern Asia and it has got a very good name in many countries. I was privileged to be in Spicer from 1992 to 1998 and Spicer made me what I am now. Let us pray its future -- Umesh Kumar Pokharel, Kathmandu, Nepal

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2. Jeanne Beck Jarnes on Face Book, Aug. 5:
   This last weekend we went up to McCall, Idaho (about 2-1/2 hours from where we live) to visit friends and attended the little church up there.

   After church this lady started walking purposefully down the aisle towards me and as soon as she started talking, I immediately recognized Sharon McHenry Staddon! Our friends invited her and her husband, Theron, over for lunch and we had a wonderful afternoon visiting with them. They recently moved from Alaska to Montana where Sharon is the Secretary/Treasurer of the Montana Conference. They were in McCall for Union meetings. It was a nice blast from the past.

   [Jeanne (Beck) Jarnes <jeajar@pacificpress.com>] ~~~~~~~~~~~

II. Spicer College Centennial Project Building Plans

Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com>

The actual construction work on the Spicer Centennial Project, - the College of Management and Computer Science Building - after patiently surmounting several hurdles on the way, like getting permits from various government offices and committees including the Heritage Committee, -- began with the thanksgiving service on July 30, when the entire college family, during the morning chapel period, marched on to the site, the former football ground, braving the drizzle and slushy ground, almost every one carrying a colourful umbrella rendering a semblance of a beautiful garden of giant flowers dancing in the rain, and lustily sang various songs expressing their gratitude to God, after which Academic Dean Roy Injety welcomed the gathering, Mrs. Ellen Varekan read the scripture, VPAA S. Rajendra Prasad offered the opening prayer thanking the good Lord for all His blessings and mercies new every morning and invoking His special blessings on this project, and all the personnel involved beginning with the GC, SUD, SMC, donors, architects, contractors, engineers, artisans and technicians like carpenters, electricians, masons, painters, plumbers, etc., and ending with the humble labourer involved in the construction of this great edifice for His glory and honour. President Justus Devadas then made his remarks, gratefully acknowledging God’s guidance and leading every step of the way, in finally getting the green
signal from every one concerned, to start the work, and of course, the surprise gift of over Rs one crore and 25 lakhs from a single donor 2 days earlier and about Rs 18 lakhs from another donor for the books. Then a special song was rendered by a group of students and a brief devotional taken by the former VPAA Boxter Kharbteng (visiting from TTU and introduced by VPCD Sam Charles), who too stressed on the attitude of gratitude becoming a part and parcel of one's personality to claim more in life. Then after a chorus, a series of prayers were offered by VPFA R. Jeyam, Science Dean Susan Thomas, Business Dean Noah Balraj and by Executive VP Noble Pilli who was joined by the congregation in repeating the Lord's prayer and the College President who pronounced the benediction. Then as everyone watched in exultation, the giant earth mover moved in and excavated the first giant scoop of the soil thus beginning the first step that would lead to the construction of this mega monument to commemorate the 100 years of God's marvelous leading of this great institution, Spicer Memorial College, soon to be, if it His will, Spicer Adventist University!

III. Remembering Noel Bolst

Terrence Davin <terrydavin@gmail.com> August 5:

I was saddened to read of the passing of Noel Bolst. While working in Rawalpindi, where we were living at the time, he sowed seeds of truth in our home by way of the books, "The Great Controversy", "Toward a Better Day", and "Health And Longevity" among others, which were to bear fruit later. He faithfully visited our home sharing gospel truths with my mother and an uncle who lived with us then. I recall when he would visit I would head for the back door as I had a total misconception of Seventh-day Adventism at that time even though I was barely out of "knee-pants".

I attended the "Station School" where Geoffrey Webster and his sisters June and Barbara also attended, and I thought they were "strange" because they didn't come to school on Saturday which was our sports day and a high day for us students. I recall joining other students and making fun of them, little did I know how the Holy Spirit and God's human agencies were working.

I recall on one of Noel's visits, before I could head for the back door, he said he needed my help operating the projector (the old film-strip SVE) at the home of the Blunts, an English family whom I knew and who lived opposite another English family, the Bennetts, at whose home I spent a lot of my time with friends when not in school. Noel explained what he wanted me to do: Just to turn the "wheel" to the next frame on the film strip projector each time he pressed a button triggering a red signal light which he located near me. He stood in front presenting the study on Daniel 2. I attended the Anglican church at the time and got good "marks" in Scripture at school but was totally "blown-away" with the prophecy that was unfolding that I forgot to "turn the wheel" a few times and Noel had to call out to get my attention.

I wish I could say I accepted the "Truth" at that time but I was so involved with worldly music and in a sense found an excuse to "run away" and join Jenkins' Family Troupe who worked at entertaining the troops who were stationed all over in then British India. Shortly after I left home my mother, an aunt and uncle attended a series of evangelistic meetings presented by Veerwood Stotesbury assisted by Noel Bolst and Milton Lamb and were baptized. Ironically it was Geoffrey Webster's father who followed up Noel's initial contact and conducted Bible studies in our home, but the seed that Noel had planted bore fruit. His labour was not in vain!

A few years later when I returned home after wandering all over with the Jenkin's Troupe, I came home to an Adventist home. I recall on a Friday evening as I was strumming my guitar in my room I heard the voices of my mother and sisters singing songs like, "In the Garden", and "There's a Stranger at the Door", in beautiful two-part harmony, they were having worship welcoming the Sabbath. My heart was touched and that was the beginning of changes the Lord was to make in my life, seeds sown by Noel Bolst years ago were still bearing fruit. Weldon Mattison, the pastor of the Lucknow/Kanpur district, studied with me and an older sister. We were baptized by elder P. K. Simpson at the Lucknow SDA church in 1949. I did some colporteur work before going to Vincent Hill College in '51 to take the ministerial course. Praise the Lord for faithful workers like Noel Bolst. My heartfelt sympathies go to his wife, his son Elliot, his sisters and all of the family members. By the Lord's grace I look forward to meeting Noel again and telling him how the Lord used him even when he thought his work was unfruitful at the time.

IV. Recent Deaths

1. James Daniel

Priscilla Shayam <priscillashyam@SAAA.ORG> August 9:
We regret to announce the passing of James Daniel, son of Pastor Edward & Mrs. Kamalabai Daniel, on August 8, early morning. James was the nephew of long-time SAAA member Pastor William Isaac. James leaves behind his parents, two younger brothers, Isaac Immanuel and Jebadass, a sister Madhu, and a large extended family. Funeral services will be at the Burnt Mills S.D.A. Church (Silver Spring, MD) on Sunday, August 11, starting with a viewing at 10:00 a.m. and service at 11:00 a.m. Our sincere condolences and prayers are for the family during this time of sorrow. For those who wish to do so, Mrs. Edward can be reached at 301-680-2240.

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2. Mrs. Billy Jean Devadas

We recently came to know about the passing of Billy Jean Devadas, wife of long-time SAAA member Jeyaraj Devadas. Billy Jean was born on July 28, 1939 and went to her rest on May 20, 2013. Jeyaraj and Billy Jean met at their work at a hospital and were married in 1972. He was at her side all these years until she died in a Laurel nursing home (Maryland). Billy Jean leaves behind her husband and a sister in England. Our prayers and condolences are for Mr. Devadas for his great loss.

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3. Edwin Buck

John Matthews <johnmatt@andrews.edu> August 9:

Edwin F. Buck, Jr. died on Monday, August 5 in Berrien Springs, Michigan. A private graveside service will be held on Friday, August 9.

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V. Burma Vignettes—Early Missionaries # 53

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.

# 53. Cecil B. Guild (Nora) (1952-62)

Pastor C. B. and Mrs. Guild came to Myanmar in 1952. Under the leadership of Pastor C. B. Guild the work was consolidated to the extent of the Gospel being spread out to such places as the Chin Hills. Pr. C. B. Guild was an experienced missionary from China. Pr. Guild was one of those missionaries who were driven out when the Communists over-ran that great land. Pastor C. B. Guild was called to responsibilities in the Southern Asia Division office in 1961. Pastor Guild helped in rebuilding Myanmar Union Mission after the war.

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VI. Staff Women Promoted at Spicer

Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com>

Giving boost to the concept of gender equality and also recognizing the individual worth, the college elevated two office secretaries, Ms Molly Abraham and Mrs. Glory Jeyam, to the post of Assistant Registrar. Ms Abraham with a service of 19 years as secretary to various officers including the College President will be Assistant Registrar handling the work related to Andrews University Undergraduate Programmes, while Mrs. Jeyam who worked in Business office and Registrar’s office earlier will continue to work in the latter handling the work related to Spicer autonomous programmes, of course, both assisting the College Registrar, Mr. Simon Yesu. As reported earlier, Spicer in the recent years appointed women to important positions in the college which were traditionally in the male bastion: Dr. Susan Thomas as principal-in-charge of Pune University Programme & Dean of Science; Dr. Sheela Chand, Principal of College of Education, (and both of them members of the President’s Council); Dr. Nanibala Paul, Dean of Education; Dr. Chawngdinpuii Chawngthu, Graduate Registrar and now as Director of E. G. White Centre; Mrs. Shiny Prashantha, Registrar of Griggs programme & HoD, Sociology; Mrs. Esther Justus, HoD, Elementary Education; Mrs. Hannah Davy, HoD, Office Administration; Ms Mary Davy, HoD, Western Music; Mrs. Linda Sigamany, HoD, English; and Dr. Christiana Mary, Attendance Officer. Spicer also invited Dr. Shirani de Alwis-Chand as Baccalaureate speaker and Dr. Sampada Joshi as Commencement speaker for the recent graduation.

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VII. Life Sketch of D. C. Christophaul

Ebby Christophaul <chrisentusa@yahoo.com> August 8:

A Tribute to Our Father

The first memory of our Appa (Dad) is of us looking up at him and seeing an immensely tall man looking down at us with a comforting face. We would huddle over to his side and grab his finger and walk down the street. We felt so safe in this big, scary world. We felt like we could handle every challenge that came our way. But it wasn't just his physical stature - his warm nature also gave us the motivation and strength to go through life.

He taught us many life lessons that we sometimes take for granted. He taught us how to tidy the house, groom ourselves, respect our elders and help anyone in need. These lessons make up the core of who we are. Dad took great interest in many aspects of our life and home. Having a clean house was as important to him as having a clean heart. We will cherish the memories of our father sitting by us when we were sick. He would whisper sweet words of comfort that healed us more than any medicine could. We also saw our Dad rush to help anyone who needed it. He believed that we were made to serve God by helping one another. This is why he encouraged us to pick careers in service and spend our lives helping humanity. We will never forget his teachings but his example impacted us more. Seeing how he spent his life in service inspires us to serve God more. Dad left his well-paying job in a big corporation in his youth to work in an Adventist organization as an intertype operator in the press in Salisbury Park, Pune, India. He worked long hours for lesser pay but he was very proud to be working in the Adventist mission. God saw that Dad had a heart ready for service and He raised him up.

Through his 38 years of service in the Adventist mission, God raised Dad up to many positions including Spicer Memorial College Press Manager Pune, Principal of the Madras Higher Secondary School and Adventist Development Relief Agency's (ADRA) director in South India Union. As transportation manager, he worked tirelessly helping missionaries and church workers with their travel need.

Even in his retirement, he always tried to serve, as he was active in church and was an elder at Campus Hill Church for five years. He also was the president of Friends Of Southern Asia Fellowship.

His biggest example, however, was his faith in God. He prayed believing that his prayers would come true and God seemed to grant all of his wishes.

Dad had steadfast faith in God and we had faith in Dad's prayers.

It is these examples that have impacted us greatly. Now, as our Dad has finished his race on Earth, we feel his loss. He has been there by our side through sickness, births, many struggles and celebrations, and we will miss him greatly. We will miss huddling up next to him for security. But he has taught us well with his words and example. Now that we have lost him, our training wheels are off. We will have to work harder to live up to his lessons and example. We will continue to live a life of service as he taught us and we have to raise our faith to the caliber that he had. We miss him but we are happy to know that as he rests, the next thing Dad will see is Jesus, the One he spent countless hours talking to in his prayers.

See you soon, Dad!

Juliet Vasan, Ebby Christophaul and Regina Joseph

VIII. 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 am including portions of it.

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Though this next experience happened over 40 years ago, even now I can't speak of it without getting emotional. Forgive me if I have a hard time telling you this. During my senior year in Far Eastern Academy in Singapore, we had a tragedy occur at one of these weekend retreats. My friend, Lucille Jacobs, a junior, fell down a cliff in the late afternoon. Most of the girls had walked around the island and were back at the camp.

The friend with Lucille crossed over the island to tell us that Lucille had fallen down. Two young Malaysian boys who stayed on the island as caretakers of the jungle cottages owned by someone on the mainland led our little group back to find Lucille. Besides the doctor who had accompanied our group to the island, there was a girl who spoke Malaysian and myself. We stayed with Lucille throughout the night. She was getting colder and colder as she slowly bled from her internal injuries. She was ever so anxious for the sun to rise to warm her up. Lucille died facing an eastern sky blushing with rosy tints from a sun about to peek over the horizon. She did not know that the next sun rise she will see is the one when Jesus awakens her from her earthly sleep. Lucille was one of the most spiritual girls at school. She was kind, and good, and faithfully studied her Bible every day. At the time I remember thinking that in the whole school she was
probably the only one who was actually ready to be saved. I have no doubt Lucille will be in heaven. She was buried on her 17th birthday.

Lucille’s short life has definitely impacted my own spiritual journey—reminding me that I have to be ready EVERY day, because no one knows which day will be the last one. I remember well leaning over Lucille, trying to keep her warm, and being surprised when the doctor told us that it was all over, and that she had died. This lesson that life hangs by a slender thread has remained with me, and reminds me each day that life is to be appreciated, lived each day to the full, and lived in a close relationship with God.

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