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I. Letters
   1. Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> August 11:
      May I comment on some interesting items mentioned in recent newsletters?
      I knew the Bolst brothers--the late Noel and Leonard and the surviving Hugh. They had come to study in Vincent Hill in
      the 1940s from Bangalore where their parents owned and operated "Bolst Condiments and Spices" an assortment of
      pickles, chutneys and curry powders of world--wide fame. Leonard married my classmate Peggy Nolda, Hugh, a member of the "three
      musketeers" as we and Judson Killoway were called and Noel who married his classmate, Joan Homer. After Pastor J. R. L.
      Astleford had to leave the Publishing Department because of visa problems, the late Thomas K. Joseph was appointed the Publishing
      director of the Division. We thought it would be advisable if we invited the now retired and lonely Noel (for Joan had passed away)
      to help Thomas K. Joseph in his duties. As one of his an extra-curricular duties wooed and wedded his widowed secretary Leah.
      Leah later told my wife that Noel had given her the happiest years of her life.
      Terrence Davin has given an insight to the early ministry of Noel and his own journey from a member of a worldly
      musical group to be the lead singing evangelist when I conducted my evanglistic campaigns in Bombay and the UP till
      he immigrated to Canada to enter the ministry. Terrence was a indeed an asset and blessings to our campaigns. I
      remember the rich baritone of the late Edwin F. Buck as he ministered to our Delhi congregation for a short while
      and his years of Bible teaching at Vincent Hill.
      As for Marla Tidwell Matthews' spiritual journey, it is like a lot of many of ours--nothing momentous or spectacular
      but a continuing in the way our parents, siblings and teachers have taught us. Reading her musings have a been a
      blessing to me personally. A funeral service I attended yesterday, that of a pre-teenage girl falling off the terrace of her
      apartment in Division campus to her death, reminded me of Marla's writing her episode of Lucille Jacob's untimely fatal
      accident. It's time for Christ's to return.
      Maranatha--even so come Lord Jesus.

II. SUD Fellowship to Meet in Loma Linda Area
Devadas Moses <devadas909@gmail.com> August 12:
      The Friends of Southern Asia Adventist Fellowship (FSAAF) from the Loma Linda, CA region will hold its next meeting
      on Sabbath, Sept. 7, 2013 at the new chapel of the Advent Open Door Ministries at 944 Via Lata, Colton, CA 92324.
      Sabbath School will begin at 10:00 am followed by the service and conclude with a pot luck at 1:00 pm. You would not
      want to miss a very special tribute to our loved ones who have been called to rest in the Lord during the past year.
      Please invite and remind the other Southern Asian friends to worship and fellowship with us on Sept. 7.
III. Maranatha’s Church Building
   --from Maranatha’s current magazine, The Volunteer
   It has been 25 years since Maranatha began working in India to provide church structures and schools for some of the 1,597,994 Adventists there.

But this country of more than one billion people still needs our help as many are still discovering Christianity of the first time in their lives.

   One such person was Bandha Ekka of Holapara. He was an alcoholic, burning through his meager earnings to buy rice wine. As he plunged deeper and deeper into the addiction and into poverty, he became physically ill. An animist, Bandha offered sacrifices in a plea to the spirits for help. But he only became sicker.

   Then one day Pastor Sinil Tirkey met Bandha while visiting people in the area. When the pastor heard his story, he encouraged Bandha to learn more about Jesus. As a last resort, Bandha asked the pastor to pray for him. For the next few days the pastor returned to pray with Bandha, and each time Bandha felt a little better. Within a week, he was well. So Bandha gave his heart to Jesus and stopped drinking. The miracle drew others to also seek Christ, and within time there were 25 members in the Holapara Adventist church—including Bandha and his family.

   They worshiped in a flimsy thatch hut but the structure didn’t last long. Without a building, the membership began to wane. Then Maranatha arrived and built a church in Holapara, and the congregation began to grow once more, drawing old and new members into the church.

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IV. Remember Elder Edwin Buck At Vincent Hill School
   Terrence Davin <terrydavin@gmail.com> August 11:
   So sad to hear of Elder Buck’s passing. He taught us some of the Ministerial Course subjects when I attended VHC in ’51. He taught us Church History, Daniel & Revelation, Speech, New Test. Epistles and Song Leadership/conducting.

   I remember his sense of humour and his lovely rich baritone singing voice. He often sang heart- moving gospel songs like ”Is Your All on the Altar” and “If I Have Wounded Any Soul Today”, these for Sabbath services etc. Hearing these songs for the first time had an impact on my heart and he inspired me to want to sing for the Lord as he did.

   The Fernando brothers will recall how Eric Rogers, or Rex Moser at times, would distract him by raising the subject of ”cars”. Before he knew it the bell would ring ending the class period and he would recognize the ploy to distract him by taking him into his favourite subject, and say a few reproving words in his usual good-humoured way.

   I remember that small class room leaked slightly when it rained. On one such occasion he grabbed his umbrella, opened it and gave it to Rex Moser on whom the drops were falling. The way he did it, without a break in the comments on the subject he was presenting was hilarious.

   I am grateful to him for teaching us how to conduct and lead the music which I have put to good use over the years. He also made us learn how to transpose from one key to another by actually making us write the notes and key signatures out as assignments. I have had to do that several times over the years in my ministry involving music.

   There are many other pleasant memories of the Buck family that I associate with my year at VHC and will always praise the Lord for the influence exerted. He sent me, a few years ago now, some DVDs he had made from his movies of VHS which I am sure many of you have. I look forward to soon meeting again with Elder Buck and many of the other faithful VHS warriors who have gone to their rest. Stay faithful, the Lord is coming soon!

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   Merlyn Fernando <merlynfernando@yahoo.com> August 12:
   Yes, Terrance, and remember too, who was a good drummer and guitarist but refused to join the band because he did not want his blood to stir up past years which delayed him from living wholly for God. Fully agree, the Bucks stimulated the better side of our music DNA!

   My wife and I did meet the Bucks again during this millennium at their home and again on the VHS cruise. They had the same India Heart and we talked about their contacts with some in high places in society and the government. Pastor Buck was into airplane building and flying. He helped students in Michigan where he taught to build a prototype and received recognition for it.

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V. Honoring the Memory of D. C. Christopaul
   Ebby Christopaul <chrisentusa@yahoo.com> August 15:
   Condolences for the Christopaul family can be submitted at:
http://www.greenacresmortuary.com/ As previous ADRA director in India, dad had a passion for the India projects. A special gift registry has been set up in my dad's memory at: http://giftcatalog.adra.org/node/1279. I would like his legacy to be alive, and lives transformed for God's kingdom. The family will be very grateful for any contribution toward this fund.

VI. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries #54

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.

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#54. William L. Murrill (Ruth) (1951-66)

Pastor W. L. Murrill became president of Myanmar Union Mission in 1962 and labored on successfully until he had to leave Myanmar on the request of Burmese government in 1966. Elder Murrill was the last foreign president of Myanmar Union Mission. He handed over the responsibility on the shoulders of national leader Pastor Kalee Paw who had been serving as the union secretary at the time of Burmese military takeover. Since then 8 successive national presidents have toiled on and twenty-six plus thousand Adventists are walking in the land which we call now as Myanmar.

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VII. School of Distance Education Started at Spicer

Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com>

As announced earlier, Spicer has started the School of Distance Education and Mr. Reginald A. Chavan, who has been holding the post of vice principal for the now closed down Pune University programmes, was appointed its Director. The school is beginning to deal mostly with the courses in the two-year Bible Instructor's course and Denominational Enrichment Programme so that many students including hundreds of teachers working in SDA schools who hold degrees from non-SDA colleges and had no opportunity to study in Adventist Colleges before, and cannot afford to do now, can complete these courses part time in their own time without having to attend a college to complete their studies. The lessons are being prepared now and announcement will be made when they are ready along with the modalities of applying for these programmes. This facility will be inaugurated on the Founders Day on August 28, 2013.

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VIII. The Flaiz Family & India

--from the August ADVENTIST WORLD REVIEW.

"Dr. Theodore Flaiz was among the first Seventh-day Adventist missionaries to serve in India. He and his wife arrived in the little village of Narsapur in the province of Andhra Pradesh, in 1915. They were young and very alone, but had a passion to share the gospel through education.

"After building a mission school to teach local children, Flaiz established programs for worker training and literature evangelism. When the raja of Teleprole learned of Flaiz’s efforts on behalf of the local people, he offered him five acres of land, some unfinished buildings, and 10,000 rupees in cash and asked him to build a hospital in the nearby town of Nuzvid. The missionary agreed and construction began in 1923.

"Having witnessed the urgent need for health care in India, Flaiz made the decision to pursue more medical training (which included residency training at White Memorial Medical Center.) Returning to India after graduation, he guided the growing hospital for several more years before becoming director of the worldwide medical work of the Adventist church.

"Today the little school has become Flaiz Memorial Seventh-day Adventist High School and College, and Gifford Memorial Hospital continues to serve the community as a part of Adventist Health India.

The ministry of Dr. Theodore Flaiz was like a pebble thrown into a glassy pond, and the ripple effect of his commitment started with his two children, Ted and Mary June, both born in India. Ted spent nearly thirty years in overseas mission work as a dentist and at age 92 continues to make several trips a year. Ted’s two sons, Richard and Doug, also chose careers as service-minded physicians, with Richard spending two years in residency at WMMC. Doug served several years practicing medicine in Ethiopia.

"Mary June married Stanley Wilkinson, who also trained at WMMC, and the couple served for six years at the Adventist hospital in Karachi, Pakistan.

Many of the children and grandchildren from both sides of the family have been back to India to support the groundbreaking work Flaiz began.
"'I'm blessed to have my grandpa and father as such great role models,' says Richard, an otolaryngologist practicing in Hermiston, Oregon. 'Growing up with their examples made all the difference for our branch of the family tree.'"

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 am including portions of it.

Another experience I had in Far Eastern Academy made a deep impression on me. There are lots of Hindus living in Singapore. There are many ornate and beautiful temples and they host a number of noisy and colorful festivals held every year. One of these is called Thaipusam. My senior year I went to this festival. It celebrates Lord Murugan, the son of Shiva, vanquishing the demon army with a lance given to him by his mother, Parvati. It is a celebration of good prevailing over evil. Most devotees bring gifts of milk, fruit and yellow or orange flowers, and they wear clothes made of yellow or orange cloth. Fanatical devotees show their devotion with body piercing.

Some carry paper temples on frames supported above their heads with long steel skewers that pierce their chest and back. Others have limes hooked onto their back and chest in patterns and have a steel pole as thick as my index finger and up to 6' or longer piercing their cheek, going through their mouth and coming out the other cheek. Women devotees generally have a thin steel skewer piercing their cheeks and another skewer piercing their tongue. They carry on their shoulder a pail laden with gifts for the god Lord Murugan.

We were able to walk freely among the devotees. Many family members accompanied them giving moral support and making offerings of coconuts they broke open, orange and yellow flowers and burning lots of incense. Most of the devotees with piercings appeared to be in a trance. There was much chanting from the crowds of worshippers and the air was heavy with incense.

I was surprised that I saw only 1 drop of blood. It was on a man's cheek where it was pierced by the thick steel pole.

At the right moment the procession of all the devotees and other worshippers begins and they slowly process the 2+ miles to another temple where all the piercings are removed.

I did not join the procession. After I had been there for close to an hour I felt a great need to get away. The atmosphere seemed heavy and evil.

Though I never felt I was in any danger, I did feel very strongly the presence of the devil at that place and it was so oppressive I had to escape from it. This was the first time I had ever felt the presence of the devil and it made me very aware of the cosmic battle between good and evil. I knew I had to rely on God's strength because without Him I had none. If I could feel the presence of the devil, I needed to also be sure to cultivate a sense of the presence of God, and it was my personal worships, with their little rituals focused on study and worship that helped me to do this.

X. Baptism of SUDites in UK

Pastor Petras Bahadur joined with Pastor Mohan Abbadasari, where among the four baptismal candidates at the London Asian church was a lifelong friend of Petras, finally baptised after years of hesitation. It was a special moment for Petras, but especially for Mushtaq Yaqub. The other three candidates were Samina Rehmat and brothers Solomon and Shawn Francis.-- Victor Hulbert <VictorHulbert@adventist.org.uk> BUC News Edition #840 (16 August 2013)

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