I. Dr. Subodh Pandit Speaks at Collegedale Church
   -- from the Sept. 14 Church Bulletin of Collegedale SDA Church at Southern Adventist University
   Dr. Subodh Pandit will be speaking September 20 and 21. Born and raised in India, Subodh is a licensed, board certified physician from North Carolina. His twenty-year search for a reason to believe led him through the questions of atheism, post-modernism, and pluralism into a unique method of comparing the five great world religions.
   Friday at 7 p.m.: Science, Reason, Faith, and the existence of God (Can the rational scientific mind accept the existence of the supernatural?)
   Sabbath Worship services: Hope's Double Reward
   Sabbath at 4 p.m.: The Book of Books (Comparing the sacred literature of the Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, and Christians)
   Sabbath at 6 p.m.: Comparison of the Founders ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ II. Remembering the Jenson
   1. Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> Sept. 12:
      I am sending this with some apprehension, as part of it was shelved in 2009 when there was objection from the Jensons as they seemed to be too embarrassed with the publicity. But as recommended by Dr. Warren Minder, I somehow feel their uncommon life story should be told to one and all.

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TRIBUTE TO BETTY AMOROSO JENSON

The piano in the Jenson's home lies silent and still And no more will its chords vibrate or reverberate
For its owner has flown away, at God's sweet will Leaving sad, family and friends, her life to celebrate.

Mrs. Betty Amoroso Jenson is no more, but continues to live in the hearts of everyone whom she has touched profoundly with her music and missions of mercy, along with her husband, another great stalwart of compassion and faith, in their long blessed and useful lives. Spicer College heard of and mourned the sudden demise of this gracious lady in the midst of the week of prayer meetings and honoured her precious memory by cancelling the celebrations of the Teachers Day scheduled on September 5, but instead celebrated her blessed life as a "Mother, Missionary and Musician"(and let me add Mechanic) on the Sabbath (Sept 7) with the special extended choir comprising of other students, staff, and faculty, including her loving colleague and friend Mrs. Glynn Navrose Lalkaka, singing lustily Mrs. Jenson's favourite anthem, "God is Our Refuge" based on Psalms 46, following the words of tribute offered by the college president, Dr. Justus Devadas. As I conversed with others who knew her on this campus including her students and colleagues, even greater details emerged from them: Mrs. Jenson cancelled her admission to the prestigious Juliet School of Music and decided to follow her husband, as his new bride, to India; she was on the ranks of the best world musicians who could identify accurately any note or sound and even composed own music; she was sensitive and compassionate enough to note the numbness of fingers of her students on wintry mornings and served them hot cup of chocolate before their practice lessons began; she sometimes invited all the members of her choir, numbering close to 75, to her home and dished out a late supper when the practices ended late; and she was close and special to each of her students. And the list goes on, making me feel a bit silly for not recognizing the full greatness of this wonderful person when she walked on this campus for several decades.

Though the Jensons left Spicer in 1997 after laying down the reins of his presidency, their hearts remained, as it were, on this soil. Or how else would one explain at least two more visits they made to the college in spite of their
advancing age, age-related fragility and not-so sound financial status later? They came once in 2003 (blessed my home when invited for supper along with the visiting Andrews University Audit Team on February 22) and their last one was perhaps in March 2006 when the new Spicer Church was dedicated and Mrs. Jenson played the organ, just as in days of old. I had the special privilege of listening to her playing the piano while Pastor Jenson sang his favourite song in their California home last on July 25, 2011, when I along with my two nieces and nephew from Phoenix (AZ) visited them for almost two hours at Pastor Jenson’s invitation and insistence and enjoyed Mrs. Jenson’s generous hospitality, while Wesley James was waiting patiently (or impatiently?) to take us out for lunch. I also met there Mrs. Virginia Jenson, widow of his elder brother George Roos Jenson, who was just then mourning the death of her daughter-in-law). It was then that all three of them promised me that, God willing, they would visit Spicer during the centenary celebrations in 2015. But sadly, Mrs. Betty Jenson will not keep hers. Nevertheless, according to Indian culture, Mrs. Jenson is truly blessed as she left this world as "Sumangali" a very much married woman with husband and children still around her, and not as a widow. She was not only a blessed Mother in Israel but an Angel of Mercy and served God and humanity all her life almost like Mother Teresa of Calcutta. (Her date of demise strikes a chord in me as my father too passed away on August 30, though I came to know about it only 36 days later when I returned home from my vacation in Scotland/England/Netherlands/Dubai on October 6, 1985. Since I haven't attended his funeral, I still think he is somewhere, alive. So will it be with me, about Mrs. Jenson).

Our sincere prayers are for Elder Jenson and their 3 sons and families for God's special care, comfort and consolation at this hour of bereavement and may His continued guidance and blessings be on each of them in the days to come! God has blessed Pastor and Mrs. Jenson abundantly and used them in His service to the full though in His mercy and infinite wisdom saw it fit that Mrs. Jenson should rest now. But the legacy of their unique and blessed life and service will linger on and their saga should be made known to the others who don't know them well.

The following is the summary of my tribute written for this exceptional couple in October 2009 in response to the news item about GC honouring the Jensons on completing almost 50 years of service overseas. It was sent to Dr. Tidwell, Senior (with a copy to the Jensons & Dr. W. E. Minder) and was almost included for publication in his illustrious SUD e-News when the Jensons wrote to him requesting him NOT to publish it as they would be too embarrassed with the publicity. When Dr. Tidwell informed me about it I agreed to honour their request but asked him to shelve it for future use in the following letter:

"Dear Dr. Tidwell: Thank you very much for your mail, and especially for the courtesy in condescending to inform me (though you really needn't) about your inability to include in the SUD e-News the report on the Jenson's at their request. Yes, I agree we need to honour their request. I know they are very simple and humble folk and shun all publicity about themselves... That is the very reason I wanted the world, especially the younger generation of pastors and leaders to know about them, that even during this present age we have a very exemplary couple amongst us. It is not every day that one comes across people who have spent almost 50 years in wholeheartedly dedicated service to God and man, and certainly not those who have exhibited a strong resemblance to the concept of "servant-leadership" which we associate only with Christ Himself. And this report is for the edification of the church and certainly not for the glory of the Jensons (or mine). Generations later, as did Einstein say about Gandhi, people would certainly wonder if a saintly couple like them really walked on this earth. And I have a friend (Dr. Warren Minder, former Dean of Education, Andrews University) who knows the Jensons and strongly feels that their story should be shared with many after he read a copy of the report I sent to you. I am quoting him below ad verbatim:

'Rajendra: What a verbal honor you have bestowed on a very deserving couple, the Jensons. I first met Pr. Jenson when he taught Bible for a year while in the States during a brief break in his overseas ministry. When Dr. Ogden and I visited Spicer for an affiliation review, we stayed with the Jensons. They were a very accommodating host and hostess. Rajendra your flowery portrayal and highly descriptive narrative of the Jenson's unselfish ministry should be shared with many of those who know and love this couple.
I am honored to among those and appreciate your gift of words and honorable portrayal of their service. Blessing to you in your continued ministry at Spicer’ - Warren Minder

"And shouldn't we honour Dr. Minder's request too? ... For whatever I have written is true according to my belief and conscience, and written freely though I admit I could have been a bit groggy while writing those lines due to the dearth of sleep the previous night, and may have made many grammar and other mistakes but certainly not that sleepy to write falsehood.
And I portrayed a real scene as it is, along with the warts and all ---.
By the by, I did send a copy to the Jensons too (delhibones@gmail.com) along with yours. "- - - - - - - - - - The Jensons Deserve It

Pastor Wesley Gordon Jenson and Mrs. Betty Amoroso Jenson kept me awake the whole of last night till 6:00 AM when my alarm reminded me that I should get up and get ready for another day of work. Surely one can not just read an article in the SUD e-News about these two towering personalities both in physical stature and androgynous nature and simply forget them. I am of all people feel very happy, proud and vindicated to note that the General Conference at last honoured Pastor and Mrs. Wesley Gordon Jenson for their long, selfless and blessed overseas ministry of almost half a century.

I remember meeting Pr. Jenson for the first time years ago, perhaps in 1976, on Spicer campus when he was picking up waste papers thrown outside the classrooms by careless students. I was told then that it had indeed been his regular routine almost everyday of his stay at Spicer. He was also the Estate Manager for a number of years and kept the campus clean, green and beautiful with a plethora of exquisite flowers blooming on the flower beds each season. His own home was a miniature Garden of Eden with a wide varieties of trees and plants and blossoms in bloom, really a riot of colours, including one special tree that bloomed only once a decade or so and the whole campus made sure to witness that. He was also seen along with his pianist wife leading the college choir almost every Sabbath, and also on Fridays and other important days, like the week of spiritual emphasis, Christmas pageant and the College Day and graduation weekend. More than that he was the senior most teacher in the Theology Department, perhaps the only full-fledged professor besides Dr. M. E. Cherian and Mr. A. T. Thomas that Spicer had for several years. And finally he was the President of Spicer College from 1994 to 1997.

Pr. Jenson was one of the well-loved presidents Spicer had in recent times. What attracted him to me as to anyone else who knew him well, perhaps, was his proverbial compassion to the least fortunate ones in the society, be it a student, a staff, a beggar, or a criminal. Pr Jenson along with his dear wife Mrs. Betty Jenson, seemed to have oodles of compassion and concern for anyone who had a problem and needed help. Perhaps even today after leaving Spicer in 1997 they still render financial and other assistance to scores of our students and to the college through Jenson's Trust Fund. The bore and sprinkling system that keeps the college lawns ever green have been their recent gift to the college. Their generous, nay, magnanimous nature was also seen when they left India finally, when they left behind in the bungalow of the president, for the use of successive incumbents, almost all of their furniture, tools (Mrs. Jenson was good with tools too and solved all mechanical problems, like a man), cutlery sets, fancy glassware (including a pretty punch bowl which formed the centre of attraction along with Mrs. Jenson's famous potato salad every time we had a party or pot-luck on their lawns), etc, which at one time the college administration toyed with the thought of preserving as memorabilia in the "Jensons' Museum" to be.

And the energy level and oomph they showed in almost every activity both in and outside the college, be it their gospel ministry to the upper or low caste Hindus, Muslims, Zoroastrians, etc, or musical ministry in the Poona Musicale (a popular non-denominational choir which frequently toured India with their gospel songs), certainly did not betray their advancing age. In spite of his trouble with the Parkinson's and the prostate, Pr. Jenson actively involved himself with his preaching ministry, his first love; music and college choir, his second love; service to the society, his third love; teaching & academics, his fourth love; and administration, only the last in his list. But he did administer quite efficiently, with love and grace. He gave himself completely, as it were, to the cause of God though it entailed years of labour, but of love. Or else how could you explain the hours, days, weeks, months, years and perhaps decades he and Mrs. Jenson along with Mrs.

Glynn Lalkaka spent in coaching hundreds of students in the college choir, semester after semester? I should know, because I am aware of the patience and long hours Mrs. Margaret Nathaniel spent each Sabbath on me and the most unmusical novices like me, teaching music and training the voice for the English choir and the quartet (along with Collet Masilamany, Manick Kisku, and Kenneth Peterson -- later Nemick Kisku replaced me) during my college years in Trivandrum -- late sixties and early seventies. (And the patience and practice I had to muster up when the Flai School Church in Narasapur appointed me a director of the school's English choir when I joined their faculty in 1972! Or the patience Ms Robin Nash had while teaching me piano in 1981!)

But the Jensons did it in style, year after year, decade after decade! And almost all students, especially those who studied but for a semester or two, remember fondly only the English choir of all things at Spicer, especially Pr. Jenson conducting it and Mrs. Jenson playing the piano! They did everything to the best of their ability. Justice and mercy literally met during his administration. If at all he errred, he erred on the mercy side.
He is a man of prayer and very God-fearing, and carried out his administrative responsibilities with utmost humility. He didn’t call people to his office but rather often went to them, either to their office, class or home, to get things done. He is literally a man with a large heart, broad mind and lofty soul. So is Mrs. Jenson, in her own unique way.

Another characteristic that endeared the couple to all of us was their down-to-earth simplicity. Pr. Jenson mostly used for all errands in and around the campus his old scooter, for years, though it seemed to carry easily his colossal frame as well as the pillow rider, who often accompanied him, himself carrying a huge tool or parcel to be delivered to some needy soul somewhere. And Mrs. Jenson rode her bicycle for running her errands inside the campus and used the scooter for shopping, visiting, etc., outside. And they used their old car only if they needed to ferry more passengers here and there in their music ministry, hospital visitation, -- venturing on missions of mercy as usual. And neither did they don any fancy clothing nor sport any ostentatious footwear. I still recall a couple of slightly faded suits (light chocolate and light blue), but well-pressed and presentable, which Pr. Jenson used for years and an elegant blue flowery (is it chionodoxa?) gown which Mrs. Jenson wore for all special functions. They managed themselves with the minimum and used the rest of their income for some other needy soul. I have reason to believe their meals too were quite frugal -- simple Indian dishes, often shared with guests and needy students. They often kept in their own home students who were either too poor to pay their fees, or have met with accidents or undergone major surgeries and needed special and constant nursing care, or needed special grounding in Christianity. They even kept their domestic help Didi with them in her old age and nursed her as member of their own family till she passed away in her nineties and arranged a beautiful funeral service for her.

On the academic front too, they were quite exemplary. Mrs. Jenson was Head of Occidental (Western) Music and taught hundreds of students including staff and faculty children and organized musical concerts each semester. And for decades she was chosen the Class Organist not only for the College Senior Class but also for Plus-Two and High School Senior classes and only God and perhaps me as Plus-two Director know what it entails to have a piano marching practice for people who certainly have no sense of music or even simple rhyme or rhythm in their system! But Mrs. Jenson somehow managed this task beautifully with her endless patience and expertise. And in spite of his not having a doctoral degree, Pastor Jenson kept himself abreast with the latest, and didn’t desert the classroom even when he was the president.

And it was during his presidency in 1996 that Andrews University introduced a cohort of the D Min programme which enrolled about 24 candidates from all over the field and abroad (Russia and Sri Lanka). He served as the chairperson or member of the Research Project committee of several Masters and perhaps D Min students studying in Andrews University programmes. In spite of having several native Ph D holders in the Graduate Council, it was often his rich vocabulary, vast experience, rare insights and keen interest in every single research project that won the day for us, be it in finalizing the research topic, or approving the proposal, or even examining every single candidate during his/her oral defense of the project.

I often wondered and still do why couldn’t an honourary doctorate degree (on the lines of one awarded to Pastor D. R. Watts recently at Surat by Andrews University for his ministry in SUD) be conferred on Pastor Jenson for his extraordinarily long, devoted, dedicated and altruistic service in the cause of ministry and education in a developing country, and right now when he is still alive and kicking! Surely when the Nobel Prize for Peace can be conferred on President Barak Obama for a few months of his service towards this end, a doctoral degree, honourary or otherwise, certainly accrues to Pastor Jenson for all but one year of his blessed and fruitful service of half a century to humanity in the area of theology, ministry, music, social service, and education! Or perhaps is it best to leave him alone, as the Nobel Peace Prize Committee did the most deserving candidate of all time, Mahatma Gandhi, rather than confine him to a single degree or prize, when they are much much larger than life and deserve much much more, may not be from mortals, but certainly from the Good Lord Himself!

Certainly my sleepless night is worth remaining so, especially when I kept reminiscing after a long time the inspiring life of this blessed couple on this campus! May the Good Lord continue to bless Pastor and Mrs. Jenson, with good health and longevity, wisdom and knowledge, peace and prosperity, and love and joy as they enter yet another year of their long and glorious life this month and the next respectively!

2. Ronald Laloo <ronald.laloo@gmail.com> Sept. 15:

It is with great sadness that I learnt of Mrs. Betty Jenson's passing away. She was my teacher at Spicer for two semesters in which she improved my skill at playing the piano for church services. I told her my desire to be able to play
the piano like her, especially to play so that the congregation would unite their voices in singing. Which she did teach me.
The last time she visited India she came to Delhi and I had the pleasure of playing with her as she accompanied me. It was a pleasure to hear that she had actually succeeded in teaching me to play like her. Of course never to her skill but close enough; that made me so proud to have been her student.
I thanked her for doing just that. She even taught me to play the organ which I was so happy to have learnt from her. Her encouragement always made me to work hard at it and I did succeed in that too. God certainly has ways in which He helps us meet such wonderful people who help us grow in intelligence and faith. Both Pr. Jenson and Mrs. Jenson have encouraged me at Spicer. I remember when Pr. Jenson asked me to accompany the choir at Spicer for a rehearsal and I was hesitant to do so but he encouraged me and I did but I guess I was too nervous at the time. But he did encourage me.
Mrs. Jenson will be missed by all who have been blessed by them and may God be with Pr. Jenson and all the family members in this time of sorrow.
Looking forward to that blessed hope of meeting again on the blessed day when Jesus comes to take His people home.
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III. Death of Wilson Victor Augustine
   R. J. Solomon <rj_solomon@yahoo.co.in> Sept. 15:
   Wilson Victor Augustine, the only son of Pr. Joseph Augustine, Director, Mumbai Metro Section of SDA church met with a bike accident and passed away of 25 August 2013. Wilson was 24 years old and had completed Bachelor of Computer Application (BCA) degree. A memorial prayer meeting was held at Bombay Central SDA Church on 8 Sept. The meeting was attended by members of all the churches at Mumbai. A large number of members of Limbaith Telugu Church at Surat joined the meeting.
   Mumbai, along with New York City, is selected for GC supported of urban evangelism work since 2011. At a time when church in Mumbai is beginning to notice major gains in metro evangelism, the death of young Wilson has come as shock to all and especially to Pr. Augustine & his family. The Church at Mumbai request everyone to remember Pr. Augustine family in your prayers that we in Mumbai will be able to work for the Lord with renewed strength and vigor.
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END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

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