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1. Response to Dr. Subodh Pandit's Friday Evening's Presentation

   Last night's presentation-- Science, Reason, Faith, and the existence of God (Can the rational scientific mind accept the existence of the supernatural?)-- was like watching a man go to a scrapheap, carefully pick up pieces of metal or wire, and build them methodically into a Rolls-Royce engine. I had no questions because there was nothing left to ask. The case for theism is literally airtight, as Dr. Pandit demonstrated superbly. I regret not having taken the microphone to tell him so.

   The audience's bovine reaction-my own especially-is painful to recollect. I had a twinge watching him walk out of the sanctuary alone, recalling how people in India had extended themselves toward me so graciously in my two visits there. Edwin Reynolds (whose family was in India/Pakistan during Partition) has lately acted very kindly toward me, and I was thanking him in a conversation which lengthened beyond my expectations. That we did not pause to engage Dr. Pandit together is a mystery to me now. Certainly Edwin had been as impressed as I with Dr. Pandit's talk.

   Jan Haluska
   Chair, English Department
   Southern Adventist University

2. Remembering Mrs. Jenson
   1. Raghathamnan Opeh <docopeh@gmail.com> Sept. 15:

      In the late 50s there were three pianists who played during Sabbath services. One was Mrs. Burns, second was Mrs. B. Jenson and the third. Mrs. Eldine Fredericks. The three had their own distinct style of playing. While Mrs. Burns played powerful and sure notes, Mrs. Jenson played in a gentle touch. The style of Mrs. Fredericks was full of additional flourishes, arpegios and runs. All the same hearing them play was a great pleasure and experience.

      While I had the privilege of being the piano student of Mrs. Burns, who is now in NSW Australia; Mrs. Fredericks was the one to whom I took the first Hindi hymn, got by Pijush Dikshit, put to notes for piano. She guided me on the basics of meters and harmony. I am enclosing a piece composed in memory of her.

      But I did not have the privilege of studying music from Mrs. Jenson. But she did teach us, a group of students, how to make cake with lemony flavour one Sunday. It was from that day that I developed a sweet tooth for lemon tart.

   2. Robyn Nash austmar@activ8.net.au

      I am very sad and shocked to hear of Betty Jenson's death. I would like to send my condolences to Pr Jenson, Wes, Chuck, and John. May God comfort and bless you all. We enjoyed many happy times with Gordon and Betty as our good neighbors, friends, and colleagues at Spicer college.

III. Death of Oscar Anil Bhattacharji
Justin Singh <JUWYL@aol.com> September 17:

We are saddened to announce the death of Mr. Oscar Anil Bhattacharji. He was the husband of Mrs. Sardara, sister of late Hidayat Khan, late Pastor Harnamdas, late Pastor Justin (Munshi Ram) and others of a great Adventist family. He passed away on September 7, 2013, Sabbath afternoon, at his home in Queens, New York. Aunty Bhattacharji called me and asked me if I would do the funeral services for her husband.

The viewing was on Wednesday, September 11, and the funeral service was held at the Jackson Heights SDA Church, New York, and he was buried at All Saints Cemetery, 855 Middle Neck, Great Neck, NY 11024.

We heard the news Sabbath afternoon and we left for NY on Monday night. Juanita and I returned home from New York on September 16, after doing the funeral services and being with the family. Aunty Bhattacharji taught me in Hapur Boarding School in second standard and was a great comfort to me when my father died and I was left alone at Hapur School. Since then, she has been very close to our family. We felt honored to share in the celebration of this noble and faithful Seventh-day Adventist. He was almost 87.

If folks want to connect with Mrs. Bhattacharji and their two sons, here's her address and telephone numbers:

Mrs. S. Bhattacharji
85-18, 214 Street
Queens Village, NY 11427
Mrs. Bhattacharji: 718-413-4131
Noel Bhattacharji: 631-987-4984
Deepak Bhattacharji: 917-767-3185

Life Sketch

Oscar Anil Bhattacharji, born on November 16, 1926, to Louisa and Jogin Bhattacharji, lived with his parents and siblings in a nostalgically gorgeous city of Nanital, nestled in the foothills of the Himalayas, India. His two siblings are a sister, Carol Barbosa (82), and a brother, Suresh Bhattacharji (98).

Oscar attended school at St. Mary's Academy and Agra College, India. He became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church by baptism in 1951.

On April 5, 1956 he married Miss S. Khan and the late Pastor Weldon H. Mattison performed the marriage in Jullundur, India. He brought his beautiful bride to Meerut, India, where they resided happily for sixteen years. Noel, their first son, was born on November 26, 1957, and John, their second son, was born on December 7, 1960.

Oscar had a passion for fixing motor vehicles from his youth. In Meerut he owned his own auto shop. In order to provide Christian education for his sons, Oscar moved his family to Spicer Memorial College, Poona, India, where he managed the College auto shop for several years.

In October 1974, the Bhattacharji family moved to Horley Surrey, England, where his wife worked as a nurse and Oscar found work with a Renault auto dealer. In May 1978 they moved again to New York, where he worked at St. Clare Hospital. He retired from his active labor in 1993 after a heart attack and stayed home to look after his grandchildren.

Oscar loved cars and hats, and enjoyed his grandchildren, church life and food. He especially relished ice cream and chocolates. He disliked telemarketers, a messy house and cats.

He was a kind, soft-spoken, gentle and warm soul. He spoke very little, but his actions spoke volumes. His smiles were contagious. It can truly be said of him that he was a loving father and a devoted husband, greatly loved by all who knew him. He leaves behind his beloved wife; two sons, four grandchildren, and two siblings. He will be fondly missed by his family and a host of friends around the world.

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IV. Letters

1. Subodh Pandit <drskpandit@gmail.com> Sept. 23:
Since I will be doing a lot of traveling in the near future, may I request prayer for my safety and continued good health. I am leaving for South Africa tomorrow on a six-week trip to speak in four cities of the Natal province. Then on my return, at Herndon near DC, sponsored by the Southern Asian Church, then Orlando, Florida in December, followed by Kreilingen, Germany in early Jan. 2014 and back again to Southern Adventist University mid and end of Jan, 2014.

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2. R. J. Solomon <rj_solomon@yahoo.co.in> Sept. 24:
Can Spicer once again become choice of Adventist youth?


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I believe that not opting for Spicer education, many Adventists are missing out the best in life. Above all I believe Spicer gets our kids connected to our Lord and to His remnant church. Thus it prepares a new generation for the Lord. 
R. J. Solomon Ph D
ICSSR Senior Research Fellow
Head, Department of Psychology & Counseling Centre K B P College Navi Mumbai 400703 India ~~~~~~~~~~~ V. Birth of the Nepal Section in the S. D. A. Church
Bhaju Ram Shrestha <bhajupurna@gmail.com> Sept.12:
With the following words, "You were a child, now you have grown", Pr. R. John, the President of the Southern Asia Division (SUD) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, initiated the first conference of the Nepal Section on September 6, 2013 in Banepa, a town 25 km from the capital city of Kathmandu. Present on this special occasion were Dr. Gordon Christo (SUD Secretary), Pr. Robert Clive (SUD treasurer), Pr. Victor Sam (SUD Vice President) accompanied by various SUD Union Presidents, Pr. Y. Sezamany, Pr. Cyril Monthero, Pr. Ramesh Y. Jadhav and Pr. Ezra Lakra. In addition, more than 60 delegates from various SDA churches and companies were there to mark this historical day.
Dr. Christo recalled the role of his father, Pr. Christo, who first stepped into Nepal along with Dr. Stanley Sturges in 1958 to initiate the SDA presence in the country. Making an important point, he said "Now Nepal is a part of worldwide General Conference of the SDA Family." Looking forward to Nepal having a conference and union status, he encouraged the leaders of SDA Church in Nepal to work together in harmony and unity with the General Conference. Congratulating the delegates, Pr. Robert Clive said that they have a mission to glorify God through order and organization. Pr. Umesh Kumar Pokharel, the first president of the Section welcomed the distinguished guests and delegates and Pr. Milan Dahal closed the ceremony with prayer.
On the same morning, under the chairmanship of Pr. R. John a nominating committee was formed. The members were elected by the delegates. The nominating committee then elected a 13 members executive committee and department leaders under the chairmanship of the Section president. Voting was done by the delegates after proposing several names for the posts. The following officers were elected: Pr. David Kumar Tamsang - Field Secretary; Mrs. Shanti Pokharel - Honorary Director for Women, Children, Family, and Shepherds; Dilliram Rai - Director, Sabbath School and Personal Ministry; Elder Kapil Baniya - Director, Stewardship and Youth.
The delegates and the observers of the first Nepal Section Conference also enjoyed inspiring messages by the various Union presidents, prayer sessions, and special songs from Flora and her group as well as from the delegates. On Friday, Dr. Christo highlighted the general history of the SDA church and also explained the constitution of Nepal Section. Later, Pr. Robert Clive dwelt on the rules and regulations of church organization along with statements regarding conflict of interest. The first Nepal Section Conference culminated with a special Sabbath message from Pr. R. John who recalled the life of Asa who backslid at the end of his life because he chose not to listen to God. Pr. R. John challenged the new Section leaders and the delegates to press on with God’s work by not giving a place to have the devil in one’s life.
Good food, a good place to stay, and a good bond to work for the Lord made the three day conference a fruitful one. The evenings were marked by testimonies, songs services, and messages from the Scripture by the delegates. By Sunday morning, having felt His presence throughout the occasion, all left the meeting premises with joy and hope in the Lord.
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V. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 59
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.

# 59. Raymond H. Woolsey (1956- 62)
Pr. Raymond Woolsey looked after churches of Pyin-Oo-Lwin (1956-60) and Yangon( 1960-62). I had the privilege of knowing Pr. Woolsey. I was a university student at the time in Yangon. My father worked as the manager of the book depot of Kin Saung Publishing House. The Burmese translators used to comment that his evangelistic sermons were hard to interpret as he used quality vocabularies. He held evangelistic meetings at the towns of Titain, Tahan and Kale. He baptized 48 people at Kalay. He formed Pathfinders Club at Yangon Church. He wrote VOP lessons and manual on
ministers during his two year vacation at US. Presently he serves as an editor at Review and Herald Publishing House. [He recently retired and they now live in Collegedale, TN.] ~~~~~~~~~ VII. Great Controversy Shared with Buddhists

Praveen-san K. Tamsang <pktamsang@hotmail.com> Sept. 17:

Today the great war --controversy is going on between Christ and His people and Satan and the fallen angels. Where ever we go sharing the 3 Angels Messages in Himalayan Hill of Sikkim-Darjeeling and Indo-Tibet China boarder immediately there is disturbance and confusion making unhealthy environment among our brethren because this is the last day and Victory is for Christ and Satan knows that they will be defeated. But with prayer and fasting we are moving forward sharing the Great News of Jesus 2nd coming.

We work in the midst of Buddhist orthodox up and down; sometime there is restriction entering in new areas but our Lord is so great there is always different door open for us. First we share-conduct the medical ministry and win the heart of many and share the good news of Jesus 2nd coming. We are happy the 1858 Great Controversy Book printed in many vernacular languages has change the lifestyle of many Buddhist brethren and now they are worshiping on Sabbath. Yes! There are many preparing for baptism. Today 250 copies of this book have entered Tibet, China via Nathula -Sikkim 4500m (Nathula -Sikkim is trade route between Indo-Tibet China). We get feedback that many happy and send thank you for providing this strong wonderful book written by Sister Ellen G. White.

The end time is near the prophecy is fulfilling and we need to wake up and continue the ministry of our Lord before it is dark. Let us keep looking toward Jesus everyday forgetting the post, position and asset of this perishing world and expect the heavenly crown rewarded by our Saviour Jesus as we enter His Kingdom. Kindly remember the ministry in this Himalayan hill as many are thirsty and waiting for His truth.

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VIII. Traveling with Len Tolhurst

L. P. Tolhurst <lptlhrst@bigpond.net.au> Sept. 16:

Mrs. Butov the wife of our Russian Pastor was planning to go and conduct an evangelistic campaign in Madagascar. She is a pediatrician but also does evangelistic work. I spoke to her husband, and he approved my suggestion that I conduct a program like I did in Kenya. I therefore made my bookings to fly out from Australia with her and her helper on July 17. . . . my meetings would be held in a local church while her program was to be a public one; I gave 12 lectures.

I then joined a tour group and spent the next two weeks travelling around Madagascar looking for birds and lemurs and enjoying the scenery, and the local culture. . . . I was able to see about 10 species of lemurs, and at one stop had a wild lemur jump onto my shoulder. I have photos to prove it.

I then flew to Johannesburg, and on to Cape Town. There I spend two weeks bird watching with local bird club members, and added about 70 new species to my world list. One day I visited the Helderberg College, and met the Theology faculty members. While there I was invited to speak the following Wednesday to the Theology students in the weekly forum they hold.

I agreed to do so, suggesting that they might provide the transport for me to travel to do so. They agreed and sent the college vehicle to Cape Town to my hotel, picked me up, and returned me to Cape Town after the lecture. It is about 55 kilometers each way. I gave them a lecture on the deeper meaning of Daniel 8:14, which was well received.

I was able to get the phone number of one of the pastors in the Cape Town area, as I wanted to attend a church on Sabbath. He offered to pick me up from my hotel and take me to the church where he was going to preach, and then asked me to take the service. I agreed to that, and then he told me it would be a communion service. I had to prepare a suitable sermon. He then took me to the home of a family where we celebrated communion for them, and then he took me to his home for Sabbath lunch.

The next Sabbath he took me to an African Settlement church, where I again preached. This time I spoke on the 'Deeper Meaning of the Sabbath,' and we then had the communion service again. In the afternoon I presented a lecture on how to answer the doctrine of Futurism (The Gap Theory and the Secret Rapture etc). In total I spoke 16 times while on my travels.

While in Cape Town I was able to visit Robben Island were Nelson Mandela was in prison for many years, and also take the cable car up to the top of Table Mountain, about 3000 feel over looking the city. The next day it snowed on the top of Table Mountain, so you can imagine how cold it was up there.

I left Cape Town on Sunday morning 1st September with a small group for a trip up into Namibia for about a week. Namibia is very dry, and much of the country is desert. We visited the Orange River, Fish River Canyon (second largest canyon in the world after the Grand Canyon of the USA), and the famous Sand Dunes. The highest one is well over 1000 feet high. We spent Sabbath 7th. September in Swakopmund on the Atlantic Coast, and again I arranged to go to church
there, where believe it or not, they celebrated communion. I have never before in my life had three communion services in churches in three weeks. I left the tour group in Windhoek the capital city of Namibia and flew to Johannesburg where I caught my over night flight back to Sydney.

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