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~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ I. Missionary Kids Who Lived Long Ago in Salisbury Park

Joysingh Charles <teachiindia@aol.com> Sept. 15:

Gertie and her younger sister "Mugsie" (Margaret) were playing outdoors one evening in Salisbury Park, Poona, India where their parents, Eric and Minnie Meleen were missionaries. They were barefoot, as usual because it was very hot and none of the houses had air conditioning. Gertie was eight years old and Mugsie was six. They had so much to talk about, especially the large scorpion that had stung Madu, their cook, the previous day and had to be rushed to the hospital in a tonga the previous day. Minnie said he moaned and cried all the way during the long ride to the hospital in the city with his foot swollen as large as a foot ball.

"Well" said Gertie, "Let's go down and walk in the road." They were walking in the path that runs in front of the eight bungalows on the ridge of the Salisbury park SDA mission headquarters. The main road. runs below the ridge parallel to this pathway.

A smaller pathway runs from each bungalow down to this main road. "It is not so stony down there" added Gertie. So off they went arm in arm down the path from the front steps of bungalow #4. Bats were flying to their nests under the eves of the bungalows and an owl hooted from the neim tree just as the moon was rising. They were half way down the path when suddenly Gertie and Mugsie stopped short as though a heavy gate had been shut in front. They stood still and looked down at the path in front of them. There inching it's way across the path just in front of their toes, was a foot-long centipede with black and orange segments across its flat belly. There was a pair of legs from each segment. The orange color seemed to glitter in the moonlight.

We learned later that this was a very poisonous myriapod whose legs from the last segment modified into fangs. Had Mugsie and I taken another step at least one of us would have been stung by those fangs.

Surely the angel of the Lord was camped around us as he saved us two little girls from taking another barefoot step. Saved so many times not only from physical dangers but from spiritual dangers also. Saving us from sin is so much greater a miracle. We worship and praise a God who loves to save.

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II. Remembering Mrs. Jenson

1. John Baxter <JBaxter@afmonline.org> Sept. 26:

The song was "O Sacred Head Now Wounded." My wife, Beth, was singing the closing hymn - solo - at the Spicer Church, after a message about the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary. Mrs. Betty Jenson was at the piano. The first notes were a cappella, and then Mrs. Jenson joined her. Soon, somehow, it appears that we are hearing three part harmony as the notes of the electronic piano and the voice of the soloist create a hauntingly beautiful tribute to One who gave His life for our salvation. It was obvious that we were witnessing the influence of angels, musical talent, and the Holy Spirit.

In many ways this was only one illustration of what we were grateful to witness on several occasions of the Holy Spirit working through Mrs. Jenson.
Whether it was in her music, her gracious hospitality, her tender care for her students, or her loving attention to her husband, we were blessed to witness her possession of a meek and quiet Christian spirit. Truly, "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints." (Ps 116:15)

Pastor Jenson, too, is a gem. He took the time to help counsel a young couple, newly arrived to the South Asian continent, and to orient them to the things of the orient. Even more gentle than his stature, Pastor Jenson rises above many a man for Christian charity and graciousness in seeking to model Jesus to others.

It was a blessing to become acquainted with these dear saints, and I look forward to hearing more of their stories on the banks of the river of life.

III. Remembering When Work Started in Nepal

Peter Mundu <peter.mundu@yahoo.com.au> Sept. 25:

Thank very much for putting in the news of new Section of Nepal. Well, when the work was just starting 1958 I was placed in Siliguri to look after the Bengali VOP interest in that part of country and at the same time I received the names of students from Sikkim and Nepal also but I could not visit the interested students of Nepal because I was not permitted to do so.

However later I was placed at Kalimpong and took lots of interest about the work in Nepal as well as in Sikkim. Once with the late Pr. A. Maberly we even conducted an evangelistic meetings for Tibetans in our church with the help of Tibetan non-Adventist translator. Interest was created but we could not follow up because of the language problem. However today we rejoice to see the fruits of what we started being matured. We pray for the work to grow leaps and bounds to harvest for the souls in His kingdom.

IV. Letters

1. Pramod Gaikwad <gaikwadpapag1@comcast.net> Sept. 26:

Anjali and I have decided to sell our apartment which is situated about 2 kilometers from Salisbury Park, Pune. Those interested in potentially buying a place to live in Pune, may call us at 269-4706261, or write to us at <gaikwadpapag1@comcast.net>.

The apartment is at Chandradeep Buildings, Muknad Nagar, Pune; about 2 miles from Salisbury Park and roughly 1 kilometer from Swargate bus depot.

*It is 1450 square feet; three bed rooms, kitchen, living room with dining, three bathrooms, two balconies on the 11th floor with ample breeze and ventilation.

*Windows are tinted and screened with blinds.

*Expandable metal sliding door leading to the balcony.

*Three bathrooms--with 2 western style toilets and 1 Indian style.

*Each bathroom has water heaters.

*The apartment also has Solar heated water available.

*The master bedroom has ceiling to floor teak wardrobe; all lofts in each bedroom are enclosed with teach enclosures.

*Has 3 phase electricity specially installed for power consumption.

*Has fans, light fixtures in each of the bedrooms and the living/dining room.

*Has two Samsung Airconditioners--1 in master bedroom; and the other in the living room.

*Has two elevators to the apartment, good neighbors, cool, calm and pleasant, in a gated community.

V. Indian Orphans Benefit from London to Paris Cycle Ride

BUC News Edition #846 (27 September 2013)

Money from a 261 mile London to Paris cycle ride at the end of May was personally handed to the fifty 'Way To Life' children at an Indian orphanage to cover their school fees for the 2013-14 school year.

John Cooper and Kish Poddar, trustees of the UK registered charity, STOP International, travelled to India to personally hand over the £2,800 cheque.

In August this year, when on a STOP project to work on the Vocational Training Centre in Denkanikotta, India, they presented the cheque to Selvi the Director of the Way To Life Orphanage. Selvi said that when they heard that John and Kish were doing the ride, all the children prayed for the men's safety and for strength so that they would complete the ride and raise the necessary funds to enable the children to attend school this year.
The children gave a big cheer of appreciation when the cheque was handed over and offered a prayer of gratitude. For the two riders it was the most rewarding part of the fundraising event.

In addition to presenting a cheque for the orphans' school fees there was other work to be done by the small team of volunteers on the Vocational Training Centre. Hundreds of feet of water pipes were laid connecting up to the tall water storage tower designed to supply all the buildings with a constant supply of water. Three hundred metres of cable were laid down in trenches to connect up the newly constructed girls' dormitory with electricity. The two hundred metres of the frontage wall to the property had a new look after the ladies in the team finished applying gallons of whitewash.

There were many memorable events which will remain in the minds of the volunteers. Among them were walking all the orphans to their school in the morning before beginning the day's work; taking the orphans to a zoo for a day trip and picnic; visiting some of the tourist sites of India.

The highlight of the trip was to see new sewing machines installed in the Centre to begin the sewing programme for the older children. When the assembled machines were displayed to the children, and their careers, they broke out into spontaneous singing followed by a prayer of thanksgiving.

This signaled a fitting start to the long awaited programme designed to help the orphans become self-sufficient.

-- Kish Poddar <kishpoddar@onelink.com>.

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Vi. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 60

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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# 60. Gordon C. Smedley & Lydia (1962-66)

Pastor Gordon Smedley was from Canada and he came to Myanmar in 1962 and he served many years in Myanmar. He also assisted at our Mission Hospital, Yangon, until he left in 1966 when all missionaries were requested to leave the country. He came back to Myanmar in the turn of the century and he held evangelistic meetings at Yangon area. Pastor Smedley was my closest missionary friend. I attended my Bachelor of Education degree at the time. I helped him with his Pathfinders Club and he offered me to work under his guidance in Yangon Central Church. However, I returned to my birth-place and worked in the government education department as middle and high schools principal for 28 years. Pastor Smedley passed away in June, 2001. He is sadly missed.

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VII. Dr. John Thomas and La Sierra University's Zapara School of Business

Wesley James <wjames231@msn.com> Sept. 30:

La Sierra University opened its new $16 million, state-of-the-art Tom & Vi Zapara School of Business building on Thursday, September 26. The 60,000-square-foot structure can serve up to 1,200 students. This project was a dream of Dean John Thomas and he was the driving force behind making it happen.

Dr. Thomas laid out the dream for this new building for the 27-year-old business school 5 years ago during a financial downturn. "When we launched the campaign, the market went south," Thomas said.

However, Thomas, the school’s alumni, and the community of Riverside were able to raise close to 70 percent of $16 million cost of the project.

"It's been a long journey. It's a dream come true," Thomas said.

The 2013 American School & University Architectural Portfolio has listed the Zapara building among 30 post-secondary school facilities recognized for Outstanding Design. It will be featured in the November issue of American School & University. The spacious building, highlighted by a sky-lit central atrium and windowed rotunda stands majestically at the entrance of the university, welcoming guests. The school features "start-up garages," 3-D printers and a conference center that holds 350 people. This new building will provide a well-rounded environment for its well-known Master of Business Administration degree and its other business degrees.

La Sierra University President Randall Wisbey stated how this accomplishment would not be possible without Dean Thomas. Since Thomas assumed leadership in 1999 the university has seen an increase in enrollment. The School of Business posted record enrollment last fall with more than 500 students in total. The Zapara building is one of his biggest accomplishments so far.

Under Dr. Thomas's leadership the school has emphasized entrepreneurial creativity and social change captured in the motto, "Create Value. Make a difference."
(Dr. John Thomas is the son of Mr. & Mrs. P. Thomas, long time workers in Giffard Memorial Hospital, Nuzvid, India. His education started in Spicer elementary and high school. He has an MBA from Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, another MBA from Loma Linda University, and a PhD from Claremont Graduate University. Besides being the Dean of the Tom Zapara School of Business, he serves on the boards or as a consultant to many business and non-profit-organizations).

VIII. Proud to Be a Spicer College Alumnus

R. J. Solomon <rj_solomon@yahoo.co.in> Sept. 27:

My daughter completed grade 12 from an Adventist school at Mumbai last May. Since then I spoke to several Adventists in SUD about my desire to have her study at Spicer. To my surprise very few felt I was making a right choice. To help make up my mind I personally visited Spicer. Spicer is no more the way it was about 25 years ago when I studied there. The strength of the students is now reduced to 50% of what it was in 80’s. Those were the days Spicer had more workers children than children of laity. The trend now is now reversed. In the past Spicer’s autonomous (government unrecognized) program was able to attract many Adventist students. Today, even the recognized foreign degree programs like Andrews University and Griggs University don’t find many takers.

In terms of cost of foreign degrees in India it ranges anywhere between INR 2 lakhs (US$ 3200) to INR 5 lakhs (US$ 8000) per annum depending on the quality and reputation of the institute. But in Spicer as of now the annual bill for students stands at around Rs.75,000 (US$ 1200). This includes cost of the tuition fees, lodging and boarding. Indeed it’s a special cheap deal for Adventist students desiring to secure coveted foreign university degrees.

Today Spicer is undergoing major transition. It has come out of Pune University affiliation. But loosing this affiliation is not an end of Spicer. For decades Spicer survived and progressed without local university affiliation. In the past the major job market was found in public sector. In the globalized India today private sector led by multinational companies offer most jobs in urban areas. In private sector, more than government recognized degrees, it is once skills and abilities that ensures selection to jobs. Further most multinational companies offer 5 day week work program. Surely Spicer cannot be a wrong choice.

This is not to say that everything at Spicer is right and perfect. There are several areas Spicer needs to improve. One such is the low salary received by its highly qualified academicians, an issue of great concern. Irrespective of its demerits Spicer remains God’s chosen institute and its overall impact on those who studied in it can never be underestimated.

After completing Spicer bachelor’s degree in Psychology in 1984 I had the God-given privilege of continuing higher studies in some of the best institutes in Pune, Mumbai, USA and Australia. Yet, as I look back into my life Spicer stands tall in influencing and moulding my life. I can proudly say ”I am what I am because of Spicer”. Spicer stands tall because God is with it. I am convinced; you will never regret sending your kids to Spicer.

R. J. Solomon, MA, MPS, Ph D
ICSSR Senior Research Fellow
Head, Department of Psychology & Counseling Centre K B P College Sector 15 Vashi Navi Mumbai 400703 India

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