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--from the Adventist News Network (ANN)
**The fastest growing unions from 2003 to 2012 were in India, Bangladesh, Zambia, Uganda, south Central America, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Pakistan.
**Church financial leaders will continue to concentrate funding in areas with little or no Adventist presence. In Pakistan, $300,000 will fund a shelter for at-risk girls. In Myanmar, $400,000 will pay to reopen the Yangon Adventist International School.
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II. Karl Haffner to Preach in Loma Linda Area Oct. 18 & 19
Vinod Bathini <admin@sasdacc.org> Oct. 11:
The Southern Asia Adventist Community Church (SAACC) is honored to have Pastor Karl Haffner preach during Sabbath worship on October 19 at 11 a.m.
He will also speak during Vespers on Friday, October 18 at 7 p.m. Sabbath School starts at 10 a.m. All are welcome.
Please invite your family & friends. Venue: First Lutheran Church, 1207 W. Cypress Ave., Redlands, CA 92373. For further information, please contact Pr. Samuel Shadrach at 909-810-3424. <www.sasdacc.org> ~~~~~~~ III. Letters
   1. Aruna [Paul] Moses <arunamoses@yahoo.com> Oct. 14:
      I am happy to inform our friends that we celebrated our Dad’s, Pastor L. D. Paul’s, 91st Birthday on 10th October in Jaipur. He looks nice and healthy at this age. My husband, Rollakanti Moses and I, along with my younger brother, Cromwell and his wife Ruby, came from Maryland to celebrate his birthday.
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IV. Please Pray for Owen D’Costa
Terrence Davin <terrydavin@gmail.com> October 12 Owen D’Costa is waiting for his medical caregivers to decide what course to follow now that he has completed the radiotherapy treatments. Apparently the cancer is now metastasizing to his muscles. Here is his latest letter to me about his illness:
“"The news is not good. We were told today that I have a somewhat large lung cancer. It resides in an awkward position in the right lung so that it is now cutting off the airways to the top right lung. (The tumor had earlier done its damage to the lower right lobe, and the specialist does not know if the lower lobe is recoverable.) It is an unusual cancer of the kind smokers could get, and all are surprised that I have got it, seeing I have never smoked in my life.
"The cancer is inoperable because of its position. It does not respond well to chemotherapy. The only other option is radiotherapy. This will work, hopefully, to shrink the cancer. However, a team of specialists/colleagues will meet either tomorrow (Wednesday) or the following Wednesday to determine what is the best approach--radiotherapy or whatever else or to just ride it out.
"Beside this the abdomen CT scan revealed a mass in my bowel. They have not been able to determine what this mass is all about. Sometime soon I will have a colonoscopy to examine the abdominal mass.
"Tomorrow I have to go again for a PET scan of the chest. Then on Tuesday I will see an expert (who will come up from Sydney) to look at all the findings so far, and advise the specialist. "On Tuesday I will return to see the specialist, who by then would have determined to way to go from here. In all the information over-load, I forgot to ask him about the lymph nodes, the shivering and shaking, and the pain in the right side of my back."

Owen attended Spicer College in the early '50s, worked in India for a while then he and his family left for the U.K. He worked at our food factory there for a while and later attended Newbold College. He served in Ethiopia for a while and finally went to Australia, did pastoral work and also served as a ministerial director there. Following his retirement he continued to do pastoral work where needed.

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V. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 62

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.

# 62. Joseph C. Johannes (Doctor)

Dr. J.C. Johannes arrived Myanmar at the end of the Second World War. It was the time of rebuilding the work in Myanmar. He was assigned by Mission President M. O. Manley to find a location for a hospital in Yangon. A building on Signal Pagoda Road was found and appealed to General Conference for an appropriation to purchase it. It was authorised from the thirteenth Sabbath overflow offering of the fourth quarter of 1947, December 18. It was officially opened in 1947 and Prime Minister U Nu very kindly attended the opening ceremony of the hospital.

Dr. Johannes carried on alone when two or three doctors were needed to care for the patronage. From the founding of the institution, Mrs. Johannes acted as the superintendent of nurses. Dr. & Mrs. Johannes were later released to answer a call for their services in India.

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VI. Spicer's Music Rocks and Rolls On ..

Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> Oct.14:

A few years ago a famous visitor to Spicer, quite impressed with a musical programme performed by the College family, said the acronym SMC should stand for Spicer Musical College. He couldn't perhaps be quite wrong as music has been part and parcel of this institution almost from its very inception. With its great talent being nurtured among its students, staff and faculty, the college can boast of a number of choirs and singing groups besides double quartets, trios, duets and solos, enriching the worship services not only in the campus but outside too. Last Sabbath the theology department choir alone, numbering over 100, filled the entire stage of the House of Prayer. Far and above all, the crowning glory of this college is the ever flourishing department of Western Music (formerly Occidental Music) which has outlived the erstwhile Carnatic and Hindustani Music departments. Perhaps today Spicer is the only institution in the entire Southern Asia Division which offers bachelor degrees in western music.

The college's Western Music Department headed by Ms Mary Grace Davy and assisted by the former head and emeritus Mrs. Glynn N. Lalkaka and Mrs. Lalrintluangi Chakchhuak, offers autonomous 4-year B Mus degree and 2-year Diploma in Music programmes and has about 40 students in the former and about 10 in the latter and conducts Musical Concerts at the end of each semester just before the final examinations. Having received an elegant invitation card for the function scheduled at 3 pm this Sunday afternoon, I remained in my office till then hoping to just pop in to wish them well and then proceed to my home for lunch. But when I reached the location I was mesmerized with the tastefully decorated and fully packed Science Auditorium, and seeing right in the centre of the stage, among pots of palms, a spanning new shining and gleaming Kawai piano lent free for the occasion by Mr. Amit Saraogi, a strapping young manager of the Kawai Pianos in Pune, and above all, with the dazzling performance of nearly 67 candidates, - 21 campus children and 46 college students, all immaculately dressed in white blouse/shirt and black pants/skirt; I left for my lunch, nay, for supper, only about 4 hours later.

The youngest performer was Cuckoo, 6-year old younger granddaughter of the college president and the oldest was Father Arul Mani, a 53-year old Catholic priest, the oldest student in the department. The debut performer however was 7-year old Gabriel (not the Angel, of course, but looked almost like him with his cherubic and chubby face), elder son of
the Varekans, who beautifully played the piece, 'Ode to Joy' (Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee) attracting a thunderous applause from the audience which included their doting parents filming the entire programme. Then the music picked up the tempo gradually with an increase in the level and corresponding complexity in the pieces selected by the candidates which covered a wide range of composers and comprised of piano solos and duets, keyboard solos and groups as well as vocal solos and group songs.

Some popular vocal items presented with Mrs. Lalkaka at the piano were Stephen Adams' 'Holy City' rendered by Arash Razaeei from Iran, Sigmund Romberg's 'A Desert Song' by Rahul Devamony, 'This is My Song' by Kenneth Ashish, George Gershwin's 'Our Love Is Here to Stay' by Gourav Biswas, Schubert's 'Dei Forelle' by Nikith Charles and 'Standchen' by W. A. Inla, Felix Mendelssohn's 'Lord God of Abraham' by Jeffancy Janardhanan, and "If I Were A Rich Man' from 'Fiddler on the Roof' by Lalmuankima, who brought the applause to a crescendo with his exceptional vocal rendition. The popular piano pieces included M & L Boguslawski's 'Home, Sweet Home' by the duet Lalnunzirna and Jessica, Bach's and Dussek's 'Allegro' by Valentine Noah and Deepa Pahan respectively, Beethoven's 'Fur Elise' by Lalunthari, Chopin's 'Nocturne' by Afresh Sangma, Dussek's 'Sonatina in Eb' by Gourav Biswas, Handel's 'Air and Variation in E' by Heidi Colney, Schumann's 'The Merry Farmer' by Malangmei Gaingamlung and Mozart's 'Sonata in C' by Christopher who finally brought the curtain as well as the roof down with his brilliant performance.

The College wishes the faculty and students of the department a brighter future with possible recognized and marketable degrees in music when it receives the private university charter hopefully from the state government soon.

VII. Life Sketch of Mrs. Kantha Rathnamma Meesarapu Jacob

Sandeep Meesarapu <sandeep.meesarapu@gmail.com>

Mrs. Kantha Rathnamma Meesarapu Jacob was born in Srirangapatnam village near Rajamundry, Andhra Pradesh, India on December 23, 1923. She was the second child of Mr. Kollapu Samuel and Mrs. Kollapu Sujanamma. Her siblings include the late Pr. K. I. John Prasada Rao (Narsapur), the late Mr. K. Gopala Rao (USA), Pr. K. Bhasker Rao (Narsapur), Mrs. Kamala Rathnam (Korukonda) & Mrs. Sarojini (Kakinada). She had her education at Korukonda.

She was married to Mr. Meesarapu Jacob of Rustumbada, Narsapur, who was the first convert to Adventism from that village, on September 25, 1944. She then moved to Nuzvid along with her husband who was called to work in Giffard Memorial Hospital.

She remained a home maker for a few years taking care of her children. Later she also joined work in the hospital and served the institution for 30 years with dedication and commitment. She lost her husband in 1973 after which she lived for forty years guiding her family. After her retirement in 1982, she went to the USA and lived with her children for ten years. After returning to India, she built a house in Nuzvid where she lived until she breathed her last.

Mrs. Kantha Rathnamma was called to rest by the Almighty on October, 4th, 2013 after prolonged illness, two months before her 90th birthday. She leaves behind her children, Mrs. Juliamma James (Narsapur), Mr. Krupavaram (USA), Mr. James Rathnam (USA), Dr. M J Prakasam (Lowry College, Bangalore), Mrs. Joyce Pitta (Nuzvid), Mrs. Mercy Jillella (USA) and their spouses. She was blessed with 17 grandchildren, and 22 great grandchildren. Truly a mother in Israel.

Delivering the 'Message of Hope' during the funeral service, Dr. K. J. Moses traced the history of Srirangapatnam village and the Kollapu family.

He noted that Srirangapatnam village played a very vital and significant role in the progress and development of Adventist work both in Andhra Pradesh and Southern Asia Division. He said that the Adventist message came to Srirangapatnam in 1910 through Mr. G. C. Joseph, Mr. Vagiri Benjamin and Mr. Nalluri Bhushanam. While conducting an Effort meeting in Rajamundry town, they visited the nearby Srirangapatnam and converted two Kollapu brothers there who were later re-named as Solomon and Samuel (father of Mrs. Kantha Rathnamma). These two families, have together now produced more than a 100 members for the church which includes their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren, many of whom became workers and leaders.

Subsequently, several more families from Srirangapatnam accepted the Adventist truth. Prominent among them are the Paka families of Mr. Raja Rao, Mr. Raja Rathnam. Mr. Munniah and Pr. Nakka Shubhakar Rao. Mr. Penigula Lazarus, Pr. T. Christian Raju, Pr. K. R. Jones, Pr. B. S. Moses, Mr. Yedla Neeliah, Mr. Sodadasi Bheemaraj, Pr. Kadugula Christopher, Mr. Kappala John Daniel, Mr. Koothala George, etc. These and other families have together contributed several prominent church leaders, educational administrators, doctors, engineers, professors, teachers, nurses, software
professionals, financial officers, office secretaries, pastors, etc., who support the Adventist Church from within and outside.

The seeds of Truth sown by the pioneers about a 100 years ago have borne abundant fruit for the Master in this tiny village.

--Sandeep Meesarapu (Grandson of Mrs. Kantha Rathnamma Meesarapu Jacob) ~~~~~~~~~ VIII. Four Generations of Reynolds Study at Andrews

--from Andrews University's alumni magazine, FOCUS

"Edwin Reynolds (MA '87, PhD '96) has been professor of New Testament & Biblical Languages and graduate program coordinator at the School of Religion at Southern Adventist University since 2004. His son David graduated from SAU with a major in pastoral studies in 2009. After working in the Oklahoma Conference, along with his wife, they decided to come to the S. D. A. Theological Seminary at Andrews to complete his MDiv, making him the fourth generation of pastors trained by this institution. Edwin writes, 'My grandfather, Earl R. Reynolds, Sr., was the first, studying in Emmanuel Missionary College back in 1919. He subsequently completed a medical missionary course at Loma Linda, and went to India to serve as a health educator, clinic director, and pastor. During a furlough from mission service in Pakistan, 1956-1957, my father, E. Robert Reynolds, Jr., did an MA in church history at Potomac University, the SDA Seminary in Washington, D. C. before it moved to become part of Andrews University. I completed an MA in religion, with a major in biblical languages, in 1987, and a PhD in religion, with a major in New Testament, in 1994, followed by 11 years teaching at the theological seminary at AIIAS, in the Philippines.'"

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