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GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL!  
This is a letter I hardly know how to begin. Looking at the piles of cards, emails, and letters waiting to be answered, I feel each one is priority and needs to be answered first. That doesn't work, so we will try to get a message to you ASAP. I think by now you are probably thinking you will not even get a reply at all. Well, we are working on it, and I feel ever so slow! But, it is a most enjoyable experience, to look again at the beautiful cards, greetings, and pictures you sent. It brings back so many memories of the times we spent with you—in corners all over the world! We wish we could see you face to face and talk heart to heart and remember the good times we spent together.  
So we will try to give you a little review of what has happened to us during the years since we last saw you. It feels sort of lonesome, at times, when we look back at our lives together for 75 years, actually 77 years since we met at PUC. It has been a wonderful experience and along the way we found such great people who became part of our lives and added so much joy and fun. And now, many are no longer with us and they are all dearly missed. Each leaves an empty spot, but we are so glad we had the times together with each of them and each of you. The many who remembered us and sent greetings for our 1 anniversary just made everything beautiful. So right off, we want to express our heartfelt thanks for the many thoughts and greetings we received. There are many, and each one is special.  
We sort of feel we are up on a tower of some kind looking back over a long road and finding again the friends and loved ones we enjoyed so much in all kinds of places. As we read your messages, so many different adventures, experiences, and happy times, and some sad ones, come flooding back. It was almost like looking at a video of our lives. And we thank God for each day HE gives us and that our lives are not over yet!  
We started out when the depression (remember that one—the dirty thirties!?) was in full swing, and our income was a few cents an hour, as it was in the working days at PUC. Things had improved, somewhat, to, well, I don't even remember, maybe 75 cents, or even a dollar an hour! We could get married on that! We did! It was at the little country church on the "Island" not far from Lemoore. We even saved enough to pay, (was it $99.00?) for a Model A Ford coupe with a rumble seat, into which we piled all our earthly belongings and drove away to find a way to make a living at PUC. We found a place to live, and spent $9.00 a month on groceries. We never felt abused, as it was just the joy of living!  
Soon, we took up again, with enthusiasm, the occupation of studying! We each took "normal" classes, which were in preparation for a teaching career.  
After some months, the war that burst on the world scene changed our plans (actually our plans have been changed quite a number of times, but each time brought additional worthwhile experiences). We left school during the war years and had our own dairy for a time, but decided that that was not what we wanted to do for the rest of our lives.  
Finally, the war was over, and Eugene found himself in the classroom, first in Dinuba, and then in Visalia, which were rich years of experience.
By this time we had welcomed two marvelous little boys into our home, David and Leslie. Then a yearning grew in Gene's heart that he should finish his college education and get a degree. So many little things, (but large in their import in our lives) worked out to make that possible. You could just feel the Lord's hand in it: like finding work at PUC as a night watchman; then a job that he felt especially blessed to have, was being reader for the Bible teacher, Elder Hartin. We found a house that we could afford at $11.00 a month. It was one of the original houses that was part of the Angwin Resort. It was a neat place right on the edge of the campus and it became home for several years.

Gene's restless yearning turned to wanting to take the ministerial training, which had been deep in his boyish heart. So, instead of staying with the teaching career, he switched majors, against the counsel of his teachers. They gave him all kinds of reasons not to do it, but he made the switch from an Industrial Arts major, to a Theology major, anyway. And guess what?--his grades, that he was working hard to keep at an acceptable level, all rose to very good. Was the Lord leading--or what? So with his heart set on finishing college and graduating with a Theology degree; working two jobs, (night watch and Bible reader); trying to nurture two little boys and keep a wife happy (no problem there!), he continued. Then he learned that, because of switching majors, he had failed to get the Greek requirements into his program, and here he was in his senior year. No way of graduating with a Theology major and NO Greek! Where do you go from here? So, with the help of Elder Caviness, the Greek specialist, he signed up for Greek 1 with him, and then registered for Greek 2 by correspondence. The plan was to finish them both in time to graduate in the summer class of 1951. Crazy!

Well, if you think you can do it--you probably can!

With encouragement from Elder Quimby, our names were sent to the General Conference as possibilities for overseas assignment. That was the longtime goal for both of us. Before school was out and all the grades could be evaluated, the call came from the General Conference that we were needed in Burma!

Burma?! It couldn't be! That had been Gene's dream ever since attending Foothills School near the St. Helena Sanitarium. There, he had listened to the stories read by his teacher, Lena Butler, about Burma, told by the pioneer missionary, Elder Eric B. Hare. But, you know, dreams are only dreams---they vanish with the summer clouds. But here it was---a letter, tangible, readable, held in his hands asking for a commitment to overseas service! But what about those two years of Greek?

Besides that, Lois had been troubled with a prolapsed kidney since she was in the academy. But she had learned to live with it, by being careful---not too much walking; no vigorous exercise (no more volley ball, baseball, and such things as she had enjoyed all of her youth); spending a couple of hours of bed rest every day, and at the same time finding a way to care for two growing boys. So here was a hurdle to cross. No way could she go to a mission field with its unknown dangers and challenges with this kind of a problem. So with counsel from Dr. Parrot and Dr. Turner, she was soon under Dr. Turner's skillful hand and the offending member was securely tied up in place.

Going to Gene's graduation in the summer of 1951 was the first outing she was able to attend after her hospital stay. Another of the Lord’s leading. She spent the next 42 years in active service. So to Burma we went, a fulfillment of the dreams mentioned above. We could write a book about those 5 years of experiences and the wonderful people, many of whom, are still dear friends today. It was during this time in Burma that Daniel was born, and joined our family. And Vernon, came to join us shortly after returning from Burma, when he was born in Washington, D. C. [Part 1 of 4]

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ II. Update on Sri Lanka's Lakpahana

Merlyn Fernando <merlynfernando@yahoo.com> Oct. 20

The history of Adventists schools in Sri Lanka [Ceylon] began in 1922 in Moratuwa and moved to Kottawa the next year. Two friends, ladies, were the first teachers. One left her teaching at Hillwood College, Kandy, and later became the wife of one of our pioneer preachers.

The Kottawa property was a juvenile reformatory before it was released by the government for our one and only boarding school. Since the school was transferred to Lakpahana that property is a Government orphanage. Both properties hold graves from those pioneer families.

Now Lakpahana is surrounded by orphanages, including one of our own. God has a ministry ready-made for us. GCE AL teenagers from them have joined the teaching and industrial classes. Thanks to the return of Brooke and Pat Sadler to the campus, the bakery is turning out bread up to 100 loaves a day, bananas are enriching the cafeteria tables, new beds and mattresses have brought laughter and willing hands to life, while the campus is becoming a garden again. Praise God!

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III. Letters
1. Raghuthamnan Opeh <docopeh@gmail.com> Oct. 19:

The happy news of Spicer's music dept's concert was made sombre with the mail about Owen Decosta's illness affecting his left lung. I hope that the good Lord will come to the aid of Owen, who used to be the bass singer in the first Spicer Quartet, and bless him.

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IV. Mrs. Joyce Ballantyne Celebrates Her 100th Birthday

Alfred Raju <alfredraju_d@yahoo.co.in> October 20:

Born on the 4th of September, 1913, Mrs. Ballantyne was born into a good Christian home. She completed her teacher training in Madras, and has been a teacher all her life. She was married and had five children. She was baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1952 by Pr. E. L. Sorensen in Vizag. The church wanted her to start a school there but since she had had no experience of running an Adventist school, the plan was abandoned.

She got her first mission call to teach at the Spencer Road School in Bangalore. Here she learnt how to run a school on Adventist lines. After a few years she returned to Vizag, and with God's help, she opened the school in the church's vestry with just seven students and today it has grown into a high school. Again, after five years, the Rice Merchant of Palakol approached the Andhra Section to open a school for them, so her services were lent to them for two years. In 1966 she was given a call to open a school in Vijaywada. It was opened in the church vestry on Bunder Road. Today, this school too has grown by leaps and bounds. She then returned to the U.K. for two years and then returned to India. She worked in Lowry Memorial School; she taught in the school and also was in charge of the Christian Children Fund where she was able to help many poor students.

In 1974 she was transferred to Nuzvid where she worked as a housemother for the nurses in the hospital. She has many happy memories of the girls for whom she cared. Many of them are still in contact with her. While being dean of girls she was asked to teach in the Nuzvid Day School. As teaching was her first love she readily accepted. Soon she opened a branch Sabbath School in a village on the outskirts of Nuzvid, a place called Kandrika. Every week she went there; she could see that all the children in the village were eager to come to Sabbath School but unfortunately they could not attend as the Nuzvid school was too far away for them.

She soon had a bright idea. In November, 1980 she hired a house in Nuzvid from Mrs. Sudarshanam. She went to Kandrika and put all the bigger children into the small hostel so they would be able to get a Christian education in our Nuzvid school. This is how the boarding school started in Nuzvid, and today it too has grown by leaps and bounds. In 1982 she built first church in Kandrika as many of the children and their parents from this village were baptised members. God had blessed the work that she started, and today many, many students are in good positions and are scattered around the world.

She is in good health and still receives letters, cards and phone calls from her students; they are thankful to her for helping them to know the Saviour. She is thankful to God for boundless mercy and matchless love that have been sustaining her and helping her to be able to have a part in bringing many people to His feet.

God has allowed her to see her 100th birthday. She has just got a card from Queen Elizabeth, but it will be a greater reward for her when she goes to heaven and Jesus Himself puts a crown on her head.

[After living and working a normal lifetime in India, Mrs. Ballantyne is now living in the U.K.]

--Pastor Alfred Raju, Assoc Secretary, IFA Div ~~~~~~~~~~ V. Burma Vignettes-- Early Missionaries # 63, # 64 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.

# 63. Eden Smith (Doctor)

Dr. Eden M. Smith arrived Myanmar in August 3, 1949. He was joined the same year by Dr. George E. Richardson. It was the time when Yangon Seventh Day Adventist Hospital had just been opened in December 18, 1947. The hospital was very popular. With his surgical skill, Dr. Smith encountered with the in-patient department of the hospital expanded to full capacity.

# 64. Heath Rowsell (Doctor)

Dr. Heath Rowsell arrived in May 1962. He was the last medical director of the hospital, the one in charge when the hospital was nationalized. Dr. Rowsell's surgical skill was greatly appreciated far and wide.

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VI. Southern Asia Youth Meet in Nepal
Madeline Cardona <info@sayj.org>
South Asia Youth for Jesus (SAYJ) is a youth-led supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
We are excited to see God's hand working during past few months. Our Nepali Youth for Christ (NYC) leaders after months of faithfully planning and working are nearing the commencement of the conference. Many of them have already gone to the site to do the last minute preparations. We would like to acknowledge all their work and partner in praying for them and the attendees.

Hundreds of youth from around Nepal and India will be gathering in South Nepal to receive a blessings and training. God has special plans in stored for this conference as its theme is "Arise and Shine." This special emphasize on evangelism will certainly trouble Satan so let us join in prayer for the Lord to send His Holy Spirit to guide and direct the conference. To our NYC leaders we would like to let you know that the SAYJ family is praying for you!! God promises to guide you all continually.

Blessings,
Madeline Cardona
Executive Secretary, SAYJ
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VII. Remembering When Student Worked Their Way Through
Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com>
Aid and Work Opportunities
An NRI who had the studied in Flaiiz Memorial School visited me earlier this month. He recalled how he was provided funds by the Christian Children’s Fund for his school fees. I remembered that the late Pastor E. S. James once saying the students at Roorkee where he was teaching learnt to repeat "CCF" before they learnt their "ABCs". Thousands of boys and girls over the years in our schools have had their fees paid by some kind-hearted person or some organization as such CCF, World Vision, Asian Aid, ACCA, AC(I) and a variety of allowances by the church itself.

In addition to aid on a child’s fees, students were offered work by the school to help cover the costs of his or her school fees. From the age of ten till I finished three years of college I worked on an average of 20 hours a week leaving Sunday only afternoons for a game of hockey or football. I swept and mopped floors, I cleaned drains, grew and sold garden produce, worked in the kitchen cutting vegetables and in bakery making confectionery, and finally in the treasury office.

Nowadays students have no time to work. Homework keeps them busy. Scoring high marks in competitive examinations so they can get entrance to select colleges keeps them at a level of stress. Parents start putting aside funds as soon a child starts school. Adventist parents need to have a minimum of Rs 2,00,000 for entrance fees in our colleges. Banks, aid organizations and relatives come to the aid of students, giving loans which they pay back once they start earning.

Times are changing. Graduates of Nursing Schools will recall the days when entrance requirements were final year high school examinations were attempted but not necessarily passed and no fees were charged. Nowadays para-medical and nursing degrees carry a premium with the corporate sector entering the Health-care industry. A Degree in Computer Engineering with English Language skills gives access to the many IT companies. These companies located in the two-tier cities, in addition to the metro areas, are attracting young people with job opportunities. Programme as” mission to the cities" opens up immense possibilities. Spicer College needs to be ready "with such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!." (Education 271) ~~~~~~~~~~ To remove your name from the mailing list of this newsletter, simply reply to this e-mail and put "REMOVE" in the Subject line.

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BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS
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