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I. Remembering Dr. Yvonne Stockhausen Bazliel
   1. Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> Dec. 10:
      Dr. Yvonne Stockhausen-Bazliel passed away yesterday. I was stunned into silence when my wife told me that Gordon had called from Delhi and informed her that he had gone to Simla for her funeral. Only her husband Gulraiz knows of the tears they shed silently and cheerfully throughout the years.
      There were brighter years early on when she arrived in Rangoon (Yangon, Myanmar) from Jamaica as a young obstetrician, painstakingly skilled and popular. And then on to 91 Depot Lines, Karachi, Pakistan where her fame preceded her. She was a lovable person, so kind and compassionate.
      Another chapter in her life: She met her "Knight in Shining Armour" at the Simla Sanatorium. Our family will never forget that day. Frances Campbell baked the cake, Birol and Gordie iced it. The iced wedding cake was kept in Nora Guild's guest room for the night. The Drs. I. R. and Sarah Bazliel were present when Yvonne marched down the chapel aisle in her flowing wedding gown on the arm of A. J. Johnson; there were nods of admiration and approval. Maggie Kurian-Christo was the bridesmaid, Birol sang "The Wedding Prayer". I was privileged to conduct the wedding service. We borrowed the Rev. Marks from the Methodist Church who had a marriage license. God knew that her husband must be a strong man. His Samson-like strength would not only carry his wife over the thresh hold of their first home but in Gulu’s arms she often would find refuge in the years of her illness and suffering. Gulraiz, may our Heavenly Father be your comfort and strength.
      Yvonne, we’ll see you on the resurrection morn.

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2. John M. Fowler <FowlerJ@gc.adventist.org> Dec. 11:
   I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing away of Yvonne Bazliel, and would like to pass on my condolences and prayers to Gulu and the grieving family. In the health care ministry of the church in Southern Asia Division, Yvonne is a tall and mighty figure--who stood as strong as steel and soft as velvet wherever she ministered--be in Rangoon, Karachi, Delhi, or Simla. I first came in contact with her through mail while she ministered in our hospital in Karachi. I was then at the Oriental Watchman Publishing House as an editor, and one of my early responsibilities was to revise and publish a classic in child care: ALL ABOUT THE BABY. Although the book was written several years earlier, Dr. Yvonne undertook the task and brought it up to date, while carrying on her duties in Karachi. The book was a best seller for many years. More than the freshness of English prose she brought to the book, she made it authentic, accurate, and reliable in childcare. That book along with another one (Health and Longevity) were the bread and butter of many colporteurs those days.
Yvonne was also an excellent Sabbath school teacher, and whenever possible I chose to attend her classes, and she was able to turn every lesson into an intensive focus on our Savior’s love. She talked, walked, shared, and lived that love. Her husband Gulu and others in the family, and then the extended family of the faith community were the recipients of her grace and love. Hers was a life well lived: in hope, in love, and in grace.

3. Peter Mundu <peter.mundi@yahoo.com.au> Dec. 12;
   The Compassionate Dr. Mrs. Yvonne S. Bazliel
   We are very much saddened to know that Dr. Mrs. Yvonne S. Bazliel is no more in this world but resting in the Lord for the last trumpet call of our Lord and Savior at His glorious second coming. Once I had told her that I had tumour on my back. She immediately sent me rupees two hundred to investigate whether it is malignant or non-malignant.
   Our two daughters Phyllis and Preeta were getting married in the Adventist Center, 11 Hailey Road, New Delhi and both Dr. and Mrs. Bazliel took charge of the wedding and they made sure it went through well and smoothly. Such compassionate and helpful people could never be forgotten in Life.
   We pray for Dr. G. R. Bazliel that the merciful Lord will send His Comforter according to His promise and comfort him in these trying days of grieving.
   --Peter & Procena Mundu

4. LoRita Erickson <hde24@msn.com> Dec. 12:
   We would like to send our condolences to Dr. Bazliel and family. Yvonne was one strong lady. and though it is painful, yet I would hate to have her suffer more. God used her and she was special. May God be with you.
   --Harold and LoRita Erickson

5. Ronald Laloo <ronald.laloo@gmail.com> Dec. 13:
   It is with great sadness to know of the passing away of Dr. Yvonne Bazliel. She was a friend I will always cherish. A pillar of strength every time I think of her. I did work with her when she was in Hailey Road. She was always an encouragement to me and to many others. In spite of her infirmities she never failed to inspire and encourage others with kind words and instruction. God surely blessed her and her work here in this country. A dedicated doctor as well as a wonderful storyteller. She survived against all odds and has always been my inspiration when I pass through hard times.
   I will always remember her as long as I live. May God be with her husband Dr. Gulraiz Bazliel and comfort the family in their sorrow.

II. Life Sketch of Dr. Yvonne Stockhausen Bazliel
   Gordon Christo <drongo.ostrich@gmail.com> Dec. 12:
   Barbara Yvonne was born on Sept. 2, 1929 to Violet and Allen Stockhausen in Kingston, Jamaica. She finished her high school at St. Andrew and earned her degree in medicine from the University of Birmingham in England in 1954.
   Yvonne, as she was known, entered denominational service as a staff physician in 1955 in the Rangoon Adventist Hospital, and worked there till all hospitals were taken over by the government in 1963. She returned to Southern Asia to work in the Karachi Adventist Hospital in Pakistan from 1967 to 1973, when she was called to work in the Simla Sanitarium & Hospital. She was appointed Medical Director of the Sanitarium in 1974.
   That year she and Gulraiz Bazliel were married in New Delhi and together they served in Simla till Yvonne was incapacitated for a while due to a tumour in the brain that was misdiagnosed first but then correctly diagnosed and treated in the Far East. She recovered to continue working, and even after retirement authored several story books for children.
   She left a note in her Bible which reads as follows: "Soon I will leave this life which was filled with so much love and so many wonderful moments.
   . . . family; friends; work that I loved; unbelievable adventures; travel; the glory of nature. I have known moments of perfect health and times of utter incapacity. I did all I wanted to do and more. I knew devoted love, and the support of Divine affection. Could I ask for more? It would be nice to stay longer . . . but I go with no regrets."
   The funeral was held in the Sanitarium chapel and Yvonne was buried in the Christian cemetery about fifteen km away under pine trees on the top of a hill overlooking the hills of Shimla which Yvonne loved so well.
Gordon adds: I happened to be in Delhi when Gullu informed us that Yvonne had passed away, and I accompanied Pastor Ezras Lakra, Northern Union president, and Dr. Attar Singh, Union treasurer, in the Union Toyota Innova to motor to Shimla that afternoon. We left at about 3:30 with plans to hotel in Chandigarh, but with 4-lane highways helping us make quick time we decided to proceed to Shimla and reached the hill station at about 11:00 p.m. Even after Kalka we enjoyed newly laid 4-lane highways that save us an hour or two. We missed the bypass around Solan, but at that time of the night there was no traffic. For one who had never driven in the hills before (though he claimed he had once climbed a hill in Ranchi on foot), our driver did admirably well. He was accommodated in the Sanitarium but couldn't sleep much due to the extreme December Simla weather. He managed to drive the next day all the way back but stopped in Kalka to fiddle with his left ear. We asked why he stopped the car, and he informed us he couldn't hear well as something was blocking his ears. We stopped at Zhilmil Dhaba after Ambala for some hot tandoori rotis, Punjabi dahl and mixed veg curry. We reached home about 11 p.m tired but satisfied.

Poetic Message written in Dr. Yvonne's Bible for her husband:

When I come to the end of the road, and the sun has set for me,
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room; why cry for a soul set free?
Miss me a little, but not too long, and not with your head bowed low;
Remember the love we once shared. Miss me, but, let me go.

For this is a journey we all must take; and each must go alone.
It's all a part of the Master's plan, a step on the road to home.
When you are lonely, and sick at heart, go to the friends we know;
And bury your sorrow in doing good deeds. Miss me, but let me go.

-- printed in the Funeral Service Bulletin ~~~~~~~~~~~

III Remembering Gnani's Singing

Margaret Solomon <solomon.margaret7@gmail.com>

Of course Gnani Prasad's singing with her sweet and melodious voice stands out as number one in my memory also! On Friday evenings she would sit at the piano in the parlor in the hostel and play different songs with her heart-touching, compelling voice. That used to lift my spirit. She sang with a unique style. Some of the songs associated with Gnani were already mentioned but one song that stands out for me is "Are you ready for Jesus to come?" She used to sing that song after the last sermon of the weeks of prayer we used to have. When she sang that song with her high pitch voice and sustained it for a few seconds she touched many hearts by bringing the reality of the coming of Jesus to our hearts. Once she asked me to sing with her with my strong alto voice and we both gave a special one Sabbath. I felt unworthy to sing with her.

After her stroke my husband and I visited her twice in the nursing home in Kalamazoo. She was able to speak simple sentences and answer "yes" or "no" questions. She would smile and said she was happy to see us. She called us by our names.

Kenny and Juanita were so precious to her and she used to be very proud of them. I just can't imagine the depth of loss Y. J., Kenny, Juanita, her grand children and siblings feel. It is my prayer that the Blessed Hope in Jesus will sustain them. It is the joy of knowing that we will hear Gnani's melodious singing in the "Sweet By and By" keeps me going!

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IV. Spicer Family Worships in the Old Auditorium Again

Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com>

It was a nostalgic moment for the Spicer family, especially for the old timers, when because of the painting work going on in the House of Worship, the last weekend services were held back in the old Auditorium after a gap of 7 years and 8 months (with many language groups meeting elsewhere to ease the congestion). Many people sat just where they used to sit in the former days and were reminiscing the bygone era. The preachers, Mr. Vanaltiluanga Khuma on Friday and Dr. Noble Pilli on Saturday, recalled some interesting events, before they delivered their sermons, and even remarked that perhaps every seventh year they should have at least one week-end service in this old place just to remember their origins before moving into the grand spacious edifice. Mr. T. I. Abraham, who was on the stage to offer the pastoral prayer later walked down to sit with his family under the balcony to re-live the old memories, perhaps. Sitting more or less where I used to sit those days, I too recollected exactly where Dr. Cherian used to sit, Dr.
N. O. Mathews used to stand and Drs. George and Gordon Jenson lead the choirs during their time, not forgetting various other events like graduations, weddings, etc. including an amusing anecdote when someone plugged the church prop "Mother with Baby" and "Visitors" on the bench where Mr. Emile John was once sitting with his visiting septuagenarian mother during the divine service and Pastor Franklin Samraj sitting just behind them showing this to everyone sitting in his row.

It sure is nice to come back to old place sometimes, if only to reflect on the way God has led us through the years. On further reflection, could this perhaps be the plausible reason why God wanted the children of Israel to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles even after reaching Canaan in the days of yore and expects His people to return to their home on the earth made new after spending a millennium with Him in His heavenly home? ~~~~~~ V. Raj Attiken Authors Important Monograph

Raj Attiken, who will retire at the end of the year as president of the Ohio Conference, recently wrote the monograph, "Refreshed: A New Paradigm for Church Leadership". For more than 10 years, Attiken and his team have practiced the principles outlined in the monograph with "intended outcomes and unintended consequences," he says. He put pen to paper at the urging of fellow leaders in North America who noticed those results.

Question: What has kept you involved in Adventist ministry for 40 years?
Answer: The abundant grace of God! God kept opening doors into futures that I could not have orchestrated or imagined. I have enjoyed the freedom of learning and growing and the privilege of exercising ministry in creative ways.

Q: Tell us about this new leadership paradigm.
A: We believe that people and organizations thrive and flourish when they are in environments of love, trust and freedom. People rise to their highest levels of service, productivity and performance in environments that support creativity, innovation, risk-taking and have a high threshold for failure. The dominant model of leadership in the church requires that people be good followers-able to take orders, follow instructions and implement the programs and campaigns launched by the denomination. The model we foster requires that people be leaders who are able to discern and discover what God wants them to be and become in their unique contexts, and pursue it with integrity.

Q: What inspired you and your team to take a new approach to leadership in the Adventist Church?
A: We recognized that the church has not adapted its leadership and organizational paradigms to the rapid pace of evolving needs and opportunities. The church has, in fact, been left far behind by change. Our leadership models have been locked up for decades. We also discovered the relevance for our time of the principles by which God governs the universe.

We wanted to explore what it might look like if we modeled our leadership after these principles.

Q: Does this sort of leadership style really work?
A: Along with the change in paradigm, we also established a new set of metrics to assess progress and success. (We list these in the book!) One of these metrics is whether we are hearing an increasing number of stories of lives transformed by the power of the gospel. We hear these stories in churches across the conference.

Q: Who is this monograph written for?
A: It was written for current and future leaders who may wish to examine a paradigm of leadership that is different than what is commonly seen within the Adventist Church.

The book, which has been translated into Japanese and will also be translated into Russian, can be found at the Center for Creative Ministries.

--from the Colombia Union Conference Bulletin ~~~~~~~ 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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