I. A History of the Surat Hospital
II. Death of Dr. Sadanand Rao Samuel
III. SUD Hosts ARM’s International Risk Management Conference in Pune IV. All Asian Potluck (7th Annual FED Reunion Potluck) ~~~~~~~~~ I. A History of the Surat Hospital

Dr. M. S. Jeremiah <jeremiahms@rediffmail.com> Feb. 11:

Adventism planted its roots in Surat almost a century ago through the pioneering missionary work of Pr. O. W. Lange, an American missionary whose zeal and passion for spreading Adventist work was exemplary. He was posted in Surat during the year 1920. He, along with his wife and two daughters, reached Surat by mid-June of the same year.

Pastor Lange commuted between Nanpura, where he resided, to Udhna Village every day. He purchased a plot of land from the Maharaja of Baroda close to Baroda Ryan Corporation. In the midst of stiff opposition from various corners, Pr. Lange established a dispensary near Udhna Station.

During those years, only Indian Pentecostal Mission was doing some work in nearby area.

With the help of a medical practitioner Dr. Dinshaw, a Parsi gentleman of no mean repute, Pr. Lange set up a health care centre in Udhna in 1923.

Later Pr. Lange convinced Dr. Dinshaw to join the Adventist fold making him amongst the first converts to the Adventist Church in the Surat region.

Coupled with Pr. Lange's work and his genial nature the local populace would attend his prayer meetings as well as take medical treatment at the dispensary. He effortlessly managed to combine his evangelical work with his medical work, a seamless amalgamation of the medical and evangelical ministries. His work was further abetted by the arrival of Pr. R. A. Smithwick, a missionary, who took up evangelical activities as well as medical work.

The united efforts of these missionary zealots and their daring to go forth, with vision and dream has generated a wave of interest amongst the local people and they were willing participants in the activities of the Adventist Church conducted by Pr. Lange, Pr. Smithwick and the team that they had managed to group together. What started as a small trickle soon became a stream with many men, women and children joining the Adventist fold and embracing the Christian faith.

Pr. Lange had to leave Surat in 1925. Dr. Dinshaw along with Pr. R A. Smithwick continued the healing ministry through the Udhna Dispensary until the arrival of Dr. George Nelson.

In 1936, the Southern Asia Division decided to send Dr. George Nelson, a doctor with 10 years of proven ability and a great track record and a volume of exceptional work at the Bobbili Mission Hospital in Andhra, to Surat in order to expand the medical work here. Dr. Nelson along with his wife and two daughters moved to Surat in 1936. This able doctor, thanks to his wide experience, began work in August 1936 and continued to operate the dispensary at Udhna on the station road. For ease of commuting and to save time, he shifted from the Malabar House in Dutch Garden to Lal Imlee which derived its name from the many tamarind trees that abounded in the area - 'Lal Imlee' which means Red Tamarind.

Dr. George Nelson's prowess and ability to heal and his willingness to treat all patients and show them the same care and respect, irrespective of their caste, creed or status soon saw the clinic becoming extremely popular not only with the locals but attracted patients from even nearby villages.

Unable to cope with the rush, Dr. Nelson rented a spacious bungalow in Timaliyawad, near where the current Gandhi Smurti Bhuvan stands today.

He also summoned some of his staff from the Bobbili Mission Hospital in Andhra to join him in his work and subsequently, Mr. & Mrs. Devadas Jacob and Mrs. T. John joined him in Surat. He also enlisted the services of many local
people, prime amongst them Mrs. M. Solanki, Mr. Chadulal Vaniawala, Mr. Harkishan Das, Mr. Lakdawala, Dr. Dinshaw and Dr. Noman Maskati. Later on Mr. Chhotubhai Rathod, E. T. Thomas, Mr. Arlic, Mr. E. Solanki, Mr. Premjibhai Rathod, Mr. Mathew Kurian, Mr. Abraham Chaudhari and Mr. James Parmar, whose two sons, Mr. Pramtesh Parmar and Mr. Pankaj Parmar, went on to serve the church with considerable distinction.

The Adventist health ministry has a long heritage of outstanding nurses and it would not be wrong to say that the hardworking and dedicated nurses like Sr. Reslama, Sr. Kandamma, Sr. Anamma, Sr. Mary Matthew, Sr. Salomi, Sr. Dinabhai Solanki, pioneered the trend during Dr. Nelson's time.

God blessed the hospital and the work of all these able individuals bore fruit and soon even this bungalow was unable to meet the rush. The local people petitioned the Adventist church to start a full-fledged hospital and promised their monetary and other support if the Southern Asia Division and the Adventist Church accepted their proposal.

Money flowed in from the Southern Asia Division headquarters, along with local contributors such as Karva Trust, Bham Trust and Nakuda Trust. Other philanthropic individuals also contributed their mite to further add to their kitty. Buoyed by the faith and love of the local people, Dr. George Nelson, along with Pr. E. D. Thomas, a practicing attorney and a legal advisor to the Southern Asia Division, negotiated a land deal along with the Western Ibdia Union officers for the purchase of ten acres of land in Athwa Village from two doctors, Dr. K T Gajjar and Dr. Gajjar, who in course of their professional careers knew Dr. Nelson and the work he and his team were doing. After the land was purchased, the hospital was moved from Udhna to its present location.

It is worth recollecting that the two Gajjar brothers were so impressed and overwhelmed by the work that Dr. Nelson agreed to sell the land. The acquisition of this prime property which laid the basis for the Adventist Church in this region can only be attributed to it being God's plan that He gave us this land and a with it a hope for the future. A small hospital with 20 bed capacity was built on the present campus site.

The hospital was inaugurated by the town's Sessions Court judge the Honourable D. V. Vyas on the 19th of January 1942 - and thus was born the Metas Adventist Hospital that has today metamorphosed into a multi-specialty 300-bedded hospital, offering intricate surgeries, trauma care and boasts of international class facilities and the services of more than 200 specialists and super-specialists, trained nurses and a host of medical technicians and staff available to citizens 24/7.

From humble beginnings it has truly traversed a long distance. The 300 beds in the hospital consist of VIP rooms, Super Deluxe, Deluxe, twin sharing and private economy rooms and general wards. We have extensive tie-ups with Medical Insurance Organizations and Corporates to provide cashless facility to the patients. Today the hospital has multiple operation theatres with laminar flow and are on par with the best anywhere in India.

Diagnostic services are offered around the clock, throughout the year, and along with routine procedures we also offer digital x-rays, mammography, 3D & 4D Sonography, Stress Tests, 2D Echo, Colour Doppler and Multi Slice CT Scan. Our Cardiac department offers Coronary Angiogram, Cardiac Catheterization, Coronary Angioplasty with Stenting, Bypass Surgery, Adult and Paediatric and Open Heart Surgery.

In addition to the hospital, there is also a school with 8000 students and college that offers Management, Commerce and Health Programmes on the same campus.

Attached please find the list of Medical Directors, Business Managers and Administrators.

Readers, kindly correct any dates and send me any other information that you have with you. If you have some photographs (single or group pictures), kindly send to us. We are ever grateful to you for your help in this regard.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. M. S. Jeremiah
President

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Medical Directors:
1. Pr. Lang 1920 - 1925 (Commenced Medical work at Udhna)
2. Pr. Smithwick & Dr. Dinshaw 1925 - 1936 (at Udhna)
3. Dr. G. A. Nelson 1936 - 1942
4. Dr. I. S. Walker 1942
5. Dr. J. C. Johannes 1942 - 1945
6. Dr. T. R. Flaiz 1945 - 1946
7. Dr. A. E. Coyne 1946 - 1947
8. Dr. N. A. Buxton 1947 - 1951  
9. Dr. R. H. Dunn 1951 - 1953  
10. Dr. D. W. Smith 1953 - 1956  
11. Dr. J. C. Johannes 1956 - 1957  
12. Dr. O. B. Hauser 1957 - 1965  
13. Dr. P. M. Miller 1965 - 1966  
14. Dr. Moses Das 1967  
15. Dr. Richard Nelson 1968 June to 1971 June  
16. Dr. William Borge 1971 June to 1973 June  
17. Dr. Grant White 1973 June - 1974 July  
18. Dr. Susan Moses 1974 July to 1975 July  
19. Dr. Mohan Chandrashekar 1975 July - 1983  
22. Dr. Paul Frncis 1994 April - Jan 1998  
24. Dr. Sujay Chauhan 1999 July - 2000 June  
26. Dr. Mohan Chandrashekhar (Exe. VP)2001 July - 2007

Manager:  
1. Pr. Sauther 1946 - 1951  
2. Pr. Amrutam 1951 - 1952  
3. Mrs. & Pr. Ishverao 1952 - 1955  
4. Mr. S. M. Moses 1955 - 1966  
5. Mr. Amrutam 1966 June (6 months as Administrator)  
7. Mr. Albert Miller 1969 Feb. to Dec. 1972  
8. Mr. I. D. Solomon July 1972 - 1973  
10. Mr. Sable 1975 - 1977  
11. Mr. Kamble 1977 - 1981  
12. Mr. Madhu Samuel 1981 - 1985  
13. Mr. Robert Kan 1986 to till the end of the year.  
15. Mr. Pramthesh Parmar 1991 - Acting Manager  
17. Mr. Pramthesh Parmar 1997 - December End (Acting)  
19. Mr. Pramthesh Parmar 2001 (3 months Acting)  
20. Dr. M. S. Jeremiah 2001 to date

II. Death of Dr. Sadanand Rao Samuel  
   Susan Moser <susanmoser@hotmail.com> Feb, 12:  
   Dr. Rao passed away at Telford, England on Feb.10 after a short illness.  
It was a peaceful end with his family by his bedside. He is the son of Pastor and Mrs. Anandam, pioneer worker in Andhra. He studied at CMC, Vellore. After completion he worked with the leprosy mission hospital for some years. He then proceeded to the UK. He is survived by his wife, two sons and two grandchildren. He was a strong supporter of his local church at Telford in England.

III. SUD Hosts ARM's International Risk Management Conference in Pune  
   Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> Feb. 14:
The Southern Asia Division of Seventh-day Adventists had a splash of glory and a streak of grandeur when the top brass of Adventist Risk Management (ARM) at General Conference (GC) had organized an International Risk Management Conference at a 5-star J W Mariott Hotel in Pune, not very far from Spicer Memorial College, February 10-12, 2014. The actual exercise started about six months earlier when Caleb and Joshua of ARM, Dr. Bill Chunestudy and Gideon Dayak, toyed with the idea of choosing India as the venue and explored the possibilities. Finally they stumbled upon Pune Mariott with a nudge and nod from Spicer’s Dr. Justus Devadas, were quite satisfied with the venue, and carried the good tidings to their boss at GC, Dr. Bob Kyte, who approved the venue though with a bit of trepidation about conducting these prestigious conferences in a third world country, but was greatly relieved and visibly overjoyed at the successful and grand completion of the conference.

Over 200 delegates hailing from all the thirteen divisions of GC including a few from Spicer participated in this grand conference with some being exposed for the first time in their life to this luxurious ambiance, valuable lectures from experienced resource personnel from all around the globe and rich spread of delicious food for three days. The conference started with the registration and general welcome session in the Grand Ballroom with two guards in their colourful traditional attire serenading the participants in through the main door with their long curved brass horns (pipes). One should see the flurry and excitement of the participants trying to take photos sandwiched between these pipers to gauge the up beat mood of the conference. After the welcome of the ARM officials with bouquets of flowers and shawls and distribution of souvenirs (a pair of brass maroon peacocks, etc) to all the delegates by the SUD leaders, Pastors R. John, Robert Clive and Lee Roy Samuel, the two MCs Immanuel Paul and A. S. Varekan (Spicer’s version of Laurel and Hardy) took over and after a warm welcome by Dr. Justus Devadas and the vice presidents, a welcome dance by the students from Spicer High School, and the two songs with seemingly contrast titles "Let There Be Peace" and "Make A Joyful Noise" rendered by the Spicer College Choir, the first session was taken up by Pastor Marlon Lopes on 'Christian Leadership I - Professional Career or Ministry Call'.


On February 11, all the delegates donning the blue-white T-shirts with the Spicer College logo embroidered on them, were invited to Spicer College in the afternoon and were treated to a thunderous 'Dol Tasha' (Drum beats, whose sound seemed a tad too loud and monotonous for some sensitive ears) by the local Maharashtrian students, and a princely welcome to the world leaders with the Spicer administrators honouring them with 'Peshwa-topi-stole' and shawls around the Fountain Circle in front of the Ad Building. Later a video on Spicer College was projected in the main auditorium, followed by a guided tour of the campus offered by faculty and students of Spicer attired in their regional costumes and finally the visit ended with a banquet on the president’s lawn where sumptuous Indian, Chinese and Continental cuisine was spread by popular city caterers to suit the gustatory diversity of the international clientele.

On the final day, after the closing ceremony of the main conference, Spicer College MCs and students once again enthralled the delegates in the Marriott Ballroom with very much applauded and appreciated cultural programme which included high-quality dances, songs and mime based on the Michael Jackson’s hit song 'We Are the World'. The curtain finally came down on this grand conference with everyone, though a bit nostalgic, enjoying the last supper provided by the Mariott Hotel. Surely, SUD had a rare taste of grandeur of hosting an international conference!

IV. All Asian Potluck (7th Annual FED Reunion Potluck)
Carol Reynolds <carol.byron@gmail.com> Feb. 12:
The 7th Annual Far Eastern Division Reunion Potluck will meet Sabbath, March 1, 2014 at 1:00 pm, Ooltewah, Tenn. SDA Church fellowship hall.
Inviting all past, present, and future Asian missionaries, student missionaries, missionary kids, volunteers, Asian nationals, and anyone interested in God's work in Asia. Please bring generous portions of your favorite Asian foods. If
you would like to share a report of current or past missionary work in Asia or for more information, call (423) 987-3936 or e-mail <adventistrefugeeministry@gmail.com>

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Forget vote: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=0aLrAEomH&m=ca3cc126f26f&c=f

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END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS