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Late Sending Explained:
Due to difficulty with my e-mail server this month-old newsletter is being sent. Pray that the difficulty may be solved.
Items X and XI are current news items.

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I. Meet Spicer’s President, Discuss Centennial
Info@saaa.org <Info@saaa.org> March 17:
Dr. Justus Devadas, President of Spicer Memorial College invites all Spicer alumni and friends for a meeting. He wants to discuss Spicer’s Centennial, for a celebration in September/October 2014. The meeting will be held on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at 4:30 PM, at the SASDAC Board Room of the SDA Church at 2001 East Randolph Road, Silver Spring, MD ~~~~~~~~~

II. Remembering Them
   1. The Shindes
Sudhaker Borge <sudaborge@verizon.net> March 17:
I was greatly shocked and devastated on hearing the sad news about the passing away of both Pastor & Mrs. S. B. Shinde. How can I forget that smiling face, always ready to help -- be it a last moment to preach or other assignment to fill a vacancy when need be. SURELY A GREAT GIANT HAS FALLEN -- but not for too long. I believe "our last day on earth is our first day in heaven". What a cherishing thought. "Oh death, where is thy sting; Oh grave, where is thy Victory." When we all get to heaven what a great day of rejoicing that will be when we all see Jesus we will shout and sing the victory -- It is not only Maharashtra's loss but the whole Southern Asia Division. Please remember the family in your prayers.

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Rose Muthiah Davy <davyp@bellsouth.net> March 21:
I am sorry to hear about the passing away of Pastor and Mrs. Shinde whom I have known since the time I was a little girl growing up in India. Many pioneers have gone to their rest. My condolences to all their children and other family members.

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2. Josephine Francis
Johnson S. Christian <JSCFRUIT@aol.com> March 19:
The passing away of Josephine Francis was a shock to me and my wife Jessie. We have known her for several years. She was such a fine godly person, always cheerful and loving to everybody. We spoke to her just a few weeks before she passed away and we cannot believe that she would be gone so soon.
Her father, Mr. P. A. Dass, and my father worked together for over forty year at the Oriental Publishing House. We loved the family very much. I took classes with her at Spicer College when we were taking classes for elementary teaching courses.

She worked in India and the United States in several places, teaching in our schools. She was an excellent teacher. Her husband, Thomas Francis, was also a teacher and principal of schools in India and in the United States. They both were a great blessing to our educational institutions.

Josephine always encouraged with loving kindness and words to fear God and give glory for the blessings we have been given by the Almighty. What a marvelous person; we will especially miss her. She encouraged my wife often as she was sick at the same time as she was.

Our deepest sympathy to her dear husband, her children, grandchildren, relatives and friends. Let us all be ready to meet our Lord when our days on this earth will end.

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III. SUDites to Fellowship in Loma Linda Area

Devadas Moses <devadas909@gmail.com> March 18:

The Friends of Southern Asian Adventist Fellowship (FSAAF) will hold its next meeting on Sabbath, March 29, 2014 at the chapel at 944 Via Lata, Colton, CA 92324. The program includes the Sabbath School at 10:00 am, a mission report at 10:50 am by Pastor Sadler, the president of Lakpahan Junior College, Sri Lanka, and the divine service at 11:25 am by Dr. Jacob Prakasam, the president of Lowry Memorial College, Krishnarajapuram, India. A heart-healthy vegetarian pot-luck will follow at 1:00 pm. The alumni of Lakpahan and Lowry Colleges may plan to take advantage of the afternoon and evening to spend more time in discussions with their respective presidents.

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IV. Report of Chadalawada Indian Ministry

--from the PRIA Ministry of Love, February issue

"It has been almost 19 years since we began our ministry in Tanuku, India to reach our relatives there for Christ. In 1995, only a few young people were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Though they did not know fully all the doctrines of the Church, they faithfully shared with their neighbors the message they had received. On Friday nights and Saturdays, they invited young people to their home and conducted lively song services and prayer meetings. Many neighbors came and joined in singing and praising God.

"Mr. and Mrs. Bulibabu and Tekka Chadalawada were main leaders of this group. They are now in charge of the PRIA Ministry in India. With the Lord's blessing and their dedication, we are able to run a successful Christian school, and have a Widow's Ministry, and Lay Ministry.

"From humble beginnings, PRIA Ministry has grown in Tanuku and its surrounding villages. God has blessed us with His presence and has provided godly man and women who support the Chadalawada School, Widows' Ministry and the Lay Ministry. These ministries are instruments to win souls for Christ and His kingdom. THANK YOU."

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V. One-Day Church Withstands India Cyclone

-- from Maranatha's current "The Volunteer"

"When a severe cyclone struck the state of Odisha, India, in October, tens of thousands of homes and structures were destroyed. After the storm, Maranatha's team checked the One-Day Churches built in Odisha. Tracking debris from the aftermath of the cyclone, team members reached the church in Gopalpur. Toppled trees were stacked around the building, torn from the ground by the 155 miles per hour winds. But the church was still standing with no damage."

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VI. Death of Azeb Andom Gemechu

Wesley James <wjames231@msn.com> March 19:

It is with deep sadness that I announce the passing away of Azeb Gemechu, early this afternoon, Wednesday, March 19, in Riverside, California. Services are pending. We will miss her, but look forward to meeting her again on the resurrection morning. Please remember her husband, Dr. Fred Gemechu, and the two daughters in your prayers. They can be reached at: 909-816-1625 or 909-816-4380 or <fekedeg@gmail.com>

[Many will remember Azeb, daughter of an Ethiopian diplomat who was a friend of Adventists. Azeb first attended Vincent Hill School and later Spicer College where she was a dorm resident. Once when she came back from a visit to her home in Ethiopia and her father who was then posted in Egypt, I was asked to meet her plane in Bombay and drive her
up to Spicer; she was thrilled to tell of how he had been so eager to show her off to all his diplomatic friends at social gatherings. -- CHT, Sr.]

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Remembering Azeb

Rose Muthiah Davy, March 21:

I am shedding tears after hearing that our beloved friend/sister/class-mate Azeb Andom Gamechu has gone to her rest. I can scroll back my memory’s pages to the time we first knew Azeb at the small Spencer Road middle school[boarding school]in Bangalore. Later we were together at Spicer high school[boarding school]. We parted for a while when I went to nursing school. God brought us back together however in the USA. I count this as one of my MANY miracles. I had the privilege of meeting her in California and also talking on the phone. Her life has touched MANY and I found her to be a very interesting person. I have so many memories of our dear Azeb. Some of us did have the privilege of seeing her father Mr. Andom who was an Ambassador in Ethiopia. He visited her at Spicer. She was never proud but down to earth as we all know. We will miss her for a while here on earth but will rejoice to see our dear friend when Jesus comes to take us home. Rest in peace till then, my dear friend.

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VII. Stanborough School Pupils Teach in Indian Orphanage

from BUC News Edition #870 (21 March 2014)

A team of eight Stanborough School students, staff and two parents, have just returned from a two week teaching assignment at the BESSO Nursery and Primary School, India. The institution has 62 orphan pupils and was started by a young couple, Mr. and Mrs. Ganesh.

The five Year 10 pupils together with their teachers had been planning and preparing for this trip since the previous September. The preparation included raising funds by participating in a 24 hour sponsored badminton event, carol singing in the local supermarket, surviving vaccinations, shopping for the orphans, lesson preparation and the packing.

The Stanborough pupils each chose the year group they wished to teach, Nathan Year 1, Eve Year 2, Paul Year 3, Christopher Year 4 and Azeb Year 5.

They had taken resources from England, prepared the lessons in the evenings and like seasoned teachers delivered a whole day's lessons to the orphans.

Each day began at 9 am worshipping with the children. The timetable for each day during the two weeks was nine periods of 40 minutes each with breaks for lunch and play. This went on for two weeks. Each day the visiting teachers became more innovative and creative than the day before.

What was particularly encouraging to watch was the bond they formed with the orphan children. On the first day they made name tags which speeded up the bonding and within two days they were scooping up the children in their arms and playing with them during any break in teaching. As the days past the visiting teachers became more and more involved in the teaching and in the welfare of the orphans. Even when on a sightseeing trip they seemed to be consumed with buying specific gifts for each child in their class. These Year 10 pupils turned out to become devoted teachers to their cohorts even if it was just for a short time.

How did it affect those on the trip? Paul commented that he "gained a better appreciation of basic things like clean water, food, a roof over my head" and a "general appreciation of how much God has blessed me." Eva said that "this trip to the beautiful country of India has been the most life changing experience I have ever had. I gained a pure joy which only God can give through the cheerful eyes of the young orphans. I also learnt to appreciate small blessings and unseen ones, for life and breath and everything and everyone I take for granted."

Christopher added, "I have gained an appreciation for teachers, a new viewpoint on life and I have made some great new friends. I have gained a better appetite and I am now less picky with what I eat." Azeb reflected, "I have recognised how lucky I am. As friends we've all grown closer and learned a little more about each other. I learnt a lot about myself. I gained an appreciation for teachers." Nathan learned how to deal with spicy food, how to be organised and how to be a teacher. He also said he gained weight.

Some of the students did not want to return home but having joined their families back in cold, wet England, they have learnt lessons and values that will last them for life.

[Kish Poddar]

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VIII. Pastor V. Raju in Hospital

Rose Muthiah Davy, March 21
Please pray for my Uncle Pastor V. Raju who is over age 90 and back in the hospital in Bangalore. My aunty, Mrs. Rosemary Raju, is second of twelve children and my mother, Grace Muthiah, who is resting in Jesus, was first. Please pray that God will give the family strength as we know through experience how difficult it is when a family member is ill. Prayer has power. May God help each one of us as we bear our crosses today and in the days to come. Even so, come Lord Jesus, quickly come.

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X. Death of Pastor Iqbal Zahid

Joseph Zahid <josuna4@gmail.com> April 20:

Pastor Iqbal Zahid passed away at the age of 93 on April 17. A son of Ali Masih, he was born on April 2, 1921.

He went to PASC (Chuharkan) at the age of 13 and completed his Class 6 there. Then he went to Roorkee, India to complete high school and the teacher-pastor course. Returning to PACS he taught there for about five years and then he taught in Guriranwala City for another year. Going then into pastoral work he served in several villages in Guiranwala and Sheikapura districts in Punjab. His total service in the church was 35 years.

His funeral will be held April 28 in Montecito, Loma Linda, Calif.

Leading out will be Pr. George C. Johnson, Pr. Mahbub Khan, Pr. John Mall and other pastors. He leaves behind his wife, Zenith Zahid, his children, namely, Joseph, Joel, Emmanuel and Victoria. Please pray for the bereaved family.

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XI. Death of Mrs. Mary Gnanasigamony

April 21, 2014 12:47 PM

The Southern Asia Adventist Association (SAAA) is saddened to inform its members, friends and the community at large that Mrs. Mary Gnanasigamony died on April 19, 2014 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, at the age of 90. The funeral service will be held on Sunday April 27, 2014 at Shiloh Seventh Day Adventist Church, Colombo, Sri Lanka. She was the mother of Swinitha Osuri, a long time active member and supporter of our Association; Pr. Shirani DeAlvis Chand, of California; Sarojini (Jini) Boyd; and Sharmini Marshall, who are well known to many in the community. Mrs. Gnanasigamony and her late husband, Vernon Gnanasigamony owned and operated a successful advertising business in Colombo. They were known for their hospitality and philanthropy in the church and community. Her exemplary Christian life and positive outlook will be a legacy cherished by her family and those whose lives she touched. SAAA extends its heartfelt condolences to the Gnanasigamony family, relatives and all who mourn her loss. Please continue to uphold them in your prayers. As they go through the darkness of their loss may God grant them, comfort and courage; renewed faith and fortitude in the Blessed Hope, as they face each new day.

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