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I. Spicer Chapter of SCMI Celebrates International Women's Day

Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> April 1:

March 14, 2014 marked a very special milestone on the campus of Spicer Memorial College when the Student Christian Movement of India (SCMI) joined the world at large to value, honor and respect every women on the campus by celebrating the "International Women's Day." The theme of this event was titled, "Liberating Bodies! Towards Solidarity with All Those Who Are Seeking Justice and Peace."

This important program began with a lively singing at 8:30 pm in the main auditorium, after the Vespers program in the House of Prayer. Young men and women of the campus flocked in anticipating the uniqueness of this event.

The entire program was well organized by women and focused on the dignity and honor of women. A very wonderful presentation was made by the President of SCMI (SMC Chapter), Ms Yarmichon Zimik, a graduate student in the School of Religion. Several outstanding contributions of brave figures such as the courage of Ms. Malala Yousafzai, who fought for the right to education for the children in Pakistan and whose body has healed after a hit by one bullet in 2012, the courage of Rev. Eggoni Pushpalalitha, who dared to make a change by taking up leadership role as the first women elected bishop in India, the courage of Liu Xia, who dared to be a human right defender and with passion longing for freedom while living under constant surveillance in China, the compassion of all advocates for Erwiana Sulistyaningsih and all domestic migrant workers in many destined countries, who dare to say no to modern day slavery and actively seeking transformation of unjust law towards migrant workers and many more are well presented and discussed. Thus, enabling the attendees to understand the problems faced by women, struggles, challenges of inferiority and even rights to exercise learning in the form of formal education.

The presentation was highlighted from a Biblical perspective affirming that indeed, every woman on this planet earth deserves equal rights, respect, love, honor and dignity. In addition, special songs by Judy Shaiza & Apar Danla, poem recitation by Gleny & her friends, a heart-touching candle-light service, where Rida and others holding the lighted candles took a pledge to honour women, and a solemn dedicatory prayer offered by the Associate Church Pastor while everyone stood in 3 concentric circles holding hands after placing their glowing candles on the centre table added special flavor to this meaningful celebration in favor of women.

-- Barwin Marak, Associate Church Pastor, Spicer Memorial College

II. Death of Grace Samuel Engles

Arvind Engles <arvindgitty@yahoo.com> June 9:

I would like to kindly inform the readers of the SUD e-News that my beloved mother, Mrs. Grace Samuel Engles, breathed her last on June 8, 2014 at 9:15 pm (PST). The funeral service is scheduled tentatively to be held on Thursday, June 12, 2014 at the La Sierra University Church, Riverside, California.

Please remember the bereaved family at large in your prayers. More information will follow later on.

III. Death of Death of Lilly Mathew

Wesley James <wjames231@msn.com> June 9:

I regret to announce the passing away of Lilly Mathew, known to many as Mrs. K. P. Mathew, this morning, Monday, June 9, in Redlands, California.

Services are pending.
Please remember her children - Leela, Philip, and Tommy, their families, and extended family in your prayers. The family can be reached at:
909-238-1686 or <siddharanj@hotmail.com>

Lilly will be remembered for the unfailing care and concern she showed towards her family and friends, and many students she took care of at the Spicer College dispensary. We will miss her, but look forward to meeting her again on the resurrection morning.

S. Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> June 9:
I remember Mrs. K. P. Mathew as a wiry lady back in 1966, but what a vivacious, voluble and friendly woman she was! Though a Malayalee, she could freely speak to each of us in our own language (especially Telugu) and made us all feel welcome. Perhaps that is the only time that we students at Spicer ever loved in our lives to visit a dispensary or hospital because she made us forget our ailments and fears and instilled in us a sense of belonging to a larger caring and loving family outside of our own!

Though I don’t remember her children very clearly now, I want to assure them and their dear families that they are lucky to have a very wonderful mother and would certainly see her on the great resurrection morning!

Southern Asia Adventist Association <Info@saaa.org> June 12:
The Southern Asia Adventist Association (SAAA) sadly regrets to announce the passing away of Mrs. K. P. Mathew on Monday, June 9, 2014 in Redlands, California. She is well known to many in our community and to scores of Spicerians!

Mr. & Mrs. K. P. Mathew, affectionately known as KP and Lily, were faculty at Spicer Memorial College, India. Lily was a gem of a person and was the college nurse. She was most tender and caring to all, especially to those who needed her care at the college dispensary. They later moved and worked in the United States and eventually settled on the west coast.

Mr. K. P. Mathew preceded Lily in death and they now rest in the Lord.

Mrs. K. P. Mathew will be remembered and cherished by her children: Leela, Phillip, Tommy, and their individual families; extended family; students and friends. Please uphold them all in your prayers. May God bless them with faith and fortitude; hope and comfort, as the find new meaning from their loss.

The family can be reached at: 909-514-0961 or 909-238-1686 or <siddharanj@hotmail.com> PO Address:
Leela Masilamani
23042 Merle Court
Grand Terrace, CA 92313

IV. Death of Mrs. Ammini Samuel
Sunny Wycliffe <sunnywycliffe@gmail.com> June 9:
We are extremely saddened to inform you that Mrs. Ammini Samuel (84), wife of Dr. N. K. Samuel was called by her Master to eternal rest on Sunday June 8, 2014. They were one of the pioneers in the Washington, DC area. Along with her husband they were active co-founders of the Southern Asian Adventist Association, Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist church -- (SASDAC / Indian), Kerala Association of Greater Washington, FOKANA, NCAIA and many other community organizations.

Please do remember and pray for Dr. N. K. Samuel and his 5 children and their families in a very special way. May God grant them peace to bear the loss of their dear one.

Johnson Christian <JSCFRUIT@aol.com> June 15
My wife and I were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs. Ammini Samuel (84), wife of Dr, N. K. Samuel. I visited her at the hospital; her daughter told me that she wanted me to pray for her. I held her hand and prayed for her. She thanked me and called by my name, My wife was also in the same hospital, Howard Community, for a few months we need your prayers for her also.

I have known the Samuels for many years. They were one of the pioneers of the Washington, DC area; they arrived a few years after I had come. Along with her husband they were active co-founders of the Southern Asian Indian SDA Church; that church with small membership has grown to be one of the largest Indian churches in North America. My wife and I are members of that church.

Dr. Samuel has also been the founder of the Kerala Association of the Greater Washington Organization.
Mrs. Samuel was a wonderful person, calm, quiet, and Godly. She was a real blessing to her husband and their five children and their grandchildren. Our deepest sympathy to her husband, children and all relatives and friends.

'Tis almost time for the Lord to come; may we be ready for that day. God Bless

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George Abraham <chempilabraham@yahoo.com> June 15:

Sad was the news of the passing away of Mrs. Ammini Samuel on June 8, 2014. Mrs. Samuel was the wife of Dr. N. K. Samuel who was one of the founders of the Southern Asian Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was a wonderful and faithfull wife, a mother of 5 daughters, and grandmother of 9 grandchildren. She was also a dedicated Adventist and was ready to be laid to rest in Jesus. She has the assurance of the resurrection when the trumpet shall sound and the death in Christ shall rise first. Please pray for Dr. Samuel and the family so our Lord Jesus will give them comfort at this time of sorrow.

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V. Southern Asians to Meet in Colton, California

Devadas Moses <devadas909@gmail.com> June 8:

The quarterly meeting of the Friends of Southern Asia Adventist Fellowship will take place on June 28, 2014 in the Open Door Chapel at 944 Via Lata, Colton, CA 92324. Sabbath School will start at 10:00 am with Drs. Justin and Juanita Singh. Missions updates will include ”Adventist Child India” by Powlyne Manoharan and “Southern Asian Youth” by Sven Pauliah. This years' graduates and dads will be honored in between the services. Pastor Ron Watts, former President of the Southern Asian Division, currently serving India with the "It Is Written" ministries, will bring God’s message during the Divine Service. A heart-healthy vegetarian potluck will follow the service at 1:00 pm. Please plan to worship with us and be inspired to live and serve as Jesus bids us.

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VI. Life Sketch of Mary Imelda Gnanasigamony

Sharmini Marshall <svmarshall@erols.com> June 12:

December 9, 1923 - April 19, 2014

Mary Imelda Gnanasigamony was born to Juliana Dias and K. D. Marshall, the second of seven children. On May 16, 1946 she married Vernon Gnanasigamony. They had attended the same evangelical series of meetings held at the Colombo Town Hall by Pastor Dunbar Smith and later were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Shirani Christine was their first born child followed by Grace Swinitha. Delrene Sarojini (Jini) joined the family next and their youngest was Sharmini Veronic.

She believed that a good Christian education was the key to success in life. Shirani, Swinitha, and Jini attended Spicer Memorial College in India and Sharmini studied at Andrews University in the U.S.A. The family expanded with the addition of sons-in-law (Ian, Mike, Dwayne, and Michael), and grandsons (Samuel, Sohan, Sanjeev, Dinesh, and Manoj).

She had a keen sense for business and when her husband opened Vernon’s Publicity Company and Ceylon Radio Advertising Services, she became his right hand man (woman). She balanced her business savvy with skills of artistry that included sewing intricate dresses for her daughters.

She volunteered her time distributing clothes to the poor through the Dorcas Society, and food through the Ceylon National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis (CNAPT). She also volunteered at Mother Theresa’s orphanage in Colombo. It was a great honor the day Mother Theresa visited her at our home in Nugegoda.

She has always been active in the Seventh-day Adventist church, serving in many capacities including children’s Sabbath School teacher, youth camp counselor, and member of the Union Committee. However, her real passion was working with the youth of the church. She co-founded the Pathfinder Club in Sri Lanka and was on several youth camp planning committees. She’s climbed Mt. Pidurutalagala several times, camped on the windblown expanses of Horton Plains, climbed Bible Rock in her 70’s and even saved people from drowning by giving them CPR.

Her sharp mind and wordsmith abilities drew her to often play Scrabble, Uno, and solve crossword puzzles. However, her passion for cricket was well known and her favorite team was of course Sri Lanka. The final match she watched was the 2014 Twenty20 World Cup finals between Sri Lanka and India, and was beyond excited when Sri Lanka won.

As much joy as she had in her life, she also knew more than her share of tragedy. She lost her mother at the age of 12, her husband in her mid-fifties, and suffered the defeating blow of paralysis on her right side from two strokes. But her faith in God gave her the strength not only to go on but to love life without bitterness and to instill in all of us a gratitude for every day we have together. It may sound greedy to want more days with a person who lived so long, but the fact
that our mother was 90 years old does not diminish but only magnifies the enormity of the room whose doors have quietly shut.

Many of earth's greatest and noblest people live their lives without glamour and social prestige of the media's headlines. Yet, their individual histories are examples of a life of honor that is filled with meaning and purpose, where eternal values and principles are lived and imprinted upon the succeeding generations. Our mother was one of those people. It has not been lost on us the significance of the time our mother passed ... Easter weekend. We are comforted by the promise in the Bible from Romans 6:5 "For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly also be united with Him in a resurrection like His." We hold on to the promise of someday being reunited with her in a place where there will be no more pain and no more tears.

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