I. SPECIAL NOTICE

II. Spicer Memorial College Becomes Spicer Adventist University

By Adventist Review staff June 19, 2014

Indian lawmakers have approved legislation granting university status to Spicer Memorial College, a decision that will make it one of the first two private universities in the state of Maharashtra.

Pune-based Spicer Memorial College, which will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year, will be allowed to change its name to Spicer Adventist University under the legislation passed by state lawmakers this week, the Mid-Day newspaper reported.

"Unlike other government-related universities, the state will have minimum regulatory interference in the formation and functioning of these universities," the report said. "But the state will set up a regulatory board to ensure appropriate standards of teaching, examination, research, protection of interest of the students and reasonable service conditions of the employees."

The decision came after the Maharashtra government appointed a commission to consider the college's application for a university charter on Oct. 18, 2013, the college said in a statement on its website.

Also this week, the Indian lawmakers backed the establishment of Amity University in the city of Panvel. Spicer and Amity will become Maharashtra state's first two private universities.

Mid Day Newspaper published in Pune:

"On the last day of the monsoon session yesterday, the state legislature approved two legislations paving way for two private universities to set up their establishments at Bhatan, near Panvel and Pune. Amity University (Panvel) and Spicer Adventist University (Pune) will be the first private varsities to set up campuses in the state.

The universities will be offering degree, diploma and certificate courses in streams like liberal arts, humanities, social sciences, life sciences, biotechnologies, nano-sciences, technologies, engineering, technology, management, business and commerce, media, information and communication, among others.

While tabling the bills, the state advocated the need to set up such universities facilitating private participation to enhance access, excellence, inclusion and research in the field of higher education."
The flipside--

Unlike other government-related universities, the state will have minimum regulatory interference in the formation and functioning of these universities. But the state will set up a regulatory board to ensure appropriate standards of teaching, examination, research, protection of interest of the students and reasonable service conditions of the employees.

Another interference will come only at the time of implementation of the fee structure, as the universities will need a stamp of approval by a fee structure review committee. This panel is supposed to be headed by a retired judge from the high court or the Supreme Court.

Though the state has prohibited collection of capitation fee as per the Maharashtra Educational Institutions (prohibition of capitation fee) Act, 1987, managements of such universities have been allowed to collect or accept donations in cash or kind from public and organisations or public trusts. But as per the law, managements will not be allowed to reserve seats in any educational institute run by them.

Structuring

As per the approved structure, the universities will have a president, vice-chancellor, deans of faculties, registrar, chief finance and accounts officer and controller of examinations.

They will be open to all and will have to adopt government policy and orders issued from time to time in regard to the reservation for reserved categories, for appointment of employees and for the purpose of admissions of students.

However, the state will not reimburse any fee or shall take any financial liability for them."

III  Vincent Hill School Alumni to Meet in Collegedale
Ronalee Netteburg <rnetteburg@yahoo.com> June 16:

Save the date for a Vincent Hill School reunion: Sept. 12 & 13, Friday/Sabbath at Collegedale, TN. Exact room location to be determined. The 50-year class is having their reunion in the Smokies during the week, and plan on reconnecting with those who weren't privileged to be in the class of 1964. We'd love to meet the 50 or so of you who live within a day's drive.

Dennis Tidwell and David Olson are working on this.
--Kermit and Ronalee Netteburg

IV. School Building in Jowai, India, Ready for Students
Vinish Wilson <vwilson@maranatha.org> June 19

The Maranatha-constructed Education and Evangelism Center (EEC) at Northeast Adventist College is now ready for classes! This week, 459 delightful students moved into their new classrooms. Previously, they had been studying in a leaky cowshed.

The school, located in Jowai, was initially established as a Bible training center in 1941. Throughout the years, the school advanced to be an accredited secondary school and then a "Higher Secondary School" in 1997. Now the school serves as a college campus offering classes in English, economics, history, Indian language, sociology, and education.

Recently, the college has been trying to gain university status. The original Bible training center [Assam Training School] has grown into an official seminary. It has moved out of the building they were occupying to a new facility to provide more space for college courses. The campus is only missing a couple requirements in order to become a fully accredited university and part of that is that they need more space and central meeting areas.

In March 2014, 19 volunteers traveled to India to work on the new EEC.

The official dedication ceremony for the building will be on July 28.

V. A New Book on Mussoorie
Dennis Dean Tidwell <deantidwell@yahoo.com>
Virgil D. Miedema <vmiedema@gmail.com>; June 19:

We are happy to let you know that our book, "Footprints of the Past", on the history of Mussoorie and Landour is now available. For purchasing details In India, contact mailto:marketing@rupapublications.com Outside India, amazon.com or other such links; if a problem, also contact Rupa Publications for details on purchasing outside of India.

Virgil D. Miedema
Stephanie Spaid Miedema
VI. Letters
   1. Alfred Raju <alfredraju_d@yahoo.co.in> June 16:
      I am sad to go through the SUD news of three deaths whom I know many years ago I am very sad Mrs. Lilly Mathew passed away I know her at SMC, Pune, please convey my condolence to the family. --Pr. Alfred Raju

   2. John Fowler <johnmathewfowler@gmail.com> June 19:
      Spicer College, according to Mid Day Newspaper published in Poona, has been granted university status, known as Spicer Adventist University. The news item was published by the Poona paper on June 17. This is good news in so far as Spicer has been given a private university status, and the college administration deserves our congratulations. But a careful reading of the release also shows certain factors that call for caution, such as governmental regulations pertaining to teacher emoluments, service agreements, student enrollments, protection of student interests, service conditions of employees, fee structure, etc. As the college faces these issues, it requires our prayers so that this milestone in the history of Spicer will be successfully crossed through God's intervention and help.

   3. Saleem Raza Raza <yerushah@hotmail.com> June 24:
      I would like to request the people of God to pray for me as I'm on dialysis. My disease is renal failure. This is a very expensive disease. My physician advised me to have dialysis 3 times a week. Please pray for the expenses to meet.
      My Phone # is: +923004677482
      My ID Card #: 35202-2698368-1

VII. Remembering Mary Imelda Gnansigamony
      Ruth Sipkens <ruthsipkens@gmail.com> June 16:
      Such a beautiful tribute 'Mary' Gnansigamony's daughters have written in the last SUD e-News! And it's all true, even more so. Mary was a truly beautiful Christian. She was an outstanding help in every department of the church work in Sri Lanka; but as indicated she truly felt a passion for the youth. During our time in Sri Lanka, Mary and her always neatly but beautifully dressed daughters were seen at every function. 'Mary' was ever a very active part of any youth camp, MV, or all church activities. This memory by her daughters is precious to us and we, too, look forward to spending eternity with her and her daughters. "God's children are very precious to Him and He does not lightly let them die." Psalm 116:15 TLB. God knew it was time for her to rest but the very next thing for her will be Jesus calling, 'Wake up, Mary! It's time to go HOME. Thank you. daughters, for sharing. Ruth and John Sipkens ~~~~~~~~~~ VIII. Three Deaths in Ranchi & in Nepal
      Ashley Stanley Kongari <kongari@eircom.net> June 24:
      Pastor K. S. Kongari died on 17th of June 2014 at the age of 89. He died at home at Ranchi. The funeral was held at Ranchi on Thursday the 19th of June 2014. He was born in 1925 to a police inspector, Masih Dass Kongari, who served in Indian police during the British Raj. Pastor Kongari was trained to be a Lutheran priest but during his studies at the Lutheran Seminary, he had theological debate with his professor. Consequently, he came in contact with Adventist church and pastor Benoy Nowrangi and Pastor Helon Lakra played a major role in his life to accept Adventism. He served as a teacher and dean at Khunti school. He then served as a pioneer evangelist in Singhbhum area where I grew up in the middle of nowhere among the non-Christian tribals. He then served at Ranchi as chaplain of the hospital, pastor and entered publishing work as the Publishing Director. He worked with Pastor M. C. Lall in the Northern Union as Associate Publishing Director and later took over as the Publishing Director after a brief tenure as the Director of Madhya Bharat Region. He was later the President of East India Section and retired there. After retirement he settled down at Ranchi and served as a social worker helping to build schools, hostels and undertaking projects with the funding from Finnish Government and several NGO's. He had a peaceful death.

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After the funeral Shanti Tiru was admitted to the Ranchi hospital and he died on 20th of June 2014. He was buried at Khunti on 21st of June 2014. He died too soon. He was very much busy with the arrangements and organization of Pastor Kongari’s funeral. Perhaps that affected him. Pastor Kongari was his uncle.

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Tepa Tshering Tamsang died at the age of 101 on April 1, 2014. The funeral service was held at Kathmandu on April 4, 2014. Mr. Tamsang was the first Adventist from the Lepcha tribe in Darjeeling district. I had known him well at Falakata to be the most honest and humble Adventist. A simple man but a man of faith. God blessed his faithfulness and he crossed the age of 101 which is very rare in that part of the world.

--Ashley Stanley Kongari from Finland ~~~~~~~~~ I. Mission Story: Old Farmer Becomes Church Planter

"Yesuvadan was in his 60s when he first met Jesus through a dream. God called him to serve Him and Yesuvadan answered. He left his farm to his family and walked away to follow God's leading.

"For several years he walked from village to village, sharing his newfound faith in God with others. In the past 25 years he has led more than 400 people to Christ, revived 3 dying churches and starting 4 new congregations. When the local field saw what Yesuvadan was doing, they offered him a stipend to help him.

"When Yesuvadan finds a dying church, he visits the people in the area and leads them to Jesus. Then he overseas the work to rebuild the church so that the growing congregation has a suitable house in which to worship.

"When he finds a village without believers, he settles among the people and begins planting seeds of faith. He stays until a congregation and a simple church building has been raised.

"Recently Yesuvadan walked to a village and began seeking out people who were willing to hear about Jesus. He began studying the Bible with them, and their interest grew. Yesuvadan has spent 2 years in that village and continues working there. So far, more than 20 people have been baptized, and the congregation is growing stronger. But, Yesuvadan, now in his 80s, is thinking of moving on to start a new congregation someplace else. While he's waiting for God's call, he's helping give Bible studies for an upcoming series of meetings to be held in a central town nearby.

"'God has blessed me in so many ways,' Yesuvadan says. 'He leads me to the rich and poor alike. He leads me to those who want to know more about God. I stay and study with anyone who wants to hear God's message.' While some of the people he studies with are from a Christian background, many are not. He finds special needs in the village and tries to help meet those needs, whether it's for food, clothes, or community support.

"'I have no intention of retiring,' he says with a smile spreading across his weathered face. 'I'm looking forward to holding another series of meetings, running another church.' Usually Yesuvadan doesn't preach, but he invites evangelists to come and speak at the evangelistic meetings after he has tilled the soil and planted seeds of faith.

"'God has shown me His love and given me strength to do His work, he says. Sharing my faith is my offering or praise to my God.'"

--Yesuvadan, a former farmer, shares his faith with others in southeastern India.

[from the GC Office of Adventist Mission] ~~~~~~~~~~~ X. On a Personal Note

Facebook Scam: Somebody created a duplicate Facebook page using my name and photo and began sending friend requests. I have not sent Facebook friend requests. I would never ask for money nor encourage you to invest your money in some scheme. If you receive friend requests, money requests, or unsolicited advice from me, please ignore it. It is not me!

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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Teach CanIt if this mail (ID 08MkCJSkp) is spam:
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Forget vote: http://www.andrews.edu/spam/b.php?i=08MkCJSkp&m=98d1effec372&c=f