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I. SPECIAL NOTICE (Repeated)

We are changing the way we distribute the SUD e-News. In the future it will be posted via Yahoo Groups. Our daughter-in-law, Lila Tidwell, is currently sending invitations to each of you to sign up to the SUD e-News Yahoo group. I encourage you to accept the invitation if you wish to continue to receive my newsletter. Some of your email addresses have rejected the invitation as spam because it does not recognize Lila's email address. If you didn't receive an invitation, you can request to join by sending an email to the following address: SUBSCRIBE: <sudnews-subscribe@yahooogroups.com>

II. Comments on Spicer Adventist University

1. Rajaratnam Jones rajaratnamjones@gmail.com
   I am extremely happy to know that our college in Pune have been granted University Status. Hope this will help many of our young people to pursue Adventist Education with recognition.
   Only one thing in the clause saddens me: -- 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.
   If the government is going to involve in the appointment of staff according to the reservation basis, Where will we stand? Adventist University with non-Adventist staff.

2. Thambi Thomas <thambi.thomas@gmail.com>
   I heard this news announced by Dr. John Fowler from the SASDAC pulpit last Sabbath and was interested to read additional details regarding this historic event in SUD e-Newsletter. I have a couple of questions for somebody with more knowledge on this SMC - SAU change to respond to:
   1. The following excerpt from the SUD e-Newsletter: "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." This is huge!
   2. How does the GC leadership and Education Dept. view the above stipulations and its potential impact on the operations of SMC/SAU?

3. Johnson S. Christian <JSCFRUIT@aol.com>
   When I used to visit Spicer very often Dr. Justus the president used to tell me of Spicer becoming a university. I thought it could never happen.
   But when he called me from Bombay and told me that he has the papers that Spicer has been granted to become a university I praised God for His leading in this matter.
   I must congratulate the president, Dr. Justus and may he continue to serve Spicer for some more years. What a marvelous thing has taken place in the history of the Southern Asia Division for us to have a university, The staff should also be commended for this.
   I have known Dr. Justus for many years and watched his hard work for the college. It was Dr. Cherian who for many years led the college in many achievements, and now we see the fruits of his labour and also that of Dr. Gaikwad.
We need not be skeptical and doubt anything but praise God for the way He has led Spicer to become a university. We have nothing to fear of any obstacles on the way but trust God and do the best for the college and He will lead us on to victory for Spicer Adventist University. God bless the president, staff and students.

III Death of Sidney Ethiel Solanky
Snahal Solanky snahal@gmail.com July 2
I would like to inform the readers of the SUD e-News that my beloved father, Mr. Sidney Ethiel Solanky, breathed his last breath on June 29, 2014 at 1:53 pm (PST). The funeral service is scheduled to be held on Sunday, July 6, 2014 at 1:00 pm at the McMinnville Seventh Day Adventist in McMinnville, Oregon. Please remember the bereaved family in your prayers.
More information will follow later on.

IV. Summer on a Goa Beach
Birol Charlotte Christo, morning watch in "Breathe", 2014 women’s devotional book
Taste the Lord
"O taste and see that the Lord is good" -- Psalm 34:8
A number of years ago my sister and her husband left their two children, ages 4 and 2, with us for a year while they studied in the United States. At that time our family was spending the whole summer in Goa, because my husband was holding an evangelistic campaign in Panjim. A group of ministerial students from Spicer Memorial College were with us, so we rented a big bungalow by the sea to house us all. We spent every free minute in the sea.
The beach was vast and beautiful and the breakers were gentle. It was ideal for a family with small children. Our two older children were at boarding school, but our younger three were with us. While we enjoyed wading, floating and swimming, my 4-year old nephew, Don, stayed far away from the water, contentedly playing in the sand, Often I tried to coax him to just put his feet in the water, but he would not. He didn't want to be anywhere near it. I felt sorry for him, as he didn't know what he was missing, but day after day we left him to play alone.

Then one day I decided to carry Don to the water. How he screamed and kicked, trying his best to free himself from my clutches. At water's edge I held him by his arms and let his feet dangle into the water. He looked up at me in surprise and exclaimed, "It's not hot! I thought the water was hot." From that day on he enjoyed the water as much as the rest of us did.

Oh, how like little Don, we miss so many good things just because we refuse to "taste" the Lord. We are content to live far away from our Lord and do our own thing. We miss all the blessings, the joys, the peace, the feeling of security, and all the other good things the Lord desires for us to have. Like Don, who thought the water was hot, many of us are afraid of God, thinking he is fierce and cruel. Those who have "tasted" the Lord need to tell others that God loves them so much that He sent His only Son to this world to save them by giving His life on the cross.

Taste and see how good God is. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us, "I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."' (NIV) ~~~~~~~~~ V. SMU Thanksgiving Service Remarks June 30 meeting
by Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com>
I consider it a great honour, privilege and pleasure to be part of this grand historic occasion, unparalleled not only in the life of this institution, but also in the life of the Southern Asia Division, and to welcome you all to this special thanksgiving service, to express our gratitude, and joy to the Lord God Almighty for the magnificent miracle He has wrought among our midst. For it is not every day that one can boast of getting a university charter for one's Alma mater!

We now face, overwhelmed and exhilarated, the reality of Spicer Adventist University charter before us at last, sooner than we ever imagined, and are perplexed as well as dazed, especially as the enormity of having a university amidst us is slowly sinking in. Never did I realize when I was preparing the College Bulletin 2010-2011 about five years ago and traced the birth and growth of Spicer on the inside page of its back cover, that the wishful entry I made at the bottom of the list as "2014-2015 (Spicer University)" will prove prophetic and really come to a reality today at the beginning of this academic year, 2014-2015, also the centennial year of this institution, as a double blessing.

The 'Spicer Adventist University' charter though a reality now, but was not realized without 'many a slip between the cup and the lip' with the satanic agents actively engaged in almost every step of the way. But our God Almighty Himself intervened and brought it to fruition for His own glory and honour and for the growth of His church in Southern Asia Division. The inspection team were surprised that we didn't hire any professionals like high profile retired academicians,
bureaucrats and technocrats, as done by other applicants, but the team members were impressed that though we seemed like 'grasshoppers' in their sight, perhaps as well as our own, naive and inexperienced when compared to the 'Goliaths' elsewhere, we were all, united and focused, and led by an untiring, determined and dedicated leader, went forward bravely and in faith like David and Gideon of yore, united in our mission to get the charter for the church so that God's name will be glorified and its youth benefited in the coming days.

Well, just thinking about it fills us with awe and profound faith in God for His amazing grace, marvelous love, and miraculous working. Or how else can one explain the fact that we were one of just two applicants (among a shortlisted total of 22) whom the Cabinet, the Legislative Assembly and Council passed the bill for, though almost all the other 21 applicants were far more powerful and influential (one actually is a governor of an Indian state and already has a couple of private universities in the state) and all had great man power, money power and muscle power. Even the non-Christian ministers who witnessed this miraculous act, confided later that this was indeed a direct intervention of God on our behalf, as the result of our constant prayers, for otherwise they just couldn't explain it in human terms, especially when there was none of us from Spicer there when the bill was passed on Saturday, June 14, while the other applicants or their representatives were milling around the assembly hall in hordes, eagerly awaiting the verdict/outcome of their application. Personally I am inclined to believe the angels of the Lord were there in the Assembly in Mumbai that day guiding the thoughts of the full house in our favour while we were in His temple at Spicer, praising, worshiping and praying to Him invoking His blessings, among others, on the proposed university charter. God did hear our prayers! Great is His faithfulness and love!

Truly it is a moment of great elation and exhilaration and the Spicer Adventist University Charter in our hands today means so much to us especially in the midst of remarks of unbelief, cynicism, sarcasm and even criticism from some doubting Thomases, cynical Nathanaels, crafty Herods, wily Sanballats, and wicked Tobiahs trying hard to hinder our work. Finally it is all praise and gratitude to the Almighty God alone Who softened the heart of Pharaohs, strengthened the hands of Ahasueruses and Nebuchadnezzars, and melted the mood of Caesars, and wrought this true miracle in our midst using perhaps a few willing heads, hearts and hands guided by a dynamic, devoted and dedicated leader, who first devoted himself to build a house of worship to the Lord before attempting other projects, especially this herculean task of getting a university charter for the church in Southern Asia Division. He underwent great stress, complying with seemingly an unending list of documentary and other requirements, even risking his life travelling almost every other day to Mumbai and back on that treacherous express way where about 4 to 5 major accidents happen almost every day, to hasten the process of moving the application from one desk to the other, and from one office to the next, and meeting a slew of high ranking officials to get their expertise in this complex and complicated process, just to get this charter in order to accomplish God's work in this part of the globe so that this new university will not only educate and equip our youth with marketable degrees but also expose the Adventist truth to the many others who enter these portals and draw them to His cross in these last days of earth's history.

Please keep us in your public and private prayers, so that God will use Spicer Adventist University for His glory and honour! We need your continued prayers and God's special blessings, especially if we were to ably run this new university after getting this charter. Perhaps only those who are involved in making a proposal for a modern university charter starting from the scratch will understand and appreciate what one has really gone through and will have to still go through in the years ahead in building a university, let alone a world class one. Please join us in this endeavour with your prayers and expertise. Surely God deserves the best and expects the best from each of us!

Thanks again to you, members of Spicer Church and also the World Church, for your continued prayers and interest in this institution. We certainly need more of them in the coming years too as the task gets still heavier, but it is worth, every bit of it.

Now we will have the opening prayer by Dr. Roy Jemison Injety, after which we will all proceed to the House of Prayer with lighted candles and songs of praise and gratitude for our only omni potent, omnipresent and omniscient God, whose mercies are new every morning, and continue the service there.

-- S Rajendra Prasad, VPAA, Spicer Memorial College

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