SUD e-News, July 16, 2014 #20  
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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>  

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II. New Book: The Wilson Family  
Dr. D. S. Williams <mdwilliams39@gmail.com> July 9  

We would like to inform you of a recent biography, "Highly Committed", about the Wilson family. The book begins when Isabella Wilson joined the Adventist church and influenced her husband, William Henry Wilson, to come and listen to Mrs. E. G. White at a camp meeting in 1904. William Henry Wilson joined on that Sabbath and became a lay leader in Healdsburg, CA.  

Before he died seven years later he made his boys (among them Nathaniel C. Wilson, Neal Wilson's father) promise to dedicate themselves to a life of service to God and the church and made provisions for them to receive training to fulfill their pledge. "Highly Committed" follows the family from that point (1904) until 2011. It emphasizes the blessings and legacy of useful service that the family has devoted to the church and to God.  

Nathaniel Wilson was president of 4 world divisions, 4 unions and 4 conferences and Neal Wilson was president of NAD and the world church. Ted Wilson was president of a division and is the current world church president. Their three girls are active leaders and two are married to pastors so we have five generations of Wilsons serving the church. Their family's story is one of providential guidance and unwavering commitment.  

Few, if any, Adventist families have made a similar contribution of useful service over such a long period in so many places in the world in so many outstanding leadership posts.  

Chapter five tells of Elder Nathaniel Wilson's leadership as president of the Southern Asia Division. Chapter eight depicts the story of Elder Neal Wilson as a student at Vincent Hill College and his conversion and decision to go into the gospel ministry while he was there at Vincent Hill.  

There are over 300 footnotes documenting the contributions of a highly respected family and many interviews. Highly Committed is authored by DeWitt S. Williams, EdD, MPH, who worked for many years at the General Conference and the North American Division and is published by TEACH Services. It is available at the your local ABC and through the publisher's Web site (http://www.teachservices.com/highly-committed-the-wilson-family-story-williams-dewitt-s-paperback/), Amazon, Barnes & Noble, or local bookstores by request.  

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III. Letters
1. Roscoe Benjamin <pastoroscoe@aim.com> July 9:

My wife Blossom, and children, and I are saddened to learn the demise of my wife's cousin, Sydney Ethiel Solany. We also have obtained some comfort in attending the funeral and memorial services. I had the opportunity to do the committal service, and remind the family and friends of the great hope we have in Jesus' second coming. May The Lord continue to be with Padme, O'Neil, Snehael and Kenny Solany.

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IV. Spicer Adventist University Begins Its Work
S. Rajendra Prasad <rajendraprasad2000@yahoo.com> July 9:

After getting the university charter on June 26, 2014, Spicer Adventist University immediately had a brief Thanksgiving service at the Ad Building Circle and an elaborate one on Sunday, June 30, 2014. All the campus residents, friends and well-wishers of Spicer gathered again at the same Circle at 6:30 pm and after a vigorous and lively song service, the VPAA made his opening remarks and after the opening prayer the congregation walked solemnly but with sacred songs of praise and gratitude, and lighted candles to the House of Worship where the service continued. After a special song by the 'Advent Harmony' and 3 long testimonies by Dr. Sheela Chacko, Dr. R. Jeyam and Mr. Atul Girame about God's miraculous leading in various steps of getting the charter, Dr. Justus Devadas presented the sermonette, or rather the fourth testimony as he himself termed it. After this jubilant thanksgiving service everyone was invited to a celebratory dinner served on the volley ball and basketball courts.

Simultaneously, the college proceeded with the reopening of the existing programmes belonging to Spicer Autonomous, Andrews and Griggs University programmes starting with the Orientation Meeting on July 1 followed by registration process and the classes started on July 9.

And in the meanwhile the University got ready to embark on the next stage of getting the needed permits to announce, advertise, and assert its new existence as well as to apply itself and attend to other urgent procedures. By God's continued grace, the permits started coming one by one from the various sections of the government and the University is ready now to launch itself. The process of finalizing the university logo, programmes of study, fees structure, and printing of letterheads is over and the application forms, registration forms, etc, are getting ready.

Quite interestingly, however, our own SUD's ritual of selecting the personnel for the two top positions of the university, viz, those of the President of Spicer Adventist University (equivalent to Chancellor in government universities, normally the State Governor, the nominal head) and the Vice Chancellor, the executive head, didn't seem to be really smooth and pleasant, let alone joyous and jubilant, but at the end of the day, literally at about 5:00 pm last Friday, the Division Committee elected Pastor Rathinaraj John, the President of the Sponsoring Body, ie, the Ashlock Education Society, as the first President of Spicer Adventist University, and Dr. Justus Devadas, the President of Spicer Memorial College, the first ever Vice Chancellor. The other officers of the Spicer Adventist University are expected to be appointed on July 21, 2014.

The application forms for the various programmes of the universities are being distributed and the registration process is expected to start from July 15.

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V. Death of Janet Calebs
Shevanthi Bastiam Pillai <bshevanthi@hotmail.com> July 13:

Mrs. Janet Calebs, wife of the late George Calebs and mother of Nalini Bastiam Pillai passed to her rest in Jesus on June 18th, 2014. She had been ailing for some months before she passed away. Many readers will know her from Bangalore where she and her family worshipped for over 50 years at the Cunningham Road church. She was a faithful worker, a devoted wife and mother and a lady of great charm who had the gift of hospitality.

The funeral service was held in Trivandrum on June 21st amidst the presence of family and friends, some of whom had travelled from Bangalore and Hosur.

We thank God for a life lived well in the spirit of Christ, and for the sure and certain hope of eternal life when Jesus returns in glory.

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VI. Comments on Spicer's New Status
Edward Saggurthi <saggurthi2003@yahoo.com> July 10

I just read in the SUD e-News about the university status granted to Spicer Memorial College. This feat is achieved under the current leadership of the college. Congratulations to Dr. Devadas, and his team of dedicated faithful servants of the Lord. I can remember the days when I was studying and working there how Dr. Cherian was struggling to get
recognition to our college through Pune University. It was long and harsh road that our church leadership had tread in making that institution, and its wonderful work recognized by governmental agencies.

At this time many have questions in their minds as to how this university status will effect the actual functioning of Spicer. It was an institution of the Church. And its long standing responsibility of preparing workers for church work. In the past no graduate of Spicer college was worried whether his or her Spicer degree was recognized by the government or not. As long as they were equipped well with abilities to discharge his/her duties with utmost efficiency, and dedication the degree never mattered.

Spicer graduates always excelled in their performance, as teachers, pastors, accountants, or any other work entrusted to them. Not only in SUD but also in the other parts of the world, the Americas, Africa, and Asia. They were far better than workers who studied in government recognized degree colleges.

Now the fear is, whether Spicer College will become like any other recognized degree colleges in India, watering down the Adventist Church standards. We are proud of our church and its contribution to our lives for many years. Now we are retired from our services to the church, but we are always grateful to the church for its education, and the life style it had given us and our children; it had taught us from childhood how an Adventist live, and work. We never worried about a recognized degrees. Some of our fears could be softened if the college administration can state what will be the effect of this university status on our college's ability to retain its age old virtue of Adventist principles. Can we retain our Adventist standards, and principles with government-dictated curriculum?

India is not like other western countries where they give recognition to the education that an institution is imparting. But in India it is different.

We are an outsiders to this issue. You should know better. We are only well wishers of what you brethren are doing. Only thing you remember is we were educated in that institution, and our forefathers were educated, and our children educated there. Naturally we are very well concern about this institutions future because this is attached with the church whom we love so much. Kindly enlighten further how this university status will effect our college holding on to its age-old Adventist principles.

S. J. Edward, Hyderabad, India

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VII. Life Sketch of Sidney Ethiel Solanky

 Padma Solanky <padmasolanky@hotmail.com> July 11:
(As shared at his memorial service)
Snahal Solanky snahal@gmail.com

Sidney Solanky was born April 20, 1942 to Ethiel and Mercy Solanky in Surat, India. The oldest of three boys, Sidney was the responsible child, always doing what was right, pleasing his parents and becoming a father-figure to his younger brothers. But his responsibility did not keep Sidney from having some fun and breaking some of the rules. His love for mangoes got him and his brother, Arthur, his partner in crime, into some interesting situations. One story that he would share with us, was when they climbed a barbed wire fence into a neighbor’s mango grove. They thought no one was home, and slowly and quietly climbed the tree and plucked a few mangoes. The homeowner came running out, chasing them with a stick! Sidney and his brother made a mad dash to the fence. As Sidney slid under the barb wire, one of the barbs cut him on the back, leaving a long scar. Whenever he told his kids the story of his scar, he always ended with, “this is what happens when you steal”. After that lesson, he tried hard to stay out of trouble.

Sidney developed his athletic abilities in the sports of cricket and badminton, at a young age. He competitively played both sports semi-professionally, winning numerous awards and trophies. He is most famous for his trick shot of hitting the birdie from in between his legs during a competition, which won him the title! This shot was talked about for years. On a recent trip to India in 2008, riding in a rickshaw, Sidney was recognized by the driver! He was so excited and chatted with him about that game winning shot. He made many friends on and off the cricket field and badminton court.

Sidney attended college and soon began working at Surat Electricity Company as a bookkeeper/accountant until 1977. He was a dutiful son and gave his earnings to his parents to care for the family. In 1967, a tall, slender, beautiful woman with long flowing black hair, moved to Surat to work as a nurse. Padma Mohite, worked at Surat Mission Hospital as a registered nurse with Sidney’s mom and dad. Sidney was very shy when it came to dealings with women and kept to himself and his sports. Although Sidney and Padma had heard about each other, they didn’t meet until 1970 when a mutual friend suggested them for each other. Sidney and Padma began as friends, taking walks in the local park and playing badminton together. To this day, Padma will say that he never let her win! In 1973, Sidney and Padma were
married with many of their friends and family in attendance. The newlyweds started their home in Surat and after a year they were blessed with a handsome baby boy, O'Neill, who was named after Sidney's favorite Australian cricket player.

In Surat, Padma worked with Dr. Richard and Norma Nelson, who encouraged them to immigrate to the United States. After many prayers and careful planning, the big decision was made to move the family to the United States in 1976. Padma came first from India to McMinnville. Sidney and O'Neill joined her in 1977. After a few job attempts in various fields, he began working at Cascade Steel Rolling Mill as a chemist. He was respected by his co-workers for keeping a clean and organized work area, being hard-working, and never calling in sick.

In 1979, Sidney and Padma had a beautiful baby girl, Snahal, and in 1980, another handsome baby boy, Kenneth completed the family. Sidney was a hard working father, who with Padma raised three children while working the night shift. Both Sidney and Padma never left the kids with a babysitter.

They made sure that one of them was always at home with the children by working opposite shifts. He worked at the steel mill for 31 years before retiring in 2007.

He was a loving father who made taking care of his family his first priority. He valued education above all else and stressed this to his three children. His two main goals for his family and children were to have a close relationship with Jesus Christ and to obtain higher education.

Sidney was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 2008 and had a long battle with the disease. He was a strong man and fought this battle courageously with his family by his side; he did everything he could to resist the disease until the time of his passing. To those that knew him he was a quiet influence, only giving advice when asked, and encouraging those that were discouraged and needed help. He always counseled others to stay close to God and read the Bible daily. Many times in the morning we would find him, having his own personal worship after working the night shift and before taking us to school.

Sidney was a great man and he touched our lives and shaped us to be who we are today. We will sorely miss him, but we are assured in knowing that we will be reunited with him on Resurrection morning!

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VIII. 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!

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BEGIN-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS

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END-ANTISPAM-VOTING-LINKS