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I. Adventist Church Celebrates 100 years in Kerala
Adventist News Network, October 28:
Church President Wilson encourages members to continue serving society
Seventh-day Adventists in the Southwest Indian state of Kerala last weekend celebrated 100 years of the Adventist Church's work in the region, a century after the Adventist message first arrived with an Adventist bookseller from a neighboring state.
More than 4,000 people attended festivities held October 24-25 at the Al Saj International Convention Center in Kerala's capital city of Thiruvananthapuram.
Seventh-day Adventist Church President Ted N. C. Wilson attended the weekend celebration. Wilson spoke at two press conferences in which he emphasized that Adventists wish to serve God by responding to needs of society. Wilson also met separately with Kerala Governor Justice P. Sathashivam and with Sri Oommen Chandy, chief minister.
Chandy inaugurated the Friday, October 24 afternoon meeting. In his keynote address, he commented on the service of the Adventist Church in the state through its schools and hospital. He also expressed his appreciation for the service of the Church to everyone irrespective of caste.
Discrimination of caste is a major factor that is detrimental to the progress of a society, he said.
Wilson challenged Church members to stand firm for truth and to serve others faithfully while waiting for the Second Coming of Jesus. He urged those in attendance to live a life based on Micah 6:8 "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"
John Rathinaraj, president of the Church's Southern Asia Division, which includes India, presented the history of the Adventist Church in the region. He began with an Adventist bookseller named Suvsheshmuthu who came from the present-day neighboring state of Tamilnadu. Suvsheshmuthu sold
Adventist books and literature in the towns of Vadacode and in Danuwachapuram.
The Adventist Church's work gradually progressed in the region through its heath ministry outreach and schools. Today there are nearly 37,000 members in the state, as well as 27 schools and a hospital with a nursing school.
Kerala was formed in 1956 by combining several Malayalam-speaking regions. More than 55 percent of Kerala's population are Hindu and nearly 25 percent are Muslim. Roughly 20 percent of the population is Christian. It is believed that Thomas, the disciple of Jesus, founded the first Christian church in India in what is now Kerala.
Saturday afternoon festivities included presentations on Adventist World Radio's work in the region and the work of the local publishing house. Several books in Malayalam were released, and Church pioneers and retirees were honored during the session.
On Saturday evening, a delegation traveled to Kawadiar for the inauguration of the newly rebuilt Central Adventist Church. Wilson spoke at the dedication ceremony, saying he appreciated the beauty of the church and urged all members to be beautiful exhibitions of the character of Jesus in their own lives in order to attract others to the gospel.

II. Remembering Them

1. Phukan Rituraj of Riverside Academy
Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> Oct. 24:
In a letter written by Rosalin, widowed wife of Phukan Rituraj, who was drowned while saving scores of students in the swirling and angry waters which inundated the Riverside Adventist Academy in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya she wrote of his baptism, of her marriage to Pukhan and of her plans for the future.
Rituraj came from a Hindu family in Assam where there only a few Christians. He attended St.Stephen's High School, a Catholic institution. When he heard of the Bible truths as taught by Adventists he began studying his Bible in 2010. In 2011 he met Rosalin. He was "thirsting for the truth" says Rosalin who encouraged him to be baptized, and as a born Christian she suggested he be baptized on his birthday. Rituraj is the only Adventist in the family. After his baptism he attended Spicer Memorial College to study theology. Because of financial problems, and not having any support from his family he discontinued his studies. He and Rosalin were married in December 2012 and visited the Taj Mahal on their first anniversary of the wedding. Rituraj was concerned about his family and longed for them to join him in worshipping the true God. He was very happy to be teaching in an Adventist School. All the students loved him. He was a very compassionate and caring person.
At a worship in his home, the visiting pastor asked him what his favourite song was. Without hesitation he said, "Abide in Me." He had learned this hymn at the previous Catholic School. When he was troubled and in difficulty the words of this hymn gave him courage and strengthened his faith in God. Rosalin's trust in God is constant. She knows that God loved Rituraj. She claims His promise that on the resurrection day her husband and she will be reunited. Rituraj's sister asked her for a Bible and she believes that this is God's way of assuring her that her husband's sacrifice
by giving his life for others has not been in vain. She has plans to pursue her studies towards a degree in Education.

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2. Remembering P. N. Bazroy
Boxter Kharbteng <bxb.kharbtg@gmail.com> Oct. 24
The passing away of Pr. P. N. Bazroy came as a rude shock to me. Truth be told, he was one of those in my "bucket list" - that six months to a year after retirement, I would make a trip to Khunti to visit three precious people: Pr. and Mrs. S. S. Bhengra and Pr. P. N. Bazroy. Age-wise, both of these men could be my father or uncle. It was my hope to meet them, and hug them long and hard. That opportunity is now long gone! Unfortunately, both of them passed away within three months apart. When I heard the news about Pr. Bazroy's demise, I found myself biting my lower lip, motionless and deep in thoughts. At such moments, I tend to be philosophical. "What is life all about? We just seem to come and go. But thank God for the gospel of Jesus Christ. He is the one that gives us hope and a glorious future.

My first encounter with pastor Bazroy was in the mid 1960s. He had come to (then) Assam Training School, Jowai, Meghalaya, to visit his daughter, Sheetal, who was my classmate. He seemed to have a good memory for names and so he always called me by my name. I was also impressed by his crystal clear English, presentable bearing, friendliness, as well as his being spiffy and crisp.

Someone mentioned about his linguistic skills. Yes, Pr. Bazroy definitely had them. He never seemed to have any trouble finding words to express himself on anything. They seem to come off his lips so naturally and smoothly. I was also fully aware of his passion for the gospel ministry. I didn't know the many places he went to serve the Lord, but I certainly did know that he and his family worked for the church in the Garo Hills. An occasional Garo word or phrase from Sheetal would remind me of this fact.

The passing away of Pr. Bazroy is also a reminder that our workers of his age and time are gradually passing away one my one. He and his fellow co-workers have also distinguished themselves as church planters and founders. They were the spearheads and pioneers. They feared neither hell nor high water. They were dedicated, zealous, and worked their tail off to plant a church or a school. Most didn't have the luxury of a motorcycle. They either bicycled or walked and trekked. The legacy that they had left behind is staggering and of enormous significance for the Indian Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Pr. Bazroy is greatly missed - not only by his surviving family, but by his friends and coworkers, and all the church members that had come to know and love him for all those years. I will certainly miss him, too. But we look forward to the day when all those who have died in Christ will be raised to eternal life to meet him in the air. By God's grace, I hope to be there to meet Pr. Bazroy and give him a bear hug.

Prof. Boxter Kharbteng, University of the Southern Caribbean, Trinidad, West Indies

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3. Remembering Prabhu Sharan
Justin Singh<juwyl@aol.com> October 24:
We are saddened to learn of the passing of Master P. C. Sharan. He was my high school teacher and taught me math for one school-year. Among Uttar
Pradesh workers he stands out as one who was smart, good looking, and with a smile on his face. He dressed well and was well groomed. He was a good teacher. He played cricket with us and was an excellent bowler.

I remember Dora, his wife, from Hapur School. She worked as the head of the Hapur Elementary School "School Boy Industry" that produced Peanut Butter, Puffed Wheat and Kooloo Powder Drink. These products sold well in Delhi for a while.

While we were on the faculty at Spicer College, the Sharans and we, along with two other families, lived in the blue quadruplex, nick-named the "Blue Palace," by the Ram River and our children and the Sharan children played together.

On behalf of the Singh family, we want to pass on our heart-felt condolences to Dora, Sunil and Rean, Tinku, Anil, Anita, and his thread grandsons. We can share in your pride to have had a wonderful Christian father and grandfather. May the Lord grant you all peace and comfort in the fact that Master PCS lived a good life and brought joy to his family and a blessing to all who knew him.

--Drs. Justin & Juanita Singh

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4. Remembering William Forrest Zill
Roscoe Benjamin <pastoroscoe@netscape.net> Oct. 25:
My heartfelt condolences to Zill's family. Pastor W. F. Zill was my principal during my entire high school years at Narasapur SDA High School except for one year under Pastor Stahlnecker.
Pastor Zill also taught me Bible subject during my Spicer studies. He was a very caring, loving, and dedicated servant of God. Prayers and blessings to the family.

Remembering Pastor W. F. Zill

Pierson Prakasam Tharapatla <ptharapa@aft.org> October 31:

More than a couple thousand students must have gone through the doors of Narasapur High School, now called Flaiz Memorial Adventist College, in all the 8 years (2 terms) that Pastor William F. Zill was the principal. He and his wife, Mary Alice, made an indelible impression on the minds of many of them. I was living on the campus as a staff member's son ready to enter 4th standard when he came as principal in 1952. When my father, T. Prakasam was transferred to Hyderabad as South Andhra Section Treasurer, I joined as a resident and entered the dorm with the rest of the boys. I watched every move of Pastor Zill very carefully. There was no electricity on the campus, consequently his refrigerator and washing machines were powered by kerosene. The school was lighted by petromax lights powered by kerosene. By sunset these lights were cleaned, lighted and ready to go to various destinations - 3 for boys dorm and later on to the study hall, 2 to the girls dorm and later on to the study hall and 1 or 2 of them to the principal's bungalow.
All the teachers homes were lighted with kerosene lamps. It was Pastor Zill who made the plans bring in electricity to the campus and hired the services of Mr. G. Nagabushanam to wire all the buildings. Unfortunately, he had to leave on furlough and R. E. Stthalnecker replaced him for one year. It was during his time in 1957 that the school finally got its electricity. After
spending a year at Andrews, Pastor Zill returned to Narsapur as principal for a second term.

In the late fifties plans were made to relocate Narsapur school to a town called Ibrahimpatnam near Vijayawada because of the expected progress and the lack of space for expansion. A large property was purchased and construction of a new school was highlighted as one of the projects for the 13th Sabbath overflow offering. The debate was still continuing on whether it was the right move to relocate Narsapur school from its present location with its historical significance. Originally, Narsapur school property was located and purchased by Dr. Theodore Flaiz, one of the earliest missionaries to Andhra field, in March of 1921. Pastor Zill was a silent advocate of not moving the school from its present location. He felt that the school should stay where its founder intended it to stay. The Union committee finally decided not to move it. Pastor Zill, then, looked for nearby properties for future expansion. He found one, a six-acre plot right by the main road and adjacent to the present location. It was owned by the Lutheran Church. He bought that parcel of land on which now stands Flaiz College and a few staff members' homes.

Pastor and Mrs. Zill became an integral part of the village life of Rustumbada involving themselves with all the ordinary folks daily lives going into the villagers homes in case of medical emergencies. When the village panchayat president's wife started having the baby on the bullock cart on the way to the hospital, she helped deliver the baby and vacated one of the rooms of their house to keep the mother and the baby for about 10 days.

The Zills truly upheld the standards of the Adventist church. They imparted to hundreds and even thousands of students the spirit of Christian values. In them we could see true spirit of a missionary couple. Being the only foreign (American) couple in that town (Narsapur), in fact being the only white couple in that area comprising about 100 mile radius, now we can imagine what and how they must have felt not finding anyone of their culture or nationality to talk to or to associate with. Many of the services of the church were conducted in Telugu. They simply sat there not able to sing or understand the service when they were conducted in Telugu. This did not deter their determination to stay there and lead out in the challenges that the school faced. We are grateful for their sacrifice and service to the Narsapur school. Heaven has a record of their deeds. May God bless Mrs. Zill and daughters Chellis (sisters) Karen and Kathy. We share your loss.

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III. Remembering N'Eliya & Mrs. Nelia Rice
Raghuthamman Opeh docopeh@gmail.com> October 31:
We heard that about 300 people died in the landslide in Sri Lanka's Kosalanda this week. The trains do not pass through but close to Kosalanda on the way to Nuwara Eliya. Most of the populace of Kosalanda are tea estate Tamils.
Mama Rice, Mrs. Rice, wife of Principal Ronald E. Rice, was almost born there so they called her Neliya. Short for Nuwara Eliya is N'Eliya. Nuwara
means 'town', eliya is 'light'. So that place is the 'light of the town'. We were not aware of this fact when we were at Spicer High School in 1956. Whenever she came to teach, she was accompanied by her black pet dog (the name of which I have forgotten). While she took the classes, the pet lay at the entrance till she finished class.

IV. URGENT REQUEST 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. You are urgently requested to join by sending an email to the following address: sudnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To remove your name from the mailing list of this newsletter, simply reply to this e-mail and put "REMOVE" in the Subject line.

Posted by: "charles tidwell" <charles.h.tidwell@gte.net>