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I. Spicer Centennial Celebration (Part 2)
Nathan Tidwell<TidwellNR@state.gov> January 30:
The first Friday afternoon session was presented by Pr. Rick McEdwards. Facing the double competition of the cricket match championship finale outside and the post-lunch drowsiness, he gave an engaging presentation to the assembled workers. He shared that whatever our role in the church we are called to, we should do it with all our might. He spoke frankly to the attendees about our Christian service. Position doesn't matter, all must fall at the Lord's feet. The Lord has not called us to a position, but to serve. Church leaders who only take another position if it is higher have lost sight of their mission. Pastors who refuse to leave their housing when their service is terminated, and then sue the church, have stooped to a low, unacceptable level. He thanked workers for their service and challenged all to work hard through the harvest. One evangelist approach can't meet all the needs of the world. For many years we have used the same approach. On another note, he showed charts that showed that across Northern India, there is not a single large city that has a strong Adventist presence. Across India, there are 14 cities of more than 1 million people with fewer than 50 Adventist members. In the NIU, there is more geographical territory than any other union in the world church. There are 26 cities that have a population more than 1 million people in the NIU. In this territory, there is 1 Adventist for every 13K people. He challenged pastors in the rest of India to be missionaries to Northern India, and learn the language(s) of North India. He challenged workers to not adopt the theme song "I shall not be moved". In Closing, he urged Adventists in India to go out into the byways and highways. The harvest is great but the laborers are few. He challenged pastors to be part of the harvest in rugged rural areas where church planting pioneers are needed, and we should not consider this work or these positions beneath us. He suggested that Spicer should send student missionaries as other universities do. Ultimately we are not here
about numbers, but to bring people into a relationship with Jesus. We should do mission, but with honesty and integrity, accountable to local leadership and God. We should not just teach rudimentary doctrines to new believers but develop full discipleship.

The next session featured a Q & A session with Prs. Wilson, Krause, and McEdward, based on written questions the pastors had submitted earlier in the day.

After a brief break, Pr. Franklin David of the South Asia SDA church in Silver Spring, MD delivered the consecration message. He said Pr. Dave Weigley of the Columbia Union conference was unable to attend due to a surgery, so he presented in his stead. He used the illustration of church hitch-hikers in the Washington, DC area who don't settle down into a church family as an example of commitment to serving the church.

A sumptuous supper was served before vespers. Evening vespers started with singspiration led by the group Advent Harmony, and included dedication of the of the new church piano. The 96 members of the 100 Voices choir sang a special anthem. Counting the others on the platform, it was well over 100 people though! The main message was presented by Neils-Erik Andreasen of Andrews University. By the time it came time for the main message, it was 9:00 PM, but as the person who introduced the speaker said, a Centennial only comes once!

The inauguration of the Prayer Garden of Gethsemane by Mrs. Nancy Ted Wilson was due to occur at 9:00 PM, but before it could start, I joined others who left around 10:30 PM to go to sleep. (To be continued in the next issue of SUD e-News)

II. The Ted Wilsons Visit Northeast India
With Wilson's Pledge, Flood-Hit Indian School Is Fully Restored
The Adventist Church leader visits a remote corner of India during a seven-country trip.

 Posted February 5, 2015 from Adventist Review
An Adventist boarding school ravaged by a deadly flashflood in northeast India last fall will be fully back on its feet after Adventist Church leader Ted N.C. Wilson and local church administrators pledged funds for the last renovations: new tables and chairs for the dining hall.

Wilson promised the funds to the principal of Riverside Adventist Academy during a trip this week to the remote Indian state of Meghalaya, which is connected to the rest of India by a thin slice of territory and is bordered by China, Myanmar, and Bangladesh.

Wilson, who is on a two-week tour of seven countries, visited the area with his wife, Nancy, after attending 100th-anniversary celebrations last weekend at Spicer Adventist University in Pune, India.

Riverside Adventist Academy closed its doors to 900 elementary and high school students after heavy torrential rain unexpectedly caused the banks of the nearby Didram River to overflow and swamp the campus in the early morning hours of Sept. 22.

One teacher, Rituraj Phukan, 27, drowned when he was swept away by surging floodwaters. But he first managed to rescue many of the 430 students who lived on campus, and he received a hero's burial at a funeral attended by his wife of six months at Northeast Adventist College, the church's flagship college in northeastern India.
With the assistance of donations and volunteer labor, Riverside Adventist Academy has reopened and is fully functional except for the lack of furnishings in the dining hall, principal Malaki Rimsu told Wilson during a meeting at Northeast Adventist College.

Wilson and leaders from the Adventist Church's Southern Asia Division, which includes India, promised to find the needed funds. "Things are in good order but they need tables and chairs for the dining room since they lost them in the flood," Wilson said by e-mail. "I indicated that the General Conference would be sending some funds from a special fund to assist, and the division is doing the same, so the dining room will again be a blessing to the students."

T. P. Kurian, communication director for the division, expressed gratitude to the many people who have helped reopen the school, which was founded in 2007 and provides free education to Adventist orphans and poor students. "Members of the church volunteered to clean up each building, one after another," said Kurian, who visited the stricken academy after the flood. "The students came back to school, and now classes are going on as usual."

Kurian especially thanked Adventist Review readers who responded to an article and appeal for help. Among those readers were three students - Elizabeth Rodgers and Lydia Tupper, of Adventist-operated Walla Walla Valley Academy, and Campbell Davis, of Walla Walla High School, in the U.S. state of Washington - who raised hundreds of dollars with an acoustic benefit concert staged under the banner "Students Helping Students."

"Thank you for the report that helped the school to get help from different sources and many individuals," Kurian said.

Northeast Adventist College near Shillong welcomed Wilson with culture fanfare and costumes and showed off a new library built with the assistance of a Thirteenth Sabbath Offering. Wilson praised the library's layout, with a central domed reading room and classrooms around the periphery on the second level.

Northeast Adventist College, founded by U.S. missionary O. W. Lange in 1941, is located in an area known as the Scotland of the East, nestled among subtropical forests on rolling hills and mountains. The college has about 200 students, and another 1,000 students attend a local elementary school and high school. More than half of the students come from non-Adventist homes, but about 65 are baptized every year, Wilson said.

Wilson, speaking to an assembled group from across the church's Northeast India Union, preached on Christ's righteousness and the need for Adventists to be strong witnesses in proclaiming the changing power of Christ in their lives. Wilson later visited the first Adventist church and school in Kolkata, at a site where U.S. missionary William A. Spicer helped start church work in 1898, before arriving in Tanzania on Thursday for an African trip that will span six countries, including Tanzania, Kenya, South Sudan, Rwanda and two North African countries.

Division's Most Faithful Tithe Givers

But before the tour of Northeast Adventist College, Wilson visited the Northeast India Union headquarters and an adjacent school in Shillong, the capital of the state of Meghalaya and a 90-minute drive from the college. The Shillong school, which has an enrollment of 1,400 students and growing, will soon tear down an old original building on campus for
additional facilities that will allow it to accommodate more students, Wilson said. A new, large church with seating for 1,000 people is under construction across the road from the school, and the smaller current church will be used for worship by various language groups.

The Northeast India Union is comprised of seven Indian states with 42 million people and about 100 languages. A majority of the population, about 30 million people, practice Hinduism, while the rest are mostly Christian or animist. The Adventist Church has 48,594 members worshiping in 519 churches and companies in the union.

While those members may represent a relatively small percentage of the population, they are among the most faithful in the world when it comes to tithe and offerings. The Northeast India Union has the highest per capita giving of all of the Southern Asia Division, Wilson said.

"God's work is alive and well in northeast India as our members faithfully witness and proclaim the three angels' messages pointing people to Christ and the true worship of God," Wilson said.

III. Death of Bob Manley

Bob Manley passed away February 6 in Palm Springs, California. A memorial service will be held March 28, 4 pm, at the Sunnyside Adventist Church in Portland, Oregon. A life sketch will be included in a coming SUD e-News.

IV. Orphans in India Get Help from UK

Victor Hulbert <vhulbert@adventist.org.uk>

BUC News Edition #913 (6 February 2015)

"INDIAN-THEMED EVENT RAISES £2000 TO HELP ORPHANS IN INDIA

"Stanborough School Science teacher, Kish Poddar, got the 2015 fundraising season for his STOP-International charity<http://www.stop-intl.org.uk/> off to a good start by raising £2000 towards its current projects during an Indian Evening held in the Stanborough Centre last Saturday evening, 31 January.

"Eighty-two people sat down to a full vegetarian three-course Indian meal which included samosas, a choice of vegetarian curries, rice, poppadums, naan bread, cakes and fruit salad. This raised approximately £700 for the charity. Enthusiastic teams of helpers prepared the meals in the Centre's kitchen which were served by some of the Stanborough Park church's teenagers - keen as always to do their bit for charity, and clad in saris to add a degree of authenticity to the event.

"The rest of the money raised came from an auction of donated items such as mirrors, household items, an aquarium, an exercise bike and a car with an MOT until May 2015, and of promises of gardening, massaging and tuition etc.

"'Save The Orphans Please' (STOP International) was founded by Kish Poddar who arrived in Watford with his family as a school boy in the 1960s and still maintains his links with his home country. Having originally agreed to get a party of helpers together to build a chicken house for an orphanage in Tamil Nadu in 2000, he was moved by the extent of the need of the many local orphanages in the area to set up STOP.

"Since those early days he has helped several orphanages in the area with increasingly ambitious projects and has spent a lot of time and energy in organising fundraising projects, assisted by friends and the charity's
trustees. Earlier events have included sponsored London-Paris bike rides, sales, sponsored badminton marathons, carol singing, wrapping gifts at Intu-Watford at Christmas, and Indian-themed meals.

"This year's projects include: drilling a new bore well for one orphanage whose present bore well has dried up, finishing the compound wall for the Love Home, painting the living accommodation of the Way to Life Home and building a new compound wall for the Vocational Training Centre.

"Mr. Poddar makes several trips each year to the orphanages with a team of helpers to undertake much of the work that needs doing themselves. Money raised also helps with the children's school fees.

V. Rose Muthiah Davy <davyp@bellsouth.net> Feb. 14:
Once again our hearts are grieved. I just got the news today that our dear brother Victor Sam, husband of my cousin sister Hepsy, has passed away after a long illness. Please uphold Hepsy in your prayers as she is not in good health and is in a nursing home in Loma Linda, Calif. Kindly pray for their two children Vinod and Vinitha and their families and a host of relatives and friends in USA and in different parts of the world and this includes me. I am also sending my condolence to all who are grieving their loss of loved ones who passed away recently. We have been hearing of many deaths since around 2013 and we are hearing about the signs being fulfilled in different parts of the globe. We are being reminded that the coming of Jesus is truly nearing. May we be ready for that Great Day, by His grace, when sorrow and weeping will come to an end and we can meet everyone who has gone on before us. Even so, come Lord Jesus. Quickly Come!

VI. 90+ Club Increase
Aileen Saunders <saundersai@hotmail.com> Feb. 13:
Please add the Weavers to the 90+ Club: Arthur Weaver is 91. Natalie Weaver is 90. They served in Karachi in the 1960s.


VII. VERY URGENT REQUEST
We are changing the way we distribute the SUD e-News. It is being posted via Yahoo Groups. Our daughter-in-law, Lila Tidwell, has sent invitations to each of you to sign up to the SUD e-News Yahoo group. Please accept the invitation if you wish to continue to receive my newsletter. You are very urgently requested to join by sending an email to the following address: <sudnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com> The old method of sending it to you may be terminated soon.

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