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VI. VERY SPECIAL NOTICE

I. Spicer Centennial Celebration
Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> Feb. 4:
Many Spicerians and friends of Spicer must have seen the highlights of
the centennial celebrations on Hope Channel and were able to catch the ethos
of the occasion. It was fitting that the inaugural session featured
evangelist Dr. John Wilmott the very raison d'etre why Spicer Memorial
College was first established. The College Choir under the direction of Mary
Davy rendered the inspiring, "Hallelujah Chorus."
The morning devotionals taken by Dr. Gary Krause, Pastor Geoffrey
Mbwanza, Dr. Ted N. C. Wilson's message to the pastors on Pastors' Day, the
Consecration Service taken by Pastor Franklin David, the Vesper Service by
Dr. Nells-Erik Andreason, the Panel Discussion under the chairmanship of Dr.
Gordon Christo for the Sabbath School lesson study and the Sabbath Service
by Elder Ted N. C. Wilson which focused on the soon coming of Jesus Christ.
On the final morning, with the Army Bagpipers in attendance, the Hon'ble
Governor of Maharashtra, Dr. Vidyasagar Rao accompanied by Pastor R. John,
Chairman of the College Board, the Hon'ble Shri. Vinod Tawde, HRD Minister,
Government of Maharashtra, Dr. Justus Devedas, Vice-chancellor of SAU, The
Bishop of the Methodist Church, the Bishop of the Catholic Church in Pune and
the President of the World Seventh-day Adventist Church Dr. Ted N. C.
Wilson. The Hon'ble Governor while releasing "Hundred Years of Spicer" and
in his address lauded the work of the Seventh-day Adventists, it's
educational and health institutions and Spicer Memorial College in
particular. The Hon'ble Governor also inaugurated the Centennial Building
housing the College of Management and Computer Sciences.
Lighter moments were provided by a "musical evening", a "cultural
programme", sports events and a "pageant" showing the birth and growth of a
training class in Coimbatore, its move to the Krishnarajapuram campus and finally on Aundh Road, Kirkee first as Spicer Missionary College, now known as Spicer Memorial College into Spicer Adventist University.

For me the most poignant moment was when Mrs. Premila Cherian encapsulated in a few dignified words the life of her late husband while inaugurating the "Gateway to Knowledge" a memorial to the late Dr. M. E. Cherian who was president of Memorial College from December 1963 to July 1995 capping off his illustrious career as President of the Southern Asia Division.

On my visit to the College for the Centennial celebrations two reporters for the Spicerian came to the Sigamony home where I was staying and wanted to know my role in starting the Spicerian. In 1948 when I joined the staff, what was then known, as commercial teacher. The only teaching experience, with no training, I had had was teaching English and maths. at the Urdu medium elementary school at Hapur where teachers brandished a stick to get the attention of playful boys and girls. Pastor H. H. Mattison the acting president of the college asked me if I would take charge of the Spicerian, a school newspaper, which had been thought of and remained unpublished. I took the challenge of the campaign similar to that of the Enterprise, a paper which we published at Vincent Hill. The campaign managers and I divided the school body and staff into two sides and set a goal of 250 subscriptions. During the campaign the leaders of the staff got into a fight and no sooner I as the youngest of the faculty had quelled that fire it was time for the campaign to end. We had not only reached our goal but we surpassed it by getting 950 paid-up subscriptions. We got hold of our reporters, photographers and typists together. G. S. Wilson, K. C. Ninan and I hand set the type which the young men printed on the old Chandler Price machine. The Spicerian was born! Later, the staff appointed Mrs. Minaj Larson as the literary adviser and Caleb Paul as the first student editor.

C. A. Schutt had returned from furlough as SMC president. I knew him as the principal of Vincent Hill School. Before the college year ended he told me that he would like me to be dean of men the following year. He suggested that I should be married. With only 28 ladies in the hostel that shouldn't have been a problem. There was problem however, for the girl I had proposed to by simply saying ,"will you marry me" was surprised as I had said nothing about "love". In India, the saying goes,"marry first" and "love and children follow-on." The problem was she and her parents wanted her to take graduate studies. That could wait.

The Spicerian reporters also asked me whether I felt satisfied with my duties as chairman of the college board for ten years. They were somewhat taken aback when I replied that being chairman of the college board was a thankless job, for no President of a College, let alone a University, worth his salt, whether he be the President of Andrews University or Spicer Adventist University would brook no interference from any source, be it the chairman of the board however pompous he may sound. He should thank the powers that be for honouring him, gratefully accepting any mementos and his sash.

II. Letters

1. Eric Khandagle <skhandagle727@gmail.com> Feb. 18:
Having read and heard of all the glorious reports of the centenary
celebrations of Spicer Adventist University, it fills me with pride to know that I was once a student in that institution and some of my happiest days were spent there. I wish I could have been there, but certain immediate circumstances did not permit me and my wife to be there.

In such large events, there is always bound to be some things that should have been done, but were overlooked. I noticed a few. One such omission is the fact that, although Mrs. Prema nee Amirtham was honored, not much was said about her father who was such a dominant figure at Spicer for many years and contributed so much to the institution.

Another omission, in my humble opinion, is the fact that Sunderan Moses, son of the late Pastor I. K. Moses, who was a well known student and contributed so much by way of his musical and artistic talents to the College was not even recognized. In spite of his recent many hospitalizations and surgeries here during the past year, he wanted to attend this celebration because he loved his Alma Mater and made the long trip to do this. He even used his musical talents at the celebrations, but not a single mention of him was made, which is a great omission, and the faculty missed a good opportunity to recognize one of their own students.

One of Sunder's most noted contributions to the church was his song/composition "That the World May Know" which was chosen as the Theme song for the 1970 General Conference of Seventh-day-Adventists which was held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, USA and it is probable that that song was sung in every SDA church in the world in 1970. This was his "15 minutes of fame" and Spicer lost the opportunity to recognize their student for this.

If I recall correctly, Sunder is the only finest musician that Spicer and the Southern Asia Division has ever produced. He is a Conductor, Composer, Arranger, Pianist, and Organist, and has dedicated all his music only for the Adventist church. God blessed him with these talents which he has used for God's cause alone. He is also currently the Organist and Director of the Choir at the SASDAC church in Silver Spring, Maryland, which has over a 1000 member congregation.

It is very unfortunate that the staff and faculty did not acknowledge his presence at the celebrations although he was a vital part of the music of the college in his years there. I know Sunder is not one to look for accolades of any kind, and so I felt I should point this out to the Spicer Staff and Faculty so that in future careful thought will be given to honor those that deserve it. It is appropriate to honor the leaders of our church, but we should also remember those that humbly and quietly contribute their time and talents for the betterment of our institutions and need to be recognized and appreciated.

2. Bhaju Ram Shrestha <bhajupurna@gmail.com> February 7:
Spicer Centenary: A Foretaste of Heaven
The centenary celebration of Spicer under the leadership of Dr. Justus Devadas gave me the such foretaste of heaven as I had the reunion with my God's statesmen colleagues who not only held the high positions in the church and outside but were also some of the finest mind Spicer ever produced. The unfortunate part was my about 1,000 gigabyte memory chip in my brain was not enough to store all I received during my 64 years of my life, so it was many embarrassing moments to see friends whose topography like as Pune has changed and getting shots, "Did you forget me?" We look forward the
day as Paul said, "We will be known as we are known." However, the reunion with the friends with whom we marched, we played, we laughed, we loved, we prayed, we shared and so on was the foretaste of what heaven would be like. Bringing about 8000 people from all over the world in Spicer was a mammoth tasks itself. The distinguish guests including the Governor of Maharashtra uplifting Spicer as "A pride of Pune" was the soul searching remark for each of us who went through the mill of Spicer College now university. I personally like to thank my friend Dr. Justus Devadas, the present vice chancellor, the past presidents and ongoing new and old faculty members for keeping the light of quality education that make one feel life is worth living, glowing.

Meeting with about a dozen Nepali students, delegates from Nepal and the all man of the SDA Church, Elder Ted Wilson was itself a celebration. Good food which will be eaten only after hundred years which is hoped to be in heaven, the campus environment, spiritually uplifting seminars and the church services, cheerful dispositions of the faculty and organizers, feeling of home and what nots have been my uncomplainable and highlight moments in Spicer where I visited after 38 years. A vip-very insignificance person-like me would not make a sense to write a book about my grand experience in centenary Spicer for other would write as history moves on. However, I would like to thank and appreciate often letters from Dr. Justus Devadas urging to attend the celebration that drew me five days travel from Nepal. His and the Spicer family's par excellence organization for making the celebration a grand success is highly to be prized. Above all I thank the Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ for giving me the pre-experience of what heaven is like by making me the part of the great institution which was my privilege not my right.

3. Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> Feb. 4:
The SUD newsletter of Feb. 3 quotes from David Trim's research on the SAU bearing in the imprint of Lowry and Spicer. I found the piece moving as I grew into manhood in the shadow of that great man and Granny Lowry. Mrs. Bertha Lowry looked after the ladies when I was dean of men in 1949 what was then known as Spicer Missionary College. Roscoe, their son, the first expatriate to get a doctorate in Education would have liked the challenge of being the president of Spicer Missionary College, for he hinted in a letter to Pastor Schutt that he should not hold two positions at the same time. Dr. Lowry and I worked together for 23 years, he being the Division president and I as MV Secretary, union president and secretary of the Division before he accepted the role of Field Secretary when I succeeded him. I missed him and the late Dr. M. E. Cherian when Spicer celebrated its centennial celebrations.

III. 1. Death of Iyadurai Israel
The Southern Asia Adventist Association (SAAA) here in Maryland is deeply saddened to announce the death of Pr. Iyadurai Israel. He was the father of Mrs. Anita Benjamin, wife of our SAAA'S Vice President Kingston Benjamin. Pr. Israel had been in ill health for some time but steadfastly tried to hold on to see his beloved first-born granddaughter Michelle Benjamin get married in May. This expectant joy was dampened, yet the family is reassured in God's promise that "All things work together for good to
them that love the Lord." He now rest in Christ, the Resurrected Savior and Life Giver. SAAA extends heartfelt condolences to all the bereaved families, relatives and friends. As the family strives to understand this sudden loss and overcome the sting of death may God be near to each one as they individually experience the loss of their Loved One. May God grant them comfort and courage; fortitude and faith renewed, in the Blessed Hope.

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2. Death of Mrs. G.S. Helen Peterson
SAAA <Info@saaa.org> Feb 20:
Southern Asia Adventist Association (SAAA) deeply regrets to inform you of the passing of Mrs. G. S. Helen Peterson, 83 years of age, beloved mother of our long time active member Arthur Joy Peterson Ganta and his sister Elvanley. Mrs. Peterson passed away in her sleep at her home early morning Friday, February 20, 2015 in Narasapur, India.
She joins her husband Pr. G. S. Peterson, who preceded her in death, awaiting the Golden Morning of the resurrection. They both served their church faithfully in various leadership capacities, in Southern Asia Division of Seventh-day Adventists.
The Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 10:00 am, in Narasapur.
SAAA extends heartfelt condolences to the bereaved Ganta families and loved ones. Please uphold them in your prayers. May God grant them peace, comfort and fortitude to endure a little while longer, when Christ returns to unite all loved ones who rest in Him.

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IV. Remembering Bob Manley
Yvonne Hanson <yjhanson@verizon.net> Feb. 8:
Bob's passing is such tragic news for all the Manley family and those who have known them in times past. I'm not sure if Bob's mother, Beth is still alive, but if she is the passing of her second son must be a very hard emotional experience. I've known the Manley family from both Vincent Hill days and Burma days when Myrl Manley, Bob's father, was pastor of the Rangoon SDA church. At that time Bob was a little fellow in my Sabbath School class-I have a picture to prove it! I don't remember any "hairy" incidents related to him so I must presume he was a compliant youngster. Through the ensuing years I never really got to know Bob or Kathy, but have had a series of contacts with Bob's parents and brother, Jim, all of whom have been a joy to know, including Jim's wife, Elaine. Myrl was a source of great encouragement to me as I struggled with some serious issues in Rangoon and Beth was always a very caring person. I was honored to be able to have them in my home in Loma Linda shortly before Myrl passed away.
To all the family my heart goes out to you and my prayer is that God will sustain you through this passage in your lives. Together, with many other promises, He has promised to never leave us or forsake us. Be courageous as you hold on to Him. The day will soon come when all our tears will become tears of joy as we reunite with our loved ones.

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Priya Narh Mehra <nathji@yahoo.com> February 8
Deeply shocked at the passing away of my good friend and schoolmate of Vincent Hill School, Mussoorie India where I still am. I fondly remember him and his brother Jimmy and his father M. O. Manley who was then principal of
the school when I was there in 1954-1955. I believe Bob had told me a year ago that his mother was still alive. May God give her strength to bear this tragic loss. My condolences and deepest sympathies. Why are all my goof fiends of VHS passing away? I feel so alone now!

Priya Nath Mehta, Mussoorie, India

V. Remembering Elder Salisbury
Margaret (Blue) Jackson <jwinchell@centurylink.net> Feb. 11:
I would like to share a little information about Elder Salisbury that I gleaned from letters my mother, Lillie Blue, had written her parents who lived in Loma Linda. (My grandmother had kept all of her letters.) The General Conference wanted Elder Salisbury to return to Southern Asia via the Pacific route as they thought it was safer, but he was in a hurry to return to the year-end meetings in various parts of the division. His boat was bombed by the Germans in the Mediterranean. Some hours later another ship came and picked up the survivors and then continued on to Bombay. The captain radioed to India the names of the survivors so Mrs. Salisbury knew her husband was not among them. However, she met the boat when it arrived in Bombay and talked with her husband's cabin mate. He told her that her husband had given his life jacket to a woman. Only in eternity will we know why God permitted a man with his vision to perish at that time and in that way.

VI. 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.

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