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VERY SPECIAL NOTICE & IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT SUD E-NEWS
We are changing the way we distribute the SUD e-News. Soon it will go out only via Yahoo Groups. The old distribution method worked well in the beginning when there were few subscribers and the editor was 20 years younger! Now, with thousands of subscribers, the old system is both time-consuming and burdensome for me as I am nearing age 93 to send out the newsletter each week as I have been doing, so the new method will be much easier for me and you can still receive it regularly.

You already received several invitations to sign up to the SUD e-News Yahoo group. We will send out one more round of invitations to join the Yahoo group. Please accept the invitation if you wish to continue to receive this newsletter. Alternately you or any interested party can subscribe by sending an email to the following address: <sudnews-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>. If you are already receiving the newsletter via Yahoo groups, you need do nothing further. After the third round of invitations have been sent, the SUD e-News will go out only to addresses that subscribed to the Yahoo Group.

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I. Spicer Centennial Celebration
Spicer Celebrates its Centennial in Style
[While other attendees to the Centennial celebration have written accounts of the event, the following by one of the Spicer University officers gives a different perspective to the whole occasion. Readers may be surprised at the multitude of "Drs" who graced the celebration programs.]
S. Rajendra Prasad <srajendraprasad140830@gmail.com> Feb. 3:
Spicer celebrated its centenary in style and grandeur from January 28 to February 1, 2015. Though the plans were started about 4 years ago, they were sort of delegated to the backburner these last two years with the sudden unexpected emergence of Spicer Adventist University, but absolutely with no regrets as the joy experienced by parents of an unexpected child at his birth. Of course, though all our focus was suddenly diverted towards the conception, gestation, birth pangs, birth and infancy of the university, as the centenary approached we resumed our tasks where we left them, worked unceasingly and were well geared to welcome the celebrations.
The Steering Committee chaired by Dr. Justus Devadas and 25 other Centennial Committees met as often as they could to make the celebrations a great success. Several dignitaries like the President of the World Seventh-day Adventist Church, Dr. Ted N. C. Wilson and his dear wife Mrs. Nancy Wilson, other leaders from the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventists, President of Andrews University Dr. Niels-Erik Andreasen, officers of Southern Asia division (SUD, Unions, Conferences, Sections, Areas, alumni of Spicer, leaders of other Christian churches in and around Pune and others were invited, several publications and their releases were planned, and free but rich vegetarian meals with a tempting menu were chalked out for all the 5 days for nearly 5,000 people.

The celebrations, in fact, started much before the scheduled days with visitors and guests beginning to stream into the campus early not only to quench their curiosity about this enigma of a college suddenly turned into an university, but also perhaps to find some good accommodation closer home. The celebrations actually started on Sunday, January 25, 2015, with delegates registering themselves near the Ad Building. The following day being the Republic Day, there was a brief lull in the activities but resumed more vigorously on the penultimate date of the celebrations. The actual programme started on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 with breakfast at 8 am and nearly 2,400 delegates were in attendance. The "Praise and Worship" Team then led out in boisterous song service at 9 am, followed by opening remarks by Dr. Justus Devadas, Special Song by Spicer Adventist University Chorale, sermonette by Dr. John Wilmott and inauguration by Pastor R. John, President of SUD and of Spicer Adventist University.

At 11 am, the delegates dispersed to attend seminar presentations at 4 different venues. The presenters were Dr. Shirani de-Alwis Chand, Dr. Wann Fanwar, Mr. Wesley James and Pr. Paulasir Abraham on the respective topics, "The relevance of Adventist Education in the XXI Century, "Current Issues in Theology and Their Relevance to the Seventh-day Adventist Church', "integrity and Commitment in the Seventh-day Adventist Church", and "A Cultural Perspective of Contextualizing the Gospel in India". After lunch there were 4 more presentations by Dr. Niels-Erik Andreasen, Dr. Jiri Moskala, Mr. Andrew Tompkins and Dr. Ian Philip Chand on their respective Topics, "Building the Kingdom of God through Education", "Christ's Intercessory Ministry for Us Today: Why Do We Need It?", "Adventist Theology in South Asian Context", and "Marriage and the Family".

After supper the delegates were treated to a wholesome entertaining Christian Musical Evening organized by Ms Mary Davy in the huge Centennial Shamiana, with Dr. Justus Devadas and Dr. Noble Pilli, trying to break the monotony, if there was one, by inviting the veterans among the guests over to the stage and honouring them with either "Award of Appreciation" (Plaques) or just with "A Word of Appreciation", and both receiving a bouquet of flowers and a Spicer dark blue velvet stole, complete with the logo.

The next day started with better breakfast, Praise and Worship, message from Dr. Gary Krause and four more presentations by Dr. M. J. Prakasam, Dr. Maesapogu Wilson, Dr. Gary Krause and Dr. Manzoor Massey on the respective topics, "Growth and Development of Seventh-day Adventist Education in Southern Asia Division - Challenges and Opportunities", "Significance of the Call to the Gospel Ministry", "Seeking the Shalom: In search of a Faithful
Holistic Adventist Urban Mission", and "The Family of God". After lunch the last four made their presentations: Dr. R. J. Solomon, Pastor Daniel Devadas, Dr. Joy C. Kurian and Dr. Vijayan Charles on their respective diverse topics, "SUD's Youth in the New Millennium", "Mission to the Cities", "Nature's Remedies for Serious Ailments", and "Ageless Body - Timeless Mind", exposing the delegates to various genre of thought-provoking material.

In the evening a special welcome programme was arranged for the visiting chief guests, Dr. and Mrs. Ted N. C. Wilson on a decorated stage on the University Plaza. Dignitaries from all parts of India and abroad who themselves were honoured by tying the ceremonial royal turban popular in Maharashtra paid their respects to the World Church leader with bouquets and garlands. Following this, the scene shifted suddenly to the entrance of the campus for the inauguration of the newly built "Dr. M. E. Cherian Memorial Gate Way to Knowledge" a stately and impressive monument, by his beloved wife, Mrs. Premila Cherian surrounded by her son Kenneth Cherian and the Wilsons along with family friends and University administrators.

Later in the night the guests and the delegates were treated to an entertaining cultural programme which included a special song by Mrs. Reena Gayan, just retired head of the erstwhile Hindustani Music department, parade of nations organized by Dr. Chacko Paul, compeered by Mr. A. S. Varekan and various dances participated in and performed by student groups coming from various Adventist schools across India. Of course, more veterans were honoured by the University administration during intervals.

Friday, January 30, 2015, was set aside as "Pastors' Day and more than 500 pastors gathered at Spicer on the third day at 10:30 am after the regular "praise and Worship" at 9:00 am. Mr. Andrew Tompkins, the coordinator arranged the well-attended programme in the Spicer's House of Prayer itself and Dr. Ted Wilson gave the message and Pastor Gary Krause made a presentation. The programme continued after lunch and Dr, Rick McEdward made a presentation. Dr. Ted Wilson again joined the panel of 4---Pastors Daniel Devadas, Franklin David, and Dr. McEdward to moderate the questions and answers session. The Pastors day concluded with a Consecration Service at 4:00 pm.

After supper, the Advent harmony, a choir consisting of the faculty and staff of Spicer lead the song service in the vespers programme followed by the prayer of dedication for the newly presented grand piano presented to Spicer by Mr. Rajan Charles in memory of his late wife Elizabeth Charles, by Dr. Ted N. C. Wilson. The scripture reading was read in seven different languages followed by special music rendered by Spicer' 100 voice choir. Dr. Andreasen, President of Andrews University then presented his most meaningful sermon and Dr. Paulasir Abraham rendered the benediction. Then the prayer garden "Gethsemane" was inaugurated by Mrs. Nancy Wilson with the closing song "I Come to the garden Alone".

Sabbath, January 31, 2015 was the high day of the celebrations. During the Sabbath School the feature talk was led by Dr. Nanibala Paul, Dr. Kenneth Swansi, Dr. Pothen Kurian, Mrs. Jill Charles, and Mrs. Sridevi Ming Singh, and the songs by Morning Stars and the Lords Prayer sung by BYLC. The Lesson study was led by a panel consisting of Drs. G. E. Christo, C. Chawngthu, M. S. Jeremiah, Richard Rajarathnam and Vijayan Charles. During the divine service again the 100 voice Spicer Chorale sang the special
number before the timely and pointed yet sacred message by Dr. Ted Wilson. After lunch there was an Ordination service where three of Spicer's faculty, Mr. Vanlaltluanga Khuma, Mr. Paul Bhaggien and Mr. Awungashi Samshakwo Varekan, were ordained for Divine Ministry. After supper, a "Book Release and Honour" programme continued in the House of Prayer. The Book of Honour compiled by Dr. Noble Pilli, the centennial Song Book, prepared by Ms. Mary Davy, and the Journal of Research articles, compiled by Dr. Roy Injety and the Morning Devotion compiled by Dr. Mohanraj Israel were released by Dr. Shirani de Alwis Chand, Dr. Ted N. C. Wilson, Dr. Niels-Erik Andreasen and Pastor Robert Clive respectively. In between, of course, several senior alumni and friends of Spicer were honoured by the Spicer Adventist University administrators with a bouquet, stole and some even by a plaque. Special honours were bestowed on Dr. R. S. Lowry, Dr. G. J. Christo and Dr. D. R. Watts, the former still living presidents of SUD and the present incumbent Pastor Rathinaraj John, and on Pastor W. G. Jenson and Dr. Samuel Gaikwad, former college presidents and on Special friends of Spicer Dr. Niels-Erik Andreasen, Dr. Vijayan Charles, Dr. Geoffrey Mbwana, Dr. Weymouth Spence, etc., followed by a historical pageant 'Eyes of Faith" depicting the 100 years history of Spicer Memorial College from its inception as South India training School at Coimbatore in 1915 to its culmination as the Spicer Adventist University in Pune about a hundred years later., which was organized by Mrs. Shirin Rose and Mr. Abishek Lakra and well presented by the high school staff mostly. At the end Dr. Sharath Babu Nakka, a visually handicapped professor at Spicer, but who was much more able otherwise, had given a testimony praising God for the wonderful way he had led him in spite of his challenge and used him as a mighty vessel to preach not only in several parts of India but across the globe too every year. The following day, Sunday, was the culmination of the celebrations which saw the Chief Guest, Honourable Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Ch Vidyasagar Rao, inaugurating the centenary Project, the College of Management and Computer Science Building, at about 10:00 am and then addressing the august gathering of the elite group from the city, country and abroad, along with all the delegates and college family, seated in the Centennial Pandal erected on the main lawn. Before his address, the army band performed for about half an hour and played the national Anthem, Pastor R. John welcomed the gathering, Bishop N. L. Karkare (Methodist Church in India) offered prayer for peace and Communal harmony. Then the Book, "100 Years' History of Spicer Memorial College" painstakingly prepared by Prof. S. Rajendra Prasad and his team was released by Hon’ble Governor Shri Ch Vidyasagar Rao and presented to all the dignitaries on the dais. Then Dr. Ted Wilson was felicitated by the Governor with a plaque prepared by the President and Vice Chancellor of Spicer Adventist University who reciprocated the gesture by presenting the governor another plaque on behalf of the officers of the University. Then Bishop Thomas Dabre (Catholic Church, Pune) while extending greetings from the Christians of Pune, compared Spicer's reaching 100 years to scoring a century in cricket and contrasting that while one can reach a century and get out, Spicer will continue with "not out". Dr. Ted N .C. Wilson, then while conveying the greetings from the World church of Seventh-day Adventists, emphasized the text in Micah 6:8 "He hath showed thee, O Man, what is good; and what doth Jehovah require of thee, but to do
justly, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with thy God?" reminding and admonishing the academicians, clergy and civic leaders gathered there about this great responsibility placed on each of them while taking care of the people entrusted to their care. Then Dr. S. B. Mujumdar, Chancellor of Symbiosis International University, representing and bringing greetings from the educators of Pune, spoke fondly of his 30-year association with the former illustrious president of Spicer Dr. M. E. Cherian and Spicer College, and urged the Governor to implement the three main features of Spicer College in all the universities in Maharashtra: the 'earn and learn' work education philosophy followed at Spicer, its international flavour, and the moral values upheld at Spicer, drawing loud cheers from the audience. In response, Shri Ch Vidyasagar Rao, the hon'ble governor, extolled the role played by Spicer College all these 100 years in imparting distinct and quality education to thousands of students. He had many more still worthier tributes for Spicer before he offered his full support to the further growth of the university as it still lies in his state though he is not its chancellor. Then the Spicer College choir sang the College Song before the army played the national anthem once again. After the prayer of dedication, Shri Vidyasagar Rao then left the stage for a brief visit to the Spicer's impressive House of Prayer before returning to Raj Bhavan. The last meeting of the celebration, however was the public function in Hotel Hyatt attended by the city leaders for the civic reception rendered to Dr. and Mrs. Ted N. C. Wilson. Dr. Justus welcomed the gathering, presented a plaque to Dr. G. Immanuel, Principal of Maninagar School and newly elected Chairman of Indian School Certificate Examination Board which has over 2083 on its roster and presented Dr. Ted Wilson to the august gathering. Several felicitation speeches were made, garlands and bouquets offered, shawls were draped, and plaques and photographs were presented after Dr. Wilson once again reminded the city fathers of the great virtues of humility and the responsibility that was bestowed upon each of them and admonished them of doing their duty faithfully. The meeting ended finally with Dr. Ted Wilson offering a prayer for the city of Pune and its people and everyone was invited to a delicious vegetarian buffet, thus bringing the centennial celebrations of Spicer memorial College to a fitting close. "To God be the glory; great things He hath done"!

II. Letters
1. Ian Grice <Ian Grice ieghg@hotmail.com> March 3:
I have followed the Spicer Celebrations with interest. The videos circulating showed just how much Spicer has changed since the 20 years Georgine and I lived and served in Southern Asia, 8 years of which were directly involved with the then known Spicer Memorial College. Those were good years, and it's obvious students and staff past and present take pride in their association. Dr. Justus Devadas is to be highly commended for bringing the University goal to fruition. He and his faculty and staff have worked hard. Reading some of the recent letters it's sad to see that in the stress of planning for the event some were left off the list of those to be honoured. I remember what a remarkable contributor to the College Pr. Amirtham was. He loved students dearly and was such a good friend to me. I was unaware Sunder had been experiencing poor health and it would have been nice to acknowledge him too. Pastor Christo who gave his report on the
session is one of my heroes and there are many among the national leaders I worked with. Pastor I. K. Moses was one of my mentors. In spite of some emissions which I know Dr. Devadas will also regret planning the event would naturally have placed the University Administration under pressure and time constraints. I think they did a great job in organizing this memorable event.

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III. Death of Victor Sam Bathini  
Samuel Kana <samuelka@hotmail.com> March 5:  
Dr. Victor Sam Bathini was born on May 20, 1947, the second child of the late pastor and Mrs. Samuel Bathini in Rajahmundry Andhra Pradesh. He had three sisters. One sister Mrs. Mercy Samson passed away on 9th Dec 2014. As the only son, he was definitely the favorite of the family. He was a curious and willful child who grew into a loveable, diligent and humble young man. He lived a life of constant striving toward higher goals, fulfilling his and other people's dreams along the way.

In Pune, he earned his B.A. from Spicer Memorial College, and his M.A. at Poona University. In 1970, after graduating, he began his career as a teacher and Dean of boys at SDA High School, Narsapur, Andhra Pradesh. On May 30, 192 he married the love of his life, Hepsy Dawson. Together, they moved to Nasapur, where they were blessed with two wonderful children, Vinod and Vinitha.

He held various positions throughout his career. He was principal of M. C. Dhamanwala Higher Secondary, in Surat and Principal of SDA High School, Vijayawada. As Director of the Education Department at Central India Union, he was a reliable and resourceful colleague, superintending a vast network of boarding and higher secondary schools. He was continually designing new programs that fostered quality education and he was always supportive of his colleagues who admired and valued his leadership. Countless people are educated because of his efforts, and many professionals have thrived because of his leadership.

In 1989, he immigrated to the U.S. in pursuit of furthering his own education. He excelled and 1994 earned his Ed. S in Administration and Leadership. In 1996, he fulfilled his dream of earning his PhD in Administration and Leadership.

In 1990, he opened a world of dreams to his children by bringing them and his wife to the United States. They blossomed in the new environment he provided them, earning college degrees themselves. This was only possible because of their father's nurturing and vision.

In recent years, he worked as a HIPPA compliance officer at Peppermint Ridge, where his colleagues unsurprisingly valued him deeply. One of his colleagues writes that he was a mentor and a friend who was happy to advise and listen about anything from family to educational aspirations. He was seen as a wise person who guided others to success.

He was a wonderful cook, making fish and chicken curry that nearly
caused riots in the lunchroom at work. When visitors came to his house, he always had their favorite dishes prepared. Victor's dream was to become a pastor. Although it was not realized, he ministered to people in many ways throughout his life. Above all, he was a man of prayer, a man who knew the Bible well, and who loved God. He spent the day before he passed with his loved ones. During lunch with his daughter, he remarked, "I'm ready to see Jesus." Later that day, despite feeling tired, he insisted on visiting his beloved wife, and spent the evening with his son. This last day is a perfect reflection of his adoration of his children and his never ending love affair with his wife. His unexpected passing leaves a hole in the lives of countless people, from India to Loma Linda, who will miss his guidance and his booming, infectious laughter.

Funeral service was held on 22 February at Campus Hill Church, Loma Linda, CA.

Our heartfelt condolence to bereaved family Mrs. Hepsy Dawson: son Vinod, daughter Vinitha, sisters Mrs. Sampurna Kanagaraj, Mrs. Swarna Amos, and extended family.

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