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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.

I. Bill Johnsson Wins Weniger Award

--from Adventist Review, February 26:

Former Adventist Review Editor Wins Prestigious Weniger Award

William G. Johnsson together with Bert B. Haloviak and Bert B. Beach are recognized for their contributions to the Adventist Church.

Former Adventist Review editor William G. Johnsson is among three 2015 recipients of the Charles Elliot Weniger Award for Excellence, considered one of the most prestigious honors to be bestowed by a church entity.

"Anything that I have done or accomplished is only by grace. I have been incredibly blessed," Johnsson said Thursday. He called his induction into the Weniger Society "a great honor," but said he could think of many other men and women who were equally if not more deserving of receiving the award.
The Weniger Society was established in 1974 by the late U.S. Representative Jerry Pettis and the late dentist Clinton Emmerson, former students of Charles Weniger, to honor people who demonstrate the servanthood and compassion associated with Weniger (1896-1964). A noted scholar and public speaker, Weniger taught and held leadership positions at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary and other church educational institutions.

Lawrence T. Geraty, chair of the Weniger executive committee, conferred this year's awards to Johnsson, Beech, and Haloviak at a ceremony in the Loma Linda University Church on the afternoon of Sabbath, Feb. 21.

Johnsson, a native Australian, served as Adventist Review editor for 24 years until his retirement in 2006. Before becoming editor, he taught as a theology professor at India's [Vincent Hill School and] Spicer College, Andrews University, and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary. He also has written numerous books, including Jesus of Nazareth: His Life and Teachings, which will be released this year.

About 160 people have received the Weniger award over the past 40 years.

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II. AMC Report

Edison Samraj <amc.pune1947@gmail.com> March 23:

***Ninety Precious Souls Baptized in Tinpahar

The Adventist Media Centre has taken an initiative to conduct a major evangelistic program in Tinpahar, a small village near Bhisampur where over a thousand people attended meetings everyday for seven days. We had a harvest of 90 souls baptized. I am happy to inform you that the experience was beautiful, enjoyable and exciting to see how the people of God were healed, restored and revived by the Word of God. I was personally blessed and touched by the message give by God's servant. Kindly pray for the people who have been baptized. I hope and pray that it will be a blessed experience for them to grow in faith and love.

***Phenomenal Success Story of FM in India

The Adventist Media Centre of Southern Asia Division is happy to announce that the report of FM project in India has reached a phenomenal success in Phase V reaching to 350 towns, 17 cities in 5 languages and impacting over 17 million people everyday. This has been a great success story for us to take note of. We have been, in some sense, extremely happy to know read the responses from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Guwahati to Gujarat. It has been a story of triumph! More importantly, we have engaged ourselves in establishing very clear cut follow up programs for listeners who are tuning in to our programs in the twin cities of Secunderabad and Hyderabad. I am happy to inform you that we have engaged our local pastors to help us in the follow up program. We look forward to reaching a harvest of souls through this medium of FM, which is the extended pulpit of the Adventist church in India. We look forward to greater results of this seed sowing in India. We are also happy to inform that we have reached Maldives, Bhutan and Nepal with our programs. As a result of our sowing, I believe that it will surely grow more and more as we increase our frequency for these areas.

--Dr. Edison Samraj, Director, Adventist Media Centre
III. Remembering Them
Alfred Raju <alfredraju_d@yahoo.co.in> March 16:
I am sorry to hear that Dr. Victor Sam passed away; it is surprising news to me. He is the best among all us, loved by his own sisters. Our deep condolence to the family, Hepsy, and the children.

We are sorry to hear of Mrs. Helen Akka's passed away we; know her when I was a small boy in Nuzvid and I still remember she married Peterson Annaya and they were brought by the hospital van to the reception place, and we are sorry to know her sudden death. I wish the children will be strong to face this death and to prepare to meet them when Jesus comes second time.

IV. Honoring Sunder Moses
Richard Jesudass <rjesudass@aol.com> March 4:
I want to honor Sunder Moses for his contribution to the enhancement of music appreciation both at Spicer and around the world. No other Spicerian (or native Southern Asian) has distinguished himself, both at Spicer, or on the world stage, as Sunder Moses. His musical talent and genius is both legendary and inspiring.
Many aspiring young musicians, including myself, aspired to emulate Sunder and his musical prowess.
We all dreamed of playing the piano "by ear" like Sunder. He was a genius. One of a kind. There has been no other Spicerian so well known and celebrated as Sunder. He was, in his own time, Mr. Spicer himself!
My father, Pr. S. Jesudass, served as Dean of Men for several years during Spicer's golden years. He was never ashamed to say that his most favorite men's hostel resident was Sunder Moses, who was president of the Men's club one more than one occasion! He is, and will always be, a hero to many of us who were privileged to see, and know, his musical prowess, and genius, during Spicer's Golden years. I only wish he would know the many lives he has touched and impressed, and the many admirers and fans he has among ex-spicerians around the world! He was the Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart of our time in Spicer.
I do hope that someday we will be able to galvanize ourselves to pay a rich, and fitting tribute, to Sunder, for his life and musical contribution to our society that has immensely enriched all our lives.
I would like to wish Sunder, and his wife Evangeline, the very best of health and a continued celebration of the best of there is of Christian music. Those of us who were privileged to know Sunder and his musical genius; we have been truly blessed! We now need to spread the word "That the world may know"!
Richard "Dicky" Jesudass, M.D.
Tulsa, Oklahoma

V. Scholarships for Spicer Students
Paulraj Isaiah <isaiahpaulraj@gmail.com> March 17:
Relayed by Michael Israel Osuri, President, Southern Asia Adventist Association
Dr. Justus Devadas has provided the information below on scholarship awardees. With great pleasure I note our conversation when setting up the
Trust Fund and the interest from it to be used perpetually as scholarships for students in Ministry or self-supporting students who will commit to serve the Adventist Church in Southern Asia Division. He said to me: "This is good. We can share the blessings with many more students, rather than giving it all to a few." I appreciated his leadership and God Honoring gratitude for the students and the college/university. Several already have received these scholarships and more were given out this Centennial Year of Spicer Adventist University! Any Adventist student may apply for such a scholarship to study at Spicer and commit at least three years of work service to Southern Asia Division. You may send your applications directly to the university address under the Chancellor’s name.

Justus Devadas, Ph.D
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VI. Death of Alice S. Schimke
from Adventist Review, March 19:
Alice S. Schimke, b. March 27, 1922 Ritzville, Wash; d. July 24, 2014, Port Charlotte, Fla. She served as a missionary to China and India. She is survived by two sons, Dallas and Clyde; one daughter, Sharon Walsh; four grandchildren; and four great-grand children.

VII. Two Adventists Detained in Bangladesh
Adventist Review, March 24:
The Seventh-day Adventist Church said Tuesday that two Adventists were detained in Bangladesh on unclear charges. They have been released from custody ahead of a court hearing, church spokesman Garrett Caldwell said. The Adventist Church is seeking to clarify the circumstances surrounding the case.
"While the Seventh-day Adventist Church places a high value on religious freedom and encourages respect for all religious traditions, we realize that misunderstandings may occur in areas of the world where we are a religious minority," Caldwell said. "It is our hope that the situation can be resolved as we work with local authorities to clarify the matter." He asked Adventists worldwide to pray about the situation.

Bangladesh, which is bordered on three sides by India and Myanmar to its southeast, has the world's fourth-largest Muslim population after Indonesia, Pakistan, and India. An estimated 86 percent of the population of 157 million is Muslim, followed by 12 percent Hindu and 1 percent Buddhist. Christians comprise about 0.4 percent of the population. . .

VIII. Assam Training School to become Northeast Adventist University
Dr. M. S. Jeremiah <jeremiahms@rediffmail.com> March 26:
It is with immense delight and heartfelt thankfulness to God that I bring to you the joyful news that the Meghalaya Assembly has voted in favour
of accepting our proposal of setting up the Northeast Adventist University on the Northeast Adventist College. This means that we are now well on our way to construct another Adventist University in Southern Asia with Northeast Adventist University Act, 2015.

God in His goodness and munificence has smiled on our efforts and blessed us with this gift to ensure and safeguard the growth of the Adventist Church here in Southern Asia and use it as a vehicle to drive the educational growth of our youth and to provide quality education anchored on Adventist values with the prime purpose of bringing honour and glory to God. Even though considerable, persistent and committed teamwork has gone into getting the required authorizations, I have no doubt that it was God's doing. What has dawned today is surely God's response to the thousands of faithful children who knelt down and prayed to God for the growth and prosperity of the Northeast Adventist College campus.

My mind goes back to the times when Pastor O. W. Lange, a dedicated missionary, visited this area and acquired this 90 acres of sprawling land that was then a wilderness, dense with uncontrolled vegetation, inhabited by wild animals and disparate tribal communities who had no idea who Jesus was. With a desire to bring the word of God to them, Pastor Lange commenced a small missionary school there for the children of the local populace. I am certain that he would never in his wildest dreams have imagined that the seeds he had sown would one day flourish and grow from a small school, to a higher secondary school, to a college and now a University. Truly a momentous journey and today as we celebrate and rejoice in our new success it is worth remembering the pioneers and all those who have sojourned on this long but memorable journey.

The Adventist University is a dream come true and I, on my part am determined, along with my equally resolute colleagues at Metas and Northeast, to step out in faith and fulfill the promise that God has through this benison laid out for us. We are hoping to create a world-class institution of learning with a unique Adventist Christian culture of excellence, discipline and service to humanity with a mission to inform, educate and serve as a vehicle for spiritual growth for the Northeast youth in particular and the Adventist youth of Southern Asia in general. I am thankful to the Division Administration for entrusting me this sacred work. Once again I thank you for your support and encouragement and pray that I will continue to receive it in the months ahead as we attempt to bring our joint efforts to the right fruition.

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