I. Letters

1. Paul Dara <darapaul44@hotmail.com>

I want to first of all thank God for His mercies in advancing Adventist Education in Southern Asia, in particular in India. At this moment I want to congratulate Dr. M. S. Jeremiah and his team of dedicated workers in bringing to fruition the dream of an Adventist University. I also want to acknowledge Dr. Justus Devadas and his team in bringing Spicer College to Spicer University. There are many challenges a head to bring both these institutions into full grown universities offering an education second to none and with Christian values and Adventist principles. I pray that God will continue to lead our visionary educator in Southern Asia to enhance
Adventist Education far beyond the Adventist community. God bless you and we
will continue to pray for your success and the success of Adventist
education in Southern Asia.

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2. Solomon Injety <solomoninjety@gmail.com> April 3:
I'm almost unable to digest the good news of a possible miracle that is
happening in Assam. Nothing is impossible to God! Hearty congratulations to
you, Dr. Jeremiah. Our prayers are with you.

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II. Sri Lanka's Lakeside Hospital Celebrates Its 50th Year
Merlyn Fernando <merlynfernando@yahoo.com> March 30:
On this the 50th year of the Lakeside Adventist Hospital, Sri Lanka,
operations, the staff have joined together to host a community event each
month from January to September. The first, on Jan 10 Sabbath, the actual
date of Lakeside's opening, a Thanksgiving Service was held in its own
chapel.
In Feb they screened over 250 of the less advantaged in the
neighbourhood for health and dynamic fitness which included vision, blood
cholesterol and sugar. This month they have just finished conducting medical
clinics and doctor checks for the same staff relatives,vendors and business
supporters. Next month the traditional Run for Fun invites the whole of the
city athletes, community and school children to complete a half marathon,
even if they walk the whole way. Awards for the different categories and age
groups are sponsored by business folk. June will be a Week of Prayer to
which most all staff attend, the majority of whom are non Adventists, a
doctor dinner for all doctors who see patients at Lakeside in July. An award
banquet for all staff in September closes the celebration year. Government
and Church dignitaries will attend.
In August Lakeside will host a Health Expo on the camp meeting grounds
for a whole day. This will be mostly for the benefit of Adventist membership
around the island. There will be self tests, quizzes and fitness 'games' and
literature to distribute.
Praise God for bringing so many together in social and spiritual
fellowship. ~~~~~~~~~~~~~
III. Honoring Mr. S. Kisku, Bus Driver
Gordon Christo <gechris@sud-adventist.org> March 31:
In the hallowed pages of the history of Spicer must be included in deep
letters the service of Mr. S. Kisku. The Division called the Kiskus to
Spicer when the college acquired a brand new Tata-Mercedez Benz bus in 1965.
He may have been the only Adventist in the country with a license to drive a
heavy vehicle. The bus was the most luxurious available at that time and
wherever it went a crowd gathered to ooh and aah.
The bus had a kitchenette and a toilet at the rear for long trips. It
had a PA system and curtains shaded its windows. Some of us saw Formica for
the first time when we entered the bus. For years Mr. Kisku was the only
driver allowed to operate the bus, and he kept the vehicle spotless and in
prime condition. He drove it with pride. Mr. Kisku drove the choir to Goa in
December of 1965 for a concert a year after the state was liberated from the
Portuguese. The Division then planned a trip to the Holy Land by road and
selected delegates, but had to cancel the tour when the war of 1967 broke
out.
While driving Mr. Kisku participated actively in any conversation that students and faculty engaged in. It was often said that Spicer had two walking encyclopedias who could converse on any topic—one was Dr. R. L. Rowe, and the other was Mr. Kisku. Mr. Kisku mixed freely with students and everyone respected him and his views.

One time I heard a stranger ask Mr. Kisku for directions to his home, and Mr. Kisku responded, "When you enter the Spicer campus ask any child for directions to my home." He was absolutely correct. All children loved this friendly gentle person because he loved them first and he stopped to pay genuine attention to any child he passed. Spicer was a better college because of the presence of this uncomplicated person who placed service above self.

IV. Kandavalli Rajeshwar Rao Long Remembered
from the 1993 Morning Watch book by Donald & Vera Mansell

"Kandavalli Rajeshwar Rao, a man in his 40s, was born in Madras, India and reared a Hindu. About 4 o'clock in the morning, some 15 years ago, while visiting relatives, a voice woke him from a sound sleep, with the words 'Mark 4:20.' Nothing more. He awakened the others in the room and asked, 'Did any of you hear a voice?' No one had. When he dozed off again, the voice repeated, 'Mark 4:30.' Again no one else heard the words. His curiosity was aroused.

"When Rao reached home he asked a Hindu priest what Mark 4:20 meant. The priest did not know but suggested he ask a Muslim mullah. Rao sought out a mullah. The man said he did not know what Mark 4:20 meant, but thought it might be related to Christians. Rao then asked a Baptist pastor who read him the verse from the Bible. He bought a New Testament from the minister and read it through twice. A short time after finishing the second reading, some young man gave him a handbill advertising some gospel meetings. Rao and his wife attended. When the evangelist made an altar call, of the 600 present, only Rao and his wife took their stand for Christ.

"Following baptism, Rao felt called to the ministry and enrolled at Spicer Memorial College. After graduating, he felt a burden to take the gospel to the Gond people, a tribe that had never before heard the gospel. At first they thought he was a police agent and refused to listen to him. Then they kidnapped his son. Fortunately, someone saw this happen and told Rao who gave chase on his bicycle. When he overtook the men, he asked them why they were taking his son. 'We're going to kill him,' they replied. 'Then kill me, too,' said Rao, 'but accept Jesus as your Saviour.' Impressed, the kidnappers let them both go.

"After working among these people for two years, Rao baptized the man who instigated the kidnapping. At the end of two more years, 50 people were baptized."

Mansell then adds, "My wife and I met Pastor Rao in Pune in 1991. Mark 4:20 is being fulfilled in India."

V. Historical Note--J. S. James 105 Years Ago
from the April Adventist World Review

"On April 2, 1910, Judson S. James baptized the first Adventist converts in southern India, 14 men and six women. James went to India in 1906 and moved to the Tirunelveli district in the state of Tamil Nadu in 1908, living
in a schoolhouse in the middle of a village. He and his wife operated a medical dispensary on the veranda of their house. A cholera epidemic forced them to spend most of their time working for the sick, with the aid of a nurse, Belle Shryock. "Local residents gave James .8 hectares (2 acres) of land just outside the village on which he built a brick-and-mortar residence, the first mission bungalow built in India with Adventist mission funds. "One of those baptized in April 1910 was Edward Duraiswami Thomas whose father was connected with the nearby Church of England training school. Thomas went on to be the first Indian to be ordained as an Adventist minister. "The James Memorial Higher Secondary School is named in honor of Judson James, and the E. D. Thomas Memorial Higher Secondary School is named in honor of Edward Thomas."

VI. Medium Wave Radio Reaches the Andaman & Nicobar Islands
Adventist Media Centre <amc.pune1947@gmail.com> April 14:
Since the time we started FM in India, we have seen significant results and positive response from listeners. It is a privilege now to enter into islands that are difficult to reach through our pastors. So AWR India has committed to the expansion of our work in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. FM has a shorter reach of 110 km only. But medium wave has a wider reach and we are launching our programs on the 17th of April in Port Blair. This is a historic event for us because we are reaching to some of the most difficult tribal groups that we can otherwise reach. I was given the understanding that these tribal groups will be better reached by radio broadcast from Port Blair. We are thankful to God for this opportunity. We pray that you will continue to pray for these people who will listen to the gospel.

VII. Hindu Priest Baptized into Adventist Church
Adventist Media Centre <amc.pune1947@gmail.com> April 14:
A Hindu priest who has gone through the VOP lessons has diligently studied the Bible and taken a stand to be baptized. We have given him two books on the occasion of completing the VOP course along with a certificate. I am thankful to God for the marvelous ways in which He reaches people. The priest's name is not identified for security reasons. But he is richly blessed by the Word of God and excited to share it with people around him. We are looking forward to his baptism in the month of May. Kindly pray for him.

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