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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. Nepal Disaster
There have been several reported of the Nepal Quake. Below is a selection:
  1. British Union Report
     Thando Mlalazi <tmlalazi@adventist.org.uk>
     BUC News Edition #924 (01 May 2015)
     A 7.9 magnitude earthquake has devastated homes and lives in Nepal. The death toll in-country has surpassed 5,000 with a further 7,000 reported injured. Local hospitals are struggling to meet the need. These numbers are expected to rise dramatically over coming days.
     We now know that 70% of homes close to the Kathmandu epicentre have been damaged or reduced to rubble and ongoing tremors continue to cause more
devastation. Thousands are now sleeping outside because their homes have been destroyed or simply in an effort to stay safe from falling debris. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency emergency response has already begun, with ADRA-UK's Milimo Ninvalle, (Programmes Officer with emergency response training) being deployed this Friday to provide Nepal with project support for the next three weeks.

UK ADVENTISTS SAFELY BACK FROM NEPAL
Several Seventh-day Adventists from around the West Midlands were travelling or involved in humanitarian work in Nepal when the earthquake struck last weekend.

James Watson, the son of Pastor Malcolm and Mrs. Naomi Watson was worshipping in the Kathmandu Adventist church on Sabbath, 25 April when the earthquake struck, ending the service. He reports that worshippers tried to stand and get to the door. People screamed and found it very difficult to walk. James stood up, small children grabbed onto his legs, holding him in place.

Worshippers stayed at the church until Monday, 27 April. Sixty plus slept in the church Saturday and Sunday nights. At 5:00 am Sunday, everyone awoke following a large aftershock. The compound was rocked again later in the day.

James reported that sleep was hard to come by on the Saturday night as a high volume radio broadcast the latest news. He said, "People sang the few songs they all knew by heart over and over for long periods on Sunday."

After going hungry, seventy 30kg bags of rice were delivered to the compound. By Monday morning worshippers sheltering from outside Kathmandu started to leave, heading for outlying homes they knew would be hit badly. They went to reconnect with their communities and to find surviving family members.

James is a professional photographer. Together with fellow photographer and friend Rich Jones, and his mother Naomi, they had trekked up to and back from Everest Base Camp between 27 March and 10 April. Naomi had joined James and Rich to celebrate eight years of life after breast cancer.

Post their trek to Everest Base Camp Kathmandu they were hosted by Adventist pastor David Tamsang and his wife Devi in their fourth floor apartment in the Adventist compound. Naomi missed the quake, flying to Bombay on Friday, 24 April. It was the fear of ascending to the fourth floor in case of aftershocks, that kept James and the family inside the church.

Rich was trekking up to the Annapurna Base Camp as the quake hit. He was out of phone and internet signal range till Sunday evening local time. Thankfully contact was then established.

Audiologist Elaine Harlin, a member of Tamworth church, was part of an International Nepal Fellowship Team in Rolpa, West Nepal. During her stay, hundreds were served by their audio testing, medication and surgeries. They were at the end of their three week humanitarian trip when the quake struck. In fact, they were already on their return flight ready for take-off. They de-planed and waited. When the airport opened again, their flight to Delhi took off. She is now safely back at home.

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Fundraising For Nepal
Fanwar Faith Inc. <fanwarfaith@gmail.com> April 30:
I am Naphi; I am Uncle Shann Fanwar's niece and will be helping him at Fanwar Faith as much as possible.

We want to let you know that we are trying to raise funds for the people in Nepal. We are in contact with Pastor Umesh Pokharel, President of the Adventist Church Section in Nepal and works with Scheer Memorial Hospital. He is working with the local Church organization to coordinate immediate relief efforts by providing food, water, temporary shelters and tents.

We hope that you will support this relief effort through Fanwar Faith.

We are in direct contact with the church in Nepal and everything that we collect will go directly towards the relief work in Nepal. As most of you know, Fanwar Faith uses less than 2% of the funds we receive on administrative costs, and this ensures that what you donate is fully utilised by those who need it most.

The Scheer Memorial Hospital in Nepal has been doing its best to accommodate and help the wounded outside the hospital building. I understand that there is a minor crack in one of its oldest buildings but I am not sure if they are using the inside of the hospital. The hospital is also in need of supplies to meet the needs of many needing medical attention.

Our focus will be to assist the local Church provide and cater to the needs of our workers and members.

We have an initial count: four churches are completely destroyed and one has sustained significant damage. Many of the Church workers have lost their homes but continue to help and support others despite their own needs.

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[Dr. Dale Mole is the administrator of our Scheer Memorial Hospital which is located a few miles from Kathmandu. His wife is the former Susan Mattison. Two former SUD missionaries, Dennis and Lila (Goertzen) Tidwell, have been asked to join the Moles in caring for many of the thousands of people in dire need of medical services. Dennis and Lila will be there only short time.]

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II. Growth of Kerala School

Elwin Vedamony <elwinvedamony@yahoo.co.in> April 24:

The Adventist School in Vellarada, Trivandrum District, South India, has had many blessings coming its way. Following the renovation and extension of a 'chicken coop' with generous help from relatives and friends, we were able to add 3 large rooms, which serve as classrooms during the week and as worship-hall on weekends. Following this, there was a spurt of admissions, resulting in the school having to have 2 sections each for Lower KG, Upper KG and Grade 1.

The school is hoping to add nine more classrooms in the very near future (right now it is riding piggy back on Thirumala Adventist School, Trivandrum for its recognition and Xth standard exams). At present the school has more than 400 students and we are praying that at least 3 class rooms could be built this summer, which would definitely enable the school to have more enrollment this academic year.

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III. Chadawldada School Graduates Seventeen

Graduation! The last day of school! Teachers and students are excited and very busy preparing for final exams and activities.

For the graduating class, final exams are given by the state government.
and are administered at several centers in each city. Students are assigned specific centers; students gather at the principal's office for a time of prayer and last minute instructions. Then they are sent with a blessing to go and do their best. There are 17 students in the 2015 graduating class. Out of these seventeen, ten have attended Chadalawada School all the way from kindergarten to tenth grade. It is our hope and prayer that the foundation they received at the Chadalawada School will continue to bless them all their lives.

[Then follows pictures of the 17 students with a comment from each similar to the following:]

S. Manikanta Kishore: "I studied at Chadalawada School for 12 years, from Kindergarten to tenth grade. I liked studying at this school and I got a good education. I am from a Hindu background and here I got to know about Jesus.

IV. Jesus For Asia National Bible Workers
from JFA's NOW magazine
Jesus for Asia started 9 years ago by hiring a few national workers in India. Now there are over 250 in India, the Philippines, Thailand with requests for new Bible workers coming in every day. Although they face many difficult challenges as they take the message from door to door, they have some enormous advantages in sharing the Gospel:
**They don't have to buy an airplane ticket.
** They already know the language and are intimately familiar with the culture.
** They are able to mingle without being easily noticed.
** They are used to living in local conditions.
** In the eyes of the locals, national Bible workers do not represent a foreign country or a foreign religion.
** They can be sent out at a fraction of the cost of a Western missionary.

V. Remembering Joseph Selvaraj
1. The Southern Asia Adventist Association (SAAA) is deeply saddened to inform you of the unexpected death of Dr. Joseph Selvararaj (also known to many as Selvaraj Vedamony).
Selvaraj was a popular student at Spicer College (now University) in the 1960's and was well known for his beautiful, soothing tenor solos. After coming to the U.S. he completed his medical degree and was a family physician in Loma Linda, CA. He served his community and church with utmost devotion.

He leaves behind his dear wife, Priscilla James Selvaraj; his loving siblings, two elder to him, Samuel Raj Vedamony and Leela Vedamony Job, two younger to him, Elwin J. Vedamony (Orthopedic Surgeon, in India) and Florence Vedamony Pragasam (Physicians' Assistant, in Loma Linda CA.); his brother-in-law, Wesley James; and a multitude of relatives and friends, who miss him.

SAAA extends its deepest heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and loved ones. Please remember to continue upholding all of them in your prayers. May God be near and dear to each one and grant them comfort and
courage, as they find new meaning and purpose. May they be renewed daily in the promise of the Blessed Hope, until the Golden Morning of the Resurrection, when all loved ones in faith will be reunited, never to part again.

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2. John M. Fowler <johnmathewfowler@gmail.com> April 28:
In the quiet and sudden passing away of Dr. Selvaraj Vedamony, we have lost a joyous, purpose-filled, service-oriented, loving and lovable Adventist. A product of an exemplary Adventist home, a child of a pastoral couple, son-in-law of a great pastor whose place in Adventist history in India still remains unfulfilled, a graduate of Spicer, a persistent scholar who did not rest until he crossed the oceans and continents to become a physician, a devoted and absolutely loyal husband of Priscy, and a friend of all who know what friendship means, a person who lived, hoped, and died in Adventism-that is Selvaraj, whom we lost suddenly. I knew his parents well, learnt to love him along with his siblings, stayed in his home, laughed and experienced real joy as only Selvaraj and Priscy can offer, taught him a course in philosophy at Spicer, attended his marriage, watched as he climbed the academic towers, and in all these he left an impression of undiluted, pure, and lasting sense of Christian living and piety. Selvaraj was a caring doctor, who spent hours of his free time to care for the poor who cannot afford either medical attention or needed therapy. The trunk of his car was always filled with supplies that could serve the needy, and the depth of his heart always had room to take in just one more who needed attention but could not afford.

I deeply mourn his loss, and in this unbearable experience my heart goes out to his wonderful cheer-leader: Priscy who spent all her life in seeing that Selvaraj succeeded in what he wanted to be. Together they have carved out for themselves a niche of love in the hearts of a thousand or more around the world. As those thousands mourn with Priscy and her caring family, the prayer of everyone at this moment is, "Be Strong in the Lord. The Dawn is not far away." That hope, a legacy she inherited from her father, will carry her through until that glorious day when hope becomes a reality.

Meanwhile, I must share something personal. Were it not for the reservations Adventist theology places on my doctrine of the state of the dead, I would be tempted to close this reflection with an imaginative welcome angels would extend to a soul such as Selvaraj. Even as the portals of heaven welcome him to their embrace (for he was a good man), I could hear some joke, some tale of humor, something that happened in the halls of Spicer, or some mishap at a dinner party in his home that exploded in great laughter (the leap of laughter itself triggered by Selvaraj's notorious fun, boisterous baritone laughter and humor)-and then finally an angel, himself caught up in the burst of fun, saying to Selvaraj: Welcome home. You have just raised the joy and fun level in heaven by a notch.

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3. Gordon Christo <gechristo@sud-adventist.org> April 29:
The news of the demise of Selveraj came as a big shock because we are all at Spicer at the same time. Selveraj had a golden tenor voice. He sang many solos and also in a quartet. But his best performance was for the tenor solos of Handel's Messiah which the college choir sang under the baton of
Dr. George Jenson in Pune, Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi in the Christmas season of 1972. Selveraj sang entirely from memory the recitative "Comfort Ye," and the aria "Every Valley" which open the oratorio. For several years in a row when my work took me to Loma Linda I stayed with Selveraj and Priscy in their lovely home. Their gracious hospitality will remain fresh in my mind forever. I wish Priscy God's presence and comfort in this time of sorrow.

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