I. Ted N. C. Wilson Sends Condolences to India's President

Sunny Wycliffe <sunnywycliffe@gmail.com> August 5;

A condolence message was sent by Elder Ted N. C. Wilson, World President, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to the President of India, His Excellency Mr. Pranab Mukherjee at the demise of Bharat Ratna Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, the 11th President of India. Pastor Ezras Lakra, the newly elected president of Southern Asia Division will personally deliver the original message to the Rashtrapathi Bhavan, New Delhi, India. Please do remember the family members of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam and the people of India in your prayers. He was a bachelor. (I had the humble honor to have met Bharat Ratna Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam at two different times in New Delhi and in New York.)

II. Letters

1. Rajan Thomas <rajan_thomas45@yahoo.com> August 7:

I was gladdened to note that more have been added to the "90+ Club". However, as many of you know, my mother, Ellen Thomas, was called to her rest on April 25, 2015, and now awaits the resurrection morn when our Lord and Saviour will return. Until Then, we live by faith in God's mercies and promises.

2. Cornelius Murmu <prcmurmu@rediffmail.com>

It is amazing to find over 40 of our pioneers above 90 years of age. May God continue to bless and give them good health. In turn they will be source of blessings to the Church.

C. Murmu
Executive V.P.
Metas- Ranchi.

III. Death of Grace Prasada Rao
August 5, early in the morning, my Aunt, Grace Prasada Rao, went to sleep gracefully in death. She lived 103 contented years with her God. Strengthened by her Creator and Sustainer, she attended campmeeting last month and walked into her church last Sabbath. This was heartening to us who had seen her weakening by the day, two months earlier. She prayed daily for a list of fellow believers and us in the family. God blessed us with her gentle voice and quiet ways. We sorrow but are not sad.

Remembering Grace Prasada Rao

John M. Fowler <johnmathewfowler@gmail.com> August 9:
"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on...that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them" (Rev. 14:13). The third angels' message closes with that majestic and certain assurance. That's all that needs to be said at the passing away of one of the grand old children of the three angels' message-Grace Prasada Rao at the age of 102.

Yet, her faithful and long life demands something more to be said. Blessed by being one of the children of an early convert to Adventism, who was among the first to hear the three angel's profound declaration around the turn of the last century-the famous E. D. Thomas of Prakasapuram-, and blessed by being married to a great man who laid down the rudiments of property holding, principled auditing, and legal punditry for the church in Southern Asia-M. S. Prasada Rao of Andhra Pradesh-, Grace's life was rooted in Adventism, flowered in Adventist education, and revealed itself as a blessing to many in various parts of Southern Asia Division, particularly at Salisbury Park in the years her family ministered there.

Now she rests, and her children will call her blessed. Her rest reminds me of three things: that I too must remain faithful to the call of the soon coming Christ; that whatever happens, let each Sabbath find me in the care, custody, and communion of the saints in my church; that, life or death, at 76 or 102 or whatever, I learn to number my days that I may gain and live with a heart of wisdom (Ps. 90:12).

As the dead who die in the Lord from now on...

Nelson Khajekar <elijnelson@yahoo.co.in> Aug. 10;
Grace Prasada Rao faithfully and joyfully attended her beloved church last Sabbath - engaging in a prolonged, heartfelt conversation with a visitor that spoke Tamil, her native language. She was a child of God, living her entire life serving Him and now resting in His love.

Life Sketch of Grace Rao

Loretta Rao jocacace@sbcglobal.net
Stella Samuel <edsamuel@aya.yale.edu>
Grace Rao (Minnie Grace Prasada Rao nee Thomas) was born April 15, 1913 in Nazareth, South India. Her parents Sellammal and Edward Duraisamy Thomas welcomed her as the first born of five children. She graduated from the South India Training School in Krishnarajapuram, South India with Secretarial training. Her first job took her to Poona, India where she worked as a secretary. While working in the office she met her former teacher Mathi Samuel Prasada Rao. Grace and Sam were married on February 12, 1936. Their honeymoon took them back to their old school where they worked.
for several years, before returning to Poona, were their lives were enriched by the births of their two daughters Loretta and Stella.
Sam's work took them to several locations including Singapore where Grace accompanied Sam. In 1954 they attended a General Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist Church which was held in San Francisco, U.S.A. There they met with Grace's two brothers who had settled in California. Sam and Grace made this "around the world" trip an adventure using many modes of transportation including hitch hiking in the Middle East! They savored and recounted these experiences.
Throughout their married life, Poona was the home base from which they journeyed into other areas of India when called. Grace was an earnest believer in her church. Wherever she lived, besides her regular duties, Grace was active in planning programs, teaching classes and training young people. She served in an honorary capacity when funds were lacking.
After her mother's death, Sam and Grace moved to the U.S. to be with their daughter Stella and her husband Edward Samuel to help with their grandchildren in Denver, CO. Altitude and severe winters necessitated their move to a more temperate climate. They settled in Santa Cruz CA. to be near their daughter Loretta and her husband Richard Josephson.
Grace's life continued to revolve around the church and its activities.
Sam passed away in 1994. The Santa Cruz SDA church became a second home to her. She loved to tell stories to the children. She sang in the choir until she was in her eighties, even though her hearing was failing. God bless the church that encouraged that participation! When a baptism was held in the ocean, Grace attended though it meant pushing her walker through the sand. Her life was a living testament to her love for God.
After a full and rich life, at a 102 years of age, Grace fell asleep to awaken to the voice of her Lord. Grace was well loved by her many friends in the church, her apartment complex, the community, India and throughout the world. Her love for people and joy of life will be missed.
She leaves behind her daughters, Loretta Rao (Richard Josephson), Stella (Ed Samuel), grandchildren Corina Josephson, Marc and Sean Samuel, three great grandsons and three greatgreatgrandchildren, brother-in-law Tom and his wife Ardys Prasada Rao and a whole host of nephews, nieces and their children from the Thomas, Fernando and Prasada Rao families.
Our thanks to Doctors Chandra, Poth, Edwards ,Cress, and Vu for their loving care, and to Jo Ann Cacace, Fatama Cunha, Christy Krynak and little Izzy who entered Grace's home as strangers and became part of her family.

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IV. Another Member of 90+ Club
Gerald Christo <geraldjchristo@gmail.com> Aug. 8:
Let me wish you, William Moses Mathi, God's richest blessings as you celebrate your 90th birthday. It is long time since we used to live in Bombay and worked with Alva Appel I miss your brothers Md and Solomon. God has been good to us. He has permitted us to live up a ripe age. The times give us hope that our Lord will return in our lifetime. Let us be faithful till we go home with Him. I appreciate the times we spent together in Mongolia. You did as splendid job in China and go to meet you when you came for the Spicer Centennial. God bless you.
Gerry and Birol

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V. Karen Adventist Centennial Reunion Held at Andrews University

Karens from all over the United States met at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan July 24-26. They reviewed how God led them as a people in the past and how God still leads them today.

It was 100 years ago that famed missionary Eric B. Hare and his wife Agnes traveled to Burma as missionaries to the Karen. Their descendents took it upon themselves to show traditional Karen hospitality by feeding the 500+ Karen who descended on Berrien Springs.

Karen from California, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, and Tennessee joined the meetings. Over 90 Karen traveled just from Utica, New York. Pastor Law Kler attended from Norway and Pastor Mervin Myat Kyaw and wife were present from Australia.

After the participants took an Adventist history tour of Battle Creek on Friday morning, the meetings began the same evening. Senior Karen leaders, including Law Kler, Priscilla and Herbert Sein and Sanday Dee shared the Karen traditional stories of creation, and the Golden and Silver Book that prepared the Karen of Burma as a people to accept the Gospel when they heard it preached by Western missionaries. Herbert Sein sealed his reputation as a storyteller with stories of "The Wisest Animal in the Jungle!"

On Sabbath Pastor Don Livesay, President of the Lake Union Conference, charged the Karen youth to be active witnesses for Christ. Over 100 came forward to accept the challenge and dedicated themselves to the task. In the afternoon several speakers told of their experiences of witnessing for God even in adversity.

Dennis Tidwell from Tennessee shared how the Adventist message came to the Karen of Thailand and reminded the Karen that they have nothing to fear for the future, except they forget God's leading in their past. Pastor Jimmy Shwe, coordinator for ministry to Karen members in the North American Division, gave a special tribute to Helen Hall who continues to educate Karen youth in Thailand after nearly four decades of uninterrupted service.

Sunday was devoted to more social activities. There was a Karen cultural program in the morning and there were soccer and volleyball games in the afternoon. A surprisingly large number of young Karen members attended the reunion weekend in Berrien Springs. The weekend meetings afforded a great opportunity for Adventist Karen youth to renew contacts with each other before they headed back to their homes scattered across the United States.

Please pray for the Karen members in North America to remain faithful and united.
Special thanks to Adventist Frontier Missions Training Center for providing kitchen facilities, Adventist Southeast Asia Projects for logistics and financial support, the extended Hare family for feeding the multitude, and special thanks Trudi Myaing Starlin and Don Starlin for coordinating the whole weekend program.
--Dennis Tidwell

VI. Edison Samraj Meets With High Profile Government Officials

The government of India health department has opened its doors to engage itself with the Adventist Media Centre to make available the health fitness course to young children studying from standard 5 to 12 in Maharashtra. The plan has already been presented to the health officials in Pune on the 11th of August. And we have further received notice that we are having a confirmation of meeting with the minister of the central government. We solicit your prayers for this. We believe that God will use us to take the health message to the schools and make them available for them. Kindly pray for these initiatives that AMC has taken.
--Dr Edison Samraj, Director

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