I. Demise of the First Lady of India

Sunny Wycliffe <sunnywycliffe@gmail.com> August 30

President Pranab Mukherjee's Wife Suvra Mukherjee Dies

New Delhi: She had always remained in the background, smiling graciously at invited guests from her wheelchair during events held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. First Lady Suvra Mukherjee, President Pranab Mukherjee's wife of 58 years, died here on Tuesday, it was announced.

The First Lady was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit of the Army's Research And Referral Hospital here two weeks back.

President Mukherjee cut short his two-day visit to Odisha and returned to the National Capital that evening itself. She was known to be suffering from a heart ailment.

"Suvra Mukherjee died after a cardiac arrest. She was on ventilator till the time of her death," Army's Research And Referral Hospital PRO Sanjay Kumar said.

Married to Mr. Mukherjee on July 13, 1957, Mrs. Suvra Mukherjee was an accomplished Rabindra Sangeet exponent.

The couple have two sons and a daughter. Her son Abhijeet Mukherjee is a Congress MP from Jangipur, West Bengal, while daughter Sharmistha is an accomplished dancer and has joined the Congress party. Another son is Indrajit Mukherjee.

Mrs., Mukherjee was born in Narail, Bangladesh, where her relatives still live.

During his state visit to Bangladesh in March 2013, President Mukherjee paid his first visit to his "sosur bari", or in-laws' house, where the couple were given the traditional welcome accorded to newly-weds, complete with conch-shells being blown and 'ulo dhoni' and 'mangal deep' aarti. The grand family welcome at Bhadrabila village, some 9 km from Narail
town, probably made up for the physical stress she had to endure, being wheel-chair bound throughout the trip. She is not known to have accompanied her husband on a foreign tour after that. Her ancestors had migrated to India in early 1950s after the 1947 partition.

In an interview to Times of India in July 2012, just after Mr. Mukherjee was named as the next Indian President, Mrs. Mukherjee told the daily that she and her husband had never had a fight. "We are not like today's couples. It's not a lovey-dovey relationship and we don't express our emotions overtly. It's all in the mind and heart. We don't really indulge in small love talk. At our age, it's more about depending on each other wholeheartedly. His love for me is different. Every day, after his bath he comes to me, touches my forehead and recites some mantras. He does this every day of the year and yesterday was no exception. This is how he expresses his love. We've been married for 55 years and we haven't fought for a single day!"

Being a music lover, her concern before shifting to the palatial 360-room Rashtrapati Bhavan was to find an appropriate place for her musical instruments, harmonium and tanpura. In fact, her love for Rabindra Sangeet found a reflection in the melodies played by the Rashtrapati Bhavan band during the formal events, like 'At Home' and dinner receptions for foreign dignitaries. The band has begun interspersing usual melodies with well-known melodious Rabindra Sangeet numbers. Bengali sweets, like sandesh, also made its entry into Rashtrapati Bhavan.

II. Letters

His Excellency President Pranab Mukherjee
Rashtrapathi Bhavan
New Delhi 110 004
INDIA

Your Excellency,

We recently learned of the passing of your dear wife and First Lady Suvra Mukherjee, of which we are all so sorry. We realize this is a tremendous loss to you, family members, and all of India. We know that First Lady Suvra's efforts were a wonderful blessing to the arts, the culture, and so much more. Through her love of fine arts and for people, she accomplished a great deal and will be known for her kind heart and great love. How beautiful and fortunate for you to have had such a caring wife! I wish you God's presence during this difficult time. We believe that one day in Heaven, God will remake us into young, vibrant people for all eternity. This is what we believe and hope for. His tremendous love for each one of us will sustain you.

On behalf of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, please accept our heartfelt sympathy. Your loss is acute now and will always be present to some point, but we have encouragement from God's promises that He will provide love and sustenance throughout the challenges and losses we face. We have full belief that in Heaven, the sting of death will be no more.
We pray that you will continue to have hope for the future as the Lord guides you through this challenging period. I have prayed for you and for your people. What an encouragement to count on our loving God's provisions for an abundant life here on earth.

May our Lord give you comfort, courage, and hope for the future.

With deepest sympathy,
Ted N. C. Wilson, President

[This condolence message was sent to the president of SUD, Pastor Lakra, to be delivered in person to the Press Secretary to the President of India.]

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2. Alfred Raju
Alfred Raju <alfredraju_d@yahoo.co.in>

I like to congratulate the new officers of southern Asia Division Hosur Pr. Ezra Lakra, Pr. Wilson I am also would like to congratulate Pr. Selvin Moorthy our Division Treasurer in future I am fully confidence that Pr. Selvin Moorthy will soon take the chair from Pr. Clive for soon function of the treasury since there is a change in the treasury. Secondly I like to appreciate the former Division officers Pr. R. John, Dr. Gordon Christo and Pr. Robert Clive for their good services rendered to the Southern Asia Division Hosur. I am sure their services will be remembered time to time for some time.

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3. Pramod Gaikwad <gaikwadpapag1@comcast.net> Aug. 30:
It is given that God in Heaven is in control of His work on this sinful planet earth. It is He who puts leaders in place and takes them out. I am personally glad and thrilled to note that the SUD leadership is being spread out to leaders from other regions of this great nation of India. It is time that we recognize God's leadership and His interest in our indigenous humble people. It is my prayer that this new leadership will be blessed with higher level of calling to evangelize, heal, and teach our nation of God's love and His soon Coming with more fervor than ever before. Wishing all the leaders of SUD and as well as the leaders down the ranks God's blessings and inspiration to do His will.

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III. Remembering Grace Prasad Rao
Margaret Solomon <solomon.margaret7@gmail.com> Aug. 31

During the last visit I had with Mrs. Prasad Rao, we both took a picture and called ourselves "The Prakasapuram Girls" referring to our common historical home town connection. She represented the 2nd generation of Adventist from there and I, the 3rd generation. We both hailed from Prakasapuram church which her father Pastor E. D. Thomas tended and cared from 1915 to 1927. Elder Judson James was the missionary who started the work in 1908 after paying his first visit to Prakasapuram in 1906 with J. L. Shaw and G. F. Enoch responding to the invitation of the Sabbath keepers there. Thomas became the translator for James in 1908. Elder G. G. Lowry joined James early January of 1910 and after a few months Thomas was one of the first members to get baptized. He became a strong supporter of the work that had begun by James and Lowry. By 1912 Thomas became involved with the running of the church, school and the dispensary. He married Sellammal in 1912 and established one of the first Adventist homes in South India. Grace
was born in that infant church in 1913 and was given Judson James' wife's name Minnie Grace. She and all her siblings grew up in the church compound as the first established Adventist church in South India was deepening its roots in Prakasapuram. Throughout her life she exemplified the Adventist faith at its best and set a great example for us. She certainly stands out as an illustrative Adventist woman whose history began in my home church in Prakasapuram. We send our deepest sympathies to Loretta and Stella and their families, her nephews, nieces and grandchildren.

IV. Update on Ibahun (Malngiang) Fernando's Condition
James Warjri <jgwarjri@netvigator.com> August 30;
from his AKA Newsletter
As mentioned in a previous issue, Elder Emil and Kong Ibahun (Malngiang) Fernando met with a car accident on July 3, 2015 when they were nearing Sohra (Cherrapunjee) from Shillong. Kong Ibahun suffered serious head and hip injuries. After her discharge she was taken back to hospital on August 18 for a check-up. Then she was brought back home where she has to continue total and near-immobile bedrest until the next check on September 8. At least the traction has now been removed. Let us continue to pray for her.

V. SAAA Monthly Sabbath Services
Info@saaa.org <Info@saaa.org> Sept. 2
Sabbath School and Divine Service will be presented by special guests,
Rowe International Ministries.
SOUTHERN ASIA ADVENTIST ASSOCIATION (SAAA) Cordially Invites you to Worship and Fellowship with us
On September 12, 2015,
At Eglise Baptiste Du Calvaire Church, 10002 Riggs Road, Adelphi, Maryland 20783
Prayer Breakfast: 9:45 AM
Sabbath School Lesson Study: 10:30 AM
Divine Service: 11:30 AM
Fellowship lunch to follow

VI. Kish Poddar Leads Building Group to India
BUC News Letter Sept. 4
A combination of Brazilian, British and Indian skills brought a breath of new life to an orphanage this summer. Kish Poddar, a teacher at Stanborough School and a director of the charity, STOP International brings this report.
Poddar writes: On Monday, 3 August 2015, I travelled the two hours from the town of Hosur, India to Bangalore International Airport to meet a team of volunteers from England for a STOP International Orphanage project. Aila and Anna had travelled over 14 hours to get to India. Paul and I had arrived two weeks earlier to get everything ready.
The aim this summer was to paint and decorate the accommodation of the Way to Life Children's Home. This was funded by STOP International and built in 2008. It is home to fifty-one orphan children who reside under the care of Pastor Abraham and Selvi. The volunteers began the work of painting with rollers and brushes and with the help of local labourers managed to complete nearly half of the
work.
After just four days I returned to Bangalore Airport to pick up the rest
of the volunteers arriving from Brazil. The twelve members from Bokoram
Adventist church were led by Pastor Fabio (senior pastor) and Pastor Daniel
Meder (youth pastor). They were thrilled to be in India, hooting and
cheering in delight, Brazilian style, as they walked through the exit doors
to greet me with hugs as I handed out Indian flags to welcome them. It was
their first visit to India and to add to the experience their English was
limited, so even their delightful greetings at the airport had to be
translated. However, the enthusiasm of their arrival bode well for the
coming week of physical labour.
Each day started with a short worship together with the lovely children
and then a 20-minute walk to drop them at school before returning to work.
With the additional volunteers the work of painting progressed fast. Inside
walls completed, the team then tackled the outside walls, doors and windows
and frames. They also painted themselves - with copious amounts of
sunscreen.
The final farewells needless to say were tearful and emotional with hugs
and kisses on both sides.

Having completed painting the huge building it looked clean, new and
welcoming. In addition the roof was repaired and a number of little
maintenance projects were completed to make the accommodation feel like
home. So it was only appropriate to have a photograph taken in front of the
building with all the children and volunteers. On Sabbath the children
together with the volunteers celebrated the 69th Independence Day and then
proceeded to celebrate the Sabbath with special music from the children as
well as the volunteers. After a delicious lunch everyone went for a Sabbath
walk into the country and a Bible quiz which the girls won.
I was delighted to make a presentation of a cheque of £4,800 to the Way
to Life Children's Home, money raised by Ricardo, Ravindra and myself during
our London to Paris sponsored cycle ride, as well as the funds raised by
John Cooper from his Land's End to John o'Groats cycle ride. These funds
will pay for the school fees for all 51 children for the current school
year.
The volunteers returned home - but left part of their heart in India.

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VII. 90 + Club Update
Sophie Arthur <sophie@waltonthomas.com>
August 18, 2015
To Whom It May Concern:
Regarding the 90+ Club, please remove William Muller Isaac (passed away
7/14/15) and add Annammal Isaac (turned 90 in March 2015).
Thank you.
Sophie Arthur, daughter of the above.

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90+ Club
Robert Samraj, Mrs. Grace Prasada Rao, S. John, I. R. Thomas, R. S.
Tom Davis, D. David, Mrs. June Hooper, Mrs. Mary Alice Zill, John Curnow,
Mrs. Joyce Ballantyne, Robinson Koilpillai, S. T. Gomer, Edna York, Eugene
Anderson, Lois Anderson, Mrs. W. L. Sharalaya, Clara May Toews, Gerald
Christo, Harold Erickson, Martha Toews, Margaret Roelke-McNitt, W. Gordon Jenson, Arthur Weaver, Natalie Weaver, Mrs. Daisy Joseph, Mayville Fanwar Holroyd, Anandarao Undru, Lynn Watts, Norma Watts, Joy Juriansz, Katherine Skau, Mrs. Lily John, William Moses Mathi, Annammal Isaac. Total = 41

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Posted by: "Charles Tidwell Sr" <charles.h.tidwell@gte.net>