



India Newsletter

By Dolores Stykel - March 2009



B. V. SUBBAMMA

We give praise and thanks to God for the many years of service B.V. Subbamma gave to the AELC. She served ably at the Seminary and Bible Training School for Women in Raj, and conducted many ashrams, and meetings for Hindu women. Subbamma died January 11, 2009. She was a good friend of many of us.

PAUL & LOIS HOWE 30701 Berry Creek Dr. Georgetown TX 78628 - Paul sent word of the death of Lorene Koepke on October 20, 2008. She and Ted served as LCMS missionaries in South India from January 1947 to April 1973. Lorene worked among the women organizing Bible societies and visiting homes in villages near the churches.

Lorene's world vision never diminished; she was active in her support for Lutheran World Relief, making quilts and school bags distributed around the globe. She participated in three mission trips to share God's word with the Omaha Tribe in Nebraska. Working with individuals from other countries, she helped acclimate them to the US by teaching ESL or tutoring them one on one for the citizenship test.

MARY RIBER 2910 E. 16th #322 Des Moines IA 50316 maryriber@msn.com - December 17, 2008 - Well, it has been another good year for me here at "The Gardens" of Luther Park. I thank God every day that I am able to be here in my nice apartment and manage without too much help.

The highlights of the year, of course, are the visits from my kids, 5 grandkids and even 2 great grandkids this summer. Their parents (or grandparents in some cases) still live all around the world. Kris and Wendy are teaching in Doha, Qatar. Karl and Sarah are in Adelaide, Australia. Johnny and Louise are in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. This Christmas Kris' and Johnny's will all be gathered in Dar es Salaam. I will be there in spirit and with Skype on my new computer.

Whenever I see my Doc I ask her if they have found some miracle kind of surgery which could put a new hip in me. "Not yet".

Recently a friend here and I took an adventurous trip to see if we could get over to the Grand View College Book Store in our motor wheelchairs. We did it! We wondered what people driving by on Hull Avenue thought of the two old gals toddling along full speed ahead. I waved to the curious folks who slowed down to take a look!

JOAN NOLTING - December 2008 - My new contact information is: 104 - 2600 Highland Blvd, Nanaimo BC V9S 5G1 Telephone: 250 729 3677 jnolting@shaw.ca I moved here to be nearer my sister Kathy who lost her husband suddenly from a massive heart attack. I am renting a second floor two-bedroom apt. I look out onto a golf course, tall pine and arbutus trees and the snow capped mountains in the distance.

I am more or less settled in my new place and have found quite a few cultural events. Not quite like Winnipeg, but enough to keep me busy. I am still looking for my niche in the volunteer area. I really miss all my involvement in Winnipeg and my friends there. I organized a successful Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Four Corners alternative trace sale at our church

If any of you travel this way, I would love to see you. I have a spare bedroom.

DANIEL & ROSIE KAMEO PO Box 6158/UKSW Salatiga Central Java 50711 Indonesia - December 2008 -

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I (Daniel) have just finished my third year as Vice Rector for Academic Affairs at Satya Wacana Christian University. My teaching, research, advising, consulting and work for the National Accreditation Board for Higher Education take up most of my time. As an elder of our local church, I manage the finances, lead midweek Bible studies, and preach occasionally at rural area parishes.

At the end of the 2007-2008 academic year, I (Rosie) turned in my marks and retired from teaching. In May I flew to the States, and joined Anne Fichthorn to drive to NC for the India missionary reunion. Coming full circle, I was delighted to be able to reminisce with friends I had not seen since beginning my overseas work in Rajahmundry, some 40 years ago.

Daniel joined me in St. Paul in July for meetings with the Board of Pensions and memorable visits with Nancy Johnson & Steve Haggmark, Winnie & Ed Nyhus, Shirley & Franklin Gummadi and other dear friends.

Peter is still pegging away at his MA from John Hopkins while serving as a full-time computer graphics engineer for a company that produces architectural software.

Other highlights include: 5 days with the Global Mission team and colleagues at the annual ELCA missionary conference. At the recognition dinner, we were touched by tributes to Rosie for her 34 years of service in India, Hong Kong and Indonesia.

Hosting our church's neighborhood Christmas celebration for 125 people in our home on Daniel's birthday. Imagine the fun we had cooking 44 lbs. of rice for the meal, which followed.

2008 was not without its sorrows. In June we lost Papa, Daniel's 83 year old father. The whole family, minus Rosie, who was in the States, flew to Kupang for the funeral where Daniel delivered the eulogy. In October Daniel's Uncle Sem died on Rosie's birthday and November 17 Rosie's oldest brother Jim was tragically killed in a car accident just a mile from his home. We are grateful for their lives.

As we celebrate Christmas with Peter and our extended family in Salatiga, we will be remembering you all with fondness.

SHIRLEY & FRANKLIN GUMMADI 1823 Gramsie Rd Arden Hill MN 55112 - Shirley wrote a very interesting e-mail concerning the Christmas service at St. Matthew's North Parish, Guntur. I wrote back to her and received the following e-mail from her - Dec 31 Franklin went to watch-night service with his brother last night. They said there were hundreds and hundreds of revelers in the streets, beside the packed church itself. After dark the neighborhood sounded like we were at the state fair...firecrackers, general sounds of coming and going, shouting, loud music. From 11:30-12:30 it sounded like a war zone.

While the Christmas service I described sounded grand, remember that this is a big church, on the main street of a city of more than a million, in a largely Christian, and, let's face it even though it appears middle class, increasingly affluent neighborhood. Pastors vie for the pulpit, there's a wedding several times a week, and the income is impressive...though misadministration at the level of the synod, offices next door to the church, continues, sad to report. St. Matthews, however, announces it is intending to build a cathedral on the church site. Everybody in Brodiepet (the church neighborhood) has at least one relative in the States, and the trend is to replace smaller inherited homes with three to five floor apartment buildings...air space is dwindling inversely proportional to pollution growth. Our house is one of the smallest...drains still lead to an outdoor trough, and the street side drain, though covered is not underground.

By contrast, the congregation was small and worship simple and straightforward, the Sunday before Christmas, at the church built and happily maintained by the residents of Aunt Ruth Sigmon Colony on Ring Road. Less than 50 assembled, very late due to the fact that many members are household helpers or rickshaw-pullers, and had to put in a morning's work first; a handful of beaming S.S. children sang Christmas songs and presented a skit about remembering worship and tithing in their daily lives. We were asked to 'bring greetings', and given a gift of bananas.

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One or two of the original men still pull the old fashioned rickshaws. Another one or two have graduated to auto-rickshaws. One of the original street children has graduated from college and intends to go to graduate school. An enthusiastic young man, he is the one who shepherds the children's S.S. But, even there, property and management are questionable, as a quarter or a third of the property has been sold and walled off. The main entrance diverted to a 'gully' road on the side, the original residents have declined to move on for other occupants, and some of the Praja Seva staff have moved in. The Lord willing, we will meet with the elders and see what we can do to encourage further growth.

JOHNNY & BETTY LOU NELSON 7 Longleat Lane Bella Vista AR 72714 - Dec. 2008 - In our usual fashion, we escaped winter by heading to the East. After our first stop in Singapore, we flew to India to be with Philip, Tiki, Tina and Lucy in Bangalore. An extra bonus was having Jared, on his way back from China, and Jo and Jillian on a 2 week India experience, visiting at the same time. One highlight was a train trip to Guntur where Betty Lou's parents served while she and her sisters were growing up. Shanghai was our last stop on our way back to the US where we enjoyed a visit with Michael, JeanEl and family. We celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary by taking a cruise up the Yangtze River through the Three Gorges, which was an impressive and memorable journey. At this writing, Michael, who is the "Head" of Citibanks' global investments in China, is unsure of his job security.

In April Betty Lou had the plate and screws removed from the leg she broke 19 months previously, which greatly relieved her of pain.

WAYNE & ELAINE (LOMPERIS) OLSON 126 Ferdinand St Manheim PA 17545 - Dec. 2008 - January took Elaine back to a town of her childhood on the coast of India where she volunteered as a nurse to help Dr. Lalita bring back our Lutheran Hospital in Chirala. What a joy to be home speaking the language, enjoying the food and using her skills in a new setting!

Taking time off from a regular job this year, Elaine has instead enjoyed being a substitute school nurse, a medication nurse at a community home for six non-verbal, non-ambulatory young adults and paid bookkeeper for Wayne's business. For two weeks in June she worked as a camp nurse at the upscale Tyler Hill Camp in the Poconos, and in the fall she helped with flu shot clinics.

For Elaine, the new year will bring a semester, January through May, of volunteering as a school nurse at Kodai School.

ERIC REBLE Suite 421, The Sunshine Centre 141 Father David Bauer Drive Waterloo. ONT N2L 6N9 ehreble@gmail.com 519-783-3221 - Jan 6 - Yes, there was a 2008 Epiphany letter but only a few were sent; the others remained sitting on our ping-pong table as it was during that time that Jean needed more and more attention.

Three years earlier we were informed of cancer cells in her lungs. Those three years were a blessing. Despite medical care, chemotherapy, and some memory loss, etc., Jean remained her cheerful, caring, out-going self, suffering very little pain or nausea or loss of hair. The end came very quickly after a brief two-week stay in a wonderful, homelike hospice.

As most of you know, our oldest daughter, Brenda (age 53) died very suddenly of a cardiac arrest in June 2007, and so their absences can be very painful at times. But the memories of them and the gift of their lives are also a joy. And we fully rely on a gracious God.

Very precious also are my memories of you. Your cards and letters have overwhelmed me and I am amazed at all the accomplishments of your families. Thank you so much for remembering, sharing and your love.

Now let me share the BIG changes in my life! With the help of family and friends and St. Peter's members, I

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downsized (with some dragging of my feet) and our refurbished home was sold in November. In the meantime I had moved into a Senior Residence (address above) and am living a very comfortable life. It includes the three meals, the bed made and a weekly laundry. I already know many people here and have come to know many more.

Because of vision problems, I no longer drive and rely on family and friends to get around. I get to St. Peter's every Sunday and am involved in activities there and here. Last year both St. Peter's and the Synod recognized my 60th year of ordination. I have some health problems at age 85 but at this stage I am still sound of mind. What's that you say!!

SAM & BARBARA SCHMITTHENNER 1075 Old Harrisburg Rd Unit 136 Gettysburg PA 17325-3142 Feb 2009 - (Many of you probably received Sam's letter directly, but I will just include a couple of comments) Sam is about to publish another book: "Just So-So? Stories" (Wonderful Animal Tales of India). Sam's 80th birthday, Feb 23 was celebrated at least 4 times (does that make him that much older?)

Interesting note - Karl and Robin have adopted two children from India, Sushma from Chennai and Ahana from Bengal.

He goes on to say - "Aren't we all blessed in so many ways?! Even Parkinson's disease is a blessing helping Sam accept a variety of physical and mental limitations and to give more attention to prayer, Bible reading, writing stories and serving other. It makes way for the Holy Spirit to act, teach and give him Love - Joy - Peace - Patience - Kindness - Goodness Faithfulness - Gentleness and Self Control. (Gal. 5:22) May you all be blessed and led by the Holy Spirit throughout this year and forever.

VIRGINIA HERLONG & MARY COLEMAN LOWRY

REUNION PLANS, LUTHERAN MISSION IN INDIA, LUTHERIDGE MAY 2010

We are very much hoping to hold a "2nd Biennial Lutheran Mission in India" reunion at Lutheridge in May 2010. However, since our February 12, 2009 announcement through the India Newsletter mailing, we have only received three "yes" responses. If you replied to the newsletter (rather than using her e-mail), then your answer went somewhere into cyberspace. Virginia is sending out another "request for interest" letter from her computer so your reply will go directly back to her. If you haven't gotten her email by now, and want to come to the 2010 reunion, please email her ASAP at vherlong@sc.rr.com. She needs to make reservations to Lutheridge Conference Center in April 2009 for a gathering in May, 2010.

UPDATE - March 21 - Please reply soon with some sort of indication of whether you'd like to come to another Lutheran Mission reunion in May of NEXT year, 2010. In order to reserve a space, reservations must be made next month, April 1, 2009, or THIRTEEN months in advance of the actual reunion.

Hope you got our e-mail dated March 17, 2009. We've had 30 responses so far, with more than half wanting to come. Early May is the preferred time. Most have signed up for a room in KohnJoy Inn. (There are only 5 rooms left.) Some have opted for Thornburg.

To see who has signed up so far, click:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Andhra_Reunion/ This site will be kept updated as more responses come in. Now we need your response! Virginia and Mary

NEWS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER SHOULD BE SENT BY JULY 15, 2009

[Web Steward Note: If you know of any of our India Mission Family who would like to receive this newsletter by email, please have them sign up at: http://althouses.com/india_newsletter/indianews.htm. If you have any questions or problems with the web site newsletter, please let me know at: kodaistaff@althouses.com.]