

THE SPICERIAN

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September 2020



Dear ALL

"Spicer" synonymous with thousands of lives across the globe is an institution of global eminence which has moulded innumerable young lives. Today, this century old educational institution has contributed immensely for the growth and development in numerous fields, be it national or international. Many "Spicerians" are holding important positions in various fields globally.

I am one of the thousands who have gone through the portals of this great institution – our alma mater. It has played a major role in shaping my life. I owe my everything to Spicer. Today I am privileged to serve as the Chief Financial Officer and Vice-President for Financial Administration and contribute my little bit for its growth and development.

Ever since Spicer attained the University status, it has been facing extreme challenges on many fronts. However, with the guidance and support of the parent body, sincere efforts of the administration and co-operation of everyone connected, the problems are gradually being solved. A day will come when we will be able to regain our past glory so as to continue to serve the organization in particular and the society in general.

COVID - 19 impacted one and all throughout the world; Spicer has not been an exception. Life will never be the same owing to the adverse effects that the pandemic has left.

I would like to congratulate the editorial team for their efforts in bringing out another issue of the Spicerian for the benefit of one and all. I also would like to wish every member of the staff, faculty and students of Spicer the very best. God's richest blessings for the ensuing festive season "Christmas" and best wishes for the New Year 2021.

M D John Moses

*Chief Financial Officer &
Vice President, Financial Administration*

Dear Readers,

As we come to the end of 2020, the year that will go down in history and forever remain in our memories. Through the months gone by, we've had some heartwarming and heartbreaking experiences. If you're reading this, Praise God because you've made it through all this and much more in the year of the Pandemic.

And life still goes on -

"No matter what you think - life goes on and the world still turns and the universe has its own story. The most we can do is plan anyway, but understand, be humbled by things greater than ourselves." — *Bill Cosby*

This is another opportunity for us to reflect on the year gone by and remind ourselves of the fact that -

*The steadfast love of God never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning;
Great is His faithfulness.*

I am overjoyed to be able to bring out yet another issue of 'The Spicerian'. I appreciate the support from my editorial team and all those who contributed to this issue.

Hope you enjoy reading through the pages.

Wishing you season's greetings, good health and God's richest blessings.

Irene Moses

Editor-in-Chief

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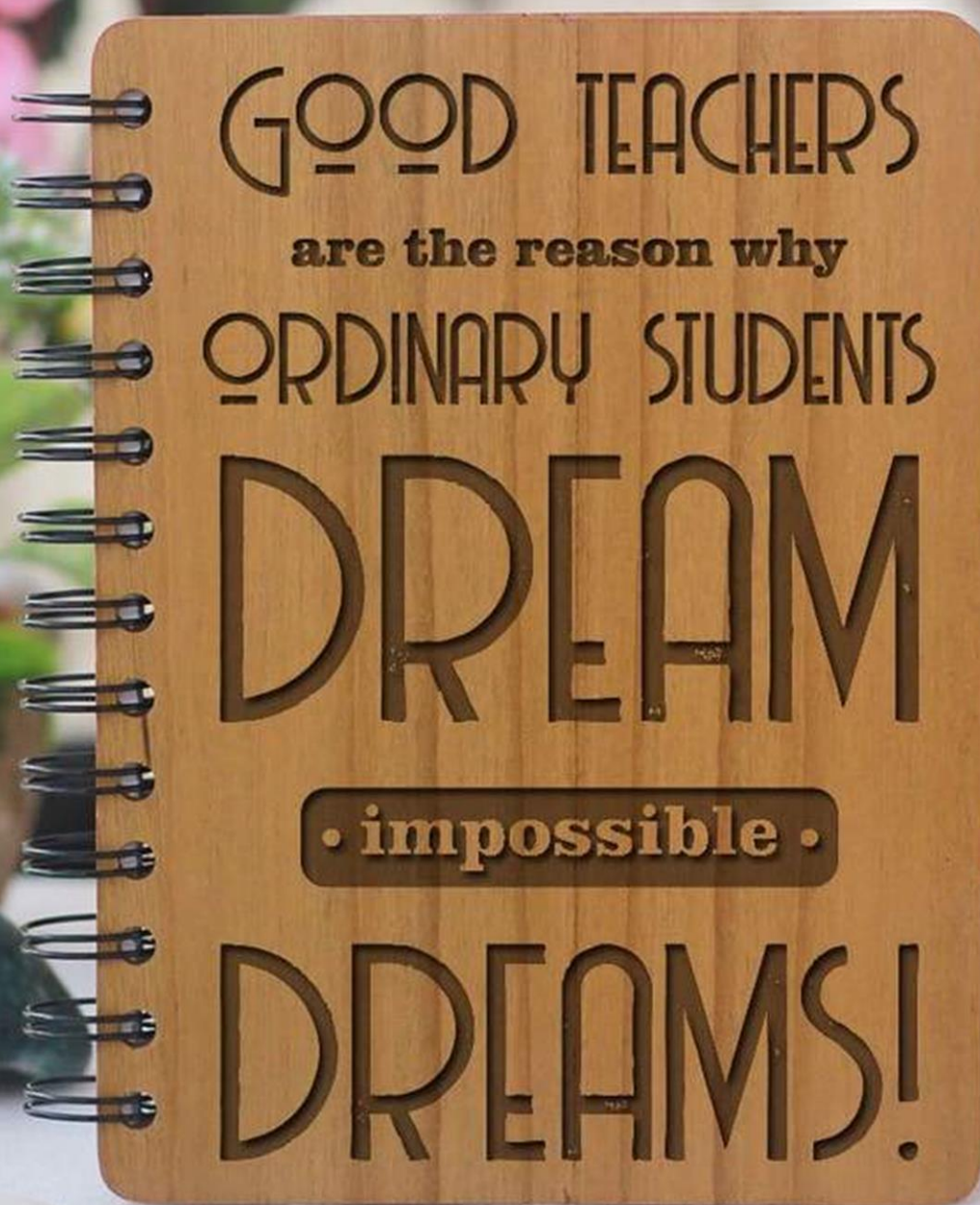
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HAPPY
TEACHER'S
day
SEPTEMBER 5

*WALL OF
WISHES...*

A TRIBUTE TO TEACHERS
**AS A TRIBUTE TO YOUR HARD
WORK AND GUIDANCE, HERE ARE
SOME REAL NOTES AND WISHES BY
OUR STUDENTS**

Throughout the years of adolescence, when we are at our most vulnerable state, when we are still struggling to reconcile ourselves to the adult world, there are a few who stand by us and help us through our moments of uncertainty. These people can be anyone-a friend, a parent, a sibling, a priest, a teacher.

Today is a special day. Today, we recognise the great sacrifices that our teachers have made for us, and today we commemorate those who have taken up the task of educating us, and guiding us through life itself. Today, we honour our teachers, all of you who have in one way or another, played a part in the shaping of who we are and who we are yet to be.

A teacher is more than an educator. A teacher can play all roles-the roles of a friend, counsellor or mentor. A teacher can be the guiding force in our lives even after we pass through the portals of our school and step into the world that lies ahead to be conquered.

In these years of our youth and adolescence, when the friends we make are likely to be the friends we keep, it is our teachers who guide us on our path. When we fall, more often than not, it is a teacher who picks us up, dusts us off and gets us back on our feet. When sorrow comes our way, and all who surround us can offer no solace, it is not uncommon for a teacher to lend us a shoulder to cry on.

How many of us have gone to a teacher for help? I can assure you today that all of us have at one point or another, sought a teacher's help, be it help with homework, or help with a difficult situation at hand. How many of us have been comforted by a teacher in moments of distress? How many have received good counsel from a teacher, or had a teacher listen to our problems?

Today we, **the students of SAU**, would like to honour you, our teachers, for all that you have done for us. You have always been there when we needed you most. You have never failed us in any way. You have accepted our failings with good humour. You have always forgiven us our many wrongs. You have never turned away anyone who sought your help. You have never begrudged us your grey hairs. Today, we honour you for the wonderful people that you have been, that you are, that you always will be. Today we can say that although we may be aggravating at times, perhaps even many times, we appreciate you for who you are.

You have been everything to us. You have been a friend, a counsellor, a mentor, a guide, an educator. You have shown us by example the way to lead our lives as we continue to tread the road of our lives. You have given us your love, and we could not ask for more.

You have been our best teachers.

Selwin Swansi
B.Com

A moment of pride for me to write a few lines about the greatness of the teachers. They deserve to receive the honour and I deserve to write about the supremacy of them. Good teachers are the reason for the great society that we have now.

Teaching is a profession that can compile all other professions. sometimes a good teacher will exile you from classroom to bring the excellence from you. They will minimize themselves in class room, but they will maximize their pupils in the society.

"Teachers have three loves: love of learning, love of learners and the love of bringing the first two loves together" - **Scott Hayden**.

Surprised and excited to see my teachers in Spicer Adventist University hold these qualities of three loves. A great teacher will always carry a life time learning process, sometimes even from their pupils. It was a blessing for me to fall in the hands of such teachers at SAU.

With a humbling heart and thankful mind, I respect every teacher in Spicer for their sacrifice and love towards every pupil. Wishing them a very "Happy Teachers Day".

"The mediocre teacher tells, the good teacher explains, the superior teacher demonstrates. But the great teacher inspires" - **William Arthur Ward**.

Wilson Kumar Tarapatla
1st Year, B.A Religious Studies

To our teachers who inspire us to touch and shape the future. From the time you welcomed us in the corners of our classroom.

Your kindness and patience are our weapon to keep learning and learning every day.

"He who ignores discipline despites himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding".
Proverbs 15:32.

The best teacher is the one who suggests and guides the students in the right way.

Ei Ei Aung
Third Year, BBA Regular

It is rightly said that teachers are like candles – who consume themselves to light the way for others. And as a new student in this prestigious university I have huge respect for all the teachers. They are passionate and highly dedicated to their work.

I am excited for the upcoming classes as there is something new to look forward to. The teachers try to inspire and help us participate in class. This helps us be more active and be present. Yes, this is highly needed in this world of short attention span.

Also, I am in awe at the swift transition to the online mode of class in these confusing and difficult times. Though teachers face hard times in a completely new platform, they still navigate and find a way. Their hard work makes students' lives easier. So hats off to all the amazing teachers of Spicer.

Aaron Samuel
1st Year, B.A Religious Studies

Education is the key to success in life, and teachers make a lasting impact on lives of their students. Everyone who remembers his own education remembers teachers, not methods and techniques. The teachers are the heart of the Education system.

Now it's here and I can't believe that time has had passed so quickly. But through encouragement and guidance of teachers at SAU, I feel I am ready for tomorrow's challenges.

Simon Soren
M.Com

God blessed me with such teachers who always encourage me and mould my character into the likeness of Jesus. I can't thank them enough for making me what I am today. They never dismiss our dreams instead they teach us how to chase them and catch them. Especially when I face tough moments my teachers lift me up and support me.

Surendra Kumar

First Year, M.A Religious Studies

You are like a ray of light in my life
You showed me the right path to be on
You believed in me when I doubted myself
You always stood for me
You scolded me when I made mistakes
But, what has touched me most
Is the love you have shown me.

Thank you, Namrata ma'am
For reaching deep in me
to find all I can be,
before I can see it myself.
You never gave up on me
I have a future
because of you.

I really would like to thank Namrata ma'am. You have a special place in my heart. You are the most special as you understood me like no one. I wish every student gets a teacher like you. You motivated me whenever I felt like giving up. I am very lucky that I have got very nice teachers in my life.

I hope to do good things in life and have a good future as all my teachers wish the same for me.

Aayushi Mishra

2nd Year, B.A. Psychology

Greetings to Spicer Adventist University teachers!

Thank you teachers for all the extra effort you put to make us grow. Thank you for taking the time to expand our mind and cultivate our soul. Thank you for creating an atmosphere that allow us to learn, but most importantly to grow on God's side. You planted love in our hearts. You take care of us like your own sons and daughters and teach us to become a better people. In spite of all our weaknesses and downfalls you have lifted us from the bottom to the top! The love you showed on us sets an example to all the students and has won many hearts.

Despite the pandemic that we are facing now, thank you for not giving up on us giving us the platform to learn through online classes. Thank you so much teachers for whatever you have done for us, you are always our great "heroes" throughout. GOD BLESS YOU ALL

Mashunrin Chiphang

2nd Year, B.A Religious Studies

To My Great Teachers!

Greetings to my beloved Teachers of SAU.

As the year comes to an end, I would like to take this opportunity and say a big thank you to all of you. This has been a tough and challenging academic year for all of us. But with your dedication to help us grow, it has been a successful year. One which we will remember for years to come. I look forward to your class when the school re-opens again. Thank you for caring so much.

Reisang Huileng.

2nd Year, B.A Religious Studies

FROM THEN TO NOW...

When I started college,
The day seems so far away.

Now I'm here and I cannot believe,
That time has passed so quickly.

But through your encouragement and
guidance,
I feel I'm ready for tomorrow's challenges.

Teachers play such an important part,
In shaping and guiding us,
Especially a teacher like you,
Who makes me to fly towards my
dreams...

Abraham Tudu
First Year, MBA

Just like school/college is like the second home, teachers are the second parents. And in Spicer Adventist University this really is true. I don't think I would have known my teachers/professors well if I would have been in any other college. The teachers here actually know each student in their classes and they help each one in different ways. I'm lucky that I got the opportunity to be mentored by such wonderful teachers. I'm thankful for all of you and all the knowledge that you have shared with me. I thank you for being so consistent in the classroom, spending the effort and time to teach the classes. Thank you for taking the time to review our work, and for the times that you gave real and honest feedback to us. I'm sure we don't realise or acknowledge how much you put your efforts in order to teach us. You've instilled in me a great value for education which I will have with me for the rest of my life.

Heta Gadhiya
B.A., English

Teachers are the real makers of a nation. They are the torchbearers of deep knowledge and profound wisdom, removing the darkness of ignorance. I would like to thank all my teachers for shaping me into what I am today, a proud beautiful woman.

Special thanks to Irene Ma'am for giving me this opportunity to hone my abilities and for trusting me time and again. Wouldn't be writing in this magazine if it wasn't for her.

Neelanjana Das
2nd Year, B.A., English

"It's the teacher that makes the difference not the Classroom."

With their extra effort and dedication, teachers during the pandemic have proved this quote completely true.

They have really come out as heroes for students. We must be grateful for their non-stop service that benefited us, helped us to pull out our legs and try to achieve the best of all that we have access to.

Pranay Singh
BA English (2nd year)

One of the greatest qualities of a teacher is his or her ability to see beyond what is in front of them i.e. the ability to see the students not just for who they are, but for what they are potential of. Teachers accept us for who we are and mold us into what we become. They are the people that turn our ignorance into realization, our knowledge into wisdom, our hobbies into passion, and finally, our dreams into reality.

Thank you for believing in our strengths despite our weaknesses. We will forever be grateful.

Ankitha Deepati
First Year, M.A. in English

A teacher.

We are all teachers in the bubble of our own lives: no matter how tall or short; young or old. I'm sure you have felt a certain pride every time you took the time to go out of your way to teach someone to do something they had trouble with. That, is just one part of what a teacher in a classroom does.

Working as a teacher, I learnt more lessons than I taught. As the cliché would suggest, teaching isn't a one way street, it goes both ways. I had good mentors growing up such as my mom, my aunt and even my own teachers, the ones who taught me in school and **the ones who are teaching me now**. You see, being a teacher takes heart and I'm not going to lie, it is exhausting! I've worked with teachers who have walked on firestones to help their students grow. I have seen teachers talk for a student when their parents couldn't understand their own child.

For me, I have so many students that I will never forget. It was the joy of standing at my classroom door waiting for my little ones to come in and start the day. Being able to not only study but get to know what they were good at, what they loved doing and what they wanted to be when they grew up. The wheels in my head constantly turned to find ways to make every learning moment exciting and fun for them. Saying goodbye at the end of a long, exhausting day and knowing that I had corrections piled up was not always (as I am sure my teachers can relate) the best feeling in world. I, however, would be lying if I said some of their answers did not make me chuckle and smile.

As a student now, I admire the teachers that I have. Not only on my home front but also my teachers here at SAU. If you are a student, thank your teachers with a smile on your face every class, because they are running through hoops to make our current situation better.

My mum has been a teacher for a long time now. When the lockdown was announced and schools were shut down, she didn't even flinch. Technology isn't an easy thing to work with especially growing up in a generation when a paper and pen were all you needed to learn. My mom, though, sat and learnt every aspect of being able to run a successful video call to conducting breakout room sessions to even conducting games online. Now, I can tell she's a pro at all of it. It wasn't easy though, she had days when she would rush into my room with tears in her eyes because she found all the technology so 'difficult and annoying'.

This got me thinking, my mom has my dad and I who are quite proficient at technology but what about the other teachers who are in the same struggle. My teachers now, (they know who I am talking about) are the sweetest most honourable teachers I've known, mostly because they're classes are the ones that I attend and I'm sure you feel the same about your teachers too. I can see them take the time to plan every lesson, explain every aspect so kindly and with such patience, it blows my mind every single time and most importantly, they are present in class every time we join the call.

As a student myself, I sometimes do feel the urge to complain and avoid attending class because it's online; or even turn my camera off and stay online while I close my eyes and enter a dream world as I am sure most of you do. It is natural at our age and our current positions as 'students' to do that or even feel that way. I think here is where the cliché returns once again.

Treat others as you would want to be treated. My class will one day be teachers in a classroom and I'm sure will learn this lesson swiftly because they will have students of their own. Some of you pursuing other streams will come into the same boat. You will be in a position where you will conduct meetings, speak on social matters, do social work and even preach in a church one day.

I'm going to say it again, treat others as you wish to be treated.

I imagine being a teacher looking at screen of letters on my video call and it does not feel very good. I, also imagine having my students looking ever so tense at the idea of attending class. I don't know about the others, but my class at present has some of the brightest smiles ever and lovely banter to accompany our learning. That is an atmosphere that only a superhero can create.

The reason I labelled teachers as superheroes is, because I was blessed enough to experience a life as a teacher and as a student. To my students, I was Batman and they were my Robin, Albert and Cat woman. The stress, the anxiety that comes with being a teachers is a never ending circle. It is with every job but as a teacher, you are moulding another human being. My little ones on odd days in excitement called me 'mom'. They didn't even realise they did it. Those were the days that I really examined myself to make sure that I wasn't letting the stress and anxiety overcome the love that I had for my job and for duty towards the children that trusted me so much. For my fellow teachers, that is a super power all on its own.

I was very unsure about pursuing a career in teaching until I was having a really rough day. One of the little girls in my class, her name is Indhu, she came to me and handed me a letter. It had so many grammatical errors but as a teacher you learn to read through that. I'm not going to bore you with the entire letter but the part that really locked in my resolve to become a teacher was this, "I had never shared anything with a teacher. If I told a teacher something she would never listen but when you hugged me I felt brave." That was it. I would be so happy to hear stories like this from my teachers.

Just remember just because you are not teaching students, it doesn't mean you aren't teachers.

To my fellow students, it is an honour to be able to learn online in a time like this, wherever you folks are back home, your teachers miss you a lot more than you would think and so do your classmates. Seeing your smiling faces in a call would make their resolve and all their hard work come to fruition. Your excitement to learn comes hand in hand with their excitement to teach.

To my dear teachers, you have set a standard of a role model that I, as an aspiring teacher hope to reach someday. I hope to be patient, kind and someone who can forgive the little nitty-gritty things just as you do. I hope you know that we, your students, miss you too. Wherever we are in the world right now, we appreciate your hard work. Seeing your smiling faces, is a treat for us too.

Jessica Samudre

3rd Year, B.A Elementary Education

Testimony about Teachers and their Teaching Methods



Academic studies at the start of the 21st century are marked by competition in research. This is the reason why all academic educational institutions nowadays are engaged with their different faculties to give the maximum of science and knowledge to their students. Among these thousands of universities most attached to their loyal and regal mission is found also Spicer Adventist University.

Spicer Adventist University is a private Christian institution belonging to the Seventh-day Adventist education system. It is training the men and women that the world needs today. Its teaching staff is full of renowned researchers in the transmission of knowledge. As I move towards the end of my training, I have already acquired a lot from them, the key to research and the maximum knowledge of my career. Humble in character, understanding in the classrooms and faithful to the canon of their profession, these professors have contributed to my intellectual development and have shaped in me the critical and judgmental spirit which remains the fundamentals of science today. Indeed, all these appreciable results that I testify are due to the fact that they place the student at the center of their training.

In addition to the excellent quality teachings that they give us, I would also like to point out and underline one thing: my spiritual formation. Our teachers always teach us the need to depend on God, the need to pray in groups, to intercede for our loved ones and to live the godly ethics. On behalf of all my fellow Spicer students, I would like to salute and thank the remarkable work of these teachers for their sharing of spiritual, mental and intellectual knowledge.

Jacob Aguimesheo

2nd Year, Masters in Religious Studies



To Teacher with Love

You taught me to love,
You taught me to learn,
And here I build, I try to earn,
These wings which with I'll soar above...

Virtue not vice you taught me to sow,
Each day thus wiser you saw me grow,
You promise your care for the shoots we are,
Your nurture is rare that makes us who we are...

Your wisdom true and safe,
I held in place,
And saw aglow, pride's gaze
Light over a mother's face...

Your strength enlivens in my heart,
A luminous candle in the dark,
A melody, a remedy a hand to hold on,
Upon your shoulders I am made strong...

Ignited, I am empowered,
Appreciated, I am motivated,
Acknowledged, I am emboldened,
Beautiful... I am made golden

To Teacher with love; this letter, small and sweet...
Dedicate I; life's riches, wishes and dreams.

Sophia William

2nd Year, B.A Psychology



ORIENTATION MEETING

The orientation meeting for the new academic year 2020-21 was held on September 21. It was coordinated by Mr Abhishek Lakra, the director of Human Resources.

The program started with a lively song service. This was followed by the opening remarks by Dr Y Simon, Registrar. Mr M.D John Moses, CFO lead us in a special prayer submitting ourselves to God and thanking Him for His mercies especially during the pandemic.

Pastor Ezras Lakra, President of SAU and Chairman of the Governing Body of SAU gave the keynote address in which he stressed on the fact that God has His own way of taking care of educational institutions in spite of the adverse situation. He also felt that the pandemic had given an opportunity to get closer to God, resulting in revival. He further emphasized the importance of connecting with Christ in order to be better human beings and to impart wholistic education at SAU.

The next was a brief informative session by Mr M D John Moses. He informed about the finances and the challenges being faced due to the pandemic situation.

Pastor A.S Varekkan, the COE explained the process of conducting online exams, a first at Spicer. He informed of important dates of different exams and familiarised with the fact as to how the procedure of conducting examinations and evaluation was all being done in the interest of the students.

The next session was taken by Mr Elvinson and Mr Prem Gompa who have been instrumental in taking care of the admissions, registrations and also updating the faculty about various aspects of online teaching and learning. They explained in detail about the functioning of the Google classroom and Zoom meetings; assuring of their availability at all times for any queries.

A brief report and update of the progress of each of the Divisions was given by the respective deans.

The closing prayer was offered by Pr. A. S. Varekkan and concluding remarks were made by Dr. Y. Simon.

Irene Moses

God's plan in times of COVID 19

2020 has been a strange year academically, economically and socially. "Time does not wait for anyone" is so true, days and months have come and gone. If there was one thing that COVID19 was not able to alter was "Time". The complete lockdown has dragged the economy down. Social distancing has distanced us socially and human relation and interaction has dramatically changed. The Mask had masked our identity. In all this drama the academic sector has been hit hard by the COVID 19.

The invisible virus has caused mightily visible paradigm shift in the way we provide education and educate. The physical interaction has been replaced by online virtual mode of interaction. The massive physical infrastructural facilities have become redundant without the presence of the students. If this is to continue and adopted, was all that investment worth a dime? Are we human to relate, educate and learn virtually? Is offline learning or online learning more effective? Will it create greater economic gap between the "Haves" and the "Have nots"? Are we not social beings that can relate better when we are physically in close proximity? Do we want to live in a virtual world? Can technology really replace human touch? Only time will tell.

Could this be the first and hopefully the last in the history of Spicer that the campus feel so empty and deserted with no students around? As I always say "What is a campus with all infrastructural facilities but no students around"? Ever since the virus brought the nation and the world to a grinding halt in March, things done and managed have never been the same. We had to scramble to get to the basics and readjust to the changing environment to ensure that things to be done, get done. All stakeholders had to brainstorm and pull strings together. It was both reaction to the unexpected unprecedented situation at the same time "proactive" to the expected situation of the unknown future.

Overtime, maximum utilization of limited resources and exploration was the way that the academic programs especially the plans and execution of matters related to examinations was done. It surely was an adventure in which we could not afford misadventure. It was an exercise in an unprecedented time to be executed in the interest and welfare of the students and the University at large. The cloud of suspense and uncertainty over the examinations or the cancellation of the final semester examinations did not help the situation.

The proactiveness, commitment and dedication of all the stakeholders made it possible to execute the first time ever **"Online" examinations** for all the Qualified Final semester students. It is without denial that there were challenges and technical clichés in the pre-exam, during exam and Post-exam but Spicer pulled it through successfully. One takeaway from the Covid 19 experience is that the success of academics will depend on the successful marriage of Offline and Online method of education.

Above all, all things said and done "The credit goes to God". He had been, is and will always be faithful "to those who wait on the Lord". This COVID 19 has been a great learning experience, it has strengthened our hope and faith in God. It will be a denial of the fact if we say all is well. But surely, the God who made a way through the Red sea, who provided food and water in the wilderness, who walked with them in the fire, who gave up His life and promise to return has promised that *"When you pass through the waters,*

I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze." Isaiah 43:2. Remember, His promises are always there for us to claim in faith and He will fulfill it in His time and ways *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"* Jeremiah 29:11.

A library is a place of collection of sources of information in the form of books and periodicals both in published and unpublished form. It is an important source of knowledge for students, academicians and researchers. Libraries play a very significant role in spreading and preserving the valuable books, articles and research materials. Libraries develop the habit of reading among the people. It is a place where all kinds of books, magazines and periodicals are stored. Libraries open the way for people to get access for various purposes.

Online resources:

Spicer Adventist University also has modern online facilities such as WiFi Zone, Delnet EPSCO, National digital library membership and British Library membership.

Resources of Management Library:

The library contains 4500 books, 4 computers, 7 newspaper editions and 20 magazines. The Spicer Management Library has lending and borrowing facilities for the students and faculty members. At the same time, it also has a considerably large reading hall.

Mrs. Subuhi Khan

(Assistant Librarian) Management Library

ONLINE LEARNING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Covid 19 pandemic has impacted education today. Classes no longer function the way they normally did, and hence the online mode of learning. Most of the faculty in the education department are still new to the use of online medium of instruction. The unplanned and rapid move to online learning with little training, insufficient bandwidth and short time preparation, make faculty in the department worry whether our students benefit from the classes. Some of us anticipated a lot of difficulties. Nevertheless, the faculty are very cooperative and ever willing to learn new things. In spite of the little knowledge we have about the use of the medium prescribed to us, everyone is pulling along and is doing fine with the classes.

The first few weeks were a big challenge for many of us. Recording our lectures and preparing PowerPoint presentations for our classes was not easy. At times, after recording for about 15 to 20 minutes, we found that the work had not been saved. It was a frustrating experience. Now, as we get more familiar with the use of the medium, we laugh at those experiences. We are now able to see online learning as an opportunity for both teachers as well as students to develop new ways of learning. Additionally, through online learning, students can work more independently. It is also interesting to know that some of our students are attending their face time classes even while they are traveling on the road. I believe that we are slowly embracing the new normal--the online teaching and learning.

Some of the common challenges faced by students and faculty with our online classes are internet disruption, and lack of proper facility. At times, two or more teachers have face time class which makes it difficult to teach as we can hear each other and the voices are recorded. Aside from these few challenges, we are doing well. Although we had to think of different alternatives to our practicum classes, our students are cooperating very well and we are able to adjust to the change.

Sanita Phawa, Phd

Assistant Professor, Education Department

My Life at Spicer

Coming all the way from a small town of Himachal Pradesh to Pune was quite challenging to me. New place, people, culture, language, etc. I was under so much pressure. But joining Spicer, Bachelor of Performing Arts-Music Department, was the best thing that ever happened to me. I never had any problem adjusting here, and never felt like an outsider. It always felt like home. The teachers here are so welcoming and warm hearted.

I am a voice major student who aspires to be a famous singer in future and I found the best course of western classical music here in Spicer Adventist University. The music department has grand pianos, guitars, keyboards and many other instruments. We have a friendly environment here. Even the seniors are so helpful and fun to be with. I really enjoy when we learn new things in each class session, and it is never boring. Trust me we have so much fun while learning. Sometimes we even learn by playing games. Teachers make difficult things look so easy to capture. I am always excited to go to classes especially when we have practical classes, it is so exciting and inspiring.

Ever since the lockdown due to the COVID19, universities were shut down, so now, we are learning online. The music department faculty are working very hard to get everything done online so as to make our learning better, practical courses like Piano and voice lessons etc., Theory courses -writing music notation are difficult to teach, but lessons are going on well, we're getting pre-recorded lecture videos followed by live conferencing and doubt sessions. As music students, we prepare our musical pieces and songs which we then upload online for review. Our teachers then guide and help us improve our performance wherever necessary.

I am very glad to be part of Spicer Adventist University and can't wait to go back to join face to face instruction, normally. I always reminisce about all the events that have happened; the fresher's night, talent night, food festival, Christmas, etc. It brings back all the love and warmth we have shared with the blessing of God. I look forward to learning more and making new memories here.

Gauri Sharma

2nd year BPA-Music





Online Learning @ Spicer

One Sunday afternoon in the month of July, I got a call from Mr. M. D. John Moses, CFO of Spicer Adventist University. I was asked to meet him as soon as I could. Not knowing what to expect, I went over. He asked me "Prem, what do you think Spicer will need in order to begin online classes?" It took me a few seconds to digest that question as myself, Mr. Abhisek Lakra and Mr. Rohan Sigamany had the exact discussion a few days prior to this. I did not want to let go of this opportunity to contribute to the growth and development of Spicer and immediately revealed the discussions we had, and was asked to call for a meeting the next morning.

The next morning a few of us met and began discussing the prospects of having online classes. The first challenge we came across was finance or the lack of it. We have quite a few departments, a lot of teachers and going online with classes was a huge task which required quite a number of computers with webcams and speakers. As we were discussing, an idea came about where we thought, with no students on campus, we were not going to use the computer labs and so, we did not need to purchase computers for now, but we needed webcams and speakers so that we could conduct live classes. Without thinking twice Mr. M. D. John Moses and Mr. Robby Abraham the DFO agreed to arrange funds for the same. The second challenge we were going to face was the lack of Internet bandwidth. Spicer meets the UGC criteria for bandwidth but that would not be sufficient to have quality classes if everyone went online at the same time. Mr. Rohan did his research and told us that there are a few softwares that are available that would help us in creating videos that could be shared with the students and therefore we would only need to have one live class per subject every week and the rest could be pre-recorded videos.

By this time Google Classroom had become a common tool to a number of the faculty members as in the month of May, the Human Resources department at Spicer had organized a training webinar to train and help teachers understand the need for online learning as well as train them with the use of GSuite. Dr. Sheela Chacko spent an entire session on Online teaching pedagogy, which was something new to most teachers. Mr. Santosh Kumar spent another session training teachers on where to find Online literature that could be sent to students from online libraries and the likes for free.

As we were looking at how to reach students and their needs. Mr. Abhisek began to explain the four quadrants suggested by the UGC. It became clear that the webinar that was held in the month of May did not go to waste as that was exactly what was going to be used now. The four Quadrants were Video presentations, Class Notes, Online resources such as links or ebooks etc, and Assignments, assessments and discussions. Google Classroom fits the need as it became our learning management system (LMS) which allows us to create assignments, send materials, create quizzes and has a discussion portal too.

Once the meeting got over, we were directed to meet with Dr. Sanjeevan Arsud, Vice Chancellor and Dr. Simon Yesu, Registrar of Spicer Adventist University, where this entire proposal was presented and I was placed as the Online Learning - Teaching Coordinator. Each department was then assigned a facilitator from the faculty in the department who was trained to use Active Presenter to create offline videos and in turn they conducted departmental training to make sure that teachers were adequately prepared to meet the new challenges since this was the first time Spicer Adventist University was embarking on the Online platform to educate our students.

As this was taking shape, I was also requested to take over the Spicer Management System Software Development to help with Online Admissions as well as Registration of current and prospective students. This was quite a challenge as part of the software was already in place but needed to be tweaked to fit the present need. Mr. Allan Doss and his team played a crucial role in getting the task done by keeping Spicer as a priority. I am really proud to announce that Spicer has hit a milestone this semester with Online education. We have the following Modules ready and working - Application for New students, Registration of New and Current students, Fee payment integration, Marksheets, ATKT exam application and exam fee payment, and Online Examination. As we progress further, we hope to go as paperless as possible with the use of this Software.

We have hit a few roadblocks but with God on our side we were able to make progress and hopefully we will see very few difficulties in the way the software works in the future.

I would like to make an appeal to generate funds to purchase a UPS with adequate battery backup that will keep our server online at all times as, at the moment we have a very short power backup which creates problems for the students who get disconnected from the server when there is a power cut at Spicer.

Prem Sagar Gompa

Assistant Professor, Online Teaching - Learning Coordinator & IT Incharge



Worship Services

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted church congregations in various ways, which called for cancellation of social gatherings and in-person worship services, but churches moved to online platforms to shepherd their members. Though the lockdown eased over the months, churches continued with online worship services as large gatherings was still a threat.

Spicer Church hosted another series on the theme "The Three Angels Messages" over the Sabbath weekends of September 11 & 12, September 25 & 26 and October 3 & 4, 2020. The speakers during these series were our senior Theology students and Theology professors.

We also had various departments of our church that lead us in our worship services: The pathfinder club led us in worship services during the weekend of September 18 & 19, 2020 in honor and celebration of 70 years of its establishment. The weekend of October 17 & 18, 2020 was celebrated as Women's Ministries Emphasis weekend, where the women of our church spoke on the theme "Christ's Amazing Love Moves Me." October 30 & 31, 2020 was observed as Creation Sabbath, the faculty and students of Science department led us in our services. The weekend of November 13 & 14, 2020 was led by Children of Spicer Church as we celebrated Children's Sabbath on the theme "God Is with You Always."

We have an ongoing event called "Youth Week of Prayer" planned by the Adventist Youth Department, where the youth and young adults of our church are participating. The Sabbath School departments for the adults, youth and children are taking place every week on various social media platforms, enriching the minds of all ages with the hope of gospel truth. We also have a number of upcoming events planned by the department of Health and Temperance, one such event, will be held on 6th December, 2020 – called e-writing and drawing competition on the theme "Health."

We hope to bring normalcy, peace and healing to our members as they worship with us from home. We are committed to providing a live worship gathering every week through our online services, where our members can experience God through worship, prayer, and studying his Word. Our prayer is that it helps their faith grow stronger.

Sharon Clinton

THE CROSS



*A symbol of my faith that
strengthens me each day,
As I by God's grace
Walk the narrow way.*

*You see God's own son
He gave His life for me
And took my debt of sin
To a place called Calvary.*

*I own Him my life
And all I'll ever be
All He asks is that
I'll let Him live through me.*

*So I run the race
Empowered by His grace
And give Him all the glory
As I look into His face.
He is LORD.*

Vangneilen kom.
2nd Year, Religious Studies

70th World Pathfinder Day 2020 – Reconciled

The Pathfinder Club at Spicer has been celebrating this day with every other Pathfinder club in the world for the past few years and this year was no different though the circumstances.

Last year's PF director, Mr. P. G. Gaiphun took up the vespers service to highlight the activities done at the club, such as hiking, cookout, representing the club at the Youth Congress at Vyara, etc. Pr. Paul Bhaggien spoke to the church family during the divine hour about the prodigal son and the need for all of us to be

reconciled with God. The current club director, Mr. Robby Abraham, played a prominent role in bringing everyone together safely.

There was a video greeting made to send out to the other Pathfinder clubs celebrating this day.

We are Pathfinders for Life!

Maranatha!



Seleina Nakka

Spicer Youth Week of Prayer

"With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!" (Education p.271)

The Spicer Youth Week of Prayer was held from November 22-30, 2020. It was based on the theme: The Journey Home: Faithfulness in Lifestyle. The senior high school students were the preachers throughout the whole week. It was held via Zoom and was streamed on the Spicer Church YouTube channel as well. The preachers were: Leo Steve, Sakshi Nowrangi, Freesia Nongpluh, Boilien Haokip, Avinash Lang, Josiah Laldinsanga, Gracy Chhakchhuak, and Lovely Kisku.

It was a blessed experience to all those that attended the meetings. Each day the sermon was focused on how the Christian lifestyle impacts the way we reach out to others for Christ. The young and dynamic presenters beautifully showed us that our example is Christ alone. Our character must truly reflect His, if we want to impact the rest of the world.

This Week of Prayer brought the young and old together. Hearing young people preach the Word of God so confidently and boldly was very inspiring. It was a wonderful opportunity for the youth to meet together, despite the pandemic, and hear messages by other youth. Our Adventist Church started with energetic young people who had a passion for mission. I believe that the present youth of the church can lead us all home, to live with Christ forever.

Delight Jesin Kollabathula

1st year, M.A. Religious Studies

CHRIST MY KING

He bore the entire heavens glory,
But He stepped down for each ones sorry.
He had the throne as the Son of God,
He left it all and made all awed.

That sacrifice was meant for you and me,
To be born on earth and a man was He.
All the royal doors were shut for Him,
A manger was open filled with grim.

He wished to take us long and wide,
But His means of transport was a donkey ride.
He wished to give us a castle with a moat,
But His only stay was in a very small boat.

This was the life of Christ my King,
And His praises, ever will I sing.
The greatest gift for you and me,
To ensure us life, ever sin free.

Elfino Prayer Elmo,

First Year, Religious Studies

Prayer for Students

Lord our God,
in your wisdom and love you surround us
with the mysteries of the universe.
Send your spirit upon these students and
fill them with your wisdom and blessings.
Grant that they may devote themselves
to their studies and draw ever closer to you,
the source of all knowledge.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Dear God,
Thank you for the gift of education in every form.
As our students study and prepare for life,
May Confidence be their Foundation,
May grace be their Guide AND
May Hope be their compass toward a bright future.
We pray they would have eyes to see the needs of those
around them and
a heart to love well.
May they face each day with Positivity, knowing that no
matter what comes their way, they do not have to face it
alone.
Amen

Felicitations!

On 23rd November the Vice Chancellor Dr. Sanjeevan Arsud and Mrs Annie Sanjeevan were felicitated by the university administration. The program was organized and co-ordinated by Mr M D John Moses, the Chief Finance Officer. Dr Sanjeevan was inducted in to the group of Ministers for God as Pastor in a scintillating ordination ceremony held at Hosur Seventh Day Adventist Church on 21st November, 2020 to lead the flock at Spicer Adventist University. On behalf of the Spicerian team I take this opportunity to congratulate Pr. & Mrs. Sanjeevan Arsud.

Irene Moses



BE A DANDELION

Oh! Look yonder
 Be like that tree that provides shelter to
 the birds;
 And place for the sparrow to lay its head
 for a bird.
 A shield from -
 The dark winds, the cold, the rain and the
 storms.
 Where, a traveller can repose under its
 shade of warm.
 Bear fruits for the starving wanderers,
 A spring to the pond, flowing all season
 long.
 A tree standing tall and strong,
 A tree where the crawling, flying and
 walking creatures,
 Can call it 'Home' to nurture,
 Amidst the harsh winter days, it shall
 endure.
 In Spring, when it gives a new life of
 grandeur,
 And glows with its pleasant blossoms.
 In Summer, holds the land and seeps the
 shower in its bosom;
 Down to its deepest roots and preserve
 it.
 Unwavering, even in the harshest of
 storms.
 In Autumn, though shook by the season
 mischiefs,
 But one that never fully shed its leaves.

Because -
*"... I see how universal some human
 experiences are:
 Shame, guilt, regret, friendship, love,
 forgiveness, atonement."*
 Be strong. Be courageous.
 In the end, the harvest is rich,
 When you bear the burden that life
 offers.
 Be true. Perseverance pays.
 Be a Dandelion.

Pemchuila R Shimray
 Final Year, B. A English



SPICER

A place where dreams come
 true.
 Where all pursue, beneath
 the blue
 Together as one, as sisters
 and brothers.
 A place where the youth
 learn,
 To follow the path that
 legends laid.
 Footsteps along the way,
 Where God leads ahead of
 all.

Where wardens rule
 and Waiwai saves.
 Where nickname are smart
 and real names weird.
 Where strangers turn to
 families.

That place called 'Spicer'
 Where He shall teach you
 all things.

Deborah Huai Tawng
 B. Sc

LIONHEARTED

Recreancy, spreading across the
 nations,
 Oh, how we're losing patience,
 Grant us the grit to find,
 A melody is what you give our
 hearts,
 To save the millions broken
 apart.
 For I am one of them, alone and
 destitute.

I walk across this battlefield,
 An angel to my right and one to
 my left,
 Weary from a battle I haven't
 fought yet.
 Your two edged sword in my
 hand,
 My burden now in yours,
 I storm across this alone and yet
 not.

My brothers and sisters,
 Step in beside me as we
 strengthen our wedge,
 Shields and all, protection in our
 hedge,
 Your fire runs before us like wild
 wolves on the prowl,
 There is no fear left,
 Just honour and vow.

We, lion-hearted wish to find
 ourselves in you,
 This journey we started begins
 and ends with you.
 And as we close our eyes weary
 from this battle,
 We breathe our last breath and
 in your arms we're tranquil.

Jessica Samudre
 3rd Year, Bachelor of Elementary
 Edu

Faculty Meeting

Faculty meeting for October, 2020 was held on the fifteenth of the month. Dr. Sanjeevan Arsud presided over the meetings while Dr. Mohanraj Israel, coordinator for Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA) informed the faculty members about the upcoming visit. Responsibilities were assigned to individuals regarding the twelve areas that needed to be covered in the self-study report. The concerned individuals would assist the coordinator in compiling the report.

The next faculty and staff meeting was held on November 1, 2020. It was convened to appreciate the retirees who had served the institution for long years. The administration honoured Late. Mrs. Sumathi Sharath, Mrs. Mariamma Eapen, Mr. Bhimarao Baban Rao Shivale and Mrs. Saraswati Damu Kadam for their dedicated service to the institution. The University family appreciated the contribution of the retirees.

Abhisek Lakra



Farewell to Ronny Chacko

I've known Ronny Chacko since he was a little boy, who used to walk around the Spicer Campus with his twin sister hand in hand. I have seen him grow into a fine gentleman, a wonderful husband, and a trustworthy employee at Spicer Adventist University, who worked as an accountant in the business department.

Ronny was a diligent student, humble and respectful towards his teachers and fellow members. He was known to be very silent and reserved.

He has been using his God gifted talents of singing, in the Poona Musicale and actively participating in basketball matches.



Obituary

Ronny has been an integral part of the Institution and the church in various ways.

His service for the university was flawless. He was an immensely dedicated employee with well-organized work. Spicer will always be thankful for his commitment and zeal that he had executed all these years towards his duties.

Ronny, we pray that you prosper, grow and nurture in the sight of the Lord wherever you are, and May the Lord guide you and your family through all your new endeavours.

Wishing you God's richest blessings.

Ramakrishna Rao Chinta

Associate Registrar for Finance

Sandeep Topno: A Noble Soul Gone too Soon

I was shocked to receive the tragic news of the untimely death of Sandeep Topno, a student of the Education department, Spicer Adventist University. He was born on October 16, 1998, in Ghatidas village. He had his early education in Naxalbari and his high school at the SDA Higher Senior Secondary School



Khunti. Sandeep was truly a noble soul. It was because of his amazing readiness to help anyone in need that brought him to Spicer.

One day, at the railway station, Sandeep noticed a woman carrying heavy baggage. He immediately offered to help her. Although he did not know her, he offered to carry her bags to her seat. Just as he was about to leave, the woman asked him what his name was, where he came from, and the necessary details and they departed. It was not long after that kind act, Sandeep received a phone call from the woman whom he had helped at the railway station. She told him that she had gotten help for him to study at Adventist School, Khunti and that all arrangements had been made for him to join the school. After Sandeep got permission from his parents, he went to Khunti for his high school education. On completion from Khunti, the Northern India Union of Adventist mission sponsored Sandeep to continue his undergraduate studies at Spicer Adventist University.

Sandeep's one year stay at Spicer Adventist University left us with wonderful fond memories. He was such a wonderful student, a good friend and classmate to the first year education students. He always sat in the front row and was very attentive to all the lectures. He was neat in his handwriting, dress, and very hardworking. In spite of his illness, he never complained, and would still attend classes faithfully. It was a wonderful experience for us teachers to have such a student in our class. Unfortunately, we did not get to spend much time with Sandeep. He has gone too soon. He will always be remembered for his outstanding character, and a good example to all the students. Although we miss him, we have that assurance in the Lord, that we will see Sandeep again on that resurrection morning.

Sanita Phawa, Phd

Assistant Professor, Education Department

Health Snippets:

The Sunshine Vitamin

Vitamin D is sometimes called the “*sunshine vitamin*” because it’s produced in your skin in response to sunlight. It’s a fat-soluble vitamin. Your body produces vitamin D naturally when it’s directly exposed to sunlight. Vitamin D has several important functions. The functions are

- Regulating the absorption of calcium and phosphorus.
- Facilitating normal immune system function
- Normal growth and development of bones and teeth, as well as improved resistance against certain diseases.

If your body doesn’t get enough vitamin D, you’re at risk of developing bone abnormalities such as soft bones (osteomalacia) or fragile bones (osteoporosis).

Sources:

Parva, N. R., Tadepalli, S., Singh, P., Qian, A., Joshi, R., Kandala, H., Nookala, V. K., & Cheriya, P. (2018). Prevalence of Vitamin D Deficiency and Associated Risk Factors in the US Population (2011-2012). *Cureus*, 10(6), e2741. <https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.2741>

Shirley Paul
Faculty

Spicer Confectionary

With every care that has been taken to ensure the safety of our customers at the outlet, the confectionary under the initiative of Mr M D John Moses, CFO has been equipped with most comprehensive modern POS billing software accompanied with advanced computer, cash tray, scanner and billing printer which will help keep track of sales, inventory, reconciliation, GST filling and maintaining stock.



This modern system will ensure a very user friendly experience for all customers. There is also provision for online and contactless payment modes such as Google Pay, debit and credit card swiping. Installation of this system will help confectionary manage, monitor, and keep track of the sales and study the market to forecast sales and growth in the future. The generated invoices can be sent in form of SMS which will help strengthen customer relations.

Not to compromise on the quality of our products for decades, new price list with GST will be applicable from the 1st of December, 2020. I'm sure under the leadership of the administrators and God's richest blessings, we will move ahead in the New Year and attain greater heights.

Clinton Jesson,

Accountant, SCPS

Spicer Adventist University has set a precedent for all universities that house students from various parts of India. In an article from the PuneKer, the university has been compared to a fortress and that is truly what it is. It has helped the university keep their students and staff safe from the uncertain climate outside its walls. With the spread of COVID-19, the university immediately began taking preventative measures to assure the safety of all that lived within their walls.

Spicer University boasts a whole of zero cases of COVID-19; however, this was not easy to achieve. The management worked quickly to ensure that a system was set into place to keep this up. The gates to the university were closed and only certain staff with approval from the Vice Chancellor's office have been allowed to make trips outside. The office approved one member of each family living on campus to make essential runs outside the university.

Although students have been prohibited from going out, professors and staff have voluntarily taken responsibility in caring for the students on campus. The university staff has truly shown their dedication to the students while treating them as family and ensuring their mental and physical health is taken care of. As the students live away from their families, they have too found comfort and strength through their professors and staff.

Groceries such as vegetables and fruit is a responsibility that Spicer has taken on its shoulders. They have arranged for trusted vendors to deliver the groceries directly to campus ensuring the residents are well taken care of.

Even through all this social distancing is still actively maintained inside the campus. The cafeteria, although open, practises the students sitting 4-feet apart during their meals. The Vice Chancellor has also kindly requested the students to stay indoors and avoid mingling.

Spicer University and its staff has not only ensured physical safety but also mental peace to be instilled during these trying times. The residents have taken up gardening and planting across the camps as almost every house of the campus is blessed with a backyard. Five 'o'clock in the evening is by far the most active time of the day when students can go around the campus for a run or a catch up on some exercise while still maintaining the social distancing rules kept by the university.

Spicer University has truly shown that they can provide stability in a time where everything seems so uncertain for their students. The staff have been nothing short of familial support for each other and the students that they are responsible for. They have proved that no matter what challenges come their way, they are equipped to help and actively work to make sure that their students are healthy and well.

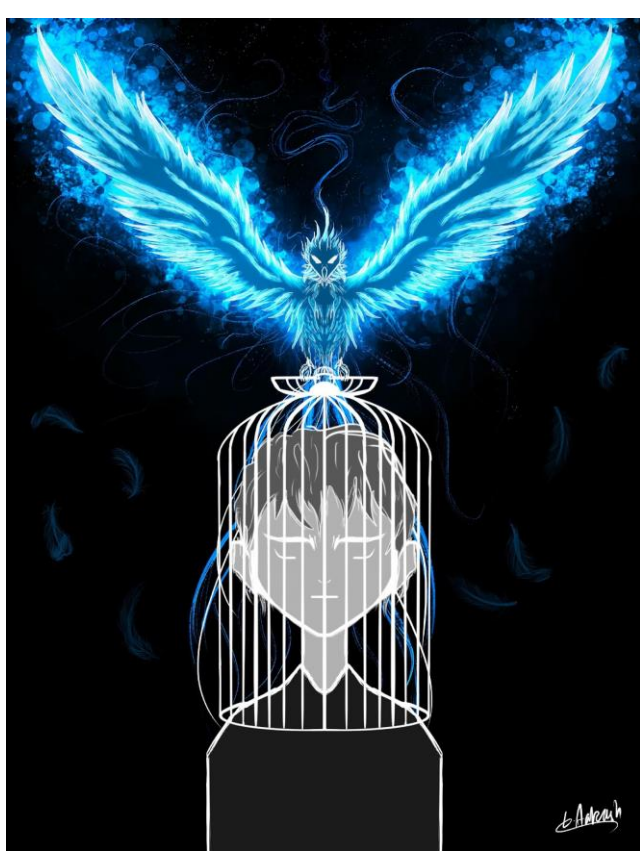
Reference taken from:

The PuneKer- written by Mehab Qureshi

<https://www.punekarnews.in/pune-social-distancing-in-spicer-a-model-every-institution-should-follow/>

Potential and Choice

Motivation can be a fleeting thing, especially when we are having a hard time or going through a challenge such as these times. It is okay to deviate from our tracks as long as we are able to find our way back. I hope the following words help you find some motivation.



Potential: Potential is an endless reservoir that we all possess. Regardless of our current position in life which ever it might be, every one of us have the potential to be more and do more in our lives. But unless and until we get out or get pushed outside of our comfort zone, we rarely realize them. One thing that can be viewed as a positive thing out of the pandemic is that it has pushed every one of us to work outside of our comfort zone. Days and weeks have been riddled with challenges. Yet if you are still here and reading this, it means that your success rate of surviving those bad days is 100 %. Keep that in mind. The odds are in your favor. Remember this whenever you feel like you are having a bad day. And besides even a bad day can only last for twenty four hours. So keep pushing forward.

At times comparative thinking can give us a better perspective at life. Imagine a tree for instance. I don't think anyone can ever find a tree that grows only half as tall as it could or reach only half as wide as it could.

It always grows as tall as it can, its branches spread as wide as it can and its roots run as deep as they possibly can and hold firm. I believe this to be true to every other creature that exists among us. An eagle soars as high as it can, a cheetah runs as fast as it can, and so on. They never fall short of their truest potential. One common factor that unites them all is that they are driven by pure instincts. Now this is what sets us apart from them as human beings. We are not driven just by instincts, but also by feelings and the ability to think. If we can just put them to the right use, a lot can be accomplished.

Choice: Choosing who we want to be is also what makes us different. A tree cannot be anything but a tree, but we can be whatever we choose to be. And remember that choice is a luxury that only a few receive. The choices we make are what shape our lives. Life is full of choices. They can be big, small and life changing. The choice we make now are more important than ever such as choosing how we spend our time and what we do with it. Times of uncertainty can be paralyzing. It can cause us to stop in our tracks. But always try and engage in something like drawing, singing, cleaning, learning something new or just spend some quality time with family. In certain situations the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing and the worst thing you can do is nothing.

Not everyone one can stay motivated at all times. Motivation can help you get started but it takes faith and discipline to stay on track and keep going. Faith is when you can see that which does not exist, yet. And discipline is trying and doing things even when you all you want to do is give up.

Post Pandemic World

The outbreak of the coronavirus, popularly known as Covid-19, had created an unprecedented havoc globally. As we speak, more than 200 countries were affected, with more than 60,000,000 infected and 1,400,000 people succumbed to the illness, and counting. Many countries experienced second and third spikes, overwhelming the healthcare providers. India alone has reached 1,000,000 infected persons with more than 135,000 dead. These numbers are documented, while there are probably much more undocumented ones. The pandemic does not seem to be slowing down and on the contrary, it seems more cases are resurfacing. The spread is so swift that numbers are increasing by the minutes.

While people succumb to the illness beyond the known threshold, many have also recovered. Nevertheless, while many countries are finding it hard to cope, some have to a great extent managed to level the curve of infection or even 'break the circuit'. Still, it seems the pandemic will linger until vaccines are available, as there is no documented cure to the Covid-19 disease.

Today we hear many countries have invented vaccines for Covid-19 that have been put on trial. We hope the test will be successful and vaccines will be available soon. Only then can we talk about post Covid-19 pandemic.

Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in the beginning of the year, the whole world's population has been dramatically affected. The travel industry among others, has turned 'topsy-turvy', disrupting economic and social activities. World events were canceled, new norms affecting our livelihood and lifestyle have been created.

Thousands of businesses face closure, millions of people face job security, billions are at risk of falling into poverty, an impact of the pandemic in a post pandemic world.

With the advice from World Health Organization in preventive care, most countries have adopted new lifestyle norms. Here are some new norms that have resulted from the onset of the pandemic:

1. The way people interact with each other (hand shake and close proximity seems out of fashion).
2. Personal hygiene, hand washing and prevention of contamination has become the new norm. Wearing facial mask has become mandatory.
3. Social distancing too has become a norm particularly in public and common places, like restaurants and public transport.
4. People are not socializing as much and most eat at home.
5. Businesses are allowing 'work from home' to avoid socializing.
6. Choice of food and food preparation has also taken a new turn. People are more health conscious these days.

Apart from some lifestyle new norms described above, Covid-19 pandemic has created a lot of uncertainties globally and with many unanswered questions. Here are some:

1. Are we doing the right thing to control the onslaught of the pandemic?
2. Is economy being given priority versus life or otherwise?

3. Shall borders be opened?
4. Shall I travel abroad?
5. Shall I go out to visit my friends?
6. Shall I spend and invest?
7. When will school reopen?
8. Will I get retrenched?
9. Will my business remain sustainable?

Your guess is as good as mine, my fellow Spicerians. Stay safe and may God bless you!

Claire Nepali

2nd Year, Religious Studies



The Pandemic World, 2020

The pandemic affected not only India but the whole world. The pandemic I am referring to is the 'Coronavirus'. The Coronavirus pandemic began from 'China', and spread through the whole world. So many people were affected by this virus and people lost their lives. There was no Vaccine to be found, many doctors and scientists were unable to cure their patients, and they didn't have any extensive knowledge regarding it.

They were also scared to go visit the affected, it was a terrible thing that was happening to the world. In this pandemic situation, people didn't know how to survive to save their own lives. It was very difficult for the less fortunate and many lost their lives to hunger, famine had befallen their world. I also had a very hard time surviving in this situation.

This pandemic made me distressed as in this situation, I was in Pune, Maharashtra and working just to take care of the finances to get admission in college. But due to this lockdown it was hard for me to earn money; I was worried about how I would survive without any money in hand. My worst fear was getting affected with the virus and not be able to pay the extravagant bills.

I understood that no one could rescue us from this situation except God, and started praying to the Lord. I asked God to show me the way to overcome this pandemic situation and finally God answered my prayers. When I heard that the lockdown was lifted, I was so happy and thankful to the Lord who had answered my prayer. I decided to study - Religious studies and I got admission in "Spicer Adventist University". I am so thankful for all our teachers, faculty, and staff for accepting my application to study in this University.

Now I am able to join classes, I am so happy to be learning in Spicer Adventist University. I pray to God that I can complete my course. I thank God for his blessings, and all our teachers, and all the staff of Spicer Adventist University.

Juwel Mochahary

First Year, Religious Studies

Adapting to the dampness of 2020's Festivals



Festivals hold great significance in our culture. Each has a unique set of rituals and its share in mythology. We have grown up watching these festivals become a path for our families to meet after ages, the laughter echoing in our humble abode, and the never-ending celebrations. But this year, misfortune befell upon us, casting us away in our homes for months long. This pandemic has changed the way we celebrated and honored our age-old festivals.

Summer saw the onset of the colorful Holi but little did we know, that would be our last celebration of a festival before our nation was put on an immediate lockdown. Months passed by as we tried to adapt to this new style of living but it did not stir up our faith and beliefs.

The pandemic couldn't spoil Raksha Bandhan as our beloved sisters hopped on the creativity train, made the most beautiful rakhis that were to be adorned on their brother's wrists.

Eid Ul Fitr saw the devotees avoiding gatherings and staying back at home safe and sound. Virtual Iftar Parties had families gush over the feast laid in front of them

from the comfort of their homes.

Our beloved Krishna's Janmashtami caught onto modern trends. Following social distancing guidelines, the devotees from all across the nation prayed virtually! Temples arranged for live aarti to be broadcasted through YouTube and National Tv, making sure that the welcoming of our gods lacks no effort.

Ganesh Chaturthi still had the dhol, but this time to the confines and comfort of one's home. Mandals canceled their large-scale festivities, urging the public to follow protocols of safe merriments.

The nine-day pomp and glitter of Navratri didn't lose its charm as people took to social media to perform their Garba, at homes! Community workshops didn't fail to amaze us as they symbolized the prowess of Goddess Durga in their statues of migrants, workers, and frontline doctors, honoring the sacrifices they made for our safety.

The lights haven't shone this brighter in Diwali as people decorate their homes to cast away the darkness that fell upon us, praying that good always triumphs over evil. Many states even went to the lengths to put a ban on bursting firecrackers.

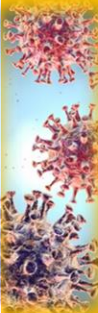
But every coin has two sides. While most festivals were commemorated per social distancing rules and lockdown protocols, some states saw a spurt of positive Covid 19 cases due to gross negligence of the authorities and the general public. We still have a long way to go. The government is trying their best to tackle the situation but we, as responsible citizens, must follow social distancing and proper hygiene protocols. We are in this together, we will fight this together.

With the onset of winter, comes our beloved year-end festival – Christmas. We urge everyone to follow social distancing rules and celebrate in the warmth of your home. Decorate your tree with the same enthusiasm and exchange gifts with the same delight. Let us hope that the rising sun will lift off this darkness that has spread its claws upon us.

The year 2020 may have taken away the light from our eyes, but it has ignited a flame of 'changing for the better' in our hearts.

Neelanjana Das

2nd year, B.A. English



Covid-19 and Climate Change: Sabbath Creation Observance as the Solution

Humanity is going through four of the most culminating crises in its history: climate change, terrorism, racism and the Covid-19 pandemic. Speaking of the Covid-19 pandemic for example, the whole world has been in lockdown since the onset and rapid spread of this disease. Today, the race to the vaccine is escalating, the call to unite against the virus is spreading, and prayers for the total eradication of this crisis continues to rise to heaven. But however, a key point about the disease and the prevention of other viruses in the future remains: its origin.

In fact, biblically and in general, the covid-19 pandemic is one of the most painful events of the end of time (Matthew 24). But to this, no one can also ignore that the Covid-19 is due to climate and ecological change. Crises such as global warming, altered weather conditions, extinction of species, threats of various types of toxic pollution, drought, proliferation of waste, soil erosion, desertification, depletion of fresh water, etc. ... constitute an absolutely real and imminent threat for the future, for which Covid-19 is already an example.

The multiplicity of these crises therefore requires multiple solutions: political, economic, technological, psychological, ethical, behavioral and mostly spiritual. Speaking of spiritual solutions, the Bible offers a particularly convincing, promising and less expensive solution: Shabbat (Sabbath), the Lord's day of rest. A weekly ritual both primarily spiritual and symbolic and with real impacts, widespread observance of the Sabbath well done could reduce environmental damage by about two-sevenths in much of the world and provide a platform for continued meditation on our environmental sins and their consequences. Its correct observation offers a weekly break from the suicidal econometric fantasy of infinite growth, a weekly divestment of fossil fuels and greenhouse gases.

In its spiritual essence, the Creation Sabbath is both a model of the healthy ecological world and a real taste of the perfect paradise life. It regenerates the perfect communion and the deep intimacy between the Creator and us. So, on this holy day, we read our Bible, we sing and we give thanks and glory to God. It is not

only a day of the Lord, but it is also a day without the production of carbon dioxide emissions. This is the reason why the world needs rest. Because solving and preventing the problem of climate and ecological change also means preventing another Covid-21 or Covid-50 pandemic. Therefore, the respect for the Creation Sabbath remains one of the most urgent solutions to be implemented by humanity to protect its environment against pollution, epidemics etc.

As we cannot discuss the Sabbath without talking about sanctification, the Sabbath is a special day and has been set apart for a more holy experience. The idea of sanctification (Ezekiel 20:12) here is "to set aside something or someone for a sacred service." It comes from the Hebrew word "Qadash" which literally translates to consecrate, purify or separate some things for holy use or for holy reason. So, as the Sabbath itself is separated from the other days of the week because it was sanctified from creation, God promises to His people to make them a holy nation, without disease and air pollution if they keep His Sabbath commandment as a sign of their covenant. In other words, through the bond of the Sabbath, God makes His people and its environment a slice of paradise on earth.

Jacob Aguiimesheo
2nd Year, Masters in Religious Studies

In the year of the pandemic – As 2020 enters its final lap, a few of our staff and faculty weigh in on how the last few months have impacted their work and life, and what they learnt from it.

1. How has the lockdown been for you personally?

It has been a time of reflection – reflection on things taken for granted and opportunities missed. It was also a time to re-organize and set priorities in life.

2. How has it been professionally?

It has given an opportunity to spend more time with my colleagues in the department to plan for and adapt to the changing times and new situation.

3. What is your one takeaway from this time?

Life cannot be taken for granted as it can change at any time but that we serve a God who never changes and is in control of every situation

Mohanraj Israel

Dean, Division of Religious Studies

1. How has the lockdown been for you personally?

Lockdown was a learning phase that from the basic resources also we cannot carry out our life.

2. How has it been professionally?

Professionally it was challenging as we had to teach and do other work online.

3. What is your one takeaway from this time?

Learning to be grounded as natural is the best learning resource.

Smruti S

Assistant Professor

1. How has the lockdown been for you personally?

The lockdown has affected my financial condition negatively. However, on the positive side, I have focused on my health by more exercise, better choice of food and pattern of sleep.

2. How has it been professionally?

Obviously, because regular classes could not take place, new pedagogy of learning has been a revolutionary experience in itself. E-learning has brought different methods – effective and challenging to my professional experience.

3. What is your one takeaway from this time?

My perspective in regards to the economic system and social ecosystem has really opened up practically.

Ramchanso Awungshi Shimray

Assistant Professor

1. How has the lockdown been for you personally?

A welcome opportunity to slow down, relax and enjoy quality time with family. Also gave me a chance to rediscover myself.

2. How has it been professionally?

I could attend some seminars and learnt more about the online teaching system. However, had no job and salary for few months.

3. What is your one takeaway from this time?

The most important fact that I have come to realise is that I cannot take anything for granted. We can show more gratitude for all the people and things that make our life easier and happier.

Rupa Sinha

Assistant Professor

1. How has the lockdown been for you personally?

Personally it gave me time to spend with family and understand more clearly about my goals for future.

2. How has it been professionally?

Professionally I attended many FDP, seminars, conferences. I wrote one paper which has been selected for publication.

3. What is your one takeaway from this time?

One takeaway is that live in the present and give your best.

Nidhi Verma

Assistant Professor

1. How has the lockdown been for you personally?

Personally lockdown has been a horrible experience for me, since my husband and I were affected with the virus and I lost my mother when it was least expected.

2. How has it been professionally?

Professionally everything came to a standstill. But slowly gearing up with online classes.

3. What is your one takeaway from this time?

I learnt to trust and have faith in God, more than before, because He knows the best for us.

Anne Sanjeevan Arsud

Associate Professor

1. How has the lockdown been for you personally?

I had never imagined myself being in a lockdown situation in this life. Personally, I was not prepared to be inside the house for such a long period. Although I am not an outgoing person, I felt the urge to be outside my house several times. The lockdown was exhausting and drained me emotionally.

2. How has it been professionally?

Professionally, I missed my workplace. But above all I missed being in an actual classroom with my dear students. I miss the interactive sessions with them in the classroom, which, at present is quite challenging.

3. What is your one takeaway from this time?

Life is uncertain. All our plans for the future are in vain. Thank God that I am a Christian and my hope is built on nothing but Jesus. This lockdown has taught me to be positive, prayerful and above all, human to humanity.

Santosh Kumar

Research Editor, Faculty

1. How has the lockdown been for you personally?

Personally it has been a unique experience, learnt to stay at home.

2. How has it been professionally?

Professionally I felt terrible because the guestrooms where I work, were suddenly affected with no guests and naturally there was no income.

3. What is your one takeaway from this time?

I could spend lot of time with the family

Aasai Thambi

Guest Room Incharge

1. How has the lockdown been for you personally?

Personally it was a time for introspection – a process which has helped me develop a new set of values of life and reorder my priorities of life.

2. How has it been professionally?

Professionally it had helped me to grow and develop a new set of skills which otherwise could never be developed.

3. What is your one takeaway from this time?

Technology has saved the world from an Academic Disaster.

G. D. Dayananda Rao

HOD, Department of Sociology

1. How has the lockdown been for you personally?

It has two different sides, one in positive way, I could spend more time with family and other side of it, financially it has affected the family.

2. How has it been professionally?

The online way of teaching, spending more hours in front of the screen with laptops, is very stressful.

3. What is your one takeaway from this time?

With limited resources it has taught us to live our life. God is the controller of the universe.

Lalitha Tilming

Assistant Professor

1. How has the lockdown been for you personally?

I did not like the period of lockdown because during this time so many people, animals and birds starved and died due to lack of food. All these incidents reminded me the nearness of the second coming of Jesus.

2. How has it been professionally?

There were no new job opportunities due to the pandemic.

3. What is your one takeaway from this time?

One can never be prepared for such a situation, so it is always best to maintain hygiene and be financially independent.

Amminy Prem

Staff

**1. How has the lockdown been for you personally?**

The lockdown has been stressful for me personally as I was very much insecure about my health of my near and dear ones (elders).

2. How has it been professionally?

Professionally it was not good at all as the offices/institution was closed and we were uncertain about our jobs. There was no salary but we had to support our families and the people who work for us.

3. What is your one takeaway from this time?

The one takeaway from this pandemic for me is that we can manage our lives with the minimum resources.

Nimisha Bhagawati

Assistant Professor

1. How has the lockdown been for you personally?

It has been a great learning experience. It taught us to be prepared for any eventuality and how to deal with it as a global community. Personally it helped me to align my priorities once again and generate more bonding within family.

2. How has it been professionally?

Professionally it expanded our horizons from traditional to more modern ways of teaching. We got acquainted to the actual utility of technology to stay connected with our students. I learnt a lot of new applications for my teaching-learning process.

3. What is your one takeaway from this time?

One takeaway is 'BALANCE'.

Balance between personal and professional.

Balance between traditional and novel.

Balance between nature and technology.

LOCKDOWN WAS A GOOD TIME TO "LOOK INSIDE".

Ruchi K. Vasudev

Assistant Professor

1. How has the lockdown been for you personally?

Initially it felt difficult to live with a constant sense of worry and unpredictability but it is amazing how adaptive we can be. Kids online schooling, video calls to family and friends and making time for my hobbies became the new norm.

2. How has it been professionally?

It didn't make much of a difference to me but I realised how fortunate I am to be living on campus in a safe working environment and being grateful for that privilege.

3. What is your one takeaway from this time?

Be optimistic because 'this too shall pass'.

Lavanya Jesin K
Staff

1. How has the lockdown been for you personally?

Personally, the lockdown has brought me a lot of fear and discomfort; but I find peace in daily devotion.

2. How has it been professionally?

Besides my regular teaching work in our university, professionally, it has been a very enriching experience. I have attended national and international webinars and online lecture series. Continuing professional development and the quest for knowledge has always been my forte. I received a unique certificate for the forty eight sessions on ELLT and Research that I attended.

3. What is your one takeaway from this time?

To be better prepared for disruptions in the future and learn how to look at doing things in a new way.

Esther Talang – Rao
Associate Professor

1. How has the lockdown been for you personally?

It was a great time with my family. I personally learnt many of the household stuff and helped my mother. We had a great time together watching movies, dramas, discussing things and reading books.

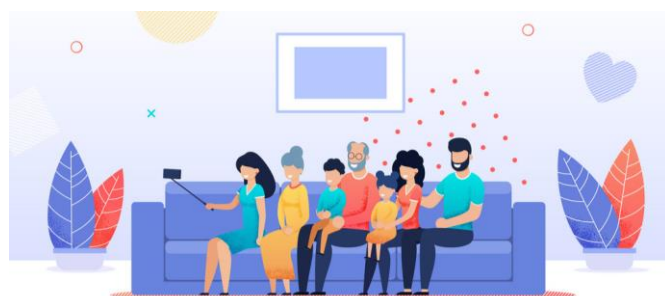
2. How has it been professionally?

Professionally, I utilized this time in reading books and saw many movies which are a part of literature.

3. What is your one takeaway from this time?

I have learned that life is precious and parents are the jewels that we are blessed with so we should be with them, respect them, learn many more lessons of life which they have learnt from their experiences.

Dr Abhijay L Waghmare
Assistant Professor



Finally, here comes the spring,
After a long cold winter.
Song of sprouts, let us sing,
The season of corpses is over.

There comes a new life,
It brings along new vibes.
Bees out of their hives,
The world has revived.

Our breath feels more clear,
Unseen peaks call its existence.
Songs of colourful wings we hear,
We are much aware of their presence.
The streets have lit up again,
After a long painful wait.
With more love and gain,
After all, it was our fate.

Gone are those who were meant to go,
Opened are now our eyes.
Leaving behind the lessons we must
know,
That the world can change in a roll of
dice.

Diana Rajkumari

Coming Back to Life



We Salute Spicerians

What a rush of people,
Crowded in the middle of the town.
Gifted to the people as blessings by plan.

Facing difficulties and stress,
To meet the desire and prosperity.
Thirst for wisdom and knowledge,
Comes and goes like a swift flowing water.

Like a candle in the dark,
Millions of eyes fixed upon the changes.
A flying eagle but not a duck,
Hoping for a future.

Come now follow the steps of young lads.
Forget not the Teachers' labour.
Be '**THE SPICERIANS**' live sweetly and
gently,
And be the light of the world.