Hi 65ers

OCTOBER CMC '65 MESSAGE

I have just come home after driving through a real horrendous tropical rainstorm. And I realised that this month has been a stormy month for me.

I landed from San Francisco at the beginning of the month after having a wonderful time with my son and his family. I also had wonderful fellowship with Jacob & Shirley and Charlie & Premila in LA. I could not catch up with Cyril but did have a long meaningful conversation with him. I also spoke to Bobby Thomas who is carrying on his life as best he can without his beloved Joyce.

Within a few weeks Susie Baboo - one of the brightest lights in her class was called away from us. It was really sad as she always reached out to every one of the CMC family and did try to keep in touch with all that she could get in touch with. Prof R Raman Rajagopalan - the doyen of ENT from CMC did a lovely write up about her. He was especially close to her as he was the youngest and most "innocent" of that class of students. He managed to escape the Christian Net that was used to make the religious bigots of his class "fishers of men".

Close on the heels of this sad news was the announcement that Phillip Stokoe of Kolar Goldfields also passed away. The passing of our friends one by one does remind us of the ditty of "Ten little Niggers sitting on the wall" and ending with "And then there were none".

On a sad personal note I have lost my Sister in Law in Australia and my close friends son - all within a few days.

Prof R Raman's theory that death always comes in threes is becoming a fact for me. I begin the second cycle of three for October - and am waiting.

And as I write this, I just got information that a good friend of Raman and myself just lost his wife a few hours ago in Australia (23.10.2026).

With the rain comes Sunshine and joyous laughter. It will most definitely come and I wait to embrace it with an open heart. God fills our lives with the different seasons and he is there to comfort and sustain us.

Till next month - God bless.

Abel

Dear Batchmates,

This month disappeared fast too but not without significant events. We lost yet another of our colleagues, Philip Stokoe. A short video of his last rites is attached here with his colleagues and friends at the funeral. Cyril has kindly written a piece for “Forever in our Hearts”. Please read.

I also re-read his write-up for the “Book Article” under “Writings & Documents” and it is a gem, something we all can absorb. It will remain as part of the 65ers under the Book.

Another dear soul, a friend of many of our classmates, departed. Susie Babbo was a bright light. Always ready to help anyone. May she RIP.

Lalitha has provided us with her artwork for us to enjoy. This month we have spent a lot of time to nominate Ashok for the Paul Harrison award and it is apt to say something about him. Details of his work is already on the website under: Writings&Documents>Poems and creative work >Ashok Dyalchand.

Not many of us knew that in addition to Lalitha’s numerous talents, she is a great artist too. Her portrait of Ashok from patch work amazes me and after her visit to him in Pachod she writes in his praises. Please visit to read all what she has to say about him under newly created Tab “One of Our Own”.

Lalitha has also shared many of her art pieces which has been posted under her name under Writings & Documents>Poems and Creative Works. Worth a visit!

Last month we started a WhatsApp group to bring everyone closer. So far 29 are in the fold, some 81% among those still around. Let us work on the remaining who are contactable and could still join. Purpose of creating this group is to make it easier for us to contact and communicate with each other. The activity in the group has been enjoyable and full of fun. Sharing news, jokes, pictures both old and new, important subjects like nomination of Ashok for the Paul Harrison award and other things. Let us continue to use this group responsibly and avoid any unnecessarily “forwards”, personal remarks, sensitive issues like politics and religion so that the group remains intact.

The Google survey analysis is shared on the site. Thank you to all those who took time to respond to the questionnaire. Although less than half of the batch (16/37) responded but the results show that people are interested in the website and suggestions.

Overall, the feedback suggests that the website should remain active and engaging, encourage voluntary participation without pressure, and preserve the batch’s memories, experiences, and achievements as a lasting legacy for future generations. Overwhelming majority (94%) wanted “Meet a 65er”, a regular short interview or profile of a classmate. Jacob and Ganesh please take note! Under “One of Our Own” could be best suited for such material.

The website has survived for six months since its revitalization in May this year. A detailed report on the Website Traffic by Wai towards the end of the home page. Thanks for your interest and involvement. Many changes have been incorporated and everyone is encouraged to read at least “What’s New this month”, which will bring it to your attention the news and any additions. Please continue to provide new ideas and material for the site.

I have added an interesting video identifying the six things 75-85s need to bear in mind. You may find it interesting under “Writings and Documents” > “We Grow Old …”

Pictures were a popular request that came out of the survey. Recently, there has been avalanche of them through WhatsApp group chats. I am including some of the clearer shots, particularly the old ones. You will find them added before the old ones that were there on the homepage of the website. Please keep sharing more pictures.

Age reminds us that our time is finite and that we think seriously about the legacy we wish to leave behind. It is therefore essential that we share this website with our colleagues, younger generations, and future generations so that the experiences, achievements, and memories of our batch are preserved and passed on. We must also look ahead and continue to discuss the future of this website. Over the next few years, we need to identify an organization or group that can take responsibility for maintaining it or, at the very least, ensuring that its contents are properly archived for future generations. Please share your thoughts and suggestions. This is a legacy we have created together, and we should work together to ensure that it continues to live on.
Warm regards

Surinder