

July, 1974, MC(P) 374/74

FAR EASTERN DIVISION

outlook



IN S400
The Staff Team

deskside chats

"Leaves Only"



The lobby of our office features a bank of individual boxes for incoming mail, each with its own small door. Expectations always rise when a quick glance through the

little glass window shows a full box.

That happened to me a few days ago. Reaching eagerly to open the cubicle, I pictured important letters from relatives and business contacts. Instead, I found a stack of second-class mail—magazines, bulletins and brochures. Informative, interesting, even valuable though they were, these items added up to a disappointment.

Certainly a mini-trauma when balanced against life's major problems, this little experience nevertheless illustrates something Jesus tried to teach us a long time ago: Something that looks fine and actually may be good in itself is a fraud if it fails to deliver on its promise.

Jesus made the point in His encounter with the fig tree.

Walking with His disciples from Bethany toward Jerusalem, He spotted the tree beside

the road ahead. Flavor memories of good ripe figs triggered His hunger. His thoughts went something like this: "There is a good looking, leafy fig tree. It is really too early for the fig season; but since figs form even before leaves, it must have fruit already. Fresh new figs will be delicious." And with this expectation, He reached the tree.

Disappointment. The record says: "When He saw a fig tree in the way, He came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only" (Matt. 21:19). Not in a fit of anger, but to teach His disciples a major lesson, He pronounced a curse on the tree. It withered. It had not delivered on its promise. It was a fraud.

Jesus' fig tree represented the nation which had refused to accept Him. As the chosen people, they had all the accoutrements of spiritual leadership for the world. There were plenty of leaves—but no fruit.

What about God's people today? Could it be that some of us are living signs of the end by "having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof"? How tragic if there were over the door of any of our churches, offices or institutions a sign announcing to the world, "Leaves only."

What about you?

Cordially,

Paul H. Eldridge, President

COVER: The biggest "thank you" is a big smile. This happy little tyke was one of 60 persons to receive heart surgery at the Saigon Adventist Hospital during the recent visit of the Loma Linda University Heart Surgery Team.

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Recital

Tomasita Pilar-Roda, coloratura soprano, was presented by the Philippine Women's University in a recital for the master of music degree in voice



Roda

performance recently. She is the wife of Dr. Arturo P. Roda, internist at the Manila Sanitarium and Hospital. Dr. Nobleza Pilar, her younger sister, was her music professor.

Nurse at Tsuen Wan

First she was an AVSC worker in the Far Eastern Division, and now Edwina Aki is back as a regular worker. Miss Aki, born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and a



Aki

graduate of Loma Linda University, is serving as assistant director of nurses at the Tsuen Wan Adventist Hospital in Hong Kong. Formerly she served one year as a volunteer staff nurse at the Stubbs Road Hospital also in Hong Kong.

Missionary to Africa

Nellie Pelayo of Davao City, Philippines, is going to the East Africa Union office in Nairobi, Kenya, as an accountant-secretary. A graduate from Mountain View College with a bachelor's



Pelayo

degree in business administration, she is presently serving in a similar capacity in the South Philippine Union Mission. She has also served as office secretary in the youth and education departments of the union. In Nairobi, Miss Pelayo replaces another Filipino, Elisa Lopez, now working at the Tsuen Wan Hospital in Hong Kong.

Hall of Fame

Long-time missionary in the Philippines, Dr. Irene Wakeham was one of five recipients of the Andrews University Hall of Fame Award recently. She was



Wakeham

cited for her distinguished contribution to the Seventh-day Adventist work as educator, administrator, and author. Dr. Wakeham served for nearly 25 years in the Philippines, thus holding the longest record of service of any overseas worker in that country. She held positions both at Philippine Union College and at Mountain View College. Presently Dr. Wakeham is chairman of the English department and division of humanities at Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama.

Broadcaster Dies

The speaker and founder of the 32-year-old La Voz de la Esperanza radio broadcast, Doctor Braulio Perez Marcio, died in his home in California early in April. He began the Spanish Voice of Hope in 1942 and continued as an active broadcaster until his death. Some 40,000 people joined the church largely as a result of his ministry.

Asian Baptists

According to a recent Baptist World Alliance report there are now more Baptists in Asia than in Europe. Europe has often been considered the cradle of Baptist faith and witness, whereas Asia has traditionally been regarded as a mission field. Asia registered about 1100 more Baptists than Europe, totaling 1,160,000 members.

Religious Education

Parents in Wales are reportedly seeking schools where they know their children will receive a sound religious education. The demand for places at denominational schools in Wales is such that diocesan school boards are considering spending large sums of money to remodel existing schools and to build several new ones.

Stiff Code

Alcoholic beverage advertisers will have it a little rougher in the Irish Republic after a new code for television advertising goes into effect. The code seeks to de-glamorize alcohol and offset public pressures to drink. Advertisements for whiskey, gin, vodka, and other "hard" liquor will no longer be broadcast. Beer, wine, and "aperitifs" will be publicized only if they aren't linked to sports, "physical prowess," or sex appeal.

Clergy Moves

At least 49 former Roman Catholic priests became clergymen of the Episcopal church between 1965 and 1973. Twenty-six Methodist ministers became Episcopal priests during the same period. Although Catholic and Methodist clergy form the largest groups moving from other churches into the Episcopal ranks, there are smaller totals of Baptists, Presbyterians, and Disciples of Christ.



The Loma Linda University Heart Surgery Team performed 60 heart surgeries at Saigon Adventist Hospital during April and early May. This was the first time any open-heart surgery was done in the country of South Vietnam.





At the age of eight, Nguyen Dinh Thao was a dropout. He tired easily, was small for his age, and just couldn't keep up with his classmates. His parents pulled him out of school and started the rounds of doctors' offices. But there was nothing the doctors could do. Little Thao had a congenital heart disease.

For Thao and other Vietnamese suffering from heart defects, there was little hope. South Vietnam has no heart surgeons and none of the expensive and delicate machinery for corrective surgery.

But on April 17 the first open-heart surgery ever performed in Indo-China was completed by the visiting Loma Linda University Heart Surgery Team from the United States. And among the 60 persons

OPEN HEART SURGERY:

A New Venture in Vietnam



1. Dr. Ellsworth Wareham and Dr. Joan Coggin are co-directors of the Loma Linda Heart Team. 2. Dr. Lynn Hildé, surgeon. 3. Glen Gee, inhalation therapist during post-operative care. 4. Ray Savage operates the heart-lung machine which takes over these bodily functions during open-heart surgery. 5. Student missionary and Vietnamese nurses worked many extra hours in post-operative care. 6. Dr. Roy Jutzy with Vietnamese medical students. 7. Dr. Edwin Vyhmeister, surgeon, also helps in post-operative care.

who received free heart surgery was Nguyen Dinh Thao.

The 17-member Loma Linda team arrived at Saigon Adventist Hospital with approximately \$50,000 worth of special equipment and supplies necessary for the sur-

geries and post-operative care of heart patients.

The key to setting up a local heart surgery program, beyond training personnel, is the heart-lung machine which takes over these bodily functions during open-

heart surgery. This machine, worth \$18,000, remained at the Saigon Adventist Hospital when the team left in May. It is the first such machine in any medical institution in the Republic of Vietnam. Most of the equipment and all of the

They worked their hearts out...



supplies were either donated or obtained at discount from American pharmaceutical and surgical supply houses.

In cooperation with two government hospitals, some 800 persons were screened, but only 60 surgeries could be performed during the one-month visit of the heart team. The 800 were only the most "urgent"

cases recommended by government and private physicians before the team's arrival. No one knows how many more suffer from heart defects in South Vietnam.

"There is a greater need for heart surgery here than in any other country where we've worked," said Dr. Joan Coggin, co-director of the heart team which has already

visited Pakistan, India, Thailand, Taiwan, and Greece.

"We're sorry that we're not able to help more people in Vietnam who have heart problems," she continued, "but it isn't physically possible for the team to do more than three surgical procedures per day." (However, the team did handle up to four cases some days in Saigon.)

Roughly two thirds of the patients had congenital heart defects, the others victims of rheumatic fever. They ranged in age from four to 45, but most were children between eight and 12 years old.

A typical surgery would find team leader and chief surgeon Dr. Ellsworth E. Wareham quietly giving orders broken by occasional commentaries to local doctors and students on the operation's progress.

The South Vietnamese government's ministry of health and Saigon University's school of medicine sent doctors and medical students to work with the team and learn a completely new branch of medicine.

"The purpose of the trip was twofold," stated Dr. Coggin, "First, to diagnose and treat as many Vietnamese people as possible, and second, to give Vietnamese physicians further training in the field of cardiac surgery."

"What we'd like to do," she adds, "is come back, and instead of these short trips, stagger the team members' arrival and departures for stays of two or three months. For example, a cardiologist would come first, screen patients, and then bring in surgeons for the heart operations. Two or three team members would always be present, and training of local surgeons and other specialists would continue year round."

(See page 10 Col. 3)



During a mock ceremony Dr. Joan Coggin presents South Vietnam's Gold Medal of Health to Dr. Wareham, who was unable to attend the official ceremony because of an emergency surgery.

Highest Award for Medical Service

The Gold Medal of Health, South Vietnam's highest award in the field of medical service, was presented to the leaders of the Loma Linda University Heart Surgery Team during their visit in Saigon.

Dr. Huynh Van Houn, South Vietnam's minister of health, presented the awards to Dr. Ellsworth E. Wareham, cardiac surgeon, and Dr. Joan Coggin, cardiologist, for "exceptionally meritorious service to the people of Vietnam."

The minister also presented certificates of appreciation to other team members: Dr. Roy Jutzy,

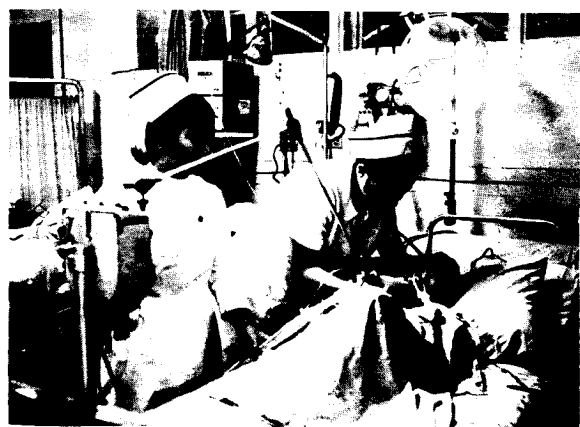
cardiologist; Dr. Edwin Vyhmeister, surgeon; Lavaun Sutton, critical care nurse; Ray Savage, heart-lung machine technician; and Dr. Roger Hadley, staff physician.

Dr. Wareham and four other members of the team were unable to be present at the ceremony when it became necessary to take a nine-year-old boy back to surgery to correct excessive internal bleeding. Certificates of appreciation were given in absentia to Dr. Lynn Hilde, surgeon; Dr. Richard Hamamura, anesthesiologist; Dr. Ron Jutzy, house staff physician; and Glen Gee, inhalation therapist.

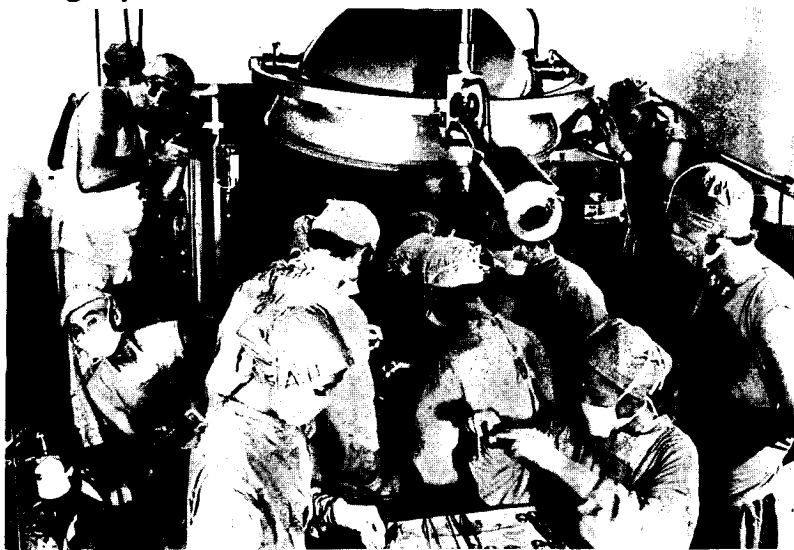


The Team BEHIND The Team

"The success of the heart team came not only from the coordinated efforts of team members; but from all of the members of the hospital staff."—Vernon Small, administrator, Saigon Adventist Hospital.



Surgery in the News



CBS-TV filmed the first open-heart surgery ever performed in South Vietnam for broadcast over the Walter Cronkite news program. The television cameraman is shown at the left during one of the surgeries.

LLU TEAM, Continued

"The success of the heart team came not only from the coordinated efforts of the team members," commented Vernon Small, hospital administrator, "but from all of the nearly 300 staff members of the Saigon Adventist Hospital."

He mentioned specifically five departments which gave tremendous support to the heart-surgery program—the surgical team of scrub nurses, coronary intensive care nurses, the laboratory, radiology department, and the out-patient department.

News of the heart team spread around the world, from the local press to nationwide television in the U.S.



Rawson, Gainer, Bruce, and Forshee

Japan Treasurers

When C. D. Forshee stopped in Singapore on a recent trip around the world, four former treasurers of the Japan Union were in the same city. Forshee served in Japan from 1935 to 1939, and is presently retired. Robert Rawson was in Japan from 1970 to 1973; R. I. Gainer was treasurer there from 1967 to 1970; and G. O. Bruce served from 1955 to 1960. Bruce is now treasurer of the Far Eastern Division, Gainer is treasurer of the Southeast Asia Union Mission, and Rawson is an assistant treasurer at the division headquarters.

Prior to retirement, Forshee served several years as personnel director at the General Conference office in Washington, D.C.

Auditors Who's Who



Someone has to make systematic checks of all financial records of the church organization. He must verify that denominational funds are safeguarded and that funds received and passed on for the advancement of the Lord's work are handled according to policy and used as assigned. This is the job of the auditor. The above picture was taken at the time of the Division Council in Manila, which was also the time of the first council on auditing.

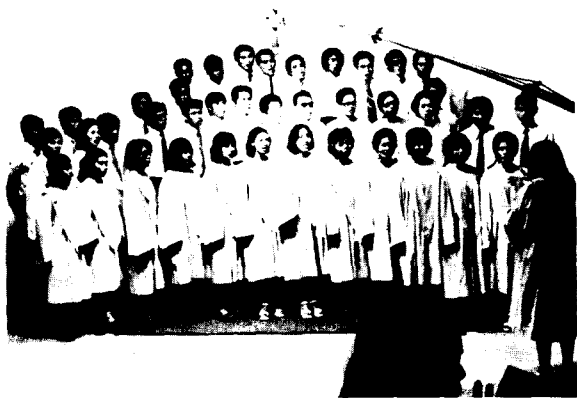
Delegates pictured from left to right are: FRONT, D. J. Celiz, South Philippines; E. M. Stiles, Southern Asia Division; D. D. Dennis, Division auditor; S. H. Macfar-

lane, Australasian Division; S. J. Lee, South China Island; and B. O. Gravino, North Philippines. BACK, K. Onsoe, East Indonesia; F. P. Penola, Central Philippines; W. Y. Chen, Southeast Asia; F. M. Ytreberg, SDA Mission, Guam-Micronesia; J. H. Lantry, associate education secretary, Far Eastern Division; D. F. Gilbert, assistant treasurer, Far Eastern Division; S. I. Ro, Korea; H. F. Sakul, West Indonesia; and G. Gurusamy, Southeast Asia. The new auditor for Japan, Tadashi Oinuma, is not pictured. Since the meeting in Manila, V. H. Maninantan has replaced F. P. Penola as auditor of the Central Philippine Union Mission.

NEWS

FROM THE UNIONS

central philippines



The Bacolod English Church choir recently made an appearance over KBS TV8. Ophelia Sunega directs this group, most of whom are workers at the Bacolod Sanitarium and Hospital.

Choir on TV

A concert at the Negros Mission general meeting in April, a cultural program at the Bacolod City plaza, and an appearance over KBS TV8 Colorscope are some of the recent activities of the Bacolod English Church choir. This mixed group of 50 singers under the direction of Ophelia Sunega are mostly Bacolod Sanitarium and Hospital workers who have dedicated their talents to witness for Christ through singing.

Their concert at the Negros Mission general meeting included the following numbers: two Visayan folk songs, one from Austria, and five religious numbers.

Joel Solis directed a male chorus that sang, "Behold, I Show You a Mystery," "Soldiers of the Captain," and "The Orchestra Song."

The Bacolod Central Church choir joined them in a finale of two secular favorites: "Come Where the Lilies Bloom" and "The Beautiful Blue Danube." Enriquita Tauro, a veteran choir leader, conducted the combined group.

The Bacolod English Church choir was formally

reorganized early this year with the creation of the music department of Bacolod English Church. Atty. Mesaila Robles is the music chairman and adviser of the group.—Manny Digidigan.



Negros General Meeting

Some 4,000 delegates and church members attended the week-long general meeting of the Negros Mission. At the end of the general meeting two pastors were ordained into the ministry, Prospero Gonzaga and Claudio Montano. Following their ordination, the two men held their first baptism. Thirty-five were baptized that afternoon in the Taculing River. The Negros Mission is the largest local mission in the Central Philippines with more than 13,000 baptized church members.

japan

Temperance on Parade

From the numerous offshore islands of Okinawa, as well as from each of the churches and companies on the main island, they came, 600 in all, for the third Okinawa Mission campmeeting. This important spiritual gathering was held in the Naha civic auditorium last April. S. Kunihiro and T. Shiraishi, president and youth and temperance secretary of the Japan Union respectively, led out in studies on the Holy Spirit and the latter rain.

Sabbath afternoon, 13 new members were added to the church by baptism in the outdoor pool on the grounds of the Adventist Medical Center. One of those baptized was a young man who up to a few months previously had been planning to become a Buddhist monk. Now, having heard the call of God to service, he has set his goal on training for the gospel ministry.



Temperance enthusiasts in Okinawa marched right down the main street of Naha. The temperance parade was held at the time of the Okinawa campmeeting.

One unique feature of this campmeeting was a three-kilometer temperance parade Sunday afternoon down the main street of the city of Naha. Under the direction of S. Tsukayama, mission temperance secretary and manager of the Adventist Medical Center, 300 church members, including doctors and nurses from the hospital, students from the junior academy, Pathfinders in uniform, and church members, carrying placards depicting the evils of tobacco and alcohol, and led by a brass band and a police patrol car, made quite an impact on the 300,000 inhabitants of the city. Wide newspaper and television coverage helped to publicize the work of Seventh-day Adventists and resulted in much favorable comment.

north philippines

Vegetarian Restaurant

What is, to the best of our knowledge, the first vegetarian restaurant in an elite area run by Seventh-day Adventists, is located in Manila's modern Makati Commercial Center. It is Booth No. 23 in the sprawling Fast Food Center, the first of its kind, a complex consisting of 46 booths offering different food specialties in a common dining area.

"The Spirit of Prophecy instructs us to embark on projects like this," commented Mrs. Carmen L. Pan, co-owner and manager-operator of the project. "It is one indirect way of reaching upper class people with our message."

Mrs. Pan, a board member of the Fast Food Concessionaires Association, used to operate a poultry farm "in order to educate our two boys to work with their hands and learn the dignity of labor." In November, 1970, typhoon Yoling wrought havoc on the poultry farm, and she and her husband, a vice-president of the China Banking Corporation, decided to phase out the poultry inasmuch as it had already served its purpose, for their two boys were now abroad and on their own.

First Vegefoods

A group of Seventh-day Adventists composed of doctors, nutritionists, an architect, and business people organized the first vegetarian food production venture in the Philippines in 1970. Immediately upon the return of L. L. Pan and his wife from a trip abroad, they were invited to join this venture with the general managership turned over to Mrs. Pan.

The production of "Vegefoods" products is now a reality. It has a line of some eight different nutritious and tasty items which are being sold in leading supermarkets in Greater Manila. These are also available in the principal cities of the Philippines.

Mustard seed

Mrs. Pan describes her project as a mustard seed and hopes that some day there would be a chain of vegetarian restaurants operated by Seventh-day Adventists, "especially in the university belt and in commercial places. This would not only push the soul-winning aspect through our health message but with the Lord's blessing could be a good source of much-needed funds to finish the work in the Philippines," Mrs. Pan explained. "There must always be that dedication to the higher objective than just a mere business enterprise," she added.



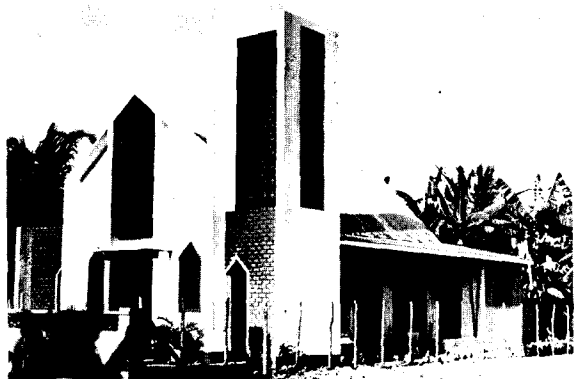
No meat will be found here. Booth 23, a vegetarian restaurant, is the first of its kind in Manila's Fast Food Center. Pictured are Mrs. Pan (right) and her crew. Mrs. Concepcion Mathay (left) is a financial partner in the new project.

Asked about the reaction of the people, she said that many wonder why the restaurant is closed before sundown on Friday to sundown Saturday, and "this gives us a wonderful chance to spell out our stand on the Sabbath."

Protein starved

"For over 50 years now," explained Mrs. Pan, "we have heard so much of our health message and vegetarianism, but we have had nothing to offer. This was the reason for our getting involved with vegetarian food products. The vegetarian restaurant becomes an extension of this production to show people how high protein, non-meat, nutritious meals can be prepared tastefully. Many Filipinos are protein starved. Here is another source of protein which is not only cheaper but safer to eat and carries no disease."—*B. B. Alsaybar.*

Church Dedications



Nasugbu Seventh-day Adventist Church



Binan Seventh-day Adventist Church

Two new beautiful churches were recently dedicated in the South-Central Luzon Mission, one in Binan, Laguna, and the other in Nasugbu.

The speaker for the dedication services of the Binan church was F. M. Arrogante, North Philippine Union president. The act of dedication was led by the mission president, J. C. Medina, and the dedicatory prayer was offered by G. E. Bullock, secretary-treasurer of the union. Ruben Protacio, architect of the building and church elder, gave the history of the church, which was founded in 1920.

Still going on is the construction of a complete elementary school building which is adjacent to the church.

On February 23 was held the dedication of a beautiful church in Nasugbu, Batangas. J. C. Medina, president of the South-Central Luzon Mission, delivered the dedicatory sermon. B. B. Alsaybar, education and public relations secretary of the North Philippine Union, led the act of dedication. The dedicatory prayer was offered by Fausto Dabu, church pastor.

The campaign for the building of this 15,000-peso church was led by Mrs. Maria B. Alsaybar, a charter member of the church which was established in 1932 after an effort by M. C. Pascual and P. H. Romulo. The seating capacity of this new church is 80.

south china island

Vegetarian Cooking in Hong Kong

One of the most successful vegetarian cooking schools ever held in Hong Kong began March 12. It drew an audience of about 60 men and women to the Stubbs Road Adventist Hospital on each of the four nights. Interest was high throughout the two and one-half hour sessions which were filled with lectures, audio-visual programs, cooking demonstrations under an overhead mirror, attractive table settings, and delicious food which everyone sampled.

While the people were enjoying the many tasty dishes, hot from the oven, they expressed repeatedly their appreciation for this free community service. Many others heard of the classes too late, but 45 of these had their friends sign them up for the next series.

Lectures on cholesterol control, the adequacy of protein in a vegetarian diet and the avoidance of tea, coffee and excessive sugar were given by Drs. Noel Fernando, Vanoy Smith, Franklin Ordelleide, and the writer.



These four little characters displayed the basic food groups essential to good health at a cooking school conducted in Hong Kong.

Food demonstrations were given by Cheryl Erlandson, director of the program, Sharon Ordelheide, Verna Moores and Freda Roe. Table settings were arranged by Carol Kettner.

Other health education programs presented by the Stubbs Road Adventist Hospital are stop smoking clinics, physical fitness programs, and prenatal classes for expectant parents. It is hoped that contacts from these programs will ultimately result in souls for the kingdom.—S. R. Kettner, M.D.

south philippines

Student Raises New Churches

It was a hot day in Mindanao. The sun heated the rice paddies that stretched out to the foothills of the distant mountains. The road was dusty. My jeep bounded along the bumpy road with a big load of happy students. As we made our way home after a busy Sabbath of missionary work, we passed barrio after barrio where other students were ending the Sabbath day witness program. Church after church testified to the long history of faithful work of earlier students and teachers of Mountain View College.

As we rounded a bend in the road we came in full view of the Batangan church. People were standing outside looking in the windows. There were not enough seats.

I was reminded of a conversation with Joel Valendez, a sophomore ministerial student.

"Sir, may I be assigned to Batangan? I have some relatives there that I would like to lead to Jesus."

He bubbled over with enthusiasm as he revealed

his plans. Batangan needed help. Many had moved away. A few had backslidden. The church was slowly dying. But it did not die, thanks to Joel. I remembered the occasion he had invited me to come for baptisms in the Polangi River. The church was revived. Sabbath by Sabbath every seat was full.

Chapel needed

That next week Joel stepped into my office.

"Sir, I have request. I have completed a door-to-door survey in Catumbalon, the barrio next to Batangan. There are seven backslidden families there. They promised me that they would return to the church if they could have a jungle chapel in their barrio. Most of the people will attend evangelistic meetings when they are held."

There was more to the story. He caught his breath and continued.

"A non-Adventist man has promised to donate a two-acre lot for a church. It is even large enough for a church school some day. Please let me go there. My assistant can shepherd the people in Batangan."

Top spot

The next day Joel and I drove out to Catumbalon, near Batangan. We left the gravel road. Our path stretched across the rice paddies. At times we had to stop in order to seek out the shallowest mud holes. Catumbalon was remote. Joel had to hike three to four hours each Sabbath to get there.

The lot was in a good place. It bordered the future barrio plaza. The light of the gospel would shine from the middle of the barrio.

Two weeks passed until we visited again. Joel presented his plan. An evangelistic meeting would begin in four weeks. Ben Saban would assist him with health lectures and music. He had already gotten donations of food for his evangelistic team. The mayor would speak the first night. Brethren in four neighboring churches were gathering bamboo and ratan. A friend donated US\$25 for the nipa roof.

Advance advertising

Another week passed. It was an excited Joel that greeted me at the building site. It was the first *pahina* (work bee). Two tall bamboo poles stood silhouetted against the sky and between them stretched a large cloth sign. It advertised the coming meeting: "WELCOME, NIGHT MEETINGS BEGINNING MAY 20."

I returned again four days later. The framework of the bamboo church now rose up into the sky.



The banner advertizes the evangelistic meeting that began two weeks after the picture was taken. This is the new Catumbalon church.

As we drove home that day, Joel showed the places where signs would be placed for advertising the crusade. Four families had opened their homes for his team.

In a few days, summer school would be dismissed, and the team of students would welcome the public to the new bamboo lecture hall. When the meetings end, the lecture hall will serve as the church for the community.

Joel already has a third request. A friend of his has donated a lot in the barrio of Laligan. Another challenge! Even as the meetings began in Catumbalon, brethren were gathering material, rice, and bamboo for another church—and another crusade.—*J. H. Zachary.*

southeast asia

Good News Reaches Brunei

The State of Brunei, located on the northwestern coast of Borneo, has a long history as a progressive Islamic Sultanate. Because of this the progress of the gospel has made rather slow inroads into the hearts of the 140,000 citizens of this British protectorate. With a relatively small land area of 2,226 square miles, Brunei is one of the largest oil producing countries in Southeast Asia. It also exports large quantities of rubber and hardwoods. No state income tax is levied against the citizens of Brunei.

No Adventists

Seventh-day Adventists have long desired to enter this little kingdom of His Highness Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzadin Waddaulah, the 27-year-old Sultan. Much study has been given as to just how this could

best be accomplished since Brunei is the only one of the nine countries in the Southeast Asia Union Mission that remains unentered by Adventists.

While many conventional avenues seemed closed, the lessons from the Singapore Voice of Prophecy Bible School found their way into the hearts of the young people of Brunei. News of the Bible lessons spread by word of mouth from friend to friend until now, within just a short time, we have more than 400 students actively studying the Word of God. Several students had written asking that we come and visit personally with them. God did open a way and a Voice of Prophecy team went to Brunei. Members of that team were C. H. Damron, VOP director, Beth Coffin, assistant director, Hugh Johnson, mission pilot, and R. S. Watts, Sr., general field secretary of the Far Eastern Division. They visited with students in the afternoon and conducted an evening rally.

New day

The team visited with 45 students in the afternoon and some 38 students attended the evening rally. Elder Damron spoke at the rally meeting and when the invitation was given to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord, 14 indicated their desire to become Christians.

How thankful we are that the good news of Jesus and His love is now being heard in Brunei. The team is confident that the VOP lessons will continue to bear witness for the Lord and win souls in this intriguing country. We thank God that the way is being opened. Please continue to remember the work in Brunei in your prayers.

west indonesia

C. D. Brooks Visit

During the first quarter of 1974, Charles D. Brooks, field secretary of the General Conference, held Weeks of Prayer in six colleges of the Far Eastern Division. These were in the countries of Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and Indonesia. He also led out in a Week of Prayer at Far Eastern Academy during his visit at Division headquarters in Singapore.

Typical of his rapport with students was his series, "Eternity Together," which he developed while at Indonesia Union College in March. His material was well organized and presented dynamical-

ly. Every student listened attentively from the very beginning to the end. His studies brought encouragement and challenge to everyone.

The climax to the week came on Sabbath when an invitation was given for individuals to take their stand for Christ. Twenty-two students decided to follow Christ and wanted to learn more about Christianity. The Holy Spirit came very close to the school family during the testimony service that Sabbath morning.

We praise the Lord for these blessings and pray that "He which hath begun a good work . . . will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."—*Jan L. Engka.*

guam- micronesia

Majuro Miracles

Six weeks from block laying to opening ceremony of a church/school building is something of a record. How such a feat was accomplished is merely the last of a series of miracles wrought by God in overcoming obstacles facing His work.

The scene is laid on the island of Majuro, one of the Marshall Islands in Micronesia, located between Guam and Hawaii. On four square miles of this coral atoll live 11,000 people, who are clustered on either end of a 30-mile road that extends from end to end of the island with ocean and lagoon washing both sides of the road in many places.

There were obstacles, did I say?

Let's consider some.

Land

A few years ago the local government voted not to allow Seventh-day Adventists to begin work on the island. Then a local legislator became interested in our work.

Land was not to be sold to non-Micronesians. This same legislator agreed to lease some of his own land to the church.

A missionary came to Majuro five years ago and built a home and a small school building. Soon there were about 40 members and a church school with 36 students who were meeting in a temporary building made to house 15 students. A new school building was imperative.

In 1971 a portion of the Midsummer Offering was set aside by the Far Eastern Division for a church school building on Majuro. The amount

from the offering was US\$12,500—just about enough to build one schoolroom out of the cheapest material available. It was a good start, but still obstacles loomed.

Building materials were very expensive. Some kinds nonexistent.

The funds on hand were insufficient to meet the needs.

To stretch the budget, builders were needed on a volunteer basis.

No cement blocks could be purchased locally.

And so the challenges continued.

What happened?

Volunteers

P. S. Nelson, Majuro missionary pastor, went to the United States to purchase necessary material. While there he told his story and found many people who wanted to help. Millers Supply contributed a great deal of the plumbing and electrical material. Craik Lumber gave most of the other building material except cement blocks.

Jack Penner, a builder, promised to give six weeks of his time. Bill Murphy, a block layer, and Jerry Wesslyn, a carpenter, volunteered to come with him. These men not only gave their time free but paid their own transportation and food costs for themselves and their families who came also. Others besides helped to make this project possible.

As Pastor Nelson was hauling material to San Francisco for shipment, he stopped over to visit Charles and Florence Templin in Oregon. After hearing of the project, they both volunteered to give six months of their time. They came to Majuro several months before the other builders to get things started. No cement blocks could be purchased, so Templin led out in making the 2,800 blocks that were needed for the building. He also got the footings poured and put in most of the plumbing before the other builders arrived around New Year's Day.

Fast work

So, six weeks after the first block was laid, the building was opened officially. The total cash outlay was about US\$18,000 for a building that is worth between 60- and 70,000 dollars.

At the opening ceremony three government leaders were present. They marveled at the short time in which the building was finished and the sacrificial spirit of the members of the Seventh-day Adventist church that made such a project possible. Isn't it wonderful to be a part of the family of God, such a wonderful, sacrificing family!