

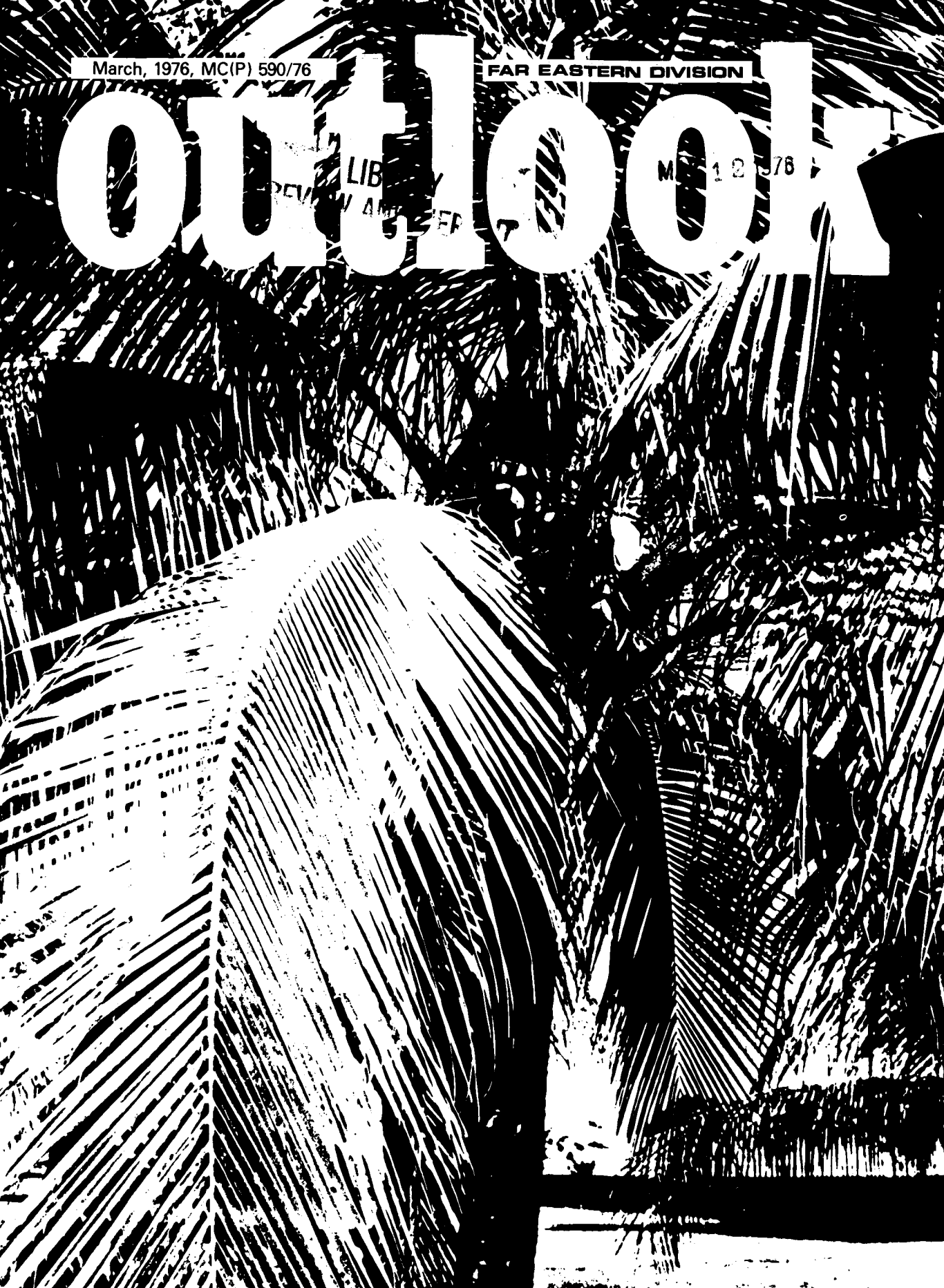
March, 1976, MC(P) 590/76

FAR EASTERN DIVISION

outlook

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MAR 12 1976



THE HIGHEST CALLING

by H.M.S. Richards

Some years ago a busy merchant in London, overwhelmed with the daily grind and tension of business transactions, determined to take a two-week vacation. He instructed his confidential clerk to send him only telegrams and cablegrams, opening and answering such letters as he deemed important.

In the hundreds of letters, circulars, and papers pouring in through the mail, there was an unstamped envelope which the clerk placed among the unimportant correspondence.

After his vacation, the merchant, feeling he had leisure, one day decided to look through the pile of rubbish mail. He opened this unstamped envelope and was shocked to find in it a communication from the Queen of England, offering him a barony. In other words, he would from the time he received it be Lord-So-and-so and have a place in the House of Lords.

He had 30 days to answer. Twenty-eight days had already passed, and only two remained. You can imagine how he hastened to answer this communication and see that his acceptance reached the royal palace. Soon he received the honor with thankfulness. How near he came to missing what he considered the greatest honor of his life!

In the Bible we find a wonderful heritage offered to us far beyond the value of a membership in the House of Lords. Isn't it possible that some of us might turn away from the heavenly land, from the joys of serving Christ here, for something that brings us only sorrow and disappointment?

Every day we should think for a little while about Calvary and about Jesus there upon the cross, and why He did it . . . to save us from our sins and assure us a home in heaven. The prophecies of the Word of God fill us with hope and we look forward to seeing Him in His coming glory. The God who "spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all" will not spare His wisdom and power in seeing that the prophecies are fulfilled.

May our labors be not just earning a living, just doing a routine job for a paycheck. Rather, may we be filled with the Holy Spirit and realize our work may be done in such a way that God is glorified, even though we may not be preaching a sermon, or giving a Bible study, or working as a missionary in a foreign land.

Everyone can represent Christ. Every sort of work for Jesus is important, and people are important who do it. Not one will be forgotten by the Lord.

dateline

Toronto

The *Canadian Churchman* reports that 16 Anglican primates have given their approval for ordinations of women to the priesthood by the Anglican Church in Canada. In a survey taken by Archbishop E.W. Scott, the 16 primates agreed that such ordinations would be recognized by them as valid and regular.

Auckland

The enthronement of a Solomon Islander as the second Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Melanesia was a highlight of recent celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Melanesian Brotherhood, an evangelical organ of the Anglican Church in that area. The new archbishop, Norman K. Palmer, is of mixed Melanesian and European ancestry.

London

The *Baptist Times* recently reported, "Unity: No real progress can be made until the churches have faced and responded to certain challenges." These challenges constitute the No. 1 topic in British religion circles since they encompass 10 propositions of unity recently sent to eight of the largest churches in Britain.

New Delhi

Compulsory birth control is being contemplated in India to help curb overpopulation, considered that nation's fundamental social problem. One government official warned that if the birth control program did not voluntarily achieve greater cooperation, "we might have to resort to making it a law."



Pastor and Mrs. R. H. Pierson shook hands with thousands of Adventists during their visit to the Far Eastern Division. The above photo was taken upon the Piersons' arrival at Penang, Malaysia, for Division Council.

Adventist World President Travels Far East Countries

Thousands of people listened to Robert H. Pierson, world president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, as he traveled throughout the Far East in November and December.

"I was impressed with the growth of our work in Asia," he reported on his return to Washington. "More than 26,000 people joined the Adventist Church during 1974 in the Far Eastern Division, and preliminary reports suggest the 1975 totals will be much larger."

Pierson visited Adventist institutions and participated in business meetings in Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore and the Philippines.

"Our largest concern was the upcoming moves of two colleges," Pierson said. "Both Japan Missionary College and Philippine Union College have grown to the point where they must seek larger physical plants."

The Adventist president also spoke enthusiastically about TARGET 80, a program of evangelism which has already opened up Adventist work in 200 new localities during the past two years.

In Indonesia Pastor Pierson spoke to some 5,000 people gathered at Basketball Hall in the Senayan, Jakarta. He took this opportunity to talk about the second coming of Jesus.

FOR BETTER LIVING

Shall We Eat Between Meals?

Eating activates the entire gastrointestinal tract. The glands of the mouth, stomach, and intestines, as well as the pancreas, liver, and gall bladder pour out their secretions for the step-by-step process of digestion. The task completed, the cells of the glands refill with droplets of enzymes, the gall bladder concentrates the bile from the liver and the whole system is readied for the next meal.

But the entrance of fresh food into the stomach before the previous meal has been digested slows its emptying. It also slows or stops the passage of food in the lower intestine. Heartburn, fermentation, putrefaction, foul breath, disturbed sleep, and that all-gone fatigue frequently interpreted as hunger result.

The body works best on a program of rhythmic regularity. Regular meals with nothing but generous intakes of water in between, will give the digestive system the rest after work that will help ensure a lifetime of trouble-free service.

"Time is Running Out" was the theme of the first Central Luzon Mission triennial session, and again Pastor Pierson talked of the second coming. He urged church leaders and all others present to reach for a higher level of spiritual life.

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Vietnamese Refugees Baptized in Florida

"Buddah was my god several months ago," says Tran Hung Tam, Vietnamese refugee now living in Orlando, Florida, "but after studying the Bible, I know that God is my creator and He will take me home when He comes again."

This was just one of the testimonies made by the five young people recently baptized at the Sanitarium Adventist Church. It was the first baptism of Vietnamese refugees in that church.

The Florida Hospital is sponsoring 11 Vietnamese families, some Seventh-day Adventists, and some not.

Another young man said, "I was confused when I reached the age of decision. My father was an Adventist, my mother a Catholic. I could not decide which church I should belong to." Nguyen Le Nghiep is in Florida with his uncle's family, and says he has had the freedom to choose his own religion.

Luong Kim Hung said, "If I did not have an opportunity to be here, I don't think I would have ever known who Jeus is."--*Pham Thien*

Goals Set For TARGET 80

One of the aims of TARGET 80 is to see church membership in the Far East reaching above the 500,000 mark by the time of General Conference, 1980. Present membership is approximately 305,000. It is also hoped that more than 600 new churches will be organized by mid-1980, thus numbering about 3,140.

TARGET 80 is a divisionwide master plan of evangelism that began in 1972. The emphasis for 1976 is involvement. Each church member is urged to witness in the areas he or

she has talent and ability, whether it's giving personal Bible studies, public evangelism, literature distribution, neighborhood visitation, Vacation Bible Schools, or whatever. The 1976 phase of TARGET 80 is based on the belief that the Lord has a specific place for each member to witness and He has bestowed the necessary abilities to fulfill that assignment.

Church Rushes Aid to Quake Victims

Seventh-day Adventist World Service shipped \$100,000 worth of supplies to aid relief work in Guatemala following a severe earthquake there early in February.

Included in the chartered jet load were blankets, tents, bandages, wire splints, large kettles to prepare food, gasoline lanterns, and special plastic rescue blankets designed to preserve body heat.

Robert Folkenberg, president of the Central American Union Mission, and SDA relief coordinator, requested a team of 12 doctors and nurses. They are to be dispatched from Loma Linda University.

Scholars Prepare Two New Volumes

With the assistance of 18 professors at Andrews University, and 14 scholars from Loma Linda University, the Review and Herald Publishing Association is sponsoring the production of two projects, *The Sabbath in Scripture and History* (Andrews project), and *The Advent Hope in Scripture and History* (Loma Linda project).

J.N. Andrews' long-time classic, *History of the Sabbath*, is now out of print and would not serve today's needs, according to Raymond Cottrell, book editor of the Review and Herald. "We need a new work that would be of enduring value. It would be a major contribution to the church."

Ministry Project Tried in Far East

Non-Adventist Protestant clergymen in Guam-Micronesia will receive *The Ministry* magazine for the next two years. This plan, called PREACH (Project for Reaching Every Active Clergyman at Home), is already in action in some parts of North America and Australia. The editors of *The Ministry* are beaming every other issue directly to Adventist pastors. The in-between issues are designed for Adventist and non-Adventist clergy. The names of 30 Protestant pastors in Guam-Micronesia will be placed on the mailing list for this service.

Non-Adventist missionaries in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong will also receive complimentary copies of these special issues. After plans were made to distribute 30 copies in Guam-Micronesia, it was learned that 700 more subscriptions were available, so the Division Committee selected also non-Adventist missionaries in the northern sections of the Far East to be the recipients of *The Ministry*.

The two works will include full documentation, sources, bibliography, and appendices. Each chapter is to be written to stand independently and yet blend chronologically and topically with the rest.

Cottrell says he plans for these works to be acceptable to "the best of Adventist and non-Adventist scholars and educated men. Pastors, teachers, laymen, have lamented the fact that we have nothing of this kind."

Dr. Kenneth Strand, professor of church history, is coordinating the Andrews project, while Dr. V. Norskov Olsen, professor of church history and university president, is coordinating the LLU work.

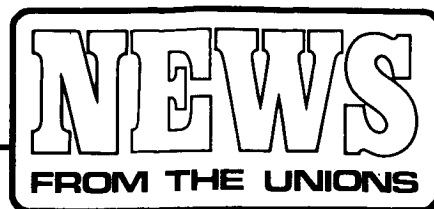
PROGRESS REPORT

Mahakam Project

Once it was merely a dream—establishing mission work on the Mahakam River of Kalimantan. Although necessary buildings are not completed for this venture, construction is in progress for a health education center to be directed by Victor Aen. Present plans call for two 860-square-foot houses for national and overseas staff, seven 340-square-foot houses for trainees, a training building and a jungle chapel. Aen gives his report in pictures.



LEFT: House constructed entirely of jungle materials. First student missionaries from Indonesia Union College help clear site for the Mahakam Health Education Centre. TOP: Workmen's houses and cookhouse at end of corduroy road. Sole means of transport to building site.



southeast asia

Thailand Bandits Let Missionary Live

Bandits in Northern Thailand nabbed Dennis Tidwell and his Meo companion in December, taking two valuable calves, money, and a watch, then leaving them stranded in the jungle.

Tidwell was transporting two brown Swiss calves that had been donated to the villagers in the area of Mae Sariang, where he and his wife, Lila, are working. He had stopped in Kamphaeng Phet for dinner, and it was about 30 miles down the road from this town that he noticed a pickup truck following close behind.

The driver pulled up as if to overtake Tidwell's car. As he drove up beside Tidwell, a man pointed a gun and ordered him to stop, which he did. Immediately three or four men brandishing guns jumped out of the truck telling Tidwell and his Meo friend to get out of their car. Two men, one armed with a submachine gun, led them into a jungle area along the road and were going to tie them up. However, Tidwell persuaded them that he was not armed and had no intention of escaping. So after taking his money and watch, the bandits left, about 7:00 p.m.

After a couple of hours Tidwell and his companion walked out to the

highway, but met an unexpected flood of glaring flashlights coming from the opposite side of the road, so ducked for cover. Next Tidwell decided to go deeper into the jungle and walk parallel to the road, coming out to the road a mile or so closer to town. The Meo boy skillfully led the way through the jungle in the darkness and finally they reached the road. However, in spite of their attempts to flag a bus or truck, none stopped. Finally they came to a house, but nobody answered the door, so they slept on the porch until they got too cold. Then they walked again until they came to an agriculture school, where they spent the rest of the night. After it was all over, Tidwell reported, "The police told me we were really fortunate. Usually these guys shoot you or else tie you up to a tree and gag you, and there you stay until you are found."

Brunei Girl is First Convert

A young lady is the first Adventist baptized in the country of Brunei, reports Bruce Johnston, president of the Sarawak Mission. Before some 20 witnesses, Angela Ling stepped into the rough sea waters at Seria on December 27, and made history for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Southeast Asia.

As yet the church has no organized work in Brunei, an Islamic Sultanate on the northwest coast of Borneo, and until Adventists organize a church and register it with the government, no overseas missionary can establish residency in the country.

Through Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence courses, several individuals have indicated an interest in Adventism, and in 1974 a call was made for an evangelist to live in neighboring Sarawak and eventually build up a church in Brunei. Bill and Joyce Cochran from Southern California, who responded to that call, have been working there since August. — *W.L. Wilcox*

Pathfinders Cheer Muar Old People

Some 65 Pathfinders of South Malaya region of West Malaysia—Singapore Mission brought Christmas cheer to the inmates of the Muar Old People's Home during the Pathfinder rally and camp-out, December 25 to 28, at the Muar Seventh-day Adventist Church.

A Pathfinder exhibition and jumble sale was held in conjunction with the rally and proceeds went toward purchasing gifts for the old folks. Members of the host Pathfinder club in Muar, under the leadership of Danny Wi, worked very hard in preparing the campground and stalls for the rally and exhibition.

During a special Sabbath morning service, six Pathfinders were baptized by Far Eastern Division Youth Director Ray James. In the same service Southeast Asia Union Mission Youth Director Bernie Donato assisted Jonathan Ng, mission youth director, in presenting pins and honor tokens to various Pathfinders.

A total of 120 MV honor tokens

were presented. Among these were a Silver Medal Award to Edward Kee, Kuala Lumpur Pathfinder; good conduct ribbons to Sarina Sim of Muar and Tang Siak Kee of Kuala Lumpur; and Edward Kee and Richard Kong were invested as Master Guides.

east indonesia

Johnson Visits South Minahasa

While on an itinerary in the Far Eastern Division last November and December, D.S. Johnson, associate secretary of the General Conference, spoke in the first Adventist church in East Indonesia, and there met five of the charter members of that church.

During his visit district meetings were held so that he might speak to as many church members as possible.

On Sabbath hundreds of church members flocked into the Ratahan church, oldest Adventist church in East Indonesia, for another district meeting where Pastor Johnson spoke.

Johnson's itinerary in the Far East from November 9 to December 12 took him to Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Japan, Taiwan, and the Philippines. — *Nathan Ruhupatty*

south china

Tai An Mission Reports Progress

The most original report at the recent Tai An Mission year-end meeting was that from the Lu Gai tribe. Since this tribe lives near Pingtung, site of the mission meeting, a choir of some 40 members rendered

the report in song.

Dressed in colorful tribal costumes, the Lu Gai tribe sang their entire report from memory. Even the typhoon that blew off the roof of their church was put to music as well as their goals for souls in 1976. The language barrier was solved by having the meaning of what they sang written in large Chinese characters on a flip chart, which their leader turned and pointed to as they sang.

In another report, Ke Chin Feng from the Wu Tai church told delegates how his tithing goal was doubled in 1975.

"At the beginning of each new year, I gather my family about me and we promise God what we hope to do for Him that year," tells Keh Chin Feng, who serves as the local elder, lay evangelist, church treasurer, lay activities leader, youth leader and communication secretary of the Wu Tai church. "This year we set our goal for five souls and our tithe for NT\$6,000 (US\$150)."

To earn money, Keh Chin Feng had to leave home and work in the forest of another county. Because of family and church responsibilities, he could leave his home only four times during the year. He worked a total of only two months and five days, but the Lord blessed him with an income of NT\$130,000.

Once Keh Chin Feng said to his wife, "Maybe I should use some more time earning money so we could pay more tithe."

"No," answered his wife. "You've earned enough. The rest of the time you should use for God's work here in our village and church."

At the end of 1975 he and his family had seen five persons baptized and their tithe was NT\$13,000.

The small village of Sa Mu saw 34 baptisms last year, probably the highest number of souls won in any single church in Taiwan.

"We thank the Lord for showing our village that ours is His true church," the report came from the village. At one time a strange light hovering over the Adventist church, was seen by many villagers and that was proof for many. Another evidence of God's protecting hand was the survival of the Adventists' rice crops.

"God protected every one of our fields from the blight that ruined the crops of other villagers. The affected fields turned brown as if scorched by heat. Though our fields bordered on these fields, the 'line of demarcation' was clear and distinct."

From Da Seh came the report of a prodigal son. Dzen Wen-Sen began his report by telling that his tribal name literally means *been found*. He was born only three months after his father's death, and upon learning that her new baby was a man child, Dzen Wen-Sen's mother exclaimed, "I've found him again!" (Probably thinking that her husband's soul had now entered into the infant.)

Dzen Wen-Sen then told how he and his wife had sent their son to the Adventist Mountain Bible School in Pingtung. After his graduation he returned home, but soon left the church. He took up smoking, drinking, gambling, fighting, and was dishonest. For five years he was the terror of the village and the grief of his parents. Though they prayed for him daily, it seemed he only grew worse.

"Husband, we can't go to church any more," the discouraged mother said one day. "What face have we to go to church with a son like ours?"

With such a tale of sorrow, one wondered how Dzen Wen-Sen could give his report with a big smile. However, the end of the story is a happy one. After five years as a prodigal, Been Found's son has been found again! — *Helen Lee*

south philippines



NSO campers practice drills in transportation of the sick and wounded, one topic covered in the recent classes held at Mindanao Mission Academy. Some 25 men, all from areas of strife in Mindanao, participated in the camp.

North Mindanao Hosts National Service Camp

A mission-wide National Service Organization (NSO) camp was held on the campus of Mindanao Mission Academy from December 22 to January 5.

Some 25 men participated in the camp and received the training offered by 10 instructors. The 25 came from the battle areas of the mission where Adventist believers are forced to join the Civilian Home Defense Force (CHDF). As members of the CHDF they are expected to bear arms and to be on military duty even on Sabbaths. It is hoped that the training received at the NSO camp

will help alleviate some of these problems.

A long list of subjects totalling 84 hours of instruction were given. These included such matters as transportation of the sick and wounded, first aid, principles of non-combatancy, hygiene and sanitation, introduction to the home defense program, and the new constitution of the Philippines.

Upon completion of the course, the trainees received certificates in first aid and the constabulary-approved CHDF certificate for medical training.—*L.S. Lacson, Jr.*

Ex-gambler is Happy in Jesus Christ

Once a gambler and a cockfighter, Carlo Magno Yap is today the youth leader of a local church in Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

Mags, as he is nicknamed, is a tailor by profession, who became acquainted with Adventists when he met and married a pretty young girl in 1959. He didn't drink liquor nor had a tobacco habit to break, but Mags loved to gamble, especially in cockfighting. It was such a passion with him that he couldn't think of forsaking it and following his wife's religion.

Instead, he spent all of his free time at the cockpits with his winner cock, and he had a good record of taking home large sums of money from this sport.

Mags' thinking began to turn when an evangelistic series was held in his town about one year ago. He attended the meetings regularly, and even suggested that he and his wife treat the evangelistic team to supper some evening. It was at that supper that Mags' prize-winning cock ended up in the pot, thus ending a long hobby of cockfighting and gambling, for he had accepted Jesus Christ.

"I am much happier now," testifies the new youth leader of the Malaybalay church.—*W.L. Sumagaysay*

north philippines

Ordination

Claro R. Vicente, Bible teacher at Palawan Adventist Academy in the Central Luzon Mission, was ordained to the gospel ministry during the mission's first triennial session in 1975.