

NOTES OF PROGRESS

Vol. 11

August, 1940

No. 2

VACATION TIME IN THAILAND

By A. P. Ritz

For the second year the Thailand State Railways reduced their fares for all classes by one half. This year the reduction was given for two months, beginning just before the new year, which has been on April 1. However, beginning next January first, they will adopt the more universal year. So we have the novelty of a nine-months year, for B. E. 2483.

This time of reduced fares gave us another splendid opportunity to get out into the field. We were glad that Pastor Moon came in time to visit parts of the field with us. First, he and I went to visit Brother and Sister Kalee Paw in the little jungle village of Ban Baw, among the Karens. Here we baptised our first Karen convert in Thailand, a young man, who, like most of the Karens, is a farmer. His wife, we believe, will soon follow her husband. She had been seriously ill prior to our visit. Brother and Sister Kalee Paw are winning the confidence of those people, against great odds due to their many superstitions and vices.

Following this trip Pastors Moon and Kon, Brother Hiu Kiu Shon, and I made a trip to the North. Pastor Moon had not been up that way before. We did Harvest Ingathering work in the two largest towns of the North, and spent the Sabbath with Brother Chee Toi Lip at Payao. This man was baptised by Pastor Milne in 1934, after having learned of the truth through the "Signs" and the visits of a colporteur. We were able to collect a bit over 600 ticals toward our Ingathering goal. We very much appreciated Pastor Moon's extended visits, his itineraries with us, and his good help. This was perhaps his longest stay in our field at any one time, and had it not been that he had already been away from the office so long we would have urged him to make another trip with us to the South.

On the 11th of March, following a short vacation at Hua Hin, Brother Prachurd, the principal of our Bangkok School and mission M. V. Secretary, went to Ban Baw and gave good help there in hold-

CHURCH CALENDAR

August and September

- August 3—Home Missionary Day
10—Harvest Ingathering Rally Day
Sept. 7—Home Missionary Day
28—Elementary School Offering

ing meetings and studying with the people. One young man there, son of the head man of the village, is very much interested in our message. We hope he will one day take his stand. On the 15th, Pastor Kon took the Haad Yai Express to the South to help Brother Sitanggang in preparing some candidates for baptism. Then on the 17th I left by the regular South Express and was joined by Brother Prachurd at Rajaburi. We held some meetings with the members and interested ones in Yala. The big day was Sabbath the 20th, when, after a good service in the little chapel, we went to a beautiful spot by the river and baptised two more precious souls. In the afternoon we celebrated the ordinances for the first time in the South. We now have seven members at Yala, besides many children. We hope ere long to be able to establish a church there.

From Yala Brother Kon joined two of our members on a trip to the extreme south part of Thailand. On his return he was accosted by a policeman and asked to show his identity. Unfortunately he had failed to take his alien's registration book along. He was taken to the police station, and though not locked up, was compelled to stay there until Friday afternoon. On Friday morning Brother Kon said he thought thus to himself, "Now tomorrow will be Sabbath, and I do not want to spend Sabbath here." So he prayed that the Lord would help him get free. In the meantime he had wired us, but we could do no more than mail his booklet to him, which would take several more days. But on Friday afternoon the man called him in and said that he somehow didn't feel at ease about Brother Kon and that he had decided to let him go

on his own signature. This he did, much to the surprise of our members at Yala.

We had also planned for something by way of selling some of our literature and visiting and holding meetings during the vacation time of the schools. From Ubol two groups went out, in all about thirteen teachers and students, led by Brother Puie, the Principal of the Ubol School, and Brother Choy. Some of the students took horns and other musical instruments along, and they were all kept busy for the two weeks as they visited members and held meetings. They had some most interesting experiences. In one place they asked permission of the head priest to hold a little service in the temple. They were dubious about the answer they would receive. But to their great surprise the permission was given and they preached to the priests and many people who flocked in and filled the place. They were invited to come back again. We long for the day to come when we will have some workers who can be freed from school duties to spend their time among these responsive peoples. There is a great field of opportunity in the great province of Ubol with its three-quarters of a million people.

During the latter part of February and early March Pastors Milne and Tan held a colporteur institute here in Bangkok with the teachers and students. As a result, when vacation time came, a party of five, Brother Weng, with four students, were ready to tour the South with our Thai magazine and the "Book of Knowledge" by Pastor Campbell. This was truly a venture in faith. But these vacation-time colporteurs, with the help of Brethren Kon and Prachurd, packed their magazines and planned their itinerary. They carried about 800 magazines with them, but still three large boxes had to be shipped. And here is where faith was required, for, though fares were cheaper, the freight on the magazines, and five fares to the South, required 80 ticals. We wondered, with all the other necessary expenses, just how they would come out. But with a prayer for their good success we sent them off. Each week Brother Weng sent us a good report of their work and of their success, and each week the report got bet-

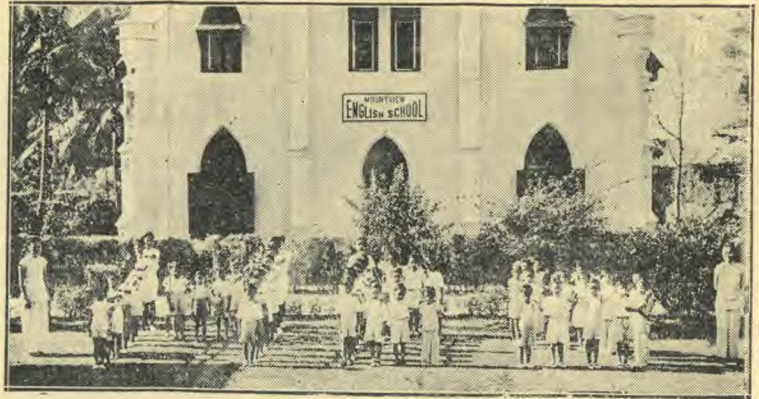
ter. Well the Lord surely did bless them and give them favour. In Trang they were kindly treated by the wife of a Chinese pastor for another mission. Three of them even took the boat and went as far as the island of Puket, to the North of Penang. In all they sold a total of 2681 books and magazines, or 1345 "Book of Knowledge" and 1336 "Chuchart." They took in nearly 450 ticals. The mission paid all of Brother Weng's expenses and helped some on travel and freight for the others. So they had a wonderful experience in working for the Lord, got to see more of their country, and the four students each made a net profit of 12 ticals after all expenses were met and the books and magazines paid for. They were gone for 25 days. One of the students who had not had so much experience, went along with one of the others at first. But he thought: "This is no use. I ought to go and work too, alone. But I have no strength to do it." But he said that he decided to pray about it, and that then he got a little strength. So he prayed more and got more strength, till later he went alone and found that by God's help he could sell too.

So all in all the last few months have been busy ones and happy ones. Our school vacations and the reduced fares afford wonderful opportunities. My fourth trip was to Ubol, on to Kulu, where Brother Boon Mee has his dispensary, and on by pony to Ban Na Uit, where we have a group of five believers as well as some small children. We are glad for the Lord's blessings and we ask that all remember His work in Thailand. Though we will soon leave for the homeland we know that His work will go on. We are so grateful for the coming of the Geschkes, and for the continued progress and success of the medical work.

WITH OUR KUALA LUMPUR SCHOOLS

By Mrs. J. M. Nerness

In other days our Adventist boys and girls in Kuala Lumpur have been provided with the opportunity for a Christian education in our own schools. As a result two fine institutions are carrying on a good work:—The Te Sin School gives education in Chinese and the Mountview English School is devoted exclusively to the teaching of English. Both have made healthy growth this



Mountview English School, Kuala Lumpur

past year in enrollment as well as in other respects.

The Mountview School enrollment has almost doubled that of 1939. To provide for these added students it was necessary to move our Mission office to a less desirable location. Present accommodations are filled to capacity. Many boys and girls are available and there is need of still another classroom. It is the hope of the Principal, Mrs. T. M. Lien, and her associate, Mrs. K. T. Kong, that such provision can be made to take care of the many who are desirous of attendance. As they come and their parents appeal for admittance, we feel that a great opening lies before us in working for these young people.

We have over fifty of the choicest boys and girls this year. This has made a preponderance of non-adventist students but the standard of church school work has not been sacrificed. Should you visit the school you would note the S. D. A. atmosphere which prevails.

Mrs. Lien and the writer were encouraged by the visits with the parents. They expressed confidence in the work of our school. One mother remarked, "We are happy that our children can go to your school for you are following a definite programme and our children are making progress." Others warmly expressed themselves. Several parents are sending their children to the Sabbath School.

The teachers are working diligently and results are being seen in their endeavour. Each week the J. M. V. programme is enjoyed by the boys and girls, and the Progressive classes are hard at work. Soon the new school uniform will be in evidence.

Let us pray that God will guide and provide a means of strengthening His Kingdom by pressing into these opportunities that lie before us. May the Lord bless us as we unite in working for Him so that many can be ready for His very soon coming.

"S. S. KUCHING" SCORES DIRECT HITS

"Past Records" reported sunk

The 2nd Quarter communique from the "Land of the White Rajahs" reported the sinking of "Past Records" by the destroyer "Kuching Sabbath School."

The enemy vessel was sighted at the beginning of the 2nd quarter off the 3rd mile coast, and under the command of Captain Allen Chong, the "S. S. Kuching" gave chase with engines at full steam ahead. Progress was made each Sabbath as the "S. S. Kuching" closed in on its prey, manoeuvred for a chance to shoot a torpedo.

It was on the eighth Sabbath that contact was made and the first shell fired. The Investment

shells of the gunners which were fired with the greatest accuracy, tore big holes in the thick armoured sides of the battleship. A stiff resistance was experienced but Rally Day did a lot to rouse up the spirits of the gunners who went at the work with new vigour.

"Past Records" biggest gun, the 1st Quarter was silenced by the direct hits from Investment Shells, which necessitated a hasty retreat. This was not the end, however. The chase continued until the 13th Sabbath when the "S. S. Kuching" made the final attempt to smash the "Past Record." A torpedo sped on its deadly errand, straight at the bow, and a few minutes later, a violent explosion announced the final destruction of another enemy battleship.

Well done, "S. S. Kuching."

REPORT OF TITHE AND SABBATH SCHOOL OFFERINGS

MALAYAN UNION — HALF-YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE 1939 and 1940

(All items in Local Currency)

Mission	Tithe		Gain	Percentage of Gain	Sabbath School		Loss or Percentage Gain	
	1939	1940			1939	1940	Gain	Loss or Gain
B. N. Borneo	850.46	909.07	58.61	7%	303.70	293.22	10.48L	3%L
F. I. China x	539.35	2,122.27	1,582.92	293%	130.55	155.79	25.24G	19%G
Malay States	6,655.32	7,291.30	635.98	10%	2,349.92	2,723.23	373.31G	16%G
Sarawak	518.67	644.95	126.28	24%	222.01	312.11	90.10G	41%G
Thailand	1,098.16	1,624.39	526.23	48%	393.23	502.42	109.19G	28%G
Totals	9,661.96	12,591.98	2,930.02	30%	3,399.41	3,986.77	587.36G	17%G

x Report to 30th April both years.

Leonard F. Bohner, Treasurer

SABBATH SCHOOL
RALLY DAY IN
KUALA LUMPUR

By K. T. Kong

It would have been a pleasure for any one to have witnessed the programme rendered by the Kuala Lumpur School on June 18 in commemoration of the sixty second anniversary of the Sabbath School Department.

Besides the members who usually meet at the headquarters church, there were also gathered many representatives from the three branch Sabbath Schools. This cheered the hearts of all present as an unusually large gathering joined in song and prayer for the special occasion. Our music was assisted by the violin accompaniment of our faithful lay-worker Brother Santiago De-cruz.

The platform of the church was appropriately decorated. Thought and careful planning was devoted to make this day a success, and much credit should go to Mrs. Nerness, the superintendent, for the well arranged and inspiring programme.

After the opening exercises and the special duet rendered by Mr. and Mrs. Lien, Brethren Lien, R. Abdy and K. T. Kong took up in a very impressive way such topics as: "Importance of the Sabbath School," and "The Future of the Sabbath School" respectively. The audience gave attentive interest to these talks, and they gained inspiration to make greater strides towards the progress of the Sabbath School work in this city.

At the close of the meeting, enrollment cards were given to those who desired to become members of the Sabbath School. We are glad to say that quite a few signed and determined to help in the great purposes of this important department.

NINE DAYS ON THE TATAU

By Leonard F. Bohner

A baptism, a dedication of a church, the organization of a church, treating scores of sick and other interesting activities filled the nine days that Pastor W. W. R. Lake and I spent on the Tatau River, Sarawak, some weeks ago.

The first Sabbath of our stay on this fascinating river we were agreeably surprised at the fine little church built entirely by the Dyak brethren under the supervision of Brethren Elam Sinaga without a cent of cost to the Mission.

This new church is near longhouse Raiyon the chief of which is a faithful member. It is on a hill some thirty feet above and a hundred feet back from the river. Every board and shingle was cut in the jungles and fashioned by the brethren. In some instances to find the most suitable and enduring timber they paddled several days up the river where after cutting the trees they would roll the logs to the river, making rafts of them and float them down to the church site.

Following a fine Sabbath School, the officers of which were Iban brethren, Pastor Lake thoroughly examined the six candidates who were baptized in the afternoon. The workers on the river certainly had done a splendid work of preparation for ready answers were forthcoming on every doctrinal point.

The week was spent in visiting longhouses up and down the river and treating the sick. At one longhouse after many had been treated and advice on healthful living and hygiene given, the chief made a speech. He said that "the gods have come to heal us and tell us how to live." He was thinking of the physical side of

life but we explained that we could help them in other ways also.

It is thrilling to spend time visiting these primitive people. These children of note are very responsive to kindness and sympathy but far from carefree. Devil worship and visit of the evil spirits are a constant fear to them night and day they are ever on the lookout for some manifestation of the spirits they so dread.

Pastor Lake during this week had his first experience of sleeping in an Iban longhouse with the pigs and fowl roaming at will just a few feet beneath his bed and the inhabitants of the longhouse sitting around talking and laughing watching us prepare for bed. The place of honour is just outside the chief's door with more often than not several heads hanging just over the cot.

A testimony meeting in which those that were just baptized took part was most heartening. Several arose and with tears said that they had long feared the spirits and had broken all of the commandments of God but now that they had accepted Jesus everything was different. Others mentioned that they used to have horrible dreams which made their lives miserable, since becoming Christians they were free from these terrible nightmares. They told of overcoming pernicious habits that had held them in bondage for years.

It is a never-to-be-forgotten sight to see these jungle people, former headhunters, taking their full place in church organization as Sabbath School leaders, deacons and other offices, standing in their semi-rude condition with their tattoo marks still visible but going about their various duties happily yet with dignity and reverence.

The last Sabbath of our visit

NOTES OF PROGRESS

Published monthly by the Malayan Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, 399, Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore, S. S.

LEONARD F. BOHNER—EDITOR.

Pastor Lake preached the Dedicationary sermon in which he reviewed God's providences and encouraged all to continue to follow Christ. In a call to those who had not fully become Christians more than fifteen raised their hands signifying their desire to become baptized.

On Sunday morning the new church was organized with Chief Raiyon as one of the elders and the Iban members with the Sinagas and Hutapeas filling the other church, Sabbath School and Young Peoples Society offices.

The Sarawak Government has given us perfect liberty all up and down this river and its tributaries and the responsibility is ours for what ever evangelical, medical or educational work is done. Brother and Sister Sinaga have been carrying on here most nobly and are happy that the Hutapeas have come back to help them. Doctor Morrow and family who were on the Tatau for some years and who helped start the interest that resulted in this new church organization is at present in private practice in Bintulu where we visited him. The doctor stated that things were going along nicely and that he was determined to be faithful.

IMPRESSIONS OF A VISITOR

By W. W. R. Lake

If I were asked what was the most outstanding feature of the general meetings of B. N. B. mission held early May about 20 miles from Jesselton at a place called Tamparuli, I would say unhesitatingly, the onward and irresistible march and progress of the Everlasting Gospel in that field in which every worker shared an equal part. And too, the national staff revealed a developing genius of shouldering responsibility as was evidenced in all the meetings. This augurs well for the future of our work there.

The Work has taken deep root in that field, its branches of service are holding out hope and protection to all those who seek help from the Lord Jesus, its fruit-bearing message is charging the lives of many Dusans and other

tribes, its transforming power is reflected in the hearts of public-spirited men who have made it possible for the mission to erect a school building, boarding homes, a chapel, and now a clinic which is soon to be another acquisition to a fine collection of buildings at Tamparuli, the fast-developing focal centre of the work in B.N.B.

To further strengthen the work, broader and more comprehensive plans were laid by the committee for a greater expansion and a richer harvest of souls. With a willingness, courage, and faith, born of past experience, the working force stepped up to the drumbeat of this programme though in some instances it meant inconvenience to themselves and family. We believe the Lord's Spirit was present directing, and with His added blessing because of the willingness of His people, greater prosperity will overtake the work in that field.

In front of the Viceroy's House in New Delhi stands a column on which are inscribed these words: "In thought Faith, In word Wisdom, In deed Courage, In life Service. So may India be great." No one of us in the Cause of God could offer for our British North Borneo Mission any better prayer today.

ERRATUM

Was the Editor embarrassed? A few weeks ago he received a letter from Bangkok informing him that the child of Dr. and Mrs. A. E. Geschke he reported in the last issue as a daughter was actually a son. Of course sons being esteemed the way they are in the Orient he is given a double welcome.



New Church on Tatau River

THREE DIRECTORS LEAVE FOR FURLOUGH

Although three of our five Directors are all travelling across the Pacific on the same boat, due to the current transportation problems they all are taking the boats from different ports. The Youngberg's left Singapore for Shanghai on the 2nd of July, The Ritz's left Bangkok for Manila on the 8th and the Wentland's left Saigon for Hongkong on the 15th.

Pastor E. A. Moon has been asked to look after the work in French Indo-China until another Director is appointed.

GOOD REPORT FROM NORTH BORNEO

On Sabbath during the North Borneo Annual meeting 411 adults and young people not counting babies and small children attended the services. This is the largest group of Protestant Christian Dusuns to ever meet. During this meeting a baptism of 21 was held which was the largest baptism in many years.

At various times during the four day meeting each of the workers had an opportunity of giving a report of his activities during the past year and to state his conviction regarding the future.

A Dusun worker who had brought three people in for baptism said "I am not afraid of men but trust in God." One of the ordained men finished his report with "as long as I live and can walk I'm going to work for God. Salary or no salary somehow I'm determined to carry on and open up the work in a new village every year."

NEWS NOTES

Brethren Nerness and Wong Kiat Sam report over two thousand dollars collected in Ipoh for the Church building campaign fund.

Pastor and Mrs. Y. H. Phang are the proud parents of another daughter.

From a letter just received from Brother Yeo Peng Yee we learn that June was the best month that the Penang Clinic and Sanitarium ever had.

An influential Chinese merchant in Jesselton has just given money for the erection of one of the buildings at the school in Borneo. Work will shortly begin on the last two buildings—the Boys Dormitory and the Dispensary.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Stuart, of the Seminary, on Sabbath June 29th.