

The Messenger

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST UNION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA



VOLUME TWELVE

September - October

NUMBER FIVE

First S.D.A. Church Building in Cambodia

By **Ralph E. Neall,**
Director of Combodia District

The first Sabbath of the 1962 Chinese New Year marked the first service in the first Seventh-day Adventist church building in Cambodia. Manuel G. Tortal, newly arrived from the Philippines, preached his first sermon in Phnom Penh at that time.

The new church, which will seat 150 persons when the pews are completed, is located near a chalet belonging to Prince Sihanouk on

the road to Saigon. A baptistry and changing rooms have been included in the building. The lot has space for workers' homes, a welfare center and school rooms. The new chapel replaces a third-floor shop house which was used as a meeting place for many years.

The new year marked the arrival of two new workers with their families; they are Brother Tortal with his wife, and Brother

Wong Yew Seng with his wife and their two children.

Mrs. Tortal, (nee Editha Sumicad) an alumna of Philippine Union College, was one of the pioneers in the founding of Mountain View College. She served as Dean of Women for ten years, or until Manuel persuaded her to exchange her Dean's life for a minister's life. Brother Tortal pastored a district of 22 churches before coming to Phnom Penh. He and his wife have already made excellent progress in the study of the Cambodian language.

Pastor Wong Yew Seng gained his education in Singapore and his wife (nee Lock Mei Chan) in Penang. He graduated from the Chinese Ministerial Training Course at Southeast Asia Union College and became the pastor of the Chinese church in Sandakan, North Borneo. He has had extensive experience in evangelism, Ingathering, and in the colporteur work. He has begun a number of Bible studies here, and is busy extending the Bible Correspondence School.

Although the Phnom Penh (Cambodia) church now has three pastors for its 19 members, there is plenty of work for all. The population of Cambodia numbers between five and six million. Christian missions have made some progress among the Vietnamese and Chinese of the population, but very little among the true Cam-



The new church building in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, with the M. G. Tortal and Wong Yew Seng families

bodians. Buddhism is the state religion, and the people are quite satisfied with their ancient beliefs.

Our work in Cambodia dates back to the 1930's when Elder Fred Pickett labored for a short time among the Cambodians of what is now South Vietnam. Apparently the French authorities did not allow him to enter Cambodia itself. His life was cut short, and he sleeps in the cemetery in Saigon.

A short time later Elder Robert Bentz and his wife came to Phnom Penh. Mrs. Benz established a maternity clinic and Elder Bentz opened a small training school not far from the present location of our church. During the war, however, Elder Bentz had to leave the country, and the work remained dormant. Most of the present mem-

bers are Chinese who have come here since the war.

The writer's family entered Cambodia in 1957, coming from district work in New York and Bermuda. Our first years have been spent in language study, getting the mission legally recognized, building the mission home and church, evangelism and preparation of Cambodian literature.

The Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence school is active in Chinese, and the Cambodian translation of these lessons is now going to press. These lessons should help us search out the honest in heart among the Buddhist millions of our mission field. Two books are now being printed in the Cambodian language to be sold by our colporteurs.

San Yu School

By Koh Chin Hua

For years the need of Chinese-speaking workers to labour in various fields in Southeast Asia has been felt. Although there is a Chinese primary school at Kuala Lumpur, the Teh Sing Primary School, children graduating from this school are too young and unqualified to join the Chinese Ministerial Training Course at the SAUC. The solution to this problem was the establishment of the San Yu High School at Singapore.

In 1958, the first Seventh-Day Adventist Chinese Secondary School in Southeast Asia for the training of young people was started after many difficulties.

Almost all the pupils attending this school are from non-Christian homes. The majority of them confess that they have never stepped inside a church or seen a Bible, while to some, the Word of God conveys no special meaning. They enter the doors of the school without a knowledge of the Creator, but soon become acquainted with Jesus and His love of mankind.

Apart from teaching various school subjects to prepare them to become useful and loyal citizens, God's wonderful plan of salvation and the invaluable sacrifice of Jesus are explained to these children. Each school day begins with a prayer offered by the Bible instructors, asking God's blessing to open their hearts to receive the spiritual food from the Scriptures. Once a week the school conducts a chapel service during which one of the teachers preach to the young congregation.

Although compulsory attendance of the pupils on the Sabbath day is not enforced, a number of these boys and girls present themselves at the Sabbath School every week and even remain for the sermon. The most encouraging sign is the presence of former pupils at these meetings, who come because the seed of truth was planted in their hearts.

A Week of Prayer is held twice a year, followed by baptismal classes. This year Pastor Milton Lee and Pastor C. I. Meng were the speakers.

Among the candidates baptised into the church in 1958 was a pupil from this school. Two more accepted the call for repentance the



Mr. & Mrs. M. G. Tortal

Wong Yew Seng family

Student Literature Evangelism

By L. Pandjaitan

Publishing Secretary, Malaya Mission

In the Federation and Singapore during the month of April, 1962, sixteen student Literature Evangelists delivered approximately M\$3,500.00 worth of our good literature. This plan is a most important part of God's program to reach the 8,449,000 people in this territory with the last message of salvation. Great numbers will be saved in God's eternal kingdom because consecrated student Literature Evangelists placed the truth in printed form in their homes.

When many young people begin to sell our literature to earn scholarships, they do not plan to con-

tinue in the publishing work as a life career. They take advantage of the scholarship plan to make possible the securing of a Christian education to prepare for another line of work in God's service.

But while engaging in literature evangelism, many fall in love with the work and give such evidence of their ability to train others to sell our literature that scores are called to important posts of leadership in the publishing department. If it were not for the student scholarship plan, many of our best trained leaders in the publishing

(Continued on page 3)



The Sunnyhill school in Kuching, Sarawak, had 150 graduates from the recent Vacation Bible School.

following year, and at present are continuing their studies at the SAUC. The first girl student joined the church the third year, and a record number of six pupils stepped into the watery grave with the Lord this year. One of these six expressed a desire to work for Jesus in the saving of precious souls for His kingdom, and publicly stated his ambition on one of the school speech days. He informed his audience that of all the different subjects he was studying in the classroom, he liked the Bible lessons best. This is indeed the most welcoming reward for all the time and energy spent on these children.

Our boys and girls also take part in the Temperance and M. V. activities. They achieved good results in the Ingathering Campaigns during the last four years. Working vigorously and unselfishly for the advancement of God's work and the relief of the suffering of humanity, they collected large sums of money for the mission.

The San Yu High School is now four years old. It is still in its infancy and much remains to be done to improve it to attain its goal of doing missionary work among children who come from heathen families. These last four years have been full of uncertainties and misgivings. The institution came into being through the combined efforts and prayers of many officers and members of the church with the sincere hope that a number of these youths will surrender their lives to the Master and be trained at the higher level to devote the rest of their time to His service. We pray that it will also be a source in supplying future workers to the Chinese-speaking population in various countries in Southeast Asia.

V.O.P. in Vietnam

By D. R. Guild.

In June the Voice of Prophecy began broadcasting over the radio station in Quang Ngai, Vietnam. With the addition of this station, the Voice of Prophecy is now broadcast over the five largest stations in Vietnam. The station in Saigon has recently stepped up its power to 50,000 watts. These stations easily cover the entire country and are also heard by Vietnamese in Communist North Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. All of the broadcast time is donated by the stations. In Vietnam we have only an Introductory Bible Course. We are hoping and praying that funds will soon become available to introduce a full-message Bible course.

Pham Truong Thanh recently completed a three week tent effort

Student Evangelism (from page 2)

department would now be engaged in some other type of work. But aside from training for leadership in the publishing field, it is God's plan that literature evangelism shall also be an important part of the training of laborers for all branches of our work. The following statements from the pen of God's messenger in Colporteur Ministry, pages 32 and 34 makes this clear,

"The very best education young men can obtain is by entering the canvassing field and working from house to house." "In evangelistic canvassing, young men may become better prepared for ministe-

in a suburb of Saigon. Fifteen made a decision for baptism and church membership. God is working on hearts by His Spirit in Vietnam.

Word has been received from Pastor Ralph Neall, director of the Cambodia District, that the Cambodian Voice of Prophecy lessons are now in the hands of the printers and will be ready for use soon.

This will be the first Bible Course in Cambodian ever offered to the people.

Temperance Contest

R. E. Bartolome
Principal, Sabah Training
School, North Borneo.

The Temperance Chapter at Sabah Training School, Tamparuli, sponsored a Temperance Contest early this year in the Sabah Training School Assembly Hall. The aim of this contest was to point out the evil effects of tobacco and liquor, and to help students develop their talents in speech, essay, arts, and song.

Melvin Sibarani received the first award in orations. Johnnie Chong got the second prize; and Edward Thu, the third award.

In the Jingle contest, Glenna Sibarani got first prize, second prize went to Mary Bingku, and third prize to Bertha Maligir.

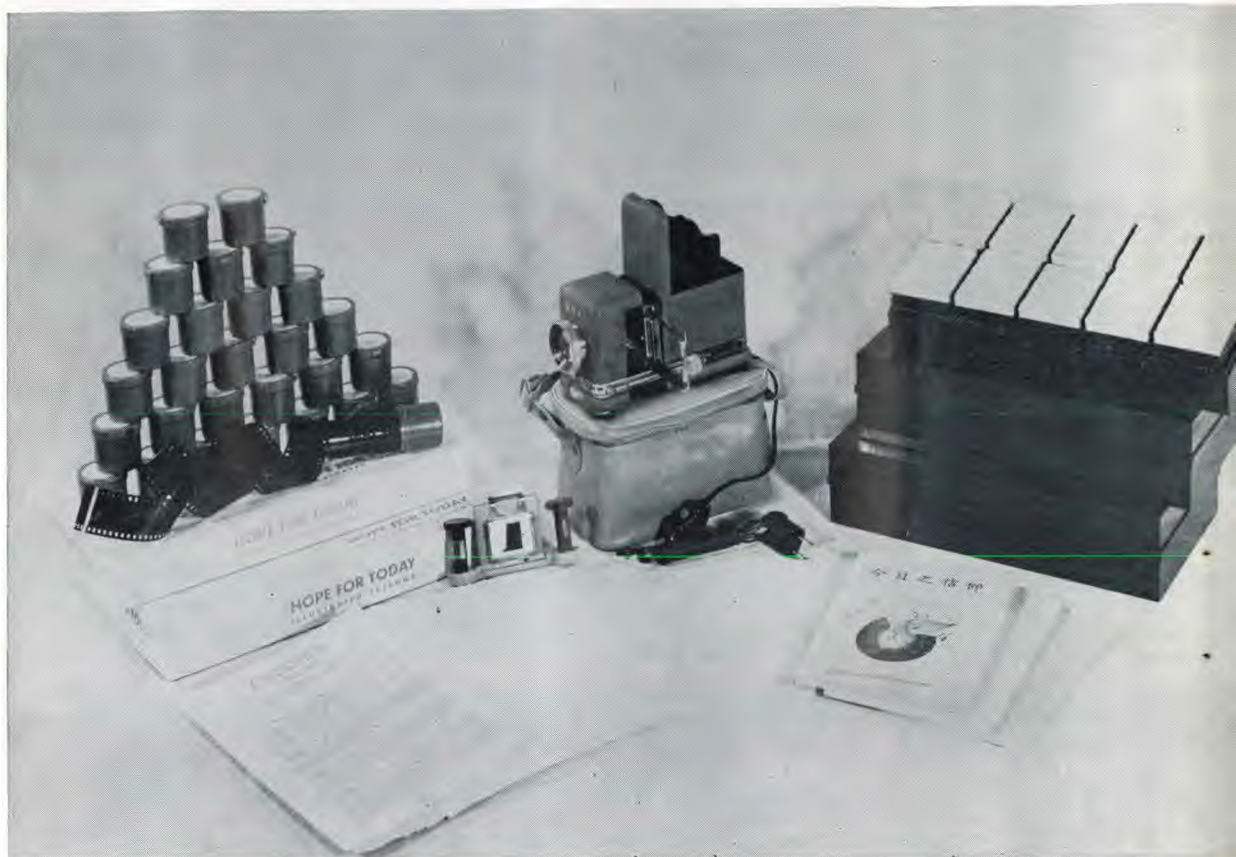
Song contest: First prize went to Lily Gaban, second prize to Melvin Sibarani and May Lee got third prize.

Poster contest: First prize went to Catharine Siagian, Henry Perreau got second prize and the third went to Catharine Siagian.

rial labor than by spending many years in school."

Most of our successful leaders today in every department of our work testify that what they learned while selling our literature helped to prepare them for service in the cause of God. We have observed that Mission officials and pastors who have had a successful experience in literature evangelism always give strong support to our publishing program. Evidently this is a part of what God had in mind when He instructed His messenger to emphasize the importance of student colporteur work. This will not only ensure success for the present, but will lay a good foundation for the future and hasten the coming of Jesus.

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Souls to a Decision For Christ

Let us respond right now, and may God richly bless those who venture to be Literature Evangelists for the saving of souls to the kingdom of Christ.

Haad Yai Effort

By John F. Harris,

On Sunday evening, June 10, Pastor Milton Lee and his associates began an evangelistic series at the Hakkha Association Hall in Haadyai, South Thailand. The opening night drew in attendance of over 275 people many of whom had to stand as Lee presented the subject, "True Riches". He emphasized that true riches is not made up of the abundance of material possessions but may be found in a good name, in the contentment of the heart and above all in Christ Jesus.

This series which is being conducted at the writing of this article will continue nightly throughout the month of June and followed by a Bible-marking class. The Bible-marking study class will be carried on five nights a week through the month of July. In this class the hearers will become acquainted with the testing truths of Seventh-day Adventists by reading the texts from the Bible for themselves.

The present evening meetings with Pastor Lee speaking in the Mandarin dialect and Pastor Hiu, the local pastor, translating into Hakkha is being aimed at the Chinese community of Haadyai. The Thais have not been forgotten, however, a Thai translator being provided for each evening's service. One evening some American missionaries were in attendance who spoke neither Chinese or Thai so the sermon was also translated into English. Someone remarked they now knew a bit better what the tower of Babel was like.

An evangelistic series is also being presented to the workers of the Haadyai Mission Hospital five mornings each week by Pastor John F. Harris, South Thailand's district leader. As a result of this series and previous efforts on their behalf a number have joined a study class and are looking forward to baptism in the near future.

Besides the use of black light and textual slides to illustrate the sermons several other features are being used to add interest to the



Pastor Milton Lee and Pastor Hiu preaching at the Haadyai effort

meetings. Mr. Chun, a young man from Singapore who aspires to the gospel ministry, has been presenting illustrated Bible stories to acquaint the audience with the great characters of the Bible. Dr. Ronald Gregory has given the public some helpful hints regarding their health.

The laity and workers in this evangelistic series covet the prayers of the readers that many will be gathered into God's remnant church as the result of their combined labors with the Holy Spirit.

Baptized at Last

J. Hutaaruk

More than a year ago a certain lady received a series of Bible studies and learned the truth. She carefully studied each lesson but when the series ended she did not consent to baptism. More studies followed every week in her home. These resulted in the baptism of her eldest daughter and later by three other children. Still this lady would not consent to baptism.

She began attending church with her children, followed the plan of healthful eating and living, and even began paying tithe but she would not consent to baptism. Her husband strongly opposed her baptism and warned her not to even consider the idea. I was finally

persuaded that she had made her decision against ever being baptized.

It was my plan to hold another baptism before the end of the second quarter. So I decided to make another appeal to her heart. The subject of my Sabbath sermon that day was "The Way of the Cross Among Adventists." After the service she expressed concern about her condition and her failure to be baptized. My wife and I took her to our home to visit with her and discuss what she ought to do. Finally, she made her decision to be baptized. To our great joy on the Sabbath of June 16 she was baptized. She determined to remain true and faithful regardless of the opposition that she faces in her home. Let us pray that she may remain faithful in the step that she has taken in following her Lord.

THANK YOU

"We wish to express our appreciation and thanks to our many relatives and friends who sent us valuable gifts and messages of congratulation on the occasion of our wedding."

Margaret and Reginal Yeo
11683 Val Verda Avenue
La Sierra, California
U.S.A.

Ministerial Association Wins Souls

Mr. R. E. Bartolome,
Principal Sabah Training School

Our schools are the best training ground for our young people to win souls for Christ. It was in early part of February, 1961 when the Ministerial Association was organized at Sabah Training School by Mr. R. E. Bartolome, the principal. The purpose of this Association is to train our students in the art of soul winning.

Every Sabbath afternoon, four to five groups go out to conduct branch Sabbath Schools, give Bible studies and sometimes would invite the people to come to church for Bible studies to be given by the principal of the school.

Last November 11, 1961 nine precious souls were baptized by Pastor P. R. Sibarani, secretary-treasurer of the North Borneo Mission, as a result of the fine work of some of our dedicated and self-sacrificing students. Prior to the baptism there were six souls baptized making a total of 15 souls for the year 1961.



"You may think that what I am going to say is nonsense, but it is true. I am usually a hot tempered and sour boy, not liking to mix with others but since the time I took your Bible course I am surprised to find a change in me. I no longer feel sour or angry, and now my friends join me. Just reading about Christ gives me a sort of good feeling. Just reading about Christ's life makes me peaceful."

"After reading the questions and answers I find that I have made a mistake by taking Sunday as the Sabbath day. The interpretations of the texts in the Bible teaching of the Sabbath have proved the majority are wrong in keeping Sunday. What has made the Christians of the past take Sunday as the Sabbath day and keep it?"

"Armed with the Pandu Keshatan V.O.P. diploma I entered the State Health Office and applied for a job. Ten minutes later I walked

out of the building the happiest person on earth. You know what it means to land on a job. The officer in charge told me to come back on Monday and report to work. Yours is, indeed, a wonderful course!"

"I have finished the Suloh Hidup V.O.P. and received a diploma. I do believe that the Bible is the Word of God and that Jesus is the Saviour of mankind. But being a Moslem it is very hard for me to express my acceptance of Jesus openly. Please pray for me."

"First my headmaster confiscated my Suloh Hidup lessons, then my father burned them. It seemed that I have to stop my contact with you. But thank God, an Indian friend suggested to me that I use his address in my correspondence with the Suloh Hidup. I am very glad to be able to continue my study of the Word of God without any more interference."

Literature Evangelists

J. S. Bernet

For Months of May and June
NAMES HOURS SALES
CAMBODIA MISSION—Wong Yew Seng
Publishing Secretary

Wu Tao Liang	351	Riels	47,447.00
Robert Jean	240		24,270.00

2 Colporteurs	591	Riels	81,717.00
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MALAYA MISSION
L. Pandjaitan, Publishing Secretary
Khor Thye Peng, Assist. Pub. Secretary

Khor Thye Peng	158	M\$	552.60
Wong Fong Kiew	127		128.60
Mrs. L. Pandjaitan	35		180.90
Lim Gim Chew	306		1,632.80
Cheam Chik	180½		982.80
Chang Yuen Fart	7		44.70
Jimmy Chong	20¾		226.40
S. S. Daniel	493½		5,979.70
Mrs. A. E. Gibb	12		146.50
Lee Pak Ming	280		1,629.50
Wong Sheong	258		406.10
Yap Ying Choong	464		3,354.30
K. C. Khoo	312		965.10
John Chew	374		615.85
Yap Ming	417		1,391.30
C. K. Tan	349		2,768.40
Lam Loke Yuen	419		940.15
Lai Kuen Hou	8		30.00
Kwek Hui Choo	366		2,705.00
Ann Wan Hee	57		833.40
Mrs. H. Chin			527.10
Tommy Ooi	95		795.00
A. A. Rao	317½		4,025.00
Misses Wong & C. G. Lee	9½		136.60
K. O. Tan			520.20
E. L. Ee Thian	8		88.50
Leong Kim Fook	3		27.00
Pastors P. & Bernet	60		1,794.50
K. S. Abraham	2		24.00
Fong Sau Heng	90		368.00
Chin Ching Loy	69		217.40
Lian Hong Peng	40½		444.90
Loo Sow Chong	61		421.30
Tai Pak Onn	476		651.00
Miss K. E. Ooi	34		74.00

37 Colporteurs	5848	M\$	35,628.60
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THAILAND MISSION K. T. Chin
Publishing Secretary

Cheer Tseh Yu	394	Ts	39,060.00
Smat Tan	222		14,278.00
Chia Kai Bai	326		6,259.00
Manit	173		3,442.00
Yun Yong	199		10,632.00
Mrs. Chin	33		3,151.00
Nguyen Perng Seng	98		1,386.00
Ekamai School Students			41,553.00

470 Colporteurs	1355	Ts	119,761.00
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VIETNAM MISSION—DO Binh,

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V. H. Lee, Assist. Publishing Secretary			
Nguy Thi Thanh Mai	VN\$		2,600.00
Le Thi Tang			500.00
Vo Thi Ba			1,000.00
Truong Thi Hong Minh			1,600.00
Nguyen Van Bach	36		975.00
Trac Ai Than			1,048.00
Mrs. Le Cong Giao			1,650.00
Vo Thi That	376		7,500.00
Nguyen Thi Than			6,000.00
Nguyen Phat Minh			8,000.00
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Vo Dai Danh	336		4,320.00
Tran Van Tu	384		2,980.00
Han Quang Thoat			600.00
Le Thi To			3,580.00
Dang Thi Hoa	44		2,460.00
Le Thi Bach	24		3,500.00
To Van Moi	367		8,330.00
Pham Van Thanh	203		4,540.00
Pham Van Binh	343		8,380.00
Vo Van Sau	224		4,295.00
Vo Thi Tha			3,200.00
Vo Chuc	156		3,970.00
Tran Thi Phan			600.00
Pham So	434		19,145.00
Truong Kinh	256		9,220.00
Nguyen Thi Muoi	124		3,020.00
Tran Dao (B)	384		7,000.00
Ho Dinh Sanh	168		3,630.00
Nguyen Van Le	216		6,260.00
Hang Thi Truyen			10,240.00
Nguyen Van Thang	280		8,617.00
Luong Huy	120		4,390.00
Huynh Tu Nhon	378		21,160.00
Vo Kim Dinh			6,000.00
Hang Van Nghiem	216		9,820.00
Nguyen Van Tranh	242		3,980.00
Nguyen Huu Lan	264		8,825.00
Nguyen Huu Thang	408		11,290.00
Nguyen Van Liep			800.00
Duong Thuong	350		14,322.00
Truong Nga	376		30,848.00
Tran Lang	407		14,300.00
Truong Khoi	383		22,036.00
Vo Tin	380		8,455.00
Nguyen Van Quoi	111		2,300.00
Huynh Thi Cuc			200.00
Nguyen Thai Bach	108		2,413.00
Phu Tai			1,310.00
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Le T. Xuan	247		7,820.00
Tan Van A.	189		4,820.00
Truong C. Hoang	280		6,480.00
Vo Thi Than			500.00
Ngo Kim Thang			220.00
Loung V. Tu	285		6,840.00
Le Tan Nghiem			400.00
Pham Nhah	362		8,000.00
Tran Tan	200		4,200.00
Nguyen Thi Em			880.00
Huynh V. Tung	48		1,300.00
Tieu D. Trien	443		11,760.00
Ngo Phung	413		8,220.00
Nguyen D. Lan	352		10,360.00
Nguyen duy Trinh	320		8,820.00
Mrs. Pham Cuu	80		2,000.00
Pham T. Van	218		5,200.00
Nguyen Hang	324		10,600.00
Le Nga	431		11,460.00
Nguyen Xan	440		12,280.00
Nguyen hu Thuong	362		8,000.00
Nguyen V. Phi	189		6,540.00
Tran Dao (A)	338		11,004.00
Nguyen Khiet	393		8,300.00
Le Tram	400		9,460.00
Nguyen Xeng	362		12,280.00
Pham Dam	324		10,600.00
Vo Cuong	403		8,820.00
Cash Sale			450.00

78 Colporteurs	16159	VN\$	538,494.00
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THE MESSENGER

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Editor H. W. BEDWELL

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Evangelism in Vietnam

R. Tilstra,
President Vietnam Mission

Dalat is the mountain resort town of Vietnam. It is beautifully situated among the pine-covered mountains in a cool climate with scenic lakes and waterfalls. It draws visitors not only from all over Vietnam but tourists from many parts of the world.

For a number of years there has been a Seventh-day Adventist church building in this lovely city. But even though a number of evangelistic meetings have been held, the membership of this church has remained small. It was generally believed that evangelism in this city was unprofitable. Yet the mission committee felt that something should be done.

A wonderful opportunity came



Pastor D. R. Guild and associate workers stand before the meeting hall in Dalat.

our way when Pastor D. R. Guild of Singapore, the ministerial secretary of the Union of Southeast Asia, offered to conduct a series of evangelistic meetings in connection with a training school for our young ministers. The offer was accepted and the meetings were arranged to be held in Dalat. After some negotiations the Lord helped us to secure one of the best theaters in town for 21 nights.

When the opening night arrived, we were a bit apprehensive. We had sent invitations, distributed handbills, hung banners across the streets. Would the people come? Just a few minutes before the doors were to open a messenger came from the mayor's office asking us to reserve eight seats for him and his family. The doors opened at 7:30 p. m. and within fifteen minutes the large hall was filled. By 8:00 p. m. there was no more standing room and many had to be turned away.

At the end of the service the manager of the local government radio station paused to express his appreciation for the meeting. The next few days during his news broadcasts he made special mention of the meetings urging his listeners to attend. Another man who expressed his interest in the meetings was the representative of the Vietnam News Agency. The people continued to come and for the first ten nights there wasn't even standing room and many were

turned away.

At first we were concerned as to how these people who were mostly from non-Christian backgrounds would respond to calls for surrender and conversion. But when the calls were made many responded. About 110 persons made a public decision to join a Bible class to prepare for baptism. These were enrolled in a special Bible study group with lessons conducted by our Vietnamese Voice of Prophecy speaker, Pastor Le Huu. We are looking forward to a large baptism soon.

At the time the Dalat meetings were being conducted, Pastor Pham Truong Thanh was holding a series of meetings in a small suburb of Saigon, Quang Trung. Even though it rained much of the time and the canvass roof shelter did not give much protection from the rain, these meetings were well attended. As a result thirty persons are now in a baptismal study class.

Regrets

We regret that Brother Samuthram, pastor of the Bagan Datoh and Telok Anson Churches of the Malaya Mission, was killed in a motor-cycle accident on August 7. A life sketch will appear in the next issue of the *Messenger*. We express our deepest sympathies to Brother Samuthram's family.