

The Messenger

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



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Report from South Thailand

By John F. Harris, District Leader

Under the blessing of God 1964 has already proved to be a banner year for God's people in the southern area of Thailand. Through its various branches the Church has been able to bring the Three Angels Message to hundreds of new hearers. Layman, Colporteur, Doctor and Preachers alike rejoice together that God's Holy Spirit has been raining down upon their joint efforts resulting in the substantial growth of God's kingdom in this part of the field. We only wonder what might have happened if our faith had been bigger and our goals larger. The workers in Phuket set as their goal fifty souls during 1964 as well as organizing two new churches and the completion of a new hospital. The timetable went as the following will bear out.

Naturally some of 1963's work carried over into 1964 as was seen in the construction of Phuket's new hospital begun in the latter part of the year, and also in the first baptism of ten souls on January 25 following the evangelistic effort held in the new Bangkokian village church during the closing months of 1963.

On Saturday night, March 14, the first canvass topped tabernacle ever to be erected in the Thailand Mission was waiting to be filled with eager listeners. The evangelistic team was also waiting expectantly as all preparations were complete and the long-awaited for effort in the city of Phuket was about to begin.

Years of preparation had gone into this effort. Dr. Frank Crider had pioneered the medical work and won many friends for the church. His successors, Doctors Van



Evangelist Gunjorn in Bhuket effort

Arsdell and Watson had done the same. Several hundred Bible School students were scattered over the area. These as well as many former patients of the hospital were given special invitations for this opening night besides the general distribution of several thousand handbills.

When the hour reached 7 P. M. we were scheduled to start. Recorded music filled the tabernacle and unfortunately that was about all. Usherettes in their attractive capes were standing in their places but only a dozen people had been seated. We did the only thing one can do at a time like this—we prayed. How we did pray that God would honor our faith. And he did. At 7:30 the tabernacle was packed. Nai Cheun led an enthusiastic song

service following an appearance by the quartet singing in Thai, "Lift up the Trumpet and Loud let it Ring, Jesus is coming again." The quartet, made up of four dedicated Thai young men, Nai Suan, Nai Somchai, Nai Sangiam and Nai Damrong are recent students of the Thailand Mission Training School who were located in Phuket for a Field School of Evangelism in connection with the effort.

The song service was followed by a short health talk by one of the doctors. Other preliminaries followed in smooth and rapid succession until the evangelist made his appearance. We were fortunate in having the services of Pastor Gunjorn Sriratprapas, Pastor of the Haadyai Church, carry the heavy preaching

burden. It turned out to be quite a sizeable burden as two meetings a night for the first three weeks were required in order to accommodate the crowd.

As the writer pens this article over four months have elapsed since that opening night. Six weeks of preaching six nights a week with the use of black light and projector came to a close only to be followed by a V. O. P. graduation service of sixty-seven students and the launching of the "advanced class" of twenty-four nights of Bible-marking and the offer of a free Bible to those who completed this course. At the end of the Bible-marking stage there were fifty who indicated their desire to study further in a baptismal class. In the meantime search had to be made for a new meeting place. As the mansion had begun and the tabernacle was not prepared for heavy rains. Providentially the way was opened by means of a friend. We were soon moved to a new masonry constructed three story shop house in the downtown area. On the opening night of the baptismal class in the new location there were nearly one hundred people in attendance. This class has continued four nights a week for nearly two months and is still in process. One of the interesting facts of this continuous program is that there are constantly new interests making their appearance at various stages of the program.

Successive baptisms have been



(Left to Right) Pastor J. Harris; Nai Gunjorn, evangelist; Nai Cheun, song leader; Nai Mun, head usher.



Tabernacle building in Bhuket

held on May 23, and July 18, resulting in thirty-one baptisms. We are planning to have a baptism per month throughout the remainder of the year. We believe that God will bless these plans.

We were also made happy on Sabbath, April 4, when the new churches of Phuket and Bankhian were officially organized. At that time there were twenty-four members in the Bankhian Church and twenty-three in the Phuket Church. The Bankhian members are enjoying their new church home and members of the Phuket Church are anticipating a greatly needed church building program in the near future. This group will soon number sixty members.

During the month of May a baptism of eight was conducted at the seaside near Haadyai. Nai Boonlert, chaplain of the Haadyai hospital, along with others of that institution worked hard to make this baptism possible under God's blessing. Recent reports from Haadyai indicate others will soon be ready.

We rejoice that forty-nine new Seventh-day Adventists have taken their places with God's people in South Thailand thus far this year. May their number increase. Some of these dear souls have passed through real faith-testing experiences. We pray that these new lambs will be faithful and will win others as they grow in the grace of our dear Lord.

Johore Vacation Bible School

By Eileen Lantry

Only through the providential leadership of God was the way opened for the first Vacation Bible School held in the Federation of Malaya. The opposition encountered in this Muslim state of Johore seemed to us to be insurmountable, but God not only found a very suitable place for us to hold the school, but also provided all the students we could care for.

For weeks we wrote letters and made appointments with officials asking permission to use various buildings or vacant schools. Always we were treated kindly, but were firmly told that because we were Christians only the State department could grant us the use of a public building. And the State officials, being Muslims, were unwilling to do this.

Precious time was passing, and the opening date for our school, which we called the Character Building School, CBS, were very near. Finally, after several unsuccessful interviews with doctors, school headmasters, and others, Mrs. Pauline Barnett, Mr. Chin Chow Khoon, the pastor, and I went to the car and began to pray again. Mr. Lim Teck Siang, a church member and teacher at the English College, in Johore Bahru (Continued on page 6.)

Sunny Hill Vacation Bible School

By Yap Nyuk Chiew

Jesus stressed the importance of working for the children. Hence from the 20th of April to the 1st of May, at the Sunny Hill School, a second Vacation Bible School was conducted. The first one was conducted by the School in 1962. But this second Vacation Bible School was conducted by the Kuching Church with Miss Gladys Yap as the head mistress, assisted by Mrs. James Wong. With the combined efforts, co-operation and hard work of some of the church members, sabbath school members and teachers, the Vacation Bible School scored a great success.

The Vacation Bible School had three departments, viz, the Kindergarten, Primary and Junior. Most of the children are from non-adventist homes. The Lord blessed our efforts in bringing Christ to these children. We had Chinese, Malay, Javanese and Filipino children in our Vacation Bible School—showing a good sample of "Malaysia in the faith."

Our activities included games and crafts. The children learned to fold nature forms, such as birds, animals, trees and flowers and they also learnt spattering and painting.



Sunnyhill VBS graduates

In the religious aspects, we taught the children to sing and pray. Stories and lessons were planned to give them simple knowledge of the Bible. By the close of the course, some of them had memorized the books of the Bible and memory verse gems.

May 3 was a big day for them! The children, smartly dressed sat quietly in the chapel ready to receive their certificates. Before that Pastor Jerry Chong spoke on behalf of the church concerning the purpose of the Vacation Bible School.

There were twenty-one graduates from the Kindergarten, fifty from

the Primary and thirty-three from the Junior, making a total of one hundred and four graduates. We were privileged to have Mrs. Si-barani present the certificates. Following the consecration prayer by Mrs. Milton Lee the parents and friends went to the school hall to see the exhibition of the children's crafts. The guests expressed their appreciation and remarked that such a project was profitable.

We feel that we had arrived at our goal. The non-adventist Vacation Bible School students stated: "We have come to learn more about God." May the Lord continue to bless these "Little Ones."

SAUC News Items

DEPARTMENTALIZATION OF ACADEMIC PROGRAM—At a recent meeting of the SAUC Board of Management, study was given to the need for a more clearly defined departmentalization of the academic program of the college. As a result of the study, the following department heads were appointed to give direction to the various academic phases of the school: Department of Religion—G. D. Thompson; Department of Science and Mathematics—D. Tan; Department of Languages—S. F. Chu; Department of Commerce—S. C. Wu; Department of Music—N. Zamora; Department of Education—N. Zalabak.

The chairmen, with the various members of their teaching staff, are now studying the objectives of their departments and the present curricular offerings as compared with

those of sister institutions. The results of these studies will mean a strengthened and more meaningful program of education for those enrolled in college studies at SAUC.

M. C. C. NEWS—The newly formed Medical Cadet Corps for the Singapore area has been meeting each Sunday afternoon under the leadership of Dr. S. R. Guthrie, Mr. Laurence Chu, and Mr. Lee Yan Tuck. A request has been placed with the College to assume administrative direction for the unit. Study is now being given towards the issuance of college credit for the program.

On Friday evening Elder C. D. Martin, Youth Leader and MCC Commandant of the Far Eastern Division, reviewed the status of the corps in various countries of the Division and encouraged our local corps members to be faithful in their training.

EXTENSION SCHOOL—SAUC co-operated with the Union Education Department in holding Extension Schools in Sabah and Sarawak during the August vacation period. Miss Naomi Zalabak represented the College and taught a class in methods. Mr. J. G. Keyes of the Far Eastern Academy was a guest instructor in the area of methods in teaching English Language.

F.E.D. EDUCATION SECRETARY ADDRESSES FACULTY—Elder Boyd Olson, Educational Secretary for the Far Eastern Division, spent several hours on the campus of the College recently and spoke to the faculty at their Sunday morning session. He stressed the need for a continuous evaluation of the standards that are accepted by the Seventh-day Adventist college. This evaluation must begin with the teacher himself and

his relationship to his class; then by the teaching staff as a whole and their relationship to the standards and objectives of the school, and lastly by the administration and its relationship to the standards and objectives of the church in matters of Christian education.

Saigon Medical Cadet Corp

By Wilbur A. Burton, Company Commander

In September, 1963, the first Saigon Medical Cadet Corp was organized. Considering the political situation at that time under President Diem, we dared not ask permission for such a program. Hundreds of people were being arrested every day and many times the evidence was no greater than a jealous neighbor's testimony. Consequently, we felt that we must TELL the authorities what we were doing. Seeing our men in uniform and drilling, it was quite likely that some one might report us to the police.

Therefore, we made our way to the authorities and told them we had organized a corp. Seemingly unable to understand such action, they merely said, "Come back in six weeks and we will give you an answer to this request".

"Oh, no," we replied, "we do not wish to bother you with a request. We are merely telling you how we



MCC inspection by W. A. Burton, Saigon; Clark Smith, Washington, D. C.; Sargeant Barker, U. S. Army; C. D. Martin and J. Lantry, Singapore.

are trying to help the government by training our young men in drill and simple first aid."

Intense interest shown on every face as we explained our doctrines involved and gave them more de-

tails of our program. When an invitation was given them to come and visit us, they actually smiled and thanked us.

But the real surprise came six weeks later when a new law was passed in Vietnam saying that every high school must begin a program of military training. The outline was amazingly like the one we had submitted for them on our first visit.

Upon Colonel Smith's arrival in Saigon, we visited the US Military Medical Advisors and the new local government. We found them co-operative and even enthusiastic about our program. US Advisors have already given considerable aid to us. And the local government has, for the first time, made arrangements for our men who have taken MCC to be put in the medical branch of the army. We thank God for this!

The Five Day Plan

By H. W. Bedwell

In recent times there has developed a program called the Five Day Plan to assist people to make a decision to stop smoking and to discontinue the tobacco habit. This

(To page 7.)



Medical Cadet Corp on inspection

Cooking School Held in Bangkok

By Pastor Chester Damron,

In answer to the many requests for demonstrations on the preparation of healthful foods using native products, the Bangkok Sanitarium Church recently held its first Cooking School. Many of our national believers had asked to be taught how to prepare healthful dishes, especially protein dishes, using natural products rather than flesh foods.

Mrs. Wanda R. Smith, who has spent many years in Thailand, served as the leader for the School. Her great interest and experience in this important field was a blessing to the large number who attended nightly. Conducted each Wednesday evening for six weeks, the attendance averaged over 175 each night. Through the cooperation of the Bangkok Sanitarium and Hospital, we were able to accommodate the large crowd in the hospital cafeteria. Recipes were given out nightly at the close of the demonstrations and lectures and tempting samples were available to all.

In addition to the demonstrations, lectures were given on the need of an adequate diet, the need for reg-



Mrs. Wanda Smith giving instruction at BSH cooking school.

ular times for eating and adequate rest as well as other timely topics were discussed by Chester H. Damron, the pastor, in cooperation with the medical personnel of the hospital.

Those in attendance were asked to try the recipes and many reported that they were pleasantly surprised to see just how many things can be prepared from natural foods. Many non-Adventist were in at-

tendance each evening. On the closing night more than one hundred participants received diplomas in completion of the course on Healthful Living and Nutrition. In all this we sought to carry out the words of counsel of Mrs. E. G. White when she wrote "Present Truth lies in the work of health reform as verily as in other features of the gospel work." **Councils on Diet and Foods, p. 72**

SAUC Exceeds Ingathering Goal

By L. R. Downing

The June planning council for the 1964 Singapore Ingathering Campaign met in an atmosphere of perplexity. This was the year that an all-out effort had been planned to complete the SAUC building program. Acting president Daniel Tan had laid the groundwork for the campaign with the same care that had assured victory in previous years when the unexpected blow fell. First, confrontation had seriously hurt many of the business firms who in the past had donated considerable sums to our church projects.

The second and more serious problem was a regulation recently approved by the Education Department which forbade street solicitation of funds by students and also the solicitation by the school ad-

ministration from parents. Then, like Job's experience, a third restriction came from the security department of the police force. We were informed that all contributions would have to be sent directly to the treasurer of the college and be receipted by him personally.

These issues loomed over the Committee as a cloud threatening the total campaign. An earnest season of prayer, invoking the intervening influence of God was held. Then the problem was studied from a positive approach. What could be done? First, it was agreed that as law-abiding citizens, the regulations must not be circumvented in any manner. Gradually a pattern of approach evolved. New materials were printed. Letters in English and Chinese were prepared for distribution. Return address envelopes and registered envelopes were secured to help donors to more easily send in their contributions.

June 17 saw the opening of a month-long campaign. The student

body was informed of the new restrictions. The traditional two-day field excursions were to be abandoned. Then they were asked to set their goals. Each class accepted the previous year's goal as the one toward which they would strive, in spite of the seeming absurdity of the attainment. The administration goal of \$5,000.00 was maintained.

Veteran solicitors Pastors Tan and Wu expressed their willingness to work with the administration in the drive. Local church leaders, Division and Union workers volunteered to assist and the blessing of God came in a marked manner. Day after day Pastors Tan and Wu escorted members of the volunteer group to various business friends to present to them our needs. At first the checks came in sporadically and then a regular flow began. One day \$1,000 was received; the next \$1,200; then \$1,400 and \$1,600. Rarely a day passed during the

(Continued on page 7.)



AFTER READING Lesson 20 I realize that Saturday is the only day that Christians should keep as the Sabbath. I am very sad to say however, that my mother observes the first day of the week and she will not be happy to see me disobey her and keep the Sabbath. Please help me to know what to say to my mother for I realize I must keep the Sabbath.

Johore Vacation Bible School (From page 2.)

suggested we try some private schools. We drove up and down the streets of the city looking. Mr. Lim knew of a place on the outskirts of the city but on our way he directed the car wrongly and turned into a dead-end street. This mistake was truly providential for we had to turn our car around at a place that said, "Public English School". It was not used as a school, but as a dwelling place and a factory. Everything was in a state of confusion, and we felt it was most unsuitable, so we didn't even get out of the car. As we were turning around, an Indian lady, the wife of the headmaster, came out and asked us what we wanted. We thought we would drive on, when someone said, "Let's tell her our problem. Maybe she could help."

So we stopped and explained what we needed and planned to do, saying that we had no money for rent, as our church group in Johore Bahru was about 30 members and we had very little money.

Mrs. Samuel asked just one question, "Are you going to teach the children the gospel story of Jesus Christ?"

"Yes," we answered, "along with crafts, games and other character building stories."

"Well, if that is your plan, you may have the use of our school free. We are Christians and would like to do what we can to help those around. Our tenants are planning to move in a short time, and the building will be vacant. We will clean it for you and get it ready."

We were overwhelmed at all her suggestions, for we didn't ask for any favors, but when she added, "You may also use all our desks

I WISH to become a Christian, so what must I do and where must I go in order to fulfill this wish? I shall be grateful if you will please tell me.

I WOULD like to express my grateful thanks to you for your wonderful lessons of guidance to Christianity. I have always wanted to be a Christian so I will try to get permission from my parents in order to answer your request in joining church services. Will you please acquaint me to the necessary procedures I must follow in order to join the church? Please give me full details.

and benches, too, if you like," we thought of the promises of God to give us full measure, pressed down and running over. God had solved another problem we had been concerned about.

Several weeks later, in a clean, attractive decorated environment, over twenty teachers and helpers greeted our first students. Because of elections, school was still going on, and there were no Seventh-day Adventist children available. Would anyone come? We had put up 45 posters and given out 1200 handbills. Now we prayed, and on enrollment day only 34 children came. However, on the first day God sent us 74 children. How happy we were! But each day our enrollment increased until we had about 115.

This group of over 100 kept coming each day, and many days we almost had to force the children to go home.

A large group of these students had never even seen a Bible before. Each day we had almost 50 teenagers and they were extremely interested in the Word of God. Several Indian boys who are Sikhs, said they knew nothing of God, and one very intelligent Chinese boy had a hard time believing that the wonders of Heaven were really true. What a joy and a privilege it was to present the gospel story to these fine children who had never heard it before. They asked many questions, and seemed so happy to learn. They were especially talented in the crafts and did excellent work, and they learned the gospel songs, ably taught by Earl Anchant, in a very short time. The teachers who were from the youth of Johore Church, are from Southeast Asia Union College, presented the lessons

I AM GLAD and rejoice in your great concern and interest for me. Above all I thank God for His immeasurable love for mankind. I would be very ungrateful if I didn't thank God for this Bible course which has been a great help to me in my Christian walk with Christ.

AFTER MY PARENTS forbade me to proceed with my Bible course I tried my best to beat it, but my faith in God is too strong. Whenever I thought of it I grew dejected and sick at heart. I want to complete my course.

in a wonderful way, and held the interest of the children.

Mrs. Roderick and Mrs. Guthrie had about fifty wiggling, noisy and precious kindergarten children. There were Chinese, Eurasians, Indian, British and American Children all working together in a happy way learning of the love of Jesus. When they sang that Jesus loves all the children of the world, they could see most of the races in their own little room.

The children did remarkably well in the closing program, and a large number of parents came and expressed their appreciation. One hundred and twenty one certificates were issued to the happy children.

But this is not the end of our story. Now we have organized a Bible Marking class for the teenagers. Here they will learn the stories of the Bible, mark the important texts, and by coming fifteen times will receive the Bible they have marked. So far between 35 and 40 have been coming. These children are all over ten years of age. We also have a small branch Sabbath school for the little folks. So far, two of the children in the character building school have been coming regularly to Sabbath school, and we hope many more will come. We are also organizing a Pathfinder Club for these eager children, and it is our plan to have Dr. Guthrie give health lectures for the parents.

We members in the little Johore Bahru church feel sure that God will continue to bless the efforts He has started. A little seed has been sown and now we are praying for the bountiful outpouring of the Holy Spirit, for we know that with God's help we can find many precious youth to lead to Him.



C. Damron a speaker at BSH Five Day Plan

**The 5 Day Plan
(From page 4.)**

plan has been used in many places with usually a good degree of interest and success. Some months ago the workers in Bangkok gave some study to the holding of such a program in Bangkok at the hospital.

As a result two such programs have been held in Bangkok in the chapel of the nurses building with a good degree of success. The first Five Day Plan was held June 28 to July 2 with twenty to twenty-five non-Adventists in attendance. The group was comprised of important military, business, and professional people of the city. The program was directed by Dr. Roger Nelson and Pastor Chester Damron and was well received.

The second Five Day Plan in Bangkok was held to meet the demand of others who desired to attend such a program and receive

help in stopping the smoking habit. This was conducted by Dr. Roger Nelson and Dr. James Crawford. The attendance to this series was somewhat better than the first with a good degree of success in the number who discontinued the habit.

A third Five Day Plan was conducted in Penang in a rented Hall. Dr. R. F. Waddell, Pastor D. R. Guild, and Pastor P. H. Eldridge led out in this program. Pastor W. E. Smith, R. Runyan and others in Penang gave valuable help during the series. In Penang the attendance averaged about sixty persons. Of this number nearly 70% declared that they had discontinued smoking. In the Bangkok series the percentage was even higher due to the fact that the attendance was limited to a smaller group who were seriously determined to break the tobacco habit.

These three Five Day Plan meetings in Bangkok and Penang reveal

there is a deepseated interest in the part of many persons to stop smoking. These meetings reveal that such a program can be held very successful in our union area. We plan for more such meetings soon in other areas.

**SAUC Exceeds Ingathering Goal
(From page 5.)**

latter part of the drive that less than \$1,000 was received. Supplies became exhausted as enthusiastic students church members and non-church members alike, went to their friends to present our needs. Pastor S. F. Chu, headmaster of the secondary school visited classes on a regular schedule urging and encouraging student participation. Additional typists were recruited to write "thank you" letters to the donors and then it was all over!

Reporting day began in a light drizzle at 8:30 a.m. Friday, July 17. The adding machine rested in the shelter of the hallway and as each class reported the totals were tallied. As the figures rolled in Elder Sorensen, the guest of honor, kept an informal tally in his notebook. Five hundred dollars, seven hundred fifty, a thousand and three, two thousand and seven, five thousand and thirty, ten thousand — twenty-one thousand seven hundred! The goal had been reached and exceeded! True the excess amount was not as great as in previous years; true, the surrounding churches leaders had helped, yet those present had seen a miracle performed before their very eyes, and the students themselves had raised well over half of the total amount!

The anthem, "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" wafted above the old classroom buildings and out across the community as a thousand voices were lifted in thanksgiving.

Mrs. J. Lantry and Mrs. R. Guthrie at Johore Bahru VBS



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Editor H. W. BEDWELL

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Saigon Baptisms

By H. A. Burton, Acting President

On Sabbath, June 13, reveling in that peculiar excitement that accompanies a baptismal service, I looked at the twelve expectant faces in this group. One youth had been at Camp with me recently — he had raised his hand in full dedication. Others, I knew, had had a Jacob's Struggle in surrendering to Jesus. On my left stood a man, a tall fellow, Anh Hai, and he had told me an unusual story.

In 1953 Anh Hai was a millionaire. "A trucking company, a fleet of taxis, wine, cigarettes, and travel occupied my time." Anh Hai smiled but his eyes lowered to examine the wheels of his motor scooter. Then he continued, "Somehow I didn't mix my interests in the correct proportions. Ten years ago I drove my car and my wife had her own car but now I ride a motor scooter."

Quickly he related how the piaster began to lose its value and soon his world of luxury crumbled.

Ba Xam, his mother, was forced to seek work. At this same time, Pastor Wallace was looking for someone to help in his home. Ba Xam took the job, later working for Pastor Storz and finally for the Saigon Adventist Hospital.

By this time Anh Hai was penniless and Ba Xam suggested he work



Pastor Burton baptizing Anh Hai.

at the hospital. Liking the idea and the salary offered, Anh Hai went to work as an electrician. Solemnly Anh Hai had told me that everyone working at the hospital was required to go to worship. He believed what he heard but felt no desire to be baptized. Why should he? He liked the church members but he noticed that they seemingly had to fight the battle with sin just as he did! So baptism could wait!

Eventually though, Anh Hai was prodded into reading the Bible for himself.

"What a revelation!" Anh Hai exclaimed. "Would you believe it? Many Bible people were sinners also!"

"True," I agreed.

"But Pastor Burton, the important thing is not that they sinned. Oh, no! The thing that really counts is that they always asked for forgiveness. Once I understood that, I read with new interest."

"You mean that you read the Bible with new interest?" I queried.

"Yes," he answered. "But more than that. I also began to read the newspapers with new understanding. As I read what was happening in the world, I knew that Jesus Second Coming must be near. I decided to stop looking at other people as they struggled to win against Satan and get in there and start doing it myself!"

"You preach an eloquent sermon, Anh Hai," I thought.

Once again Anh Hai spoke. "Before I had lots of money but little happiness. I just was never satisfied. Now, at last, I have found real happiness."



12 baptized in Saigon, Pastor Burton on the left and Pastor Xuan on the right.