

The Messenger

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



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Evangelism in Kuching, Sarawak

By Daniel R. Guild

Early this year in preparation for a Chinese effort in Kuching, a special series of Chinese Bible Correspondence lessons were widely circulated. Lectures in Manadarin were then presented by Milton Lee, Division evangelist, and translated into Hakha by Jerry Chang, the local pastor. The meetings were held in a metal tabernacle which was constructed on government land in the heart of town.

The initial series was followed in July and August by a special series on Daniel presented by Pastor Chang. To date thirty-one have been baptized.

During September in the same tabernacle the writer conducted a three week series of meetings in English.

Members of the church and the faculty of the Sunny Hill School had given themselves whole-heartedly to the previous two efforts. Although both teachers and students were busy with year-end examination preparation, they again went all out to make the English meetings a success.

In spite of a heavy rain the opening meeting on Sunday night, October 3 found the tabernacle about two-thirds full. The attendance increased on Monday night and through the week. Weekends found the tabernacle which seats 500 jammed to capacity.

The Sunny Hill teachers took charge of the various committees and saw that everything ran smoothly. Mr. P. Y. Choo was in charge of lighting and sound, Mr. S. Teo headed the ushers and was in charge of transportation, Mr. Gordon



Sunny Hill School Choir and teachers and others who assisted in the Kuching meetings.

Chong operated the projectors, Mrs. Siew Kian Chiu was in charge of the receptionists, Miss Agnes Yap (a convert from Pastor Lee's effort) kept the attendance records. The music committee was headed by Mr. Hulman Sinaga, assisted by Mr. Jeffry Pauner. Pastor Chang and Pastor James Wong, Sunny Hill principal, coordinated the activities of these committees and also the literature distribution and visitation committees.

Special mention should be made by the Sunny Hill Songsters, a choir of thirty voices composed of students and teachers, who contributed much to the success of the meetings.

People of all the major races attended the meetings: Sea Dyak,

Land Dyak, Chinese, and Malay. More than half of the attendants were Sunny Hill School students. Many town people of all ages and walks of life attended. Two hundred copies of the **Marked Bible** were awarded to those who attended at least seven meetings. One hundred and fifty larger books were awarded to those who attended regularly.

During the final weekend the meetings were climaxed by a baptism of eight on Sabbath morning and by altar calls on Friday and Saturday nights when seventy-six persons came forward in surrender and to prepare for baptism.

The closing Sunday night a Bible marking class was organized for

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One in Twelve

By Charles Harris, Secretary
Treasurer, Vietnam Mission

The preacher arose to bring his message to the audience. His opening text was the eleventh chapter of Hebrews which gives the list of the Biblical characters who were men of faith. The speaker then mentioned some stories about men living in modern times who were also willing to work in places so dangerous that some laborers gave their lives in order that the gospel might go. As he went on with his sermon loud intermittent booms could be heard not so far away. The audience appeared not to have heard the thundering sounds but paid close attention to what the man behind the pulpit had to say.

This experience took place in an Adventist Church but the audience was not just an ordinary group of church folk who were in attendance but a group of evangelists—yes, literature evangelists. The minister behind the desk was Pastor John Mason, assistant publishing secretary of the Far Eastern Division. The church in Phun Nhuan, Vietnam which is a section of Saigon, the capital, and the loud thundering sounds were that of gun and mortar fire only a few miles away between the forces of the Republic of Vietnam and the Viet Cong. Hardship, destruction and poverty are far too common in a country that has been at war for the most part of more than two decades. Funeral proces-



Colporteurs who attended the institute at Da Nong (Tourane, Vietnam)

sions can be seen frequently in this country and this is understandable when the facts reveal that more than 100,000 have been killed on both sides during the last decade besides the deaths from natural causes in a population of approximately 13,000,000 persons.

The Adventist membership of Vietnam is approximately 1,200 says Pastor W. A. Burton, Acting President, but the number of literature evangelists is 98 not counting the publishing department secretary and his three assistants. Brother Do Binh has ably led out in the work for seven years. Vietnam is fortunate to have its own press and

Brother Le Cong Giao is the manager with fifteen full time workers. Sometimes it takes a night shift to keep up with the many colporteurs that go from door to door. During the past ten years nine of our colporteurs have been captured by the Viet Cong with two being released after spending almost two months in captivity but the other seven have not been heard of since. Pastor John Bernet, the union publishing secretary and Pastor John Mason, assistant secretary of the Division held an institute in Da Nang (Tourane) near the 17th parallel (close to North Vietnam). Da Nang is a very dangerous area at the present but our work in that part is progressing rapidly. If we had one colporteur for each 12 members we would no doubt soon finish the work.

Some have lost their lives but the stories of the Lord's protection for the others are very impressive. One day one of the colporteurs was going to his field of work in a bus. On the way the bus was overtaken and passed by another bus going to the same general area. Just after the second bus passed the one our brother was on, it ran over a land mine and blew up killing several persons in it. Another one of our colporteurs was on his way to his territory and the vehicle following his bus ran over a land mine killing several persons immediately behind the bus he was on. Another time the bus on which



Colporteurs who attended the institute at Saigon, Vietnam

(Continued on page 7.)

Good Success Inspite of Hardships

By John Bernet, Pub. Secy.,
Southeast Asia Union

Soon after the Gulf of Tonkin bombings we went to Vietnam to attend their annual colporteur meetings. When the PAA jet plane landed at Saigon airport, and we got out, our Vietnam believers said they were surprised that we had dared come. Jet fighters screamed overhead, tanks and armoured cars rumbled through the streets. Everywhere we could see people even school children digging bomb shelters as they expected open war any time.

God's work is going forward with strength in Vietnam inspite of all this. Two wonderful literature evangelist sales and souls convention were held during August 9-19. The opening meeting was conducted in the Saigon SDA church. Elder John T. Mason, assistant publishing secretary for the Far Eastern Division gave the opening address. The second meeting was held at Danang for the colporteurs of Central Vietnam. Altogether nearly one hundred colporteurs were in attendance at both meetings. Publishing secretary, Do Binh, and his three assistants, Le Von Huong, Pham Cuu, and Tran Ngoc De had the meetings well organized. There is much trouble in this country, but still the faces of the literature ministers radiated peace and happiness.

Many inspiring stories were told by the heroic colporteurs. Brother Pham So, a literature evangelist for eleven years, was thrown in jail for six months for carrying the gospel.

Vo Dai Danh worked for four years, and has won five souls. He was kidnapped last November. After being held for 53 days, was released, and is carrying on his literature ministry with greater enthusiasm than ever.

Land mines, hand grenades, bullets, and ambush, cannot dampen the spirits of the 98 Vietnamese literature evangelists, and four publishing secretaries. In keeping with the good work that our bookmen are doing, the Vietnam Signs Press is producing the most beautiful literature in Indo-China. A third group of literature evangelists, is now working in that country. Brother Le Cong Giao and the press have prepared a beautiful health-



Colporteurs who attended the institute in Bangkok

religious booklet of 36 pages, which sells for 15 piasters.

During July, Vietnam's literature ministers worked a total of 12,029 hours, sold 346,235.00 piasters, enrolled 3,196 in the VOP, and witnessed the baptism of 30 souls from their contacts. We salute the Vietnam book evangelists for their good reports inspite of great hardships.

Special mention should be made of editorial worker, Le Van Khoa for the most outstanding job that he is doing in preparing such attractive and appropriate materials for the colporteurs to sell.

The "Guardian of Health" in the Cambodian language is now off the press. It is being sold in combination with "The Prince and the Rebel", a very religious book for Buddhists that Mrs. Ralph Neall has written. During the colporteur institute in Phnom Penh, Elder J. Mason gave the gospel salesmen some very fine tips on how to sell to the public. The Cambodian colporteurs spent one day sight seeing at the historic Angkor Wat. As they saw those centuries old gods of wood and stone, that now lay broken and decayed, they sent a prayer of thanks to their living heavenly Father, for having brought them out of darkness into light and re-dedicated themselves to the unfinished task in Cambodia.

Thailand is the land of good durian and yellow robed priests. It is a stronghold of Buddhism. Only a few have been won to Christ so far. However, we have been receiving some Caleb and Joshua reports from there these days. Publishing Secretaries, Abel

Pangan, and David Chung, recently went on a Big Week together in August. After they arrived in their territory, they contacted the president of the Rotary Club, who invited them to their meeting the next day. At the meeting, they each gave a short speech, and made the acquaintance of many prominent business men. As the result of these contacts, they made twenty sales.

Each sale ranged in value from Ticals 440.00 to Ticals 940.00. In a short time they had exhausted their supply of books and had to return home. Their total sales for Big Week was Ticals 22,000.00 (US\$1,100.00). In addition to the sales, they handed out 120 pieces of free literature, enrolled 10 in the VOP, and had prayer in 20 homes.

During July, 22 Thai literature evangelists worked 1,731 hours, sold ticals 63,761.00 worth of literature, and gave 104 Bible studies.

A good institute was conducted in Bangkok, with twenty colporteurs in attendance. Chief gospel sales instructor, John T. Mason did a magnificent job as he did at the three previous ones. Several bookmen remarked how practical they thought Elder Mason's instruction was.

We are grateful for the dedication of our publishing family around the Southeast Asia Union, and for the good success that they are having inspite of hardships. The hour is late, the need is great, let us pray that many hundreds more of our dedicated laymen will join these heroic soldiers of the cross in giving our message of hope to perishing sinners.

Success in Spite of Difficulties

By T. K. Chong, Pastor

Owing to the recent disturbances in the City of Singapore many wondered if it would be wise to go ahead with the Character Building School, the first Vacation Bible School to be held in the Balestier Road Church. However, the preliminary work and planning had been done. There was a sense of urgency that the children should learn about Jesus and share the good news with their parents. So it was decided to proceed with the Character Building school as planned.

The response exceeded the planning and expectations of the leaders. More than two hundred children came and the amount of work put forth in preparation was not in vain. It had been thought that recent political disturbances in the city would prevent the children from attending but the children came throughout the week. The stories, the songs, the illustrations, the crafts all thrilled the children.

One of the parents remarked to the writer, "I wonder how you people could handle so many children at one time." The parents were greatly impressed by the display of crafts made by the children



Balestier Road Church VBS kindergarten group and leader, Mrs. J. Mason

in so short a time. At the closing program when Mrs. R. H. Roderick, the director of the school, asked how many children would like to attend another Character Building School next year, all hands of the more than two hundred children went up. Many of the parents attended the closing day program in the church where the

children presented the program after which the visitors viewed the crafts made by the children.

Each day cold drinks and cookies were given to the children. This was made possible by the parents bringing cookies and by Mrs. K. S. Chin arranging with Framrox Limited to donate fruit syrups and ice for the drinks. We are very grateful for the help given by the many different persons to make this school such a wonderful success.

Fifteen percent of the children attending were from Adventist homes and the other 85 percent from the homes of non-Adventists. Such a program as this requires the help of many persons. Other churches in Singapore assisted Balestier Road. Mrs. D. M. Barnett, union Sabbath school secretary, was present during this week. We read from the Spirit of Prophecy, "The soul of the little child that believe in Christ is as precious in His sight as are the angels about His throne." It was this thought that motivated and inspired the many persons who made the Character Building School a success. As a result of this school twenty children are now attending a Bible Marking Class.

The staff of the Character Building School for 1964 was composed of the following persons: Director, Mrs. R. H. Roderick, song leader,



Balestier Road Church VBS primary group and leader, Mrs. E. Rau

Malacca Missionary Volunteers

By Miss Nancy Yap

When plans were made for our Character Building School at Malacca, we were very optimistic about its success. Though we were inexperienced in this kind of work, we, with God's help determined to do our very best to ensure its success. With our materials in hand and with smiles on our faces, we went out to invite the children to come to our Character Building School.

The first day of our school was on August 9. We wondered just how many children would be present when the opening time of nine o'clock in the morning would arrive. We were very much taken aback to see 54 eager, earnest and enthusiastic children present. We did all that we could to capture their interest with songs and choruses, visual aids, stories, crafts and games. All of these were well prepared but of course we did not forget to ask the help of the Great Teacher above.

On the second day of the Char-



Malacca VBS group and leaders

acter Building School 60 were present and each day the number increased until we had a total enrollment of 72 children. How these children loved to sing the songs and listen to the stories. They were so interested in the workbook—God's Holy Book. Crafts and games added to their interest and enjoyment and made everything seem so interesting and wonderful.

On the last day many parents

and friends visited the Character Building School to attend the closing program. At its close they were shown around to see the display of crafts. Not a few parents were filled with gratitude to know that the children spent their time so beneficially at the Character Building School. During the eight days we were made glad that the children did find in Jesus a Great Teacher and a lover of children.

Mr. E. Rau; pianist, Betty Millard; craft leaders, Betty Millard, Ellen Kho, Mrs. R. H. Roderick; kindergarten leader, Mrs. J. T. Mason; assistant kindergarten leader, Mrs. D. Aldridge; primary leader, Mrs. E. Rau; junior leader, Mr. B. Chan; treasurer, Mrs. L. R. Templeton; teachers in the kindergarten department; Goh Mui Kian, Mrs. Tang

Lup Seng, Judy Bruce, Genee Guild, Esther Chong, Maureen Chong, Linda Ludden, Kathy Coffin, Lenore Paul; primary department, Susie Lim, Ellen Kho, Mary Ang, Edmund Leong, Yvonne Ong, Florena Hutabarat; junior department, Jasper Hutabarat, Winston Beh, Jenny Soh, Adeline Tan, Floris Hutabarat.

Evangelism in Kuching, Sarawak (From page 1)

those interested. Sixty-six enrolled in the class to be conducted by James Wong each Friday and Saturday nights for five weeks. Let us pray earnestly for Pastors Wong and Chang as they prepare those who will be baptized in the months ahead.



Malacca VBS pupils and teachers at craft time.



Dinner time for Kuching Pathfinders during camping.

Pathfinder Camping

By S. Teo, Kuching

Nineteen enthusiastic boys waited impatiently for the time for camping to come. They belonged to the Pluto Club of the boys' Pathfinder organization of Sunny Hill School in Kuching, Sarawak.

For one week these boys enjoyed their time in camp. They learned to do many things by themselves. They went hiking, swimming, play-

ed games, studied the stars, took nature walks, had prayer bands, and worked together. Every hour of the day was occupied with some useful activity.

But all good things must come to an end and so the nineteen Pathfinders finally returned home full of enthusiasm for the good time they had and the things they learned. This successful camping was under the leadership of Samuel Teo and Liu Thien Chin.

Missionary Work of the Highest Order

By Elden B. Smith,
Home Missionary Secretary,
Thailand

A day at our Chiangmai Mission Station is a fascinating experience. Recently our two Mao student workers brought a man down from the mountains who had given up spirit worship but was bound by opium. Dr. Clark Lamberton (a dentist) generously found a place for him to stay and then helped him with medication and much personal interest. After three weeks the Mao man was feeling better and expressed a strong determination not to smoke opium again.

This man returned to the mountain village and soon sent his wife and three friends to take the cure. Again the Lambertons were equal to the challenge and found room for these needy people. You can

imagine how terribly these people feel as the withdrawal pains seize them. One lady was not able to bear it and though she didn't seem to suffer as much as the others yet the pain and homesickness were too much for her and on the second day she disappeared.

Now concerning the "day" I especially had in mind. It was Sabbath, the sixth day after the visitors arrived. Early that morning Dr. Lamberton went out to see how his patients had gotten along during the night. After a quick breakfast he was on his motor scooter heading across town to see a young man who had once been a church member but had turned away from God. Some years ago someone had prescribed phenobarbital for his asthma. In recent months he had become more and more dependent upon this drug as an escape and was taking it in excessive doses, until he had begun to suffer with hallucinations and finally had lost touch with reality. The boys con-

dition was so serious that a medical doctor stated that if he did not show immediate improvement he would have to be committed to the mental hospital. The day before this Sabbath Dr. Lamberton managed to switch the phenobarbital with some Vitamin B tablets.

As soon as the doctor returned from this call of mercy it was time to take his Volkswagen truck and go after a load of church members who lived outside of town. When lunch was over it was time for Branch Sabbath School and again the Volkswagen truck was so loaded that the writer had to stay behind. Following Branch Sabbath School the Lambertons invited a number of the young people to go for a ride out into the countryside, from which they returned in time to join the church school teacher and students in a vesper service.

With the Sabbath activities over it was again time to give attention to the real needy. First in line was the older opium smoker who had been on the drug for nearly fifteen years. This man was having severe pain so the doctor prepared a warm enema and instructed one of the student workers how to give it to the patient. While doctor was giving some additional medicine someone came bringing a note from the mother who was taking care of her near "wild" son. She stated that she couldn't stand it any longer and to please come and bring them to the Mission Compound where they would feel more secure. So off the doctor went in his trusty VW truck and before long returned with the new patient. It took some time to fix up a store room so the mother and boy could stay in it. At ten o'clock the doctor had his shirt off when he said, "Oh, yes, I promised to have a look at the teacher's baby who is sick with a fever." It was a real full day but I suppose not so different from many others. It is a good thing that dentistry is related to medicine and a good thing that we have missionaries with large hearts. If you want to see mission work of the highest order just visit an outlying mission station such as this dental clinic in Chiangmai, North Thailand.

Seeking for Light

By Mrs. Maurice Wong, Teacher

Our school in Tenghlan Sabah, is situated in the midst of people



Kuching Pathfinders building a shelter

who are longing for the light of the gospel. The Missionary Volunteer Society in the church school is paying attention to these folks who are so eager to find out about our faith.

A few older children are very willing to help their teachers in promoting the MV Target 3000. We had only six leaders including the teachers to begin work in a village about one and a half miles away from the church. This kampong is surrounded by padi-fields and hills. Its name is Lapai with nearly all the houses made from bamboo with roofs of nipah or sago leaves. Only a few people can afford to have wooden houses with zinc roofs. The main work of the villagers is farming.

The first home we visited was at the edge of a hill. We told the family that we are their new friends paying them a visit. We are invited to come again the next Sabbath which we were so glad to do. These visits led to the baptism of a boy sixteen years of age with the name of Mosi. He has a crippled brother who is also interested but he is too shy to be brought to the church. To keep up his interest we are still visiting his family and giving him studies. We believe that he might also be won to the truth.

Mosi's younger brothers attend Sabbath School and other meetings

too so we hope that you will pray with us for this family. Their parents are usually out in the fields at work as we seldom meet them.

A little girl named "Pew" who attended the meetings in this house was led by the Spirit and she also was baptized. She invited us to visit her folks. Her mother and sisters were happy to have us visited them.

It pays to visit for they are now attending Sabbath services to learn more. We are so grateful for what the Lord has done for in less than six months there were four baptized due to Bible studies, prayers, and earnest labour. During one meeting my husband noticed a bright looking little boy sitting quietly and listening attentively. He asked the boy if we might visit him in his house. He ran home to obtain permission from his mother. She consented and so the group went. To their surprise they saw a blind lady who was waiting at the door to welcome them. She mentioned to the group what her son had heard at the meetings. She said, "I believe in your teachings but how can I attend church when my father does not permit me?" She stays with her parents for her husband had left her. We encouraged her not to give up for prayers can do wonders.

One of our very active Missionary Volunteers is Malim Bokah, a former pupil of Tenghilan School. He is starting a Branch Sabbath School in kampong Kobuan about ten miles through the jungles. People in this village do not know any religion yet.

Malin has a few persons who go with him fortnightly on Friday afternoon and spend the Sabbath there. He conducts Bible studies and teaches them some songs. The young people who visit them also prepare special items to present to them. These people are eager to accept our teachings. There were twenty-three who attended the last meeting according to his last report. It needs patience and real Christian love to open such a work in the jungle.

One in Twelve (From page 2)

one of our colporteurs was traveling was stopped by two police who wanted a ride. The bus was crowded and had no room for the two officers, except on top so on the

top they went. They were bringing along a land mine which they had found by the roadside. One of the officers was holding the mine and just about the time they got to the next village something happened and it went off killing the two men on top and ripping the bus apart killing several inside. Our literature evangelist was not injured. A number of our men have been "shadowed" by strangers out in some of the dangerous territory but generally they have not been molested. One of the army officers from the Republic of Vietnam made the statement that everywhere he went, and he went to some very dangerous places, he found our colporteurs or our books and he admired such courage.

We are told by E. G. White that "The work which the church has failed to do in a time of peace and prosperity she will have to do in a terrible crisis under most discouraging, forbidding circumstances." It was an inspiration to see the many colporteurs stand as the publishing department secretary told of the number of souls that each one had won for the Lord. May the Lord awaken each of us to work harder for Him while conditions still permit us to labor for the Lord.

Penang 5-Day Plan (From page 8)

One lady said the last evening, "I have tried drops, pills, lozenges, everything, but have never been able to quit. With this program I made it. I'm through with cigarettes."

A man who came with Dr. Hebard of the Sanitarium on the first night, told us the final night, "I didn't want to give up tobacco, but came as a courtesy to Dr. Hebard. I thought this talk about a relationship between tobacco and lung cancer was foolishness, but when I saw the film and heard what you had to say the first night, I quit, and I haven't smoked since."

Bangkok Sanitarium and Hospital has already held two 5-Day plans. Youngberg Hospital will sponsor a 5-Day plan in Singapore in January with Dr. Ralph Waddell and Pastor Paul Eldridge leading out. In connection with this plan, a number of doctors and ministers from our Union here will be in training for future 5-Day plans. This is a powerful program of health education that will open the hearts of many to the gospel.

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Penang 5-Day Plan

By Daniel R. Guild

Many of our members and ministers are asking, What is the 5-Day Plan to stop smoking? The plan includes five sessions of group therapy held from Sunday through Thursday nights. Each evening a film is screened, followed by a twenty minute talk by a physician and then a twenty minute talk usually by a minister. Each evening those who are attempting to break the tobacco habit are given the opportunity to ask questions and to tell how they are getting along. This group therapy serves as a powerful aid in breaking the habit.

A 5-Day Plan was conducted in Penang from August 30 to September 3. Dr. Ralph Waddell, the Division Medical Secretary, was the participating physician and the writer participated as the minister.

Mr. Warren Runyan, manager of the Penang Sanitarium, who sponsored the program in Penang, did considerable work before our arrival, arranging for the hall and all the details of the program.

When we arrived in Penang, we visited the newspaper editorial offices, the manager of Radio Malaysia, the manager of Redifussion, the chairman of the local medical society, the City Council chief medical officer, the regional director of the Ministry of Public Health,

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IF YOU SMOKE THAT DAY

the physicians in charge of the Australian armed forces detachment, and many other individuals.

The newspapers printed several stories. Redifussion put on several spot announcements. Radio Malaysia gave us an eight minute interview which was broadcast nationwide Sunday evening. A local businessman displayed a large sign in front of his downtown shop and the Sanitarium enrolled many patients.

Although the attendance was usually more, about sixty smokers faithfully attended the five nights. At the close of the session, 68% of those who completed the course indicated that they had broken the habit. This is about the same number who break the habit in the many sessions that have been held in America.

Those who attended and broke the habit were most enthusiastic. One man who had been smoking thirty cigarettes a day for seven years told us on the closing night, "I have tried many times before to quit, but have been unable. You men have a power." We told him that the Power is God's power.

Another man who has smoked sixty to seventy cigarettes a day for twenty-five years said, "I have more confidence in myself. Anyone with a genuine and an intense desire to stop smoking, if having attended the meetings and carried out all the instructions will not fail to drop the disgusting smoking habit."

(Continued on page 7.)



Sunny Hill School Choir and Pastor Guild at Kuching meetings,
(See page 1.)