

The Messenger

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New Ayer Manis School Building Opened

OVER 800 persons gathered to witness the official opening of the new classroom building of the Ayer Manis Seventh-day Adventist School near Serian, Sarawak. This school is located on a hill beside the Kuching-Serian highway about forty miles from Kuching. Visitors from Singapore, Kuching, and Serian joined with the faculty and students and friends in the opening ceremonies on this important and long awaited occasion.

Among the special guests present were three representatives from the Government of Sarawak; Minister of State, Awang Hipni Bin Pengiran Annu; educational department, K. S. Akam; District Officer of Serian, Goh Hak Seng. All of these joined in participating in the ceremonies that attended the opening of the new building. Other government and educational officials were also present as well as the architect, Ling Kung, and representatives of the contractor.

Representing the Far Eastern Division, Pastor H. D. Johnson, treasurer, congratulated the union and the mission for this mile stone that has been reached in providing this fine building and other new facilities for Seventh-day Adventist education in this area. Southeast Asia Union was represented by H. W. Bedwell, president; G. O. Bruce, secretary-treasurer; J. H. Lantry, educational secretary; V. L. Bretsch, publishing secretary.

Pastor R. C. Hall, president of the Sarawak Mission, was the Master of Ceremonies and introduced others of the mission and school. James Wong, principal of Sunny Hill School in Kuching, read a history of the Ayer Manis School. It



was interesting to learn that two of the present teachers at Ayer Manis School, Lawrence Pohan and Lora Pohan, are children of the first principal, Pastor P. T. Pohan, who opened the school for the first time in 1932. Following the cutting of the ribbon by the Minister of State, visitors were led on a tour of the new building followed by light refreshments.

Pastor C. A. Ortner, principal of Ayer Manis School, and his corp of 21 teachers are doing a wonderful work in the training of nearly 600 students in the ways of Christian education. This new classroom building of concrete has space for eight large classrooms, small library, teachers room, business and registrars offices. Space has been left for future expansion to provide library and science laboratory rooms and a chapel to seat 600. The funds for this new classroom building were provided by the Far Eastern Division by means of a special appropriation. In recent years a boys dormitory and a girls dormitory with a cafeteria on the ground floor have been erected. These two buildings were made possible by 13th Sabbath school offering overflow funds. There are still urgent needs for further school buildings and teacher housing.

Seventh-Day Adventists can be proud of the witness of this new classroom building sitting on the hill overlooking the main highway. It is bearing a witness to the Christian education being given by Seventh-day Adventists to the youth of Sarawak that is training them to become future workers. At the present time the teachers and students of this school are conducting fifteen branch Sabbath schools in an area of 30 miles of the school. Some travel by jeep, some by bicycle, some on foot, and some by boat up or down the nearby river.

Recently the land in the valley between the school and the highway was leveled for playfield and school activities. This area also provides a place for the plane of Pastor R. C. Hall, mission president, to land on its visits to the school. Travel time by plane is about fifteen minutes from Kuching as compared to an hour by auto. This makes the fourth private landing strip built for the mission plane as well as other government landing areas available for use.

—V. L. Bretsch



History of Ayer Manis School

**James Wong, Principal
Sunny Hill School**

AYER Manis School first opened its doors to the children of the Serian District in 1932. A simple wooden building was located across the main highway from the present property. At that time jungle was everywhere for very few people stayed or farmed in this area. Wild boars, deer, mouse-deer, hedge-hog, musangs, monkeys, honey bears and biwaks, are just a few of the wild animals around the school at that time. These animals were often seen visiting the school garden and cleared areas. It was reported that more animals than students visited the school as at this time there were only twelve pupils in school. Despite the dire perditions of some that the school would close before the attap on the roof got dry, the little school continued to be a shining light of Christian education.

Pastor J. T. Pohan was the first principal. He had the task of encouraging and persuading the Dayak and Chinese parents to let their children come to the Christian school. The response was slow. Many of the homes were quite far away and besides every hand was needed in the battle to subdue jungle trees and grass in order to grow food and crops to make a living. A pupil in school was one less worker at home.

The name, Ayer Manis, means sweet water and refers to the spring water that comes from the hillside above the school. This is a very appropriate name for it was sweet to the weary travellers who dared to travel on the rocky road from distant Kuching for in those early days land travel was very difficult. The spring has continued to be faithful in supplying water to the school for the past thirty years.

In 1936, A. L. Pauner, now living in Singapore, became the principal. The enrollment was larger. In due time it was found necessary to move the school to the present site across the highway from the original location. The new site offered more land for buildings and agricultural development. The original buildings were a dormitory for the boys, a church with classrooms on its right side and behind it. Later on a girls dormitory was added. These were of simple wooden construction and were used for nearly 30 years until they were nearly completely destroyed by weather, age, and termites. All but the girls dormitory have been torn down and replaced by new buildings. The former girls dormitory is now being used for living quarters by teacher families.

Pastor J. T. Pohan was again appointed.
(Continued on page 7.)

Ordained to the Ministry

**Daniel R. Guild, Union
Ministerial Secretary**

"CHRIST the Son of God hath sent me o'er the widespread lands. Mine the mighty ordination of the pierced hands." In the South-east Asia Union the church recently recognized Christ's call to three men and ordained them to the gospel ministry.

Since graduating in 1943 from the Vietnam Training School conducted by Pastor A. V. Bentz of France, Do Binh has been a literature evangelist, the pastor of two churches, and since 1960 the publishing secretary of the Vietnam Mission. In spite of the difficulties in war-ravaged Vietnam, under his leadership the corps of literature evangelists has grown from 38 to 73. Do Binh has led his literature evangelists in conducting branch Sabbath schools, giving Bible studies, and acting as the pastors of several churches. Several hundred have been led to Christ through the missionary activities of Vietnam's literature evangelists.

Since 1958 Wong Yew Seng of Penang, Malaya has been engaged in pastoral-evangelistic work as a missionary to Sabah on the island of Borneo, to Cambodia, and now to Cholon, Vietnam. He is a graduate of the ministerial course of the Southeast Asia Union College and holds a B.A. degree from the South China Island Union College.

Ministerial Workers Institute

**S. J. Lee, President
Malaya Mission**

THE ministerial workers of the Malaya Mission, the chaplain and Bible workers of our two hospitals in Singapore and Penang, our ministerial students and several of our retired ministers spent a very profitable time in Port Dickson attending the annual Workers' Institute, held January 30 to February 3, 1966.

Prior to attending this Institute, these workers had already spent six long and wearisome days at the Lay Leadership Training School which ended on the afternoon of January 29. They were still full of energy and pep and entered whole-

(Continued on page 4.)



Above, left: Pastor & Mrs. Do Binh Right: Pastor & Mrs. R. I. Mamora
Below: Pastor & Mrs. Wong Yew Seng

Recently he completed a very successful effort in the Cholon, Vietnam Chinese church of which he is now the pastor.

After graduating from our junior college in Indonesia in 1959, R. I. Mamora came as a missionary to Malaya. For several years he has served successfully as the pastor of the Kuala Lumpur church. Recently he accepted a call to Thailand where he is the Bible teacher at the Ekami English school and pastor of the school church. He holds a B.A. degree from the Philippine Union College.

During the recent visits of union representatives to the various missions for the annual committee meetings, these three mission workers were ordained in the local headquarters churches. Those who assisted in these ordinations were D. R. Guild, union ministerial secretary; H. W. Bedwell, union president; G. O. Bruce, union treasurer; V. L. Bretsch, union publishing secretary; Jay Lantry, MV-educational secretary; Ralph Neall, Vietnam Mission president; and Palmer Wick, Thailand Mission president.



Victors Over Smoking

IN the recent 5 Day Plan to Stop Smoking held in Saigon, a very interesting experience came to light. The publicity in Saigon made it clear that children under fifteen could not attend unless they came with an adult, otherwise the seats would mostly be taken by children. On the opening night the three boys pictured in photo came to the door to enter. Pastor D. R. Guild, one of the evening speakers, stopped them from entering. "Children are allowed to attend only with parents," he informed them.

"But, sir," they replied, "we want to get rid of the smoking habit and for this reason we want to come to the lecture tonight to learn how." After some further discussion revealed that they really were smokers and had been for several years, he permitted the small boys to attend. They were thirteen, fourteen, and fifteen years old and had been smoking for several years. They faithfully attended the lectures and obtained the victory over the tobacco habit and stopped smoking. Our mission workers got acquainted with the boys and are following up their interest.

Yes, the Five Day Plan is for old people, young people, and the children—anyone who has a desire to quite smoking. And the Plan really works!

—H. W. Bedwell



Saigon 5 Day Plan

**R. E. Neall, President
Vietnam Mission**

FORTY smokers "kicked" the habit during the Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking held in Saigon February 13-17. Dr. Ralph Waddell, Medical Secretary for the Far Eastern Division, and Pastor D. R. Guild, Ministerial Association Secretary for the Southeast Asia Union, led out in the nightly sessions.

Held in the beautiful auditorium of the Vietnamese-American Association in downtown Saigon, the Plan attracted more than 120 people from the better classes every night. The Vietnamese-American Association and the Saigon Adventist Hospital served as co-sponsors of the service to the public.

Each lecture was delivered in English and translated into Vietnamese. The control cards and literature were also available in both languages. Pastor Le Huu, Acting Principal of the Vietnam Training School, was the translator. The talks received an excellent response from the listeners.

Publicity for the Plan included news announcements in the press beforehand prepared by Don Roth,



D. R. Guild speaks

Public Relations Secretary of the Far Eastern Division, spot announcements on the radio, four paid ads, and posters at the hospital and the auditorium.

Several requests have come in from people who could not attend the meetings, asking for information

Ministerial Workers Institute (From page 3.)

heartedly in the class studies and discussions at the Institute. The subjects presented and discussed were pertinent to their needs of the hour. Those who contributed subject materials for study were Pastors H. W. Bedwell, G. O. Bruce, D. R. Guild, J. H. Lantry, Joshua Chong, G. D. Thompson, T. K. Chong and A. Waworoendeng and the writer. Pastor V. L. Bretsch, our new Union Publishing Secretary was present towards the close of the meetings and gave a very important talk on the relationship of the pastors to the publishing work which is another department organized for the saving of souls. Sister J. H. Lantry also spent a very profitable hour with us outlining the new recommendations for the soul-saving work of the Sabbath School Department.

The studies and discussions were so interesting and beneficial that many wished that the Institute could be extended another few days or that more time could be had for

discussions and questions. When it came time to leave the place for their respective homes and churches, almost every one expressed the desire to be present again at the next Institute. This Institute is one that will not be soon forgotten by our workers, thanks to the efforts



Malaya Mission Workers



Saigon 5 Day Plan

on how to stop smoking.

Dr. Waddell and Pastor Guild held classes for the pastors of the Vietnam Mission each morning during the week, instructing them in the principles of health evangelism in connection with the preaching of the three angels' messages.

put forth by Pastors Guild, Chong and others.

Every one present sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst and all departed with the determination to accomplish greater things for God than has ever been accomplished in the past.



Institute Port Pickson

Medical Evangelism Bears Fruit

R. R. Bietz, President
Pacific Union Conference

THE other day while I was sitting in my office, a non-Seventh-day Adventist lady called me on the telephone. The reason for her calling was to tell me about her happy experience in one of our hospitals. She was making a trip around the world recently, and while visiting in Bangkok, Thailand, she became ill rather suddenly and was taken to the Bangkok Sanitarium and Hospital, a Seventh-day medical institution.

The treatment she received there from capable, dedicated doctors and nurses made such a tremendous impression on her that she felt that she had to call me up and tell me about it. It took her quite a while to tell her story, but I was happy to listen. Time is never wasted listening to cheering reports.

A few of the many fine statements she made are: "My experience in that hospital was the next thing to being in Paradise." "You are the most unselfish people." "Why can't there be more institutions like this one?" "Those doctors were so kind, capable, and dedicated." "And, oh, those nurses, they were kindest people I ever met."

Wherever there are consecrated, loyal, and dedicated Seventh-day Adventist doctors, dentists, and nurses, society is greatly blessed and the church is praised. The product of medical evangelism can be a powerful factor not only in bringing healing to the body, but also to the soul; not only in building a strong society, but also a strong church in society not only in preparing people for citizenship here, but for citizenship in heaven.

EDITORIAL NOTE:

*This report appeared in the Pacific Union RECORDER last year. This report is an example of the good work being done not only by Bangkok Sanitarium & Hospital but all our medical institutions. Such Medical Evangelism often pays off in many unexpected ways and places. We do appreciate the good work of our medical institutions in South-east Asia Union.

—H. W. Bedwell



New Press Dedicated

V. L. Bretsch

THE Vietnam Signs Press has reached another milestone in its attempt to keep up with the increasing demand by our Vietnamese Literature Evangelists to keep a good supply of books ready for distribution. On February 18, at the time of the annual Board of Management meeting of the Press, Pastor H. W. Bedwell addressed members of the committee and a goodly number of Saigon's literature evangelists and press workers, in dedicating this newest piece of equipment to the speedy finishing of the gospel, through the printed page, in South Vietnam. Pastor V. L. Bretsch, Union Publishing Secretary, offered the dedication prayer. As an interesting sidelight to the progress of the work in Vietnam, it was noted that during the period of time from January through July of 1965 only 242 copies of the book Steps to Christ in Vietnamese had been sold. But from August through January of 1966 more than 2,400 copies of this same book have been delivered to customers. This is a good indication of what the future holds for our literature work in Vietnam. Now is the time to put forth every effort to see that our message reaches as many as possible while the doors are open.

Week of Prayer in Sarawak's School

**V. L. Bretsch, Union
Publishing Secretary**

"WE Would See Jesus" was the theme for the Week of Prayer at the Sunnyhill and Ayer Manis schools in Sarawak during the month of March. Beginning first at Sunnyhill on March 7-12, and the following week at Ayer Manis from the 14-19, a series of topics centered around the theme were presented.

At Sunnyhill, nearly eight hundred students formed three groups and entered the chapel at different

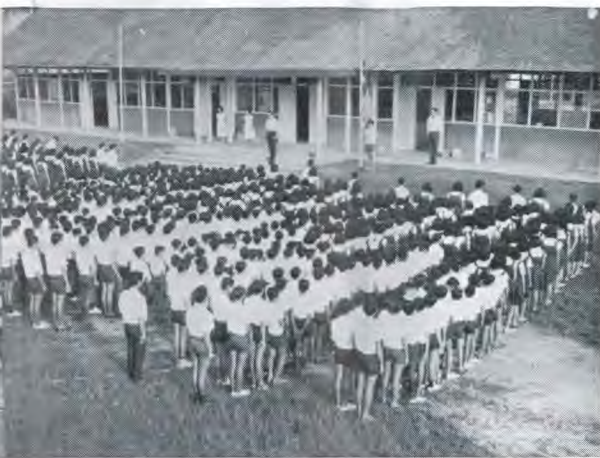
periods in the morning because the chapel is not large enough to accommodate all at one time. A large number of these young people come from non-SDA homes, and it was apparent that the decisions they faced were not easy. During the afternoon counseling periods a few brave young men ventured out to talk over their problems. They indicated that campus discussion of the daily topics was going on out-

side the classroom. A goodly number of young people made their decision to follow Christ and the teachers at Sunnyhill are now following up with special Bible classes for this group.

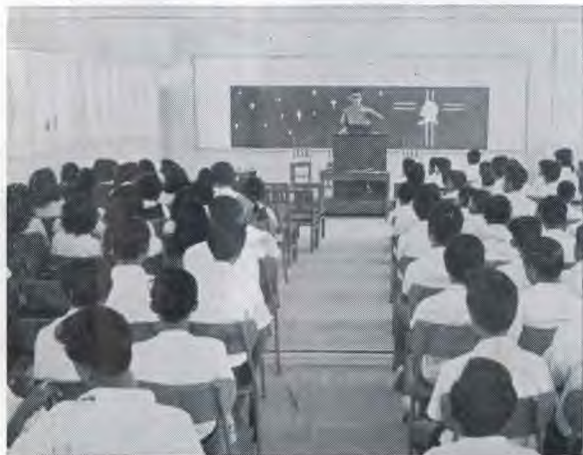
Ayer Manis has a total enrollment of about five hundred and fifty. Here again we decided to divide them into three groups because of limited space, and it worked out real well. The largest group came from the mission section where a total of about three hundred attended our meetings. There was not one baptized member among these young people but at the close of the meetings more than



Students leaving the chapel at the close of one of the morning meetings during the recent Week of Prayer at Sunny Hill School.



The students at Sunny Hill School assemble each morning at eight to sing their school song and national anthem before classes commence.



Mr. Peter Ho, Ayer Manis' teacher, leads the students in an active song service during the recent Ayer Manis School Week of Prayer meetings conducted by V. L. Bretsch.



Many of these students at Ayer Manis come from Muslim, Catholic, or Buddhist families, but all have made their decision to follow Christ as Seventh-day Adventists and are now in a Bible study class preparing for baptism.

one hundred signed decision cards for further Bible Study in preparation for accepting Jesus as their personal Saviour.

The theme song fit in beautifully with our theme. "Only Believe" could be heard each day in three languages. . . . English, Japanese and Malay. The song services were very heart-warming and appreciated by everyone.

At Ayer Manis, evening services were also held at which about three hundred attended. On Friday evening after a short devotional, an experience hour, giving everyone an opportunity to show their personal appreciation to the Lord for His goodness, was received very well. For many of these young people, it was their first experience and not easy to stand to testify. But the teachers set a good example and soon many were standing and giving their first testimony in this manner. All in all, the writer gained the greatest inspiration and we thank God for His Wonderful Blessings.

History of Ayer Manis School (From page 2.)

pointed principal in 1939 until the school was closed by the arrival of occupation forces in World War 2. The school was reopened in 1947 with Pastor Elam Sinaga as the principal. Soon a goodly number were enrolled. A. L. Pauner served as principal from 1951 to 1953 when Miss Nancy Sinaga succeeded him. In 1955 Lawrence Pohan, son of the first principal, was appointed principal of Ayer Manis. Later when he went to Australia to finish his education, Daniel Wong served for a short time as principal of the school. Pastor A. R. Musgrave joined the school in 1961 and efforts were made to upgrade it into a junior secondary school leading to Form 3. The enrollment doubled and trebled.

When Pastor Musgrave returned to the United States, Lee Hall was acting principal until the arrival of Pastor C. A. Ortnier, the present principal. After much work and planning and with the assistance of the union and the Far Eastern Division, the new classroom building has been finished in its first stage and is now opened officially (March 21, 1966) for use. Ayer Manis School has now been upgraded to Form 4 this year and we hope to Form 5 next year. This beautiful and imposing edifice stands as a land mark for the promotion of Christian education and the principles and propagation of the gospel of Christ's second coming.



Pictured above is the recent Southeast Asia Union College graduating class of 1965 on the chapel platform following the graduation service. Pastor Garth Thompson, the acting president, is standing at the left of the back row and Pastor H. W. Bedwell at the right. The graduates are as follows: Back row, left to right; Jimmy Khng, Peter Ho, Charles Gaban. Front row: Lee Tsai Teik, class vice-president; Mrs. Han Siew Lan, Koh, Kan Song, class president; Choo Pek Lim, Sgt. at arms; Jonathan Ng, class pastor. Elsie Wong, class secretary, is not in the photo.



Officials who participated in the dedication service of the new S.D.A. Church in Sandakan, Sabah Sabbath afternoon, September 18, 1965: (Left to right): Cheah Sin Boo, Secretary-Treasurer of the Sabah Mission; V. L. Kon, Retired Pastor from Bangkok visiting his old home

town of Sandakan; H. W. Bedwell, President of Southeast Asia Union; C. P. Sorensen, President of Far Eastern Division; Andrew Peters, President of Sabah Mission; Chin Kong Loi, Pastor of Sandakan Church; Samuel Tsai, Pastor of Jesselton Church.

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Sandakan Church Dedication



The building on the left above the church is the frame house in which the members have been meeting for church services for the past several years. One has a fine view of the Town of Sandakan and the sea from the church site.

New S. D. A. Church at Sandakan, Sabah which was dedicated Sabbath afternoon, September 18, 1965. Pastor C. P. Sorensen, President of Far Eastern Division, presented the dedicatory sermon; Pastor H. W. Bedwell, President of Southeast Asia Union, offered the dedicatory prayer. Other parts of the program: The Welcome, by Pastor Andrew Peters; Instrumental Solo, by Mr. Cheah Sin Boo; History of the Church, and Scripture Reading, Pastor Chin Kong Loi; Act of Dedication, Pastor Samuel Tsai; Prayer, Pastor V. L. Kon.

Interior View of new Sandakan Church. Pastor H. W. Bedwell presented the first Sabbath morning sermon in this new church. Pastor Chin Kong Loi translated.

