

# The Messenger

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



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NUMBER THREE

## *A Visit to the Muruts*

Mrs. Hazel Peters

**P**ASTOR and Mrs. Andrew Peters, son, and translator travelled several hours by train and jeep from Jesselton, capital of Sabah, to Keningau. Proceeding two miles further by jeep, we crossed the Pengalan River by ferry-raft. Our young Murut worker, Inauk Gullah, met and introduced us to the young couple, Bakusut and Cinema, both Murut tribes people whom he had prepared for baptism. Some time ago on one of Inauk's frequent journeys in this area of his fields, he needed to stay the night here. Since Bakusut works for the government, helping to operate the river ferry, he and his wife and son live in the very tiny kampong by the river. Inauk inquired whether he might spend the night at their place. This was the beginning, which resulted in Bible studies and now the young couple's desire to join God's family.

Now we had arrived. Pastor Andrew Peters and his translator visited with the family, studying various doctrines and points of our faith, and found the couple ready for baptism. We spent the night in the hospitality of their bamboo house on stilts.

Early Friday morning our group took a jeep as far as there was road. From there it was mostly up-grade by foot or bicycle (at times the trail was rather steep, so the bicycles had to be pushed). About an eight hours' hike through most beautiful green jungle, entertained along the way by the melodies of numerous lovely birds, and we were welcomed in the home of the Murut Chief near the village of Sook, where we spent the next two nights.

We found the Sook church a primitive structure of poles and attap, dirt floor, backless planks across a framework served as benches. On the pulpit was a

small white cloth to cover, and a bouquet of red hibiscus. The Murut Chief and his wife are both interested in this message, and are attending with our small group of believers.

Late Sabbath afternoon, November 9, the Murut Chief, his wife, and the group of believers and friends witnessed as Pastor Peters baptized Bakusut and Cinema in the river.

Soon after dawn we found ourselves on the path again, the jungle radiant after a short, heavy down-pour of rain during the night. The birds, butterflies, snakes, and leeches were out also. About six hours later our hike was ended, and after "jeeping" to Bakusut and Cinema's home we bade them farewell, as we proceeded on to Keningau.

The next morning, as our plane headed for Jesselton, we looked down on the vast jungle carpet below us, spreading out in all directions, over hills, valleys, veined by rivers, and thought of the Murut tribespeople scattered throughout this part of the interior of Sabah — the majority of whom still wait for the Light.



End of Jeep trail

Murut roadside grave





**Top photo, left:**  
Workers & teachers of Sarawak.

**Bottom photo:**  
Workers & teachers of Sabah.

## Meeting The Challenge In Borneo

**F**ROM villages deep in the jungle, from longhouses along the Tautau River, and from the modern city of Kuching, the workers of the Sarawak Mission on the Island of Borneo gathered for a two-week college extension school. In the mission president's airplane, in the Ayer Manis School principal's Land Rover, by bus and afoot, these pastors and village Bible teachers came to study and be refreshed.

Immediately following the school in Sarawak the same story was repeated at the Sabah Mission, also on the Island of Borneo.

At both of these training schools, Paul Eldridge, the ministerial secretary of the Far Eastern Division, taught a class in Church Organization and Administration; and Daniel Guild, the ministerial secretary of the Southeast Asia Union, taught a class in Righteousness by Faith. Classes were held each morning and the students spent each afternoon and evening in concentrated study.

These training schools are typical of a round of training schools being conducted yearly in the Southeast Asia Union in an effort to upgrade the ministerial workers in all of our missions.

Since the educational standards are constantly increasing, our ministerial workers must keep in step with the times if we are to reach educated minds with our message.

Typical of the response by the workers who attended is the remark by a veteran pastor in the Sarawak Mission, who on the closing day of the school said, "Now we will have to go back and change our way of preaching." A pastor in the Sabah Mission remarked, "We need to preach these things in our churches!"

**D. R. Guild**  
Union Ministerial Secretary



## Modern Cannibalism

By L. E. Gonzaga, Editor  
Mizpa, Manila

**C**ANNIBALS in the church? That's ridiculous. It's hard to believe. But it's true. They are in our churches. They attend church services regularly, they pay their tithe faithfully, some are workers in God's cause, they pray, they profess to love God, they love to talk about salvation and eternal life, and they dissect and consume their fellow church members. Paul says:

"If ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." Galatians 5:15.

A cannibal is defined as "a human being that eats human flesh; a man-eating savage." From the text I mentioned it appears that there were some in the Galatian

church who "bite and devour one another." Paul wants us to understand that hatred and variance were manifested among the Galatians; and while professing to be true followers of Jesus Christ, they were manifesting in their lives the spirit of the cannibals.

The apostle Paul has tried to emphasize to us that the wicked work of backbiting, evil-speaking, and criticism are in the same category with the deeds of cruelty manifested among the heathen who know not God. He also emphasized that this wicked practice should be deplored and not seen in our church members. Mrs. E. G. White made this very clear when she wrote:

(Con't. on page 3)





Top photo: Teachers attending institute in Sabah.  
Bottom photo: Teachers of Sarawak.

### CANNIBALISM (From page 3)

"An earnest effort should be made in every church to put away evil-speaking and a censorious spirit as among the sins productive of the greatest evils in the church. Severity and fault-finding must be rebuked as the workings of Satan. Mutual love and confidence must be encouraged and strengthened in the members of the church. Let all, in the fear of God and with love to their brethern, close their ears to gossip and censure. Direct the talebearer to the teachings of God's words. Bid him obey the Scriptures, and carry his complaints directly to those whom he thinks in error. This united action would bring a flood of light into the church, and close the door to a flood of evil. Thus God would be glorified, and many souls would be saved." —Testimonies, vol. 5, pp. 609, 610.

Dear brethern, this message is directed also to your church. How about pausing for a moment and asking yourself these questions. Am I the one whom the Holy Spirit saw engaging in this unholy work? Have I listened to rumors and reports and chatted about them with others without finding out whether the report was true? If so, then the message of Mrs. White is for you, and brother you have a work of repentance and confession to do before the fulness of the Lord's blessing can be yours.

In the message of the Lord to us we are instructed that it is only when we stop this kind of work that will "bring a flood of light into the church." Now, have you ever thought why there was no spiritual power in the church where you belong? Don't you think that it was because of this unsanctified practice that cause

(Con't. on page 7)

## Teachers' Institutes

**A**PRIL, 1966, was a big month for the teachers of Sabah and Sarawak. Miss Ferree and J. H. Lantry assisted with the teachers' institutes in both missions which were effectively organized and carried out by R. E. Bartolome and James Wong, respectively. All of the teachers from both missions were in attendance.

The secondary teachers spent their time re-studying the basic principles of Christian education with Pastor Lantry as their instructor. The primary teachers studied methods of teaching Bible and mathematics in the morning sessions and had a visual aids workshop in the afternoons with Miss Nellie Ferree leading out. Two weeks were spent in each mission conducting this program of help, study and inspiration.

**J. H. Lantry**  
Union Educational Secretary

Photo: below:  
Bakusut and his wife, Cinema, and son, Muruts belonging to the church at Sook. See story, page 1





## *Around Southeast Asia Union In 80 Days*

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

**B**EGINNING in early February and continuing until the last of April, it has been my privilege and responsibility to travel to most of our churches, hospitals and schools in Southeast Asia Union, especially in the interests of the publishing program.

In the Malaya Mission, where Brother S. S. Daniel has been appointed as acting Publishing Secretary, eight churches were visited. In each beginner training schools were held. As a result, 18 new colporteurs have been started and Brother Daniel indicates they are doing fine. Our largest training class was held in Penang with 22 present.

Three weeks was spent in Thailand. Almost every church was visited even to the extent of making personal visits to the homes of the church members. In Bhuket four applicants signed for colporteur service, in Haad Yai four, and in Bangkok three. Our largest training school held in Thailand was at Chiangmai where there were 12.

Brother Sawat has given himself to the colporteur work. He, himself, was won to Christ by

a contact with our publishing work. He has a family of five children. The fifth was born during our training school in Chiangmai. Brother Prawat, from Bangkok, was in attendance at the Chiangmai training school. He is a successful colporteur of eight years of service. He has been faithful in his work for these past years.

During February, Pastor Lantry and myself visited Cambodia for three days. We found our workers of good courage but there are many problems. Brethren Binh and Robert Jean endeavor to keep our books in circulation. Until recently they have been able to continue their work freely. Our beautiful church in Phnom Penh is open every Sabbath for worship. Many of the other churches in Cambodia do not have this privilege of worship.

We appreciate the wonderful response of our church members to the publishing program of evangelism. We ask for an interest in your prayers for our colporteurs and especially for the newly trained workers just entering the literature program.

### **CANNIBALISM (From page 7)**

Regarding this matter, Mrs. White points out to us clearly our duty as Christians.

"Minister and lay members of the church displease God when they allow individuals to tell them the errors and faults of their brethren. They should not listen to these reports, but should inquire, 'Have you strictly followed the injunctions of your Saviour? Have you gone to the offender, and told him his faults between you and him alone? And has he refused to hear you? Have you carefully and prayerfully taken two or three others, and labored with him in tenderness, humility, and meekness, your heart throbbing with love for his soul?' If the Captain's orders, in the rules given for the erring, have been strictly followed, then an advance step is to be taken, —tell it to the church, and let action be taken in the case according to the Scriptures. Then it is that Heaven will ratify the decision made by the church in cutting off the offending member if he does not repent. If these steps have not been taken, close the ear to complaints, and thus refuse to take up a reproach against your neighbor. If there were no brethren and sisters to do this, evil tongues would soon cease; for they would not find so favorable a field in which to work in biting and devouring one another." — **Testimonies**, vol. 5, pp. 616, 617.



**Colporteur recruits in Penang**



**Binh & Robert Jean, Cambodia**





Colporteur trainees in Haad Yai and Bhuket

## You Can Teach

**I**S your Sabbath School short of good teachers? Do you who teach find that your class members show very little interest, do not study their lessons, and are often absent? Does your Sabbath school stay about the same with very few additional members? Is there a lack of zeal and a dull sameness each Sabbath?

There is a remedy. The wonderful five lesson course in Sabbath School teaching has the answers for these questions and many others. The book, **TEACH**, together with the lesson outlines, is available to all. The Sabbath School teachers from the five churches in the Singapore area recently completed this course.

Fifty received diplomas. In Kuching, Sarawak, twenty received great blessings for the enthusiasm was high.

Here are some of the comments from those who were benefitted. "How I appreciated the course, **Teach**. It was a tremendous blessing to me. Even though I've taught for years, I learned so much. I regret I did not take this course years ago. However, I want to profit by past mistakes and with all of this wonderful instruction determine that in the future I will be a better Sabbath School teacher."

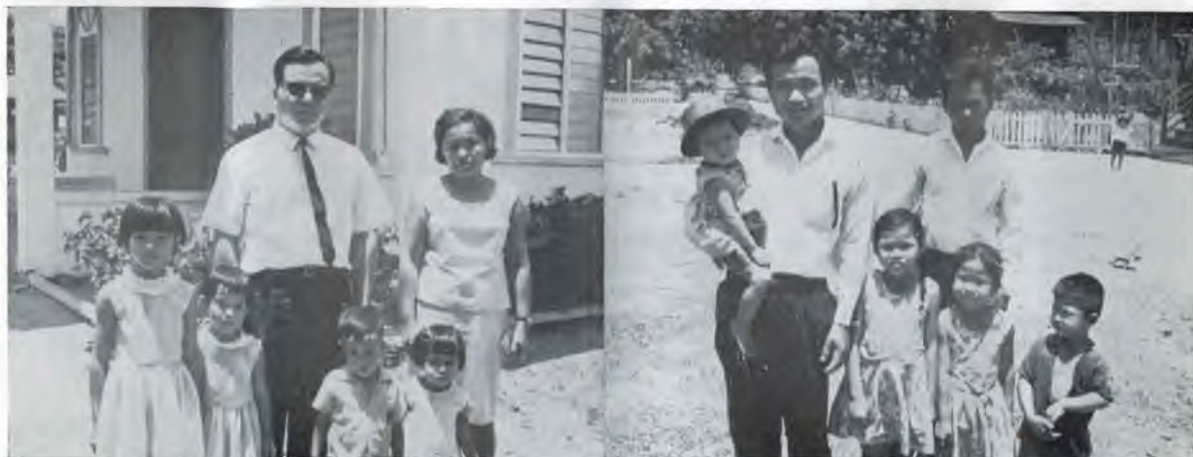
Another said, "How thankful we are for the wonderful help and inspiration this course, **TEACH**, has been to our Sabbath School."

One commented, "For over

fifteen years I've been working in the Sabbath School. Never before have I realized the challenge of Sabbath School evangelism, nor the great work we can do with God's help. If we as Sabbath School teachers follow the instruction given in this course, the work will be finished soon for all will have heard the gospel story."

Every church in Southeast Asia needs this wonderful course. Ask your pastor, your Sabbath School superintendant, the mission secretaries to bring it to you. You cannot afford to wait any longer. The inspiration and blessings to you and your Sabbath School will last through all eternity.

**Mrs. J. H. Lantry**  
Union S. S. Department



Brother Prawat, Thailand

Brother Sawat, Thailand



## *Branch Sabbath Schools*



From Sarawak in the south to the city of Chiangmai Thailand, in the north, the Seventh-day Adventist church members of the Southeast Asia Union are branch Sabbath school minded. Are people and especially children interested in coming to branch Sabbath schools? Just look at the children in the pictures and see how interested they are.

More than fifteen teams of students leave Ayer Manis school

every Sabbath afternoon. Colporteurs in Vietnam have utilized their Sabbath afternoons in this manner also. The students of Sunny Hill in Kuching, the students of Southeast Asia Union College in Singapore, our nurses and students in our medical institutions as well as the instructors, all participate in the branch Sabbath school program. Many of our churches are sponsoring strong branch Sabbath schools.

How about you and your church? Are you taking part in this interesting and wonderful way of soul winning? If not, why not? Look at the pictures with this article and visualize the potential of souls that might be won. If you are not actively engaged in a branch Sabbath school program, make plans now to begin in this rewarding form of evangelism.

**Pictures and Story by  
V. L. Bretsch  
PR Secretary**

**Children of all ages and sizes enjoy branch Sabbath Schools.**

**Top photo, left:  
Serian, Sarawak.**

**Top photo, right:  
Chiangmai.**





## Juniors Working And Witnessing For Christ

It was a cheerful Sunday morning. The date, February 13th, 1966 suggested anything but "un-luckiness."

The morning sun smiled upon a moving van as it travelled towards the countryside called Tanah Merah, carrying a cheerful and merry group of 13 juniors from the Junior Missionary Volunteers Society of the Malay Seventh-day Adventist Church, Singapore. They were going to the Convalescent Home of the Singapore Children's Society.

In an earnest desire to demonstrate the love of Jesus to others, these juniors had answered a call from the assistant matron of the Children's Society, to clean up the place which was left dirty and disorderly after a funfair held a day before.

These juniors have learnt about the love and helpfulness of Jesus in their Sabbath School, and how they rejoiced as this opportunity came for them to reflect his divine love to others in the neighbourhood.

Their earnest baby-faces show how eagerly they waited in the moving van for their destination to come. And oh, how they skipped out of the van when they finally reached the Convalescent Home.

The grateful assistant matron gave them a conducted tour round the place and after instructing them on how they should clean up the place, the juniors flew into their work with vigour and willingness.

The paper decorations were rapidly taken down; the chairs and tables, the rocking-horses and bicycles, and the cupboards and flower-pots were removed and properly arranged. The fields, the darins and the rooms were swept and cleared of rubbish. How the dust flew under the swishes of brooms, dusters and mops. In a matter of minutes later, the place was a hive of activity. What a surprise the assistant matron was, as she noticed that these juniors smiled and whistled as they worked; and what a dynamic Christian witnessing there was!

The operation clean-up was three-quarters done by 11.30 a.m. when the juniors rested. Im-



mediately two minutes later, five of the juniors got up and began to round up the children, seated them in a row and began to conduct a brief Branch Sabbath School. Merrily the children responded and soon the hall resounded with children's voices, singing songs of praises to our Heavenly Father.

The singing was interrupted as the assistant matron announced that it was lunch time for the children. Once again, our juniors were up on their feet, and very soon they were busy feeding the small sick children. What fun and joy they have! Little did these juniors realise how happy our Heavenly Father was.

After their lunch, the children went off to bed, whilst our juniors grouped together to have their lunch and rest.

It was 2.30 p.m. before these juniors went back to work again, clearing the fields of all papers, carrying tables and finally painting the children's swings, smiling through their work.

When the time came for them to go home, the juniors were rather reluctant, although they were tired but happy. The assistant matron was very grateful for these Christian help work done by the juniors.

Our loving Heavenly Father has indeed blessed this little group of juniors and their work, and in the words of one of the juniors, "We wish that this Christian help work would pave a way to win the matron and her assistant for Jesus."

**Gan Seng Ann**  
**JMV Society, Singapore Malay Church**

### CANNIBALISM (Con't. from page 3)

the eclipsing of the light of your church? We should remember that God does not endow gossips and tale-bearers with power and neither will they be saved, unless they repent. Mrs. White tells us that, "If a brother is supposed to have erred, his brethren and sisters should not whisper it among themselves and comment upon it, magnifying these supposed errors and faults. Much of this work is done, and the result is, the displeasure of God rests upon those who do it, and Satan exults that he can weaken and annoy those who might be strong in the Lord. The world sees their weakness, and judges this class and the truth they profess to love, by the fruits manifested in them." — **Testimonies**, vol. 5, p. 615.

Let me ask you again these questions. Have you been engaging recently in this work of gossiping? Have you been mag-

nifying the supposed faults of others? If so, then you will never be free from the condemnation of God until you put this wicked practice out of your life.

But what shall I do when the fault of a brother is reported in the church? Shall I keep quiet and allow it to go on without correction? By no means. But do you think that by telling others you will be helping the one who is at fault? Suppose you are the one that err, would you want your fault publicized in the neighborhood, and our failing, supposed or real, held up to comment and ridicule? Or would you prefer that those who heard the gossip come to you and find out the correctness of the tale, point out in a Christian manner a better way, and pray with you for strength to live a better life? I believe that, if you are a real Christian, you will follow the golden rule, doing to others as you would do to you.

(Con't. on page 4)



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## Students from Southeast Asia in Manila

OF the forty-six overseas students enrolled at Philippine Union College during the 1965-66 school year, nineteen were from the Union of Southeast Asia. By their countries of origin they were divided as follows: Vietnam 9 Thailand 6, Singapore 2, Malaya 2.

One of the important projects undertaken by the overseas students during the past school year was the construction of a sundial on the school campus. This sundial was turned over to the college administration at an impressive and colourful ceremony on Wednesday, April 6, 1966. The purpose of the sundial project was to promote international goodwill between the overseas students and their host country the Philippines. The turnover ceremony was very colourful as the students dressed in national costume stood by the flags of their respective countries.

Three of the officers of the Association came from Southeast Asia, namely:

Herbert Sormin, Singapore, President;

Le Tan A, South Vietnam, Vice-President;

Paul Wong, Thailand, Press Relations Officer.

Philippine Union College has appreciated the presence of the students from Southeast Asia. There is every indication that the number of students from Southeast Asia will be increased during the 1966-67 school year.

P. G. Miller, Dean of Faculties  
Philippine Union College

### Photo below:

On the campus of Philippine Union College in Manila, a group of overseas students from various areas of Far Eastern Division stand with their flags.

Lily Tan of Johore, seventh from left. David Khoo, Singapore, eleventh from left. Mrs. B. Chia, Thailand, thirteenth from left. Teresa Tran Tran, Vietnam, at extreme right.

