

The Messenger

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



VOLUME SIXTEEN

September - October, 1966

NUMBER FIVE

George Munson Returns to Sabah as President

By D. R. Guild, President
Southeast Asia Union

JUST BEFORE the turn of the century, cannibals in Sumatra ate an American missionary by the name of Munson. Several years later R. W. Munson, the nephew of this ill-fated missionary, was a patient at the Battle Creek Sanitarium and Hospital. While there he became a Seventh-day Adventist.

Within this young man's heart burned an intense desire to go back and convert the cannibals who ate his uncle. He went back in 1900 and became the first Seventh-day Adventist missionary to enter Indonesia.

Shortly after his arrival in Indo-

nesia the General Conference sent word expressing regret that they were unable to continue the budget for Indonesia. So Brother Munson supported himself by teaching English during the morning hours. Afternoons and evenings he translated Christian books, gave Bible studies, and held evangelistic meetings.

R. W. Munson's dedication and zeal was passed on to his son Albert. Albert Munson worked in Java and the Celebes when these islands were a part of what is now the Southeast Asia Union. For several years he was president of the

Singapore and Sarawak missions.

Albert Munson in turn inspired his son George with a zeal for missions. When George was fifteen years old, he returned with his father to America, but he was determined to someday return to the Far East.

After graduating from Pacific Union College in 1944, George Munson interned in Hawaii. He was called to Korea in 1946, where he managed the publishing house for three years, did evangelistic work for three years, and taught in the college for three years. In 1957 he became the Ministerial and Radio-TV Secretary of the Korean Union. It was during his 1957 evangelistic campaign in Seoul, Korea that a revival broke out that has been sweeping Korea during the past nine years.

In April of this year Pastor Munson was called to the Sabah Mission as president.

While studying at the Malayan Union Seminary George Munson
(Continued on page 2, column 3.)



Above: Bonnie Munson
Left: Pastor and Mrs. Munson and Glen.

Lay Evangelism in Borneo

By Daniel R. Guild, President
Southeast Asia Union

A SWINGING footbridge hung from its cables high above the river. A tight hold on the cables was necessary to keep us from sliding off of the narrow walkway and down into the shallow river seventy-five feet below.

The majestic shadow of Mount Kinabalu, which dominates the skyline of Sabah on the Island of Borneo, was reflected in the slow-moving waters below us. To the right of Kinabalu we could see Anak Kinabalu—son of Kinabalu—a miniature mountain about one tenth the size of the mother peak. To the left of Kinabalu, on a green sloping hillside, the zinc roofs of Gaur village reflected the gleaming rays of the tropical sun.

On a previous trip to Gaur I asked Pastor Madatan Gaban, the Lay Activities Secretary of the Sabah Mission: "Was this church raised up by a layman?"

His cryptic reply: "All of our churches were raised up by laymen."

Since that time I have met some of the mighty lay giants who have continuously pushed back the frontiers of this lush jungle paradise. When they fall in love with Jesus their Creator, whose fingerprints are everywhere on this fertile tropical island, these simple, lovable people become mighty Spirit-filled witnesses for Christ. It hardly seems possible to look at these born again followers of Jesus and realize that the fear of the spirits once lined their radiant faces, that the filthy juice of the betel nut once stained their shining white teeth, that the intoxicating effects of rice wine once glazed their bright eyes.

Dedication needs direction. Earnest zeal needs training. And two months ago a delegation of the leading laymen from each of Sabah's churches gathered for a five day Lay Evangelism Instructors Training School to sharpen their soul winning capacity.

Pastor L. A. Shipowick, Lay Activities Secretary for the Far Eastern Division, Pastor M. Gaban, Lay Activities Secretary of the Sabah Mission, Pastor George Munson, president of the Sabah Mission,



Happy recipients of Lay Training Certificates at Gaur, Sabah.

and the writer were the teachers for the Instructors Training School.

Pastor Munson, newly elected president of the mission, arrived only a day or two before the training school.

The five days of the training school passed all too quickly. On the closing day of the school one hundred graduating instructors pledged themselves to go back and win souls with greater zeal than ever before. But even more important, laymen who were trained as instructors went back to their home churches inspired, prepared, and organized to conduct training schools for all of the church members.

More than 500 members are now completing the lay training courses taught by these instructors, and hundreds more will complete the course in the weeks ahead.

My reason for hiking into Gaur was to preach the graduation address for one of the forty-two training schools that are being conducted in the Sabah Mission.

What a thrill it was to see thirty graduates stand and give themselves in consecration to go to the surrounding villages and witness for Jesus. What a thrill it was to have most of the membership stand with them and pledge to be more fruitful soul winners.

Gaur is but a taste of what we are experiencing in place-after-place as these evangelism training schools are being completed in the churches of the Sabah Mission.

Munson Returns

(Continued from page 1.)

met Naomi Bowers, who became his wife. Her parents were also missionaries in the Southeast Asia Union. Her father served as manager of the Malayan Signs Press, as union treasurer, and as president of the Sabah (then North Borneo) Mission. Mrs. Bowers died in Jesselton during the time her husband was the mission president there.

The Munsons have four children: Lloyd, recently married to Jean Kurtz, is now a ministerial intern in the Northern California Conference. Eloise is married to Todd Murdoch. She and her husband are connected with the Pacific Union College. Bonnie is a student at the Far Eastern Academy. Glen is living at home with his parents.

The Munsons arrived in Jesselton on September 6. Not only is Pastor Munson a third generation missionary in the Southeast Asia Union, but his experience is unique in that he is now the president of the same mission which his father-in-law once served as president.

We welcome the Munsons back to the Southeast Asia Union. As Pastor Munson takes up his duties as president of the Sabah Mission, let us all remember him, his family, and the work in Sabah in our daily prayers.

Mersing Senior MV Camp

By Chin Chow Khoon
Instructor, SAUC

YOUNG PEOPLE have always returned from camp a better group of youth. They are invariably more inspired, having caught a clearer vision of God's work. For this reason, the Malaya Mission has sponsored another senior MV camp which was held in Mersing, Johore at an English school hostel near the seaside from August 1 to 8.

Pastor K. T. Chin, the Malaya Mission MV secretary, and his assistant, Brother C. Balan were kept busy on August 1 as groups from different parts of Malaya and from Singapore arrived at the camp site. The young people were smiling and laughing as they looked around the beautiful camp site providentially granted to us for use rent-free.

Camp program began on August 2 with flag-raising and morning devotion, followed by callisthenics. Shortly after breakfast, Pastor S. F. Chu, our camp pastor, urged us to be conscious of God's presence. After a short interval, the writer had the privilege of impressing upon the young people a sense of the solemn hour in which we are living, drawing lessons from the last ten chapters of "The Great Controversy."

Pastor and Mrs. Bill Smith, Bonnie, Billy and Danny arrived in Sabah the middle of September to begin evangelistic work among the Malay-speaking peoples of central Sabah, Sabah Mission.



After the study, one hour was allotted for swimming. Brother C. Zamora taught nature and craft in the afternoon.

On August 4, at night, Pastor D. Liem, a former pastor of the Chinese church in Singapore, conducted a youth forum during which he answered questions put to him by the young people.

Particularly inspiring was the testimony meeting held by and for the young people on the night of August 2. Representatives from Singapore, Penang, Muar and Malacca stood up and all were blessed by their experiences. One reaffirmed his decision to work for God; one testified how God had blessed him in his examination for having faithfully kept the Sabbath; others related how they were led of God to the truth.

Again on the morning of August 7, having concluded the study on "The Great Controversy", we were greatly encouraged to see many young people standing to reaffirm their conviction of the soon-coming of our Lord and Saviour and rededicating their lives to God.

On August 5, the 63 campers including the officers woke up unusually early at 5:30 a.m. The reason was that we had to catch the five boats at 7:00 a.m. which were to take us to the islets a few miles away from Mersing.

On Sabbath, August 6, we were privileged to have as our speaker

at the Divine Service Pastor Milton Lee who had arrived with Mrs. Lee a few minutes earlier. Pastor Lee stressed "the willingness to give up all for Christ," "the trials and persecutions that face the Christian," and "his faith and courage to remain faithful." Following the service, Pastor K. T. Chin, camp director, baptised three young people in the ocean, two of whom were his sons, Daniel and Jonathan, and Lily Yeo from Muar.

We were sorry to have to break camp on August 8. As we left the camp site, the young people looked forward to another camp when they would meet their friends again.

Cooks at MV Camp
Pastor D. Liem, Mrs. K. T. Chin.



Pastor K. T. Chin, his helpers and campers at Mersing.





Young people receiving certificates at closing exercises of Kuala Lumpur Vacation Bible School.

Evangelistic Efforts in the Malaya Mission

By S. J. Lee, President

IN AUGUST a number of our pastors concluded their evangelistic efforts. Eight efforts were in progress during the month. Seven of them have come to a close while another one is still in progress. While two of our pastors have not reported about the results of their efforts, the other five have reported enthusiastically from time to time the regular and faithful attendance of their audience. In one of these efforts when heavy rain fell for several nights in succession before and during the effort the attendance was hardly affected. When counting up the number of Bible studies that these five pastors have reported I counted exactly 100 in number from

the efforts held in the following places:

Jingiang Village in the State of Selangor	22
Sungei Village in the State of Selangor	22
Kendong Village in Negri Sembilan	18
Malacca Town in Malacca	15
Kepala Betas in Alor Star	23

This year we have departed from our usual method of holding evangelistic meetings in our churches or in the towns where our churches are located. The people in those places seem not to have the time or interest for religion. We directed our attention and effort to the towns and larger villages near the vicinity of our churches where no effort has ever been held in the past. To the surprise of our pastors the turn-out and the interest shown by those who attended were way beyond their expectation. The attendance during these seven to fourteen night meetings was very good and was more at the end than at the beginning. This was just the opposite of that of the previous efforts held, the attendance of the S.D.A. members being more than the visitors. Due to the distance and the lack of transportation only a very few of our members could go out to help at these meetings but the seats at these halls were all occupied by the public with our helpers standing around to help distribute materials when called for by the pastors.

The success of these efforts have given great encouragement to our pastors. They started their efforts with much misgivings, having in mind the past experiences of closing



Shown above are the nearly fifty Bible School leaders.

their meetings with hardly any non-S.D.A.'s present. Now at the close of these efforts they have a goodly number which will henceforth require their time and effort in visiting and giving Bible studies to. A number of these pastors are already mapping out their plans to hold one or more such small efforts before the year is over. Truly we can look forward to a good harvest of souls this year to offer to God for His manifold blessings to us.

Vacation Bible School Kuala Lumpur

By Mrs. S. J. Lee, Secretary
Malaya Mission S.S. Dept.

THIS YEAR the Vacation Bible School conducted by the Kuala Lumpur Chinese Church, from August 1 to 12, was quite different from those held in previous years. The result was very inspiring and encouraging. Those who led out are determined to conduct another one as soon as the opportunity opens.

Brother Cho Chi Thin, Sabbath School secretary of this church, was chosen to lead out. With great timidity he accepted the assignment, as he had never had any experience along this line. Aided by such able and experienced teachers as Mr. Ku Thau Sin, principal of the Teh Sin Primary School, as song leader; Mr. Loh Yoon Chuan, deacon of the Church, as one of the Bible instructors; Mr. Yap Ying Fatt and Mr. Fan Swee Cheong, both teachers in Government Schools, as games and activities instructors, he had good and com-

Pastor T. M. Giang shown speaking to the group at Jingiang evangelistic meeting.





Boys and girls with their Vacation
Kuala Lumpur.

petent help. He himself undertook to teach one Bible class and the handwork class.

As soon as the announcement went out that a "character building" school was to be conducted during the vacation time for young people from 10 to 14 years of age, enrolments came pouring in and long before the school started they had to stop enrolling since the maximum number of students that they had space for was reached.

Every day for 10 days beginning punctually at 8:30 a.m. a short devotional was held in the church after which the students were divided into two classes for Bible studies. Following the Bible studies they were reunited for the singing class. Then followed the physical exercises and the handwork. Due to the lack of facilities the handwork taught by Mr. Cho Chi Tien was conducted outside the classroom in the open. The children sat on the grass lawn and used the ground as their work-table. In spite of the lack of work-tables and benches they thoroughly enjoyed their handwork. Cold drinks were served to the youngsters as refreshments.

At the end of the ten days schooling, a graduation exercise was held on the Sabbath of August 13. Beautiful certificates were handed out by the pastor of the Church. (Pastor Giang Tu Minh) to 49 boys and girls. Gifts, too, were handed out. During the graduation service these young people recited all the memory verses that they had learned during these ten days. It was certainly an inspiration to see these youngsters happy, cheerful and attending classes in spite of heavy rain that fell

some mornings. Sunday, the closing day, was a great day for these children as they were taken out to the Lake Gardens for a picnic. They are all looking forward to the next Vacation Bible School.

An opening wedge has been made in the hearts of these children and their parents for the Light to enter into their homes. When some of the parents were visited during the follow-up work they all expressed their deep satisfaction and appreciation for what their children had been taught. We do hope and pray that the seed of Truth which has been sown in the hearts and minds of these children will some-day bear fruit.

Baptism at Kuantan, Pahang

By S. J. Lee, President
Malaya Mission

ON THE beautiful Sabbath morning of August 27, a group of us, with thanksgiving and rejoicing in our hearts, drove down to the beautiful sea beach at Kuantan, the capitol of the State of Pahang, for a baptismal service conducted by Pastor Cheng Kwel Yung. The candidate was a young man by the name of Wong Jien Cheng, who is a student at the Government Technical College at Kuantan.

The story of this young man's conversion is indeed an evidence of the Lord's leading and that He is adding to His Church such as should be saved.

Several months ago this young man found his way to the gate leading to the house where our pastor



Baptism at Kuantan.

lives. But he did not have the courage to go in to see the pastor. The following day he came again, this time with a friend. Reaching the gate, he again hesitated to go in, but his friend urged him on and together they went up to the house of our pastor. There they introduced themselves. His friend informed our pastor of this young man's interest to know more of the Bible truths as he has just finished a Voice of Prophecy course and that he had been pestering him to accompany him to look up the Seventh-day Adventist minister. So arrangements were made to have the young man continue with his Bible studies. He agreed to come in the evenings. Bible studies began and he came every evening without fail. He attended the Sabbath services every week and was later baptized. Pastor Cheng informed me that this young man has not missed one evening of his studies from the time he began. Truly here is an earnest seeker after Truth.

A rousing song service is enjoyed each evening at the Jingiang meetings.



Soul Winning in Vietnam

By Doyle Barnett
Lay Activities Secretary, SEAU

TWO YOUNG LADIES in the Cholon (a city within the city of Saigon) SDA Church are on fire with enthusiasm for their Master. After Pastor Wong Yew Seng, the church pastor, had organized and sent the young people out by two's in house to house canvassing for Bible school students, Misses Chen and Yang led the whole church by securing over 500 enlistments. And they did this in less than two weeks. Two other young ladies also did excellent work. Vietnam is involved in deadly warfare, and many activities cannot be carried on in the normal way. Nothing, however, could stop these youth from pressing forward in attempting great things for their Lord. They have an ever burning desire to share their faith with those who have no hope.

These youth did not stop when they reached a certain goal to flaunt their laurels for others to shout their praises. To them soul-winning was not just a seasonal activity, or

something to engage in as they felt like it. It must be carried forward in progressive and unbroken continuity. Instead of being satisfied with past accomplishments, they were eager to continue with more effective methods. When a new way of house to house missionary work was introduced in their church, they were even more enthusiastic than before. The new manner of working was to use the Voice of Prophecy WAY OF LIFE Bible course in a weekly distribution plan. During the first week lesson 1 was delivered from house to house in person by many bands of lay workers. The next week they went back to the same homes with lessons two and three. Thus they are calling on the same people week after week delivering two lessons each time. During each visit they not only deliver new lessons, but also collect the test forms from the previous week's lessons.

On the first Sabbath afternoon

these two young ladies introduced this new Bible study plan to 38 people. Thirty six of that number accepted the lessons and promised to study them. The following Sabbath they gathered 23 filled-in test forms from these same people.

Other young people were equally enthusiastic in sharing this plan with their neighbors and friends. Not only the young people but many older Cholon church members are entering into this new plan of sharing their faith with those about them.

This soul-winning endeavor has infused new life into the whole church. Between two and three hundred personal contacts are being made each week, and our members are looking forward to evangelistic meetings to be conducted later this year to gather in a harvest of souls from these contacts.

● Mrs. K. T. Kong, elementary teacher for more than a quarter century at SAUC, is currently spending her leave of absence in California with her two children, Arthur and Peggy. She will remain with her children till the end of this year.

At right: Over 500 VOP enrollments in two weeks by these enthusiastic young ladies.

Below: Young people from Cholon who participated in house-to-house program.



Vacation Bible Schools Open New Doors in Thailand

By Elden B. Smith
Lay Activities Sec'y, Thailand

"MR. PENDER, can you please print these Vacation Bible School Materials that have been translated and have them finished within this month?" "I'll sure do my best!" And his best was good enough. With the materials finished on time Mrs. J. H. Lantry was able to conduct a Vacation Bible School Demonstration in Bangkok for delegates representing most of the churches in the mission. Within two weeks following the demonstration school there were five Vacation Bible Schools in progress being conducted by the new trainees.

Now the teachers in our mission schools have found a wonderful new way to witness during the vacation periods. Translating and printing such materials is a large task for a mission with a small membership but we are thankful that the effort and finances have been invested and look for wonderful returns in the lives of the happy children who enroll in our Vacation Bible Schools.

Thailand Mission Workers Retreat

By Palmer G. Wick, President
Thailand Mission

ONCE EVERY two years the Thailand Mission holds a week long workers retreat at a beautiful beach one hundred miles south of Bangkok. This retreat is looked forward to with great anticipation by everyone, for the mission invites not only workers, but also wives and children. This year, including the families, a group of 92 people were in attendance.

Having the families come along gives an opportunity for the wives and children of the workers to become better acquainted. The fellowship that we have together helps each worker to better understand the problems of his fellow-workers and helps each wife to better understand her husband's work.

This retreat is not all study and work. In addition to the classes and discussion periods, there are organ-



70 Thailand boys and girls enjoyed Vacation Bible School.



ized play periods and swimming. As we fellowship together in games and play, everyone gets better acquainted. This builds friendship and loyalty.

During our 1966 retreat, Dan Guild, our new union president, held two training classes daily. He presented a series of studies on "The Divine Worship Service," and a series of studies on "The Pastor As a Man." Since the things which were presented could be used back in their churches, the workers felt these classes were truly valuable to them. Many inspirational thoughts were brought to us that will help in our personal lives.

Mr. R. L. Sheldon, the new manager of the Thailand Publishing House, attended the retreat. He explained to the workers some of the plans and future needs of the Thailand Publishing House. He emphasized the need for more literature evangelists to help spread the

gospel message throughout the many unentered areas of Thailand.

Mrs. Paulene Barnett, the union Sabbath school secretary, assisted by Mrs. Ruth Watson of Phuket, held Vacation Bible School and Branch Sabbath School workshops. The workshops featured actual demonstrations of how to carry on a Vacation Bible School and a Branch Sabbath School.

Mrs. Barnett gave a special series to the workers on family relationship. Two years ago, after she gave a similar series of talks to the wives, several of the wives requested that their husbands be given the opportunity to hear these same ideas. So at the retreat this year the talks on family relationships were given to the whole workers group, wives and husbands. The workers especially cherished these talks, for they have no source material in the Thai language for this type of information.

THE MESSENGER

Published bi-monthly as the official organ of the S. D. A. Union of Southeast Asia.
251 Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore, 13.

Yearly Subscription Price 50 cents (U.S.)

Editor V. L. BRETSCH
Associate Editor D. R. GUILD

M.C. (P) 1824

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST UNION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA DIRECTORY

D. R. GUILD *President*
G. O. BRUCE *Secretary-Treasurer*
K. T. KONG .. *Assistant Secretary-Treasurer*
J. KONG *Auditor*
J. H. LANTRY *M. V. & Educational, Temperance*
D. M. BARNETT *Lay Activities*
Mrs. D. M. BARNETT *Sabbath School*
..... *Medical*
..... *Ministerial V.O.P. & R.*
V. L. BRETSCH *Publishing, and P R*

MALAYA MISSION

President S. J. Lee
Sec'y-Treasurer Samuel Tsai
166, Jalan Bukit Bintang, Kuala Lumpur

SABAH MISSION

President G. Munson
Sec'y-Treasurer
P. O. Box 34 Jesselton, Sabah

SARAWAK MISSION

President R. C. Hall
Sec'y-Treasurer P. R. Sibarani
P. O. Box 41, Kuching, Sarawak

THAILAND MISSION (INCLUDING LAOS)

President P. G. Wick
Sec'y-Treasurer G. Gurusamy
P. O. Box 11/234 Bangkok, Thailand

VIETNAM MISSION (INCLUDING CAMBODIA)

President R. E. Neall
Sec'y-Treasurer C. Marris
P. O. Box 453 Saigon, Vietnam

Focus on Southeast Asia Union College

—Paul Tan, Public
Relations Officer, Southeast
Asia Union College

● An overwhelming response to the appeal for blood kept the team of workers from the Singapore Blood Transfusion Centre busy recently at Southeast Asia Union College from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ninety-one students, faculty members, and mission workers participated in this noble endeavour. The school library was converted into a temporary centre of twelve beds which were continually being filled as donor after donor took their turns. This is the sixth year that the school has promoted this worthy campaign among its students and staff members.

● A new block of toilets for the day students is now under construction. The girls' unit will compose of seven rest rooms while the boys' unit will compose of five rest rooms and two showers. All will be completely tiled to improve appearance and to facilitate cleaning. The boys' dormitory will also have a completely new block of toilets and shower rooms located upstairs. The old block will be demolished to make room for the new auditorium that will be constructed soon.

● Mr. & Mrs. James Yong returned from the United States on August 24, he to join the college staff and she to join Youngberg Memorial Hospital. Mr. Yong received his Junior College diploma from SAUC in 1958 after which he proceeded to the States where he obtained his B. A. degree from Atlantic Union College and his M. A. and B. D. degrees from Andrews University. Mrs. Yong completed her laboratory technician's course this last June, graduating with a B. S. degree at Andrews University.

● Mrs. Maggie Tan, head of the Secretarial Science Department and acting head of the Education Department, was the happy recipient of her M. A. diploma which arrived in the mail recently. Enclosed with the diploma was a certificate of honors from Andrews University signifying that she had graduated summa cum laude. Mrs. Tan com-

pleted her graduate requirements in January of this year and so graduated in absentia. She had obtained her B. A. degree at Andrews University only six months before the final completion of her graduate studies. Her husband, Mr. Daniel Tan, graduated with an M. A. degree, also with honors, last summer. He is now serving in the capacity of Acting President at SAUC and Principal of the secondary school.

● Mr. & Mrs. Ng Sui Koon are expected back from the United States by mid-September. Both have been on study tours in Europe. Mr. Ng, who received his B. A. degree from Walla Walla College and his M. A. and B. D. degrees from Andrews University, will teach Bible in the college and secondary school. Mrs. Ng, who holds an L.R.S.M. diploma from London besides her B. M. and M. Mus. Ed. degrees from Andrews University, will head the Music Department of SAUC upon her return.

● Miss Beryl Chu left for the United States on August 15 to continue her studies in music at Andrews University. She holds the coveted diplomas of L.R.S.M. in Performing and Teaching and hopes to add more laurels to her musical career while in the States. Prior to leaving for the States, she was acting head of the Music Department at SAUC.

Mr. and Mrs. James Yong, and Albert.

