



The Messenger

Empowered for Greater Things

by D. R. Guild, President

DECEMBER 16 marked the opening of the fifteenth biennial session of the Southeast Asia Union Mission. Meetings were held in the spacious new auditorium of the Southeast Asia Union College. One hundred and twenty-two delegates from the five missions of the union assembled for five days to lay plans for advancing God's work.

Emblazoned on the auditorium stage backdrop in glowing black light was the motto: "Empowered for Greater Things." To the left of the motto, mounted on concentric brass rings, giving the effect of a globe, was a map of the union territory, flanked by the flags of the nine countries and territories of the union.

The keynote message, based on the promise of Jesus, "Greater things than these shall ye do," developed the motto, "Empowered for Greater Things." Playing on this theme, the emphasis of the session was on Far East Harvest, the soul winning thrust in the Far East for the next two years.

Inspiring morning devotionals were given by Don Jacobsen, union

ministerial secretary, Phillip H. Tan, pastor of the Sandakan church, Sunti Sorajjakool, pastor of the Bangkok Adventist Hospital church, and Boyd Olsen, division educational secretary. Inspirational mid-day meditations, by Duane Johnson of the General Conference secretarial department, closed the business sessions each morning. Friday evening at the vesper hour, P. H. Eldridge, Far Eastern Division president, gave a stirring call to consecration which will long be remembered. The thrilling evening mission reports trumpeted the advance of the soul winning program around the union.

Pre-councils of the Educational, Missionary Volunteer, and Publishing departments preceeded the session. A workshop for union and mission administrators and departmental secretaries and the boards of directors of the nine union-operated institutions—which includes six hospitals, three publishing houses and the college—were held in connection with the session.

All mission officers and union departmental secretaries were re-

elected. Credentials and licenses were granted to 384 workers in the union and in union institutions. In all 96 actions were taken at the business sessions. Of special note were: An action to develop a clinic in Sandakan, Sabah with the over all objective of building a hospital there; far-reaching actions from nearly every union department on Far East Harvest; approval of a change in the union name from Union of Southeast Asia to Southeast Asia Union Mission; and a decision to print the **Messenger** in English only, as a monthly rather than a bi-monthly magazine as soon as editorial help becomes available.

At the closing session the union officers and departmental secretaries joined the mission officers and union institutional administrators and the delegates from the missions in a standing dedication, pledging to make all the programs and plans for the next two years, Harvest plans. The closing action of the session was a resolution of gratitude to God which was followed by a consecration prayer by the division president.



President D. R. Guild, opened the 15th Biennial Session of the Southeast Asia Union Mission, which convened December 17-22. Over 130 delegates, plus a host of Singapore-area members, filled the auditorium the first evening as the union president presented a challenging message centered around the words of Jesus, when He said, "Greater Things Than These Shall Ye Do." The messages, the music, backdrops and various preparations for the meetings, served to make this the very best session ever held in this union.



Messenger II, latest addition to the Southeast Asia Union evangelistic program, was dedicated Monday, December 23, at Paya Lebar Airport in Singapore. Pastor Duane Johnson, a member of the General Conference aviation committee, was present to assist in dedicating this new aircraft to the service of Christ. Unique among the features of this new six-passenger Cessna 180, is its short take-off and landing power. (STOL) It requires about half the space of an ordinary aircraft. It will be based in Sarawak, with Pastor R. C. Hall, using it for evangelistic work among the tribal peoples on small jungle air-strips.



Delegates to the MV-Education departmental pre-council are seen here at one of their planning sessions. The meetings were held December 12-13. Among the decisions made, were a recommendation to the union committee that plans be laid for a union-wide Youth Congress, possibly in Sabah, sometime in 1970-1971.



Thirty publishing leaders gathered at a two-day publishing pre-council December 12-13, at which time over twenty actions were taken. Plans for participation in Far East Harvest were made and items affecting policy and operation of the department were discussed. Reports were given indicating the blessing of God during the past two years.

At the closing program of the Character Building School at the Balestier Road Church many boys and girls took part before a large audience of parents, church members, and friends.

Boys and girls of all races and religions of Singapore surround Mrs. G. C. Ekvall at the closing program of the Character Building School at the Balestier Road Church. She directed the two-week program which was conducted nightly for the boys and girls of the community. More than 100 attended on a regular basis.



Literature Evangelists Pledge to Visit More than 600,000 Homes in 1969

by V. L. Bretsch, Departmental Secretary

SINGING, praying, planning, and many other helpful and interesting things took place recently at five mission institutes around the union. The publishing leaders of each mission had planned their meetings very well. More than one hundred and fifty listened carefully to the lectures presented by Pastor M. R. Lyon, assistant publishing secretary of the Far Eastern Division.

At the closing meeting of each institute, literature evangelist's goals were set for the coming year. Among the highlights of these meetings, were the thrilling news that these dedicated workers have pledged themselves to personally visiting over 600,000 homes in 1969.

This will mean greater results than ever before in the circulation of our truth-filled literature. More contacts mean more sales. It also

means more VOP Bible course enrollments, more prayers in homes, and more free literature distributed. Yes, it means more souls in the kingdom.

1968 has been one of the best years for our literature program in Southeast Asia Union history. We thank God for this. And now we confidently look forward to the future and know that 1969 will be even better.

1. Workers from the mission office joined literature evangelists from the Thailand Mission on Sabbath, the closing day of their 1969 Literature Evangelist Institute. Three new Thai members joined our publishing work this year.
2. A baptism of seventeen precious souls took place at Danang on the closing Sabbath of the Literature Evangelist Institute there. Four of the candidates were won to the truth by literature evangelists.
3. Madam Chow, a faithful literature evangelist in Singapore sold a book to Mrs. To. Later she gave her Bible Studies and she was baptized. When time came for the institute, they attended together and now Mrs. To is a very successful literature evangelist too.
4. A fine group of workers gathered at Port Dixon, on the beach at the Baptist camp. Pastor H. Y. Cheah, Kuala Lumpur pastor,

gave special help in the field of Bible evangelism.

5. A Catholic priest, and Pastor Le Cong Giao of the Vietnam Signs Press, chanced to meet some time ago. As a result of their acquaintance, the priest has purchased a copy of each Vietnamese book printed at our publishing house and has given a written recommendation for literature evangelists to use in meeting the members of his church.
6. Faithful literature evangelists of Saigon and the delta area to the south, gathered at the Phuan Nhyan church near the press. These workers set the highest goals for 1969.
7. These dear people often canvass behind communists lines. They are sowing the gospel seed in the northern areas of South Vietnam. This picture was taken in front of our Danang church.



Laymen's Congresses Attract Record Crowds

by Doyle Barnett, Departmental Secretary

A NEW page in history was written recently when Laymen's Congresses made a remarkable debut in the Southeast Asia Union territory. General Conference, Division and Union Lay Activities Secretaries, V. W. Schoen, L. A. Shipowick and Doyle Barnett, were key speakers before record crowds of SDA laymen in Saigon, Bangkok, Singapore and Sabah. Unparalleled Friday night and Sabbath attendances filled our Thailand Ekamai School chapel to capacity. Thailand Mission President and Lay Activities Director, Palmer Wick and Abel Pangan, were thrilled to see lay workers respond to the challenge of greater lay evangelism. Vietnam Mission leaders, Ralph Neall and Pham Thien enthusiastically spread the word that lay dele-

gates returned to their churches with a new vision in their hearts of unlimited soul-winning possibilities. Malaya Mission President, T. K. Chong, dispatched the good news that the Laymen's Congress attendance at the Singapore College Church was the biggest convocation of laymen in the history of the work in Malaya and Singapore. He declared that the inspiration and instruction imparted fired the enthusiasm of all who attended. On Sabbath an overflow crowd in Sabah were unable to find sitting space in the great pavillion which had been erected for the Sabah Laymen's Congress. The audience extended to parked cars and the shades of surrounding trees. Already active laymen were again thrilled with a new sense of urgency of

finishing the work in Sabah. George Munson and Mandatang Gaban, Mission President and Lay Activities Director, are now scratching their heads and searching for ways and means of providing materials and equipment to supply zealous and eager lay workers. The laymen's congress in the Sarawak Mission was postponed until 1969.

Providentially, it is believed, these laymen's congresses were conducted just as all the missions were in the process of launching the greatest ever lay evangelistic program — Gift Bible Evangelism. Pastors Schoen and Shipowick made an outstanding contribution during these congresses to the work in Southeast Asia. Their help was greatly appreciated.

Remember!
Your Far East Harvest
Commitment

New Ministerial Training Class in Vietnam

by R. E. Neall, president

THE first new ministerial training class in three years opened in the Saigon Adventist School on October 14. Twenty-one young men enrolled and classes began immediately.

As educational levels in Vietnam rise, it is possible to raise entrance requirements for our training classes. With only one exception, all the men in this new class have finished the De Nhi, or the eleventh grade. Most of them have taken several years in our own school.

In the opening convocation the teachers, Pastor and Mrs. Ralph Neall, Pastor Pham Thien, and Le Toan Tho, greeted the students and described the aims of their courses. Pastor Neall spoke on how a man may know whether he is called to the ministry.

The curriculum calls for one year in the classroom, one year of practical work in the field, and the final year back in the classroom.

Five Day Plan in Sarawak

by C. A. Ortner, principal

FOR four years a Dayak man and his wife had been faithfully attending Sabbath services in the Putah church in Sarawak. They wanted to be baptized, but because they could not give up tobacco and betel nut they could not. Many times they had tried, but in the end had always gone back to their evil habits.

A baptism was scheduled. This time they were determined to give up their tobacco and betel nut and be ready for baptism. After another desperate struggle and heart breaking failure they told the church members they would kill anyone who tried to take their tobacco and betel from them.

Brother Jipem, their pastor, had been praying and working for them over the years. He remembered the "Five Day Plan" suggested by Elder Don Jacobsen some months before. Alone, he went to the house of the couple and asked them, "Do you really want to be baptized?"

Both answered, "Yes, but how can we?"

His next question was, "If I give you a plan to help you stop smoking and chewing betel nut, will you?"

"Yes, we will try," was the reply. Promises were read that Jesus

Christ could help them as he had those in the days of old for: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever." Hebrews 13:8.

Next, Brother Jipem asked them for all the things that had been keeping them back from being baptized, the tobacco, lime, betel nut and even the container they had kept these things in.

"Now, I will keep this in my house. When you feel you must smoke or chew you come over and I'll let you have what you want of your own tobacco or betel nut. But, you must promise not to buy or borrow any other. Or, if you feel you cannot come over, send for me, day or night, and I'll bring it to you."

They all knelt and had prayer together. Each evening Brother Jipem went to see them. The struggle was fierce. They ate saccharin tablets, the husband ate the tooth paste from the tube, finally tearing open the tube to get the last little bit. But, neither one came for the tobacco or betel nut.

By Friday night the battle had been won, neither one wanted or needed the tobacco or betel nut any longer. Brother Jipem presented each of them with a new tube of tooth paste and a new tooth brush.

Recently it was my privilege to baptize this dear couple, who struggled so hard against the adversary and with God's help won.



1. Two Sabah sisters donned their former tribal dress-up costumes and bore their church banners on the opening night of the congress.
2. V. W. Schoen, General Conference Lay Activities Leader, speaks to a keen minded Buddhist priest, the first graduate of The Bible Says lessons in Thailand.
3. Sabah layman of the year spreads out witch doctor charms as a demonstration of the power of God is leading men and women to forsake their black magic witchcraft.
4. Colorful banners were borne by representatives of Malaya Mission Churches through the congregation to stands on the platform. Colorful flannel board devices were forcefully used during all the congresses to drive high points home and to increase interest.
5. Record attendance filled the new Southeast Asia Union College chapel during the congress October 18 to 20.

6. A large group of Vietnamese laymen, armed with inspiration, enthusiasm and materials, are ready to launch their Gift Bible Evangelism crusade for Christ.
7. Sabah Adventist Secondary School students dressed in their various tribal costumes thrilled the hearts of laymen as they rendered beautiful musical numbers.
8. Active Sabah laymen dressed in their native tribal costumes bear the Sabah flag and the Lay Activities banner.
9. Sabah Mission President, George Munson, presents a flashlight projector to layman of the year who won 23 souls to Christ in 1968.
10. A highlight of Vietnam Laymen's Congress was when a converted ex-Vietcong was released from prison the day the congress began. He made his way against opposition and hinderances to the mission headquarters and attended every meeting. Pastor Le Cong Giao (left) is translating his testimony.





Sandakan Pastor Launches Various Missionary Projects in Preparation for Meetings

by Doyle Barnett, Dept. Sec.

THE Sandakan church has a new pastor, Philip Tan, recently from Hong Kong. Pastor Tan, his wife and daughter, arrived about six months ago. Since then, they have begun a number of missionary projects that have proved very successful already in building up the church.

Pastor Tan immediately started a strong visitation program. Using the church records, he called on those who have been absent from church for many years. A baptism was held recently, in which a number of former members returned to follow Jesus again.

The Gift Bible plan was put into operation, and recently a branch office of the Voice of Prophecy was opening in his home, to give faster service and to develop more interests in preparation for public evangelistic meetings which will be held next May by Pastor Milton Lee.

A real spirit of pioneer evangelism is taking place on the east coast of Sabah and these faithful workers appreciate the prayers of all God's children.

VOP Group Visits Southeast Asia

by Don Jacobsen, Departmental Secretary

MORE than 400 eager friends of the Voice of Prophecy crowded into the VOP rally in downtown Saigon. More than 800 in Bangkok. Over 500 in Penang. And a grand total of more than 5,000 in Singapore.

Everywhere the reception was the same. Pastor H. M. S. Richards, Jr., and the Kings Heralds Quartet brought blessing and inspiration to Southeast Asia in a six-day visit that will never be forgotten.

The Voice of Prophecy Correspondence Schools are one of the key tools in Southeast Asia's soul-winning. In portions of the field the Bible Schools are augmented by radio broadcasts. Today there are more than 19,000 active students in our Union. Each month the Voice of Prophecy radio broadcast is heard 58 times throughout our field. All of this creates soil in which the Good Seed takes ready root.

In laying plans for the itinerary of the VOP group we had in mind a three-fold purpose. First, to bring inspiration and encouragement to our own people. Second, to win new friends, and new students for our Bible Schools. And third, to lay the claims of the gospel upon the hearts of all those who came to listen.

Our own people were inspired — they told us so.

We did enroll new students — hundreds of them.

And scores came forward in re-

sponse to Pastor Richards' appeals to accept Jesus Christ as personal Saviour.

So, thanks to the presence of God's Spirit and the careful planning of many of our people in Southeast Asia it was a mission well done.

New School Dedicated at Danang

by R. E. Neall, president

F. H. Hewitt, recently-arrived Educational Secretary of the Southeast Asia Union Mission, dedicated a new two-room, four-grade school in Danang on Sunday, October 6. Classes are already meeting in the school with Nguyen Minh Lam and his wife Le Thi Bach as the teachers. There are now one hundred students.

Pastor Pham Truong Thanh has through church members and US servicemen raised funds and materials for this new school. Worth approximately 700,000 piastres, or US\$5,000, it is one of the most attractive and representative schools in the mission.

One of the honored guests at the school dedication was a priest of the Cao Dai faith who studied under Pastor Thanh himself about twenty years ago, and now is sending his own child to the new school.



Pastor and Mrs. Philip H. Tan and daughter Sharon.

17th Convocation at Southeast Asia Union College



by Maggie Tan

17 young graduates marched triumphantly down the carpeted aisle, flanked by 40 smartly-dressed Juniors, to receive their hardearned diplomas at the 17th Graduating Exercise of Southeast Asia Union College.

Two big baskets of yellow roses (class flower) stood in majestic splendor on the stage, the colors of yellow and green harmonizing beautifully with the class colors of gold and green as reflected in the decoration piece showing the class motto and aim. The soft pastel yellow dresses of the Junior girls and the green turtleneck collars peeping from beneath the gowns of the Senior girls further accented the class colors.

Flag bearers added pomp and color to the occasion as they marched in slow dignity with the Singapore flag, the school flag, and the class colors of gold and green.

Speakers for the graduation exercises were Fred Long (Consecration), Chester Damron (Baccalaureate), and Garth Thompson (Commencement).

Southeast Asia Union College honored the K. T. Kongs on Commencement night by presenting them with the 1968 "Flame of the Forest," the school's yearbook which was dedicated to these veteran workers. The editor, Steven Yap, read the dedicatory message before presenting the annual to the couple.

Two students graduated with honors—Steven Yap and Amy Tan. Steven plans to further his education in the United States. Amy has received a call to teach science and mathematics at Sabah Training School.

Of the 17 who have graduated, seven have already received calls to work in various institutions of Southeast Asia Union. The rest are planning to go abroad for further studies.

We want to wish these fine young people a rich measure of God's blessings as they step forth from the threshold of Southeast Asia Union College. May their lives be a blessing to others and may they reflect the light they have received wherever they may be.

SAUC Does it Again!

by Daniel Tan
President, Southeast Asia Union
College

THE highest figure ever to be reported for Ingathering by the students and faculty of Southeast Asia Union College was recorded on October 4—the official reporting day which marked the end of the

campaign for 1968. The amount collected by students and teachers was just a few dollars short of \$30,000 on reporting day. What makes this figure outstanding is the fact that this amount did not include the donations gathered by the administration which totals around \$17,000, bringing the figure for this year to an all high amount of \$47,000. It is hoped to continue soliciting a further \$3,000 to bring the figure up to the \$50,000 mark.



Pastor Philip H. Tan, Sandakan, is shown reading the Bible to two elderly members of his church.

College Auditorium Opens for Use in Singapore

by Maggie Tan

THE last stitches on the hem of the wine-red velvet stage curtains and pale blue-grey backdrop were put in by a tailoring crew of five. The chairs were delivered in three batches. The organs and piano were installed. The portable baptismal pool was given a final coat of paint. The last piece of teak-

vener front paneling was nailed in place. The column speakers were put up and the public address system tested for acoustic clarity. The terrazo floor was swept and mopped. And then all was ready for Sabbath.

October 12 was the target date and officers of the Southeast Asia Union College and the workshop crew toiled day and night in a desperate attempt to meet this deadline. And meet it they did!

The auditorium was comfortably filled on the first Sabbath. Visitors' Day plus a baptismal service (the first indoor baptismal service ever held in the College Church) were added highlights of the day. The following Sabbath was Laymen's Congress and the auditorium was literally filled to overflowing; many had to find seats in the old chapel where they could at least hear the sermon and music through extension speakers. There were about 1,100 in attendance that beautiful Sabbath morning.

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ica and hopes to put Europe and England into her itinerary (she has yet another brother in England) before coming home.

● **Jonathan Ng** graduated from Philippine Union College with a B. A. degree and is now connected with the Southeast Asia Union College Church as assistant pastor.

● **Leong Swee Gin**, SAUC faculty member on an upgrading scholarship, completed his requirements for a Bachelor's degree, majoring in mathematics and science, at Philippine Union College. He is currently working on his Master's degree in the same field of study at the University of the Philippines.

● **Molly Wong Kim Sart**, alumna of SAUC, returned from Australia after completing her nurses training there. She married Fred Long Foo Yee, also an alumnus of SAUC, on Christmas Day. Long is a psychologist in the Ministry of Health and a guest instructor at Southeast Asia Union College.

● **Mary Chong**, an outstanding secondary teacher of SAUC, left on scholarship to Andrews University where she will work on her Master's degree in English. The senior secondary students were particularly sorry to see her go and will miss her excellent teaching for the Cambridge exams.

● **Jasper Hutabarat** left in mid-December to take up male nursing in England.

● **Students of the primary 6 class** scored a 100% pass again this year in the Government Secondary Entrance Examination. We are proud of this record the students have been maintaining for the past several years.

● **A record number of students** have registered for the SAUC "Monsoon Session" to be held in January and February. Many are taking advantage of the long vacation break to get one or two subjects out of the way before the start of another school year. Courses offered are: Epistles of Paul, General Psychology, Trigonometry, and Fundamentals of Music.

News Notes

by Maggie Tan

● **DR. & Mrs. Samuel Phang** of California recently paid a flying visit to their homeland. Dr. Phang is the brother of Pastor Y. H. Phang. He graduated from the College of Medical Evangelists in 1933, the very first from Southeast Asia to graduate as a medical doctor from this school of medicine.

● **Queenie Tan** left in late October for a vacation trip to the United States. She will visit her brothers, Donald (who is an M. D.), Robert (who is a musician), and Newton (who recently left SAUC for further upgrading). She plans to tour the various States of Amer-