

# SABBATH SCHOOL EVANGELISM SPECIAL

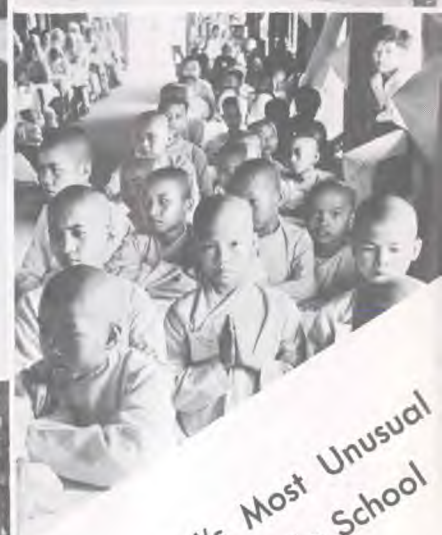
## The Messenger

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YOU HELP THE ORPHANS CHILDREN  
WHO DON'T DIED BY THE WAR THAT IS A  
CONSIDERABLE CIVIL VIRTUES.  
I BELIEVE YOU DON'T BE A VICTIM OF THE WAR.



The World's Most Unusual  
Vacation Bible School



## BUDDHIST and CATHOLIC Join SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS in Most Extraordinary VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**W**HAT was perhaps the most unusual Vacation Bible School graduation ever conducted took place on April 5, 1969 in a Buddhist orphanage twenty-five miles from Saigon. The audience consisted of about 1,700 yellow-robed students and teachers residing at the orphanage, Vietnam Mission, Southeast Asia Union and Far Eastern Division representatives plus twenty-eight Seventh-day Adventist doctors from all parts of the Far Eastern Division. There were also interested spectators and participants, along with the leaders and teachers of the Vacation Bible School.

In addition to the usual children and youth participation, an interested Catholic chaplain in the United States army told a Bible story. The leader of Vietnam's Red Cross added words of commendation and approval, and the head of the monastery expressed his appreciation for the training. Three times he emphasized his statement, "When the love of Jesus comes in, the darkness fades away."

Usual attendance at the Vacation Bible School classes exceeded one thousand. Five hundred were free from work and able to attend all of the classes and complete the required assignments for receiving a certificate. These along with the majority of the residents at Orphan Village are now members of . . .



Boys and girls with identical yellow robes and shaven heads were as undistinguishable as the owners of the hats which were stacked like small pyramids on the table at the door. Sitting cross-legged, Buddha fashion, posed no problem, but making the change from monotone chanting to musical melody proved to be more difficult, especially for the older ones.



The friendly Buddhist leader closed the meeting with the following words—jotted down exactly as they came from the translator:

"For the past year Pastor and Mrs. Neall have brought the truth of God to this village. The Seventh-day Adventist doctors have come to give us help. Today you see hundreds of children here waiting for the day of judgment. It is unusual for you to see Buddhists studying Christianity. We are glad for you to come and happy for what you have taught us. Go home and tell your people we Buddhists are happy to learn of Christianity. We hope you will continue to come and teach us the love of God."

## THE WORLD'S LARGEST BRANCH SABBATH SCHOOL

No one room is big enough in any of the patchwork buildings to house so many Branch Sabbath School members. Seven teams meet their classes in scattered locations. We who were privileged visitors for the day rushed from one makeshift building to another to view each section of this unique Branch Sabbath School. Every room was packed to capacity, with all floor-space taken.



Only the older group of leaders and teachers were privileged to sit on the backless benches in the spacious open dining room. Eighty Buddhists singing Christian songs and marking vital passages in their gift Bibles make this a most singular Branch Sabbath School. What a door of opportunity!



## First Mission Child Evangelism Secretary in the Southeast Asia Union



**M**ISS Dorothy Lapan, of the Sarawak Mission, is the first full time Mission Child Evangelism Secretary to be appointed in the Southeast Asia Union. Having been a student and later a teacher in our school at Ayer Manis, Miss Lapan is well prepared to guide others in methods of evangelism for the neglected children and youth.

A native of Sarawak, Miss Lapan is able to work in several of the languages used in the field. She also possesses the enthusiasm, courage and fearlessness needed to go anywhere—from the cities to the remote jungle areas—to carry on her training classes.

Sabbath School teachers and leaders, Vacation Bible School directors and staff as well as Branch Sabbath School leaders meet with Miss Lapan in all kinds of places and under all circumstances for her valuable training.

Detailed information concerning the Sabbath Schools Miss Lapan has visited is most enlightening. Her records tell where the children meet for Sabbath School, if a Lamb Shelter is needed, how many divisions are operating and how many should be, who the teachers are, a list of prospective teachers she might return to train, what visual aids are available and what are needed, as well as many other pertinent facts needed for building a program to win and hold future leaders from the youth of Sarawak.

The plan of coordinating Vacation Bible Schools with evangelistic meetings has been so successful that Sarawak's Mission Evangelist re-

quests this program for every series of meetings he conducts. Making evangelism a "family affair" with the interest of the children and youth captured at the same time the parents are being evangelized, has proved to be an even more effective method of reaching adults. Miss Lapan's letters give some interesting insights into her work:

"I have been out in the villages for a month and just returned home yesterday. I had a very delightful time there. First I was in Engkaruh for ten days of Child Evangelism classes and a Vacation Bible School. This was my largest kampong group with 93 students enrolled. At the night counsel classes, 10 to 20 adults attended. I am so happy to see some good improvements in the work being done for children there.

Next we went to Putah for a coordinated Vacation Bible School and Evangelistic Meeting. Oh! we had so many coming for the meeting each night. Fifty children were enrolled in our Vacation Bible School and were so interested there were no absentees except those sick with a fever. Ten of the Vacation Bible School young people are now attending the Bible classes. The folks there are already requesting another Vacation Bible School.

After two weeks in Putah, I went on to Tapoi and Sijajeg. How impressed I was to see the improvements in these two churches. They have now selected teachers for their children and are going forward with the program without even waiting for a Lamb Shelter. Tapoi is very far from Ayer Manis, over near the

Indonesian border. We have a small church there with only 46 Sabbath School members who live in long-houses. They are looking forward to moving out of the heathen long-house as soon as they can do so. Before I left, they too requested to have a Vacation Bible School."

"It is my greatest pleasure to write to you about our last Vacation Bible School and the Sabbath Schools along the Tatau River area where I have been for three weeks.

The combined effort was very successful. Such good interest was shown by both children and adults. They packed the place so full we could not accommodate all with a seat. They had never had meetings like this before and they were really impressed by Pastor Sammy Lee's talks every night. People who came from the nearby villages are now requesting the Mission to hold the next effort and Vacation Bible School at their place. At the close of the meeting 19 persons were baptized, including a number of the children from the Vacation Bible School.

It was so impressive to hear the testimonies of these students who gave their hearts to the Lord. Some have been rejected by their parents. One was disowned by his idol worshiping father ever before his baptism and ordered that no food be put on the table for Kantu. Even though at times he was ravenously hungry, he stood firm for his new found faith. One day he was confronted by his father who was holding a gun in his hand. Kantu, he said, you either give up that foolish thing in your mind or you will perish with this bullet in your body. Trembling, but with a strong heart, Kantu did not say a word. He ran from the house with his father chasing after him in a fearful race. Kantu escaped through the rubber trees and ran to the home of a neighbor. There he was sheltered, fed and continued to attend the meetings both day and night.

The week following the boy's baptism, his father came to see Pastor James Maung. He was very angry. Pastor Maung explained clearly to the father that it was the son's own decision to be baptized. He also had opportunity to explain the truth to him. Before he left, the father was somewhat reconciled. Kantu's older brothers are now helping him to find a way to continue his education at our school at Ayer Manis."





## Operation Lamb Shelter and Extending

by Paulene Barnett, Secretary,

**T**HERE was a tremendous crash in the jungle. A mighty sentinel lay stretched full length on the ground and was soon dismembered of its extending branches. It had not died in vain! The buzz of the little Mission sawmill turned that giant tree into stacks of smoothly cut lumber. Willing hands fitted and nailed them together piece by piece at just the right angle. The result? A beautiful new double-sized Lamb Shelter, all complete with doors, windows, benches, and a speaker's desk—all made from one generous tree. (picture—bottom left) This was one of the first three Lamb Shelters built in Sarawak—Engkaruh's newest pride and joy.

Another sits just above a wide graveled road which serves as a perfect landing strip for Sarawak's flying Messenger. It was Sabbath morning. The Messenger came gliding in, buzzed over, circled, then returned for a perfect landing, while cars and busses waited at either end and passengers watched wide-eyed to see a plane rolling head on







## Shelter is Operating Its Borders

**Sabbath School Department**

toward them. The plane carried the guest speakers for Stungkol's Lamb Shelter dedication. Something new had been added to this very lovely Lamb Shelter which no other contains: a big sign, "Seventh-day Adventist Lamb Shelter," catches the attention of all who pass on the road below.

Putah's Lamb Shelter has something special too. It has the distinction of being the only one to boast a shining coat of pleasing yellow paint. Not only have they caught the vision of sheltering and teaching the children but are anxious to make their new building as inviting and appealing as possible.

With these good beginnings in Sarawak, Operation Lamb Shelter which began in Sabah extended its borders to provide for hundreds of other children who have waited long for this help. More shelters are now under constructions in Sarawak and requests keep coming in. While they wait, teachers and

(Continued on page 7)





# Story in Pictures

## FIRST COORDINATED VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL and ADULT EVANGELISTIC MEETING KUCHING, SARAWAK



1

While adults sat in the lovely auditorium next door, children sat on the cement tennis court under tents. Even when the rain soaked their "chairs," these little ones at nine o'clock at night were still singing, "I like Vacation Bible School."



2

A talented group of enthusiastic leaders donned VBS hats along with the students and promised them an interesting time.



3



4

A noisy talking crowd was quickly brought to order by the commands for "Attention!" and the opening ceremony with flag salutes.



5

From one to two hundred eager children crowded the tent an hour before starting time.

"I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy word. . ."





Students sat enraptured with the Bible stories so dramatically told by Mrs. Lily Wong.



Floor space was at a premium as each child spread out his "desk" for craft work and exercise books.



Pastor Sammy Lee climaxed each nightly session with his chalk-talk sermonette, drawing surprises and inspiring the children to imitate GOD'S HEROES.

## Operation Lamb Shelter

(from page 5)

leaders for the children are being chosen and trained by their Child Evangelism Leader. Mission president, Pastor Dick Hall, says, "The appointment of a full time Child Evangelism Secretary has been a real advance step in our Mission program." Every shelter must have a trained leader to carry on the work for which the building was constructed. Training and developing such leaders demands a Child Evangelism Secretary.

Recently during Sabbath School Training Classes conducted in Dalat, Vietnam, the delegates from several different outlying churches heard for the first time of the Lamb Shelter program. Most of these members have been forced by the war to leave their homes in the interior and move out to settle in villages which the government has provided

in a safer area. The following day we visited some of these villages. The first thing one notices when entering the village is the number of underground shelters. All are equipped with extremely simple cooking and sleeping accommodations and show signs of frequent use. Life is simple and the people lack most of the things many consider necessities. Under such circumstances we were greatly impressed when in one village a dark, curly-haired tribesman led us out to see his property and pointed out the area where he would like to have a Lamb Shelter built for their children. He offered his land (perhaps his only personal possession of any value) as a free gift to the Mission if a church and Lamb Shelter could be built there.

Some close calculating revealed that it will cost more than twice as much to build Lamb Shelters in Vietnam. Material is scarce and expensive, and because of the windy and often cold weather closed buildings are needed in these mountain areas. Plans are now under way for building a large double-sized Lamb Shelter to serve a dual purpose until funds are available to add a place for the adults to meet.

How gratifying it is to see Operation Lamb Shelter extending its borders even to war-torn Vietnam where for so many years nothing has been or could be done for the children. They would like to build three Lamb Shelters right now.

In Sabah where this faith project started back in March of 1967, Lamb Shelters now being built are taking on a new look. Instead of wooden buildings like the thirty to forty already built, beautiful and durable cement block Lamb Shelters will be found around the Goshen area. Pastor Smith and his corps

of workers are making their own cement blocks and building these better shelters for the same price. How generously God has blessed!

Thailand too would like a few Lamb Shelters to add their simple dignity to a land so resplendent with colorful, ornate Buddhist temples. How increasingly important in a land such as this that our program start during the early formative years. Every day we delay to win and hold the hearts of the little ones in a country like Thailand means a curtailed membership and a dirth of leaders for the future. It's time to build in Thailand too.

Over one hundred Bible Figure Sets have been made available to leaders and teachers who carry on the weekly and sometimes daily programs in the Lamb Shelters. Older youth now want their own visual aids for use in Branch Sabbath Schools, Vacation Bible Schools and other meetings where they can attract more children to their own special building.

Each Lamb Shelter has something uniquely its own: an ornate sign, a cement floor, or perhaps a door that locks. Always they are decorated with freshly cut branches and flowers for the official opening and dedication. But most important of all, each has a wide open door of opportunity and hundreds and hundreds of children waiting to be won for Christ.

**STOP PRESS**  
256 were baptized on  
Union-wide Baptismal  
Sabbath, June 14.





Last year there were eight. Year before—none. This year there are twenty-seven ministerial students studying at Southeast Asia Union College. Here are twenty-three of them posing with Pastor D. R. Watts (top left), chairman of the Religion Department.

## THE MESSENGER

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A warm welcome to Miss Esther Oldham who arrived recently to take up her duties as Director of Nursing Service at the Youngberg Memorial Hospital in Singapore.

decisions . . . Let us all pray for FAR EAST HARVEST!

**NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE** . . . Arthur Kong and Matthew Tan, both of Singapore, graduated from medicine at Loma Linda University . . . Y. J. Moses, a teacher at SAUC who is on upgrading at Spicer College, was married to Gnani Ruth on May 18 . . . The Singapore Chamber Ensemble recently presented an evening of music in the new SAUC auditorium . . . Dr. George Cheng and Dr. Ray Seet, alumni of SAUC, recently sent donations amounting to \$2,000 to their Alma Mater . . . Eight young people from the Sunny Hill and Ayer Manis schools are currently studying at SAUC, they are: Josephine Maung, Serena Gui, Joan Tan, Eddie Chee, Ben Khoo, Wong Yan Thong, Beatrice Yeo and Jacqueline Hee . . . Snowda Kwok and Chew Hock Leong of Sunny Hill School recently departed for further study at Avondale College . . . Lim Boon Sin of Muar, Malaya finished fourth in the Mysore, India Varsity Medical exams in which 1,000 medical students participated at the close of their freshman year of medicine.

**WITH REGRETS WE ANNOUNCE** the death of G. H. Minchin, former principal of SAUC, who passed away at Youngberg Memorial Hospital on May 11; and of Kong Khi Chong, brother of K. T. Kong, who passed away on May 16.

Kuching Church M.V. Leaders Training Camp at Bako National Park. Forty energetic youth were given Pathfinder leadership courses. R. C. Hall (center), mission president, has just flown in fresh food; Sammy Lee (to his right), mission M.V. secretary, directed the camp.

