

The Messenger

Vol. 21 No. 3. May-June, 1971

Phuket Church





The Challenge of Thailand's and Lao's Millions

* **I**N Thailand's population of 36,000,000, only .56 percent are Christian, and only 1,800 are Seventh-day Adventists. There are 8 organized churches and 11 companies.

* Our Mission has entered 8 provinces out of a total of 71 provinces in Thailand.

* Most border areas are now danger zones where travel is unsafe. Very few people are willing to leave their homes after dark in these areas.

* Laos, also part of our Mission, has work in two out of 8 provinces, but not one member is of Lao nationality, only Chinese and mountain tribal people. Most of Laos is not safe for gospel work.

* Education laws make it impossible to conduct multigrade schools under one teacher, making church schools prohibitively expensive.

Recent Developments with in the Mission

* **N**EW church buildings have been constructed for the Bangkok Chinese Church, Phuket Church (cover picture), Sunsai Church, Fang Church, and Nam Yawn Church (Meo tribal village in Laos).

* **VOP**—A new correspondence course has been translated and produced for Thailand, also a new course in Lao, a course in Karen, and now another course, "The Light of the World," has been translated and will soon be ready for production. Most of our baptismal candidates have studied at least one VOP course.

* **Schools**—Our first church school was started two years ago in Phuket, beginning with grades 1-4, and adding a grade each year to grade 7. Our second church school is opening this year in Haad Yai, teaching grades 1-7. Our Adventist Ekamai English School has built a new three-story, 18-room combination classroom administration building. The Ekamai Thai School has received accreditation and now teaches grades 11 and 12, making it possible for our Adventist youth to go through grade 12 and enter the school of nursing at Bangkok Sanitarium and Hospital.

* The Spirit of Prophecy Correspondence Course, with the companion book, **Treasure Chest**, has been translated and is now being used.

* The Conflict of the Ages Series is being translated with the **Desire of Ages** already printed, and the **Great Controversy** and **Patriarchs and Prophets** now being translated.

* Forty acres of land have been purchased near Chieng Mai for a new tribal training program.

Serving the Hill Tribes

by M. C. Lamberton, D.D.S.

THIS time of the year the mountains of northern Thailand are spotted and brown. They especially look that way from the Border Police helicopter as we fly from Chiangmai to Mae Hongson. The nakedness of many of the trees toward the end of the dry season allows a good view of the terrain while other times of the year it is covered by a carpet of blended greens with occasional flowers.

It can now easily be seen that these mountains are a series of jagged peaks ranging sharply from 1,000 to 9,000 feet elevation. Often we pass over newly slashed and burned or burning areas that are to be this year's fields for the hill tribes people. Most of these fields-to-be are on slopes of 30% to 60% grade.

The trip will take about 45 minutes at about 85 knots an hour. Many places we pass ridges or peaks below the summit level. A quick look is all you can get of them. It is like passing the buildings on the street at 85 miles an hour. They are sharp at the summit and drop off straight on each side.

We are on our way as a medical team of volunteers for Her Highness, the Princess Mother. In January of 1969 the Princess Mother organized a volunteer program to give medical aid to the hill tribes of North Thailand. She asked for volunteers among the physicians, dentists, nurses, and other necessary personnel. Under her sponsorship, the Thai Border Patrol furnishes helicopter transportation and chooses the villages to which the medical teams go. The Red Cross and other organizations help in collecting and furnishing medicines.



Each weekend a team of volunteers goes to the designated village early in the morning. For a short break at noon the lunch furnished for the medical team and aircraft crew is always ample and good.

The villages are generally one to three days walking distance to the nearest medical help and several hours from any kind of road. There are at least a dozen different ethnic tribes in North Thailand. Most of them have their own distinctive dress.

There are many volunteers so we don't go each week. Sometimes there are several teams in a week. So far, there has been only one accident. None of the volunteers were even scratched. They all managed to get a safe distance away after the crash before the leaking fuel exploded and consumed the helicopter, medicines and equipment.

The physician team cares for 100 to 250 patients in a day while the dentist may extract as much as 125 teeth. It is hoped that the program may be expanded to do more than relieve immediate pain. The need is so great that to do preventive medicine and dentistry is impos-



sible. It can easily be seen by the attitude of the patients that they really appreciate what is being done to help them.

Lamb Shelters in Thailand

by A. V. Pangan

TO provide a meeting place for the children, a lamb shelter was built in Mae Sariang, a town near the Burmese border. The children meeting there are all Karen. Mrs. Kaw Po, a Karen nurse working at the Mae Sariang Christian Hospital, devotes much of her time to conducting Branch Sabbath School meetings in the lamb shelter.

Another lamb shelter has been built at Chieng Kong, near the Laos border. The third lamb shelter to be completed recently is the one at Nam Yawn, Laos. The children meeting there are Meo, numbering to about fifty. Due to a lack of school facilities, the lamb shelter is being used, temporarily, as a school building.

More lamb shelters are being planned for the near future and will be built in Chieng Mai, Ubol, Phuket, and Haad Yai.





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1. BSH personnel and SDA Foundation joined hands in relieving the suffering of the flood victims.
2. Giving out food and clothing to the fire victims in Bangkok.
3. Going by boat to help flood victims at Angtong.

4. We flew by helicopter to help flood victims at Rajburi.
5. People were anxiously waiting for help.
6. Dr. Crider and nurses taking care of the patients.
7. Distribution of clothing.



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- 8. Giving out cash to the flood victims at Petchburi.
- 9. Students and teachers of the Ekamai School took part in helping the flood victims. Front right—Mr. Chalee Chuenchob (school principal) and his wife giving clothing and food.
- 10. Dr. C. Lamberton and Pastor Chalaw (translator) giving health talk.
- 11. Better Living Crusade team.
- 12. Part of the audience who listened attentively to the messages.
- 13. Pastors Johnston and Sunti (translator) preaching.
- 14. Pastor Sapon helping the audience find Bible texts.
- 15. Baptism.

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Chieng Mai Better-Living Crusade

by Sunti Sorajjakool

THE Thailand Mission had the privilege of having Pastors Bruce Johnston and Chester Damron, FED Evangelist and SAUM Ministerial Secretary respectively, come

to hold the first city-wide crusade in the beautiful city of Chieng Mai, from March 13 through April 10.

During the mornings Pastor Johnston conducted a field school, and the afternoons were devoted to visiting the interested people by the ministerial workers. Each evening Pastor Damron led the music, with Roy Lee at the piano. Dr. Clark

Lamberton gave the health talks, which were translated by Pastor Chalaw Artamapadung. Pastor Johnston presented the messages in his winning way. During these meetings, Pastor Sunti Sorajjakool conducted a Five-Day Plan. There were ten smokers who completed the program, and 9 of these stopped smoking.

New Tribal Work

by Palmer G. Wick

DURING the fifty-one years that our Mission has been working in Thailand almost nothing has been done for the score or more tribes that live in the mountain areas of Thailand. Almost all of these tribal people are animists, most of them are illiterate, and they have almost no medical attention or knowledge of sanitation.

The two largest tribes are the Karen, who have come over from Burma, most of whom are born here in Thailand, and the Meo Tribe, who have come down from China and Laos. We have already opened work among these people and find that they are very receptive to the gospel. We now have four trained workers who are Meo, and one trained Karen worker.

Last year the Thailand Mission Committee voted to place Pastor Jon Dybdahl in charge of the tribal work. Pastor Dybdahl has already learned much of the Meo language and is spending most of his time working for these people. Since the Meo people live in small villages and are very scattered, it was decided that we should start a tribal center where we can teach them agriculture, animal husbandry, health, religion, and give them enough education so that they can read and write.

Enough money has been given by friends so that we could purchase a site for this center. A beautiful piece of land has been purchased near Chieng Mai which is also near to the area where the tribal people live. Plans have already been approved by the Mission Committee to go ahead with the building of a home for a Meo teacher, a dormitory that will house about 15 students, and a home for Pastor Dybdahl on this land. The actual building will begin very soon. We hope to have the school in operation by the end of this year.

Instead of bringing the Karen people to the same school with the Meo, we purchased 3 acres of land at Mae Sarieng which has many fruit trees planted on it, and has irrigation water available all year long. On this land we will build a youth hostel and bring in children of our members who live in isolated villages so that they can have an opportunity for education. With

fruit trees, gardening and poultry, we hope to make this hostel self-supporting.

The tribal land at Chieng Mai is nicely divided into three plots of land. One of these plots of about 10 acres will be set aside for possible use as a boarding academy for our Thai young people. We greatly need a school where Sabbath classes will be no problem and where we can teach Bible. The Mission is not ready at this time to go ahead with an academy because of the small membership, but with land prices constantly increasing, it pays to have the land in our possession.

On this tribal center land we plan to plant many fruit trees, including oranges, lin chee, and lum yai (tiger

(Continued on page 8.)

Our Star Colporteur

by D. O. Corpuz, Publishing Secretary

MRS. K. S. Wong is the top colporteur for the Union! With her small car she is able to go to every corner of Thailand, selling truth-filled literature to every kind of people. All of these sales are

cash sales. Last year, 1970, she delivered 194,184 baht worth of books. The weather makes no difference to her. Rain or shine, she goes out each weekday with her books. Her enthusiastic personality enables her to be able to enter many homes and businesses where some of lesser determination might not be able to enter. The Lord has blessed mightily, and we are happy to have her working here in Thailand.

Mrs. Wong has previously been a teacher, but felt she wanted to do something more specific to help the Buddhist people to learn of the message of salvation.



Thailand Literature Evangelist Seminar

by D. O. Corpuz, Publishing Secretary

ALL literature evangelists from Thailand gathered at the beautiful place of Nakornpathom for the annual institute. This place is famous for nature, especially roses, and is commonly called "The Rose Garden."

The leadership of Pastor R. L. McKee, new Union Publishing Secretary, was greatly appreciated in

this institute. Mr. A. B. Timple, Publishing House Manager, and the local Publishing Secretary, also helped to make this institute successful.

Pastor Sunti Sorajjakool, our new Lay Activities and Radio-TV Secretary, gave inspiring devotional studies morning and evening. Pastor Palmer G. Wick, Mission President, brought the message for the hour of worship.

At the close of the institute every colporteur accepted the challenge of the goals set for winning souls, missionary endeavor, and for sales for 1971.



Vacation Bible School Held with Crusade

"TO lead a child by his hands is to reach his parents through their hearts" is a worthy saying. With this in mind, a Vacation Bible School was conducted in connection with the Chiang Mai Evangelistic Crusade held by Elder Bruce Johnston from March 13 through April 10. There were 189 children who enrolled with an average attendance of 99. Toward the close of the Crusade, 89 children received their certificates of attendance at the month-long VBS.

A special program was presented during the "graduation" exercise. The children invited their parents and friends to be present. The auditorium was filled to capacity. The "graduates" sang some of the



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Editor R. S. Watts

M.C. (P) 2747

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songs they learned in the VBS. They presented a symposium of what they learned. The welcome remarks were given by Pastor A. V. Pangan, director of the VBS and Thailand Mission Sabbath School Secretary. The address was given by Pastor Palmer G. Wick, President of the Thailand Mission.

Some of those who helped in leading out were Mrs. Ekvall, SAUM Child Evangelism Secretary, Mrs. Sunti Sorajjakool, Pastor Boonsong Chinda and his wife, and Miss Amporn of the Haad Yai Mission Hospital.

Since the VBS was conducted simultaneously with the Crusade meetings, a few changes and adjustments in the VBS program were made. Many of the ministerial workers participated as a training in order to let them be well acquainted with a VBS program.

For a follow-up program, the

Crusade Committee appointed Mrs. Sopon Jaiguar and Khun Aroon as leaders to hold a Branch Sabbath School at the place where the VBS was conducted. Two of the children who attended were among those who followed the Lord in baptism on April 10. —A. V. Pangan

New Tribal Work (Continued from page 7.)

eyes). Investigation is being made into the feasibility of growing mulberry trees and raising silk worms. This center plans for classes half days and half days for work, which we hope will make the school self-supporting for food.

The Thailand Mission hopes not only to bring the gospel to these tribal people, but also to help them live a better, happier, healthier life as they wait for the coming of our Lord.