



The Messenger

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THE MESSENGER

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TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS: The Messenger welcomes articles and pictures of important church events, such as church dedications, evangelistic meetings, youth activities, lay activities, and colporteur experiences. All manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced, with adequate margins. The deadline for each issue is six weeks before the date of publication.

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Those Who Plant Acorns

GEORGE King trudged wearily from house to house on Manhattan's 114th St. New York was hard territory, he sighed, but the great city needed to be warned. A quarantine sign on the door of the next house did not deter him from ringing the bell. The little English lady who answered listened to his canvass and said, "I'm sorry I can't invite you in—two of my girls have diphtheria. But I wish you'd come back later. My husband loves to talk about the Bible."

Like a good colporteur, King made the callback, and was delighted to meet Samuel Gordon, a tall Scotsman and elder of the Presbyterian Church. Soon King was displaying the seven-headed dragons and horrific beasts so vividly illustrated in Uriah Smith's **Daniel and Revelation**. Hungry for truth, Samuel Gordon not only signed up for that book, but for **The Great Controversy, Desire of Ages, Patriarchs and Prophets, Bible Readings**, and a year's subscription to the **Signs of the Times**. The bill totaled \$30—a considerable sum in those days.

King never knew how Elizabeth Gordon chided her husband as soon as he had left the house. "Thirty dollars on books—and you have six girls to support and doctor bills to pay!" Neither did he witness Samuel Gordon's dismay after the books were delivered—"These books are by Ellen White—a woman! I've been taken in by another Mary Baker Eddy!" But as he continued to call at the home, he noted Samuel's keen interest in **Daniel and Revelation** (at least that was by a man!) and Elizabeth's enthusiasm for **Patriarchs and Prophets**. Soon the Ellen White books won their way to Samuel's heart, as did the truths that George King presented in his weekly Bible studies. The climax came that glorious day in 1905 when the Gordons, along with 13 others for whom King had labored, were baptized.¹ Though he died a year later, I have always felt that George King won me when he won the Gordon family. For the youngest daughter of that family was Ruth Gordon Short, my own beloved mother.



FROM THEIR SHOULDERS

* * *

George King was not only a literature evangelist: he was the father of literature evangelists. In the late 1870s he came down from Canada to Battle Creek, Michigan, to present himself to James White as a candidate for the ministry. But James White listened to his halting speech and decided that George would never make a preacher. "Uncle Richard, take this young man out on your farm and give him work to do," he said to Richard Godsmark, an ardent layman. George went, but still insisted that he wanted to preach. "Now look, son," said Uncle Richard, "let's give it a try. I'll call a meeting

of the church, and you go ahead and preach. But if you fail, my boy, you must give up this idea of preaching!"

George failed. God must have let him fail, because He had other plans for him. Uncle Richard showed the way. "Look, George, preaching isn't the only way to win souls. Take this supply of literature and go out and sell it." The old man couldn't help but feel a twinge of pity as he watched George trudge down the dirt road with his pack of literature. But the pity changed to joy several days later as George returned with radiant face—he had sold everything.

Soon George got after the Review and Herald press to publish a large book for him to sell. The

A BROADER PERSPECTIVE

WE STAND ON THE SHOULDERS OF
THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE.

brethren were afraid to take the risk, but finally were won over. George King sold the first copy of **Daniel and Revelation** that came off the press before he even got out of the building. Then he presented the book to the public, with tremendous success. Soon other large books were published for him to sell.

King was not content to keep the field to himself. He trained other young men, some of whom distinguished themselves as pioneer workers.²

* * *

One of those young men was William Arnold. In 1885, when Arnold heard the call to Australia, he packed several large crates full of **Daniel and Revelation**, and set out with the first band of missionaries for the great land "down under." The party arrived in June—wintertime in Australia—when both the weather and the reception were cold. "Americans, brash Americans, were not too welcome in Australia; and when they came bearing such gifts as a strange Sabbath and a proclamation of the end of the world, they found the conservative population quite antagonistic."³

Arnold began knocking on doors, but the odds were against him. For one thing, the local ministers had warned the people against the band of Adventists in their midst. For another, Australia was not too safe in those days, with armed robbers stalking the country; and housewives were afraid to open their doors to strangers.

Week after week Arnold stuck to his task, without success. His associates tried to tell him that canvassing could not be done in Australia, but he refused to accept their verdict. Doggedly he persisted until six weeks had passed without a single sale.



George A. King

William Arnold

Arnold decided it was time for the Lord to act. On Friday evening he determined to seek the Lord by prayer and fasting all day Sabbath and Sunday until he had the assurance that God would help him. And God, who has promised, "When you seek Me with all your heart I will be found by you," heard the cries of His servant. Jer. 29:13, 14.

On Monday morning a dramatic change took place. Arnold sold at the first house, and then the second, third, fourth, and fifth. From then on he met with such success that he was soon able to donate £250 for a press for the new publishing house in Australia.⁴ Then he trained other men to carry on the work while he went off to new fields—London, Canada, the West Indies.

George King and William Arnold "went from place to place planting acorns, and today we stand and admire the stately oaks."⁵

A salute to all those who plant acorns—our faithful literature evangelists.

—B.S.N.

*The founder of the Christian Science religion.

¹Letter from Beatrice Gordon Sage, Feb. 3, 1972

²Arthur W. Spalding, **Origin and History of Seventh-day Adventists**, Vol. 2, pp. 83-87.

³*Ibid.*, p. 306.

⁴Letter from W. G. C. Murdoch, Jan. 12, 1972

⁵A. G. Stewart, "Who Was William Arnold," **Australasian Record**, July 19, 1971, p. 7.

Cover Photo

It is difficult for a literature evangelist to lose touch with God. The Lord has only to remove His hand of blessing, and discouragements crowd in thick and fast. Then the colporteur seeks a quiet spot, reads some promises from "Colporteur Ministry," and reconsecrates himself to God, sure that the angels are by his side again.

Kwok Hui Choo, faithful Singapore colporteur with 12 years of service, takes time out to pray.

The Colporteur Evangelist

Dreams Help Sell Books

"SON, do you have books in that case?" asked the patrol officer.

"Y-yes, sir," replied the surprised Reginald.

"Do you have **Penjaga Kesenatan** (a Malay health book)?"

"Yes, sir," he answered again, as he fumblingly opened his briefcase. "How did you know?"

Just two months earlier, in October of 1970, Reginald, along with a group of about 30 other students at Ayer Manis, had attended a literature evangelist training course conducted by Pastors M. R. Lyon, R. L. McKee, and Kapstan Panjaitan. Reginald was inspired to return to his village during the coming vacation period and sell Christian literature as a student literature evangelist.

When December finally came, Reginald set out for his home village, his case filled with books and his heart filled with courage.

From house to house he faithfully presented his truth-filled books. But no one seemed interested. He had learned his canvass but it just wasn't working. The longer he worked the more discouraged he became.

Finally he had had enough. He went home, flung his still heavy briefcase in the corner, and announced that he was through. Tomorrow he would join the rest of the family in the rice paddy.

But that night Reginald had a dream. He was walking through the jungle to a neighboring village, where he was to canvass.

Morning came and the straw mats were rolled up and placed neatly between the rafters. Now the bamboo floor became the breakfast table. As the family sat cross-legged on the floor around a bowl of rice, Reginald told them his dream.

"Why go there?" questioned his father. "You can't sell anything in your own village. Besides, what will you eat? Where will you stay?"

Reginald didn't know the answers to these questions, but he was impressed that God had sent him the dream and he **must** go. His parents, seeing his strong conviction, reluctantly consented. With renewed inspiration Reginald retrieved his briefcase from the corner, straightened its contents, and set out for the village of his dream.

The question, "Why go to this village?" still lingered in his mind when suddenly he saw a patrol officer standing just ahead on the narrow path. Reginald's fear and uncertainty at the officer's unexpected question turned to astonishment as he listened to him tell of a dream he had had the night before. "In this dream I saw you coming to our village with these books." In return, Reginald related his dream.

Their mutual dream drew them together. The same dream, the same night, sent to a discouraged student literature evangelist and a heathen patrol

officer. They walked toward the village, pondering many things. Gathering the villagers together, they related their unusual dreams. No longer did Reginald have difficulty selling his books. What a thrill to see the villagers eagerly buying. Soon the books were all gone. How glad he was that he had let God lead him there.

The officer invited Reginald to eat with him, and for hours questioned him about his faith. At last Reginald parted with his new friends and started home with renewed faith in God. Yes, God still performs miracles.

—Richard McKee, Publishing Secretary
Southeast Asia Union



On this island 90% of the people purchased books.

Starving for Books

EARLY on the morning of December 7, 1971, the "Ethel O'Cain" motor launch left Sandakan harbor for a colporteur's paradise—the land where people have money and are starving for books. On board were Publishing Secretary Pandjaitan, Brothers Haijon, Sitang, and Nati, and myself.

The paradise we were seeking—several palm-oil estates—lay ten hours away along the twisting muddy rivers that reach like giant arms into the interior of North Borneo.

By evening we reached a clearing in the jungle planted with rows of palms bearing the reddish fruit from which oil is extracted for commercial use. We rolled out our grass mats—three in the cabin and two on the roof—to get a good night's sleep in preparation for the big day ahead. Before morning came I was aware that I was not sleeping on an innerspring mattress—every bone ached.

The next morning, after praying for God's blessing, we set our goal for that day at S\$1,000.

Our first stop was at the office of the estate manager—a very pleasant Englishman. I mentioned that Arthur Maxwell, the author of our books, was also an Englishman. Immediately he asked if this was the same man who told children's stories over the radio some years ago. On learning that he was, he immediately bought a set of **Bedtime Stories** for his children. The division manager, who happened to be in the office, also bought a set. As we visited the other offices, everyone stopped work and gathered around to buy our books. Before noon our brief cases were nearly empty.

After restocking our book supply at the launch, we met a jeep driver who offered to drive us back to the offices, for there were many we had not visited. As we jostled up the bumpy road, I thought, "Why not sell the jeep driver?" We pulled out a Malay **Guardian of Health**, and the spiritual companion book, **Happiness of Life**, and showed them to the driver, while he glanced back and forth from the road to the books during the ten-minute ride. When we arrived at the offices, the driver pulled out his money and paid for the two volumes. A profitable ten minutes!

After a successful afternoon, we totaled our sales at \$750. Since this was short of our goal, we decided to skip supper and work the laborers' homes along the shore. Dividing into two groups, we went quickly from house to house selling in every home but one. That family was Tamil and would have bought Tamil books if we had had them.

When we were finished, we were only \$40 short of our goal! As if to help make up the deficiency,

a man woke us up at 5:30 the next morning with the announcement that he now had enough money to buy the books he wanted. His boss had lent him the money.

That morning we made our way down the river to a neighboring palm oil estate. After a 20-minute walk from shore, we met the manager in his office, a South African who greeted us politely. After introductions, we explained our work of showing the books of the S.D.A. Publishing House. Since he seemed to have only a casual interest, we were surprised when he abruptly asked, "Now what can I do to help you?" Without waiting for our answer, he instructed an office boy to take his jeep and drive us to the village where the workers lived. Before we finished thanking him, he called another office worker and told us, "Some of the people will probably not have the cash to purchase these books. If they wish, they may sign the book and you may collect the cash from my office when you return this afternoon."

(Continued on page 19.)

Launches Needed

LARGE areas of Vietnam and Borneo could be opened to our colporteurs if river launches could be obtained. Now that the delta area of southern Vietnam is fairly secure, a fleet of launches could be used to reach the prosperous rice farmers of the area with the Gospel. One launch, built by local craftsmen, could be built for US \$1800, including the price of the engine.

"I Will Pay Him With My Gun!"

IHAD just had a most successful day selling books in the Papar area of Sabah. As I came to the last house, a lady with three children greeted me. She became very interested in the book **Guardian of Health**, but since she had little money, she ordered the book to be delivered at a later date.

I had no idea that there might be trouble until I returned to make my deliveries.

"I will pay him with my gun!" A kind man who wanted to save my life warned me that this is what the angry husband had announced. As I continued my deliveries, another man tried to persuade me not to return to the house of the lady with the three children. He assured me that the husband was waiting for me with a gun.

Should I go? I knew that God had been with me in the past and would surely continue to guide my steps. After praying, I continued walking until I reached the dreaded house. I decided to go in. Much to my relief, the man with the gun was not at home!

He missed me, but the books did not miss being delivered to his home. Thank God for His watchful care!

—Stephen M. Gungut, Literature Evangelist
Sabah Mission



The Ethel O'Cain motor launch brings the Gospel to the lush jungle lands of Borneo.

NEWS FROM THE MISSIONS



MALAYA

Youth Conduct Wayout Crusade

THE Wayout Crusade of Southeast Asia Union College Church was organized to bring many precious souls to Christ and help them have a closer walk with the Lord. The ten-day crusade began on December 12, 1971.

The MV Society, under the leadership of Ng Gan Theow, third year ministerial student, prepared for the challenges of a crusade. The name, "Wayout Crusade," was chosen after much brain-storming by the steering committee. Theme song, sermonettes, banners, handbills, and advertising materials were planned to match the theme. The main group of young people the crusade intended to reach was Voice of Prophecy students. With the help of files from the VOP office, names were obtained and invitations sent. There are 300 VOP graduates in MacPherson Estate alone. A bus was hired to bring interested students from this area every night.

There was an average attendance of 60 young people every night. Throughout the series about 100 VOP students came to listen to the youth speakers. In the final meeting 22 young people surrendered their lives to Jesus with the desire to follow Him all the way and keep all of His commandments.

Because of the wonderful response, Sunday night follow-up meetings were planned. At the first meeting, 30 of the 100 contacted were present. Mrs. Beth Coffin, Assistant Director of the VOP Correspondence School, spoke on the subject of prayer at the second meeting. The young people needed counsel on this important subject. Present that night were five secondary school students who stood firm for



Standing with Birthe Chan (left) and Sim Chor Kiat and Winnie Lie, are ten young people who now attend Sabbath School as a result of the Wayout Crusade.

the Sabbath truth. They requested letters to send to their principals, asking for Sabbaths off. One of the letters reached the principal of a Catholic convent. What a means whereby the Sabbath truth can reach people whom we might not be able to meet under other circumstances! Your sincere prayers are solicited in behalf of these interested young people.

—Sim Chor Kiat, Assistant Pastor
College Church



Young people at the Penang Youth Camp warm up before a swim in the placid sea.

Penang Youth Camp

TWENTY-SEVEN young people of Penang English Church enjoyed a week of camping, beginning December 27, 1971. The camp was held at Pulau Rimau, a little off-shore island that boasts a beautiful stretch of clean, sandy beach. All during the camp the sea was calm, the breeze was cool, and the nights were clear and starry.

Pastor Wong Yew Seng, Malaya Mission MV Secretary, was camp instructor and counselor, while Pastor James Wah of Penang Adventist Hospital served as camp pastor. Penang Adventist Hospital nurse Narcisa Pulanco, was both camp nurse and craft instructor. Mrs. Wong Yew Seng and Brother Goh prepared healthful and appetizing meals. To the writer fell the task of directing the camp.

Besides the usual camp program, highlighted by the nightly campfire, the campers enjoyed earning a number of honors in swimming, crafts and other MV activities. All were greatly benefited by the spiritual talks and prayer bands. On Friday night the campers testified of God's love and mercy and reconsecrated themselves to the task of helping other youth find salvation. One young lady publicly accepted Christ as her Saviour and requested baptism.

Our thanks go to every one who helped make the camp a success, and above all to God for letting us enjoy His great out-of-doors.

—Raymond Poey, MV Leader
Penang English Church

Nurse Finds Solution to Problems

NURSE Tan Kin Looi was unhappy in her work at the Malacca Government Hospital. Because she was such a strict and energetic supervisor, her associates and even the doctor refused to cooperate with her. Every day brought friction, and Mrs. Tan thought of resigning.

But first she went to a Buddhist temple in search of spiritual help. There she found only the overpowering smell of burning incense.

One Sunday she followed her friends to the Catholic church. But unable to understand what the priest said, she left the church spiritually hungry.

Another Sunday she was invited to a different church. But the preaching was so dull that she dozed off to sleep.

One Friday she confided her troubles to a fellow worker in the hospital, Mrs. Helen Neo, who happens to be a faithful member of our Malacca church. Mrs. Neo prayed with her and invited her to church next day. There her spiritual hunger was satisfied by the Sabbath School lesson and the sermon, which moved her greatly. Finding her burden lightened, she resolved to attend services regularly. After a series of studies, she not only accepted the Adventist faith, but became a new person in Christ Jesus. The workers in the hospital noticed the great change in her life, and became more cooperative. Now she finds real joy in working with them.

On January 22 Mrs. Tan, with four others, was baptized into the fellowship of the Malacca English church. Now she is sharing her new-found faith by helping Mrs. Neo conduct a branch Sabbath School in the home of a newly-baptized member.

—K. T. Chin, Pastor
Malacca and Muar Churches



Mrs. Tan Kin Looi was baptized by Pastor K. T. Chin.



Mission President T. K. Chong baptized these three people for Pastor Joseph Tham of the Pontian Church. President Chong reports that the Lord is really blessing the Pontian Church.

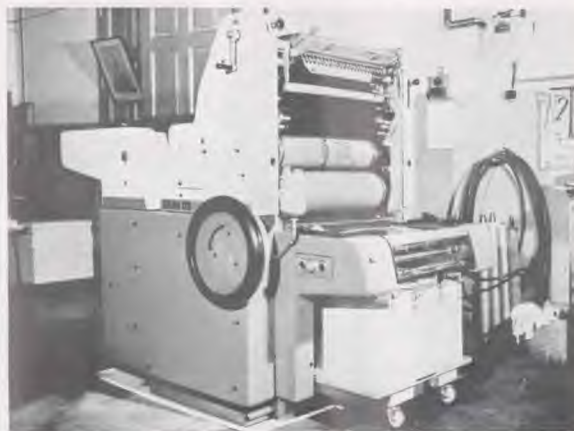
Malaysian Signs Press Installs Offset Machine

THE Press Board at the 1971 year-end meeting voted to purchase a new SOLNA 125 offset press. This press is to replace a secondhand press which was purchased eight years ago and which has given us very good service. As soon as the board action was taken, the sole agent for the press was contacted and they had such a press in the Singapore harbor. Within five days the press was installed and running in our plant.

We are fortunate that the General Conference Publishing Expansion Committee allotted us US\$5,000 to help us in this purchase. We are indeed grateful for this generous aid and we wish to thank them. The press with accessories and installation costs S\$40,000.

Pictured is our press being delivered and installed in our plant. This press will give us many years of reliable service in printing much truth-filled literature.

—Y. F. Choo, Manager
Malaysian Signs Press



The new Swedish offset press at the Malaysian Signs Press.



Dr. Margaret Tan, left, Mrs. R. O. Heald, and Mrs. C. H. Damron take care of the registration table. A prospective non-smoker prepares to check in.



The "Blockhead" smokes a cigarette as he is held by Dr. R. O. Heald, who later shows the nicotine and tar deposit on the filter paper in the device.



Pastor C. H. Damron, left, takes a "collection" of cigarettes from those who wish to break the habit. Dr. R. O. Heald, second from left, smiles approval.

Five Day Plan Has Great Success

SINGAPORE'S most recent Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking took place January 23 to 27 in the Malaysia Room of the Singapore Hilton hotel. Sixty people attended each session under the direction of Dr. R. O. Heald and Pastor C. H. Damron. According to the instructors, an unusually high percentage of those attending were successful in quitting smoking. Among the group were people of several professional and business groups, as well as others of varying ages and employment.

The meetings received unprecedented attention from both press and television outlets. The Singapore Straits Times, alone, carried 126 column inches of news stories about the series. A television interview preceded the meetings and on the opening night the television camera man had planned to film only the opening of the meeting but stayed clear through the hour-and-a-half program. Six minutes of the ensuing day's news telecast was given to this coverage—an unusually long sequence on a newscast.

Since the meetings Pastor Damron has had two talks on the subject of smoking filmed for television. At the close of the first filming, twelve of the television staff gathered in the studio before he could leave and begged, "Pastor Damron, please tell us how to stop smoking!" It was thirty minutes before he was able to get out of the studio.

Another Five-Day Plan is scheduled for April and already applications have been received for this series. It is anticipated that there will be a much larger attendance for the plan.

—R. E. Finney, Pastor
Balestier Road Church



About sixty jubilant people successfully completed the Plan. One participant confessed that she had gained ten pounds during the week.



David Wong translates for some non-English-speaking Chinese. David is third from the left.



A smile of victory on the face of a military man as Pastor Damron congratulates him for breaking the cigarette habit. Donnie Damron, right, looks on.



Pastor Damron's friendly instruction holds the interest of the audience.



Inhale! Pulling out their ribs, the group at the clinic fill their lungs with fresh air—the first lungful some of them have had in a long while. Dr. Stephen Tan (with tie) demonstrates how.

Family Tries Better Living

(The following is an interview between the editor and Pastor Ng Sui Koon.)

Pastor Ng, I understand that you and your family have been seen early in the morning running around the tombstones with a baby buggy. Can you tell me the meaning of this strange behavior?

We've been getting up early to run every morning except Sabbath since January 16.

What happened on January 16?

That was the final night of the health meetings conducted by Dr. Heald and Pastor Damron.

You mean the Adventures in Adventist Living meetings held at the Balestier Church over the weekend of January 14 to 16, I suppose. Those meetings seem to have had quite an effect on you and your family.

Yes, they really did. My wife and I had been exercising off and on for years, but this is the first time our whole family has gone with us.

Tell me what you do.

We get up before six, go to the kitchen for our two cups of hot water, and then make the circle around the cemetery, which is exactly one mile and 100 yards.

Don't you find it an awful chore?

We do it as fun, not duty. By going as a group, we can encourage each other—my wife and I, the three children, and Annie, a student staying with us. Now the children don't mind going to bed early at night—they want to be able to get up early the next day.

Is this exercise program the main benefit you got from the meetings?

No. The girls have stopped eating between meals and their example has helped the younger ones. Also we have cut down on the sweets. Even Angeline, our three-year-old, says, "I don't want to eat ice cream any more."

Do you really feel better as a result of this program?

Yes, we really do. The children don't have stomach-aches any more. Since I have cut out the evening meal, I sleep more soundly at night.

How long do you think you can keep up this health program?

We've been following it for three weeks, and I hope the habit is so well formed that it will continue.

"THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM SHALL



THAILAND

NAME	NO. CRUSADES
A. V. Pangan (Dept.)	1
Sunti Sorajjakool (Dept.)	1
Prasarn Oonwong	1
R. E. Bartolome	1
Aw Gaw Paul	1
Sopon Jaiguar	1
Jun Atagit	1
Aroon Wongmit	1
Chalaw Artamapadung	1
Wanloop Intachai	1
Peng Bumroon	1
Hu Sae Yang	1
Geo Ahyuperm	1
Jon Dybdahl	1
Rungsit Sae Wang	1
Sao Chertchompoo	1



MALAYA

NAME	NO. CRUSADES
Y. S. Wong	1
T. M. Giang	1
Leoh Hee Tan	1
V. N. Joseph	1
M. O. Tambunan	1
K. B. Tan	1
Dayton Chong	1
Cheng Kwai Yong	1
R. E. Finney	1
Joshua Chong	3
H. Liklikwatil	1
R. E. Neall	1
P. Benjamin	1



NAME
Pham Thien (Dept.)
Le Toan Tho (Dept.)
Le Van Ut
Pham Van Binh
Le Van Huang
Do Binh
Le Cong Giao
Le Huu
Nguyen Quoc Tha
Jonathan Foo
Ly Quoc Hang
Do Vinh Tuong
Duong Sau
Ha Doi
Ha Hang
Ha Luong
Ha Quanh
Ha Nhieu
Le Viet Hoang
Nguyen Van Le
Nguyen Xuan Son
Johann Adam
Tran Cong Tan

100 FOR CHRIST

CRUSADERS C

One hundred seventy-nine crusades by multiply the fifteen crusades planned by Uni news of Christ's coming across the breadth unite in what is to be the Union's most con

Nor is this all. Watch this center-spre as laymen in every mission join in preaching

VIETNAM

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SARAWAK

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Luku Binte
Anton Hardy
Joseph Sapok
James Maung
Ranggi Ulat
Morris Ulat
Jonathan Ng
Stephen Agong
Nathaniel Jugu
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William Anam
Jonathan Bosat
Anyai Sawe
Elam Sinaga
James Sagit
Anyau Kinchang

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SABAH

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Willie Simbaku
Padir Juman
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Leopold Peter
Jubilee Laing
Patrick Godwan
Hilson Lopog
Guodoh Bendah
Madin Sabidol
Adjun Tampoong
Gondolos Langgaan

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ad to see the corps' ranks yet multiplied
this good news of the kingdom.

UNITED EVANGELISM





This is Rupinah.

Rupinah's Miracle

RUPINAH tossed fitfully on her mat as the high fever burned her body. Nearly everyone else in the heathen village of Nahaba had gone to listen to Pastor Gaban, the stranger who had come to tell them stories of a wonderful man called Jesus.

For seven days Rupinah had been very ill with fever and unable to eat. Through the night her mother watched helplessly as she saw her daughter growing steadily weaker. In her distress she thought again of the story Pastor Gaban had told them about Jesus and how He had healed the sick.

"If only Jesus were here now," she thought. "But perhaps Pastor Gaban can help Rupinah."

Very early the next morning the heathen mother sought out Pastor Gaban, and with tears she pleaded for him to come and help her daughter. As Pastor Gaban entered the darkened room he could see the wasted form of the little girl on a mat in the corner. Rupinah was so weak she could not turn her head to look at him.

"Rupinah, have you heard of Jesus?" he asked gently.

"My mother told me about Him," whispered the child.

"Do you believe that Jesus can make you well?" asked Pastor Gaban.

Without hesitation Rupinah answered, "Yes."

Pastor Gaban offered a simple prayer of faith, claiming the promises of God. As he stood up he

noticed a new look of hope and peace on the mother's face. He promised to return later with some medicine.

That afternoon as Pastor Gaban came back to Nahaba he noticed a little girl sitting on the porch in front of Rupinah's home. As he came nearer the little girl called happily to him, and he realized she was Rupinah! She told him that Jesus had indeed made her well and that she did not need any medicine. That evening she came running with the other children to the meeting.

Not long ago I met Rupinah when I went with Pastor Gaban to dedicate the new lamb shelter in Nahaba. She was assistant to the pastor's wife in the children's Sabbath School. The look of happiness on her face was evidence that she has not forgotten how Jesus made her well.

—Robert B. Grady, Sabbath School Secretary
Southeast Asia Union

Dorcas Society Helps Blind Man

EARLY in 1971, Laymen's Year, Pastor R. B. Grady, Union Lay Activities Secretary, challenged the laymen of Sabah Mission to organize health and welfare groups for helping the needy in their own communities. On January 8, 1972, Pastor Grady and I heard the following report from one of the newly formed groups:

Pastor M. Gaban, Mission Lay Activities Secretary, encouraged his daughter to organize some of the young people from the Sabah Adventist Secondary School, office workers, and community Adventists into a Dorcas Society. She accepted the challenge and soon a group was meeting; but what could they do without money, equipment, supplies, or uniforms? A solution was soon found. Cookies were



Dorcas ladies fix up the home of a blind man.

made by the hundreds, yes, thousands, and sold by the members. In this way cash was provided for a sewing machine, uniforms were made, utensils for cooking classes and health talks were obtained. Now they were ready to start to work. But what could they do?

The monsoon season came as usual with pouring rain and rushing winds. Just behind the mission office lived a blind man whose humble thatch house was destroyed by the wind and rain. When the Adventists learned of his plight they went to work. The men built him a new home, while the ladies fixed up the interior and worked in his garden.

He was delighted to have a new house, but what would it cost? Nothing! How could it be? Why?

"Well, it is like this," the members told him. "A long time ago our Leader said to us, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me.'"

Pastor Grady and I had the happy privilege of visiting this man, as the Tamparuli Dorcas Society presented him with a new mattress. How happy he was to receive it! No more sleeping on bamboo. I noticed something else; not only was he happy to receive, but they were happy to give.

Every Seventh-day Adventist needs to be involved. Are you?

—Clinton Shankel, Lay Activities Secretary
Far Eastern Division



Mrs. Audrey Wilcox opens the lambshelter at Kitampu, Sabah. This was one of the seven lambshelters opened during the month of January, 1972.

Twenty New Churches for Sabah

AT a historic annual committee held in Sabah, January 16 and 17, it was voted to organize 20 companies into churches. This will increase Sabah's total number of churches by 60%, from 33 to 53.

The 1971 record of baptisms helps to explain the need for more churches. God abundantly blessed the soul winning endeavors of workers and laymen, and 435 precious souls were baptized during the past year.

At the recent annual committee goals of 600 baptisms and 100 lay efforts for 1972 were voted. Already more than 50 laymen have made requests to hold lay efforts. The workers of Sabah, also, are preparing for a great evangelistic thrust this year.

New areas of Sabah are being breached for Christ. Recently Brother and Sister Tommy Golotoh were transferred to Tawau, on the east coast, where little work has been carried forward. Brother Malim Enggan is being moved to centrally located Telupid, where we already have a Branch Sabbath School with 50 members.

On a recent trip to Sabah Elder Robert Grady and Mrs. Reatha Ekvall dedicated seven new lamb shelters, some in very isolated areas.

Elder Ginduk Laung was recently appointed full-time Stewardship Secretary for Sabah Mission. With the help of Elders C. A. Williams and F. H. Hewitt he has launched a pilot project in the Malanggang Church, where our members have pledged up to 7% beyond their tithe for various church projects and offerings.

—W. L. Wilcox, President
Sabah Mission



SARAWAK

Youth "Special Force" Active in Sarawak

"THE chiefs of many towns and villages in Sarawak are calling for someone to teach their people the message of salvation, and we have no workers or funds with which to answer the calls. I wonder if there are young men here in this audience who would be willing to give their time and talents freely, without pay, for from three to six months, to answer these calls?" Ralph Watts, Union President, felt compelled by the Spirit of God to issue this challenge to the delegates at the Sarawak Youth Congress held December 8 to 11, 1971.

As he spoke, the Holy Spirit could be felt moving mightily in the hearts of the delegates. One by one six young men rose to their feet and strode to the front indicating their response, "Here am



Sarawak "Special Force" stands with church leaders Richard Hall, Bob Jacobs, and Ralph Watts. From left to right: Stephen Agong, Ambrose Linang, Gilbert Tuan, Yap Yee Khiong, Wee Hun Been, and Sagim Suar.

I—send me!" Their names are Wee Hun Been, Ambrose Linang, Gilbert Tuan, Yap Yee Khiong, Sagim Suar, and Stephen Agong.

Immediately after the congress, Mission President Richard Hall flew three of the young men to Miri, a large town in the northern section of Sarawak. Recently reports have come in about the good work this youth "special force" is doing. From Wee Hun Been, the first to respond to the call, come these cheering words, "We have been here in Miri for 10 days now. We give out tracts to people, and so far we have enrolled 160 Voice of Prophecy students. We meet many friendly people, Catholics, Anglicans, and others. So far the only opposition we have encountered is from the dog! However, temptations are great and we have to keep on praying. How happy we are that God answers our prayers."

In response to this good interest, C. H. Damron, Union Ministerial Secretary, will hold evangelistic meetings in Miri next September.

—Bernie U. Donato, M.V. Secretary
Southeast Asia Union

God Answers by Miracles

PASTOR Umboh looked down at the still form of the newborn baby boy. Just a few minutes before he had been hastily summoned to the chief's house, where his daughter had given birth to a baby. But it had not started to breathe.

"It's lost, unless God works a miracle," thought Pastor Umboh. Breathing a prayer for guidance, he asked one of the women to bring a basin of warm water. As he immersed the baby in the water and began moving its arms and legs to stimulate its circulation, he spoke aloud to God, asking that in His mercy He would reward the simple faith that had been awakened in these heathen hearts and let the baby live.

The minutes crept by and still the baby had not drawn its first breath. A half hour had passed since it had been born.

"I might as well quit," thought Pastor Umboh sadly. But he glanced around the circle of faces and saw that they were still waiting. He couldn't quit yet. He continued to pray and exercise the baby in the warm water . . . 45 minutes . . . He glanced at his watch again. Nearly an hour! Sadness masked the faces around him.

Suddenly a gasp and a faint cry filled the silence of the room. Unbelievably, nearly an hour after its birth, the baby was breathing! Smiles of joy and tears of happiness mingled with murmurs of thankfulness to the God who had answered their prayers of faith.

A few days later Pastor Umboh was called again to the side of a 14-year-old boy who had suddenly fallen ill and now seemed at the point of death. He gave the boy two aspirin, the only medicine he had, and prayed for him. He told the parents to call

him if the boy became worse during the night. The next morning he awoke to hear a commotion outside on the longhouse porch. Looking out he saw the boy, followed by amazed neighbors, walking toward his room.

When I visited the village of Bangkong recently to dedicate their new lamb shelter, I saw the baby boy, as healthy and normal now as any other. "Definitely a miracle," several doctors have said. And I met the boy who had been healed. With a big smile he told me, "God saved my life. I want to be a worker for Him."

Bangkong is one of ten villages to which our faithful laymen of Sarawak have brought the light of the gospel since last spring. Over 800 new Sabbath School members are meeting in these villages every Sabbath.

Of the 48 families who live in the Bangkong longhouse, three still cling to their heathen ways. As I went to sleep that first night, I could hear the chanting of the witch doctor as he attended one of the families for the birth of a baby. But the next morning he was sitting in the front row of the new lamb shelter, listening intently to the story of "Daniel in the Lions' Den."

On Sabbath afternoon the new pastor who has been sent to work in this village, with the chief and other villagers, went to hold a Branch Sabbath School in a nearby village. Just as a pebble thrown into a pond sends ripples to the farthest shore, so the story of salvation is carried from village to village till thousands rejoice together in the blessed hope.

—Robert B. Grady, Sabbath School Secretary
Southeast Asia Union



This boy and baby were healed in answer to prayer.

Radio Evangelism in Sarawak

IN 1967 Sunny Hill School began broadcasting a weekly program of sacred music, "Singing for You," on Radio Sarawak. This program was well received, and another series, "Music for the Millions," followed. Radio Sarawak liked these two series so much that they requested the school to arrange a weekly children's program. Bible stories, scripture reading, and children's songs were featured on this program.

These broadcasts by Sunny Hill School opened the way for our religious services to be aired in rotation with four other denominations, once every five weeks. English sermons by H.M.S. Richards and Chinese sermons by Milton Lee are being broadcast, as well as the program, "Our Radio Doctor." Music by our Iban "Way of Life Quartet" has won the hearts of many. These programs are also now presented in the Iban and Bidayuh dialects, as well as morning meditations in the Iban, Bidayuh, Jagoi, and Biatah dialects. Special Christmas and Easter programs have been presented in Iban and Bidayuh.

Hundreds of requests have been received for the Iban "Way of Life" pamphlets, but lack of money has prevented some of the requests from being filled. Your prayers are needed that there will be money to print more "Way of Life" pamphlets and that Sarawak's radio evangelism will reach the hearts of many.

—E. Sinaga, Radio-TV Secretary
Sarawak Mission

Students Respond to Temperance Contests

WITH the promotion of Pastor Jonathan Ng, Temperance Secretary of Sarawak Mission, the Temperance Chapter of Sunny Hill School was organized with Mr. Gordon Chong, a senior teacher, as the sponsor.

In the early part of the year, 85% of the 600 high school students signed the temperance pledge after a series of temperance promotional talks given during the chapel periods. Though this was the first time temperance speech, jingle, and poster contests were announced, the response of the students was tremendous. The speeches were given in three languages, English, Chinese, and Malay.

During National Youth Week, an inter-school speech contest was held at the downtown youth hall. The theme of the speech contest was "Youth and Nation Building." Many of our students took part, emphasizing healthful habits as the secret of nation building. When the results were announced, one of our students won third prize in the contest where more than 15 schools in Sarawak participated.

—Choo Wee Fong, Principal
Sunny Hill School

Sarawak Mission Youth Congress

MR. Nelson Kudi, Sarawak's Minister of Youth and a former teacher and student of Ayer Manis School, officially opened Sarawak Mission's first Youth Congress, held at Ayer Manis School December 8 to 12.

Pastors B. E. Jacobs, B. Donato, and T. J. Umboh, MV Secretaries of the Far Eastern Division, Southeast Asia Union, and Sarawak Mission respectively, worked together to make the Youth Congress an outstanding success.

Kuching Pathfinders carried the lighted flame to Ayer Manis School by bicycle on opening night and presented it to the youth leaders. Other highlights of the congress included a Pathfinder demonstration of campcraft and marching, daily musical programs directed by Romulo Daquila and Milton Maung, the largest Master Guide investiture in Sarawak Mission's history, and "The Best Saturday Night in Town," an evening of marching and active games that gave the young people from different churches an opportunity to become better acquainted.

—Vera Ortner
Ayer Manis School



This model lamb shelter helped the children raise money for Thirteenth Sabbath.

U.S. Children Support Lamb Shelters

IN response to a Thirteenth Sabbath appeal made by Mrs. E. A. Brodeur, the Madison Boulevard Church of Nashville, Tennessee, raised over US\$1,000 for Thirteenth Sabbath. This is two or three times more than has ever been raised previously.

The Primary and Junior Departments of the Sabbath School raised over \$200, so that each division could help build one lamb shelter. Mr. Brodeur had constructed a model lamb shelter for each department to keep the goal before the children. The American children want to have a picture of the lamb shelters they help to build, along with the "lamb" who meet there, so they may remember and continue to support their adopted Sabbath Schools. Plans are being made to erect these lamb shelters in Borneo.



THAILAND

Seven Baptized in Laos

ABEL Pangan and his wife Ofelia went to Nam Yawn in Laos for an evangelistic crusade which lasted from November 23 to December 12, 1971. They left their three children in Bangkok and lived with the Meo people, who are animists and spirit worshipers, in order to share with them the message of salvation and the second coming of Jesus.

Assisting them were Brother Pornchai, a village Adventist worker, and the local church members who had been greatly strengthened by the revival messages that Pastor Pangan gave to them. Dr. Philip Gertsch of the Bangkok Sanitarium and Hospital worked with them during the first two days of the crusade.

During the day, Pastor Pangan and Brother Pornchai visited homes making friends, administering simple medical remedies to the sick, and giving Bible studies to the interested. Meantime, Mrs. Pangan conducted sewing and cooking classes for the village women and girls. At night, Pastor Pangan preached while Mrs. Pangan assisted him as organist and receptionist.

Such a dedicated team could not help but see the results of their labors. At the close of the crusade, five new families embraced the truth. Seven were baptized and five others were preparing for the next baptism.

Among those baptized was a former spirit worshiper who had been greatly emaciated due to a long and wasting illness in spite of the incantations made for him now and then by the witch doctors. After this man accepted Christ as his personal Saviour, he reorganized his way of living in order to conform with the divinely inspired health principles that he learned. Now he is a healthy man living as a genuine testimony to the healing and saving power of God.

Pastor and Mrs. Pangan are looking forward to another evangelistic crusade in the near future.

—Bernie Donato, M.V. Secretary
Southeast Asia Union



Ofelia Pangan teaches the village ladies simple sewing techniques.



The class in seed honor, directed by Ruth Watson.

Thailand Youth Enjoy M.V. Camp

SEETHING surf and shouts of children playing in the crystal blue Indian Ocean, cries of "Puffer!" as a bristling sea monster is gingerly dragged ashore, staccato blasts of the whistle as 47 Pathfinders dash into line formation, soft strumming of guitars blended with youthful voices singing praise to God—these are the sounds of the South Thailand M.V. Camp, held on Phuket Island December 2 to 7, 1971.

Circles of reverent youth praying together in the Morning Watch, pencil-straight figures marching in perfect rhythm, boys and girls vigorously sanding wood plaques tapped out in craft classes, or snatching up every scrap and stick around a tent so their unit might receive the coveted honor flag next morning—these are the sights of the activities and fun of M.V. Camp.

The aroma of rice and vegetables as hungry campers line up with plates, queer spicy odors as seeds collected for the seed honor are being cooked, the dampish smell from bedding and clothing after a heavy downpour—these are the smells they will not forget.

Every hour of the day was allotted to some activity or class or worship, and the schedule was carried out with perfect timing and discipline. About a dozen earned swimming honors, and two dozen the seed honor. Two young people were baptized after the Sabbath morning service.

Camp officers were R. E. Bartolome, Director, assisted by Mrs. Amporn Eosagan and Mr. Sakda Sittichinda; Miss Suthnee Tanthai, cook; Mr. and Mrs. Artemio Elumir, Marcia VanArsdell, and Ruth Watson, instructors.

—Ruth Watson,
Phuket, Thailand

* One worker's house and a dormitory are completed at the new Hill Tribe Center, about 35 miles from Chiangmai. A house for Pastor Jon Dybdahl is nearly ready, and the water system and generator are functioning. A lamb shelter has already been built and 20 to 30 interested people from surrounding villages meet there every Sabbath.



VIETNAM



Mme Nguyen van Thieu, First Lady of Vietnam, signs the "Golden Book" of donations.

First Lady Lays Cornerstone of New Hospital

ON the morning of January 11, 1972, Madame Nguyen van Thieu, First Lady of Vietnam, laid the cornerstone for a new Adventist hospital in Saigon.

As she was ushered to her seat of honor on a specially constructed platform at the mission compound, the waiting guests consisting of Vietnamese government officials, leading citizens, foreign ambassadors, business friends, and United States military



Student nurses line the road waiting for the First Lady to arrive.



Guests of honor seated on the platform during the ceremony, with Mme Thieu in the center, front row.

representatives, rose to their feet. Student nurses and hospital staff lining the compound road stood a little straighter as the Presidential Band struck up the national anthem, and the colorful flags of Vietnam snapped in the breeze.

Senator Nguyen Thon Do, master of ceremonies for the occasion, gave a short introduction, followed by a welcoming speech by Pastor Pham Thien, secretary of the Vietnam Mission. Speeches were also made by Mr. Vinh Huyen, chairman of the new hospital project, and the Minister of Health for Vietnam. All stood as a prayer of gratitude and supplication for God's blessings was offered by P. H. Eldridge, Far Eastern Division President.

The First Lady then laid a symbolic cornerstone in mortar behind a beautifully prepared plaque of marble with gold lettering. She viewed the model and plans of the building and led the procession of those who signed the "Golden Book," indicating their gifts and well-wishes for this project.

As the program closed and the guests departed, our people felt that their dream was beginning to come true. For 16 long years our medical program



While flags fly and the band plays the national anthem, guests stand at attention under a canopy of parachutes.



Model and plans of the new Saigon Adventist Hospital.

has been carried on in an unpretentious villa, many times altered inside and out. Many plans have been drawn and much effort expended by many through the years to proceed with the new hospital project, but circumstances and the war impeded progress. However, now a new and better charter for our hospital work and a building permit have been granted by the authorities after years of negotiation. Excellent plans have been drawn by a quality architectural firm for a four-story, 175-bed modern hospital estimated to cost 200 million piasters (US\$ 500,000).

There are now enough funds in hand to permit construction of the ground floor as Phase I of the project. A 13th Sabbath School overflow offering in 1969, and generous help from the General Conference will aid in this first phase. Funds for the upper stories and for hospital equipment have not yet been raised. A professional Australian fund-raising firm is working on the project. Please pray for God's blessing on this great undertaking of building a new Saigon Adventist Hospital.

—G. C. Ekvall, M.D., Medical Secretary
Far Eastern Division

Phu Hoa School Damaged by Floods

WHEN our Phu Hoa School near Danang was severely damaged by a destructive typhoon late last year, students of the Saigon Adventist School collected and sent VN\$30,000 to aid their sister school. A student committee made the trip from Saigon to deliver the funds personally, according to Pastor Le Huu, educational superintendent and principal of the Saigon Adventist School.

The Phu Hoa School was built only recently by the church members, and the loss is keenly felt. The roof was almost completely blown away, and water rose several feet into the building. The church next door escaped serious damage.

It is estimated that US\$1,000 will be needed to repair and restore the school.

—F. H. Hewitt, Education Secretary
Southeast Asia Union

Church Accepts New Faith

ABLE to understand only a few words of Vietnamese, I scanned the letter for some clue to its message. The second page revealed a list of names, followed by a signature. This was the clue I needed.

A short time before I had visited the city of Quang Ngai, where the pastor had taken me to meet his neighbor. He was the father of many children. Two of the grown sons, we learned, had joined our church and were engaged in colporteur work.

We soon discovered that this man, the pastor of a church of another denomination, had a real problem on his mind. He had been aware of Adventists for a long time. There had been an Adventist teacher in his home town. He had heard the Adventist broadcasts that had been aired some years before. He even had some Adventist literature. Somehow, all this had made an impression on him. Little by little the Holy Spirit had deepened that impression until it fairly shouted in his conscience. His boys had embraced the Adventist faith and he didn't see how he could hold out much longer. Except for one thing—how could he make a living after he gave up his congregation?

I told one of the brethren to ask him to read Matthew 6:31-33. I watched as he turned to it and read it in his own language. A change came over his face as he said that this text had been running over and over in his mind. Then he declared himself ready to accept its promise.

The letter before me was his invitation for us to accept him and 23 others into our faith. It was a happy day when all but two on that list were made members of the Quang Ngai Seventh-day Adventist Church.

—Clyde Bradley, President
Vietnam Mission



Flood waters damaged the Phu Hoa School.

Starving for Books

(Continued from page 5.)

We groped for words to express our gratitude.

Only an hour and a half remained until closing time, when the manager requested us to be back at the office with his jeep. We wound our way through the endless rows of palms until we reached the barrack-type housing where the laborers lived. Some of them were just returning from work. Seeing so many people, we realized that we didn't have enough books. So Brother Pandjaitan sped back with the jeep driver for all our remaining books in the launch. The rest of us began showing the books we had.

We gathered about 30 of the workers together in a clearing and gave the entire group a canvass. As the jeep roared in, we pulled out a box of books, ripped off the wrappers, and passed them out to all who held up their hands. The office worker with the book got all their signatures.

It was now nearly 5 o'clock, so we headed back for the office. The manager made small talk with us for a few minutes and then suddenly announced that he would like to buy two books for himself. Meanwhile the office worker totaled up the sales from his book of signatures and found that we could collect \$200. The manager urged us to return, but we told him we would have to wait until a later trip. He once again kindly instructed his jeep driver to take us to the launch. As we were walking to the jeep, the driver decided to buy a book also!

On the next day we began the ten-hour trip back to Sandakan. As we gazed back at the retreating palm trees with their rich harvest of fruit, we thought of another harvest that will surely be reaped from the seed we had sown. For God has said, "My word shall not return unto Me void."

—Richard L. McKee, Publishing Secretary
Southeast Asia Union

A Rebel Surrenders to Christ

(Continued from back page.)

If you expect me to be converted, forget all about it. I am studying the Bible just to know all about it. I have NO intention of becoming a Christian."

"Let ME make this plain to YOU," said the good doctor. "I am here just to teach you what I know about the Bible. There will be NO strings attached. You will not be asked to do anything you do NOT want to do."

On that note of understanding I set forth into the wonderful mysteries of the Bible. My passion for movies faded into the background, and when the end of "The Bible Says" course was in sight, I pestered Dr. Genstler for more. Soon I was taking the "Daniel and Revelation" course.

The more I studied the Bible, the more my ego was deflated. THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE BIBLE TO CRITICIZE OR DERIDE! I became

convinced that every word in the Bible was true. But still I did not want to become a Christian.

In April 1970, a month-long Crusade was held at the Singapore Conference Hall. Dr. Genstler invited our family to attend, and soon we became part of the scenery there, occupying the same seats night after night. Pastor Bruce Johnston was a dynamic speaker. His lectures cleared many doubts from our minds. I noticed that my wife was being carried away by his appeals. During the closing meetings, as the speaker began making calls, Dr. Genstler would place himself next to me and dig his elbow quietly into my side. "Why don't you and Rajam just walk up and place yourselves in God's hands?" he said. As much as I was tempted to do so, something held me back. I just shook my head and replied, "I'm not ready yet, Doctor." Though Dr. Genstler was now the object of much affection in our family, I did not want to respond just because he asked me to. I still had some unexplainable doubts.

Soon the Daniel and Revelation lessons came to an end, and we were sad to realize that Dr. Genstler would not be visiting us so often.

In September of 1970 a wind that I had sown months before turned on me with the force of a whirlwind. I had never faced such a disastrous situation in my whole life. I was up against a wall, and if a solution were not found within a specified time, I faced dire consequences. After having probed every possible way out of the impasse, I reached the brink of total despair. One night, while half asleep, I was still wracking my brains for a solution when I suddenly saw a sentence before my eyes: "PUT ME TO THE TEST!"

"O.K.!" I thought. "I'll put You to the test. Show me a way out of this dreadful mess!" After tossing for another hour, I fell asleep.

When I awoke in the morning, the problem was just as large—but a solution was thrust into my head—so simple that I was astounded. My shout of relief and joy woke up the children. Suddenly the Light was shining in my heart again. That night, before going to bed, I decided to stun my wife with an announcement. "Let's ask Dr. Genstler to arrange for our baptism."

Calmly she asked me, "What took you so long to decide?" It was Dr. Genstler who was quite speechless when I told him that Rajam and I had decided to be baptized as soon as possible.

That same week-end Elder and Mrs. D. E. Venden came to visit us. During the next two months they gave us a crash course (yet a comprehensive one) on the Bible, and we soon enjoyed the friendship of the most kind and affectionate couple we had ever met. Both of them visited us every Sunday evening and slowly but surely guided us to the baptismal pool.

March 20, 1971, is a day my wife and I can never forget. For it was on that day that my entire family became a part of the family of God.

—E. S. Gopala Krishnan

A Rebel Surrenders to Christ

"THERE is no God! Or if there is, He is blind, deaf, and heartless!" I exploded that statement in the faces of my friends and relatives who had come to comfort our family after our second bereavement in three months. A third would follow in fifteen days.

"Do not say such things," my father chided. "God knows what He is doing, and He is never unjust." I could not accept such a statement.

I recognized no religion, no God. I knew no commandments but those I invented to guide me within the bounds of decency. I was firm about extracting two teeth for the loss of one, and gave a parting kick to the concept of non-violence with the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi in 1948.

During the partition of India and Pakistan, I volunteered for the Indian army, where I became expert in the use of lethal weapons. I ran amok in the battlefields, killing with glee and drowning any sign of remorse in gallons of liquor supplied free for the purpose. I blasphemed the God who apparently was not there to stop the useless carnage and to instill a semblance of sanity in men of two new-born nations.

When the armistice was signed, I returned to Malaya, and after being denied citizenship, migrated to Singapore. After I was married, my wife asked me if I had any objections to her attending Novena services at the Catholic church. I told her: "Religion is your affair—it is all the same to me if you are a Hindu, a Christian, a Muslim, or an atheist."

Several years later I asked my wife whether she wanted to become a Christian. She said yes, provided I became one too. My answer was, "In that case you'll have to wait forever!" I didn't realize how short a time "forever" would be.

One Saturday afternoon in 1968, I was struggling with an article for a magazine of which I was co-editor. Then it happened. My temper was slightly frayed as I had been interrupted all day by door-to-door salesmen. I was now working in a steaming room with all windows and doors tightly shut, when someone knocked timidly on the door. I just sat still for a moment hoping the caller would go away. But the knock persisted. I opened the window to bawl



Esther Mark persuaded Mr. Krishnan to enroll in the VOP Bible course and brought the lessons to him every week.



Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Gopala Krishnan and their two boys, Bharath and Arun.

out whoever was there, but when I saw her I could only whisper, "Go away!"

Apparently she didn't hear me, for she said, "Would you like to have some Bible lessons?"

"No thank you."

I was about to close the window when she continued, "It is good to know all about the Bible! The lessons are free, and I will come here every week to take the lessons you have done and give you new ones." She clinched the deal with her charming smile. I signed up for a set of the lessons—FOR MY WIFE!

"What about yourself?" she asked.

"I couldn't be bothered!" I snapped, as I grabbed the lessons from her and went back to the typewriter. For several weeks I laughed at my wife's efforts to answer the questions, until I happened to pick up a lesson to have a look at it. My rabid curiosity soon had me absorbed in the lessons, and very soon I was correcting my wife's mistakes. Some statements seemed ridiculous to me, and I began deriding the Bible, when I realized I should not criticize something I knew so little about. I decided to study the Bible so I could use it as a weapon against the hordes of missionaries knocking at my door! The result was that I signed up for the Voice of Prophecy lessons. I became so engrossed in my new hobby, that even before I had reached the end of the Way of Life course, I had signed up for the next series.

One Sabbath afternoon, when I was expecting the girl to bring me my new set of lessons, there was a cheerful "Hi!" at the doorway, and I met for the first time Dr. Paul Genstler, who was to be our guru for the next two and a half years.

We sat around the table. "Before we begin, Doctor," I said, "let me make something plain to you,