

The southeast asia union **Messenger**

September-October, 1980, M.C.(P) No.345/1/80

LOGO of



SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION MISSION

OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

"Spirit Of The Pioneers"

Roy E. Ryan, Director
Department of Education and Stewardship

It has been said that Stewardship involves the wise use of life: the management of one's body temple, material possessions, abilities and time. It includes the proper administration of all the resources God has made available in your sphere of influence.

As we look at the pioneers of our message we find them to be a people dedicated to the laying of treasure in heaven and the finishing of God's work. Mrs. E. G. White wrote that "every opportunity to help a brother in need or to aid the cause of God in the spread of the truth, is a pearl that you can send beforehand and deposit in the bank of heaven for safe keeping." (3T 249). As we look into our own lives we may ask ourselves, do we have the Spirit of the Pioneers? Do we make use of the opportunities that God provides for us each day?

The struggles of our early pioneers as they sought to establish the work are to many of us familiar history. Perhaps it is all too familiar and has lost its sense of urgency. We recall the experience of James White who suffered ill health from overwork. The role he played in the establishing of the Review through the dedication of his time, talents, and means, serves as a shining example of the spirit of the pioneers. There were other pioneers who demonstrated this same sense of sacrifice and dedication to the cause of God. The story of Joseph Bates and the sacrifices he made of his time, talents, and money; sacrifices that continued until his money was reduced to a single York shilling and yet it was at this very time that Joseph Bates chose to publish a booklet on the Sabbath truth. There were many others: J. N. Loughborough, J. N. Andrews, Uriah Smith, A. G. Daniels, Maud Sisley Boyd, and Kate Lindsay. These were men and women of faith, vision and a sense of urgency seldom seen in the church today. These were men and women to make whatever sacrifices necessary of time, talent, and possessions they had to finish the work of God.

The year 1980 has been designated as Stewardship Year and has been appropriately called, "The Spirit of the Pioneers." Each church in our field has accepted the challenge of studying the Spirit of the Pioneers through use of the book "Counsels on Stewardship." If you have not received your copy please contact your

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THAILAND



Mr. Pini Sombatsiri greeting leaders of the Religious organizations



General Serm looking at the smiling heart

Thailand Adventist Witness At Convention

The SDA Mission was honored to participate in the Convention of Religious Organizations in Thailand at the Ministry of Education, July 19-21. The convention was hosted by the Department of Religious Affairs.

The central focus of the convention was on the development of religious organizations for the welfare of the community. Free booths were assigned to each organization. The SDA Mission was assigned one of these booths to exhibit and sell their books.

Before the convention opened, leaders of various organizations were greeted by Mr. Pini Sombatsiri, Director of the Department of Religious Affairs. General Serm Na Nakorn, Deputy Prime Minister, presented the opening address of the convention.

After refreshments were served, General Serm visited the booths. The writer was privileged to present Adventist Christian books to him, and to explain the work of Seventh-day Adventists in Thailand. General Serm commended Adventists for their Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking and especially noted with appreciation the illustration of the smiling heart.

Dr. Ethel Nelson and Bangkok Adventist Hospital nursing students and personnel were active in assisting with the two and a half day exhibition, during which 1600 copies of *Story of Redemption* were given out, 153 people enrolled in "The Way of Life" Bible course and 200 Bible lessons distributed. Pastors Somsak and Wonlop were in charge of the booth activities.

The Thailand Adventist Mission administrators and workers join in praise to God and appreciation to all who assisted in this meaningful opportunity to acquaint Thai government officials with the SDA work in Thailand, and to witness for Christ to thousands of people at the convention.—*Sunti Sorajjakool*



At right is HMH Administrator Willie Donato with his Christ-centered message translated by Somchai Chuenchit

Haad Yai Hospital Holds Evangelistic Crusade

A five-day evangelistic crusade was held in the Language Center auditorium from August 17 to 21 by members of the Haad Yai Mission Hospital and Haad Yai church.

Various subjects on the gospel ministry were presented from night to night followed by health lectures on preventive medicines. The whole program was coordinated by Willie Donato, HMH administrator. The student missionaries provided the special music.

A nightly Bible marking class was organized after the meetings and those who have been attending faithfully every night expressed an interest in baptism.

Plans have been laid in the future for HMH to be more involved in direct public evangelism in order to "disseminate light by making known the laws of God pertaining to health of body and soul" and to stand as a witness for God in this fast developing city of Haad Yai.—*Willie Donato*



Student missionaries, Biz Fairchild, Hud Haas, and Linda Christoph with their special music



W. MALAYSIA-SINGAPORE

WITNESSING . . .

Our Way of Life



The Witnessing group of Queenstown Church

The high point of the Queenstown Church camp from August 8 to 12 on the holiday resort of St. John's Island was the baptism of three young ladies conducted by Pastor Joshua Mok, Youth and Sabbath School director of the West Malaysia-Singapore Mission.

These three young ladies, Stella Chong Voon Fah, Cynthia Chang Choon Siew, and Amy Tan Bee Lay, are the first fruits of the Lay Witnessing Program of the Queenstown Church. If you come to the church on any Sabbath afternoon, you will see small groups scattered all over the small compound, lay young people giving Bible studies to VOP graduates who have responded to the invitation to take the "Bible Says" course. Others have appointments with students in their homes, or in the parks all over Queenstown on Sabbath afternoons or Sundays, discussing the questions from the newly revised lessons. These young people have been trained to give Bible studies in a systematic way.

Pastor Sunny Lai, co-ordinator of this Lay Witnessing Program, sent out 160 letter to VOP graduates in March, inviting them to request for this free lessons and gift Bible. Forty eight names were received! This kept the whole church busy, and resulted in the baptism of these three ladies. — *Alfred Low*



Pastor Mok baptizes Stella Chong Voon Fah in the waters off St. John's Island

In August of this year, a series of "Better Living" lectures were presented in the Tamil settlement of Buntong New Villages, Ipoh. Comprising of Christians of various denominations, Buntong is known for its Indian population in Perak.

The ground work put forward by our Tamil literature evangelists and the residents being informed through handbills and posters gave us much hope. We have more than 300 VOP students in Buntong.

However, on the expected date, our hearts were uneasy, for it was raining heavily. As we prayed and

waited optimistically, much to our joy, we noticed the folks arriving. They streamed in with their umbrellas, young and old. Thus it went on daily, with an average attendance of sixty.

As Pastor T. K. Chong, WMSM president, expounded the truths from the Bible, the people nodded their heads in rapt attention. The truths presented were new revelations to their aged held misconceptions. The combination of the spiritual and health lectures was the first of its kind to be conducted in this area and the people really enjoyed the programs.

On the final night, when an altar call was made by Pastor Chong, almost the whole congregation of about 140 stood up! Fifty-eight have signed up for advanced Bible studies



The young and the old came every night for the lectures.

which will be followed up by the active youth from the Ipoh Tamil Church. We praise God for this rich harvest of souls! — *Meena Govindasamy*

VOICE OF PROPHECY

Bible Correspondence School

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A real friend

Catastrophe or Providence?

By C. L. Smith

We are told all things work together for good, but when you are sitting in the sweltering tropical heat in a car with a broken water pump, miles from a garage—a car that is supposed to certify your arrival at the next VOP rally, 205 miles away, and advertised to begin in just a few hours, well it's a bit hard to believe that any good could result. It only seemed like a catastrophe.

After a vain attempt at repair, the driver hitchhiked to the nearest garage, enrolling the people who picked him up in the VOP lessons on the way. One return trip by motorcycle and another by landrover brought the incapacitated vehicle to the nearest garage where it was soon determined that the required service would take days. How could we and all our gear possibly get to our Penang rally? It seemed impossible. After a lengthy wait a kind relative of the garage owner arrived and agreed to take us 70 miles to Ipoh for a sum. There was no choice. We were soon on our way.

The gentleman spoke only Chinese, and Daniel Yeo became the chief spokesman for all five of us. Our conversation soon turned to spiritual things, and the Lord led us to speak very pointedly to our driver concerning his salvation. It led him to blossom with

love. He insisted on buying us durians, paying for our meal in Ipoh, and refused to receive anything for the journey. It was truly a blessed experience for us. He promised to take the VOP lessons. That was July 15, 1979.

On our VOP rally trip this year, after making costly, extensive repairs on another car, one thing was forgotten—a simple oil change. Running from shop to shop in Kuala Lumpur, the driver was soon drenched with sweat, but there was no way the filter and wrench needed could be found. We gave up in desperation.

Seventy miles down the road we passed the garage of last year's episode and impulsively turned into the parts house. Amazingly enough we were able to change the oil in this "wide place in the road." Daniel Yeo, our efficient Chinese instructor, used these moments to find our friend. He arrived overjoyed to see us. He embraced us and would hardly let go. After he expressed much interest in further study we presented him with a Chinese *Great Controversy* and a stack of "Signs" which he promised to see distributed to English readers. We have requested a literature evangelist to visit him with a gift from us.

Who knows what the end result will be. Could a broken water pump serve to break the bonds of Satan and establish a church in this new area?



* VOICE OF PROPHECY OFFERING * NOVEMBER 29 * VOICE OF PROPHECY OFFERING * NOV



"I have been taking the Voice of Prophecy courses since I was in Junior Secondary School in 1974. Within that stretch of time I have gained a lot from the courses. I can experience the change that has occurred in my life and my will is under the control of my Lord Jesus. I can find solace in the peace of the Lord. I am more interested in the Lord since taking the Bible correspondence courses."

That was the testimony of Julius from Kuching, Sarawak and it is the many similar letters that come in to us daily that make working in the Voice of Prophecy such a rewarding experience. Every mail brings with it dozens of new enrollments for one or other of the five different courses that are available in the four major languages of this part of the world and the greatest number of the new applicants are in their teens or early twenties. The young people of the east want something different from the traditional religions that have held their parents and grandparents through the centuries. They can see that the formal ceremonies, the burning incense and the red lights have not brought the peace and the hope that they so desperately want and so they are reaching out, searching for a sure answer. But the joy that comes with a knowledge of salvation often brings with it the troubles that Jesus foretold for His followers in the record of Matthew chapter 10, as the following experts from letters show:

"I would like to be baptised but am forbidden by my parents", writes a young student from Singapore, and Siew Cheng of Sibiu tells us that he does not come from a Christian family. In fact, his parents hate Christians and try to stop him from being a follower of Jesus. But he says "I forgive them as God does." Surely the Holy Spirit is with that young man and the seeds that have been sown through his study of the WAY OF LIFE course are bearing fruit. "Please pray



* VOICE OF PROPHECY OFFERING * NOVEMBER 29 * VOICE OF PROPHECY OFFERING * NOV



that God will soften my brother and sisters hearts so that I might speak to them about Jesus", comes a plea from Ipoh, West Malaysia; and the prayers of our Union office workers join in behalf of all of these individuals each Thursday morning before the day's work begins.

Right now the Chinese lessons are in need of revision in order to keep pace with the simplification of the Mandarin and we know that you will want to have a part in making these lessons available in a new, more easily readable form. Over 21,000 students are presently actively involved in courses that can only be sent to them at the cost of thousands of dollars worth of books, lessons, stationery and stamps; but how can we worry about the costs when we weigh them against the results in souls saved? The following letter from Jenny should answer that question:

"Thank you very much for the lessons on Daniel and Revelation. Everyone should have the opportunity to do these studies as they provide much encouragement and hope. I want to be ready when Jesus comes back again. Many times when problems and trials pressure me from every side I feel so helpless and can only cry. But it means so much to me to know that Jesus will wipe away all tears. I want to be home."

Everyone cannot share the personal thrill of working with the students as they submit their lessons and comments. But every one can make our continuing work possible through their generosity on November 29th, when a special Voice of Prophecy offering will be taken up in all churches. Determine now to make this an exceptional offering so that we can together hasten the coming of Jesus and have ready a harvest of souls who have been saved through your interest and sacrifice. — *Trudy Hay*



VOP Rallies In West Malaysia

What a joy it was to have the opportunity to meet and personally visit with many of our VOP students in West Malaysia. It was an especially interesting experience for me to, for the first time, personally assist Pastor & Mrs. Smith, Wong Siew Fong, Assistant Director, and Daniel Yeo, Chinese Bible Instructor, in VOP Rallies which were held in Seremban, Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur from July 31 through August 4. Of the 58 students and 51 guests in attendance there were 62 recorded decision to follow Christ and 51 request for new courses. Being accustomed to dealing only with papers and letters in the office, it was really nice to see our students face to face, to make friends and discuss together their problems and difficulties, explaining things which they did not understand.

I spent some time talking to a small group of Tamil students, and they told me of their experiences. Some have been studying the courses despite strong parental objection. The messages from God's word have changed their lives, and they have come to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and found that through Him they will have eternal life. How these young people need our special prayers! From their experience I can understand better that the work of the Voice of Prophecy is extremely important and enables people in darkness to come to the light of Jesus and His wonderful love for us. Please pray that God will continue to bless the work of the Voice of Prophecy and the VOP students. May we all work earnestly to hasten the coming of our Saviour.—Mrs. Chelvi Tan, Malay Bible Instructor.



Last minute preparations completed, Chelvi and Wong Siew Fong are all set to go!

The Voice of Prophecy Rally was held in Johor Bahru Church on Friday, August 15, 1980 at 7:30 p. m. The Lord blessed us with an attendance of 40, of whom 23 were visitors or Voice of Prophecy students. A musical slide show on "The Crucifixion of Christ" was presented as the special feature of the Rally. Pastor Phoon, a lecturer from the Southeast Asia Union College then preached a sermon about the prodigal son. In response to the appeal at the end of the sermon, ten persons made their decisions for Christ. We praise the Lord for this harvest of souls at the Rally.—Pastor Tiang Nam Chu, Johore Bahru Church



Pastor Smith presents a diploma to one of the 59 happy graduates

VOP Success In Haad Yai

God has told us that "When church members put forth earnest efforts to advance the cause, they will live in the joy of the Lord, and they will meet with success." 7T 30. Proclaiming the message of Christ in Buddhist Thailand has never been easy, but the Holy Spirit works when we follow God's plan of involving the membership in outreach, and making every church a training center. A regular witnessing class was established in the Haad Yai church in February, 1980. About 20 members worked consistently every week for six months, taking VOP lessons to approximately 200 recipients. When the VOP rally was conducted on July 6, 1980, there was a full house in a downtown hall. Everyone applauded as each of the 59 students received their certificates.

Such a large graduation was a real first for Thailand. Please pray that the hearts of our members will be greatly encouraged to witness continually, till Jesus comes, by viewing the baptisms of many of their students during the upcoming evangelistic crusade in this South Thailand city.—C. L. Smith, VOP Director



SABAH



Mr. & Mrs. Peter Ching Seck Fook and son James

From Night Club Singer To Literature Evangelist

One look at Mr. Ching Seck Fook and you will know that he is a "salesman" for he has the "infectious" smile of a successful salesman. But Peter, as he is fondly called by his colleagues, is no ordinary salesman. He is a salesman for Jesus!

Peter was well known among night club goers as he was a famous musician in night clubs. He came to know the Advent message through the VOP which was introduced to him by a group of SDA church members. After a series of studies, Peter accepted the message and was baptized in 1973. Following his baptism, he quit his night club profession and found job in a church member's ink producing factory. Eight months later he became a literature evangelist and subsequently was appointed the assistant publishing director of the West Malaysia-Singapore Mission in 1974, a post which he held until his recent appointment as publishing director of Sabah Mission.

Peter and Yong Yoke Ching were united in marriage in 1975. They are blessed with a son, James, in 1977.

As soon as Peter arrived in March, he began "recruiting" back those literature evangelists who were dis-

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Kudat Church Pastor Weds

"When I was a small boy, I liked to go fishing very much," remarked Escend Chong, pastor of Kudat Chinese Church. "However, a few years ago, I went for another type of fishing, and I am so glad I have caught the kind of "fish" I was looking for!" concluded Pastor Chong at the dinner reception.

In a beautiful wedding ceremony attended by many relatives, friends, and church members, Escend and Alice Wong exchanged vows on July 27 in the Kota Kinabalu Church. The wedding was officiated by Pastor Ginduk Laung, and many of the church members came all the way from Kudat, a distance of about hundred miles.

Escend is the youngest in the family of four children. His parents, older brother and sister-in-law are members of the church, and Escend was baptized in 1968.

After leaving school, he went to work in a supermarket, a place he will never forget, for it was in that place where he first met Alice. He worked as a literature evangelist and joined SAUC as a theology student in 1976. There was an urgent need for a Chinese church pastor and Escend was called to fill the need.

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Beginner's Le Training School

The Sabah Mission Publishing Department held a Beginner's Literature Evangelist Training School at the mission headquarters in Tamparuli from July 6-8, 1980.

The mission's new publishing director, Peter Ching, along with his assistant, Anton Tobi, are committed to a strong program of recruitment. This was clearly seen by the good attendance of nineteen literature evangelists. The Sabah Mission has now more than thirty literature evangelists.

In attendance at the Training School were Ray Ammon, SAUM publishing director, Peter Ching, Anton Tobi, Pastor Ginduk Laung, mission evangelist, Mansur Ginggaing, mission Sabbath School director, Joseph Thia, mission MV and education director, Geoffrey Pauner, mission secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Peter Ching, Tamparuli HHES Branch Manager.

At the conclusion of the Training School, both leaders and literature evangelists pledged themselves to a renewed commitment of this soul winning ministry. The presence of the Holy Spirit was very real to these vanguards of the gospel as they sang their theme song, "Come Holy Spirit, I Need Thee". — Ray Ammon, SAUM Publishing Director



SARAWAK

Sarawak Pathfinder Fair

One hundred pathfinders gathered at Ayer Manis School Airstrip for the opening ceremony of the Pathfinder Fair in early July. These Adventist youth from Kuching, Bunga, Serian, Petung and Ayer Manis came to join hearts and voices in praise to God and fellowship together. The opening ceremony was held late in the afternoon of early July. Pathfinders snapped to attention when Parade Commander Charles Lim called the order and the music began.

After mission president, Paul Dixon had inspected the pathfinder parade, he addressed the pathfinders, expressing his appreciation for their contribution to the mission and urging them to uphold the image of Adventist Youth to the world. Pastor Edmund Liah then challenged them to extend a spirit of good will and harmony toward each other and their communities.



Pastor Paul Dixon inspecting the parade of a hundred pathfinders at the opening ceremony of the Pathfinder Fair Celebration



Empikau, from Ayer Manis Pathfinder Club trying his best to cross the slippery bamboo bridge



Andy Ng, guest speaker at the Fair



Ayer Manis Pathfinders demonstrating the Six-Men-Carry

Youth sponsored Sabbath services featured a forty-voice pathfinder choir, and other excellent musical numbers which enriched the Sabbath worship with melody and praise.

Sixty pathfinders received their Adventist Youth Society pins, and pathfinders received over one hundred honors at the afternoon investiture service. Additional awards included good conduct ribbons and service stars to pathfinders and leaders for outstanding achievements. After a much-enjoyed Bible quiz, conducted by Master Guide Arthur Singo, treasurer of Ayer Manis School, pathfinders from Ayer Manis, Sunny Hill and Serian emerged as outstanding Bible scholars.

A health tournament on Sunday morning included such activities as an egg throwing contest, an obstacle race, a tyre roll, pole climbing, a slippery bridge walk, a stilt race, and a first aid rally.

Sarawak pathfinders and leaders praise God for an outstanding Pathfinder Fair.

Sabah's Publishing Director . . . From page 9

couraged and had given up their jobs. Within weeks of his arrival, literature sales were up again! Soon book shelves which were stacked with books were emptied. Orders were quickly made to our Publishing House in Singapore for more books.

A Literature Evangelist Annual Institute was held in Kota Kinabalu National Park from September 10 to 14 and it was one of the most successful institutes ever conducted in Sabah. "There was perfect unity and harmony among all present," expressed Peter and the literature evangelists.

May the Lord continue to pour His richest blessings upon Peter and his wife as they serve Him in the publishing work. — *Kong Hong Yin*

SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS. Notice is hereby given that the quadrennial session of the Southeast Asia Union Mission of Seventh-Day Adventists will be held in the head office, 251 Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore 1334 from December 2—5, 1980.

Escend Weds . . . from page 9

Under his able leadership, the church now has an AY Society and lately, thirteen precious souls were added to the church record. The work among the Chinese speaking community of Kudat is growing.

We want to take this opportunity of wishing Escend and Alice Chong God's bountiful blessings and guidance as they unite their lives in service for Him. — *Kong Hong Yin*

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"Spirit of the Pioneers" . . . from page 2

pastor, As we each come to an understanding of our responsibilities to God as stewards, we can agree with another great pioneer of the Gospel, David Livingston who said, "I will place no value upon anything I have or may possess except in relation to the kingdom of Christ. If anything I have will advance the interest of that kingdom it shall be given away or kept only as by giving or keeping I may promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time and eternity." On David Livingston's last birthday, this entry was found in his diary, "My Jesus, my King, my life, my all, I again dedicate myself to Thee."

Can we with David Livingston make this same commitment—the kind of commitment that our early pioneers had? Do we indeed have the Spirit of the Pioneers? Let us remember "the lesson is for God's children in every age. When the Lord gives a work to be done, let not men stop to inquire into the reasonableness of the command or the probably result of their efforts to obey. The supply in their hands may seem to fall short of the need to be filled; but in the hands of the Lord it will prove more than sufficient." (PK 243) Let us be faithful and pray for a sense of urgency and a spirit such as the spirit of the pioneers!

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SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION MISSION

OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Office of the President

"Tell it to the world," was an expression of James White as the Seventh-day Adventist church caught the vision of world evangelism over 100 years ago.

This message is also conveyed by the three angels of Revelation 14 which are a constant reminder of the new logo of the Southeast Asia Union. Our task in Southeast Asia is to proclaim that message in its fullness, a message of salvation that has been preached for two millenniums.

The first angel's message is our message coupled with the announcement that we are living in the time of judgement, the time of the end. "The hour of judgment is come."

The message of the second angel is a solemn call for God's remnant people to shake off their yoke of worldliness, the false security of materialism, and doctrinal aberrations of light from God's Word. Even though we are still in the world we are not of the world and we are admonished to "Come out of her, my people."

The first angel's message announces the judgment hour, the cry of the second angel is against apostasy and worldliness in the churches and the third angel's message directs special attention to the law of God.

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

These angels of Revelation 14 were symbolic of the experience of the early Advent people. These angels still fly in the midst of heaven and are even more relevant today as we observe in the world an attitude of spiritual complacency, rejection of inspired light, and the keeping of God's commandments.

May God inspire each one of His remnant people to "give the trumpet that certain sound." May the three angels of our logo represent the faith of God's people as outlined in Revelation 14.

Robert L. Heisler
President