

# SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION MESSENGER

Sept.-Oct. 1986

M.C.(P) No. 36/2/86



## Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal



*Rejoice, Give Sing  
Thanks and*

**NEWSBREAK**

# A **Note** OF EXCITEMENT

## The New Office of Church Music at the General Conference is Born



*Dr. E. Harold Lickey*

I can't remember where I was, or with whom, on the first occasion when I heard the plea voiced for a General Conference office of Church Music. I just know that it was a long, long, time ago. And many times in the intervening years I have heard it repeated, and of course I joined in. Music educators and church musicians (often one and the same) would always draw up a series of resolutions at the end of a conference and would inevitably include another petition which voiced this concern for representation at the General Conference level.

Well, let the word go out over the land that a beginning has been made. Operating under the new Department of Church Ministries the OFFICE OF CHURCH MUSIC HAS BEEN BORN!! Every one who reads this has good reason to "make a joyful noise" with a few Hallelujahs and Hosannahs! Go ahead, improvise, celebrate, find another musician and hug someone! After all this is a momentous occasion, a great happening. Let me tell you more.

The General Conference has had for some years a standing Music Committee which dealt with some broad, general concerns as well as handling the planning for General Conference sessions, etc. In recent years Elder Charles L. Brooks has been the chairman of this committee. It was natural for him to chair the committee which prepared the new SDA Hymnal and lead out in music activities last summer at New Orleans. He is known widely as a fine singer and recording artist. Yet, his work at the General Conference was full time in the Sabbath School Department, not music.

During last summer's session in New Orleans I had opportunity to have lunch with my class-mate from college, Dr. Delmar Holbrook, who was appointed as director of the new Church Ministries program. I freely expressed myself to him regarding our concerns for the

Office of Church Music and was pleased to discover that he seemed to know quite a bit about our request and was supportive of our concerns. He further said that he felt such an Office should logically come under the Church Ministries umbrella. The wheels began to turn and within a few months a beginning was made.

Elder Charles L. Brooks, Chairman of the General Conference Music Committee, was asked to begin the development of the Office of Church Music at the General Conference level.

The general mandate of this new office will be to foster the strengthening of the total church music program in the world field. Many aspects of such a program will gradually be addressed as those who are responsible get into their work.

Great days lie directly ahead as programs are developed for the strengthening of congregational worship in song, for the strengthening of choral music, for the cultivation of stronger keyboard skills for church work, for educational programs for children in Sabbath School divisions, for seminars for pastor and church music leaders and committees, and for the whole church body as they consider the broad effects of music in the total life of the Seventh-day Adventist church body. Music lovers have good reason to be highly encouraged as they see the growing awareness of the central place of music in our total church life. So let us all Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing!

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**Dr. E. Harold Lickey**  
**Professor of Church Music,**  
**Chairman of Text Committee**  
**SDA HYMNAL**



# Excerpts From The Chairman...

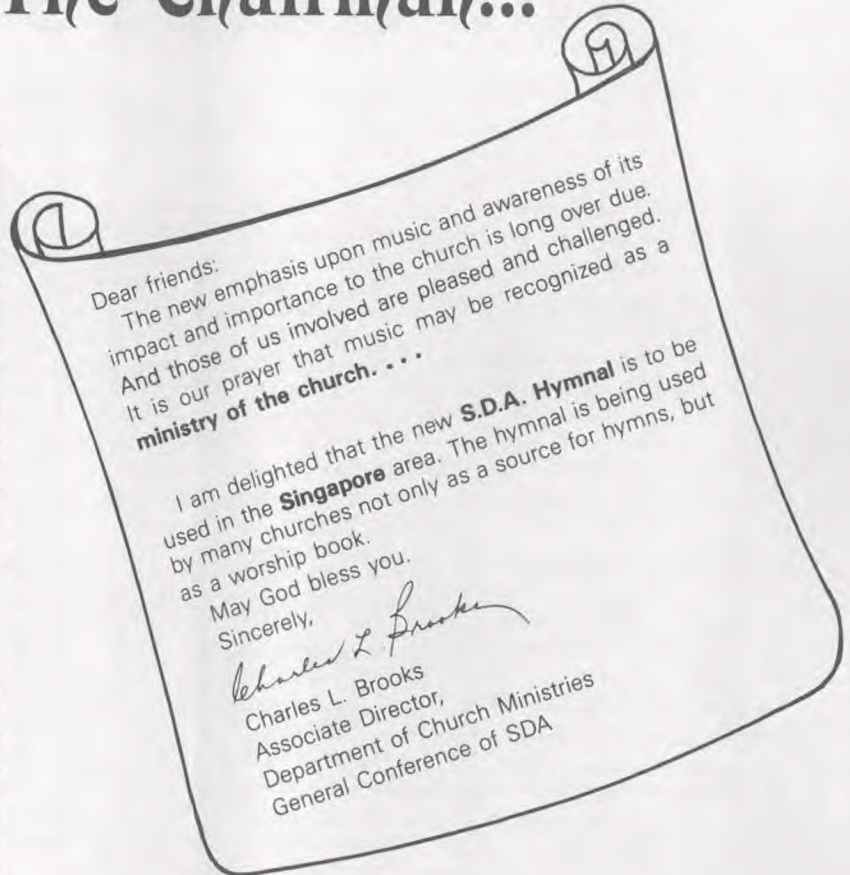
## THE NEW HYMNAL COMES TO SAUM

Since August the new Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal has been on sale at the Singapore Adventist Book Center. Mr. John Ho reports that from the over 1,000 copies received from the Review and Herald Publishing Association approximately one-fourth remain to be sold. Orders have come in from all around Southeast Asia. Enthusiasm for the hymnal runs high. Vincent Hsu, a college student remarks:

"I really enjoy the new SDA Church Hymnal. The songs include a wider range of melody and harmony than the former hymnal. Praising God in song can be done in many different ways, avenues, and cultures. I think the new hymnal has broadened our view. The many colors available, the easier style of the notes to read adds a nice touch. The only disadvantage I find is the chore of having to memorise all my favorite song numbers, which is a problem to all new songbooks."

One non-Seventh-day Adventist friend, who has sold pianos in the Singapore/Malaysia area for many years, recently commented that out of all his customers, Adventists seem to be especially keen on music. As Seventh-day Adventists we should be well-known for our music. It is God's design that musical expression accompany the deepest joys of the heart and certainly our joy as Seventh-day Adventist can be full. Even more as we begin to use this new hymnal which beautifully enhances the truths we hold.

L.W.H.



Dear friends:

The new emphasis upon music and awareness of its impact and importance to the church is long over due. And those of us involved are pleased and challenged. It is our prayer that music may be recognized as a **ministry of the church.** . . .

I am delighted that the new **S.D.A. Hymnal** is to be used in the **Singapore** area. The hymnal is being used by many churches not only as a source for hymns, but as a worship book.

May God bless you.  
Sincerely,

*Charles L. Brooks*

Charles L. Brooks  
Associate Director,  
Department of Church Ministries  
General Conference of SDA

## OBJECTIVES OF THE OFFICE OF CHURCH MUSIC

1. To increase publicity relative to the ministry of music and its significance.
2. To revitalize interest in the singing of hymns, with a positive approach to music ministry. "As a part of religious service, singing is as much an act of worship as is prayer." — *Education*, p. 168.
3. To encourage musicians to cooperate with pastors in spiritual leadership (develop a team approach).
4. To provide audiovisual material for churches, institutions, and homes.
5. To publish how-to materials for volunteer musicians (such as how to relate to people and how to teach new hymns).
6. To hold workshops, seminars, and hymn festivals; to encourage congregational singing, choir organization, and use of instruments.
7. To foster expression of creative abilities through music.
8. To guide youth in music appreciation and to a better understanding of church standards, worship, and entertainment.



# WHY DO WE SING THE LORD'S SONG?

*Marjorie Ness*

"Sing to the Lord a new song!" should be our motto right now. The new SDA Hymnal is an exciting book and one our denomination should be very proud of producing.

Why do we sing at all? Why a new hymnal...why any hymnal? Our theology has us acutely aware of the worship that is going on in Heaven at this time. We are an earthly counterpart to a heavenly worship, and someday we will worship around the throne of God. Will we be ready? Will we be deserving? Christ, through His atonement, has seen that we are deserving...but the question still remains...are we ready?

I cannot say it any better than Harold Daniels in his article "Why Sing the Lord's Song" taken from *Reformed Music and Liturgy* (Winter, 1984):

Worship on earth is joined to the unceasing worship of heaven. The songs we sing in praising God, are joined to the songs of angels who sing without ceasing around God's throne. Throughout Scripture we catch glimpses of an unending song of adoration voiced by the hosts of heavenly beings before the throne of God.

When Isaiah received his call as a prophet, he was worshiping in the temple. He saw heavenly creatures above and around the throne of God, singing, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of the glory of the Lord" (Isaiah 6:3). The foundations shook, and the temple was filled with smoke.

On the night of Jesus' birth, humble shepherds reported the skies being pulled back like a curtain revealing the heavens filled with angel choirs singing: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace..." (Luke 2:14).

The most awesome and wonder-filled portrayal of the worship of eternity is described in the visions of John while he was in exile on the rocky island of Patmos. We are given pictures of marvels and wonders in fantasy-filled poetic imagery. In these sublime visions, great multitudes of angels around the throne of God are reported as singing continuous praise, never stopping: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" (Revelation 4:8). Accompanied by the music of harps and great clouds of incense, angels beyond number fall down on their faces before the glory of the divine presence singing: "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created" (Revelation 4:11). Then every creature in heaven and on earth, and the farthest reaches of the universe, join the glorious anthems of the angels: "To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might for ever and ever!" (Revelation 5:13).

The imagery of awe and wonder portrayed in these Scriptures suggests to us that there is a level of worship that transcends all that we may bring to worship. Worship is not limited by the confines of a worshipping congregation. Worship on earth is joined to the eternal song of praise in the realms of heaven. We might say that we tune in on "a program already in progress."

When we focus on this concept, it is obvious why we must sing in our earthly worship. No matter how feeble or beautiful the voice, we must lift it heavenward, towards the throne of God.

We do not hear angels singing: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts..." The pungent smell of temple incense does not call us to prayer. We are unable to wonder at the curtains of the skies

drawing back to reveal heaven full of angels. We do not see the Lamb of God surrounded by singing creatures impossible to count. We are no longer able to hear anything but what our ears hear, or to see anything but what our eyes see.

Many of the new hymns in our hymnal are wonderful and powerful tunes. The texts are equally powerful. The music, the vehicle of the text, is what can really make the hymn soar. One hymn which has caught fire in the past ten years is "Lift High the Cross" (No. 362). We must help our congregations catch the imagery of this hymn—the power of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ—not the lifting of the symbolic cross as is the practice of some. Our minds have to catch the power and majesty that this tune and text portray. It is a wonderful vehicle of praise. Daniel states:

Music thus has a role of both *expressing* our prayer and praise and *impressing* us with the truth and mystery of God. This suggests the importance of music in communication. Music is a valued part of our addressing God, but music also strengthens God's word to us. Music powerfully shapes the way we perceive God and our relationship with God. The power of music lies in its ability to bring our emotions to the surface of life. Song rises from the depths of the soul, involving our whole being more readily than speech. Music can shape us, direct and change us. Song is implanted within our memory more deeply and lastingly than words alone. It may be that we learn more theology from the hymns and songs we sing, than we do from sermons or the church school class. The words we entrust to melody needs to

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## PRESENTING THE NEW HYMNS

We have found the following plan successful in presenting the new hymns from the Hymnal to our College congregation:

1. A new hymn is played for a month as an organ Call to Worship. The words, if new, are read and short comment made from the pulpit and in the bulletin about the hymn.

2. That hymn is then sung for about a month as the first hymn for worship, with as much support as possible from the choir and brass, emphasizing the melody line. If choir or brass are not available, a group of well-trained singers with mikes, in the front pews, can give good support.

3. While No. 2 is in progress, a new Call to Worship is introduced.

4. Once several hymns are well-known, they are

revised by rotation and sung as the second or third hymn in worship and revised during song services.

5. Organ and instrumental preludes, offertories and postludes can be used, based on the new tunes. Among the many organ resources available today, I have found two books which contain tunes in the new Hymnal, presented in creative and useful ways: *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* by Don Michael Dicie, (Broadman Press), contains hymn introductions and varied accompaniments, on two staves with optional pedal or piano. *Varied Organ Verses for Twelve Well Known Hymn Tunes* by Kevin Morris, (McAfee Music Corporation), contains intonations, standard harmonizations plus several verses with interludes.

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—David Clark, Professor of Organ, Avondale College

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*Adventist Musician*, Journal of Church Music

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It makes me very upset to stand behind a child in church who is reading, coloring, or otherwise occupied during the singing of the hymns. As far back as I can remember, I stood on the pew between my parents, holding a corner of the hymnal, with an adult's finger pointing to the words, line by line as the congregation sang. I remember I couldn't read all those words, and certainly couldn't follow all the notes, but I had a sense of participating in a great act of the church—singing our faith through hymns. I was also being taught an important lesson that when we are in church, we are active participants in worship. The sermon was the only time that occasionally I was granted a 3x5 card and pencil to help pass the time. My dad usually told me to draw something I saw in church, again prompting me to be involved with the things and events around me.

In my work with children's choirs I spend a lot of time making the children aware of the worship which surrounds them each week. First, we must equip them with the tools of worship, and other tools of understanding the events of worship which often pass quickly to a young

child—too quickly to comprehend (or participate in). One tool they must be familiar with is the church bulletin. How can a child participate in responsive readings or the finding and singing of hymns if they cannot decipher the church bulletin? A family can keep a bulletin as an example and study it together at home. Another basic tool to every service is finding scripture in the Bible. The third tool is finding and singing hymns. After we hear God's word through scripture, the response of faith is the singing of hymns.

Kindergarten age children are fascinated with numbers. It is an easy age to begin explaining the concept of how the numbers progress through the hymnal. This age child will also quickly understand how to follow the verses through each stanza of the hymn. By first grade there should be no child standing idle during the singing of hymns (or sitting otherwise occupied!). It is quite exciting, when presented in that manner, for a young child to open, and hold the hymnal during the singing of a hymn.

Oftentimes Sabbath School leaders, choir directors, and worship planners search for very simple hymns for children. In a quest for attainable

hymns two things happen: 1) very trite music is chosen in lieu of great hymns of the church or 2) texts are chosen which talk about the nature of children and their faith. The first problem has this answer: teach children music they can gradually grow into and keep—don't teach them ditties they must outgrow and cannot be lasting expressions of a mature faith. The second problem is answered thus: who wants to hear kids tell you about kids? I don't. I would rather teach texts which talk about God, teach praise words like "Alleluia" and texts which expand the child's concepts beyond that of himself.

If the children in your church are standing idle during the singing of hymns, do some serious thinking about revamping your teaching process for hymns. It does not magically happen at puberty that children feel comfortable singing hymns. The hymns must come alive to them in Sabbath School, Church School, and in the home and choir, from a VERY early age.

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Marjorie Ness

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*Adventist Musician*,  
Journal of Church Music

# “CHOOSE YE THIS DAY”

## REFLECTIONS ON THE CHRISTIAN'S CHOICE OF MUSIC

*Amelia Han*



Today, many find difficulty in choosing music appropriate for worship. The Bible gives us basic guidelines by which to decide what kind of music will best enhance the worship of our Creator. The writer would like to draw your attention to a few basic guiding principles for the Christian in his choice of music, particularly in worship.

Consider Philippians 4:8.

“... whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.” (NASB)

We will all agree that the center of worship is the Creator God. But before we even feel the desire to worship Him, it is important that we know what kind of God He is. Correct knowledge should guide us as we approach Him, speak to Him, talk about Him, and fellowship with the transcendent, thrice holy, omnipotent, yet incarnate God.

All throughout the Bible we see the vital place music takes in worship, and we should use the Biblical model established by God to demonstrate the importance which God places upon music and the provision He made for training and excellence in its practice.

In today's world, we recognize that music has assumed a very prominent and even dominant role in our lives. Everywhere we go, in the shopping centers, eating places, we hear music. It isn't an uncommon sight to see people with their walkmans along the streets obviously listening to some form of music.

There has always been an instinctive recognition that great power, almost of magical quality, lies in this realm of sound. Commercial interests have long been aware of this. That is why music is played in most public places, soothing sounds in bar lounges, restaurants, etc. We as Christians, too, recognize the tremendous influence of music on a person. We use much music in our worship, and we cannot but realize the potential of the musical media as a life conditioner in the light of eternity.

Music affects us as individuals, our behavioral patterns, and in turn, influences the creative output of us as

individuals. This pattern will produce movement or growth in some direction. That direction will be controlled by the nature and the quality of that experience. Will that experience be upward or downward, uplifting or degrading?

The devil, too, realizes the controlling influences of music on us. Ellen White tells us that he “will seek to work through the strongest means to hold the largest members in a pleasing infatuation.”

In recent years, some church members have adopted an increasing familiarity with the “world.” This has led them to be more and more homogeneous with the surrounding culture—more and more comfortable with its trends—and less and less interested in the separatist aspect of the gospel. The musical styles developed by our pleasure-seeking society have, no doubt, crept into the world of Christian music in witness and worship as well as in recreational uses. Perhaps the lyrics have been changed, but does it make the music right or sacred? What Job stated in chapter 14:4, “Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one,” seems appropriate for us as we think about in regards to this subject.

Ellen White again emphasizes that “unless correct ideas of true worship and true reverence are impressed upon the people, there will be a growing tendency to place the sacred and eternal on a level with common things, and those professing the truth will be an offense to God and a disgrace to religion.” 5T 500.

**“W**hatever is honorable, right, pure, lovely, ... , dwell on these things.”



## A WITNESS

We worship a most high God, the Worthy Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, and wisdom, and might, honor and glory and blessing. This most high God deserves the very best, the most excellent worship from us. Our worship should seek to reach the highest standard to bring the honor due Him reaching down while we were yet sinners to die for us, that we might be drawn up to His level.

A very perceptive poet once penned these words:  
*"For the common things of every day,  
 God gave man speech in the common way.  
 For the deeper things men think and feel,  
 God gave the poet words to reveal.  
 For the heights and depths no words can reach,  
 God gave man music, the soul's own speech."*

Yes, God the giver of all good and perfect gifts, gave His entire creation music, that together in one grand voice it might express what no human pen can write, what no human love can alone disclose. This element of music touches the deepest level of the soul. This gift, God gave to stir within man a most profound sense of the transcendent, the eternal, the omnipotent.

One glad and triumphant day, all creation will again exalt Him in true worship and praise when the ransomed of the Lord will return to Zion, singing everlasting songs of victory, of Moses and the Lamb. Who will be there enjoying the exaltation and grandeur in Heaven?

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**Amelia Han,**  
**Southeast Asia Union College Church Organist**

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convey what the worship of God requires. Words should be lyrically worthy of being given melody.

The kind of music we use in worshiping God is very important, for music's power to distort is just as great as its power to reinforce truth. The quality of the music we use will reveal the importance we give to God. Trivial music dwarfs our image of God. The liturgy therefore calls for the best we are capable of providing. Only then can music help enlarge our understanding of God and God's will for us. When we understand that music in worship is given us as a means both to express and to impress, we can begin to understand how music serves the worship of God.

Blessings to each of you as you enjoy this new worship tool in your services.

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**Majorie Ness**

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 Journal of Church Music

Mrs. White has written about music and the power it has. Indeed, somebody has once said that music can tame the wildest of beasts. The Psalms are musical pieces in their own way and are also used as means of witnessing. The Hebrews cried to God, praised Him, and even complained to Him in the Psalms.

In our modern day, music is a very powerful tool that one can use to influence another. If correctly used, music can draw one close to God, and Don Wyrzten's cantata "WORTHY IS THE LAMB" is a fine example of such use of music.

In the second quarter of this year, the SAUC Singers and Church Choir went on their tour of Singapore and Johor Baru SDA churches presenting this beautiful cantata. The premier performance was held on the night that the world remembers God's wonderful sacrifice—the death of Jesus Christ—Good Friday, March 28. It was a very fitting cantata as it revolves around God's deliverance of the Israelites from the land of Egypt and ties in with the deliverance of the world with the death of Christ and His resurrection. The lyrics of the songs of the cantata are very inspiring and the members of the audience were reminded that the "Lamb" was sacrificed for them.

This cantata included a host person, a scripture voice, and the portrayal of two other characters—Shomar, a simple Hebrew woman, and her son Nathan. Together with the choir, the cast presented the entire program with deep conviction and feeling throughout the 45-minute program.

It is a wonderful experience to be able to witness for God in any way possible. For you who are afraid to go out to meet people to witness for God, join a choir. Every church should have a choir if possible. It need not be a large 40-member choir like that of the Southeast Asia Union College Singers and Church choir, for even a 10-member choir can touch the hearts of many with the blessings of God.

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. Sing unto the Lord with the harp...and the voice of a psalm." (Ps 98:4,5)

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**Michael Tan, Junior Business Student,**  
**Southeast Asia Union College**



SAUC Singers



## SINGAPORE



Pastor Daniel Lim gave an invitation to accept Christ.



Peter Chow spoke on "Security" during the second evening.

### SINGAPORE YOUTH CRUSADE - 1986

The first Singapore Youth Crusade cum Concert was held July 25-27, 1986 at the Public Utilities Board (PUB) Auditorium in the Orchard Road district. An average of 180 non-Adventists were brought by our SDA youth from around Singapore. During the three-evening effort, 137 people responded to accept Jesus Christ. Among them, over 50 indicated their desire for baptism and approximately 40 signed up for the Video Bible Study Course.

No public advertisement was made for this crusade. Instead the young people of the five different Singapore churches banded together last December, 1985 under the slogan "Operation Andrew" to personally pray for and invite their relatives and friends.

The Youth Crusade Choir and two speakers each night shared concerning the theme "We Shall Behold Him". The six speakers chosen from the five area churches consisted of three National University of Singapore students, one from SAUC, one nurse and one teacher. Mr. Chan Shee Wai, despite an accident a few weeks previous, spoke from his wheel chair the first night, along with Miss Tan Pik Yee. Mr. Peter Chow and Miss Tan Poh Geok spoke the second night and Miss Lilian Yap and Mr. Tony Pasillas spoke the third evening. Pastor and Mrs. Lee Ki Plin led lively song services each evening.

The crusade came to an enthusiastic close with many prayers of thanksgiving sent to God for His blessings. Plans are beginning now for the next city-wide crusade to be held at the new Jurong SDA Church.

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— Daniel Lim, Associate Youth Director,  
Singapore



The Thomson Church Chinese Singers.

### SHEPHERDESS INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER SPONSORED SEMINAR

Shepherdess International Chapter in Singapore sponsored its first seminar, LEARNING TO LOVE, on the Sabbath afternoon of June 28.

At 2.30 p.m. Mrs. Winnie Sim, president of the local chapter, welcomed the roomful of participants and introduced the Shepherdess International Chapter and its objectives. A musical selection was presented by the newly formed Shepherdess Chorale directed by Mrs. Ann Ng.

Dr. Nancy Bassham, the SAUM Shepherdess International Coordinator and the Home and Family Services Director for the Far Eastern Division, lectured at the seminar. She explained that God's church of love moves effectively when forgiveness, acceptance, and sharing are in full operation. At the end of the 3-hour long seminar, several people expressed their desire to see more of this type of seminar held in our church.

Many thanks to Hazel Ng (vice president), Evelyn Griffin (secretary) and others who helped to make this seminar a success.

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— Winnie Sim, President, Singapore Chapter



## CELEBRATION OF PRAISE AT BALESTIER

The Youngberg and Balestier Youth groups along with the Balestier Primary department presented a vesper program July 18, 1986 to a packed sanctuary audience. The Youngberg youth group re-enacted a realistic portrayal of the story of "Moses" during which the children of Israel won their freedom from slavery. The Primary department sang a musical medley entitled "Kid's Praise". And the Balestier youth group concluded the evening with the thought-provoking play entitled "Now", a portrayal of end-time events.

"We haven't given enough thought to the role of Adventists in the last days. This program has given us much food for thought," remarked Pastor George C. Johnson, President of SAUM.

The offering total of \$250 that evening went towards further defraying of costs incurred during the building of the Jurong Church. Pastor Danson Ng, Chairmain of the Jurong Church Fund Raising Committee was highly appreciative of the spiritual dedication and the voluntary efforts of our Adventist Youth and children in sharing the burden of Jurong Church.

— George Ang, Balestier Road Church

## BALESTIER VEGETARIAN COOKING CLASS

Vegetarian cooking classes were conducted on the five Sundays during August by the Adventist Better Living Centre and Balestier SDA Church in the Balestier Church youth room. Dr. Ng Eng Lim, a private medical practitioner, spoke to the participants, half of whom were non-SDA's, concerning a well-balanced, vegetarian diet. Slide presentations on various health subjects were very informative. Approximately 50 easy-to-cook Western and Asian recipes were demonstrated by various church members. Pastor George Johnson gave certificates of attendance to the participants at the conclusion.

— John Tan, Administrator,  
SDA Community Services, Singapore



*Rejoicing in the coming of the Lord.*



*"Kid's Praise" by Balestier Road Church.*

## MALAYSIA

### ANNIVERSARY AND BAPTISM AT JOHORE BAHRU SDA CHURCH

May 24, 1986, was the 30th anniversary date of the Johore Bahru Church. A special anniversary service for a full house of worshippers culminated with a baptism of four individuals.

The candidates are shown with Pastor Vijayan and Pastor S.F. Chu, officiating minister.

— Pastor Vijayan, Johore Bahru SDA Church



*From left to right - Moses C. Thomas, Mr. Gordon Lange, Boey Lan Fong, Irene Chee.*



## YAH IN ACTION

### MARKETING SURVEY

At the invitation of Youngberg Adventist Hospital, Mr. Paul Grossi, Vice President for Marketing of Kettering Medical Center, U.S.A. visited Singapore this summer to lead out in a marketing survey with the aim to explore the areas of need in the community and to recommend the direction of the hospital in its development plan. The Administration is presently studying the recommendations presented from the survey and is seriously considering the need of new facilities in trying to meet the needs of the community. The hospital board is appreciative of the valuable services of Mr. Grossi and the Adventist Health System/United States.

### NEWSTART PROGRAM

The 7th Newstart Program (June 15 - 20), a life-style change reconditioning program, was held at the beautiful Garden Hotel with a total of 5 participants. It became the "first" in the history of the hospital to hold the program in a hotel setting. The garden feature and surroundings of the hotel presented a unique atmosphere conducive to a positive impact of this program. All participants appreciated the setting and the services of hospital personnel consisting of: Dr. Clarence Ing, Dr. Fred Hardinge, Miss Peggy Chaw and several volunteers.

### FEA STUDENTS' SERVICES

Far Eastern Academy sent five students to spend their summer holidays working in various departments of Youngberg Adventist Hospital. They were: Marci Williams, Dietary Services; Shirlene Johnson, Out-patient Department; Rob Wahto & Todd Dunfield, Plant Services; and Heidi Griffin, Laboratory. In an interview with Marci, she considered it an experience working in a hospital setting. "I have learned to chop vegetables with a big knife and I have also learned to speak a few Cantonese words from the kitchen staff. I think it is rewarding," remarked Marci.

### POSTERS AT OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT

Under the initiative of Supervisor Ho Lai Fong, the nursing staff of the Out-patient Department made up a series of new posters for display at the waiting area. These posters cover health education messages on understanding diabetes, hypertension, weight control, diet and general health principles. With these new posters and the rearrangement of the waiting area, a new look is felt as a direct result of staff participation in planning and management. The hospital administration is appreciative of the services of the OPD staff.

— Jonathan Ng, Public Relations Director,  
Youngberg Adventist Hospital



Mr. Paul Grossi (left) sharing a point with YAH President Ken Reimche (center) and YAH Vice President Joshua Goh.



Newstart participants enjoying a drink of cold water during the break.



Marci Williams with kitchen staff Teoh Cher Khim (left).



OPD Supervisor Ho Lai Fong sharing a point with Nurse Ivy Tan (right).



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## SARAWAK

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### MIRACLE AT PAH

During the recent furlough of one of the expatriate physician families serving at Penang Adventist Hospital, Dr. Ted Howe of Olney, Maryland and his wife, Beth, came to Penang to serve. Dr. Howe recently completed a residency program in pediatrics and he was eager to return to the Far Eastern Division. During his college years, he had the privilege of serving as a student missionary at Far Eastern Academy in Sinagopre.

During their three months in Penang, Ted and Beth stayed extremely busy. Responsibilities in the church and in the hospital occupied their days and at times, even their nights. On August 5, Ted and Beth left to return to the States to take up new responsibilities in a health care corporation operated by his father. As he left, he recounted an answer to prayer he was involved in at Penang.

A husband and wife had come to Penang Adventist Hospital seeking medical help. The wife was pregnant and the obstetrician found that she had been pregnant seven times before. Although the man and wife desperately wanted children, none of their previous children had lived. This time the lady received treatment at PAH and delivered a baby boy. However, he was premature and at birth weighed only 1400 grams. Sometime after birth, the baby developed complications and Dr. Howe and the nurses worked earnestly over the infant in an endeavor to save his life. They prayed daily to God for Divine intervention and their prayers were heard. After many days in the hospital, the baby was able to go home with the parents.

One can only imagine the joy in their hearts as they took their eighth child - yet their only child - home. Dr. Howe later learned that the baby gained 600 grams of weight in one week after leaving the hospital. What a thrill it was to know that the parents in this non-Christian home had learned of the love of Christ and the personal answers of God to our prayers.

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**George C. Johnson, President,  
SAUM**

### YOUTH CONGRESS BONANZA

They came by the hundreds. They were exuberant! They sang. They renewed acquaintances and made new friends. Yes, Youth Congress time had come, the event of the year for many youth in Thailand and Sarawak Missions.

The theme of this year's Youth Congress was, "Tomorrow's Leaders Today". About half of Asia's population are young people below thirty years of age. In Southeast Asia the churches are relatively young, with young people playing active roles in soul-winning endeavours. The urgent need today is to train, equip, and inspire youth leaders for greater service. This is what the Congresses this year have set out to accomplish.

The Youth Congress conducted in Thailand in May was attended by about 250 youth from churches far and near. With a population of 50 million, the work in Thailand poses a great challenge to its 5,700 members, approximately half of which are young people. Under the dynamic leadership of Thailand Mission youth director, Pastor Rungsit, the Youth Congress provided inspiration and practical instruction. Workshops conducted included youth evangelism, youth leadership, marriage and family.

Over in Sarawak, the Youth Congress was held in a rural environment in the beautiful Kampong Lanchang. All the 350 delegates were put up in various homes in this predominantly Adventist village. The Lanchang River nearby provided much needed recreation for the young people in the afternoons.

SAUM president, Pastor George Johnson conducted a course on Christian Standards. Other courses conducted in the mornings were Child Evangelism by Mrs. Dorothy Walter, Pathfinder Leadership by Pastor Lawrence Banyie, Youth Witnessing by Pastor Edmund Liah, Literature Evangelism by Pastor D.R.L. Astleford, Temperance and Health by Pastors P. Ngadan and Andy Ng. Early each afternoon the youth were taught a course on Love, Courtship, and Marriage.

The highlight of both Congresses was the baptismal service. A total of 34 youth were baptized at a pond in Khao Yai, while 26 Sarawakians joined the church. When Sarawak Mission president Choo Wee Fong made a call at the closing night of the Congress, eleven responded to give their time and talent for a voluntary 2-month mission service.

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**G. T. NG, Church Ministries Director,  
SAUM**



Youth Director of Far Eastern Division, Pastor Bernie Donato

Miss Paula Anyie relates how the Lord had helped her to overcome Sabbath problems for three successive years while studying in Mara Institute of Technology in Kuala Lumpur. Paula now works as an accountant in the Mission office



Amidst cool crisp mountain air of Khao Yai National Park 200 youth gathered from churches in Thailand. In the evenings, wild deer and elephants could be seen roaming freely near the camp site.



A rare pose of Union President Pastor George Johnson as never seen before! No, he is not practising the art of levitation. He is responding to the young people's request to perform his version of an Iban dance.



Mr. Michael Ben, Assistant Minister of Youth and Culture of Sarawak State presents a cheque of M\$2,000 to Pastor Lawrence Banyie, Church Ministries Associate Director (Youth Functions) of Sarawak Mission. Mr. Ben earlier declared the Youth Congress open.



One of the highlights of Thailand Youth Congress was a Bible contest participated in by eight district churches. Ekamai Church from Bangkok emerged as over-all winner. Pastor W. L. Wilcox, Thailand Mission President (second from left) gave away the first prize. Looking on was Somporn Srisawat.



The climax of the Congress was a beautiful baptismal service at a pond. Pastor Keow (left) from Korat Church and Pastor Rungsit baptized the 34 candidates. At the end of the second quarter, 1986, Thailand Mission has 236 baptisms, the highest in SAUM. In 1985 they baptized 409 people, compared with 431 in Sarawak and 609 in Sabah.



Intensely watching the programs of the Sarawak Youth Congress are these two youth of tomorrow. Upon them and their contemporaries rests the future of the Church.



## NEW LIFE FROM A FUNERAL

The villagers were in a turmoil. Their chief always conducted the necessary funerals, but now he had just died. Who would perform his funeral? It seemed no one was qualified. Then someone thought of the Seventh-day Adventist pastor who had just begun a health project in the village, and so he was invited.

Friday, the day set for the funeral, soon came and distinguished representatives from the surrounding villages began to arrive for the ceremonies in honor of this important and well-known man. Among the visitors was a man named William.

During the service, William found himself deeply absorbed in the message of the pastor. Afterward the new thoughts seemed to haunt him. He determined to find out more, but shyness overtook him as he pondered the idea of approaching the pastor.

"What would the others think of him talking to the pastor?" he wondered. Finally, like Nicodemus of old, he decided to pay his visit after the villagers had all gone to sleep.

As the evening wore on, William carefully noted where the pastor went to lie down. Fighting his growing sleepiness after the busy day, he waited quietly in the gathering shadows as the others gradually went to their sleeping mats in the longhouse and drifted off to sleep. Finally he went to the pastor's side and softly called to him.

The pastor stirred and sat up. He blinked a couple of times and rubbed his tired eyes. "What could anyone be wanting from him now," he thought? Then his eyes met the earnest gaze of William's. "I just want so badly to understand more about what you were talking about earlier," William half pleaded. "Will you tell me more, now?"

Despite his tiredness, the pastor began to share the sweet story of salvation. William soaked it up like a dry sponge. Eagerly he asked more questions. The night wore on as the hours ticked away. Finally at 3 a.m. the pastor could stay awake no longer. His body was crying for rest after the strain of the long day and funeral service.

"William," he suggested, "this coming Sunday evening we are starting a three-week training program for our church leaders. The materials will be rather advanced for you, but I know the teacher. I don't think he will mind if you come and listen."

"I will be there," William replied.

Sunday came and so did William. Eagerly he sat and listened to every word. Carefully he took notes and tried to look things up in the Bible the teacher gave him. But during class breaks William slipped outdoors to smoke a cigarette.

Everyone tried to be extra kind and helpful to William. They noticed that he was having trouble reading. He needed to squint often, which made the tears run down his cheeks as he tried to read. Secretly the men collected an offering from among themselves and walked into town during the noon break to buy a pair of reading glasses.

William was overwhelmed when the men presented him the glasses. "Here I am a stranger, not even a church member," he exclaimed. "And yet these men, some from way up the Julau River and others from Lubok Antu who have never seen me before, have bought me a pair of glasses!"

A few days later word came that William's wife was very sick. One of the teachers helped him take her 20 miles to the hospital. When she was discharged a couple of days later, William brought her and their little daughter back to the seminar. In addition to attending classes, she began helping with food preparations for the group.

As the two weeks drew to a close, William decided to stop smoking. It was a must, he reasoned, if he was going to follow his new found Saviour. On the last evening he stood and gave a stirring testimony of how Jesus was changing his life. He begged to participate in the evening communion service as a witness to the first steps in his walk with the Lord.

A few weeks later visitors to the Roban area met William. He had awakened at 5 a.m. Sabbath morning to make the 3-hour journey on foot to the nearest Branch Sabbath School conducted by one of the newly trained church leaders. For his bounding enthusiasm, the trainee group affectionately renamed William Lakui, William Miller—Herald of Christ's second coming to the many villages around Roban.

— Daniel Walter, Ministerial Secretary, Sarawak

## AIRSTRIPE AND HANGAR AT AYER MANIS SCHOOL

As soon as the rains let up sufficiently so that tractors could effectively work, the Sarawak Mission began restoration and lengthening of the airstrip at the Ayer Manis School, about 45 miles SE of Kuching. This is the first of the original airstrips to be rebuilt as the Sarawak Mission moves ahead to reopen the Aviation program to support the expanding work in that mission.

This airstrip will serve as a temporary base of operations for the aviation program in Sarawak until extensive remodeling of the International Airport in Kuching reaches the point where the mission will be able to return and operate from its facilities. This move is not expected until the latter part of 1988 or 1989. When operations return to Kuching, the Ayer Manis airstrip will

*Continue on page 14*

**Continued from page 13**

continue serving as a support base and training center for training not only local mission pilots, but for the training of laymen as effective lay workers—a program the mission is already implementing with exciting results.

To make the airstrip safer, all trees and other obstacles to the approaches have been cut and removed. Power lines have been re-routed or run underground, and telephone lines will be re-routed as soon as arrangements can be made. The runway has been crowned for proper drainage during the rainy season, and other drainage prepared. The surface will be planted in grass to reduce erosion and create a good landing surface. The strip has been lengthened to 950 feet, and will now meet the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) standards for a Class F Aerodrome.

Adjacent to the new runway, an area has been cleared and leveled for the construction of a simple hangar which will be constructed of hardwood frame covered with sheet metal. The hangar will be large enough to house almost any single-engined plane such as a Piper or Cessna. It will also contain storage and shop areas.

ADRA is seriously considering constructing a small training facility along side the hangar for training the local people in connection with the village projects. The Ayer Manis School is benefitting by gaining a recreation field along the side of the runway and overlapping the runway shoulder—and by having the front campus area all landscaped by virtue of the runway.

Students working their way through school are benefitting from the construction and maintenance work generated by the project and several are presently engaged in turfing the banks against erosion and doing most of the hand work normally required on any such project. Also, one student missionary, Bob Ondrizek, spent part of his summer's vacation supervising the students working on the project.

Barring the unforeseen, the airstrip and hangar should be useable before the rainy season begins in October or November this year.

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**Daniel Walter, Ministerial Secretary,  
Sarawak Mission.**



*Bulldozer rebuilding the Ayer Manis airstrip and leveling the building site of the new hangar to be constructed there this year, 1986.*

## A DOCTOR'S WITNESS

Suffering from health problems back in 1981, I happened to consult an Adventist physician, Dr. Valentine Teo, who talked to me about the love of Jesus and God's healing power. He invited me to study the Bible with him. After a few Bible studies, I stopped and lost contact with the doctor for about one year.

Then one day, a literature evangelist sold "The Marked Bible" to someone in my house. When I came home from work I saw the book on the table, and took a look at it. There was a tract slipped in between the pages. I did not read the book, but I read the tract.

I became interested and enrolled for the free Bible Correspondence course from the Voice of Prophecy. The warm message of God's love presented in the lessons kept me studying on, but it was only when I studied the lessons on the Sabbath truth that I became greatly stirred.

Later on, I phoned the mission office and met Pastor Choo, the Mission President, who helped me get acquainted with the SDA Church. Meanwhile, I again contacted the Adventist physician I had studied the Bible with, and began studying Daniel and Revelation with him. I was baptized on May 28, 1983, and am now studying at the Ayer Manis Seminary.

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**— Andrew Chin, as told to Daniel Walter**

## PASS IT ON

It has been discovered that the message spreads well among the village folk of Sarawak if laymen from one village work for the people of the next village.

Last year a group of laymen from just above Julau travelled an hour by boat up the river to Naga-Lijan Village. From March to October the laymen emphasized friendship and fellowship among the village people as they conducted meetings each weekend. In October, a crusade was held for 10 days, during which the whole village attended all the meetings. Over 30 baptisms resulted.

In Nanga Ejit, 15 minutes further up the river, a teacher, Mr. Bucky prepared 17 more individuals for baptism after 9 months of groundwork. Pastor Gilbert sent 6 laymen from Naga-Lijan on to help teach the Bible Speaks course to these folks.

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**Gilbert Tan, Pastor of Roban and  
Julau Districts**



## THAILAND

### FIRST PWO KAREN CHURCH ORGANIZED

As the months and years passed more people requested Bible studies and baptism. Eventually the work grew to such an extent that a few weeks ago, Brother Gregory requested the Thailand Mission President to make a special trip into Mae To La and Ti Ulu to conduct a baptism and communion service, and organize the Ti Ulu Church.

So in late February, Tom Staples, Southeast Asia Union Treasurer, and the author made a back-packing trip into this area to conduct these services. Following a visit to two other areas in the district, we arrived at Ti Ulu Friday morning, February 21, after a strenuous hike up and down the mountains leading to this village.

That evening many people came to the vesper service to hear Tom Staples speak. When he finished, however, and sat down the people still wanted more. So Pastor Wilcox gave them a second message.

Sabbath morning after Sabbath School, everyone hiked up a steep path to attend the baptism of four precious souls. The church was then organized with 34 charter members, and 51 potential members from that district. This was followed by the ordination of two elders and one deacon. Mr. Prasert Deng, Mr. Shwe Aei, and Mr. Kawlahej, respectively.

During the communion service which followed, the entire church group walked down to the nearby creek. Since no basins were available, the members washed each other's feet in the small brook. Everyone seemed very happy to share this beautiful experience with each other. As the program came to an end, joy shown on the faces of all who participated in the organization of the first Pwo Karen Church of Thailand. There was, however, one note of deep sadness, for one who had given her life to see this day, was not present. Britt-Marie Gregory had been laid to rest last September in Sweden following a devastating battle with cancer.

Her presence has been greatly missed, especially by her devoted husband and children, but since this great tragedy, Kent and his two small children have returned to continue the work in this area. Praise God for such dedication! Kent is joined by a host of friends who look forward with him to that grand day not far off when in heaven Britt-Marie will be reunited with her loved ones and those she has worked so hard for. With glad and thankful hearts they will meet once more, never to part again. May that day come soon!



*Organization of Ti Uu Lu Church*



*Ti Uu Lu Church group with newly baptized members.*



*Pastor Wilcox baptizing Pwo Karen member.*

**Wendall Wilcox, President, Thailand Mission**

## BAH 37TH NURSING GRADUATION

The 22 nursing graduates for 1986 enter Bangkok Adventist Hospital's Hall of Fame to swell the total to 940 graduate nurses since 1950. Among the first graduates are officers and leaders and teachers of BAH School of Nursing, and others who have pursued higher education to become doctors and successful business women.

The three seniors honored for their excellence during graduation exercises were Orawan Matapisal for curricular excellence, Suda Chai-siripanich for excellence in clinical facet, and Sommai Tang-chit Somkid for being the all-around outstanding student.

Pastor N. M. Penafiorida challenged the graduates to emulate or copy closely the life of Jesus Christ, who had fulfilled perfectly the Class 1986 aim and motto — "To Live for Others" and "To Serve God and Man". "The closer you can copy Christ's life, the more successful and popular you become" he assured them.

### BAH Public Relations

## WEEK OF PRAYER TAPES

For several years the adult and children's WEEK OF PRAYER messages have been available on cassette tapes through the MINISTRY TAPE OF THE MONTH CLUB sponsored by the General Conference Ministerial Association. This service is offered again this year.

The 1986 Week of Prayer will focus on "Getting Ready for Heaven." Our authors will deal with topics like "I want to See Jesus, Don't You?"; "You Can't Hold Back the Dawn," "Are You Equipped for Victory?"; and others. You will actually hear the voices of Neal C. Wilson, General Conference president, and other distinguished leaders of the church.

The children's messages are by Ursula M. Hedges, English teacher at Fulton College, Fiji. Mrs. Hedges was editor of *Adventist School Journal*, a prolific writer of children's publications, and concurrently with her teaching she is completing a master's degree in children's writing and literature. Her husband is principal at Fulton and they have three children. Her messages, "Jesus is Coming Again," are punctuated by many thrilling stories.

The eight messages for adults are available on two cassettes for \$6.00. The six messages for children are on a single cassette at a cost of \$4.00. Send payment with order to: WEEK OF PRAYER TAPES, Ministry Services, P. O. Box 217, Burtonsville, MD 20866.

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Published bi-monthly as the official organ of the Southeast Asia Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists,  
251 Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore 1334.

Printed by Southeast Asia Publishing House

the cost of surface mail and air mail. The adults' and children's tapes combined weigh 5.9 ounces; the adults' tapes weigh only 4.1 ounces, and the children's tape weighs 2.4 ounces.

**Rex D. Edwards, Director,  
Ministerial Field Services,  
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