

**SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION**  
**MESSENGER**

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# NEWSBREAK

## THE OFFICER'S CORNER AT YEAREND

God's work in the Southeast Asia Union Mission has grown steadily during the past year. In His own good way, God has opened means of bringing about the accomplishment of many of the 1986 projected goals. During the 1987 yearend meetings, which have just ended, many progressive plans were laid for 1988. The president expressed confidence that, having seen how the work has continued to grow, we can move forward without fear of hesitation.



*C. Y. Wu, Secretary, SAUM.*

Secretary C. Y. Wu compares the growth of the work since 1907. At that time 27 church members comprised the Singapore Mission, which was then the only mission in the Southeast Asia area. Since then the work has mushroomed to 38,326 members by September, 1987. Mr. Wu notes that, except for the decade embracing the war years and the past decade, the membership has generally doubled every ten years.

The work in Vietnam seems to be opening again. A recent report came to the desk of Mr. Wu indicating that 634 persons were baptized between 1976 and 1987. Another 400-450 are estimated to have been baptized in the mountain areas. Communication is difficult with this area. So far, during this year alone more than 1,200 refugees were baptized among the Thailand border camps. It is hoped that radio programs in Vietnamese can soon be beamed over AWR-Asia into Vietnam. Mr. Wu requests that we all pray for our fellows believers living in Vietnam.



*Thomas G. Staples, Treasurer, SAUM.*

Treasurer T. G. Staples reports that several of our institutions have climbed to over the 100% mark in self-support. Southeast Asia Union College, Thailand Publishing House, Bangkok Adventist Hospital, Penang Adventist Hospital, and the Voice of Prophecy are over 100% liquidity. PAH and BAH showed the largest operating gains in history. Others have made considerable gains. His goal is that all missions and institutions achieve 80% working capital and 60% liquidity by December 31, 1988. He closes his yearend report with the comment, "While we remain in partnership with the One who created, owns, and distributes all the resources on this planet, we are assured success."



*George Johnson, President, SAUM.*

President G. Johnson summarizes several interesting pieces of news. The West Malaysia/Singapore Mission has decided to divide into two separate missions for a number of practical reasons. Special thanks goes to Pastor Danson Ng for his hard work in effecting this positive change. Mission officers remain the same in West Malaysia. The new officers for the Singapore Mission are: Geoffrey Pauner, president, and Sim Chor Kiat, secretary. May God's blessings attend these men as they pick up their new responsibilities.

Registration of our work as a corporation in the various local countries has been a necessary job of the union administration during this past year. This work will be completed some time in 1988 and will help to ensure a better legal foundation for the work now and in the future.

Through the work of literature evangelist Colin Choo, and several faithful laymen, the work in Brunei, East Malaysia is gaining a foothold. Presently, about 30 members meet each Sabbath to worship.

ADRA Thailand personnel will go to Kampuchea in December to formulate plans for ADRA work there.

In June, the Adventist English School in Bangkok started ministerial training classes. This will ultimately become the ministerial department of the Thailand Mission College. Buildings are now under construction on the Muaklek campus. The four-year collegiate nursing program is in its second year of operation at Bangkok Adventist Hospital.

A health food factory will begin operation on the new college campus in the near future. Early in 1988, an SOS factory manager will come to initiate this work at Muaklek.

President Johnson closes his remarks by saying, "The providence of God has been shown to us in a myriad ways this past year. The work did not always develop as we had planned, but God opened the way and accomplished what we had projected. We cannot fear the future, except as we forget God's leading in the past."

— **Loralyn Horning, Managing Editor, MESSENGER**

## 1987 LE CONVENTIONS SHOW GAINS

The 1987 calendar year closes showing gains in the number of literature evangelists throughout SAUM. For a while in 1986 the count had dropped into the 60's, but now the total number is back up to nearly 90 literature evangelists. Each mission just completed its yearly LM Convention. The general enthusiastic spirit and positive confidence in God's direction was a real inspiration to the union leadership. A special thank you goes to our Heavenly Father, for the care, comfort, and guidance He has given to the literature evangelists and their leaders throughout SAUM this year.

Sabah has climbed to the grand total of 30 literature evangelists. This is the largest number of workers that mission has enjoyed for the last several years. Eager dedicated young people comprise the largest percentage of the group. They are reaching out to many previously unentered areas, and finding much receptivity among the people. Pastor Shupinar, ministerial secretary for Sabah, commented, "We don't have enough pastors or trained people to follow up the work of the literature evangelists. We can't keep up with them."

Continued on page 16.



*Literature Evangelists of Sarawak.*



*Literature Evangelists of Sabah.*

# ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO



## AWR-Asia Begins Full Daily Schedule

On October 25, 1987, AWR-Asia began broadcasting with two transmitters and two antennas from the radio station on Guam in the Western Pacific.

"The transmitters and antennas are functioning very well," said Don Myers, chief engineer. "We are very pleased."

Even though only one transmitter has been used since the fledgling station inaugurated broadcasts on March 6 this year, more than 2,000 letters have been received from 59 countries on all the continents of the world.

"Our target area is Asia," says Allen Steele, general manager, "but the station has also been heard in countries in Africa, Europe, South America and North America, as well as in Australia and New Zealand."

The AWR-Asia staff has been encouraged and inspired by letters from listeners, says Dr. Steele. Those letters vary in their comments and requests.

Many listeners state joyfully that they have found hope, comfort and enlightenment by listening to the programs. Others say their whole family listens regularly. Or they request a Bible course and other Christian literature. Many people, apparently, have heard about the broadcast from someone else, or happen on the radio station by accident, so write to request the program guide. Others report on the reception in their area.

"We are pleased that so many say there is 'something different' about AWR broadcasts," says Dr. Steele. Often listeners refer to the variety of programs, such as health or family related programs, children's stories and the like, which touch on all aspects of their lives.

Radio, of course, gives the station access to people who may never be reached in any other way: handicapped persons, people in remote areas, people in countries that are otherwise not open to any Christian contact. Some producers have established good contacts with shortwave listeners' clubs in their countries. Many of these shortwave hobbyists are students, but most are professional people: doctors, lawyers, engineers, architects. Their letters are friendly, interested and helpful; they are "candidates for God's kingdom," says Dr. Steele.

"We try to respond to as many of the listener's requests as possible," says Greg Scott, program director. "Then we forward copies of the letter for follow-up to the Bible correspondence school in the country where the letter originated."

With the second antenna and transmitter now broadcasting, AWR-Asia is on the air 16 hours a day during the week, and 20 hours on the weekends. "We have the capability to use all the frequencies available to shortwave broadcasters, as they are assigned to us by the Federal Communications Commission—6 through

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By Andrea Steele

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21 megahertz," says Mr. Myers, "so we should be able to reach all our target areas at any season of the year."

There are other Christian broadcasters in the area, also transmitting to Asia, but they are limited to the higher frequencies because of the antennas they have.

"We expect listener mail to increase during the coming months," said Dr. Steele. "With two transmitters at full power, AWR-Asia will broadcast to more people, more of the time. Please pray for the many people of the Asian countries whom the Holy Spirit is preparing for this special message at this time."

## Listener Comments

"Greetings to you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I am a non-visual listener from Ethiopia. I have liked very much the way you are teaching the words of God. Please send me spiritual materials. I also want you to remember me in your prayers so that the Lord may richly bless my life."—**Ethiopia**

"I am an evangelist, but I didn't get enough training as an evangelist. Please send me a Bible if possible. Send me the materials for your Bible course."—**Nigeria**

"This is the first time I heard your radio station. Now I am interested in listening to it regularly."—**Pakistan**

"It is my great pleasure to know that you started broadcasting to my Asian friends! Not the secular news but only good news! I am a Japanese physician serving the Mexican people. Could you please send me a frequency schedule."—**Mexico**

"I am a new Christian. I don't understand religion completely. Your 'Bible Studies on the Air' help me have a clearer understanding. I hope that you can send me some materials. In the past I had a Bible but it was borrowed. Please send me a Bible also."—**China**

"I'm a Hindu but I love Christ. Most of the religious stations have helped me understand Christ, but your programs are outstandingly different from others. I think your presentations are superb. Please send me your Bible study guide."—**India**

"Please send me the Bible lessons. I have already introduced my family to the radio broadcasts and we've set aside our listening hour for AWR."—**Kenya**

"I like your gospel broadcasting. I hope you will send me some of the materials."—**Malaysia**

"I am glad to inform you that we in Sabah, can clearly hear the transmission of our AWR-Asia. Praise the Lord!"—**Sabah, East Malaysia**

"I have heard your very interesting, comprehensive and informative international broadcast, and as a teacher I feel that it would be well if I can avail myself of the correspondence study that you are offering."—**Philippines**

"I was delighted to be able to hear your uplifting broadcast. I am of course familiar with the excellent programming of AWR-Europe. I look forward to hearing AWR-Asia in the future."—**England**

"I heard the AWR-Asia broadcast first about one month ago when I turned to it on the radio by chance. Now, I listen regularly and I feel empty should I miss the program."—**South Korea**

"Your programs have something different. I'm very interested in your non-smoking lecture and cooking program, which I heard for the first time on radio."—**Japan**

"I listened to the (Thai) True Way of Life program. I would like to study the word of God. I would like to study your correspondence course. When I study the Bible more deeply then I will introduce my Thai friends and Taiwanese friends to study, too."—**A Thai immigrant, Taiwan**

**SABAH**

# PATHFINDERING ALIVE IN SABAH

Nearly 800 Pathfinders, representing 30 active Pathfinder Clubs throughout Sabah, gathered for an inspiring Pathfinder Fair at Tamparuli from September 18 to 20, 1987.

Soon after the Pathfinders arrived at the campsite on the morning of September 18, they began building their tents with bamboos and colourful plastic sheets. By the time the sun disappeared in the western horizon, they had already erected a tent city on the football field of the Sabah Adventist Secondary School where they would stay throughout the Pathfinder Fair.

On Friday evening the Pathfinders assembled in the school auditorium for a vesper service. Nearly a thousand people were present to join in singing praises to the Lord as they ushered in the Sabbath. In her talk, Mrs. Connie Gaban, the speaker for the evening, admonished the Pathfinders not to join the "Ananias Clubs", but to aim at becoming Pathfinders that are loyal, obedient, and honest in all their dealings.



*Pathfinders in Parade.*



*Handicraft display.*



*First aiders in action.*

When Sabbath dawned, the Pathfinders were out in full uniform, looking smart and vibrant as they participated in the Sabbath services. During the divine service Dr. David Wong, the Youth Director of Southeast Asia Union Mission, reminded the Pathfinders of the outstanding leadership of Joshua and Caleb. As Pathfinders, they were challenged to emulate these great leaders whose singleness of heart in following God had made them great and different from other leaders.

Special music was rendered by more than twenty Pathfinder Clubs during the "Festival of Praise and testimonies" program on Sabbath afternoon. It was indeed a musical feast. During the program several Pathfinders testified regarding their conversion, which was the result of faithful witnessing by some Pathfinders. Many of these new converts had been attracted by Pathfinder programs and joined the club later. Through Bible studies given by their fellow SDA Pathfinders, they were eventually led to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and were baptized into the remnant church.

***"I am proud to be a  
Pathfinder."***

By David Wong

The climax of the Fair came on Sunday when the clubs met to demonstrate their skills in knot-tying, first aid, communications, chair-making, fancy drill, etc., and to display their beautifully made handicrafts. The Pathfinders participated enthusiastically in the events after the Fair was declared open by Dr. David Wong. Their Pathfinder spirit was fully demonstrated as they cheerfully completed the events in water boiling and pancake making even in the rain.

Pastor Shupinar, the Youth Director of the Sabah Mission, remarked at the closing ceremony that he was very much impressed by the performance of the Pathfinders. Thunderous applause greeted the announcement that a missionwide Pathfinder Camporee will be held on December 16 - 19, on Manukan Island.

The sentiment of the campers was aptly expressed by a Pathfinder who had his first experience in attending a Pathfinder Fair: "I am proud to be a Pathfinder," he stated.

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**—Pastor David Wong is the Youth Director of the Southeast Asia Union Mission**

## CHILD PREACHERS

July 22 - August 1, 1987, children under the direction of child evangelism co-ordinator Miss Dorine Chong of Kitabu Church, conducted a series of evangelistic meetings. At the end of the meeting, eight young people expressed their desire to learn more about God's love and take Bible studies.

The same program was conducted again, July 26 - August 7, 1987 at the Kapa church. Here Mrs. Ruth Tunnging prepared her children to conduct the series entitled, "Jesus My Friend". Approximately 140 people, including non-SDA's, attended each evening.

Following the series, follow-up Branch Sabbath School work was begun in the village where the non-SDA's lived. Today, about 25 children continue to attend the BSS program each Sabbath afternoon. Eight of these are currently taking Bible studies with the pastor.

The Sabah mission directors are very encouraged with these good results and hope that many more children will take up the challenge of active witnessing in their own villages and communities.

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**—Jupitah Lim, Child Evangelism Director, Sabah Mission**

## MALANGGANG CHILD EFFORT

During October 20 - 29, 1987, Miss Lucy Dangan and Mrs. Julimah Sibrani helped 26 children, aged 7 - 12 years, conduct a 10 night series of evangelistic meetings. An average attendance of 60 - 70 people, some non-SDA, came to enjoy a full hour of singing, prayer, and sermons by the children.

The first scheduled night the devil seemed bent on disrupting things. Heavy rains in the late afternoon cut off the electricity. The children showed up for the meeting, but when they arrived the meeting house was dark. They became frightened and decided they better return to their homes. Miss Dangan and Mrs. Sibrani didn't know what to do. Then the thought struck them, "Why not pray about the problem?"

They gathered the children about them and had a prayer session. To their joy and surprise, when they opened their eyes the lights in the room came on, as well. The meeting went on without further disruption. The children's faith and commitment to the project at hand was greatly increased.

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**—Lucy Dangan, Sabbath School Leader, Malanggong**



*Child Preacher at Malanggong Lama SDA Church, Oct. 20 - 29, 1987.*



*Child Preacher at Kitabu Church.*

## PATHFINDERS WIN SOULS

Thirteen young people were baptized on Sabbath, during the Pathfinder Day rally held in Goshen Adventist Secondary School on October 30-31, 1987. One hundred and sixty Pathfinders representing ten clubs from four districts of Zone 6 Kota Marudu joined in praising the Lord as they witnessed the baptismal service conducted by Goshen district pastor, Nelver Sikul. These souls won for Christ indicate the Pathfinders' conviction that the ultimate goal of pathfinding is soul-saving.

Two active Master Guides, Galuk Gorigo and Jolius Umbris, were given special recognition for organizing the outreach programs for the Pathfinders. Their concerted efforts were richly rewarded with 13 souls who decided to follow Jesus. They reaffirmed their commitment in helping Pathfinders to be soul-winners, after giving a short report on their outreach programs.

An investiture service was planned for Sabbath afternoon of October 31. Besides the 397 honors and 356 pins that were awarded to the Pathfinders, 10 Master Guides were invested. Mrs. Lundinah Koubong, age 66, mother of 5 children and grandmother of 14 grandchildren was one of the 10 Master Guides invested. According to her son, Pastor Shupinar Kuobong, the Youth Director of Sabah Mission, Mrs. Koubong has always been active in pathfinding. Together with Mrs. Laihun Bte Liambang, age 70, she became the center of attraction during the Investiture service. She is the oldest Master Guide and Mrs. Liambang, the oldest Pathfinder, they are still actively engaged in pathfinding. Their love for Pathfinder activities have inspired many junior youth of their respective churches to become Pathfinders.



*Mrs. Lundinah Koubong, oldest Master Guide.*

During the temperance night held on Saturday night, Mr. Yuntau Kolod, the Assistant District officer of Kota Marudu, mentioned in his speech that among all the drug-users arrested in Sabah, not one of them was a Seventh-day Adventist. He appreciated the emphasis of temperance in pathfinding. "Keep up your good work," he urged the Pathfinders.

**- Shupinar Kuobong, Youth Director, Sabah Mission**



*L to R front row: Clifford Sambain, Master Guide; Mrs. Lisiah Patrick, Pathfinder director; Mrs. Laihun Liambang, oldest active Pathfinder; Mrs. Lundinah Koubong, oldest Master Guide invested; Nelson Tompong, Zone 6 Pathfinder leader. Back row: David Wong, SAUM Youth Director; Shupinar Koubong, Sabah Mission Youth Director.*



# SARAWAK

## MULTI-APPROACH CRUSADE A SUCCESS

Pastor Jonathan Ng, Director of Chaplaincy and Public Relations of Youngberg Adventist Hospital, conducted a crusade in Marudi, Sarawak with the assistance of Pastor Andrew Wong of Marudi Church and Pastor Stephen Agong of Tatau Church. It was held at the Marudi Foo Chow Association Hall from November 9 to 15, 1987.

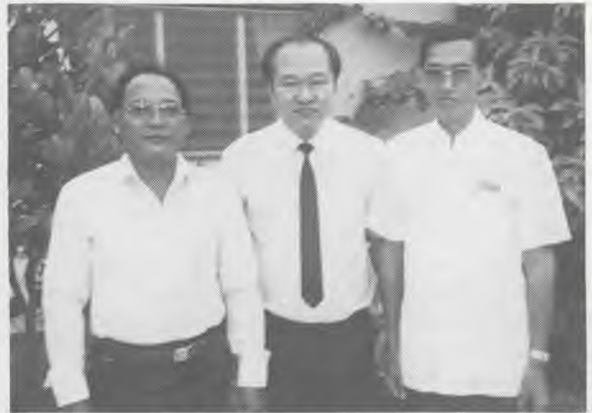
This multi-approach crusade consisted of the following unique features. First, the publicity was done through a press conference, where Pastor Ng shared with reporters about the support the Adventists had given in the National Anti-Smoking Week launched by the Malaysian government. Pastor Ng emphasized that the nightly lectures would have a strong health emphasis. News articles appeared in both the English paper, the Borneo Post, and the See Hua Chinese Daily. Second, an Anti-Drug Abuse campaign was held at the government secondary school for the benefit of students. Over 1,000 students participated in this campaign. Many of them also attended the nightly lectures in town. Third, a session on pre-marital counselling was held for teachers who were getting married during the year-end school holidays. Fourth, a mini-health education exhibition featuring the dangers of smoking and drug abuse drew large crowds each night. Fifth, local literature evangelists were invited to present book displays and book sales during the crusade. Sixth, a counselling service was set up in the morning where Pastor Ng helped students and church members with their problems.

The strong support of church members led by church elder, Mr. Kueh, has helped the Marudi crusade break down prejudices and create a better public image for the church. Many thanks to the YAH hospital administration for the services of Pastor Jonathan Ng.

— **Andrew Wong, Pastor, Marudi SDA Church**



*High School students at the Anti-Drug Abuse Campaign.*



*Marudi Crusade Team: (L to R) Pastor Stephen Agong, Pastor Jonathan Ng and Pastor Andrew Wong.*



*Literature Evangelist Sabastian Teh (left) at the book display.*



*A section of the health education exhibition.*

## FAREWELL TO THE ONDRIZEKS

Pastor and Mrs. Ondrizek came to serve in Ayer Manis School in October 1984. They spent most of their time at the school. Pastor Ondrizek would be in his office at 6:10 every morning. For the whole morning he would teach the Seminary classes.

Mrs. Ondrizek was the school librarian and English teacher for secondary four and five. She, enjoyed most, however, her privilege of teaching Bible to the form five students. She headed the Primary English tuition every Monday - Wednesday afternoon from 2 - 4 p.m.,

They contributed greatly to the spiritual growth of the school church, Pastor Ondrizek was the church Pastor while Mr. Ondrizek was the Sabbath School Superintendent and pianist. Mr. Ondrizek conducted Sabbath School Workshops for the ladies on the campus every Sabbath afternoon from 2 - 4 p.m.

I am sure we will miss them. We will miss Pastor Ondrizek for his boundless energy and spiritual leadership. The students will miss Mrs. Ondrizek's beautiful Sabbath School programs.

We wish them God's blessing as they return to the United States to join their two sons Bob and Rick.

— **Lawrence Randig, Principal, A.M.S.**



*Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Ondrizek, with sons, Bob and Rick.*

## SINGAPORE

### A BETTER PASSPORT

International passport lost, but eternal life found! It happened over nine years ago when a city-wide crusade was conducted at the Development Bank of Singapore Auditorium in Singapore from May 26 - June 17, 1978. The evangelist was Dr. M. T. Bascom, then the Lay Activities Director of the Far Eastern Division. The miracle of conversion was experienced by Mrs. Josephine Loh, one of the sixteen people baptized on June 17.

Mrs. Josephine Loh came from a Roman Catholic background. She served as a missionary nurse to New Guinea in her twenties. Later in Singapore, she and her husband began a family business. It became necessary for Mrs. Loh to travel overseas occasionally. Providentially, one day, she was trying to relocate her international passport when for some reason, she picked up the newspaper and discovered that Dr. M. T. Bascom would be conducting an evangelistic crusade in town. She responded to the newspaper invitation and began attending the series of meetings. The gospel of Jesus thrilled her heart. She found the grace of Christ and decided it was a better "Passport" to own.

It has been nine and half years since her baptism. Mrs. Josephine Loh is an active church member of the Seventh-day Adventist church. She was delighted to attend the Church Ministry Seminar on Sept. 7 and 8, 1987, conducted by Dr. M. T. Bascom, now Associate Church Ministry Director (for Community Services) of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Miracles of conversion like this are to be repeated. The Holy Spirit does work mightily among evangelistic teams to bring forth fruitful harvests. Our prayer is that the Lord will lead us to experience more miracles like this during Harvest 90.

— **Sim Chor Kiat, Ministerial Secretary, WMSM.**



*L. to R: Dr. M. T. Bascom, Mrs. Josephine Loh, and Pastor Sim Chor Kiat.*

## SAUC REPORTS

After a year of declining enrollment, Southeast Asia Union College is pleased to announce a remarkable increase. The effect of the affiliation with Walla Walla is beginning to be seen. It is our opinion that before too long it will be necessary to be more selective in admissions. A shortage of classrooms already makes the scheduling of classes difficult. A big question still in the minds of the college administration is, "Why do not more of our Seventh-day Adventist youth recognize the opportunity that is before them?"

Since SAUC is a Union institution, it is proper to introduce to you our new teachers. Rebecca Tay returns to SAUC after a number of years' absence. She will again assist Mrs. Linda Wu in the library and teach the Library Science courses. In January she will also become the girls' dean.



*Rebecca Tay, Girls' Dean and Associate Librarian.*

The other teacher, Dr. Terrie Aamodt, represents Walla Walla College for this quarter. She and her husband, Larry, have been a great help to SAUC. Terrie is teaching in the areas of literature and communications. One class,

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*Drs. Larry and Terry Aamodt.*

## INTRODUCING NEW DENTIST

Youngberg Adventist Hospital welcomes Dr. Virgil Erlandson as the new director of dentistry department. This is the second time that Dr. Erlandson has answered an overseas call to be a missionary. He served at the Hongkong Adventist Hospital from 1973 to 1980.

Before attending the school of dentistry at Loma Linda University where he graduated [with] a D.D.S. [degree in 1968, Dr. Erlandson taught history at Loma Linda Academy from 1960 to 1964. Upon graduation, he was in private practice from 1968 to 1973. From 1980 to 1987, he served as a faculty member at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry.

"We like Singapore and its people and are adjusting to the hot weather. The dental department is keeping me busy," remarked Dr. Erlandson during an interview.

His wife, Cheryl, works at the Archives Department of the Far Eastern Division. They have two daughters, Laura, age 20, studies at Pacific Union College while Julie, 18, completes her senior high school year at the Far Eastern Academy.

We welcome the Erlandsons to Singapore and trust that their ministry here will be greatly blessed by the Lord.

**• Jonathan Ng, Public Relations Director, Youngberg Adventist Hospital**



*Dr. Virgil Erlandson and family.*

## STRESS CONTROL SEMINAR FOR EXECUTIVES

A Stress Control Seminar for Executives was sponsored by the Youngberg Adventist Hospital Health Education Department from October 22 to November 5, 1987. A total of 15 professionals participated in this seminar conducted at the hospital lecture hall.

Mr. Fred Long, the senior psychologist (of Woodbridge Hospital) and an active layman at the local church, was invited to kick off the seminar during the first session with the topic of "What is Stress?" Dr. Linda Koh, head of the education department of Southeast Asia Union College, shared with the group on temperament analysis, while SAUC Registrar, Mrs. Doreen Ng covered the topic of family stress. Chaplain Jonathan Ng, Seminar Co-ordinator, shared with participants in two sessions on how to manage job stress and enhance self esteem.

The majority of the participants had attended the "Heartbeat" program during the earlier part of the year. All of them expressed their appreciation for this program on stress management and promised to invite their friends for future programs. "The instructions are simple and the exercises meaningful. I am feeling better about myself and I can explore alternatives for my behavior and reaction to stressful situations. I am glad for the wholistic approach of this program," remarked a participant.

**\*Jonathan Ng, Public Relations Director, Youngberg Adventist Hospital**



*Participants of Stress Control Seminar at Youngberg Adventist Hospital.*

## MALAYSIA

### PAH SPONSORED MEDICAL STUDENTS STUDY AT VELLORE

During the month of October it was my privilege to visit students of the Southeast Asia Union studying in India. The focus of my visit was the Christian Medical College in Vellore where eight young people are preparing for medical missionary service. Two of these, Dr. Mah Wai Chieng and Dr. Daniel Yeoh, both of Penang are presently completing their internships in Vellore Christian Hospital prior to their return to Malaysia. Other students studying there are Lee Yew Hoong (Malacca - completing final year of the medical course), Dicky Ng (Malacca - fourth year), Thomas Teon (Ipoh - third year), Simon Yeoh (Penang - second year), Edward Nathan (Penang - first year) and Koh Deng Hwa (Malacca - first year).

I was greatly encouraged to find each student studying God's counsels on health. Some had set this year to study *Ministry of Healing*, others *Counsels on Health* while others were studying *Medical Ministry*. This was just one evidence of their dedication to God's message. I found each one well informed of the distinctive doctrines of our faith & deeply committed to Jesus and His commission. Each was as enthusiastic church worker in the Vellore Church. I spent a busy time amongst this fine group of young people for I was privileged to lead out in their Prayer Meeting and to spend time on two other evenings discussing God's plan for medical missionaries. In fact on the last evening we stayed together until 1 a.m.

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*L. to R. Thomas Teon, Dr. Daniel Yeoh, Dicky Ng, Dr. Bowyer, Lee Yen Hoong, Dr. Mah Wai Chien, Mrs. Bowyer, and Simon Yeoh.*

**THAILAND****Three Ladies of Ekamai**

By Karen Essig

Two students from Adventist English School and a young mother who has been attending the Ekamai English Church were recently baptized on the beautiful beach at Cha-am. The baptismal service for Melissa Chulavalli, Rosarin Kriengarcenthana, and Denise Suwannapal was the highlight of a three-day spiritual and recreational church retreat. Each of these young ladies has an interesting story to tell.

**Melissa**

Melissa's testimony reaches back to her 14th year when she and her family moved from the USA to Thailand. She states that the move brought her life "close to disaster—academically, physically, mentally and spiritually." This state of being was worsened by the death of her mother in 1983. Her negative state and "pessimistic" outlook on life started to transform in late 1984 when she started attending an after-school Bible study class under the direction of Mr. John Perumal, her "favorite teacher." She says that her introduction to Christianity was "very casual and not as sincere as it could have been." But that there was a certain fascination with the thought that Jesus would come again.

Slowly she began to feel the presence of God in her life and her outlook began to change. This process continued to progress and resulted in her full conversion and recent baptism.

**“My road isn't as narrow as it used to be, as Someone has now broadened it.”**

During the time of her depression and lack of self-confidence her grandfather in America faithfully corresponded with her. Because he was not a Christian, he was skeptical when she began to write to him of her experience. However, through many open and honest letters, he finally accepted her sincere decision to become a Christian. Later he concluded that perhaps what Melissa had found was what he wanted in his life. Consequently, he was able to meet an Adventist family that had previously met Melissa here in Thailand during the time of their working with the refugees. Melissa's grandfather has attended church with this family and has now helped Melissa to begin making plans to attend Andrews University after her graduation from A.E.S. Melissa is



*Melissa, Rosarin and Denise with friends at time of baptism.*

doubly delighted with accepting Christ as her Saviour in knowing that her grandfather has also learned the good news of salvation.

Melissa says, "My baptism at Cha-am is the most memorable experience I've ever encountered. It's such a great feeling to belong to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and know that Jesus is my Saviour. This status of belonging has instilled in me a never-before-present positive self-image. My road isn't as narrow as it used to be, as Someone has now broadened it."

**Rosarin**

Rosarin, better known as Rosy, came to A.E.S. in January of 1984 when her family moved back to Thailand from the States. Even though she comes from a Buddhist family, the things that she learned about Christianity in her Bible classes and from her Adventist friends awakened within her a desire to know more about Christ.

In December 1986, she began coming to church at the invitation of her friends. In May of 1987, Melissa invited her to join the after-school Bible study class. Her study with this group resulted in her final decision to be baptized.

Rosy says that at one time she was disappointed that she was not able to return to the States to study, but now as she looks back she can see that God was leading in her life. She is happy that circumstances forced her to remain in Bangkok to continue her studies at A.E.S. She feels that if she had been able to carry out her desire to return to the States she might have missed the influence which led to her accepting Christ as her personal Saviour.

Because of her involvement in school activities as a Student-Faculty Council officer, a Junior class officer, and

one of the top scholars at A.E.S., Rosy's acceptance of Christianity is a strong witness to other students. She demonstrates by her friendly smile and caring ways that knowing Christ has made a real difference in her life.

## **Denise**

Denise married Chai Suwannapal when he was a university student in America. When the young couple decided to return to Chai's home in Bangkok, Denise's mother shared the news of her daughter's upcoming move with a lady who worked at an office supply store in Rockford, Illinois where their local church had the bulletins printed. The lady in the store was a Seventh-day Adventist and told Denise's mother about her friends who lived in Bangkok. She gave Denise's mother the name and address of Dr. and Mrs. Don Sahly, then serving at A.E.S.

Denise and Chai expected their first baby at the time of their arrival in Bangkok. Denise's mother-in-law suggested to Chai that he should take his wife to the mission hospital. Denise was admitted to the hospital as an emergency case. No pre-natal care could be given before her first child was born. She was very pleased with the care she and the baby did receive, however. She especially like the food at the hospital. Although she enjoyed her stay, she made no connection between the hospital and any religious organization at that time.

Some time later Denise felt the need in her life for spiritual enrichment. She looked up the Sahly's name and address that had been tucked away for many months. When she called the phone number she did not talk with either of the Sahly's. Instead she asked the person who answered the phone, "When will Sunday School be held?" She was told about the Sabbath services and decided to attend the next Sabbath.

She had no further contact until after her second baby girl was born. She then came for another visit and found that Sahlys were no longer at A.E.S. This time she was introduced to Ron and Mary Anderson. This visit was the beginning of a growing friendships between Denise and Mary Anderson and other members of the church. She cherished these newfound friendships and found comfort in them. She went through some difficult times with the birth of her third child and her new friends from the church stood by her through these times. They also answered her questions and studied with her as her interest in the message grew.

Now with three small girls to care for, Denise found it very difficult to attend services. Her Adventist friends continued to visit her and to let her know that they cared. Even though she was not attending services regularly, she desired to have her girls dedicated to the Lord. With the help of her friends at the church she was able to make the arrangements to attend for this special day. As the

girls grew a bit older, she again felt that she could manage attending Sabbath services, though it meant leaving home by 7:30 on Sabbath morning and a long bus ride through Bangkok traffic in order to arrive on time for Sabbath School. She and all three girls found the Sabbath a special delight and established a regular pattern of church attendance.

As the church retreat and baptism were being planned, Denise made her decision to be baptized. Her husband was supportive and willing to allow her to take this steps. In her testimony at the Friday night vesper service she spoke freely of her feelings and belonging and the joy of being a member of the family of God. She praises God for His goodness to her and her family.

— *Mrs. Karen Essig is teaching at the Adventist English School in Edamai, Thailand.*

## **PRAYERS FOR THE CITY OF HAADYAI**

On August 31, 1987, fire broke out in the town of Haadyai, destroying a complete city block plus part of two other city blocks in the downtown shopping area. Damage was estimated at over 1,000 million Baht, and five persons were killed. This is the 13th largest fire to occur in Haadyai. The residents were fearful that it could occur again.

The municipal mayor invited religious leaders of the major religions of Haadyai to hold a merit-making ceremony. Each religion was to do its part in accordance with its religious beliefs.

Haadyai Mission Hospital was invited to coordinate the activities of the Christian churches in this ceremony.

The program was scheduled for October 9-11, 1987. The Islamic ceremony was performed on the 9th during the day. The Buddhist ceremony was performed on the 10th. We were given the opportunity to do our part on all three days.

Each evening, 80-90 persons came to the program held at the place of the fire. We were able to witness to them without any expense on our part. A tent, chairs, and platform were provided.

There were many present at the ceremony who had never heard Christian songs sung or the Bible read. We brought comfort to many in trouble, and courage to the many fearful. In so doing, we ourselves received great joy.

I am sure God guided us in this event and heard our prayers for the city, for many were looking to the God above who is always there to be found by earnest seekers.

— *Mrs. Amporn, Chaplain, Haadyai Mission Hospital*

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## BEAUTIFYING CHURCHES

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We thank God that we had the privilege to go help the pastors and members in several churches to clean, sweep away cobwebs, wax floors, paint doors and windows, and generally beautify their building. We worked together, got tired together and ate together. Everyone was happy to see the beautiful transformation after a couple of days of work.

Dr. Nancy Bassham wrote me that Pastor Ray James, of the Communication Department of the Far Eastern Division, Dr. Steve Bassham, from the Department of Communication of Southeast Asia Union, and Dr. Nancy Bassham from the Home and Family Department of the Far Eastern Division, would be coming to Thailand to help beautify some churches. This was the first time for our mission to have the heads of a department of the division, union and mission go out to the churches in order to beautify them.

Saturday night, October 3, our group boarded the tour bus to the first church in Chiengkong. Our program was to meet with the pastors, elders, deacons, deaconesses and members of the church to explain the purpose of our coming. This was done by Dr. Steve Bassham. Pastor Ray James spoke on how we can advertise our church so others will know what we are doing. Dr. Steve also explained about evaluating the church building itself and the activities carried on by the church, and then made the evaluation. After that the group looked over the building to see what could be done to beautify it or fix it up—paint, repair, wax, etc. Then they went out to purchase the materials required. At night Dr. Nancy Bassham talked about parenting. The next day we all worked together with the members to paint, clean, wax the floor, or repair broken windows or doors. In some churches we even prepared a curtain which we hung at the back of the platform.

In north Thailand we evaluated and helped beautify the Chiengkong, Tungsai and Mae Sarieng churches during the period of October 3-10.

On October 13 we traveled to northeast Thailand by train. Pastor Ray James could not accompany us on this trip because of previous commitments. Pastor Pairoj drove Pastor Anucha's pickup to meet us at the train station, as well as to visit various churches. The churches that were beautified in the northeast were Ubon, Ban Nadee, Ban Khemchareon, and Nam Yuen. We are most grateful to Pastor Anucha for letting us borrow his vehicle to make this trip very convenient and comfortable.

In our evaluation we found some churches were in good condition, but some were not so good. Our group helped as much as we could, but in some churches

money was left by the Basshams with which to carry out the repairs that we could not do in the short time available.

The last church we visited was Sattahip, one of our newest churches.

Before our group left, Drs. Steve and Nancy gave each church a tablecloth, a picture of Jesus with the children, and a vase of flowers. We want to give a big thank you to Drs. Steve and Nancy, who gave of their time, money and strength to help make our churches more attractive.

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**Sirat Sorajakool, Church Ministries Director,  
Thailand**

Continued from page 12.

exploring this plan. I found absolutely no interest in the usual motivations for the study of medicine—high incomes and prestige, but rather a humble desire to follow God's will. This was a most refreshing experience.

As I also conducted the Adventist Youth Service, the Divine Service and the Vesper Service, I sensed a nearness to God not commonly seen amongst the youth of today. This dedication is not facade. Two of their members, now completing Government service in Malaysia, one presently making outstanding contributions to God's Church. Dr. Fam Siow Leong of Malacca is presently serving in Kuantan General Hospital and Dr. Pang Chu Yen of Johore Bahru in Maur General Hospital. Both of these young people have stood nobly to preserve the sanctity of God's holy day. He has honoured their commitment. Both have made a powerful contribution to God's church where they are located. In an age where many young people only reverence the Sabbath day when it is convenient to do so, these two young people have accepted no such compromise with God's holy law.

Thomas Tean provided me with the opportunity to speak upon spiritual matters to his entire medical class. His witness to his fellow students was most positive. I further had the privilege of observing concerned, loving care first hand. While driving near Vellore, we were able to assist a young lad with serious head injuries following a motor vehicle accident. With me were Lee Yew Hoong and Simon Yeoh. I was deeply impressed by their loving concern and tender care of this teenager as we sped him to the hospital.

We have a band of humble young people whom, undoubtedly, God will use in a mighty way to strengthen His witness in West Malaysia. At a time when the new Peninsular Malaysia Mission is in the formative stages, God is raising up men and women of character to meet the challenges ahead.

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**Dr. Russell Standish, Administrator, PAH**

Continued from page 3.

Sarawak's group show a profile of mostly men, convicted in purpose, stable, and committed. Pastor Horning states that this is the strongest group working in Sarawak for sometime. This group, like Sabah, has begun to reach out into new territory. A large number of Bible Story sets were sold within the last three or four months.

Thailand's most exciting news is that for the first time in many years three of the newer literature evangelists have set the goal of working towards receiving their credentials by the end of 1988. The good spirit of cooperation felt up there this year elicited enthusiasm among all the workers.

In Singapore, the idea of literature evangelism seems to be growing. A number of new people have come on their own to ask if they might become literature evangelists. Three college students from SAUC have registered to take the Modern Christian Witnessing course in January taught by Pastor Horning.

West Malaysia is completing this year with a student literature evangelist program in Penang under the leadership of Samuel Siew. We pray God's blessings to attend these young people, as well as, the regular workers throughout the entire union field as they continue to minister through the printed page.

**Loralyn Horning, Associate Editor, MESSENGER**

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Magazine Article Writing, is offered in the evening for the benefit of the community. This is SAUC's first attempt to meet the needs of the community as well as the needs of the regular students. The success of this program may lead to the offering of other evening courses.

Larry, an electrical engineer, has been able to help the college with its computers. After checking the computers, he discovered some defects allowing us to get them repaired before the warranty period expired.

Rebecca, we welcome you back. Terrie, yours and Larry's help this quarter is greatly appreciated. We trust you will return home from Singapore with many fond memories.

**Ralph H. Jones, Academic Dean, SAUC**

**The Christmas Tree**

"A  
strangely  
shaped Christmas  
tree (1 Peter 2:24) has a  
large number of presents under it  
just  
for  
you."

Morris L. Venden

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