

SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION MESSENGER

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Singapore

The Lion City



Roots pages 8 & 9

MISSIONS IN FOCUS

Each of the six issues of MESSENGER during 1989 will focus on different mission's historical aspects in the building up of the Seventh-day Adventist work of South East Asia. Our first issue will focus on the island of Singapore since this country is the gateway to our work in Southeast Asia.

Loralyn Horning, Managing
Editor, MESSENGER



NEWSBREAK

**SAUM WELCOMES
NEW ASSOCIATE
CHURCH MINISTRIES
DIRECTOR**

It is a distinct pleasure to welcome Mrs. Evelyn Griffin as the new Associate Church Ministries Director serving in the capacities of Home & Family, Child Evangelism, and Shepherdess International.

Mrs. Griffin was baptized to the Adventist faith in 1948 at the age of 10. She has a rich Adventist heritage for her parents were both committed missionaries in the South American and Inter-American Divisions until their retirement. In fact, Mrs. Griffin is a fourth generation Adventist.

Prior to her present post, she served as an administrative secretary in the SAUM for two years, from 1986 to 1987. Before coming to Singapore, she was a Bible worker in the Arkansas Louisiana Conference for five years, from 1980 to 1985.

Mrs. Griffin is very active in church activities. When she arrived in Singapore in January 1986, she became a teacher in the SAUC church Junior and Earliteen department. In August 1987 she joined her husband in

the Chuan Hoe house church and helps out in the Adult Sabbath School. Besides helping in the Sabbath School in the Chuan Hoe church, she is also directing youth activities at Far Eastern Academy on Sabbath afternoons.

A graduate of Union College, Mrs. Griffin received her B Sc. degree in Nursing in 1961. In 1964, she married Pastor Charles Griffin, a cordial and capable husband. Pastor Griffin has recently obtained his doctorate degree from Andrews University and is the Church Ministries Director of the Far Eastern Division.

The Griffins have a happy family of four children, Larry 23, Randy 22, Heidi 16, and Cindy 15.

Her cheerful disposition, her love for children, and her naturally friendly and accommodating attitudes are a plus to her personality as she serves the Lord in SAUM.

We pray that the Lord will richly bless the Griffins and wish them Heaven's special guidance and blessings in their heavy, challenging responsibilities.

— **Corinna Cheang, Administrative Office Secretary,
SAUM**



Mrs. Evelyn Griffin with her family.

PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

VOY CAMP SPARKS REVIVAL

At six-thirty on the morning of December 18, 1987, seventy young people from the Pontian Church were on their way to the renowned Golden Sands resort in Port Dickson for a never-to-be-forgotten four-day Voice of Youth Camp which sparked off a revival that has since changed their lives,

The success of the camp did not come by accident. It was the result of the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit on the dedicated youth who labored concertedly in preparing for the camp. Throughout the six months of planning and preparation they had special prayer sessions. They even had all-night prayer vigil for the non-SDA youth whom they had endeavored to lead to Christ. Many of them had been attending AY meetings and church services for a couple of years in spite of strong opposition from home. But they were hesitant to commit their lives to Christ, partly due to the fear of possible consequences.

Finding enough money to finance the event was a great challenge to the youth. They gave unselfishly of their time and energy to selling truth-filled magazines to raise funds for the camp. The Lord richly blessed their efforts and rewarded them with great success, thus strengthening their trust in Him.

On the Sabbath of December 19, four young people were baptized in the ocean by Pastor John Lee, pastor of the Pontian Chinese Church. They had struggled for many months in prayer because of parental objection to their decision for joining the church through baptism. However, their love for Christ prevailed over their parents' objections, and permission was granted for their baptism. This event brought joy to the campers, but greater joy was in store for them.

On the final day of the camp, the youth gathered for the last message on the Second Coming of Christ. An alter call was made while prayer partners pleaded for the Holy Spirit to empower the speaker, Dr. David Wong, and touch the hearts of the campers. The result was that twenty young people came forward and gave their hearts to Jesus for the first time. Many of them testified that it was through the loving care, strong support, and intercessory prayers of the Adventist youth that they had been drawn to the Saviour. Their testimonies brought tears of joy to the campers. They gave praise and thanks to God for His love and goodness. Those who had worked untiringly for the salvation of the non-SDA youth through this camp truly experienced the fulfillment of God's promise found in Psalm 126:5, 6:

"Those who sow in tears
Shall reap in joy.
He who continually goes forth weeping,
Bearing seed for sowing,
Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing,
Bringing his sheaves with him."



Pastor John Lee with the baptismal candidates.



Dr. David Wong with some of the campers who gave their lives to Jesus.

"We have just experienced a revival," remarked Elmo See, the camp director, at the conclusion of the camp.

The ripples of this revival that began in the camp are still being felt by the young people today.

————— **David Wong,**
Church Ministries Director,
Southeast Asia Union
Mission

GOD'S BLESSINGS AT PAH DURING 1987



"Prayer Is

*not overcoming God's
reluctance; it is laying hold of
His highest willingness."*

Richard C. French (1807 - 1886)

Standing L to R:

Dr. Ng Tat Low, Dr. Heath Rowsell, Miju Dungai, Dr. Ng Weng Hwa, Dr. Danny Oh, Dr. R. R. Standish, Dr. V. Arumugam, Dr. Alfred Poey, Mr. Khoo Say Hean, Mrs. Esther Koh, Mr. Daniel Cheong, Mr. John Cai.

Sitting L to R:

Jah Bte Rejab, Amy Muang, Rosita Ooi, Lee Kam Chee, Lee Soon Lin.

Hospitals of the Far East face challenges little different from those in Western countries. The patients of the East demand and merit the very highest level of medical care. The provision of these services understandably strain the resources of the mission hospitals within the region. Since our denominational hospitals receive no subsidies, and have eschewed Government aid, all salaries and other operational funds together with monies for capital expenditure must be generated from operating surpluses.

Undoubtably, this would create insurmountable problems if it were not for the fact that our heavenly Father supports our needs. On the 12th of December 1987, the Penang Adventist Hospital celebrated its 63rd anniversary. It is the oldest continuously operated Seventh-day Adventist Hospital in the Far East. Earlier hospitals in China and Korea are now under communist control. For almost 50 years, the Penang Adventist Hospital was the sole private General Hospital in the city. But with the advent of the 70's, there was an explosion of private medical care. Not only did other Penang private hospitals open their doors, but in nearby cities such as Alor Star, Ipoh, and Butterworth, private hospitals were established. These were areas from which many of the patients of the Penang Adventist Hospital were formerly derived.

Our hospital has been in the forefront of medical care in this city since the moment of its establishment. But this position was challenged by the establishment of other quality hospitals in the region. God has blessed us with the development of a staff of physicians, nurses, and men and women in other professional areas which has made it possible for us to open up some very exciting services within our hospital during 1987.

Exciting New Services

The most dramatic of these occurred on December 20, 1987, when an important milestone in the Penang Adventist Hospital was reached. Miss Teoh Nguan Cheng, a charming young Chinese woman, became the first patient to undergo open-heart surgery in our hospital. She was a 21 year old young lady who had such critical narrowing of her mitral valve, that she had experienced the complication of congestive heart failure. Like any other young woman, she desired marriage and a family, and only open-heart surgery designed to correct her defective valve could provide sufficient cardiac function to fulfil her dreams.

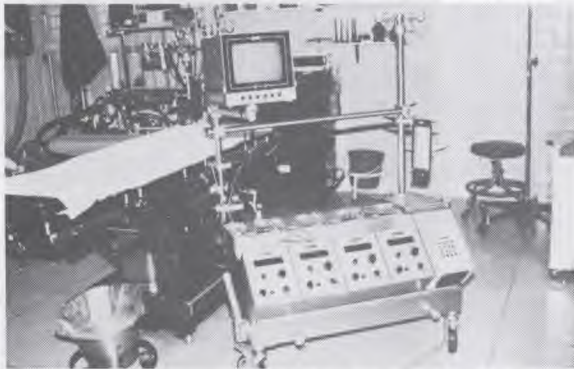
The surgical team was led by Dr. Alfred Poey, our cardiothoracic surgeon, and included Dr. Heath Rowsell,

BY RUSSELL R. STANDISH

our thoracic surgeon, Dr. Arumugam, anaesthetist, and Dr. Ng Tat Low, urologist. Our cardiologist, Dr. Ng Weng Hwa supervised the medical aspects of the case.

Our team of theatre nurses, intensive care unit nurses, and surgical nurses had been thoroughly prepared for open-heart surgery both in Malaysia and overseas. Mr. Khoo Say Hean, Director of our hospital's laboratory, undertook the course in heart-lung machine perfusion, in order to perform this important role. Our nurse anaesthetists Daniel Cheong and Ang Siok Soon, assisted Dr. Arumugam. Mr. John Lai, our hospital's biophysicist, completed the operating theatre team, supervising numerous electronic function associated with the operative procedure.

This was the third new medical service introduced to the Penang Adventist Hospital during 1987. In July, Dr. Ng Tat Low inaugurated our first urological surgery unit. He has brought with him the latest sophisticated techniques in this important area of surgery. On the 15th of December 1987, Dr. Danny Oh, another one of our fine Seventh-day Adventist specialists, inaugurated the service of micro-surgery, where minute blood vessels and nerves and other structures are sutured together using the operative microscope in order to restore severed digits of limbs or to perform other important surgery.



Heart-Lung Machine - assumes the functions of the heart and lungs during open heart surgery.



Erica Ventilator - a highly technical machine for artificially ventilating patients.

Educational Improvement Opportunities Provided for Staff

During 1987, we have improved the experience of the hospital staff in many ways. Over 20 individuals completed training in universities abroad, in specialized areas of medicine, or were awarded Fellowships with different medical institutions.

In addition, the hospital conducted courses in in-service training for intensive care unit and theatre nurses in preparation for the open-heart surgery programme. A course in medical terminology for our secretaries was conducted by Dr. Danny Oh, and our secretaries were given opportunities to attend other upgrading courses. The hospital has also continued to train nurse aides and a number of young ladies successfully completed this course. Presently, we have six young men sponsored by our hospital in training as physicians. Two of our present medical officers, Dr. Calvin Tean (Cardiology), and Dr. Soo Khee Hooi (Radiology), will shortly commence their specialty training. A further two young ladies from Penang, Helina Daniel, and Roselyn Ling are training in nursing at Sydney Adventist Hospital.

The Administrative Committee has already made plans for increasing our sponsorship of workers in other areas of upgrading, so that the Penang Adventist Hospital can be maintained at the fore-front of medical care in Malaysia. We want our church members around the world to be truly proud of this outpost of witness to Christ's soon coming. We are greatly blessed by the fact that our church possesses a large number of dedicated and highly talented members who are contributing enormously to God's work here.

The Cruse of Oil Is Still Full

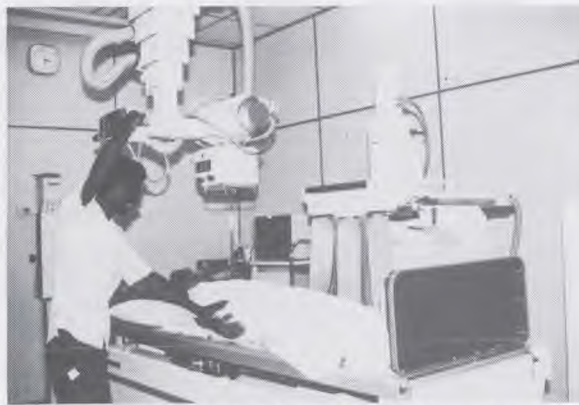
In addition, we have seen God's blessing in another way. Almost one million Malaysian dollars have been spent this year on the purchase of new hospital equipment. Where all the means for these acquisitions came from, I can scarcely guess. Certainly no donated funds were received. It is by His grace we find that our financial reserves have slightly grown in 1987, despite the acquirement of this equipment. Perhaps, our funds are akin to the cruse of oil, in the days of Elisha. We can only reconfirm our past experience, that there is a loving HEAVENLY FATHER, caring for His work.

We have also seen in 1987 the redecoration of our first class rooms in ward I, and the construction of our new minimart.

Our greatest joy has been to see a number of individuals during 1987, accept Jesus as their Saviour, as a consequence of the work of this hospital. On the very last Sabbath of the year, December 26, Mr. Timothy Yip and his wife, were baptized as a consequence of the faithful witness and Bible study of our Head of Surgery,



Spectrum Biochemical Analyser - This computerized machine is the state of the art in analysis of numerous biochemical parameters. It can perform over 20 different biochemical estimations simultaneously on each blood sample.



X-ray Machine - Latest Hitachi machine with image intensifier.

Dr. Danny Oh. Four of the members of our nurse aide class went forward in baptism. These were - Chung Soot Wai, Lee Mei Yin, Gan Hee Yin, Santhivathy d/o Kandiah. I was privileged in October, to baptize one of my own patients, Mr. William Santiago and his daughter, Fatima. Our Chaplain's department, led by Pastor Jimmy Toh, and assisted by Mrs. Hannah Lai, brought four more precious souls to the Lord during this year. These were Lim Cheng Tee, Jenny Leong, Gan Swee Tean, Kueh Sung Ho. We believe that God has a much greater work in soul-winning for us, His people here in the hospital, during 1988.

I pray as we enter 1988, we can look forward with confidence to the continued blessing of God upon His work here in Penang, and I have every confidence that in one year's time, I will be able to report even greater progress under the power of God.

Dr. Russell R Standish serves as president of Penang Adventist Hospital

INDIAN CHURCHES CAMP MEETING

A total of 110 campers attended an Indian Camp held in Ipoh from December 4 to 7, 1987. Campers came from Penang, Bukit Mertajam, Taiping, Nibong Tebal, Sungei Siput, Chemor, Bagan Datoh, Sungei Way, Kuala Lumpur, Banting, Teluk Anson, Klang and Bukit Julutong. During the four days the Ipoh church was filled with activities. There was much singing, special music, and testimonials given by representatives of the Indian churches. The pastors gave devotional talks, doctrinal messages and health talks, plus organized several Bible games. The camp was a great success! During the meeting, it was decided to have another Indian camp at Port Dickson next year. The theme will focus on the studies of Daniel and Revelation.

— Samuel Money, Ministerial Director,
Peninsular Malaysia Mission

DEMONS CAST OUT

Last August, following the Voice of Youth series of meetings at the Kuala Lumpur English Church, sister Francis Yee, the only Seventh-day Adventist in her family, had two nephews, 2½ and 1½ years of age, who became possessed by evil spirits. The boys came from a Buddhist home.

The boys cried for several days and refused to eat anything. Doctors said the boys were physically alright. No one could determine the cause of the problem. Then the older boy, Kar Wai began to speak like an adult. He called out four digit numbers and seemed to talk to people, calling them by name, when they were not even around.

Sister Francis Yee went to her pastor and some of the elders for help. They went with her to the boys' home. When they began to pray for the boys, the boys started to cry again. The older boy said in Cantonese several times, "I do not like it," as they prayed for him. But they persisted praying for several days, while claiming James 4:7 and Revelation 12:11, that the devils be driven out of the children.

Finally, on August 8, 1987, the demons fled with a cry of defeat. Praise the Lord! There is power in Jesus' name and in His blood. Now the parents of the two boys regularly attend the Chinese section of the Kuala Lumpur church service.

— Samuel Money, Ministerial Director,
Peninsular Malaysia Mission

SARAWAK

LIGHT BEARERS BUILD JUNGLE CHAPEL

'God is so good, God is so good, He's so good to me,' sang the village children. Their clear melodious voices echoed from the lush green hill country of Reteh Mawang in Sarawak. We had been there only days and they had learned well the message of God's love that we had travelled miles through the dense and humid jungle to share with them.

The older villagers were cautious, many steeped in their beliefs of spirits. Often in our visitation, we would be told that we could not enter a house because the witch doctor had been there.

Each day we worked on the slippery clay slopes to build a chapel. More and more people came by, curious to watch. Some stayed to help. Others came again in the evenings to learn about the God who had sent 'these people.' Their hearts were touched as they said, 'We never knew that there could be people who not only would give us money to build a church, but would come to build it for us. They work very hard, even in the rain.'

The village people learned about God's loving care. Before their men went off on a dangerous mission scaling steep cliffs for bird's nests to sell to support their family, their leader came to ask us to have special prayer for them. The Lord answered and sent His angels to protect the villagers. Every villager returned safely. Often in the past they had experienced fatal accidents.

We shared with the village people God's simple remedies. The NEWSTART health guides were easy for them to understand and follow. They were very grateful each time we would visit their long houses. We made many friends. Even the witch doctor came to see us before we left.

On the closing evening, 18 precious souls came forward to witness that they wanted to follow Jesus. They had learned about Jesus' love for them. Reteh Mawang will never be the same again, neither will anyone of us. Because of God's love we can go to teach the world that He sends us to love.

— **PhilaMae Wong, member of the Light Bearers from the Balestier /Youngberg Jungle Chapel Building Volunteer Team**



Chinniah and David Hui work on painting the exterior of the Reteh Mawang Church.



The Lightbearers cross the new long bridge leading to the church.



Happy village children sing praises to God in Bidayuh, Malay and English.




Dr./Pr. David Wong nails boards on the church building.

ROOTS

History of the Seventh-day Ad

by C. Y. WU

SINGAPORE



According to the *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, "The first SDA to visit Singapore may have been Abram La Rue." At the advanced age of 65, this pioneer self-supporting lay missionary in the Far East left Oakland for Honolulu on December 7, 1887, and was there till March 21, 1888, when he took a ship for Hong Kong to sell and distribute SDA literature among the seamen who called at the port there. The reason why he chose Hong Kong was that he was counselled by the Mission Board he should go to work only in "one of the islands of the Pacific," and that Hong Kong was a Pacific island near China. To be sure, this was not his first visit to Hong Kong. Long years before he became an SDA, he had sailed to Hong Kong many a time as a seaman. This time he arrived in Hong Kong on May 3, 1888, and stayed in that British colony till he passed away on April 26, 1903. During this period he made trips to Singapore and the surrounding regions, and once even to Palestine, selling and distributing SDA literature as he went.

About the year 1893, a colporteur from America, either on his way to or from India, spent a few weeks canvassing Singapore and the Malay Peninsula for SDA health books and sold a good number of copies of *Home Hand Book*. While in Singapore, he made his home with an Englishman, whose Australian wife later became a member of the early SDA church in Singapore.

Then again in 1900 H. B. Meyers, an early convert in India, and his son spent five and a half months working over the same territory. They sold 283 *Man the Masterpiece*, 123 *Ladies' Guide*, 69 *Great Controversy*, and 89 *Patriarchs and Prophets*, making a grand total of 564 books.

The next SDA worker to visit Singapore was Edward H. Gates, a pioneer missionary in the South Sea Islands. During the latter part of 1901, while in Australia, he began to plan a survey trip to the Malay Archipelago. His main purpose was to study the field for locating SDA workers in the near future. Sailing from Sydney on November 30, 1901, and stopping at various places in the savage islands of New Britain and New Guinea, he landed in Singapore on the last day of December.

A few days later he left for Padang, on the west coast

of Sumatra, where Ralph W. Munson had opened SDA work about two years earlier. On his way home after visiting Sumatra and the island of Penang, E. H. Gates visited Singapore again. He was accompanied by R. W. Munson.

While in Singapore, Gates received a letter from Jacob N. Anderson, the first commissioned SDA missionary in China, who had just arrived in Hong Kong on February 2, 1902. Gates was asked to look for a young British soldier, who had learned the truth from Abram La Rue, of venerated memory. He had for some time desired baptism, but was transferred to Singapore before the arrival of J. N. Anderson from America. Without difficulty Gates found the soldier at Fort Canning. They visited each other on several occasions.

Satisfied that the young soldier was an earnest Sabbath-keeping Christian, Gates agreed to baptize him. On March 9, 1902, the young soldier, Munson, and Gates took a carriage and drove a few miles to a quiet place on the beach. Sitting under a coconut tree, the three of them read from the Bible and talked of the importance of baptism. After Munson offered a fervent prayer for God's blessing on what they were about to do, Gates led the young man "down into the water and buried him beneath the waves of the China Sea." Except for a Malay who happened to be nearby, no other person was present to witness the scene. Referring to this first SDA baptism in Singapore, Gates remarked, "The blessing we received was worth more than the wealth of Asia."

During his brief stay in Singapore, E. H. Gates was instrumental in bringing another precious soul to God's kingdom. He boarded with an old Eurasian widow who was living with her widowed daughter. After returning to Australia, he began to send literature to the family. Afterwards while in Singapore on various occasions, he paid them visits. A few years later the daughter sought treatments for her rheumatism at the SDA sanitarium in Australia. After many prayers were offered in her behalf, she yielded herself to God. As a result, Gates had the happy privilege of baptizing her. Exactly eight years from the day he first met her in Singapore, she sailed for her Singapore home, happy in the knowledge of God's truth.

E. H. Gates, who later spent about two years in Singapore himself, urged through the *Review and Herald* that Singapore should be entered at once by SDA medical workers, for it was ripe for this type of work. He further cautioned that only seasoned workers with good health be sent, for "the climate is very trying." The call for missionaries to Singapore, however, had yet to wait for

entist Work in South East Asia

a couple of years before being answered.

The year 1894 saw the organization of the Australasian Union Conference, the first union conference in the SDA denomination. In 1901, the year in which the General Conference was reorganized, the Australasian Union Conference, which consisted only of Australia and New Zealand, took over the direction of the work in the South Pacific Islands. The union conference seemingly caught the spirit of the Gospel commission. Feeling the burden to spread the Third Angel's Message to its neighbouring areas and countries, the union conference asked the 1903 General Conference session that the East Indian archipelago be added as its mission field. The request was granted, and the vast territory was placed under the supervision of the Australasian Union Conference, which had, at that time, a total membership of less than 2,500

Consequently, the executive committee of the Australasian Union Conference began to make arrangements for missionaries to go to the new mission field. On December 31, 1903, it was voted to advance cash to a colporteur for travelling expenses and support until he made the first delivery of books in Singapore. The plan evidently did not materialize. Later, a missionary was assigned to Singapore. However, he declined the assignment. Finally the committee voted on August 7, 1904, to send Griffiths F. Jones and Robert A. Caldwell to open work in Singapore as pioneer missionaries in Malaysia, a geographical term used then to refer to the Malay Peninsula and the Dutch East Indies together.

R. A. Caldwell, publishing secretary of the Western Australian Conference, was to serve as a self-supporting colporteur. His fare was most likely paid by the union conference just as his successor was supported. G. F. Jones, a Welsh master mariner who became an SDA in Britain in 1893 and shortly after was engaged in city work with the Doctors Kress in England, was then directing the work at Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Sailing from Sydney on September 28, 1904, G. F. Jones and his wife, accompanied by R. A. Caldwell, arrived in Singapore exactly a month later. At last the SDA church had an organized work in "this great eastern city - the centre of a thickly-populated field of fifth million." Compared with other denominations, this was only a small beginning. The Roman Catholics sent in a priest as early as 1822 and established a boys' school and a girls' school in the 1850's. The London Missionary Society completed a chapel in 1824 for the worship of

Protestant Christians. The Armenian community, though small in number, built the church of St. Gregory the Illuminator in 1835, which is now the oldest church building in Singapore. The first Presbyterian Church was organized around 1856, the first Plymouth Brethren, 1864, and the first Methodist Church, 1885.

As the Joneses went about to look for a place to set up the mission home, they would certainly note that besides the Christian church buildings such as the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd (completed in 1846), St. Joseph's Church (1853), and St. Andrew's Cathedral (1861), there were also many old temples, shrines, and mosques scattered throughout the town. Some of them, such as the Sultan Mosque (completed in the early 1820's), Nagore Durgha Shrine (1830), Thian Hock Keng Temple (1841), Sri Mariamman Temple (1843), Hajjah Fatimah Mosque (1846), and Al-Abrar Mosque (1855) still exist today.

Without a permanent home and confronted with people of very different cultures and lifestyles in this city, the pioneers could not help but have feelings of loneliness and inadequacy. G. F. Jones reminisced, "From the very day of our arrival in Singapore, October 28, 1904, we realized that we had to grapple with difficulties that could be met only by a prayerful and persevering plodding, knowing that the victory would be ours if we only held on, enduring unto the end. Those who go to a foreign field where friends, home and a warm welcome await them, never can know the feelings of loneliness and perplexity that are experienced by those who land first in a country so utterly different to our own in social customs."

(To be continued)



E. H. Gates

G. F. Jones

R. A. Caldwell

SINGAPORE

EVANGELISTIC CAMP CONDUCTED BY DUNMAN ROAD CHURCH

The youth of the Dunman Road Church spent their Christmas holiday in a different way this year. Instead of the usual caroling and holiday Christmas party for themselves, they decided to reach out to their non-SDA friends. Under the capable and industrious leadership of Jill Quek, the Lay Activities Leader, they organized an Evangelistic Camp at Sentosa on Dec. 24 - 27, 1987.

The Dunman youth were challenged to invite their brothers, sisters, friends and classmates to the Camp. A total of forty persons attended the Camp. Out of the total, sixteen non-SDA youth attended.

The first day of the Camp, temperament self-analysis testing was conducted by brother Quek Boon Chuan. This was appreciated by all for it helped them to begin to understand their own temperaments better.

Pastor Michael Ho, Pastor John Lim, and Pastor Danson Ng presented evangelistic sermons in three sessions each day. Following each presentation, the youth divided into four groups to study the same topic again with a group youth leader. A treasure hunt, camp fires, group presentations, fellowship and eating together filled the rest of the time. The feeling of Christian family love developed among the church members and non members.

The evangelistic camp brought revival to our youth and aroused the mind of inquiry for the everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ among the non-SDA youth. Invitations were given to the non-members to continue to study the Bible with our church. All of them agreed to join the Bible study group, the Dunman AY society, and Pathfinder Clubs after the camp.

— **Pastor Danson Ng, Associate Church Ministries for Youth Dept. Seventh-day Adventist Mission of Singapore**



One of the four discussion groups on Bible doctrine.

ADVENTIST CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRES OF SINGAPORE

The Balestier Adventist Child Development Centre was started in January 1985 with the combined help of the church leaders and the staff of the Centre. It was set up with the generous donations given and the dedication of the people involved.

The centre catered for children between the ages of 2 to 6. Initially, there were 40 children of which 5 of them were in the full day care program. The children were given well rounded and Christ centered education.

Our centre was able to function smoothly right from the beginning due to the pioneering work of our first principal, Mrs. Teo Lun Fung and her supportive staff. Her two years of hard work led her to start another branch in Jurong in 1987 with 200 kindergarten children. Jurong is now operating with more than 300 children. Mrs. Teo has given up her cherished service to join her husband in the States who is pursuing his doctorate degree at Harvard University. Mrs. Lina Wee has been chosen to replace Mrs. Teo at Jurong.



Staff and children of the Balestier Adventist Child Development Centre.

Mr. Goh Tong Seng took over the responsibilities of Mrs. Teo as the new principal in Balestier. Soon after, when Government implemented the subsidy for working mothers who put their children in Day-care Centres, our centre became self-sufficient financially. Since then, the full day care enrollments have increased tremendously. This has widened our channels in reaching the



Mrs. Teo Lun Fung.

community. Due to the increased number of enrollments, we are also operating two sessions for our nursery and kindergarten classes.

All these things have been possible with the help of God and the dedication of the staff.

— **Victoria Liyanage, Director of Balestier ACDC**

VOICES 500 PRAISE GOD FROM THE BRIDGE OF GLASS

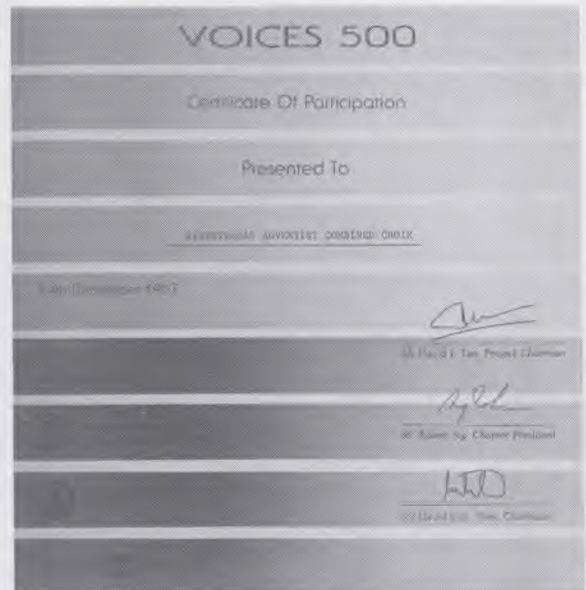
Mr. John Neumann, Far Eastern Academy music teacher and choir director, was recently invited by the JayCees to conduct the Christmas extravaganza "Voices 500 Choir". Mrs. Low, the public relations officer for the Raffles City Complex, stated that this was the first time a choir of such size had ever assembled to perform in Singapore.

The "Voices 500 Choir" was comprised of a combination of church and company choirs from various parts of Singapore. More than half were SDAs representing singing groups from all the Adventist churches. Thousands shared the joy of Christmas that Saturday evening, December 19, as the Voices 500 sang our favourite carols from the glass bridge at the center of the complex.

— **Dr. Steve Bassham, Communication Director, SAUM**



Mr. John Neumann conducting the Voices 500.



Voices 500 singing from the Bridge of Glass and two sides of the Atrium.

ADVENT ANGELS SING THE CHRISTMAS STORY

On December 25, 1987, the "Advent Angels" climaxed a full month of singing appointments, at various shopping malls and the Singapore Spastic Children's Association, with a beautiful candlelight sacred concert in the SAUC church auditorium.

The children sang of the peace God wished to share with each person present, while they marched down the centre and up onto the platform. Then the Christmas story was retold through memorized scripture passages and sacred song. A special atmosphere seemed to hang in the air as the nearly 40 children from the SDA School, the Far Eastern Elementary School, and various SDA churches around Singapore blended their voices in praise of God and His gift, Jesus Christ.

Someone commented afterward that, "finally it seemed as though Christmas had really come." As the Advent Angels begin a new round of appointments in 1988, it is hoped that God's name will continue to be glorified through their ministry.

— Lorallyn Horning, Managing Editor, MESSENGER

CHILDREN BRING CHRISTMAS CHEER

On Thursday afternoon, December 15, the 31 children attending Far Eastern Elementary School brought Christmas cheer to residents living at the "Comfort Home for the Retarded and Elderly" located near the coast on Upper Thomson Road.

Under the direction of Mrs. Jeanie Ryan and Mrs. Barbara Holm the children gathered small-mouth jars, tied ribbon on them, and put an orchid branch in each "vase". During Pathfinders one Sunday they also made Christmas greeting cards with names of the residents in each card.

On the appointed afternoon, the children piled into two vans and made their way to the out-of-the-way, rather plain-looking place of abode. The residents had gathered in one larger room to enjoy the children's presentation. The children sang several Christmas carols and then distributed their flowers, two bananas, and a card to each person present. In so doing, they experienced the joy of serving Jesus, who said, "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

— Lorallyn Horning, Managing Editor, MESSENGER



*time
feels precious
only
as we share it
with
those whom
we love....*



SABAH

OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW MISSION HEADQUARTERS

Datuk Bernard Dompok, Sabah's Minister of Finance, officially declared open the new Seventh-day Adventist Mission headquarters at Tamparuli on Sunday, December 6, 1987. Among the government dignitaries present for the occasion were Sabah State Assemblymen Mr. Wilfred Bumburing, Mr. Bugie Galadam, and Mr. Gisin Lombut, and Member of Parliament, Mr. Maidum Pansai. The last three named are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In his speech, the Minister stated that the government is happy to have a part in granting financial assistance to all religious denominations in Sabah for the construction of churches and worship halls. He stressed that buildings in themselves are useless, but what is important is the spiritual and moral development of all individuals regardless of what religion they hold.

Pastor George Johnson, president of Southeast Asia Union Mission, thanked the government of Sabah for its recognition of the contribution of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination towards the mental, physical, and spiritual welfare of the people of Sabah.

Dr. Charles Gaban, president of the Sabah Seventh-day Adventist Mission, expressed his appreciation to the government of Sabah, for its generous financial assistance, without which, the dream of acquiring a new mission headquarters would never have been realized.



Datuk Bernard Dompok, Sabah's Minister of Finance, giving his speech at the opening of the Seventh-day Adventist Mission headquarters at Tamparuli.



A view of the new Mission headquarters from the highway.

The building, equipped with some of the modern facilities, functions as headquarters, resource and training centre for the Seventh-day Adventist work in Sabah. Already the building has become a landmark as one approaches Tamparuli town because of its unique colonial design supported by round columns and its close proximity to the highway and to the river. The long suspension bridge spanning the river is a favourite tourist attraction. Just two days after the opening, nine busloads of tourists from overseas stopped by the "hanging" bridge. A common question among them is "What's that white building over there?" The signboard answers such a question.

The year-end annual meetings for Sabah Mission coincided with the opening of this new headquarters. Pastor George Johnson, Mr. Thomas Staples, Mr. Wu Chook Ying and Pastor Geoffrey Pauner from the Union attended these meetings and also preached in four different churches on Sabbath.

1987 has been a year of great development for the Seventh-day Adventist Mission of Sabah, particularly in its physical plants. The mission has also been able to construct 23 church buildings and youth halls, thanks to the financial help from the government of Sabah. The membership is slowly but surely increasing due to the combined efforts of the pastors, laymembers, and youth.

Constance A. Gaban, English teacher, is the wife of Sabah's mission president and functions as Sabah's contributing editor for Messenger.

THAILAND

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS CONTINUE IN BANGKOK

An earlier edition of this year's "Review" reported on the 50th anniversary of Bangkok Adventist Hospital, and the opening of a multi-level new wing. The hospital has now taken advantage of another birthday celebration to generate interest in physical fitness by participating in a week-long Sports Tech Exhibition.

The year 1987 is one of particular significance for the people of Thailand as it marks the 60th birthday of their king. Many ceremonies and special events are planned to commemorate this year that holds distinct import for the Thais.



Marathon runners coming from The Rama Bridge.

One of the events surrounding this day was a world class marathon in which 6800 people participated. A portion of the run encompassed a bridge named for the king and built to honor his birth. This bridge is at present the longest single span bridge in the world.

Much publicity and public excitement accompanied preparations for the opening of this bridge and the marathon to be run across it. Bangkok Adventist Hospital Health Education Staff recognized this as an opportunity to call attention to their belief in total fitness, spiritual as well as physical. They organized a physical fitness screening as part of a Sports Expo in a major downtown department store.

Publicity encouraged marathon runners as well as the general public to participate in the testing and, if eligible, receive a certificate declaring them qualified to be involved in a physical fitness program.



Registration and initial screening.



Overall view of Exhibition.

Many people availed themselves of the opportunity to receive the free screening and medical evaluation which included height, weight, blood pressure measurement, determination of the percent of body fat, target heart rate, and a Master Step Test. Others paid nominal fees to obtain a testing EKG and a variety of blood tests. All screening was done on the main floor of the department store and immediate results were given with a physician's evaluation. In addition, over 5000 health and religious pamphlets were distributed.

Bangkok Adventist Hospital was gratified by the public response to this exhibition and thankful for the opportunity to pay respect to the monarchy of Thailand. It was also a privilege to acquaint the public with the health ideals and lifestyle goals of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

THAILAND SHEPHERDESS

"The young pastor seemed like he wanted to get me involved in the worship service of the church. He asked me several times to sing, but I don't have a singing voice. Finally he asked me to read I Corinthians 13, the "love chapter". The next day he came and asked me what I thought of it. I told him I didn't think anything special. But *he* had thought about it and he told me what his thoughts were! It was the way he chose to tell me he loved me and wanted to marry me."

Sharing experiences of how the Shepherdess ladies met their pastor-husbands was a fascinating way for the Shepherdess group to become better acquainted with each other.

The first Shepherdess meeting for the Thailand Mission was held in October 1987 in the northern part of Thailand at Pastor Mun's house in Chiangmai, with 9 ministers' wives in attendance. The next area was northeast Thailand, where 8 ladies met together at Pastor Anucha's house in Ubon. The meeting for central and south Thailand brought only 3 ministers' wives together at Pastor Wilcox's house in Bangkok. We were sorry that Mrs. Orothai from Phuket and Mrs. Hanna from Haadyai were unable to attend.

In November, the Western Region shepherdess group of 10 ladies met at Pastor Tidwell's house in Mae Sot. Translation into Karen was ably accomplished by Marina Patrick, office secretary for the Western Region.

Leading out in the program, Mrs. Srirat Sorajjakool, mission Home and Family Director, guided discussions on "The Role of the Pastor's Wife", as well as her duty to her family, her church, her husband, and her members. The importance of the communion service, how it is to be conducted, and our preparation for it, was also discussed, along with a demonstration of how to make the communion bread.

The Thailand Mission would like to express appreciation to Pastors Anucha, Tidwell, Sunti, and Surapee Sorajjakool for giving of their time and energy to help with these meetings.

The purpose of these meetings was to help the pastor's wives understand each other's joys and problems, and to realize what they must do to improve themselves as well as their husbands, so their service for the Lord can be more effective.

Impressions received from some of the shepherdesses who attended the meetings were:

1. The meetings were very helpful to me to know the duties of a pastor's wife, and what I should be doing but am not doing. It helps me to know how to help my husband. I will try to do my best to help my husband in his work, and would like to have more of these meetings so I can know more about my duties as a pastor's wife.

2. The meeting was good because:

1. We met and got better acquainted with the other pastor's wives.
2. We had a chance to talk about our frustrations and problems.
3. We could express our feelings about things we cannot talk to our members about.
4. We found that others have the same problems as we do.
5. We shared ideas with each other.
6. We received encouragement and good suggestions.

All are looking forward to the next Shepherdess meeting which will be held in Pattaya during the worker's meetings in January. Please pray for the Shepherdess groups in Thailand.

**Mrs. Srirat Sorajjakool, Director,
Home and Family Department, Thailand Mission**



Shepherdess group in Ubon area.

THE BULLETIN



THE PATHFINDER CAMPOREE

EVENT: 3rd Union-Wide Pathfinder Camporee
VENUE: Bako National Park, Sarawak
DATE: April 6-11, 1988
APPLICATION: Please contact your mission youth director for details



ANNOUNCING NEW BOOK

Am now completing the biography of Doctor Horace J. Shaw "Love's Story from Teen Time To Sage Age." If you recall any incident or experience worth sharing from the time when he was an evangelist, pastor, teacher or television personality, please write promptly to:
 Pat Wick, Box 126, Angwin, CA 94508 or phone (707)965-2106.

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