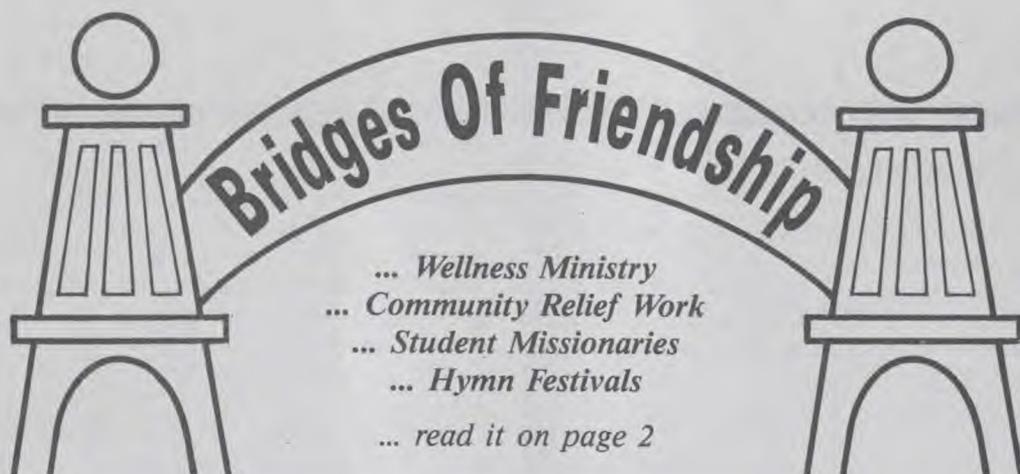


SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION
Messenger

M.C.(P) No. 61/2/88

January/February 1989





... WELLNESS MINISTRY

Dr. Clarence Ing of Youngberg Adventist Hospital was recently interviewed by *Wine and Dine*, a Singaporean based magazine that caters to the gourmet tastes of Singaporeans and tourists alike. It is widely distributed throughout the hotels, restaurants, and bookstores of this enchanting city.

During the interview, Dr. Ing shared the concepts of "Wellness" living. "Wellness," he said "is optimizing your health and lifestyle. You learn what you need to lead a full and active life that is enjoyable and rewarding physically, mentally, emotionally, and financially. You experience concepts that translate and transform your life."



The interview feature that appeared in *Wine and Dine*.

Wine and Dine related to its readers that the NEWSTART Wellness Seminar is a practical learning and experiential programme conducted by a medical specialist, nutrition, and fitness team from Youngberg Adventist Hospital. At the conclusion of the report, the author urged that further information could be obtained by contacting the Youngberg Center for Health Promotion at 309 Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore 1334, Tel: 285-2555.

NEWSTART is only one of the several avenues of outreach by which Youngberg Adventist Hospital seeks to build bridges of friendship through service to the community. To date a total of 177 participants have attended Newstart's 16 programs since February, 1985; 4,917 individuals were tested following Heartbeat's inception into Singapore in 1982; approximately 5,000 smokers received benefit through non-smoking clinics since the early '80s, and 20 plus have enjoyed Youngberg's newest one-year old program on Stress Control.

These programs have been instrumental in bringing a number of individuals into Bible study fellowship, many of whom have decided to become baptized members of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Youngberg Adventist Hospital's Wellness team is thankful to be of service to the community. Prayers are solicited that in the future this Wellness Ministry can build even greater bridges of friendship towards the effecting of vibrant, healthful living among the citizens of Singapore.

... COMMUNITY RELIEF WORK

Adventists demonstrated their desire to build bridges of friendship and service to their fellowmen by offering

help in time of need in recent community developments.

On December 8, just hours after the Soviet Armenia Earthquake disaster on December 7, ADRA (Adventist Development Relief Agency) under the leadership of local ADRA director Pastor George Johnson and ABLC (Adventist Better Living Center) director elect Pastor John Lim, notified SDA church members and institutions for needed supplies and began negotiations with Aeroflot for transport of goods, medicines, and financial assistance.

Within a two to three day period 41 boxes containing clothing, food items, and medical supplies were collected, packed, and air-freighted to Moscow. The second air-cargo of 17 boxes of food and clothing, plus 200 cartons of foodstuff collected from Yachan left on December 15. A final shipment of 3,000 syringes, 8,000 needles, and 100 vials of Garamycin, an antibactericidal injectible medication, was delivered to the USSR Embassy on December 23. In addition to these items, S\$6,941.93 were raised by the Seventh-day Adventists to further support the needs created during this disaster.

Other bridges of concerned friendship were built in Singapore when the Adventists raised S\$10,000 in February 1986 and donated it to the Community Chest of Singapore to aide in the New World Hotel disaster relief. Again, the Seventh-day Adventist community raised S\$4,217.30 in September, 1987 through participation in the National Kidney Foundation Life Force Fun-Walk. The money was forwarded to its representative, Mr. Joe Nathan Lourdes.

... MISSIONARIES FROM SAUC

Southeast Asia Union College has participated in the work of evangelism in the Southeast Asia Union Mission and even in other divisions through the student missionary activities of the college students.

In December of 1987, Robert Lindbeck, an Australian student, and Tony Pasillas, an American student studying at SAUC, accepted an invitation to travel to Nepal for a year to teach English in an English language school in Kathmandu. Tony and Robert both had previous experience as student missionaries.

Tony and Robert were the first student missionaries to work in Nepal for a number of years. They found many areas of Nepal to be very primitive. With very few hospitals and health clinics, many people have to walk for several weeks in order to reach a hospital. The Nepalese were very friendly to the student missionaries. As they lived and worked among the people of Nepal, they found how they could minister as Christians to people about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and Jesus' love. Tony and Robert both found that people could be drawn to Jesus by unselfish love. They were able to witness to

a number of individuals during their year of service. At the end of the first year, one of the immigration officials in Nepal told the principal of the language school, Mr. Hans Berkel, that it has become apparent that "you people are in this country to help us. You are really here to help us, you are not just trying to push religion."

Another Braham lady from a high cast, Mrs. Manju Pant, said to Tony before he left to return to Singapore: "I have met many foreigners in my life — many of them are nice people, but I have never met people like you. There is something different about you. You are really wonderful. You are really special. You are not like the others."

Tony and Robert both praised the Lord for the opportunities they had to serve as real missionaries and to live and work for Jesus Christ.

In December of 1987, another group of SAUC students joined the Singapore-based LIGHTBEARERS to travel to Sarawak and build a church in the village of Retah Mawang. Frances Amer, Reno Ng, Steve Sage, Philamae Shaw, Wong Kok Boon, and Chan Shee Wai were in this group. All of them were greatly blessed by their two-week experience in church building, evangelism and witnessing.

This led to a March 1988 trip by four SAUC students again to Sarawak. This time, they joined a group of Japanese young people, funded by ADRA Japan and ADRA/SAUM, who were digging wells in the rural areas of Sarawak. Khurshid Meherali, Robert Lindbeck, Alison Su, and Renee Peterson took part in the ADRA well-digging project. All of them were benefitted by the experience of associating with their Japanese counterparts and with needy villagers in Sarawak.

December 1988 saw six SAUC students join the LIGHTBEARERS again, this time for a church building trip to Panakok, Thailand. Reno Ng, Tony Pascillas, Yap Fong Peng, Carolyn Choo, Ang Kang Ho, and Pham Saw Yoon, all were volunteers on this missionary trip. They have



Lightbearers building bridges of friendship in Thailand.

come back with a good report which will be published in the next issue of Messenger.

1989 will see another ADRA project in Sabah carried out with the assistance of four SAUC students. Winston Felix, Lennon Jokray, Tony Pasillas, and Dean Lengenbelec, will travel to Sabah with the young people from Japan again to dig wells, and also do community development.

Through the years, SAUC has prepared many workers for God's cause. These workers have served both in Southeast Asia and also in countries and locations around the world.

... HYMN FESTIVAL 89

John Wesley's philosophy for "Inclusive Christianity" prevades the spirit of love and fellowship that is being generated between the leadership of the Paya Lebar Methodist Church and the Seventh-day Adventist church as they work together to host Hymn Festival 89.

Following Hymn Festival 88, organised by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, leaders of the Paya Lebar Methodist Church, were so enthusiastic about the event that they said, "Let's do this again. After all, we are only two miles up the road. Let's get together." A follow-up visit from the Seventh-day Adventists showed continued interest. Subsequent plans and committees began to formulate between the two churches towards detailing the events of HYMN FESTIVAL 89.

Natural obstacles in amalgamating the two churches for such an event were overcome in the generous spirit of Christian brotherhood and love as Dr. Kang Ho Soon, senior pastor of the Paya Lebar Methodist Church, urged his congregation of over 1,000 members to put to the test John Wesley's dream for a common fellowship among those who have a sincere desire to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

John Wesley strongly believed in "Inclusive Christianity" where he not only tolerated theological, liturgical, and psychological differences among Christians, but actually welcomed them. Within this context, Dr. Kang shared with his fellow ministers, church workers, and members excerpts from the book "What I Like About ... The Adventists" written by Pastor George Vandeman, speaker for the "It Is Written" television broadcast based in the United States.

As plans progress for HYMN FESTIVAL 89, the spirit of goodwill continues to heighten. During the most recent working committee, Dr. Kang informed the staff that all the Methodist ministers in the city have consented to insert into their bulletins the flyer concerning the Festival of Praise, HYMN FESTIVAL 89's climatic evening. Consequently, 15,000 handbills will be printed and

circulated to announce the coming of this event staged in praise of God.

It is my hope and prayer that Seventh-day Adventists throughout Singapore will join together in extending back the hand of Christian fellowship with love and understanding to our brothers and sisters in Christ of all faiths here in this beautiful Garden City.

God has provided many diverse avenues for us as a Seventh-day Adventist church family to build Bridges of Friendship through loving service and fellowship here in Southeast Asia.

A short report such as this can not begin to circumscribe the total. However, it is my desire that by means of the above-mentioned we might all be inspired towards an even greater commitment to Christ-like Bridge-building efforts.

In His Love,

Loralyn Horning, Director of HYMN FESTIVAL 89 and Managing Editor of Messenger.

Hymn '89 Festival

Organised by **PAYA LEBAR METHODIST CHURCH** and the **SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH of SINGAPORE**



Dr. E. Harold Lickey is a graduate of the University of Indiana School of Music, holding a doctorate in voice performance. With his wide background of experience, he is in demand for adjudication, and conducting of Choral Clinics and Hymn Festivals.

Conductor: **Dr. E. Harold Lickey, D. Mus.**

| Events | Date | Time | Place |
|--|----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Choral Clinic | Thurs 20 April | 7.30 p.m. | PLMC |
| Festival of Hymns | Fri 21 April | 7.30 p.m. | PLMC |
| Seminar for Pastors & Church Workers | Tues 25 April | 9.00 a.m. | PLMC |
| (Theme: "Dimensions in Worship & Music") | | | |
| Festival of Praise | Sat 29 April | 8.00 p.m. | Kallang Theatre |

■ THAILAND ■

THAILAND MISSION COLLEGE



Site of Health Conditioning Center at Muak Lek.



Ground breaking for Health Conditioning Center.

One will hardly recognize the Muak Lek property where the Mission College, as well as the Bangkok Adventist Hospital Health Conditioning Center is being built. Big cement electric poles are now in place along the road leading to the Health Conditioning site and Mission College campus. Soon there will be electric power available where these two new facilities are being erected. Already many building materials have been unloaded for the Health Conditioning Center, located on the same property only a short distance from the Mission College campus.

Eight new faculty housing units for the college are now being completed. These will make it possible for the ministerial training program to move from its temporary quarters here in Bangkok to the Muak Lek campus by mid 1989. I am sure the 17 ministerial students now in tight quarters here at Ekamai will rejoice greatly as they prepare to move to the spacious beauties of the new campus.

Everyone connected with the development of the Mission College was greatly encouraged by the news that the 13th Sabbath offering for the third quarter of 1988 amounted to US\$237,451.00 for this project. Over US\$387,000.00 was collected that 13th Sabbath, which far exceeded the amount that was expected. The 6 million baht that this will generate will make it possible for us to construct the two dormitories needed. Already the site for these buildings is being levelled and prepared so that work can begin immediately in the erection of these facilities.

We are grateful that funds are coming in also for the administration building. This will be the largest and most expensive part of the development of Mission College, and we hope and pray that shortly enough funds for this building will be in hand so its erection can begin as well. The time table calls for the completion of all of these facilities by the school term of 1990/1991.

The Lord answered our prayers in a marvelous way for



Elder Wilcox standing near some of the electric poles that have already been put in place along the edge of the college property.

our water supply. Two wells had been bored on the Muak Lek property, but neither one produced enough water supply sufficient for the needs of the college. Prayers ascended to our Heavenly Father to provide wells needed for the facilities we were planning for that area. A third well was bored, and our faith was abundantly rewarded. A very fine water supply was tapped at this site, and over 100 gallons a minute was pumped from this source. The fourth well was almost as good as the third, and the fifth well on the college campus site yielded over 200 gallons a minute. Now we are assured of plenty of water for the needs of the development at the Muak Lek property.

Storage tanks are being prepared for use, and lines laid so that the various buildings will have an abundant supply of water.

Brother and Sister Asa Cree are presently here in Bangkok working on the possibility of a food factory for Thailand. Much planning has been done, and actions taken in the establishment of this institution. One of the last board meetings pinpointed the location where it was felt best to erect the main factory at the Muak Lek campus. We pray that the development of this facility will



Unfinished fourplex for faculty housing.



Wayne Hamra, Wendell Wilcox, & Asa Cree by one of the wells on Mission College site.

be realized in the near future and thus provide work opportunities for the college students.

The fruit trees at Muak Lek have done well this year. Sales from the lummyai and sweet tamarind have been the best of any season. Now hundreds of mango trees are in blossom and have small mangoes setting on them. The 1000 cashew trees are growing rapidly and are in full bloom. This will be our first season to harvest these nuts and realize an income from them.

We constantly thank our Father in Heaven for His continued blessing and guidance as this new college for the youth of Thailand is developed. We pray this institution will make it possible for the work of the Lord to advance more rapidly here in this great country, and be the means of saving many souls from Thailand in the kingdom of Heaven.

— *Wendall L. Wilcox, President, Thailand Mission.*

RADIO EVANGELISM IN THAILAND

The radio work in Thailand has entered into a new venture in the history of the SDA Thailand radio work. In May, 1988, the mission voted to begin weekly FM broadcasts. This brings a new opportunity to us, for now we must prepare a different type of program from that of our AM broadcasts. This program will be aimed towards a different target group, mainly those living within Bangkok. With the help of the Southeast Asia Union Mission we have entitled our new series, "Joy In The Morning." It will endeavor to present the joy, hope, faith and love found through our gracious God.

The progress of this city evangelism is slow but steady. Many letters come in requesting religious literature. On one occasion, Mr. Kitt, a blind teacher for the blind development institution who has listened to our program, requested to meet the co-speaker, Pastor Siroj Sorajakool. He told Pastor Siroj about the interest he had in what we offered, and requested us to make a cassette copy of each program aired since we began broadcasting on FM, to keep in their library so others could listen too. Praise the Lord. We never know the plans of God.

Another incident that happened recently is that one FM listener wrote in asking about our broadcast schedule, because she is a nurse. After one month she wrote another letter saying she liked our program very much, because it gives her peace and hope. She said she liked our program every week, but missed the 5th of November, so she requested that program on tape. At Christmastime an invitation was sent to her to attend the Christmas celebration presented by "The Singing Friends." She came to the church that Sabbath afternoon and we got acquainted. She told us she would like to study the Word of God.

Our work in Thailand is unlimited. The opportunity is great and the responsibility is heavy, as in the finance. We need your prayers so that there may be a large harvest in 1989. Besides your prayers we also need music for our programs. We are looking for early *Heritage Singers* records, which would be very valuable to us. If you wish to share your records with us, please send them to either Southeast Asia Union Mission, 251 Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore c/o G. C. Johnson, or to Thailand Mission Radio Department. Thank you.

— *Danny Pung, Thailand Mission Radio Department.*

AS GOD HAS LED

Mission College began with very humble beginnings in 1941, with the enrollment of 25 students in the School of Nursing which was set up by Bangkok Adventist Hospital. The general air of expectancy and jubilation surrounding the establishment of this school in 1941 was dashed by the invasion of Thailand by the Japanese. The programme was postponed until 1947, graduating its first class in 1950. Seven of that original class still work at Bangkok Adventist Hospital 38 years later!

In 1958 the present nursing school building was opened by H. M. The Queen of Thailand, Queen Sirikit and has served to the present day for administration, classroom teaching and dormitory space. In 1986 we were given an ultimatum from the government to either upgrade our diploma programme to a degree programme or downgrade to a 2-year practical nurse course. After much prayer the conclusion was reached to upgrade to a baccalaureate programme in nursing which began in 1986 and to build a modern administration building, now being erected, on the Hospital compound.

It became evident that if we were ever going to provide this country with the quantity and quality of manpower required to spread the good news of the Third Angel's Message, we were going to have to set up a programme whereby graduates from our secondary schools could progress through a tertiary Christian education programme besides nursing. It has been an exercise in faith!

About this same time the Hospital administration began to seriously consider how best to begin placing more emphasis upon the type of lifestyle that we, as a people, have espoused for nearly 100 years, but which sadly, have hidden under a bushel. Previously, there was a need for a good acute medical facility in this city. That need has now been fulfilled. It was time to search for property to set up a Weimar or Hartland type institute. Thus, the Bangkok Adventist Hospital, the Thailand Mission, and the Adventist English School administration joined forces and purchased the Muak Lek property, a large fruit plantation.

With the timely purchase of this property and its current development to this point, Mission College, Muak Lek Campus will soon open its doors to meet the tertiary educational needs of our Thai young people in many more areas than just nursing.

This college is mandatory if our Thai young people are ever going to be trained fully to share the entire Adventist message in their own language, in their own country, for their own people.

I stress again...this has been an exercise in faith; a faith that has been rewarded up to now by the generosity of

many people who have made personal contributions and sacrifices to see this work established. We solicit your prayers, your continued support financially, that the work for God may be finished in this country and that His second coming may be hastened.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have made contributions to this programme. There is no doubt in the minds of those involved that the hand of God is over this work and is therefore worthy of all the support you can muster to establish this college.

— *Dr. Ronald Brody, President, BAH and Mission College Council, and Chairman of the Building Committee.*



PHUKET ADVENTIST HOSPITAL OFFERS FLOOD ASSISTANCE

Heavy rainfall during the week of November 19 to 24 caused extensive damage to property and life of the people of South Thailand.

Many towns and villages were flooded, some up to five meters of water. The town of Nathon Si Tammarat was hit the worst due to a mud slide resulting from illegal logging of the forest. It was estimated that over 1000 people died in the mud slide and many more were left homeless. Over 1000 million baht worth of damage through property losses resulted.

The Adventist Christian Foundation of Phuket Adventist Hospital donated 5,000 baht and the staff donated 5,700 baht. With the donation, rice, sugar and canned

cont'd on page 16



Packing foodstuffs for flood victims in South Thailand.

THAILAND PASTOR ORDAINED

Thailand Mission recently ordained to the gospel ministry Pastor Somchai Chuenjit. Brother Somchai grew up in Haadyai, South Thailand. His first relationship with our Seventh-day Adventist church was when he began to study English at the SDA English Language School in that city. He later accepted Christ as his Saviour and was baptized as a member of the Haadyai SDA Church. He continued his education at the Ekamai English School in Bangkok, graduating in 1980. From there, he went to Hong Kong Adventist College, and graduated from the Theology department in May, 1984.



Pastor Somchai Chuenjit and his wife.

His first assignment was as an associate pastor for the Ekamai Thai Church for a year and a half before being transferred to the Bangkok Hospital Church at the beginning of 1986, where he is presently the pastor.

During the early part of his ministry at BAH, he met a young nursing student by the name of Krissana. She was also from South Thailand, from the city of Songkhla. In her senior year at BAH, she was baptized as a member of the BAH Church. Somchai and Krissana were married on July 12, 1987.

We are very happy that we have the privilege of setting aside brother Somchai Chuenjit to the gospel ministry with his very capable wife helping by his side.

— *Wendell L. Wilcox, President, Thailand Mission.*

ADRA HELPS THAILAND FLOOD VICTIMS



ADRA truck giving emergency aid — food and clothing.

Five thousand flood victims in Southern Thailand have recently received much needed aid from ADRA. Already three trips to the flood stricken areas of the country have been completed. One million three hundred thousand baht worth of supplies and food have been distributed to those who lost their homes and possessions during the storms that hit Thailand in December of 1988.

A medical team sponsored by ADRA also brought assistance to another 1,500 villagers. The team members came from the Bangkok Adventist Hospital and ADRA.

In South Thailand in the village of Tup Chin there is a small Adventist Church of about 30 members. Since this village had also suffered much from the flood, ADRA was able to give emergency relief supplies to 150 residents of Tup Chin also.

The Haadyai Adventist School was flooded badly, resulting in much damage. One hundred thousand baht was raised by the Thailand Mission and churches to help repair our school. Since then the enrollment has increased.



Students' desks were damaged.



The level of flood at the church school.



Many homes were destroyed when flood waters washed logs down from the mountains.



Flood waters downtown Haadyai.



Brother Boonyong, Asst. Director of ADRA Thailand, distributing food supplies to flood victims in Surat Thani, South Thailand.



ADRA Thailand distributing food, clothing and other emergency supplies in South Thailand to flood victims.

An older couple in the Haadyai area lost their home due to the flood. ADRA was able to supply 35,000 baht to rebuild their home. How happy and grateful this couple were to have a home again. Many thousands of other homes were destroyed as well. Government agencies and private organisations are trying to get sufficient funds together to build these homes.

ADRA will soon make a fourth trip down to this stricken area of Thailand. This time, along with other supplies, they will be helping the rubber tappers to get back on their feet again so they can continue tapping their rubber trees for their daily sustenance. The rubber tapping items needed include 50 rubber rolling machines. Each roller can be used by at least 10 families. ADRA will also supply

600 buckets for carrying latex, 600 tapping knives, 600 lamps, 600 boots worn by tappers, 600 rubber molds and 600 rubber filters. All of this will cost 334,000 baht or US\$13,360.

Warren Scale, ADRA Thailand Director, and Boonyong Tipeng, Assistant ADRA Director, plus many other people have worked hard to make possible this relief work for the people of South Thailand. We want to thank the Lord for preserving the lives of our people and for impressing many donors to sacrifice their income in order to help those in need.

— Wendall L. Wilcox, President, Thailand Mission.

HEALTH FOOD COMPANY ESTABLISHED

The Southeast Asia Union has approved the formation of a profit health food company in Thailand. On December 16, 1988, the first board meeting of the "Mission Health Food Company" met in Bangkok, Thailand. The board selected from numerous entries, "Mission Health Food Company" as the Thai market name for the enterprise.

This company is being established with the encouragement of the General Conference International Health Food Association. The IHFA director, Mr. Erio Fehlberg together with Mr. Uruma, manager of the Japan Adventist Health Food Company, conducted a survey and feasibility study for a health food company in Thailand. Their findings and projections were very favourable.

Mr. Asa Cree, an experienced food production consultant is currently living in Bangkok and is heading up the preliminary work of the incorporation, negotiating for permits and licenses, drawing plans and constructing a distribution warehouse at Ekamai. During the early

stages, the distribution warehouse will also serve as the food factory location.

Capital for the venture will be provided by a long term loan of \$20,000. Other funds will be sought from IHFA and development aid grants. It is hoped that in future years, profits from this business will help to fund future capital development needs for Adventist churches and schools within the Southeast Asia Union territory.

Meat analogues for the local market, and breakfast cereals and bread spreads such as peanut and cashew butter for the export market are seen as good potentials for the company. The company plans to emphasize the use of the abundant locally grown Thai foods in its business.

We welcome your suggestions and solicit your prayers for this project.

— Tom Staples, SAUM Treasurer.

■ SARAWAK ■

SARAWAK MISSION BREAKS NEW GROUND

The Sarawak People's Mirror, the country's most widely publicized newspaper, carried a write up in the January 11, 1989 issue concerning the ground-breaking ceremony on January 10 for the new Sarawak SDA Mission headquarters.

Dr. George Chan, Minister in the Chief Minister's Office, spoke to the assembled group of community and SDA church leaders present concerning the need for emphasizing high moral values in the training of Sarawak's citizenship.

"Practise the values of simplicity, moderation, justice, fairness and respect for other faiths," he urged. "This will serve to strengthen the bonds among Malaysians. He continued by saying that the, "Other values of trustworthiness, responsibility, sincerity, diligence, dedication, discipline and cooperation represent the key towards enhancing peace and prosperity in the country."

He indicated a great deal of support for the Seventh-day Adventist work in Sarawak and expressed much appreciation for the church's efforts in promoting the high standard of moral attainment it espouses. He expressed that the government wished to share in the financial support of this new building project.

Construction of the new building began late this month

and will cost about \$200,000. It is expected to be completed by September.

Also present at the ceremony were the presidents of the Sarawak Mission and the Southeast Asia Union Mission, Pastor Choo Wee Fong and Pastor George Johnson, respectively.

— George C. Johnson, President, SAUM.



SARAWAK LITERATURE EVANGELIST CONVENTION

Twelve Literature Evangelists attended a convention at Bako National Park, September 26—30, 1988.

Instruction on how to turn objections into assets was given by Randy Horning, Union Publishing Director. Of all the objections usually given, the most common is that customers do not feel a need for our books.

cont'd on page 15

■ SABAH ■

AN SDA GETTING MARRIED ... AGAIN ?

Well, that's exactly what these folks did! What is more, they got married in church. However, there is no law that says you cannot have a church wedding again after being married for years. These folks from Kiulu, Tuaran, (Sabah) chose to march down the aisle in their home church on their wedding anniversaries.

A strong and influential church is a church whose members are full of compassion, united, and understanding. These qualities are the result of God-fearing and loving homes.

Recognizing the need of such homes, Pastor Tommy Golotoh, the district pastor for Kiulu, proposed wedding anniversaries to be held in one of the churches in his district. And so, on September 26, 1988, Pastor Martin Yaang, the mission's Publishing director, "married off" seven beaming couples in the quiet village church of Malangang Lama.

This program was conducted by the Lay Activities ministry in the local church. The primary goal is to win the non-SDA members from SDA homes to Christ. Secondly, by having such programs, the members hope to instill in the youth the importance of loving and understanding homes. By doing this, the church also hopes to enhance the happiness of each SDA couple in the church.



The beaming couples after their marriage.

The wedding anniversary held on September 26, was attended by all family members, the church members, and, surprisingly, quite a number of non-SDAs. The participants were elated with the experience. It was more meaningful for some because they were not able to have proper church weddings when they got married.

Truly, happiness is home-made!

— *Wendell L. Wilcox, President, Thailand Mission.*



SABAH SHEPHERDESSES' MEET



Sabah Shepherdess.

A part of the shepherdesses of the Sabah Mission met at Tamparuli on December 4, 1988 for a one day meeting. Various topics of general interest to ministers' wives were

discussed along with a time for questions and answers. In the evening a joint meeting for both ministers and their wives was held.

Shepherdess International is a support ministry for all wives of ordained ministers in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, with chapters meeting around the world. The goal of Shepherdess International is to give support to pastors' wives, to encourage them to identify and develop their skills as pastors' wives, and to help them realize the privilege that they have of being shepherdesses in the church. A quarterly resource bulletin is sent out which features stories, articles of interest, and helpful suggestions especially meant for the wives of pastors.

— *Evelyn Griffin, Shepherdess International
Co-ordinator, SAUM.*

SABAH MISSION PRESIDENT RECEIVES HIGH HONORS

Dr. Charles Gaban, President of the Sabah Mission for the past six years, was recently awarded the ASDK, which stands for Ahli Setia Darjah Kinabalu. This literally means "Loyal Member of the Order of Kinabalu."

He received this second highest of all distinctions rendered by the State of Sabah, because the government recognizes his public contribution to Sabah and its people through his services in terms of development and progress. This award is second only to the highest of all

titles bestowed on a loyal subject, that of Datuk.

Unfortunately, since the conferring of these awards generally occurs on Saturdays, Dr. Gaban received his reward in absentia, without the pomp, glitter, and grandeur that accompanies these award-giving ceremonies by the Governor before many dignitaries and celebrities.

— *Edmund Siagian, Secretary-Treasurer, Sabah Mission.*



NEW LITERATURE EVANGELISTS



Picture shows the new literature evangelists with Pastor Martin Ya'ang and Jaibi Ogou.

Nine new Literature Evangelism recruits received training on January 16 — 18, 1989 at Menggatal. Most of the new LEs are Kadazans but one is a Chinese, Ho Yoke Choo. We are grateful to have her join the LE work force as a part time worker. Following the training, the new LEs joined one of the three districts in Sabah.

It is now harvest time for the farmers in Sabah. The more harvesters to do the harvesting, the more rice can be harvested and the faster the harvest is done. It is the same with the ministry of our literature evangelists. With the new LEs, we have 44 LEs in Sabah. This means more people will be visited with the good news of Jesus' coming.

— *Martin Ya'ang, Director, Literature Ministry Department, Sabah Mission.*

■ VIETNAM ■

REPORT FROM VIETNAM

Recent reports from the Vietnam Mission indicated that the Vam Vhon Church reopened its door on December 24, 1988 for the first time in a number of years. More than 100 church members attended the first service. A church board has been elected with the official blessing of the local authorities in attendance at the meeting. Three former literature evangelists are now leading the church services. The Sadec church in the Delta area is repairing the building to be reopened soon. The Hoa Dong church has also been reopened with one of the departmental directors of the Vietnam Mission serving as pastor.

Reports from the central area of Vietnam indicate that members are now meeting in private homes each week. Generally, it appears that the Vietnamese government has shown increasing tolerance to the church allowing a degree of freedom to church members in Vietnam to meet and worship.

Our church members in Vietnam need assistance of all sorts. The training of workers who can carry on the work is a great concern to the church. The Vietnam Mission president carries on training workers in various places but it is difficult for one individual to serve as a pastor, administrator, and a seminary teacher. The shortage of workers is further complicated by the fact that at least two of the pastors in the mission will soon immigrate to the West. Their loss will be deeply felt by the church.

Please continue to keep the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Vietnam in your personal prayers and in your

cont'd on page 14

■ WEST MALAYSIA ■

PENANG ADVENTIST HOSPITAL

Very frequently we petition God for His blessings, but sadly less frequently do we praise Him when He answers our prayers beyond our expectations.

In Penang Adventist Hospital, we do not wish to be guilty of such gross ingratitude. When two years ago, the hospital found itself in severe financial difficulties, the members of the Administration recognised that it was beyond their human wisdom to bring success. We were drawn to the one who has provided to make all things possible. Thus many prayers were offered to our God, that He would do that which manifestly we could not achieve. Our faith, we must admit, was small and yet how wonderfully He has answered those prayers, beyond anything we had ever imagined.

In 1987 the Lord blessed us with an operative gain of over \$300,000. We believed that God had given us a pinnacle of financial success. We could not envisage that God had even greater things in store for us. We want to acknowledge Him before the entire membership of Southeast Asia Union, for in 1988, our operative gain was

\$1,091,000. Never in the history of this institution have we approached this figure, and yet, never has there been more competition in the private health care field. God has demonstrated to us that it is only as we come before Him and accept His guidance, that we can safely ignore other factors such as competition, government regulations and economic circumstances. It is at these times that God works His miracles.

I know that each one will pray for the workers of Penang Adventist Hospital, that we will strive evermore diligently to represent the One who dies for us. But this was not the best news. The greatest news was that there was a seven-fold increase in the number of baptisms from the witness of the hospital. I pray that this figure can be multiplied many fold again during 1989, for this indeed is the reason for our existence.

— *Dr. Russell R. Standish, President, Penang Adventist Hospital.*

■ SINGAPORE ■

MORE NEW STAFF AT YAH

Dr. Charles Loo, M.D. arrived recently to serve as specialist-physician of Youngberg Adventist Hospital. He graduated from Loma Linda University with a Doctor of Medicine degree in 1972 and completed residency in internal medicine at LLU Medical Center in 1975. Since then, he has been in private practice. He is married to the former Gabrielle Tran and they have four daughters: Cassandra, 13; Cherisse, 11; Trudie, 9 and Tricia, 6.

Mr. Roger Wong is the new Accountant at YAH. He graduated from Southeast Asia Union College in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Upon graduation, Mr. Wong participated in the business internship program of Southeast Asia Union Mission and worked in the various institutions of the region. His wife, Judy is the new physio-therapist of YAH. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Philippines in 1983 and worked at Penang Adventist Hospital until they were called to HongKong Adventist Hospital in 1987. The Wongs have a daughter, Gloria who is 1 years old. We welcome both the Loo and Wong families to Singapore and wish them the Lord's choicest blessings in their



Mr. Roger Wong and family.

ministry at Youngberg.

The hospital board made the following changes during the annual meeting. Mr. Joshua Goh, former Vice President for Financial Affairs, is now the Hospital President; while Mr. Chris Chan, former Business Office Manager, is now the Controller and Treasurer of the hospital.

— *Jonathan Ng, Public Relations Director, Youngberg Adventist Hospital.*

LITERATURE EVANGELISTS SET GOALS FOR 1989

The Literature evangelists of Singapore met on January 8 for their goal setting workshop. Pastor Geoffrey Pauner, the mission president, during the devotional thought reminded the LEs that they are lights in a world of darkness. Pastor Randy Horning, SAUM Literature Ministry director, shared practical methods for setting meaningful goals in such areas as sales, hours of work, Bible studies, and VOP enrollments etc. Pastor Howard Fiagao, FED associate Publishing director, outlined stimulating thoughts from the Spirit of Prophecy concerning goal setting. All were encouraged to go forth in the spirit and goal setting commitment of Nehemiah who accomplished what had been impossible for years in just 52 days.

Samuel Siew, the mission associate director, reported that five new literature evangelists started work in the later part of 1988. He has set the goal of increasing the sales of our spirit filled literature to \$200,000 and adding of 10 new literature evangelists to the team in 1989.

Triggered by the inspirational messages and reports, the literature evangelists with vision and prayers of dedication set their individual goals for 1989. The following time of fellowship at a vegetarian lunch capped the day with specialness. For those desiring a fulfilling professional career, the literature ministry opens the doors of opportunity. Contact your local mission literature ministries department today.

— *Samuel Siew, Associate Literature Ministries
Director, Singapore Mission.*



YOUNGBERG CHURCH FUND RAISING PROJECT

Members of the Youngberg Church in Singapore feel more unity in their congregation as a result of their recent fund raising effort for the Jurong Church Building Fund.

The fund raising project consisted of the preparation of felt and cloth activity books for sale. The construction of the felt books began on September 31, 1988, under the leadership of Mrs Marilyn Johnson, wife of SAUM President George Johnson. The books, comprised of 8 or 12 pages, sold for \$25 and \$40 respectively. By October 22, the Youngberg Church had raised S\$1,380 for the Jurong Church Building Fund from the sale of the activity books.



The Youngberg members at work on their fund raising project.

Mrs. Johnson, originator of the fund raising project, had previously made felt books for her son Stemple when he was a baby.

The books constructed by the Youngberg group are designed to keep small children quiet in church. Some of the innovative pages include a page with a red boot and laces to teach a child how to tie one's shoes, a page with a shirt and pocket containing a handkerchief, and a page with various geometrical shapes and numbers designed to teach children how to count. Other features of the books include press studs and velcro fasteners which small children can learn how to use.

Some individuals donated a total of S\$550 to sponsor the purchase of materials for the project. Numerous Youngberg Church members spent several Saturday night and all-day Sunday at Mrs Johnson's home to work on the fund raising activity.

Mr Albert Seah, Jurong Fund Raising Co-ordinator for Youngberg Church, said, "It has drawn the Youngberg members close together. There was fellowship and service. I feel really enriched in terms of spiritual and social life." Others who worked long hours on the project commented that they enjoyed the fellowship of working together for God.

The project ended on December 6, when the last of the 65-plus books were bound together and packaged for delivery.

— *Tony Pasillas, SAUC Student Correspondent.*

cont'd from page 12

REPORT FROM VIETNAM

priorities. Assistance of all sort is needed as we continue to try to support God's people in that country. ADRA continues with its ministry of assistance to the people of Vietnam. If you would like to assist the church and its members in Vietnam, kindly contact the treasurer of the Southeast Asia Union Mission.



SEQUENCE EVANGELISM SEMINAR

Eighty-four lay leaders and pastors from the eight Singapore churches attended the "Sequence Evangelism Seminar," on January 27 & 28, at San Yu High School Audio-visual Room.



Part of the 84 participants ... listening attentively to the lectures of the Sequence Evangelism Seminar.

This meeting was organised by the Church Ministries Department of SDA Mission of Singapore and was conducted by the Mission leaders, Pastors Geoffrey Pauner, Sim Chor Kiat, Danson Ng and Lin Shuren.

The thrust of this seminar was to understand and apply the biblical philosophy of Jesus' approach to reach the people. He met their felt-needs and then bade them, "Follow Me." Eight sessions of various topics on church growth were presented: **Growth! God's will for us, Why churches grow! You are indispensable, The Master's methods, Discovered! The biblical pattern of dynamic church growth, Discovering and understanding your**



Pastor Danson Ng, CM Director of SAM emphasizing the key points of Sequence Evangelism.

spiritual gifts, Small groups – an exciting way to get involved, and A bold move forward! How to set a goal and reach it.

After understanding the philosophy of Sequence Evangelism, many church group participants sat down to formulate goals and action plans for church growth for their local churches.



Thomson Chinese Church group planning session for Bold Sequence Evangelism in the local church.

By the power of the Holy Spirit and with a vision for church growth gained, we believe the local churches will be more active in evangelistic outreach; thus bringing many more souls into the church at the close of Harvest 90 emphasis.

— Danson Ng, Director of Church Ministries,
Singapore Mission.

cont'd from page 10

SARAWAK LITERATURE EVANGELIST CONVENTION

Devotionals for morning and evening were given by Pastors Choo and Walter respectively. All the Literature Evangelists left Bako with a renewed sense of their high calling after having learnt how to create a need for our literature.

Those who develop the correct concepts of the publishing work, improve themselves with training, and apply serious effort are blessed by God with fulfillment and success.

— Choo Wee Fong, President, Sarawak Mission.

■ FOCUS ■

**RELIGIOUS LIBERTY
FACES CHALLENGES
IN FIJI**

In recent months a sudden and unexpected change of government in Fiji resulted in a National Sunday law that had real teeth in it. This group of 500 islands just 1,960 miles from Sydney, Australia with a population of 70,000 people consists of 50% Christians, 41% Hindus, and 8% Muslims. Out of the 50% Christian population, 8,900 individuals are Seventh-day Adventists worshipping in 85 churches throughout the islands.

The new law states that all Sunday sporting activities are barred as are trading, public transport, cinemas, bars, nightclubs, amusement halls, and picnics. A \$100 fine or jailment for one month are the penalty for disobedience. Not long after the law enactment, a man out shearing his sheep on Sunday received both sentences.

The Adventists in writing about this sudden change say: "Things are really moving here in Fiji." ... "Life is no picnic in Fiji these days — especially on Sundays." ... "This is a shocker. It has come totally unexpected."

Since the beginning, the government has gotten stricter. However, Australian's peak non-government aid agency is levelling torture allegations against the Fijian government. There is hope that the law will be lifted soon.

As Adventists we know this is only the beginning of future experiences such as these. Time is running out. Peace and safety wouldn't always be our happy lot. Let us take time for God's word daily and discipline our minds to treasuring up His precious promises.

— L. W. H.

cont'd from page 7

**PHUKET ADVENTIST HOSPITAL
OFFERS FLOOD ASSISTANCE**

vegetables were brought and packed into small packets. These food stuffs were handed over to the local municipal government together with ten bags of donated clothings.

We are thankful to the hospital and staff for coming together to help those in need at this critical moment.

— Ronald Koh, President, Phuket Adventist Hospital.

SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION MISSION DIRECTORY

G. C. Johnson President
 C. Y. Wu Secretary, Religious Liberty
 T. G. Staples Treasurer
 H. H. Kong Associate Treasurer
 Peter Wong Auditor
 W. S. Bassham Ministerial, Communications
 Associate Church Ministries
 Evelyn Griffin Shepherdess International
 Associate Church Ministries
 R. C. Horning Publishing, Spirit of Prophecy
 Shupinar Koubong Associate Church Ministries
 G. A. Fauner Voice of Prophecy
 David S. F. Wong Education, Church Ministries

LOCAL MISSION DIRECTORY

Peninsular Malaysia

166-A Jalan Bukit Bintang,
 55100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Telephone: 242 7795

David Laoh President
 C. B. Lim Secretary/Treasurer

Sabah

P. O. Box 7, 89257 Tamparuli,
 Sabah, Malaysia
 Telephone: 782 244, 872 346

Charles S. Gaban President
 Edmund Siagian Secretary/Treasurer

Sarawak

P. O. Box 41, 93700 Kuching,
 Sarawak, Malaysia
 Telephone: 420 791, 418 933

Choo Wee Fong President/Acting Treasurer
 Edmund M. Liah Acting Secretary

Singapore

90 Jurong East Street 13,
 Singapore 2260
 Telephone: 561 0022 Fax: 562 4932

G. A. Fauner President
 Sim Chor Kiat Secretary/Treasurer

Thailand

P. O. Box 11-234, Bangkok 10110,
 Thailand
 Telephone: 391 0525, 391 3595, 391 2808

W. L. Wilcox President
 Rungsit Itsarangkarn Secretary
 Poh Sing Peng Treasurer

INSTITUTIONAL DIRECTORY

Southeast Asia Union College K. S. Koh
 Southeast Asia Publishing House John Ho
 Thailand Publishing House Johnny Rueh
 Bangkok Adventist Hospital Ronald W. Brody
 Penang Adventist Hospital R. R. Standish
 Phuket Adventist Hospital Ronald Koh
 Youngberg Adventist Hospital K. D. Reimche

The Messenger is published bi-monthly as the official organ of the Southeast Asia Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, 251 Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore 1334. Tel: 284 7281 Fax: 284 7757

Editor C. Y. Wu
 Managing Editor Lorilyn Horning

Layout and Printed by Southeast Asia Publishing House