

SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION *Messenger*

ISSN 0026-0371

M.C.I.(P) No. 170/3/90

March/April 1990



New Work Progresses **among the E-Gaw Tribe**

The Southeast Asia Union Mission has recently approved an Outpost Evangelism budget for the opening of new work among the E-Gaw tribal people of the extreme north hills of Thailand, in an area known as the Golden Triangle.

Mission workers have never dared to try opening the work among this tribe before because they had no one who could speak the language even in a rudimentary form. Now, through the providence of God, TAM has a Bible worker who is fluent in this tongue, Pastor Thino, a former Sunday Christian Bible worker. Through the influence of Pastor Pakdee Tawinno of the Chiangmai Church and Pastor Sukjal, another former Sunday pastor who works in the Fang area, Brother Thino was brought into the message of the soon coming of Jesus Christ. Since joining the Seventh-day Adventist church, he has

been actively teaching the whole truth of the Bible among the E-Gaw people.

Many of the families with whom Brother Thino has worked have already "Ting Pii" (given up the spirits) and have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. Day by day they are learning more Bible truths and are preparing for baptism. The first fruits have already been reaped as a few families have recently been baptized.

The Thailand Mission hopes to have a lamb shelter built in that area soon. This infant church, under the care of lay-pastor Thino, will become the spearhead for organizing the work among the E-Gaw tribe.

— *Wm. Steve Bassham, President, TAM*

Miguel Cerna Conducts Seminars



During late January and early February, Pastor Miguel Cerna, pastor of the Norwalk, California (USA) Spanish Church, conducted training sessions in Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore. Pastor Cerna shared many of the concepts from his soon-to-be-published book on how to conduct cell group meetings, or cottage meetings.

For the past seven years he has been developing and practicing the concepts which have proven very successful in his ministry. In a church of 140 members, he had 20-25 attending mid-week prayer meetings. Now, with cell groups active, more than 200 members attend one of the many Wednesday evening meetings every week. By the end of his sixth year of pastoring his former church and training members in cell group evangelism, his church members were giving more than 500 Bible studies each week.

Here in the Southeast Asia Union Mission, Pastor Cerna shared many of his ideas in an attempt to set church workers and lay members on fire in working for the Lord.

In Thailand, approximately 45 pastors gathered at the home of Pastor and Mrs. W. S. Bassham. As Pastor Bassham later commented, "We put pillows and grass mats all over the floors of the various rooms and we had wall-to-wall pastors every night sleeping on the floors." The Thailand training sessions were also held in the Basshams' home. Each pastor who attended received a copy of a Thai book on the formation of small groups in the church. As soon as Pastor Cerna's book becomes available, the Thailand Mission also plans to provide a copy of that to each English-speaking pastor.

In Peninsular Malaysia, Mission leaders, pastors, and numerous lay members met at the Golden Sands Baptist Resort in Port Dickson for a four-day retreat. The group received Pastor Cerna's training with much enthusiasm, and many left Port Dickson with a determination to start similar cell group programs in their home churches.

While in Singapore, Pastor Cerna spoke to several groups during his five-day stay. In addition to the several sessions he conducted for all interested church members, he also spoke to the Singapore pastors, to the SAUC Theology Club, and to the SAUM workers.

The real emphasis of Pastor Cerna's messages is to actively involve every church member in soul winning. Without becoming involved in working for the Lord, Pastor Cerna emphasized, "Christians don't mature—they stay spiritual babies."

He went on to show how the concept of cell groups

is very Biblical. He cited many Bible instances of small groups. The original "group" was the Trinity, and next came the family group at the creation of Adam and Eve. God knew that mankind would function better in a group than alone—man needs to work and live with others, to love and be loved. Moses, Joshua, Nehemiah, Daniel and his three friends, Noah, Jesus with his 12 disciples, and many more Bible figures worked best with small groups.

Mrs. Ellen G. White had much to say about small group ministry. Just one bit of counsel she gave was, "Let there be in every church well-organized companies of workers to labor in the vicinity of that church.... Let this work be entered into without delay, and the truth will be as leaven in the earth. When such forces are set to work in all our churches, there will be a renovating, reforming, energizing power in the churches, because the members are doing the very work that God has given them to do." (*Welfare Ministry*, 107)

In the modern day setting, Pastor Cerna commented that studies show that "if a person can find love and fellowship with at least eight people, he won't leave the church." The cell groups give church members a place to find this love and fellowship. Even more, it gives them the guidance and the push that they need to help them get out and start witnessing and working for the Lord.

Each meeting of the cell group is a training session for giving Bible studies, and a time of sharing exciting witnessing and soul-winning experiences as well as the joys and sorrows of the week. It includes a time of evaluation. It asks each member for a commitment and regularly asks for a renewal of the members' covenant to serve the Lord actively. Each week there is a 30-minute Bible study, as well as time for singing and prayer.

Pastor Cerna continually emphasized that the role of the pastor is a trainer of soul-winners, and the role of the church members is being active soul-winners and evangelists. He talked about the choosing of leaders as well as the involvement of every cell group member by assigning specific duties and positions to each one. Over and over, Pastor Cerna stressed the training and involvement of every church member in the work of personal evangelism.

In all three missions where Pastor Cerna conducted the cell group evangelism training seminars, many workers and members alike are following up with further training sessions in hopes that the Church may grow in numbers and the members may grow in spiritual stature and in service for God.

— Marilyn Johnson, MESSENGER staff

WIUM Purchases Land for Radio Station

On February 12, a small group of Adventist leaders met at the ferry terminal on the island of Batam, Indonesia, located 20 km. south of Singapore. Their mission: to purchase land for an FM radio station to serve Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

On a previous visit, officers from the West Indonesia Union Mission (WIUM) and SAUM, along with representatives from the Far Eastern Division, had look at a plot of land on a smaller island, Pulau Belakang Padang. Located 15 miles from Singapore, the low island has an area of only about two square kilometers and a population of 7,000. A small hill, approximately 100 feet high, dominates the eastern shore of the island. Near the summit of the hill is a piece of land 59 x 48 meters (2,832 square meters) suitable for the proposed radio station. The island now has electric power available every night, and within the next month or two, it will have 20 telephone lines available.

On the February 12 visit, representatives of WIUM signed the legal papers to purchase the land for Rps. 5,000 (US\$2.78) per square meter. The total purchase price was approximately Rps. 14 million (US\$7,870). Operating licenses will cost approximately US\$28,000, and total construction and development costs have been estimated at US\$200,000.

The West Indonesian Union Mission has already named the proposed FM station "Gema Harapan," or "Echo of Hope." Ultimately, the WIUM hopes to locate three full-time employees on the island to operate and manage the radio station. Initially, programs will be aired for six hours per day, and may be increased later. Programming, according to the agreement, will be at least 50 percent in Bahasa Indonesia, the main language of Indonesia. Other programs may be in English. Broadcasts in both languages will include music, health, family and religious programs. It will also carry the Radio Indonesia network news several times a day, as required by Indonesian law.

"Echo of Hope" has the potential of reaching across a 120 km. radius from Pulau Belakang Padang. This places over four million Indonesians, Singaporeans, and Malaysians within the listening range.

It is the prayer of the church leaders that programs aired over "Echo of Hope" will help to supplement the activities of laymen and pastors in proclaiming the message of salvation, thus hastening the coming of Jesus.

— George C. Johnson, President, SAUM

Harvest 90 Nears Triumphant Culmination

This decade could very well be the last decade of human history on this planet. "A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work." (*Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 121) And there is no better way for Seventh-day Adventists to experience this revival than to work hand in hand with the Lord for the salvation of souls.

Throughout Harvest 90, church members all over the world have been experiencing the joy of bringing others to Christ. From here and there around the world field come reports and ideas of ways that have been and are continuing to be successful in soul winning. Here are a few suggestions:

Encourage lay leaders to get involved in some type of soul-gathering effort such as home Bible study fellowships, home Revelation Seminars, and small-group ministry. Members should be encouraged to open their homes for this type of witness.

If each church or congregation would develop a program to strengthen and encourage its young people (socials each Sabbath, such as picnics, camp-outs, retreats), encouraging them to bring a visitor (1 + 1 = friendship) and win even one person per church, the churches would experience growth and new vitality.

The literature ministry is a tremendous tool. Literature evangelists can go into an area and saturate the territory with literature in preparation for evangelistic-reaping meetings. Lay members can also take part in sharing literature with friends and neighbors.

Vacation Bible Schools have reached out to 728,910 children of non-Adventist families within the last five years. Since the beginning of this quinquennium (1985), Vacation Bible School programs were influential in the baptisms of over 22,000 children and their parents.

Children and teenagers should be involved in evangelism. In the Inter-American Division alone, over 10,000 people have been baptized as a result of youth evangelism.

God is pouring out His Spirit and working with those who are willing to unreservedly dedicate their interest and time to witness and bring in the harvest. The world church is planning worldwide baptisms for May 26, hoping to see 100,000 persons baptized on that one day. Won't *you* work with God in a special way to help the Seventh-day Adventist Church reach that goal and to reach the still greater goal of preaching the gospel of the Kingdom to all the world that Christ may come soon.

— Carlos Aeschlimann, HARVEST 90 Coordinator

■ LAOS ■

Laos Opens Its Doors to ADRA

In January and again in February, ADRA teams visited the country of Laos in order to establish contacts with local government officials and non-government organizations (NGO's) in the hope of initiating ADRA work in Laos.

At present, several NGO's are doing various types of relief work in Laos, including agricultural projects, teaching English, medical and health education work, and a variety of other assistance programs. Contacts with several aid agencies in the capital city, Vientiane, provided the ADRA team with much practical information about living and working in Laos. Personnel in the Australian, U. S. and Swedish embassies were also quite helpful.

ADRA personnel also met with government officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Health, and the Ministry of Education. All of the officials seemed very receptive to the idea of ADRA becoming involved in development work in Laos.

Members of the ADRA team included Ralph Watts, President of ADRA International; Romie I. Gainer, Vice-President for Finance of ADRA International; Richard Hall, who worked in rural community development in northern Laos in the late 1950's; Maitland Di Pinto, Director of ADRA Far Eastern Division; George C. Johnson, Director of ADRA Southeast Asia Union Mission; Dennis Tidwell, Director of ADRA Indochina; and Mun Lansri, a pastor in Thailand and former worker in Laos.

One of the projects currently under consideration by ADRA is the providing of hand-drilled wells to improve the drinking water supply in rural villages in three provinces of southern Laos.

Various other projects are also being discussed, including an integrated program of education, health education and simple agriculture, in the northern province of Namtha. Such a project would be carried out through the existing community schools, where teachers would be given instruction in child health, which they would pass on to their students. Home gardening would also be taught as a school subject so that both students and teachers would be better able to support themselves.

— Dennis Tidwell, Director, ADRA Indochina

SDA Church Continues in Laos

The Church in Laos has long been isolated from the world church, aside from an occasional visit by a pastor from Thailand. Life has not been easy for many Laotians, but the church in Vientiane continues to meet, with about 25-30 in attendance each Sabbath.

Among those present on Sabbath mornings are several young people, but in isolation and without active leadership they do not seem to be very involved in the services. When a Thai pastor worshipped with the group on one recent occasion, he decided to teach the youth several new songs. Although the church has a nice electronic keyboard and a church member who plays it for the services, the song books in the Thai language are old and ragged, badly needing to be replaced with new hymnals in the Lao language. As the visitor taught such songs as "If You're Happy and You Know It" and a Scripture song, "Matthew 6:33," the youth participated enthusiastically and seemed to enjoy this "special feature" in the Sabbath School.

The following day, the Thai pastor spent the afternoon writing out the words of several more new songs. That evening he went back to the church to teach these songs to the 10-15 youth who were eager to learn more. During the evening of singing, they recorded the music on cassette for future use, and they asked the Thai visitor to come back again every evening of his stay in Laos to teach them more new songs, although it was only possible for him to go for one more visit.

It is thought that from time to time some of the ministerial students from the Muak Lek campus in northern Thailand may be able to go into Laos to worship with the church members in Vientiane. Although the travel by train and taxi would involve considerable expense, these youth with the advantage of Christian education could instill new life and vitality into the church in Vientiane.

It is also projected that more visits by Thai pastors from the northeast of Thailand can vitalize and expand church work in Vientiane and in the Laotian provinces which border on Thailand.

— Marilyn Johnson, MESSENGER staff

■ PENINSULAR MALAYSIA ■

Inreach-Outreach in Muar

The Muar church serves its young people in a very special way, providing its youth, young married couples, and young parents with social life and useful instruction. Regular seminars cover such subjects as parenting or other issues of interest and concern.

On Thursday evening, March 1, the regular meeting consisted of a social get-together, including an outdoor meal. A number of guests, not regular members of the young people's club, also attended.

The evening began with some lively singing followed by a devotional. Pastor Sim Tian Sang introduced the free Voice of Prophecy "Way of Life" correspondence course, and explained the helpfulness of the course. Then the group ate and fellowshiped. Pastor Sim talked with each of the visitors, getting acquainted and encouraging them individually to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the "Way of Life" course.

Many of those present commented on the fun of the evening and on the helpfulness of this young people's organization. They appreciate the INREACH—helping the young people of the church—and the OUTREACH—reaching out to others who may also benefit from the fellowship and the wise counsel available through the church programs.

— Evelyn Griffin, Director, Family Ministries, SAUM

**Vacation Bible School
Workshop in Malacca**

The Malacca Church held an all-day Vacation Bible School training session and worship on Friday, March 2. This workshop, conducted by Mrs. Eunice Lee of the Peninsular Malaysia Mission, assisted by Mrs. Evelyn Griffin of the SAUM, offered instruction and practical suggestions.

Since the Malacca Church has not conducted a VBS for several years, participants were reminded of the goals of VBS and received instructions on how to plan and organize the program.

In the afternoon session, men, women and children all participated. Each person made one or more of the various crafts which Mrs. Lee presented. In this way they prepared themselves to teach children during the upcoming Vacation Bible School. At the close of the day, many creative and attractive crafts were displayed—all of them waiting to be reproduced by a group of lively VBS children in the near future.

— Evelyn Griffin, Director, Children's Ministries, SAUM

■ SABAH ■

Sabah Mission Holds Triennial Session

During the past three years, Sabah Mission leaders have been thrilled to see God's leading in His work. During the triennium, Mission workers have conducted 187 evangelistic efforts, and lay members have held another 479 efforts.

As a result of these efforts and other witnessing endeavors, there have been 3,221 baptisms during the past three years, bringing the total church membership to 15,599.

Newly organized churches and companies have sprung up throughout the country. There are 17 new companies and 13 new churches by this Mission Session. Among all the newly entered areas, the Tambanua people at the remote village of Tinadaan are the most receptive group. About 70 people in this area have accepted the truth, and they now have a newly-constructed church building.

During the past Triennium, considerable construction has also occurred. The Sabah Mission has completed its

new office building. Sabah Adventist Secondary School has six additional classrooms, and Goshen Adventist Secondary School has a new classroom block. New church buildings this triennial totalled 56, including the large Tamparuli church. Several new Sabbath School buildings and youth halls, as well as 20 houses for pastors have also been constructed.

Sabah Mission presently has 29 district pastors and 12 Mission staff. It also has 25 elementary teachers and 26 secondary teachers in its eleven elementary and two secondary schools.

During the triennial session, there were several changes in Mission staff. New departmental appointments include: James Lai, Communication; Francis Lajanin, Publishing; and Nelver Sikul, Spirit of Prophecy and Associate in Church Ministries.

— Charles S. Gaban, President, Sabah Mission

V.O.P. Moves Malay Section to Sabah

The Voice of Prophecy correspondence school faces many challenges, two of the greatest in recent years being the problems of follow-up by local churches and the difficulty of direct communication between its students and VOP headquarters. To solve this, the Voice of Prophecy has moved the Malay section to an office in the Sabah Mission headquarters as of February 1990.

Of the 155,818 VOP students throughout Singapore and Malaysia, 10,323 are from East Malaysia (Sabah and Sarawak). Over 8,200 of those are from Sabah alone. Looking at these figures, it has become obvious that greater attention needs to be focused on the Sabah students.

With this move, it will be easier for students and VOP workers to communicate. Visitation of VOP students by pastors and laymen will be greatly facilitated.

The director of the Sabah branch of the VOP is Mr. Shuking Gadaun. A theology graduate from SAUC, he was teaching at Sabah Adventist Secondary School until this appointment.

— *Shupinar Koubong, Voice of Prophecy Director, SAUM*

L.E. Activities

On a beautiful beach in Sabah, about 30 literature evangelists met December 5-10, 1990 for their annual institute. With them were Pastor Howard Faigao from the Far Eastern Division, Mr. Rayburn Smith of the SAUM, and Mr. John Ho from the Southeast Asia Publishing House.

The Literature Evangelists in Sabah have a new leader. The Sabah Mission has recently appointed Francis Lajanin

to serve as the Mission Publishing Department Director. He canvassed as a student in Sabah and again when he studied at Southeast Asia Union College. He served as Assistant Publishing Director for some time, but has been a church pastor for the past nine years.

Another newcomer to the publishing work in Sabah is Miss Lynnetta Siagian. A 1989 business graduate of SAUC, she is now serving as manager of the HHES.

The Sabah L.E.'s are the youngest group in the SAUM. Their courage is strong and enthusiasm high as they look forward to the new year and to working with their new leader. Already their sales for the first two months of 1990 show a 17 percent gain over 1990.

— *Rayburn Smith, Director, Publishing Department, SAUM*

K.K. Malay/English Church Holds Marriage Seminar

The weekend of February 16 and 17 found eleven couples from the Kota Kinabalu Malay/English church participating in a Marriage Commitment Seminar conducted by Dr. and Mrs. Charles Griffin. The seminar was held at the new Sabah Medical Centre Hospital.

Marriage Commitment Seminar is an SDA-produced program for enhancing relationships between husbands and wives. It includes husband and wife discussions and prayer time, group discussions, question and answer time, and some short lectures by the seminar directors. Some of the topics covered include: how to handle anger, the sacred circle around each marriage, and secrets for staying in love. After participating in a Marriage Commitment Seminar, many couples express an enhanced understanding of the Christian marriage and a deeper commitment to their marriage partner.

— *Evelyn Griffin, Director, Family Ministries, SAUM*

■ SARAWAK ■

A Macedonian Call Answered

Two years ago, a team from the Sarawak Mission traveled by foot to visit some of the remote churches in the Sebuyau District, where there was no regular pastor. As the team were resting in a church member's home in Kissindu, there was a knock at the door.

Outside stood a delegation from a village on the other side of the mountain, about two hours' walk. They had heard that the Seventh-day Adventist pastors were in the area, and they greatly desired to learn the Adventist

message. They presented to the pastors the signatures of ten families in their village who wanted to become Adventists.

The Mission team divided, part of the group following the delegation to the village of Klait. Though the village with its 30 families was located on the edge of a fertile coastal plain, it was filthy, without sanitation facilities or adequate water supply. But the interest of the ten families was very high.

The pastor and helpers studied with the people until after midnight and into the next morning. Yet they had to keep up their itinerary, slogging in heavy rain for nearly two hours through swamps, with mud often above their knees, to meet their next appointment. Since that time, however, the Mission pastors have returned as often as they could to continue studying with the villagers.



Klait jungle chapel in Sibuyau, Sarawak

Upon hearing of the interest in Klait, friends in Canada sent a donation to help construct a chapel in which the people could worship. Pastor Saul Nyungga led a team of workers in to Klait and built the chapel, but the people did not want to worship in it until it was dedicated!

On February 24, Pastor Daniel Walter, Sarawak Mission President, and Pastor Edmund Liah, Sarawak Mission Secretary, along with Mrs. Walter, braved rough seas to spend Sabbath with the people of Klait. They conducted the dedication service at that time.

Although there are not yet any baptized members in Klait, the people already consider themselves Seventh-day Adventists. They are putting into practice the principle that cleanliness is next to godliness, and have requested assistance from ADRA Sarawak to install a new water system. Brother Petrus Ngadan, Director of ADRA Sarawak, accompanied the mission team to the village to make plans to help the villagers.

That fertile ground, with its rich harvest of rice in front of the village, is symbolic of the rich harvest of souls that, with God's blessing, will be harvested soon in Klait.

— Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

Triennial Session in Sarawak Mission

Nearly 150 delegates and the Sarawak Mission staff met in Kuching March 2-4 for the Sarawak Mission 7th Triennial Session. The session opened on Friday evening with Pastor George Johnson, SAUM President, presenting

the devotional message emphasizing the Sarawak Mission theme for 1990: "Prepare to Meet Thy God."

The highlight of Sabbath afternoon was the ordination of Pastor Attie Gara to the Gospel Ministry. On Sabbath evening, a composite report of the administration and all Mission departments was given in the form of a slide presentation.

During the past triennium, Sarawak Mission membership passed the 10,000 mark in 1989. Five major church groups have constructed new church buildings, and many other groups have replaced old or inadequate jungle chapels with permanent structures.

Local tithes increased more than 30% during 1989 due to the Lord's blessings in the very strong stewardship program led by Pastor Gilbert Tan. The increased tithes has made it possible to take on five new pastoral interns, whose help is so desperately needed.

In the past three years, 63 village lay pastors have received training. Their efforts and leadership have greatly strengthened the work. One of these men, Abom, in the Julau District, has succeeded in winning all but about four people in his entire village to the Seventh-day Adventist faith.

Sarawak has had several visiting groups of young people to assist in various projects. The Lightbearers from Singapore came twice to build churches in remote villages. The Pacific Union College choir built one church. A Pathfinder group from Japan, and students from the Far Eastern Academy have helped to dig safe-water wells for villagers in the coastal areas near Roban. A group of nearly 30 Canadians came to build a church, and contributed money to build two others.

The Sarawak Mission has outgrown its old headquarters, and has begun construction of a new four-storey office building at the same location as the old building. The total cost of the building will be US\$139,725, and furniture and special equipment will cost another US\$15,000. Construction will hopefully be completed by July 1990.

At the Triennial Session, all of the Mission departmental staff were re-elected to serve for the next triennial period, with only minor adjustments in their sharing of responsibilities.

— Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

Attie Gara Ordained to Ministry

On Sabbath afternoon, March 3, delegates to the Sarawak Mission Triennial Session, church members and friends gathered in the Kuching English Church to witness the ordination of Pastor Attie Gara to the Gospel ministry.

In the ordination service, Pastor George Johnson of the SAUM gave a short sermon. Pastor Gordon Bullock of the Far Eastern Division (FED) offered the prayer of ordination. Pastor T. C. Kim, also of the FED, gave the charge to the new pastor, and Mrs. Dorothy Walter gave the charge to the wife.

Pastor Attie Gara came from a non-Christian home, but he chanced to study in Ayer Manis School. There, through the influence of dedicated Christian teachers, he accepted Christ and was baptized in 1970. In 1972, he was selected as "Layman of the Year" for the Sarawak Mission.

Pastor Attie has served in several pioneering districts, including the Ulu Ballah, Kapit district, where he had to travel up through violent rapids and wild gorges to reach scattered villages on the mountain sides. For weeks he had to sleep under the longhouses with the dogs and pigs, until some of the villagers took pity on him and allowed him into their homes where he proceeded to share the Seventh-day Adventist message.

In 1979, he married Adeline Ade, and together the couple have continued in faithful service, pastoring districts in both the Iban and Bidayuh tribal districts. They have a son, Farrel, 9, and a daughter, Felivira, 6.

The Garas are presently pastoring the Julau District, with five churches or groups. They are also pioneering new work in the Roban District, as well as supervising some major ADRA projects.

— Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

Surprise Assistance for Ayer Manis School

With student enrollment far too low to generate sufficient income to keep the school in top condition, the Ayer Manis School campus has fallen into great need of repairs and maintenance. The large campus—over 100 acres—has facilities for about 400 students, but an enrollment of under 100, due to free Government education enticing most of the Adventist students away.

Pastor Gilbert Tan "planted a virus" in some of the nearby churches—a suggestion that the alumni of Ayer Manis rally to a workbee on Sunday, March 11. He estimated that about 10-15 people might turn up. To everyone's delight, however, about 150 alumni came with chain saws, powered bush cutters, hammers, saws, paint brushes, and a very "contagious" case of enthusiasm which spread all over the campus. Two alumni, a government official and a doctor, were unable to attend, so they sent a supply of packaged drinks.

By afternoon, all the lawns were neatly mowed and trimmed, dead trees were cut into cord wood, and the

roadsides were cleared. The auditorium had new paneling on the front walls, and the buildings looked like new with their fresh coat of paint.



Ayer Manis School principal Lawrence Randig was "wearing the biggest smile he'd had since his first son was born!" From the alumni came the comment, "I think we should do this at least once or twice each year—make it a tradition!"

With the renewed interest in the old school, hopefully there will be a corresponding renewal of interest in the value of Christian education and the importance of preparing the youth for effective work and firm spiritual lives on this earth. Above all, they must become YOUTH PREPARED TO MEET THEIR GOD!

— Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

Sarawak Mission Conducts Stewardship Workshop

On February 9-11, Ayer Manis Adventist Secondary School hosted a Mission-wide Stewardship Workshop, attended by 224 delegates with their district pastors. Pastor Gilbert Tan, Stewardship Director for Sarawak Mission, was happily surprised that so many would attend a stewardship program.

In spite of their busy schedules, delegates came to the all-day meetings with an eager spirit and willingness of heart and mind. Speakers for the programs were Pastor Shupinar Koubong of the SAUM, Pastor Daniel Walter, President of Sarawak Mission, and Pastor Gilbert Tan.

The workshop culminated with a short service in which the delegates and pastors made a commitment to the Lord to revive the churches through stewardship.

— Shupinar Koubong, Associate Church Ministries Director, SAUM

ADRA Aids Fire Victims

On January 27, the Rumah Kat, or longhouse, of Jaong, 81 miles from Kuching, burnt to the ground. The nine families, with 46 people in all, lost everything they had in the fire.

Neighboring villages and the Sarawak Welfare Department gave food, used clothing, and building materials for permanent shelters. The Seventh-day Adventists worked through the Kuching SDA Church to donate clothing and cash for necessities. However, the

people still needed assistance to buy cooking and eating utensils. ADRA Sarawak, along with the other levels of ADRA, contributed a total of US\$300 for the purchase of these much-needed items. The director of ADRA Sarawak, the Sarawak Mission President, and the district pastor purchased and distributed the utensils and the other relief articles to the fire victims.

— *Petrus Ngadan Kuju, Director, ADRA Sarawak*

■ SINGAPORE ■

Reaching the Jurong Community Children

Child evangelism came alive in Jurong English Church at 2:00 p.m. on March 3. "Your Story Hour," the idea of Cradle Roll leader Mrs. Luella Bullock, was especially planned to help the community children become acquainted with Jesus and find the happy way of life.

Mrs. Bullock, who has previously participated in child evangelism, was thrilled when a mother in the Cradle Roll division offered her home for a branch Sabbath School. Once plans were under way, the mother changed her mind, greatly disappointing Mrs. Bullock and her associates. However, their zeal for child evangelism did not wane. They continued to plan, and finally decided on the multi-purpose hall in the Jurong Church. A month later, "Your Story Hour" became a reality.



The first Sabbath the program drew 57 children, ranging from 3 to 12 years of age, and 20 parents. After song service was roll call, with welcome stickers for attending parents. The program included a Bible story, a character-building story and a health talk, then more singing. When asked how many would return the

following Sabbath, the leaders were rewarded by a lively and enthusiastic response.

"Your Story Hour" will continue in the hopes that even as the seeds of truth are planted in the hearts of the children, their parents will be receptive to the touching message of God's love for them.

— *Joocy Lam, Communication Secretary, Jurong English Church*

YAH Newstart Receives Good Publicity

A three-page article on the Youngberg Adventist Hospital NEWSTART program appeared in the January 1990 issue of *The Good Life*. The Singapore-published magazine, edited by a local doctor, is committed to Nature's Path to Healthful Living and Happiness.

The article featured Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Ing, the directors of the YAH NEWSTART programs in Singapore. The write-up set forth the eight natural remedies and the details of the NEWSTART program, and was an excellent witness to the Seventh-day Adventist faith. Among other things, it stated that the Seventh-day Adventist Church "is a branch of Christianity which emphasizes both spiritual and physical well-being, and on the basis that 'the body is God's temple'. Seventh-day Adventists are well known for their vegetarian diet and for their abstinence from smoking, alcohol and other unhealthy foods and practises. They are also strict about observing Saturday—the Sabbath day—as a day of rest."

Without a doubt, the Youngberg Adventist Hospital is receiving national attention through the work of the NEWSTART program.

— *Russell Standish, Director, Health-Temperance Department, SAUM*

Singapore Retirees Convene

For the first time, retired denominational workers in Singapore gathered for a special evening of food and fellowship on the evening of March 19 at the Southeast Asia Union College cafeteria. Along with their spouses, the 26 Singapore retirees and two expatriate SOS workers received tribute from the SAUM officers, SAM president, and heads of the institutions in Singapore.

All but one of the retired workers present had served in the various institutions; the one had been a pastor. The majority of the group had worked at Youngberg Adventist Hospital, though three were from Southeast Asia Publishing House, and others had served in the schools.

In his welcoming remarks, Pastor G. C. Johnson, SAUM President, explained the purpose of the gathering. In some parts of the world, retirees meet for regular fellowship and even to plan mission projects. A very important reason for this first get-together, he stated, was to honor those who had dedicated so much of their lives to serving the Lord.

After the buffet meal, the oldest retiree present was invited to cut the cake. Pastor Siregar, a former teacher at Malayan Seminary, was just four days from his 87th birthday. Then the Loo family string quartet presented two musical numbers, followed by group singing.

In the short speeches which followed, Pastor W. L. Pascoe, an SOS worker at the Far Eastern Division office, further commented on retired workers. "Retirees are

valuable," he said. "They have gold in their teeth, silver in their hair, and stones in their kidneys!" Since his retirement, Elder Pascoe has served in Uganda, Bermuda, Hong Kong, Guam, Sri Lanka, and now Singapore.

Eighty-three-year-old George Thomson, who is relieving in the SAUM Education Department, told of his retirement activities and of the activities of the retirees' club he belongs to in the USA.

Pastor Joshua Chong also spoke briefly of his life. After 50 years of denominational service, he retired in 1978. But in 1981 he accepted a call to serve for three years in Taiwan. Now he is eager to go to China to work for the Lord—perhaps to Shanghai, Beijing, or elsewhere. His daily prayer is "God, I want to work for you!"

Mr. B. C. Goh enjoyed travelling for three months after he retired in 1982, but became very bored with retirement. He told the SAUM Associate Treasurer H. H. Kong, "Never mind the pay—keep my time occupied." After working at the SAUM for some time, he received a call to work at San Yu High School, where he still serves as Treasurer.

Pastor Bernie Donato of the Far Eastern Division gave the closing remarks and had special prayer for the group and for the prayer requests presented by several of those present.

— Marilyn Johnson, *MESSENGER* staff

■ THAILAND ■

BAH Church Celebrates

Christian Home and Marriage Week

February 10-17 was a special week for the Bangkok Adventist Hospital Church family, a week set aside to emphasize the importance of the Christian home and marriage. Pastor Sunti Sorajakool's Sabbath message to begin the week was "Build on the Positive Things in Marriage."

Throughout the week, morning worship talks centered on this vital part of a Christian's life. On February 17, Pastor Virendra Arora spoke on "Family Life in Heaven" during divine worship. Then, on Sabbath evening, there was a special ceremony for married couples. After Pastor Sunti Sorajakool's sermonette "Bound Together in Love," Dr. Arturo Weiss and Pastor Somchai Chuenjit led out in the recitation of the marriage vows, with each couple repeating the vows in a renewed commitment to one another.

Then a church unity candle was lighted and passed from the oldest couple to the youngest. Following the rededication service, husbands and wives served each other in the ordinance of humility and then took part in the Lord's Supper.

To complete the special marriage emphasis week, Mrs. Letticia Wu and her assistants prepared a five-course banquet. Each couple had their own private table with candles and red rose buds in the center. Prizes were awarded to the youngest couple (married only two weeks), to the longest-married couple (46 years), and to the couple with the most children and grandchildren.

— Mrs. Jubilant Arora, BAH

Family Worship in Thailand

The Home and Family Services of the Thailand Adventist Mission is stressing family worship this year. Since the overwhelming majority of converts come from either spiritism or Buddhism, they have no background in Christian family worship.

Another difficulty facing these members is the fact that there is very little material available for family worship in the Thai or tribal languages. In spite of these handicaps, the Home and Family Services, under the direction of Dr. Nancy Bassham, is attempting to teach the pastors how to take the initiative in leading the families of their congregations in this area of concern.

Mrs. Bassham has been teaching the pastors how to use the Bible itself for family worship. This method stresses that the father and mother should first read the Bible story themselves and then tell or assist the children in acting out the Bible story in their own words and expressions.

Pastors are further encouraged to experiment with family worship concepts in their own family groups. Then they should invite various church members to bring their families to worship in the pastors' homes to learn by example.



Another aid to family worship which will soon be available for distribution is the Thai language version of "The Bible in Living Sound," which features small dramatized segments of the Bible stories. The Home and Family Services plans to provide a set of these cassettes for each church in the hope that these can be used on a lending library basis to assist in family worship in the homes of various church members.

A Thai herself, Mrs. Bassham recently told the pastors, "In Asia the well-being of the family is considered to be directly related to the well-being of the community at large." She went on to stress that with this value, the concept of the family worshipping together can and should also be very important to Asians.

— Wm. Steve Bassham, President, TAM

Mission Health Food Company Update

Progress is evident in Thailand's new Mission Health Food Company. The warehouse, measuring 22 x 27 meters, is almost complete. Workers are currently installing the wiring and the air conditioning units for the food storage and packing rooms.

The Mission Health Food Company has signed an agreement with Bangkok Adventist Hospital to be the importer of milk products. Furthermore, the company has undertaken to manage the hospital canteen as a retail sales operation of the company.

Sanitarium Health Food Company in Australia has granted agency status to Mission Health Food Company for all Sanitarium products except cereals and soy milk.

Mr. Rex Ussher, who served 37 years in the Sanitarium Health Food Company in New Zealand, arrived in early December with his wife, Joyce. For 15 years he was plant engineer for Sanitarium Health Food Company; when he retired in 1989, he was serving as personnel manager of their Palmerston North factory in New Zealand. In Thailand, he is now leading the Mission Health Food Company development work.

— T. G. Staples, Treasurer, SAUM

L.E.'s Set Goals and Receive Rewards

On January 28, many of Thailand's literature evangelists met in Bangkok to set their goals for 1990. At the same time, several awards were also distributed.

Each year, the Far Eastern Division gives the Top Ten Award to five men and five women of the more than 4,000 literature evangelists division-wide. Mrs. Sansiri received a pin and a certificate from the FED for being chosen as one of the Top Ten for 1989.

The L.E.'s surprised their Publishing Director, Mr. Jerry Potter, by giving him a plaque of appreciation for his nearly nine years of service in the publishing work in Thailand.

Mr. Ekkarat Keola received a briefcase for having won the highest number of people to Christ last year. He was responsible for eight baptisms. All together, Thailand L.E.'s had 15 baptisms in 1989. However, in 1990 they have far surpassed this figure, with 45 new members having already joined the Seventh-day Adventist church because of the work of literature evangelists.

— Rayburn Smith, Publishing Department Director, SAUM

Passing Along Love

Archan Somporn, a teacher in one of the private schools in Roi-Et Province, accepted Christ as her personal Savior with the help of colporteur Chamee Attakit, who was taking the gospel of love to that district.

After Archan Somporn accepted the love of God, she could not help but share it with her students, letting them know about the sweet love of Christ, too. She enrolled them in the Voice of Prophecy course. By March 1990, 250 of her students had completed the course.

On March 10, Miss Rienthong, principal of the VOP School, along with Dr. and Mrs. Wm. Steve Bassham, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Potter, and Chamee Attakit, organized a VOP Rally. They presented each of the graduates with a certificate. One student was baptized, and many more are now organized into baptismal classes.

Because one teacher passed along love, 250 students have now come to know their Creator.

— *Danny Pung, Director, Communication Department, TAM*

Chieng Khong Clinic Nurse Retires

After 19 years of service at the Child Welfare Clinic in Chieng Khong, northern Thailand, Miss Vanna Sukanatra retired on January 15. During her years in Chieng Khong, she has served as nurse, health educator, and an ever-obliging interpreter.

Also a keen gardner and physical fitness enthusiast, she has proved a good advertisement for the Seventh-day Adventist health message. As part of the birthday celebrations held in Chieng Khong for the King of Thailand last December 5, she took first place for the over-60 age group in the four-and-a-half km. race.

The staff and patients at the Chieng Khong hospital will greatly miss this faithful nurse.

— *Lea Crisp, volunteer nurse, Chieng Khong*

■ SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION COLLEGE ■

Visiting Faculty

During the six years that Southeast Asia Union College has been affiliated with Walla Walla College, 14 WWC teachers have served at SAUC as curriculum advisors. Most of these worked directly with SAUC teachers, team-teaching or co-teaching classes. The more recent trend, however, is for the visiting professor to take complete charge of certain classes. This increases the course opportunities for the students.

During second quarter 1990, Dr. Beverly Beem, Chairperson of the English Department at WWC, is serving as a visiting teacher and consultant. Dr. Beem has many interests, including conducting workshops on religious writing and studying the role of women in the Church. Because of her expertise in these two areas, SAUC plans to conduct seminars which will be open to church leaders and members.

Dr. George Thomson, currently the acting educational secretary of SAUM, is teaching one class in history this quarter. SAUC considers it a real blessing to have him teach this quarter.

— *Ralph Jones, Academic Dean, SAUC*

A.Y. Workshop at Pasir Ris

AY leaders from various youth departments of the SAUC Church participated in a Youth Leadership Workshop on March 19 to 21 at the NTUC Pasir Ris Resort. The workshop served two main aims: to train youth to be good leaders, and to prepare for the AY Week of Prayer which would be held March 26-31.



SAUC Church youth leaders retreat to Pasir Ris Resort for a leadership workshop.

The 17 participants, mostly SAUC students who are involved with AY or youth Sabbath School, took part in the workshop. Reno Ng, an SAUC business major and active leader of the SAUC Church AY, planned and led out in the program. Initially, he explained the different types of leadership and told the characteristics of a good leader. Several members of the group took turns leading group discussions based on parts of Elder Robert H. Pierson's books *How to Be a Good Christian Leader* and *So You Want to Be a Leader*.



Student leaders in the SAUC Church discuss ways to improve their youth ministry.

Those youth scheduled to speak for the AY Week of Prayer presented their talks. This served as a sort of dress rehearsal, but also allowed for evaluations and constructive criticism to help them make their messages more interesting and alive. On the last morning of the retreat, the group gathered once more for worship and evaluation of how they might better serve the spiritual needs of their fellow students in SAUC.

— *Rosnitha Maidom, SAUC student*

A.Y. Week of Prayer

There is something special about hearing your friends talk about God. March 26-31, students at Southeast Asia Union College experienced this specialness. Throughout the week of spiritual revival, conducted by the SAUC Church AY, eight students spoke to their classmates about God.

"I especially enjoyed the speakers because they are my friends," said Franky Rawis, who studies English at SAUC. "They were easy to listen to as they spoke in terms I understand."

In the Week of Prayer, students of SAUC came to realize that they are no longer the church of the future. They are the church of today.

— *Todd Gessele, SAUC Student*

■ SIGNS OF THE END ■

The SDA Church Relationship to Government

In the January-February 1990 issue of MESSENGER was an article entitled "Maintenance of Religious Harmony in Singapore." The Singapore government had expressed considerable concern regarding the relationship of various religions to government and to other religions. Following is a summary of the Seventh-day Adventist Church view on religious liberty.

Throughout its history, the Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide has been an earnest advocate of civil and religious liberty. While our first and highest duty is to God, the Bible also instructs Christians to be subject to "the powers that be" (Romans 13:1), that is, the civil government.

This dual relationship of loyalty to both God and country was spoken of by Jesus. When His enemies tried to make trouble for Him by asking a difficult question about the Roman government and whether Jews ought to pay taxes, Jesus gave a very wise answer that helps us today when we want to know what to do.

Jesus said, "Render therefore unto Caesar (the government) the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's." (Matthew 22:21). He showed us that we have a duty to God and to His church, and also a duty to an earthly ruler and our government and country. Both are important.

We believe that religious liberty is a God-given right, and hold that it is best exercised where separation is maintained between church and state.

We believe that legislation and other governmental acts that unite church and state are contrary to the best interests of both institutions and are potentially prejudicial to human rights.

We believe that government is divinely ordained to support and protect citizens in their enjoyment of natural rights, and to rule in civil affairs; and that in so doing, government warrants respectful obedience and willing support.

We believe in the natural and inalienable right to freedom of conscience—to have or not to have a religion; to adopt the religion or belief of one's choice; to change religious belief according to conscience; to manifest one's religion individually or in community with others, in worship, observance, practice, promulgation and teaching—subject only to respect for the equivalent rights of others.

We believe that religious liberty includes also the freedom to establish and operate appropriate charitable or educational institutions, to solicit or receive voluntary financial contributions, to observe days of rest and

celebrate holidays in accordance with the precepts of one's religion, and to maintain communication with fellow believers at national and international levels.

We believe that religious liberty and the elimination of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief are essential to promote understanding, peace, and friendship among peoples.

We believe that citizens should use lawful and honorable means to promote and maintain religious liberty, so that all may enjoy its inestimable blessing.

We believe that the spirit of true religious liberty is

epitomized in the golden rule—do unto others as you would have others do unto you.

Ellen G. White summarizes in these words a Seventh-day Adventist Christian's social conduct: "I saw that it is our duty in every case to obey the laws of our land, unless they conflict with the higher law which God spoke with an audible voice from Sinai, and afterward engraved on stone with His own finger." (*Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 361.)

— The Editors

■ HEALTH ■

Why Be Happy?

Dr. Sang Lee was the featured speaker at the Far Eastern Division ASI Convention in Singapore March 13 to 19. During his stay in Singapore, this allergy specialist from Weimar Institute in California (USA), also spoke at Youngberg Adventist Hospital, Southeast Asia Union College, and Balestier Road SDA Church.*

His messages emphasized the love of God and challenged each person to pursue optimal health. The goal of good health is not, he stated, just being healthy for our own sake, but because we love Jesus so much that we want to know Him and work for Him the best we can.

I have often wondered: If we are not happy pursuing optimal health, why should we practice good health principles? True, developing good health habits can be beneficial. But it is best to BE HAPPY following good health practices, and God will bless us abundantly. Both the Bible and science agree on this.

Proverbs 17:22 says, "A merry heart does good like medicine." Dr. Lee stated that science confirms that each time a person smiles or laughs, the endorphin hormone is released in the brain, contributing to a sense of well-being, happiness and peace. Proverbs 15:15 says, "...he who is of a merry heart has a continual feast." When one is happy, God blesses with the endorphin effect to continue this happiness naturally.

"The love which Christ diffuses through the whole being is a vitalizing power. Every vital part—the brain, the heart, the nerves—it touches with healing.... It implants in the soul, joy that nothing earthly can destroy,—joy in

the Holy Spirit,—health-giving, life-giving joy." (*Ministry of Healing*, 115)

"Courage, hope, faith, sympathy, love, promote health and prolong life. A contented mind, a cheerful spirit, is health to the body and strength to the soul." (*Ministry of Healing*, 241)

Dr. Lee emphasized that trust in Divine power (the last "T" in the acronym NEWSTART—the lifestyle change program conducted at Weimar and at Youngberg Adventist Hospital) "is a most important feature necessary to true healing. Simply, it means a person must open up mind and heart to God's love and mercy so His healing power can flow into their lives."

This trust in God has profound effects on both the physical mechanisms of the body and the inner workings of the mind. The Bible and science confirm that this trust in God enables the neuro-hormone endorphin to be released, having a calming effect, restoring sleep, reducing depression, strengthening the immune system, and stabilizing the emotions.

This is why we should BE HAPPY.

— Gerard D. McLane, Director, Wellness Center, YAH

* According to Jonathan Ng, YAH Public Relations Director, over 150 alumni and friends of Youngberg Adventist Hospital's NEWSTART wellness program met to listen to Dr. Sang Lee at the Southeast Asia Union College auditorium on March 14. On the same day, Dr. Lee also held a seminar for hospital staff at the YAH conference room.

Adventist World Radio Reaches into Southeast Asia

Although Southeast Asia Union Mission is not producing programming for the Adventist World Radio broadcasts from Guam, nor are programs beamed directly into the SAUM, letters from listeners throughout the field indicate that AWR is indeed reaching in and having its influence.

During 1989, the AWR headquarters in Guam received letters from all over the SAUM. There were seven from Thailand, nine from Singapore, one from Vietnam, and 776 from Malaysia including at least two from Brunei. This may seem like an insignificant number. The radio industry, however, estimates that there are 600 listeners for each piece of mail. If this estimate is correct, it means that in 1989 there were at least 4,200 listeners in Thailand, 5,400 in Singapore, 1,200 in Vietnam, and 465,600 in Malaysia.

One listener in Singapore reported the shortwave reception was excellent, and requested program schedules for English, Mandarin and Cantonese broadcasts. Another regularly listens to the Bible in Living Sound and Dx Asiawaves news. (Some respondents reported moderate to good reception, with some interference, but found a long wire antenna helpful. If you need help making a simple antenna, write to the Editor of MESSENGER for a copy of the instructions shared by Mr. Alan Steele, Manager of AWR-Guam.)

A third listener from Singapore, after hearing a Voice of Prophecy message about the Ten Commandments,

wrote, "I am one of the many guilty Christians who knows nothing about each of the 10 commandments. But I will try to remember and understand them by heart in the future."

AWR estimates that 30-50 percent of all who write letters about AWR programming also request enrollment in the Bible correspondence course. These listeners are probably people that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is not reaching in any other way.

In the Church's Global Strategy program, four Asian languages have been identified as priority languages for program production. They are Vietnamese, Khmer (Cambodian) and Loj in the SAUM, and Nepali in the Southern Asia Division. Planning for program production is already underway for the Vietnamese and Nepali languages.

AWR Asia in Guam was built with the offering from the last General Conference Session. Worldwide offerings have helped to support it. But there are still tremendous needs not being met in other parts of the world. On March 10, the first of two major offerings was collected for the construction of AWR Europe, reaching out from Italy to Europe, the USSR, the Middle East, southern Asia, and northern Africa. On May 12 is the second major offering for AWR.

AWR reaches where others cannot reach. Help AWR on May 12 and any other time.

***GIVE GENEROUSLY
FOR ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO—
REACHING WHERE YOU CANNOT REACH
May 12, 1990***

■ DEVOTIONAL ■

God's Call

Even the most pleasant job can become boring and distasteful if it lacks meaning. The most difficult and troublesome task can be satisfying if it carries with it deep purpose and significance. This is why the sense of God's call is so important to Christians. With the sense of call comes meaning and joy even in the midst of problems. If that sense of call is missing, even a good salary and steady job can leave one feeling discouraged and frustrated.

John's description of the call of John the Baptist (John 1:6-8) forms a pattern for Christians' thinking about our work and call. John the Baptist's work in preparing the nation of Israel for Jesus' first coming is a type of our task of preparing the world for the second advent of Christ. Three things stand out in this text as being worthy of our thought:

First, it is God who calls. Often Christians forget who they are really working for. Kathy and I received a call through the General Conference to work in Thailand helping to establish a new college. The call, however, didn't really come from the G. C. Neither did it come from the Far Eastern Division, the Southeast Asia Union Mission, or the Thailand Mission. Unless the call came from God, we are in the wrong place! No company, organization—even church organization—is the real ultimate call-giver for the Christian. Only God can really call us. Working for people and impersonal entities always disappoints in the end. If we have the sense of working for God, we can sail on smoothly even when people are unfair to us.

Second, God calls real live individual people. I like the fact that God calls "a man named John," not some nameless, faceless, unknown being. The called one has a name, and that name is known by God. We are not numbers or unknown cogs in a big machine. We are real, named people known and loved by the God who called us. He knows our need and feels our sorrows and cares. He is the one who ultimately approves our work, and He knows our hearts and our love for Him.

Third, God calls real people to witness to the light. We are not asked to do something impossible. We are called to be "witnesses to the light." All we need to do is see the light and bear witness to it. Witnesses are not asked to be clever or creative but to bear faithful witness to the truth we have experienced. Some people begin to think that they are the light, and bear witness to themselves rather than to the light. This is dangerous. True witnesses never confuse themselves with the light, but are merely witnesses to it.

If we who are God's family in Southeast Asia can accept our heritage as God-called faithful witnesses to the light, what a powerful force for God we can be. A deep sense of meaning and purpose will flood our lives, and each day can be a day lived for the glory of God.

— Jon Dybdahl, Vice President, Mission College, Thailand

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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: (65)284 7757

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Layout & Printing by Southeast Asia Publishing House