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July/August 1990

The 55th General Conference

The first General Conference session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church opened in Battle Creek, Michigan on May 20, 1863. Twenty delegates represented seven states—New York, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. The 1863 session took place in a church measuring 28' by 42', with separate entrances for men and women.

For the 55th General Conference session, held July 5-14, 1990, approximately 2,400 delegates travelled from nearly 180 countries of the world to the Hoosier Dome in Indianapolis, Indiana (USA). The delegates to the 1990 General Conference nearly equalled the total church membership at the time of the 1863 session. Thousands of visitors on Sabbaths brought the total attendance to approximately 40,000.

Many delegates took the opportunity to upgrade ministerial and administrative skills during the ministerial pre-session. The business session began on Thursday afternoon, July 5, with a devotional message by George Rice, associate secretary of the Ellen G. White Estate. He spoke on the outpouring of God's Spirit.

On Friday, July 6, the nominating committee, made up of over 200 administrators, pastors and lay members, examined issues affecting the selection of a world leader for the church.

Many expected the reselection of Elder Neal Wilson, who has served for approximately 12 years as a strong leader. Seventh-day Adventists as well as leaders outside the church have known him as a church statesman and as

We Shall Behold Him

Music by Wintley Phipps
Words by Wintley Phipps, Marianne Scriven, James Bingham

Arranged by
Shelton E. Kilby III

1. We shall be-hold Him, com-ing in His glo-ry. We shall be-hold Him, our
2. We shall be-hold Him in that bless-ed morn-ing. We shall be-hold Him when
3. We shall be-hold Him, crowned in light and splen-dor. We shall be-hold Him, our

Sa-vior and King. With all the an-gels, we will sound His prai-ses,
praise lights the sky. With saints vic-to-rious, we will sound His prai-ses,
praise lift-ed high. With all the an-gels, we will sound His prai-ses,

1. 2.
Sing-ing the cho-rus, Ho-san-na ev-er-more.
Sing-ing the cho-rus, Ho-san-na ev-er-more.
Sing-ing the cho-rus, Ho-san-na ev-er-more.

3.
san-na ev-er-more. Ho-san-na ev-er-more.

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a skillful and articulate representative of the SDA Church.

However, by Friday evening, the nominating committee had chosen Elder Robert Folkenberg as the new president. At age 49, he is the youngest General Conference president since A. G. Daniells, 89 years ago. Since 1901,

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Precious Moments with Prayer

Part 2 – How Do We Pray?

In my prayer seminars during the past two or three years, one of the most frequently asked questions has been, "Is it o.k. to pray to Jesus?"

Although I don't have all the answers, I would like to bring out some Bible and Spirit of Prophecy quotations on the subject. Hopefully these will help you to make your own decision.

"Christ's lessons in regard to prayer should be carefully considered. There is a divine science in prayer, and His illustration brings to view principles that all need to understand. He shows what is the true spirit of prayer, He teaches the necessity of perseverance in presenting our requests to God, and assures us of His willingness to hear and answer prayer" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 142).

Here Mrs. White brings out that there is a "divine science" in prayer. In both of the examples that Jesus gave us in the Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6:9 and Luke 11:2), He started His prayer with, "Our Father."

**"Jesus says, Make use of My Name,
and it will be your passport to the
heart of my Father, and to all
the riches of His grace."**

(In Heavenly Places)

I think these statements also shed some light on the subject:

"In order to strengthen our confidence in God, Christ teaches us to address Him by a new name, a name entwined with the dearest associations of the human heart. He gives us the privilege of calling the infinite God our Father. This name, spoken to Him and of Him, is a sign of our love and trust toward Him, and a pledge of His regard and relationship toward us. Spoken when asking His favor or blessing, it is as music in His ears. That we might not think it presumption to call Him by this name, He has repeated it again and again. He desires us to become familiar with the appellation" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 141, 142).

Did you catch the part about, "Spoken when asking His favor or blessing, it is as music in His ears?" Even though my two older daughters are now grown, there is no sweeter sound than to hear one of my girls call me "Daddy." It is music to my ears. I can't imagine how it must make God feel. Mrs. White also says, "That we might not think it presumption to call Him by this name,

**"It is through the name of Jesus
that every favor is received.
God will honor that name,
and will supply your necessities
from the riches of His liberality."**

(Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing, p. 133)

He has repeated it again and again." God wants us to feel comfortable with that name.

Interestingly, in the Bible I can't find any place where Jesus tells us to pray to Him, "Dear Jesus." Let's look at John 16:23-24. Jesus says, "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full" (New King James version).

Then in John 14:12-14 we read, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." (NKJ)

In both these texts we find that Jesus tells us to ask the Father in His name, and what we ask for will be done. He says "That the Father may be glorified in the Son." So here Jesus adds another part to our prayer. Now He is telling us to pray to our Father in His (Jesus') name.

Mrs. White also brings out in *Christ's Object Lessons* (p. 147) that we need to pray by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

"We must not only pray in Christ's name, but by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This explains what is meant when it is said that the Spirit 'maketh intercession for us, with groanings which cannot be uttered.' Rom. 8:26. Such prayer God delights to answer. When with earnestness and intensity we breathe a prayer in the name of Christ, there is in that very intensity a pledge from God that He is about to answer our prayer 'exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.' Eph. 3:20."

Isn't this a beautiful promise!

— Rayburn Smith

The 55th General Conference — cont'd from page 1

he is the first to come to office directly from the conference level.

Elder Folkenberg has spent 30 years in InterAmerica, and speaks Spanish fluently. Born in Puerto Rico of missionary parents, he later moved with his family to Cuba. After graduating from Andrews University, he and his wife Anita left for Panama. He eventually became president of the Central American Union Mission, and then assistant to the president of the InterAmerican Division. Most recently, he has been serving as president of the Carolina Conference (USA). He is a fourth-generation SDA minister, and his son, Robert, is also a pastor.



Other General Conference (GC) officers selected at the session included Elder G. Ralph Thomson, reappointed as secretary, and Elder Don Gilbert, reelected as treasurer.

Several Far Eastern Division (FED) workers received calls to serve at the GC headquarters. Elder Larry Colburn will replace Elder Don Roth, who just retired as an associate secretary of the GC. Miss Rowena Rick, who was undertreasurer of the FED, has gone to the GC as an associate treasurer. Dr. Charles Griffin has gone from the FED Church Ministries department to serve as an associate in the same department at the GC.

From the Far Eastern Division, 200 delegates represented their unions and churches. From among these, 26 served as the FED "caucus," which proposed names of FED leaders and departmental directors to serve for the next five years. First selected was the president, Dr. Ottis Edwards, who has already served as FED president for the past five years.

Other FED officers and departmental directors selected at the General Conference include: Secretary, T. C. Kim; Treasurer, Ian Grice; Auditor, Barrie N. Collins; Church Ministries, David Wong; Communications, G. Ray James; Education, Shozo Tabuchi; Health/Temperance, Kathleen Kuntaraf; Ministerial Association, Violeto F. Bocala; Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, Minoru Inada; Publishing, Russell C. Thomas; Trust Services, Peter Foo.

Assistant and associate directors of the various departments were selected by the same FED caucus.

In addition to the selection of church leaders, the session included the transaction of church business. One significant action was the formation of the Union of

Soviet Socialist Republic Division as the eleventh world division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It has five union conferences and more than 35,000 members. Leaders from the USSR told of thousands of baptisms held on May 26. There and in many of the newly opened nations of Eastern Europe, people appear to be very responsive to the gospel.

The topic of Global Strategy pinpointed 1,800 population segments of one million or more people which have no Adventist presence, and often not even a Christian presence. The Global

Strategy plan asked the Church to commit itself to penetrating 180 of these groups yearly, thereby reaching all 1,800 groups by the year 2000.

The ordination of women was another major discussion item at the session. Although the church emphasized the importance of women's role and the increasing numbers of women now holding administrative positions in the church, the world church voted approximately 3 to 1 not to ordain women to the gospel ministry. Even so, it is vital that the Seventh-day Adventist Church use each member—regardless of race, sex, color, or any other distinction—in finishing the gospel commission.

Other discussions centered around Sabbath observance, the Spirit of Prophecy counsel, ordination of deaconesses, and the number of delegates for General Conference sessions.

One of the most colorful and interesting aspects of the General Conference was the evening reports by the various world divisions. Talented musicians from all around the globe presented vocal and instrumental music, truly a foretaste of heaven.

Throughout the 55th General Conference session, the theme "We shall behold Him" came through in the theme song and in the messages. Living as we do at earth's final hour, we may well be those members of God's church who will behold Him. If we are willing to accept the direction, the control, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, the work can be finished in our day.

Let us pray that before the 56th General Conference session, scheduled for 1995 in Utrecht, Holland, "we shall behold Him." What a grand reunion we will have in Heaven when the Lord Jesus returns.

— George C. Johnson, President, SAUM

Transitions

Since the previous issue of *MESSENGER*, several changes in SAUM staff have transpired. Two SAUM workers received calls to other posts during the recent General Conference session in Indianapolis. Another worker has recently joined the SAUM staff.

Dr. David Wong joined the SAUM staff in January 1987 as the Church Ministries Director. Then, when Pastor Geoffrey Pauner left the SAUM to serve in the Singapore Mission in 1988, Dr. Wong took on the additional responsibilities of Educational Director for the Union. At General Conference time, he received a call to serve in the Far Eastern Division as Church Ministries Director. He assumed his new duties on August 1. Although he is no longer on the staff, the SAUM family can continue to look forward to seeing him frequently as his work at the Division brings him into SAUM activities from time to time.

Mrs. Evelyn Griffin came to Singapore in August 1985, when her husband received a call to serve at the Far Eastern Division. She began work as a secretary in the Union office. In December 1987, however, the SAUM Committee appointed her to serve as the Assistant Church Ministries Director for home and family and for child evangelism. She has also been serving as Shepherdess Coordinator for the SAUM. At the 1990 General Conference session, her husband, Dr. Charles Griffin, received a call to the General Conference Church Ministries Department. The Griffins left Singapore on August 9.

A newcomer to the SAUM staff is Pastor Samuel Money. He joins the SAUM as the Voice of Prophecy Director. Even before he and his family moved to Singapore in mid-August, Pastor Money was busy building up the VOP correspondence school. He has been most enthusiastic in his promotion of individuals sponsoring VOP students. He has set high goals for student enrollment and for follow-up by sponsors, and has been putting a lot of energy into making these goals a reality.

Prior to coming to the SAUM, Pastor Money was the Church Ministries Director of the Peninsular Malaysia Mission, where he has been active in evangelistic work. Coming to Singapore with Pastor Money are his wife, Mary, his son and daughter, Timothy and Christie, and his mother.

— Marilyn Johnson, *MESSENGER* staff



SAUM Publishing Department Shows Gains

A recent report from Mr. Rayburn "Buddy" Smith, the SAUM Publishing Department Director, is very positive. In virtually all areas, the SAUM Publishing Department is growing. Baptisms have multiplied many times; the number of literature evangelists and leaders is up. Sales have increased an average of 10% during the first six months of 1990. The Southeast Asia Publishing House is actively developing new literature for sale by the colporteurs.

The table below shows some of the differences between the first six months of 1989 and the first six months of 1990:

	1989	1990	Difference	Percent Increase
No of L.E.'s	82	109	27	33%
No of leaders	7	10	3	43%
Baptisms	8	128	120	1500%
Sales	S\$314.029	344.723	30,693	10%

In Thailand, L.E.'s have seen 107 of their contacts baptized in the first six months of this year. Elsewhere in the Union, Peninsular Malaysia has reported 12 baptisms and Sabah has reported 9 baptisms this year from literature evangelists' efforts. This is a total of 128 L.E. contacts baptized already.

Continue to pray that God will bless the publishing ministry in Southeast Asia.

— George C. Johnson, *President, SAUM*

SAUM Sells Part of Campus

The Southeast Asia Union Mission recently sold a portion of its compound. The land disposed of, about three acres, was located at the back of the campus, farthest from Upper Serangoon Road. It included vacant land as well as some staff housing.

The SAUM has set up the proceeds of the sale as a Capital/Endowment Fund to benefit the various institutions and organizations of the Union. The first recipients of funding from this sale are SDA School and Southeast Asia Union College, both undergoing redevelopment on the same campus in Singapore.

— C. Y. Wu, *Secretary, SAUM*

■ PENINSULAR MALAYSIA ■

PAH Celebrates First Anniversary of Hemodialysis Unit

On March 15, the staff and patients of the Hemodialysis Unit at Penang Adventist Hospital celebrated the first birthday of its official opening.

During the past year, 39 patients have received dialysis on one of the four machines which PAH acquired at minimum cost through generous donations from individuals, foundations, or companies.

Hospital staff have been happy to see patients with acute kidney failure return to normal health and no longer need continuing treatment, after receiving temporary life support from the hemodialysis unit. One patient, a French tourist, was bitten by a sea serpent and became desperately ill before doctors recognized her plight and sent her to the PAH dialysis unit. Although communication was sometimes difficult because of language barriers, her demonstrations of joy and gratitude over her healing were readily understandable.

Some former PAH dialysis patients have received successful kidney transplants and now no longer need dialysis.

Not all transplant patients have been so fortunate, however. Some have gone through the expense and trauma of kidney transplant operations in other hospitals, only to have their bodies reject the graft. These come to PAH in need of the dialysis treatments in order to survive.

Occasionally people from elsewhere in Malaysia visit Penang on holiday or on business, but need to have regular dialysis. They find it convenient to use the PAH dialysis unit for their temporary treatment.

At present, 17 patients are having regular hemodialysis at PAH. They receive treatment once, twice, or even three times a week, as their conditions require.

— Dr. Walter Ray Chapman,
Internal Medicine Specialist, PAH

In Prison, and He Visited Me

When See See Kuan was a little boy, his sister took him to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Kuala Lumpur. He learned about Jesus, and eventually this led to his baptism into the Chinese Church there.

When his sister left for Singapore to further her studies, See Kuan drifted from the church. In his personal testimony, he said that he drifted from Christ, too. He started to lead a life of sin because he felt that life had no meaning nor hope.

See Kuan began searching for peace, riches and honor. He became involved in criminal activities. Eventually the police arrested him. For his crimes, See Kuan went to jail.

By then, his wife and children had deserted him. See Kuan felt sad and lonely. He began blaming himself for everything.

While in prison, See Kuan began to see his life in retrospect. One day, while trying to come to terms with his guilt, he heard a voice calling his name. The voice seemed to tell him to give up his rebellious ways and follow Christ. He knew that the voice belonged to Jesus.

That experience became the turning point in See Kuan's life. He started attending prison chapel exercises. Gradually, his fellow inmates saw a change in his life and character. He became kind and courteous, and showed goodness to all.

See Kuan completed his prison sentence on September 28, 1989. On the day of his release, his sister, Mrs. Eunice Lee, and some Christian friends received him as he stepped out of the prison door.

Pastor John Lee Kam Hong, See Kuan's brother-in-law, rebaptized him on March 31, 1990. Today See Kuan has finally found peace and joy in Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Although all that has happened has been "a painful experience," See Kuan says, "I have learned to accept it calmly because Jesus gives me the strength each day to live a life for Him."

Having Jesus in his life adds "so much meaning to living." And today See Kuan is very active in the work of the church, sharing the joy that Jesus has given to him.

— Samuel Money, VOP Director, SAUM



Two nurses and three technicians from the hemodialysis unit, along with Dr. Robert C. Rosenquist, a relief physician, take part in the anniversary celebrations.

Pathfinders Active in PEM

About 200 Pathfinders from various clubs throughout the Peninsular Malaysia Mission participated in a Pathfinder Camporee held in Kajang on April 26-29.

The camporee included a variety of activities, including games, competitions, singing, devotional talks, marching, and cultural dance. Pathfinders also had an exhibition of club crafts in the meeting hall.

Pastor Simon Siew, Youth Director of PEM, organized the camporee, with the help of many pastors, club directors and laymen.



Children of Puchong are happy to have a Pathfinder Club in their village.

In the Kuala Lumpur area, the Petaling Jaya Chinese Church organized a Vacation Bible School in the little town of Puchong. About 100 of the village children attended during the school holidays in June.

Soon after the VBS ended, church leaders organized a Pathfinder club for the youth who had attended the VBS. More than 80 new Pathfinders came for the first club meeting, held at the Puchong town hall.

Bible worker Jenssen New and Pastor John Lee, with help from local church members, organized these programs to enter the little town of Puchong.

— Samuel Money, Church Ministries Director, PEM

Working Out Sabbath Exam Problems

For the past several months, the Peninsular Malaysia Mission has worked closely with the two examination boards of Malaysia concerning the scheduling of school examinations on the Sabbath.

Recently the Director General of the Malaysian Examination Syndicate gave a written assurance that during the annual Higher School Certificate (STPM) examinations, the science, mathematics, Malay language and humanities subjects will not fall on Sabbath.

The PEM is also working closely with the Malaysian Examination Board, which conducts the Lower Certificate Examination (SPM). Although the board has not replied officially to the Mission request, last year there were no compulsory subjects scheduled on Sabbath.

Unfortunately, the 1990 Lower School Certificate Examination (SRP) has scheduled two subjects—Chinese and Commerce—for the Sabbath. Although these two are not compulsory subjects, the inability of dedicated Seventh-day Adventist young people to sit for these two examinations will seriously jeopardize their results, particularly in the case of marginal students. One difficulty is that students are not informed at the beginning of their high school studies regarding which subjects will have examinations on Sabbath. Therefore they cannot choose alternative subjects in which they could study.

Both examination bodies cite time constraints as their reasons for holding examinations on Sabbath. The exams are scheduled for a period of three weeks, including two Saturdays.

Church pastors have been advised to inform their members to plan their courses to avoid subjects with examinations on Sabbath. Members are also requested to continue to pray for this issue of examinations on Sabbath.

— Lim Cheng Beng, Secretary-Treasurer, PEM

■ SABAH ■

Sabah Churches Active in Vacation Bible Schools

Earlier this year, the Sabah Mission actively promoted the Vacation Bible School idea in every church. As a result, a total of 20 churches conducted VBS pro-

grams during the school holidays in May. Five of these were in churches which had not previously held Vacation Bible Schools.

Children came from various races, backgrounds and religions. Some came from homes which are still pagan.

The Sinsibon church had never held a VBS before.

This year while some of the church members conducted the Vacation Bible School, other laymen held a lay evangelistic effort. As a result, four children were baptized at the end of the programs.

In Sabah, the VBS program has proven to be one of the most effective ways of planting seeds of truth in the hearts of these young ones. They seem very receptive to the lessons taught to them each day. VBS is also a way to reach out to the non-Adventist parents.



The Ulu Tungku church "graduated" its first VBS students this May.

At the close of the VBS programs, parents and friends came to watch their children present special songs, recite Bible texts, and receive tokens and certificates. Afterwards, a pot-luck meal gave SDA parents the opportunity to associate and make friends with the non-Adventist parents.

Many parents expressed their gratitude to leaders and teachers who carried out the programs. In some cases, the programs have brought backslidden parents into the church again. In other cases, non-Adventist parents have become interested in knowing more about Adventism, so lay members are following up these interests by visiting and giving Bible studies.

The Sabah Mission is encouraging more and more Vacation Bible Schools during the coming school holidays to plant more seeds of truth in the hearts of the children and to bring more souls into Christ's kingdom.

— Jupitah Lim, Church Ministries Department,
Sabah Mission

The Lord Works in Mysterious Ways

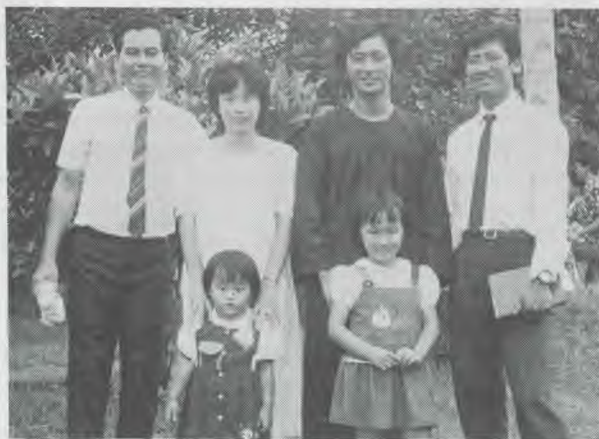
It is common in Christian circles to hear someone say, "The Lord works in mysterious ways." This could well be said again in a recent experience of Pastor Martin Yaang, the Menggatal district pastor in Sabah.

Many years ago, when he was the Goshen district pastor, Pastor Yaang conducted an evangelistic effort at the Bandau Chinese Church. As a result, four members of one Chinese family chose to be baptized into the SDA faith. One member of the family was a 12-year-old girl. She has since grown up and married, and is now Mrs. Wong Min Kiong.

Soon after the crusade, Pastor Yaang was transferred to another district, and through the years has moved to various pastorates and departments in the Sabah Mission. While serving as the Publishing Department Director, he travelled throughout Sabah working with the literature evangelists.

In February this year, he went to the east coast town of Tawau to work with the local literature evangelist. The district pastor, Escend Chong, knowing Pastor Yaang was coming to that area, requested him to conduct a baptism on the Sabbath that he was to be in Tawau.

That Sabbath came, and Pastor Yaang was at the Tawau church. A young lady approached him and asked if he recognized her. He did not. She then introduced herself as Mrs. Wong, and reminded him of her baptism many years before. He was surprised and happy to meet her again after so long. She then said that her husband was the candidate for baptism on that day, and that she was happy that Pastor Yaang was going to baptize him.



Mr. Wong Min Kiong and his family, along with Pastor Martin Yaang (left) and Pastor Escend Chong (right), rejoice on the day of Mr. Wong's baptism.

Pastor Yaang's reaction was one of happiness, too. There in that same town he had baptized a young girl so long before, and now he had the opportunity to baptize her husband as well. Indeed, the Lord does work in mysterious and wonderful ways.

— Martin Yaang, Menggatal District Pastor

■ SARAWAK ■

Harvest Sabbaths Bring Firstfruits

One of the major annual events in the yearly cycle of Israel's life was the harvest ceremony. It was rich in meaning and symbolism, providing lessons which extend to our day. But what has happened to these meaningful ceremonies in our modern round of events?

In Sarawak, where most Seventh-day Adventist Church members still live according to the "rice cycle," the ancient events of firstfruits and harvest still have deep significance.

As harvest time approaches, church members bring their firstfruits—usually small baskets or bags of the new grain—to the church to present to the Lord their first and best. In a special ceremony, all the farmers come and place their firstfruits on the communion table, and the pastor prays a very special prayer of thanks to the Lord of the harvests, and asks God's blessing on the full harvest. Following the Hebrew system, the value of these firstfruits is receipted into the tithe fund for the support of the ministers.

When the harvest is completed, usually by the end of April, the churches plan their Harvest Sabbaths. Members gaily adorn the churches with harvest decorations. Then on Friday afternoon they bring their tithes and thank offerings to the church, piling them before the pulpit.

The whole Harvest Sabbath is a round of thanksgiving and praise, climaxed when a representative from each family comes forward for a very special commitment ceremony. They participate in a responsive reading, recognizing God as the giver of all, and themselves as His stewards. Aware that God's promises and blessings are conditional, they promise their faithfulness and obedience to Him.

Finally each family representative presents again a small basket or bag of grain—this time full of the seeds for the next planting. Accepting their position as co-laborers with God, who alone performs the miracles of sprouting and budding, they bow in reverence as the pastor offers a solemn prayer of gratefulness for the harvest, reconsecrating the farmers to the Spiritual Gardener, and asking His blessing upon the seeds to be planted to start the new cycle. (II Cor. 9:10)

This year, members brought in 4.5 tons of tithe rice during the Harvest Sabbaths. In several churches where the Harvest Sabbath ceremony was being held for the first time, the tithe collected on that one Sabbath was more than the annual tithe for the same church for the previous year! In all churches where the people enter wholeheartedly into the Harvest Sabbath celebration, the

overall spirituality of the church has grown and has been reflected in significant increases in stewardship.

— Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

Seminar Held for Village Chiefs

In the State of Sarawak, nearly 70 villages have Seventh-day Adventist chiefs. These men and women have been playing a very important role in exerting a definite influence upon the citizens of Sarawak. They are, however, constantly faced with situations which tempt and try them on points of principles and doctrines.

When a government officer calls for all chiefs in a certain area to come to a meeting on Sabbath, what should the Adventist chiefs do? In an eastern culture where not eating or drinking what is offered is considered an insult or offence, how can one justify his refusal to accept unclean food or strong drinks? When a political campaigner plans to come to the SDA village on Sabbath afternoon, just how should the chief handle the situation?

To address these and other problems, the Sarawak Mission recently conducted a one-day seminar at Ayer Manis School for about 75 Adventist chiefs, penghulus (above the chiefs) and church leaders.

The group spent the morning discussing the various problems and searching the Scriptures for answers. At 11:30 a.m., a number of state and local government officials, politicians and departmental heads came for a "model SDA dinner" followed by a dialogue. The guest of honor, Yang Berhormat Dr. George Chan, Special Assistant to the Chief Minister, was so interested in the event that he offered to pay for the entire lunch.

After the meal, church leaders presented a concise statement of SDA views and beliefs on church-state relations, Sabbath importance and observance, healthful lifestyle, and integrity. After a lively discussion, Dr. Chan gave an official response speech. He expressed that it would be well to have more such dialogues in order to prevent misunderstandings on both sides.

The Sarawak Mission plans to conduct similar seminars in various parts of Sarawak so that all the Adventist chiefs may benefit from the instruction and may seek counsel from those who can help them.

— Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

Pasir Church Dedicated

On August 4, Sarawak Mission workers and Pastor George Johnson, SAUM president, dedicated the new church at Pasir, near the town of Serian.

The Pasir Church had its beginnings in 1933. Pastor A. L. Pauner, from Indonesia, pastored the area's first church, constructed at the foot of Stebun Hill. Because the area was infested with malaria, the church later moved to a much higher location along the Kuching-Serian Road.

In the early 1940's, a new pastor, A. J. Pohan, came in. Membership increased, with new members coming in from the recently-entered villages of Kakai and Pasir-Stebun. The church continued to grow, and nearby Ayer Manis became an SDA educational center.

With the increase of membership farther from the church, it was difficult for many of the old and young to come for services. In 1967, the Sarawak Mission, then under the leadership of Richard Hall, approved the construction of a church in Pasir Village. Church members donated wood and asbestos roofing for the new church, and did the building themselves.

As years passed, Pasir Village grew, and so did the church membership. The church became more and more crowded, until in 1980 the members felt that a larger church was necessary. In 1985 construction began again, on the site of the former Pasir Church. Once again many members donated materials and labor to build a beautiful church in which to worship.

At the service on August 4, Pastor George Johnson

preached the sermon of dedication and Pastor Daniel Walter, Sarawak Mission president, gave the dedicatory prayer. Church members and visitors enjoyed the fellowship of a pot-luck lunch after the dedication.

— Stanley Boncho Dile,
Pasir SDA Church Project Coordinator

Farewells in Sarawak

Ayer Manis School and the Sarawak Mission bid farewell to Pastor Robert Burton and his wife June on May 27. For the past two and a half years, Pastor Burton has served as Education Department Director for the Mission, and has conducted the Seminary course at Ayer Manis School to train young pastors. Mrs. Burton has been teaching English and caring for the school library.

The Burtons have spent 18 years in mission service, both in the Far Eastern Division and in the Southern Asia Division. They found it necessary to return to Canada because of Mrs. Burton's health. Pastor Burton will be pastoring in Canada.

On June 12, Mrs. Evangeline Ten, who has been doing the accounting for the Sarawak Mission, left for the Philippines to get her MBA degree. Her young son has accompanied her, but her husband has had to remain in Sarawak due to his work with the government.

— Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

■ SINGAPORE ■

SDA School Holds Treasurethon

The Seventh-day Adventist School, with help from two chapters of the Singapore Jaycees, organized a "Treasurethon" to raise funds for the new school building to be constructed next year.

On July 22, about 200 students and church members took part in this event held at Sentosa Island, just off the coast of Singapore. During the morning, the group took part in a large "treasure hunt." The approximately 50 teams had to go to each of the five checkpoints. At each checkpoint, officials gave them a question about that particular area of the island. The team which successfully answered all five questions in the shortest time was declared winner. William Wee, a Dunman Road Church member led the winning team, made up of

former SDA School students.

In another category, the highest fund raiser was Mrs. Irene Ng, a teacher at SDA School, who had brought in S\$2,000. Students, staff and friends of SDA School had been collecting funds for several weeks prior to the Treasurethon. By July 22, they had accumulated a total of S\$26,000.

Lunch was provided for all participants in the day's activities. The Treasurethon ended with a speech by Mr. Michael Lim, principal of SDA School, and with the distribution of prizes.

— Howard Huang, SAUC Student

Adventist 5-Day Plan Featured in Government Anti-Smoking Campaign

In cooperation with the Department of Training and Health Education of the Singapore Ministry of Health, Youngberg Adventist Hospital (YAH) held three 5-day stop smoking programs during the month of May.

The Singapore Broadcasting Corporation (SBC) provided television coverage for these programs in both English and Mandarin. To attract as many viewers as possible, SBC aired the six-minute programs during prime time for a period of five days in each language.

Several Youngberg Adventist Hospital personnel were involved in the programs. Dr. Charles Loo, Dr. Fred Lam and Dr. Dave McFadden, all on the YAH medical staff, and Pastor Jonathan Ng, YAH chaplain and public relations officer, were the speakers for the Mandarin television programs. Dr. Gerard McLane, director of health education at YAH, and Dr. McFadden were the speakers for the English programs.

In addition to the television broadcasts, the local newspaper, the *Straits Times*, gave the smoking cessation programs detailed coverage. Three days before the English program began on TV, the newspaper ran one full page, headed SMOKE-FREE WEEK '90. Picturing Drs. McLane and McFadden, one article told about the 5-day plan. Another article featured a local singer who has stopped smoking. Also included were tips on how to call it quits, a questionnaire, "Why do you smoke?" and another called "My smoking patterns."

During the days the English program was televised, the newspaper again ran full-page coverage of the "FEEL GOOD, LOOK GOOD, QUIT SMOKING" series. These included additional information and encouragement for those trying to break the habit. The slogan also appeared on banners in shopping centers and food stalls around the city.



Dr. McLane helps secondary school students to quit smoking.

Along with the televised stop-smoking programs, Dr. McLane and Dr. McFadden conducted two other smoking cessation programs. One was at the Singapore Armed Forces Reservists Association Building, and the other at Bowen Secondary School. The school program spread over a two-week period. At the graduation ceremony, 23 of the 35 participating students had achieved success. They pledged in front of the whole school body to remain smoke-free.

The programs kept YAH personnel busy throughout the month of May. The events aptly concluded on May 31, the day that the World Health Organization had declared as "World No Tobacco Day."

— Gerard McLane, Director, YAH Wellness Center

YAH Introduces New Dentist



Dr. Dee Golles, DDS, joined the Youngberg Adventist Hospital staff in May. Dr. Golles graduated from Loma Linda University School of Dentistry in 1980.

Following his graduation, he worked among the native Indians along the coast of British Columbia. For the past eight years,

he has been in private dental practice at Williams Lake in British Columbia, Canada.

His wife, Sandi, is a nurse and holds a Master of Public Health degree from Loma Linda University School of Public Health. Dr. and Mrs. Golles have three sons, Jeremy, 7; Josiah, 6; and Jonathan, 3.

Dr. Golles has expressed his appreciation for the family spirit among hospital staff, and is looking forward to a rewarding experience working in Singapore.

— Jonathan Ng, Public Relations Director, YAH

Revelation Seminar Attracts Interests

A Revelation Seminar, begun at the Sea View Hotel from March 22 to April 20, and completed at the Dunman Road Church from April 27 to May 18, attracted a total of 44 persons.

Dr. Charles Griffin, at that time the Church Ministries Director of the Far Eastern Division, spoke every Thursday, Friday, and Sabbath evening during the Sea View Hotel meetings. Pastor Michael Ho, then Dunman Road Church pastor, carried on the seminar from April 27 until its conclusion in mid-May.

As a result of the seminar, 14 people expressed serious interest in the message. A secondary school student, brought to the meetings by his sister, requested Bible studies. He was baptized on June 30. Others are also receiving follow-up by Dunman Road Church members.

— Michael Ho, Pastor, Youngberg SDA Church

L.E.'s Take Time for Fellowship

Although the sky was dark and raindrops were falling, 22 literature evangelists, leaders and their families would not let the weather dampen their spirits on their May 20 outing to the Singapore Zoological Gardens.

The Publishing Department of the Singapore Adventist Mission had planned the day for relaxation, fun and fellowship.

Members of the group rode the tram around the zoo, walked around for a better view, and watched the animal shows. As they did, they marvelled at the power of God in His creation of the variety of animals created for mankind to enjoy and appreciate.

— Samuel Siew, Publishing Director, SAM

■ SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION COLLEGE ■

Mrs. Knapp Visiting from WWC

Mrs. Lucile Knapp, visiting teacher from Walla Walla College, arrived June 26 to teach religion subjects during third quarter 1990. While at SAUC, Mrs. Knapp taught Gospels I (Matthew), Parables of Jesus, Sermon on the Mount, and History of the English Bible.

August 24 marked the completion of Mrs. Knapp's 29th year of teaching. She began as an English teacher at Walla Walla, but later cared for the full Greek language program there, in addition to teaching some religion classes.

Mrs. Knapp officially retires from active service on September 15. "There are so many things I want to do," she says with the ever-present sparkle in her eyes. She loves reading and talking about ideas. She would like "to study [US President Abraham] Lincoln for the first six months," then read more about the life of a famous American Indian woman. She also desires to spend time with her grandchildren. Mrs. Knapp, a widow for the past 21 years, has five sons and two daughters.

Mrs. Knapp commented that her brief stay at SAUC was "the frosting on the cake of an academic career."

— Marilyn Johnson, MESSENGER staff

SAUC Singers Go on Tour

On June 9, during the school holidays, the SAUC Singers left Singapore for Malaysia. The 20-member choir travelled to Kuala Lumpur (Peninsular Malaysia) and to Sabah as part of its promotional tour for Southeast Asia Union College.

The group includes SAUC students as well as church members. According to Mr. Matthew Hutabarat, choir director and teacher at SAUC, the purpose of the trip was to promote SAUC among the young people in the places they visited. He felt that the trip achieved what the choir set out to do.

Plans for the tour began last year. The choir raised most of the funds for the trip by holding a concert on May 26 at SAUC, entitled "Worthy Is the Lamb."

The SAUC Singers gave their first performance in Kuala Lumpur, then flew from there to Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. The choir sang at Sabah Adventist Secondary School and at Goshen Secondary School during chapel periods. They also gave concerts in several churches during Sabbath and vesper services. The choir had to turn down many other invitations due to time constraints.

— Zul Rejab, SAUC student

College Adds Desktop Publishing to Curriculum

With the dawn of the computer age have come new and modern innovations. One of the latest in the market today is the Desktop Publisher (DTP). In line with plans to expand the computer lab, the Computer Science Department of SAUC plans to introduce desktop publishing.

Desktop publishing is actually a technical term for a software package which allows for special functions. Ordinary packages such as WordPerfect, Lotus 123, Wordstar and Database allow for text processing and extensive graphic capabilities.

The DTP software offers the same functions and more. According to Pastor Pham Kow Seng, head of the Computer Science Department, DTP further allows for the designing of layout style. "You can change the fonts required, cut and paste, and do a whole lot of things that ordinary word processing softwares are not capable of," he commented.

The college has already purchased the DTP software, DrawPerfect, which is compatible with WordPerfect. Along with the DTP software, the college will also purchase a laser printer, which produces a highly accurate and fine image.

A two-credit-hour class in desktop publishing is scheduled for early in 1991. The Office Administration Department plans to reduce the shorthand requirements to eight credits and make desktop publishing a requirement for all Office Ad majors. According to Dr. Ralph Jones, Academic Dean, this class will also be open to other students.

— Patrick Stephen Jaswan, SAUC Student

SAUC Holds Homecoming Weekend, Honors Former Leaders

Southeast Asia Union College held its annual alumni homecoming on August 3-5. Highlights of the weekend were the Cultural Concert and the International Food Fair, both organized by the SAUC Student Association.

The Cultural Concert included cultural dances and songs from various countries, and even skits showing the traditional Chinese and Indian wedding ceremonies.

The International Food Fair on Sunday was the joint effort of students and college faculty. They

worked long hours to prepare foods from around the world for the fund-raising event.

As a part of the homecoming activities each year, the Alumni Association honors one or more outstanding alumni. This year, the Association chose to honor Pastor and Mrs. Daniel



Tan for their excellent leadership and their continued interest in the college.

Pastor Tan took two years of junior college studies at the Malayan Seminary (now SAUC), then went to Sarawak in 1939 to teach at Sunny Hill School. After the war, he returned to Singapore and began to teach at the Malayan Seminary when it reopened its doors.

In March 1949 he married Maggie Low, and they went to Philippine Union College to study. Upon their return in 1951, both taught at SDA School. Later, he became registrar then acting principal of SDA School. In 1964, the Tans went to Andrews University, where both graduated with honors, Pastor Tan with an MA in administration, and Mrs. Tan with a BA in secretarial science.

Returning to Southeast Asia, Pastor Tan served simultaneously as President of SAUC and principal of SDA School for several years. During that time, Mrs. Tan was SAUC registrar, secretary to the president, and full-time secretarial science teacher and department chairperson. At year-end 1975, Pastor Tan was appointed Secretary of the Southeast Asia Union Mission, and in 1977 he and his wife moved to the USA.

During this year's Homecoming ceremonies, the Alumni Association gave Pastor and Mrs. Tan a pewter plaque and a clock in appreciation for their outstanding service and their continued interest in the college. In response, the Tans presented a check totalling US\$3,250 from their family for the SAUC Endowment Fund.

Alumni Association officers for 1990 are Jonathan Ng, president, Chaplain and Public Relations Officer at Youngberg Adventist Hospital; Dolly Goh, vice president, Sales Unit Manager for Digital Equipment (S) Pte. Ltd.; John K. Lee, public relations officer, Far Eastern Division AHSA president; and Doreen Ng, secretary, Registrar at SAUC.

— Doreen Ng, Alumni Association Secretary, 1990

■ THAILAND ■

Mission College Officially Opens at Muak Lek

The official opening ceremonies for the Muak Lek campus of Mission College are set for October 1 at Muak Lek in Thailand's Saraburi Province. Officials from the Ministry of Education of Thailand and from the Southeast Asia Union Mission will participate in the occasion.

August 20 marked the beginning of classes for Mission College on the Muak Lek campus. The Bureau of Private Colleges of Thailand has approved majors in English, General Management, and Accounting. The Theology major, not seeking government approval, is already on the Muak Lek campus, and is in its fourth year of operation.

Admission examinations and interviews have been done according to College requirements. Dr. Jon Dybdahl, campus administrator, stated that 44 students have been accepted in the various majors.



The Bangkok campus of Mission College is situated on the Bangkok Adventist Hospital compound. Both the administrative offices and the School of Nursing, with its 180 students, are located in Bangkok.

— Helen Sprengel, Director of Public Relations,
Development and Recruitment, Mission College

BAH Heart Study Published

A scientific paper, entitled "Incidence of First Acute Myocardial Infarction in the Bangkok Adventist Hospital," by Dr. Kittiporn Tantrarongroj and Dr. Ethel Nelson, appeared in the January 1990 issue of the *Journal of the Medical Association of Thailand*.

According to the authors, a marked increase in the occurrence of acute myocardial infarction, or heart attacks, was evident between 1958 and 1985.

Dr. Kittiporn and Dr. Nelson found a six-fold increase in the occurrence of heart attacks during the 28-year period of the study. The onset and the rate of incidence were different among Thai, Chinese and Indian patients. They also found both a higher rate of incidence and earlier occurrence of heart attack in Indians. These findings are in agreement with other studies done in Asia on ethnic factors of heart attack.

Risk factors such as hypertension (high blood pressure), diabetes, cigarette smoking, and hypercholesterolemia (high level of cholesterol in the blood) proved to be prominent in the occurrence of heart attacks.

This study also demonstrated that Asians who have adopted the lifestyles of Western countries have shown a significantly higher incidence of heart attacks. Heart attack is very much on the rise in Asia.

By contrast, since 1968, Western countries such as Australia and the United States have had a 40 percent reduction in the incidence of heart attacks because of positive steps taken to reduce the risk factors.

— Russell Standish,
Health/Temperance Director, SAUM

Ears Tuned to Bible Story

The "Bible in Living Sound" enters hearts and homes in Thailand! Since last Christmas when the Thailand Mission Radio/Communication Department began broadcasting the radio drama on the life of Jesus, many listeners have written in for Voice of Prophecy lessons.

From here and there around Thailand responses have begun to come in. Here are just a few:

From Kanchanaburee, a listener writes, "I've listened to your program for a long time but never write. I like the Story of Jesus. It gives me something to think about, new knowledge, also it concerns God, too. I wrote to request for the Bible. I hope you will send it to me. Thank you in advance."

And from Lopburee Province comes another letter, "I like your program. And I would like to ask for the books you mention. I can't hear very well because I am selling things at the store. Just when you announce the name, the customer walks in! Please send whatever book about Jesus. By the way, my neighbors like to hear your program, too!"

The radio work in Thailand needs the continued prayers of each fellow believer as it reaches out to young and old alike in Thailand.

— Danny Pung,
Radio/Communications Director, TAM

Thailand Literature Ministries Sees Change and Progress

The Literature Ministry Department is one of the most active departments in the Thailand Mission. New developments take place so quickly that it is often difficult to keep up with the news.

Recently the TAM literature evangelists have had 11 more baptisms. Mr. Chaisin in the Roi-et area has reported the baptism of four of his contacts. Pastor Sookjai, an L. E. in the Fang area, reports another seven of his contacts baptized as a result of his follow-up Bible teaching. The Advent message is going faster than it has ever gone in the publishing work in Thailand.

Meanwhile, there have been some personnel changes in the Publishing Department. For nearly nine years, Mr. Jerry Potter has been dedicated to the literature ministry as he has served as Publishing Department Director (PDD) of the Thailand Mission. During his time in Thailand, Mr. Potter learned the Thai language, and has led out in the development of several books for the literature evangelists. It was also under his leadership that the computer-assisted sales helps (CASH) system has been developed in the TAM.

On July 16, the Thailand Mission bade farewell to Mr. Potter and his wife Sharon as they left for the USA. The Potters have moved to Keene, Texas, where Mr. Potter will be completing his degree in Business.

Replacing Mr. Potter as PDD is Mr. Chamee Atakit, who has been an assistant in the Publishing Department for the past two years. Mr. Chamee is also serving as the Church Ministries Associate Director for Lay

Activities. In addition to his colporteur sales experience, Mr. Chamee has been active in evangelism, and has been responsible for many baptisms through the literature evangelist work.

Also joining the team as the Associate Literature Ministries Director is Pastor Jamnant Suriyakam, who comes from a Sunday Christian background where he had many years of experience as a minister of the gospel. Pastor Jamnant joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church a few years ago when he came to know the Sabbath truth and the Three Angels' Messages. He has been very active in soul winning as well as in the colporteur ministry.

New publications have been in progress in the Thailand Mission. Due to the increased awareness and public reaction to the rapid rise of AIDS in Thailand among the general population, Thailand Publishing House has printed thousands of copies of Pastor Chamee's new tract on AIDS. Literature evangelists will distribute it free as they make door-to-door and business contacts.

Also fresh from the press is the third reprint of the popular small tract by Mrs. Nancy Bassham, entitled **Bright Sky**. In this, she recounts her experience with what was diagnosed as terminal cancer. She gives testimony to her faith and how God led her through the valley of the shadow of death, to see the bright sky at the other end.

— W. S. Bassham, President, TAM

Karen Youth have Camp Meeting

Htee Thay Khee School recently held a youth camp meeting, with about 200 Karens attending. The youth came from the Baw Na Glo, Gama-phado, Kawmoora, Kler Ko and Htee Thay Khee church companies.

Pastor Robin Bwint organized the camp meeting. He, Pastor Rangsit Itsaringkarn, TAM Secretary, and Pastor R. E. Bartolome, TAM Refugee Program Director, were the speakers for the March 19-24 meetings. They stressed individual responsibility and dedication to the Lord.

One delegate commented, "You have been a blessing to all of us at this camp meeting. The messages given have inspired our young people to be strong in the



Lord." At the end of the meetings, 15 precious souls were baptized.

— Danny Pung, Communication Director, TAM

VOP STUDENTS RESPOND

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requently the old and the young who are enrolled for Voice of Prophecy correspondence courses write personal letters to send to the Correspondence School with their lessons. Here are some heart-warming excerpts:

"I would like to thank you for the good deed you are doing for all of us VOP students. I would like to tell you that it is because of this course that I took another look at my life. To tell the truth, I didn't like what I saw. Now I'm trying to change it....I do think the Lord has opened my eyes because last year I received the VOP even though I don't know who sent it in my name, and this year for my 21st birthday my mother gave me a Bible. I now pray for faith and strength to help me not to sin....If you don't mind, will you please include me in your prayers."

"I thank you very much for sending me all those lessons. I've learned a lot of things to LOVE and to FORGIVE. All those lessons help me more to know about our Lord Jesus Christ, help my faith grow stronger....I thank God for these lessons 'coz I've learned how to forgive.... You know, teacher, these lessons seem a person or a friend to me. Even when I finish my first course I will tell others about what I've learned, so that they will be ready always to meet Jesus when He comes."

"I count myself as lucky to have your lessons that made my life completely change into another person. My empty heart was filled with the Holy Spirit...So I must shout to the topmost of my voice...that the Voice of Prophecy is a very 'big help' that made me strong enough to face up to the trials and sacrifices and capable to endure it."

From time to time you may have an opportunity to give for the Voice of Prophecy work. Please give generously. The Voice of Prophecy is one of the most effective agencies for soul-winning in the Southeast Asia Union Mission. Also remember to pray for the staff and students of the Voice of Prophecy.

**Now, you can sponsor a Voice of Prophecy student.
Only \$15 in your local currency will sponsor one
VOP student for six months.**

The new VOP addresses are:

English, Chinese & Tamil:

VOICE OF PROPHECY
Potong Pasir P.O. Box 123
Singapore 9135

Malay:

SUARA NUBUATAN
Locked Bag No. 1
89250 Tamparuli
Sabah, Malaysia

■ DEVOTIONAL ■

It's a Small World

Of all the wonders of Disneyland, the international parade of dolls has to be my all-time favorite. As the dolls, dressed in their individual national costumes, dance to the tune "It's a Small World After All," I never fail to glory in the rich diversity of God's creative genius and His love which encompasses each one: "Red and yellow, black and white; all are precious in His sight."

On the other hand, some of us settle for living in much too small a world. There isn't a lot we can do about certain inevitable limitations. We are to some extent controlled by the confines of a certain geographical location, a specific occupation, at a particular moment in history.

But concern for protecting our own self-interests and narrow viewpoints, our prejudices and pet ideas can come to fit as comfortably as an old shoe. We can become so used to our own narrowness that, if it were pointed out to us, we would deny its reality. The man in the circle is small because he is all wrapped up in his own little world of ME, ME, ME.



Most of us, however, live in larger worlds, and have more respectable prejudices, mirroring the viewpoints of those we tend to admire. Our friends generally go to the same church we do, speak the same language; even the books on our shelves are similar to those of our friends. It's a world of MINE, MINE, MINE. The man in this circle is a bit larger than the man in the first circle because his world is larger. It includes his family, his friends, those of his race and religious persuasions—people like him.



Jesus had in mind, however, that Christians should be larger people, living in larger worlds, reaching out to include the lonely, the stranger, singles, children without both parents. Like our Father in heaven who generously shares His blessings with both the just and the unjust, we are asked to love even our enemies. Our happiness will not be dependent on how others treat us, but in the knowledge that we have done things God's way. As Edwin Markham wrote,



*He drew a circle that shut me out –
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in!*

We will find that serving others is a path which leads us out of our narrow, self-centered selves and is indeed "the law of life for the universe" (*Desire of Ages*, p. 21).

We can all be bigger people living in bigger worlds.

– Lucile Knapp, Walla Walla College teacher at SAUC

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