

SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION

# Messenger

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*Mission Health Promotion Center  
opens its doors in Thailand.*



## Precious Moments with Prayer

### Part 4 – Intercessory Prayer

...Pray for one another....The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16

Have you ever heard of a man called Praying Hyde? His real name was John Hyde. But he had such a close relationship with God that when he prayed, people say, if you were in the room with him you would be afraid to stretch out your arm in front of you for fear of touching God. How did he develop such a close relationship?

The story is told of when he was going to India as a missionary. He had been on a ship for a short while when a man gave him a letter from his father's friend. It said he would be praying for John Hyde to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Becoming very angry, John crumpled the letter and threw it onto the deck of the ship. "I am the one going as a missionary, and he is praying for me to be filled with the Holy Spirit," John thought. "Who does he think he is!"

Later, John picked up the letter and read it again. He began to think. Was he really filled with the Holy Spirit? From that point, through the prayer of the friend, he began to develop a closer relationship with God. And it all started with a man, whose name we don't even know, praying for John Hyde.

When Jesus was on earth, he prayed for His disciples. He even prayed for you and me. "My prayer is not for (my disciples) alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you...." (John 17:20,21) All of John 17 is a beautiful prayer of Jesus. Read it.

Carrol Johnson Shewmake, in her book *Practical Pointers to Personal Prayer*, speaks about intercessory prayer. "Our prayers make it possible for God to do for them what He could not do if we did not pray. Satan claims the world as his because of sin. Since part of

God's inherent character is freedom, He will never use force in commanding obedience from His creatures. He leaves men free to choose whom they will serve--God or Satan. Thus the Lord cannot arbitrarily step into any person's life. He would be violating the law of freedom if He did so. Always quick with a comeback, Satan would immediately charge Him with unfairness."

To take this a step further, in John 14:12-14 we are given the authority to come to God and ask anything in Jesus' name, and we are assured it will be done. By using this authority we then authorize Jesus to intercede in someone else's life.

In Luke 6:28, we are told to pray for those who mistreat us. So, not only are we to pray for friends and loved ones, but even for people we may not really care for.

In *Medical Ministry*, page 195, Mrs. White speaks of praying for the sick, saying, "When you neglect to offer prayer for the sick, you deprive them of great blessings; for angels of God are waiting to minister to these souls in response to your petitions." Surely the same must be true not only for the sick but also for any troubled, tempted soul.

James 5:16-18 not only tells us to pray for each other but also tells us of the power in prayer. "Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."

Just think of the power of prayer. Think of what we can do for God's work. Do we really pray for others, for the Holy Spirit to be in their lives? The power is there. We just need to turn on the switch by getting on our knees and asking God to use it.

-- Rayburn Smith,  
Publishing Department Director, SAUM

"Pray for one another." As an encouragement to cheerfully offer intercessory prayer, remember that such prayer is the sweetest that God hears. This is because the prayer of Christ is of this same character. In all the incense which our great High Priest puts into the golden censer, there is not a single grain for Himself....Petitions for our needs will be accepted, but our pleadings for others display more of the fruits of the Spirit--more love, more faith, and more brotherly kindness. These prayers will be, through the precious merits of Jesus, the sweetest offering that we can make to God....

Believer, you have a mighty tool in your hand. Use

it well, use it constantly, use it with faith, and you will surely be a blessing to your brethren. When you have the King's ear, speak to Him concerning the suffering members of His body. When you are favored to draw near to His throne and the King says to you, "Ask, and I will give you what you desire," let your petitions be, not for yourself alone, but for the many who need His aid....You would bring back from the Lord rich blessings for them, which otherwise might not have been obtained.

-- C. H. Spurgeon, *Evening by Evening*, p.39



## What Can I Give Him?

It is just a few more days until Christmas, and the children have been talking a lot about Christmas gifts.

Working on this issue of MESSENGER, I have enjoyed learning what is going on around the Southeast Asia Union Mission. Two articles in particular, however, brought back some very fond memories: "Tukap Church Dedicated" and "New Sarawak Mission Headquarters."

Three years ago I had the privilege of going to Sarawak with the Lightbearers from Singapore, who gave of their time, energy, and means to build a church there. Later, I left the group and traveled with Pastor Daniel Walter and Pastor Gilbert Tan to attend a Village Lay Pastor training program in the village of Sungei Lijan.

Reading about the church dedication in Nanga Tukap brings vivid recollections of the thirteen-hour jeep ride over muddy roads from Kuching to Julau, a two-hour boat trip on up to Sungei Lijan, and an inspiring weekend. That Sabbath, 51 people were baptized--20 of them from Nanga Tukap.

On Sunday, we headed back down the river to the village of Nanga Ejit. That is where I first learned about the construction of the new Sarawak Mission headquarters.

Pastor Walter, Pastor Gilbert and I, as well as several of the village church members, hiked out into the jungle. Along the way, a fascinating story unraveled.

The church leader, Abom, had first heard of Seventh-day Adventists from a visiting pastor. The more he listened, the more he saw a difference. He heard about the Sabbath. He received a Bible--he had never even known what a Bible was before that. Until then he was a very sickly man, but as he learned the health message he began to eat properly, and today he is thought of as a very strong man.

Along with 30 others, Abom was baptized. Since then, the church has grown, and Abom has become a very active Village Lay Pastor. He regularly visits the sick, has worship with families, tries to correct those in the wrong, and encourages the weak.

Stewardship is also very important to Abom. In the Nanga Ejit church, where most of the members make their living from rubber, pepper, rice paddy, cotton, and timber (their main source of income), the

church has nearly a 100% increase in tithe every year.

When he and his church members were asked to help with the construction of the new Sarawak Mission office, Abom readily suggested that each family could give cash or donate three posts of Sarawak's strongest wood, the Belian, or ironwood. The trees were to be cut into posts 5x5 inches square and 14 feet long, and used for piling in the building. The villagers agreed to try to provide all 300 of the needed timbers.

It was the nearest pile of cut wood that they wanted to show us the day we visited Nanga Ejit. Pastor Gilbert said the walk would be only "3 sticks of cigarette" (at 15 minutes per cigarette) from the longhouse. But, he warned, according to Iban tradition, as you travel a path for the first time, the souls of the trees, plants, rocks, leaves and animals ask your soul, "Hi, where are you coming from? Where are you going?" As you stop to talk to them, so the local belief goes, you slow down, and feel the journey takes very long, but on the return, the souls of nature already know you, and so they don't have to ask. So you get home faster. Besides, the pots and pans at home are calling.

Trudging, sliding and squishing through the jungle trails, we climbed hills and slipped down the other side to the river again and again. Finally, after the tenth crossing, we finally reached the stack of timber--one hour and ten minutes after we had started. (True to what Pastor Gilbert had said, the return trip WAS faster--exactly 45 minutes!)

There on the hillside we saw some of the already-cut timber. The village members had agreed

to donate the wood and the labor, if the Mission could provide gas and oil for the chain saws. So, Abom and his church group had work bees two, three, or even four times a month, depending on the needs of their farming work. Then they would haul each 200-pound post on their shoulders for three miles or more, over the steep mountain paths, to their village where the truck would later come and collect them.

On the open market, each post would bring 50 Ringgit (almost S\$32). With the tremendous mark-up, the total cost to the Mission would have been approximately 14,000 Ringgit (nearly S\$9,000). All of this, however, came to the Sarawak Mission as a gift of love from these members who have very little cash

### A BIRTHDAY GIFT

by Christina G. Rossetti

*What can I give Him  
Poor as I am?*

*If I were a shepherd  
I'd bring Him a lamb.*

*If I were a wise man  
I'd do my part.*

*What can I give Him?  
I'll give Him my heart.*



income. It came from a group who love their Savior and want to give what they can for the completion of His work on earth.

Isn't that what we have been thinking about this Christmas season—gifts of love. The greatest gift ever given was our Savior's gift of salvation, made possible by His life and His death for you and me. What will we do for Him?

-- Marilyn Johnson, Managing Editor, MESSENGER

## Staff Changes at SAUM

### Kenneth Wade Joins SAUM

The SAUM is happy to welcome Pastor Kenneth R. Wade to its staff, at last filling the posts of Ministerial Director and Communications Director for the Union. He will also lead out in the Lay Activities area of the Church Ministries Department.

Pastor Wade arrived in Singapore on November 29, after attending the SAUM year-end meetings and traveling extensively in Thailand. Since his arrival, he has also attended year-end meetings and conducted continuing education programs for workers in Sabah and Sarawak.

He comes to the SAUM from the General Conference headquarters. For the past six years, he has been on the editorial staff of *Ministry* magazine, where he had recently been named an associate editor.

Pastor Wade was born in 1951 to a non-SDA father and a backslidden-SDA mother, both of whom were baptized during his early school years. Somehow he later became fascinated with evolution and planned to become a biologist. But during his teens he was converted and felt God calling him to the ministry.



Pastor Kenneth Wade, with his wife Debby and sons Seth (L) and Adam (R) join the SAUM family.

At Walla Walla College, he majored in theology and Biblical languages, and minored in biology. There he also met his wife, Debby, who had come from Alaska to study home economics. After graduation, the Wades went to Wisconsin, where he pastored for several years before and after his seminary training at Andrews University.

While at Walla Walla, he had taken one course in journalism. In 1980 he had his first article published, which was only the beginning of a keen interest in writing. In 1984 he accepted a call to work with *Ministry* magazine. While there, he wrote the new adult baptismal guide, "In His Steps." He also did considerable editorial work on *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...*, the book on the 27 fundamental doctrines of the SDA church. Well-versed in desk-top publishing, he set up the entire book camera-ready for printing.

Pastor Wade has also authored two books. In 1989, one of the Review and Herald Publishing Association's best sellers was his *Secrets of the New Age*. His second book on the New Age will be coming out during 1991. He has also written numerous articles for *Signs of the Times* and the *Adventist Review*.

"When you get to the point where you think you know all the answers," according to Pastor Wade's personal philosophy, "you've probably forgotten the questions." Thus he is happy to be back out in the field where the questions are.

Mrs. Wade and their two children arrived in Singapore on December 20. She will be working in the SAUM offices as a secretary, and hopes to become involved in her favorite hobby, music. Their son Adam is 13 and in eighth grade, and their son Seth is 12 and in the sixth grade.

### SAPH has New Manager

As of December 1, Southeast Asia Publishing House (SAPH) has a new manager. Singaporean David J. Tan, 33, has recently been appointed as the new general manager, replacing Mr. John Ho.

Mr. Tan previously spent four years as the managing director of his family's business, Singapore Crocodile Garments. In 1990, however, he took leave to serve as president of the City Jaycees, Singapore, an international community service organization.

During his year with the Jaycees, he was active in four specific areas of service: helping to build social relationships, training members in management and leadership skills for community projects, identifying community needs such as working with the chronically sick at Woodbridge Hospital, and meeting with sister Jaycee chapters, or clubs, from around the world to build international friendship. In addition, his chapter



worked with another Singapore Jaycees group to sponsor the Treasurethon held in July, which raised about S\$26,000 toward construction of the new SDA School building.

In the past year, Mr. Tan has also become more involved in the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, desiring to use his life in God's service. In the Balestier Road Church where he is a member, he has taken active leadership roles in the small group ministry, in the church renovation project, and in the Sabbath evening vespers outreach program.

Now that he is at SAPH, Mr. Tan states that he "would like to see that this house is an effective tool for God's work." Soul winning is his chief concern, starting right "at home" with his own workers. He wants to provide more books for the literature evangelists, and better serve the church organization in Singapore. He hopes to reduce costs and thereby lower the price of books published at SAPH by increasing production capacity of the publishing house. It is also his goal to build bridges with other Christian groups in Singapore through the printed page.

The SAUM welcomes Mr. Tan to the work force, trusting that the Lord will richly bless him in the fulfillment of his aspiration to help win more souls for Christ.



*David Tan (L) and Peter Wong (R) are welcomed as newcomers to the SAPH and SAUM.*

## Farewell to The Kongs

Mr. Jonathan Kong Hon Hin, SAUM associate treasurer, officially retires on January 1, 1991, after serving for more than 40 years in denominational organizations.



*Mrs. Justin Latour presents a farewell gift to Mr. Kong.*

He began his service as a teacher at Teh Sin School in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 1947. Through the years, he worked as cashier in the Malayan Signs Press, assistant auditor and accountant of the SAUM, accountant of Youngberg Adventist Hospital, auditor of the SAUM, and business manager of Southeast Asia Union College.

In 1975, he rejoined the SAUM staff, first as auditor and then as assistant treasurer. In 1986 he became the associate treasurer.

Mr. Kong's wife, Ruth, has been a teacher at the SDA School in Singapore since 1957.

The Kongs have a son Ivan and a daughter Ilene. The family left for Vancouver, B.C. (Canada) on December 10, and will eventually settle in California (USA).

-- Messenger Staff

## New SAUM Associate Treasurer

Pastor Peter Wong has recently joined the SAUM treasury staff as associate treasurer, filling the vacancy left by Mr. H. H. Kong's retirement.

Pastor Wong had been serving as secretary-treasurer of the Singapore Mission since July 1989. He began denominational work in 1964 as treasurer of the Sabah Training School. Through the years, the scope of his work has included school business manager, secretary-treasurer of three local missions, and SAUM auditor. With this wide experience, he is well qualified for his

## East Malaysian Literature Evangelists Score Gains

1990 has been a good year for the literature evangelists of the Sarawak and Sabah Missions. Miss Mary Ng, the Publishing Director of the Sarawak Mission, reported at the year-end meetings held in Kuching that the Mission has posted a 33.93% gain for the year 1990



so far (11 months). Sales in Sarawak to the end of November 1989 were 99,230 Ringgit (S\$62,850), whereas sales during the same period of time in 1990 have totalled 132,904 Ringgit (S\$84,180).

Miss Ng is a veteran L. E., with 10 years' experience selling gospel literature and L. E. leadership in Sarawak. The only S. D. A. in her family, she is a witness in her home as well as in her work. She became a leader in 1985 and since then has led or assisted in the L. E. program in Sarawak. Mary joined the church during her school years at Sunny Hill School.

The Sabah Mission has also had an excellent year under the direction of Francis Lajanin, the Publishing Director. A graduate of SAUC, he has considerable pastoral and colporteur experience. Called into leadership during 1989, he resolved to do his best.

The Sabah Mission scored sales amounting to 93,996 Ringgit (S\$59,540) in the first 11 months of 1989, but had sales of 131,184 Ringgit (S\$83,090) in the same

timespan in 1990. In 1989, Sabah Mission did not report any L. E. baptisms, but 1990 shows nine baptisms. We praise the Lord for these excellent reports.

Many of the L. E.'s in Sabah are single young ladies. Several of them lived in an old mission house in Mengattal on the outskirts of Kota Kinabalu. In 1990, a substantial donation of U.S.\$6,000 (over S\$10,000) came from an old-time friend of the Sabah Mission, Brother Peter Chan. Using the funds, the Sabah Mission has completely rebuilt the L. E. housing. With the new, more spacious home cum dormitory, Sabah Mission expects to attract more young women to spread the gospel message through the printed page.

God is truly blessing the earnest endeavors of these leaders and literature evangelists as they respond to the Gospel Commission.

-- George C. Johnson, President, SAUM

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## ■ PENINSULAR MALAYSIA ■

### Dr. Robbie Leaves PAH

Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Robbie were farewelled from Penang Adventist Hospital on December 6. Dr. and Mrs. Robbie left with numerous expressions of love and appreciation ringing in their ears.

Although Dr. Robbie had been president of PAH for only 18 months, his impact will long be remembered, not by the shortness of tenure but by the quality of leadership which he provided. During his presidency, the hospital has continued to make much progress financially. The climax of his efforts came with the official opening of the new Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory by the state governor only two days prior to Dr. Robbie's departure. This was truly a milestone in the history of Penang Adventist Hospital, for it is the first such facility in Malaysia outside of Kuala Lumpur.

The Robbies' home was ever open to young people seeking guidance and spiritual uplift. These youth shed many tears as they said farewell to those whom they had come to love and trust.

The Robbies had decided to return home due to the ill health and age of their parents. Dr. Robbie's plan is to resume surgical practice in the Murwillumbah area in the northern part of New South Wales (Australia).

On the day prior to his departure from Penang, Dr. Robbie learned that he himself had a medical problem which required major surgery. This was performed at Sydney Adventist Hospital on Monday,

December 10. The prayers of God's people in Southeast Asia are with the Robbies as they return to continue their witness for God in their homeland, and for Dr. Robbie's total recovery that he may continue to serve the Lord.

-- Russell Standish, AHSA Director, SAUM

### Pathfinder Leadership Training Yields Results

The Pathfinder movement in Peninsular Malaysia Mission has experienced a great renewal of spirit in the past few years. There are now 13 Pathfinder clubs, with a total membership of about 300 young people on the move for the Lord.

The revival of the Pathfinder movement came about largely because the Mission youth department recognized that proper leadership training is essential. Because of this, a special officers training course in 1986 offered prospective leaders the needed skills and know-how through a practical training syllabus and course.

Since the first training course in 1986, the youth department has conducted 10 more such courses in various churches in Peninsular Malaysia. As the demands and needs of Pathfindering increased, an advanced level course was introduced, stressing practical outdoor



skills and knowledge.

These courses, which have been conducted regularly, are now paying rich dividends. Confidence, enthusiasm and leadership competency are high as those "graduates" lead out actively in their rapidly growing clubs. The most rewarding experience has naturally been the baptism of many of the Pathfinder youth, many of whom would never have stepped inside the church if it were not for Pathfinding.



The junior and senior Pathfinder clubs get together at Penang Chinese Church.

As a result of the Pathfinders, several of the churches have strengthened as growing numbers of young people take active part. Surely Mrs. Ellen G. White's statement was true: "We have indeed an army of youth who when properly trained and guided can accomplish much for the Lord."

-- Simon Siew, Youth Director, PEM

## All Hands Needed in God's Vineyard

Sin Peng Ann took the Voice of Prophecy courses one by one, like a hobby, during his free time. When he finished the last course, however, he was still undecided about whether to be baptized.

From England he received a letter from his sister, who is a trained nurse. She told him about the Seventh-day Adventist church where she is a member. Later, when the sister came to Kuala Lumpur on vacation, Peng Ann visited the K.L. English Church for the first time. There he met the pastor, Vincent Chee.

For several months afterwards, the two studied the Bible together. Then the pastor left for further studies, and Peng Ann was without a Bible teacher. Soon the K. L. Chinese Church pastor, Chan Chong Kee, continued the studies, until he was transferred away from Kuala Lumpur.

For some time Peng Ann was without a Bible

tutor, though friends from both of the SDA churches occasionally visited him. Some time later, Pastor George John became the pastor of the K. L. English Church, and took up studies with Peng Ann. Eventually the sister returned from England for another visit. During the month that she was home, Peng Ann finally made up his mind to be baptized.

It often takes many hands, many factors, many influences to bring a soul to baptism. God needs each church member to work and faithfully witness for Him. One may plant the seed, another water. Still others must nourish and tend the growing plant, until at last the full fruit is ready for harvest. Yet, when Jesus comes, each one who had a part in bringing a soul to salvation will have an equal share in the joy of seeing that one in the heavenly kingdom.

-- Samuel Money, VOP Director, SAUM

## Revelation Seminar in Kota Bahru

Fifteen years ago, a Presbyterian pastor, Rodney Siew, read the *Great Controversy*. Then he asked for more Spirit of Prophecy books. Today he believes the Seventh-day Adventist message because of those books.



At the end of 1989, Pastor Samuel Money conducted a 4-day evangelistic series in Kota Bahru, in the northeast of Peninsular Malaysia. Then, early this year, at Pastor Rodney's request, Pastor Money conducted a Revelation Seminar in the English language, covering the first eight chapters of Revelation. Mid-year, the series continued through several more chapters of Revelation. The third phase of the series has just recently ended.

Through these series, more than 50 people from Pastor Rodney's church, most of them well-educated, have been exposed to the Revelation message.

In the programs, coordinated by Pastor Leong Fai, seeds of truth have been sown, and in due time the harvest will come.

-- Samuel Money, VOP Director, SAUM



■ SABAH ■

## Sabah Yearend Report

The Sabah Mission officers gave the assembled year-end guests and committee an excellent report of the progress of God's work in Sabah during the year 1990. With assistance from the Sabah state government, about 2.3 million Ringgit (nearly S\$1.5 million) has been spent on the upgrading of numerous church facilities in the Mission territory.

The church has purchased a plot of land in Kota Kinabalu for a new church in the Likas area. The new church facility, which will cost a total of 1.2 million Ringgit (S\$760,000), should adequately care for the growing and active congregation of Bahasa Malaysia speaking members in Kota Kinabalu.

Sabah Mission currently has 109 organized churches and 565 companies of believers, with a total of 16,098 members. During the first 11 months of this year, 559 members joined the church through baptism or profession of faith. Evangelism in Sabah involves everyone--from workers to lay people, to youth. Youth have conducted 15 efforts this year. Several large Pathfinder and group meetings have been held, with more than 1000 youth attending because they know that they can meet, work, fellowship, worship, and learn together.

Departmental reports from Sabah were also encouraging and positive. ADRA Sabah has been very active under the leadership of Mr. James Lai. Currently, Sabah has 17 project proposals written, and 11 of them have been funded. The Literature Ministries department has been growing well. In the Ministerial area, The Sabah Mission plans to hold several large evangelistic crusades in 1991, one in the traditional location at Goshen, another at Tamparuli, which is a large Seventh-day Adventist community.

Sabah Mission Treasurer, Dr. Edmund Siagian, states that during the years 1987-1990 the working capital percentage and the liquidity figures for the Sabah Mission have climbed and are in a healthy condition. With ongoing promotion by Pastor Ginduk Laung, the tithe for the mission has climbed from 1,030,259 Ringgit (S\$652,566) for the 12 months of 1989 to 1,130,515 Ringgit (S\$716,068) for 11 months of 1990. This means that by the end of 1990, the tithe figures will be appreciably ahead of last years' report. Offerings have also gained, and the per capita giving in the Mission is up.

God is finishing His work in Sabah, and soon every citizen of that great land will have heard the Gospel. The Lord's Spirit is moving like a mighty breeze in the "Land below the Wind." Please pray for the ongoing work of God in Sabah.

-- George C. Johnson, President, SAUM

## Sabah VOP Students Find Truth

Rozita Felix was born into a Protestant family in Keningau. Later her parents sent her to Sabah Adventist Secondary School (SASS), but warned her to never, never become a Seventh-day Adventist.

Enrolled in a Voice of Prophecy correspondence course, she learned some of the SDA beliefs and compared her church teachings with what she found in the VOP lessons. At SASS she initially disliked the Bible class because the teacher mentioned that Sunday was not the true Sabbath. As time went by, however, she began to long for truth.



VOP students Jolison and Rozita are baptized while on an SASS singing tour.

After some time, she started to pray about her problem. After she joined a singing group at school, the first song the group sang contained the very answer she was seeking. Yet she was confused. Her parents had threatened to disown her if she ever accepted Adventism.

She finally decided to accept Jesus, and on October 6 she and another VOP student, Jolison, were baptized at Bak Bak Kudat by Pastor George Lee.

In September, the Junior Choir of Sabah Adventist Secondary School went to Hot Springs, in Ranau District, about 90 miles from their school in Tamparuli. On Sabbath, the group attended the Ranau church, and there they met a young man who had come 42 kilometers to worship in Ranau for the first time.

The young man, Pilatus Moijin, is currently a VOP student, and he has expressed his desire to be baptized very soon. He reported that in his home village, Kampung Togop Darat, two other VOP students are also waiting eagerly to be baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

-- Sukung Gadaun, VOP Assistant Director, Sabah



■ SARAWAK ■

## Sarawak Mission Report

The year-end report from the Sarawak Mission is encouraging and upbeat. Representatives to the year-end meetings had the privilege of meeting for the first time in the new Mission office facility, which is truly representative of God's work and God's church. The new building represents a deeper renewal which has been taking place in Sarawak.

Pastor Daniel Walter, the president of the Sarawak Mission, has reported that during 1990, five jungle chapels have been replaced with new permanent buildings, five new churches have been built for new congregations, and six new church buildings have been dedicated.

Two teams of pastors in the Sarawak Mission have conducted camp meetings in seven locations, with the theme "Prepare to Meet Thy God." Seventeen public efforts during the past year have resulted in 158 baptisms. Outstanding among these was the effort in Serian (Ayer Manis School) by Pastor Bobby Sepang from the East Indonesia Union Mission, which accounted for 119 baptisms. The total number of baptisms for the Sarawak Mission in 1990 is 385.

The vitality of the church in Sarawak can be seen by increased stewardship. Pastor Gilbert Tan, the Stewardship Director of the Sarawak Mission, reported that for the third straight year the Sarawak Mission has recorded greatly increased giving from members. Three years ago, the Sarawak Mission was in critical financial condition. Today, the Mission working capital and liquidity levels are healthy. Sarawak had budgeted for a 20% increase in tithe for the year 1990. Till the end of November, that goal has already been slightly surpassed. Other giving in the mission is also up for the year.

The Sarawak Mission Executive Committee has laid ambitious plans for the further expansion of God's work in their territory. Two acres of land is being purchased in Tatau for a new church. Another plot of land is being purchased in Simunjan to strengthen the work in that area. As further reports come from the Sarawak Mission, expect more good news! God's work is moving forward in Sarawak!

-- George C. Johnson, President, SAUM

Please note that with immediate effect the Sarawak Mission phone numbers are as follows:  
242 340; 242 341; 242 342  
Fax: 242 343

## Tukap Church Dedicated

Sabbath morning, October 13, was a very joyful dedication of the Nanga Tukap Church, located in the headwaters of the Lijan River tributary of the Kanowit River approximately 120 miles northeast of Kuching.

It started when a new Adventist, Elder Blawan, asked his local pastor how he could spread this new message which he had learned to love so much. Brother Blawan was living in the village of Nanga Lijan, at the mouth of the Lijan River. At the suggestion of Pastor Gilbert Tan, then district pastor, Brother Blawan made the tortuous two-hour journey up the very shallow Lijan River to visit his sister in Nanga Tukap. As a result of the contact, the villagers wrote a letter to the Sarawak Mission requesting a teacher to come and tell them about the Adventist message.

The Mission office alerted Pastor Gilbert Tan, who followed up immediately. Through a very practical, contextualized approach, nearly the whole village of 18 families indicated their desire to learn to become Adventists. Two of the villagers, who had some education, then went to Roban to join the Village Lay Pastor Training program, which Pastor Daniel Walter was conducting.

As the interest developed, Pastor Edmund Liah held evangelistic meetings in the village, and now there are nearly 50 baptized members in the newly-formed group.



The Lightbearers, a volunteer group from Singapore, learned of the interest and need for a chapel in Nanga Tukap. In December 1989 they went to Sarawak and helped to build the chapel for the new group to meet in. Not only did the Lightbearers donate their time and labor, but also they raised most of the funds to purchase materials or pay for chainsaws to cut timber there in the local area.



Their workmanship was superb, and the new church now stands on a low hill behind the village as a beacon light to all who pass along the Lijan River.

Officiating at the dedication service were Pastor Daniel Walter, Sarawak Mission president; Pastor Gilbert Tan, Stewardship Secretary and former district pastor of that area; and Dr. Chew Sze Ted, assistant Health and Temperance director. Other guests accompanied the Mission team from Kuching, while some came from as far away as Baram in the very northern part of Sarawak to attend the dedication.

The members all wished to express their special thanks to everyone who has contributed in any way in the erection of their place of worship. And they offer a very special thanks to God for His blessings and His promise of eternal life.

-- Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

## Kuching Church Holds VBS

As soon as the school holidays began, a 10-day Vacation Bible School program also started in the Kuching church, running from October 29 to November 9.

The Kuching church organized the program with the help of Mrs. Annie Chew and Mrs. Christina Wee, with a score of experienced teachers and several youth assisting. The church pastor, Lawrence Banyie, and his assistant, Chai Mien Seng, also helped to teach and tell stories.

About 140 students, ranging in age from 5 to 12 years, attended the VBS regularly. Of these, about 60 are from Seventh-day Adventist homes. Many more are also students at Sunny Hill School, though a large number are from non-Adventist and even non-Christian homes.

During the program, children listened to Bible and character-building stories, sang songs, and participated in games and crafts.

On the last Friday evening, parents, VBS students, and church members joined in a VBS celebration.



Pastor Saul Nyungga, the VOP and Communication Director of the Sarawak Mission, spoke on the role of character building through the VBS. Children sang and performed skits.

Graduation certificates for the VBS will be delivered to the children at their homes. This will allow for further contact with the families for follow-up and possible Bible studies.

-- Jeffrey Kong, Communication Secretary,  
Kuching English Church

## New Mission Office Dedicated

On December 5, the Sarawak Mission dedicated its new office building to the service of the Lord. The building, complete with furnishings and carpets, has cost just under 400,000 Ringgit (about S\$253,000).

Nearly half of the cost has come from donations from Sarawak church members and friends around the world. The balance came from a government grant, given in the interest of promoting moral worth and religious interest among citizens.

The dedication ceremony began with a symbolic ribbon-cutting by Pastor George Johnson, SAUM president, and Pastor Daniel Walter, Sarawak Mission president.

Pastor Edmund Liah, Sarawak Mission secretary, recounted a brief history of the former Mission office, which was built in a bomb crater shortly after World War II. The building served for nearly 40 years, despite some sinking into the ground and having to be jacked up and needing its foundations reinforced. White ants attacked, leaving the timbers honeycombed. The building fell into such decrepit condition that shortly before demolition, an eight-foot python easily slid under the door of the book store. The snake rested among the books on the shelves until the manager, Mrs. Helen Enteban, disturbed its peace with her loud screams for help.

At the dedication of the new office building, Pastor George Johnson exhorted the 150 persons assembled to aggressively carry forward their part of the Lord's work to its triumphant finish.

Pastor Walter led the Act of Dedication, and Pastor Kenneth Wade, newly appointed Ministerial secretary of the SAUM, offered the Prayer of Dedication. The Kuching Church Men's Chorus sang music prepared especially for the occasion. Others participating in the program were Mr. C. Y. Wu, SAUM secretary; Mr. Thomas Staples, SAUM treasurer; Pastor Gilbert Tan, Stewardship director of the Sarawak Mission; Pastor



Saul Nyunga, Church Ministries associate director of the Sarawak Mission; and several of the office staff and community.

The new building houses offices for the administration and the various departments, an Adventist Supply Center, colporteur headquarters, an ADRA office, a storage area for colporteur books and another for general storage, and a small maintenance shop. It also has two guest rooms as well as four large rooms slated for future expansion needs but presently being used for group dormitories. The conference/worship room has a capacity for nearly 100, and has a recording studio adjacent to it.

-- Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission



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## ■ SINGAPORE ■

### Second Annual Bible Quiz Held

Young people from all of the SDA churches in Singapore enthusiastically filled the SAUC Church on Sabbath afternoon, November 10, for the second Annual Bible Quiz Contest, organized by the Church Ministries Department of the Singapore Mission.

This year, the participants were better prepared for the contest, as they had been informed well ahead of time which particular section of the Bible questions would be taken from. The first five books of the Bible were the main focus for this year's quiz.

All of the questions for the quiz were prepared and organized by Dr. Phoon Chek Yat and Dr. Sally Phoon of Southeast Asia Union College.

The quiz was divided into three rounds. Youth from the various churches presented special musical numbers at the beginning and between rounds.

The objective of the quiz was to encourage and inspire the youth to study and know the Scriptures. At the end of the program, Pastor Danson Ng, Church Ministries Director of the Singapore Mission, challenged the youth to study the Bible because it is the "Word of Life" to everyone.

For the second year, Balestier Road SDA Church youth emerged the overall winner. The team received a cash prize of S\$150, as well as having their church name engraved on the challenge shield and getting to keep it for another year. Should they win again next year, the shield will belong to them permanently.

Second place winner was the SAUC Church team, and third place went to the Thomson Road

Chinese Church group. Prizes were S\$100 for second prize, and S\$50 for third prize. In addition, each participant in the contest—three youth from each church—received a S\$10 cash award for taking part. Three lay members sponsored most of the awards.

Until November 9, 1991, when the third Annual Quiz Contest is scheduled, the youth are encouraged to study the Scriptures thoroughly that they may know the message of truth in Jesus Christ.

-- Danson Ng, Church Ministries Director, SAM

### New Dietitian at YAH

Miss Diana David, a Singaporean, is the new clinical dietitian at Youngberg Adventist Hospital. She graduated from Southeast Asia Union College with a BS degree in education in 1978, and taught at the SDA School for over six years and then at SAUC as an English teacher for two years.

In 1987, she went to Loma Linda University (USA) to pursue her studies for a Master of Public Health degree in nutrition. After graduation in June 1990, she interned at San Bernardino Public Health Department and Redlands Community Hospital. She is now a Registered Dietitian.

Miss David is excited about the challenges ahead in her service at Youngberg and in her involvement with health programs in the community. The YAH staff welcome her home, and look forward to a rewarding experience working with her in health promotion.

-- Jonathan Ng, Public Relations Director, YAH



## Singapore Pathfinders Invested

Sabbath, September 22 was a memorable day for members of Jurong English Church as Pathfinders in full uniform took over both the Sabbath School and Divine Worship services for a special investiture service.

More than 40 Pathfinders from five Singapore clubs joined together for the occasion. Though the Makarios Pathfinder Club, of the Jurong English Church, only began seven months ago with 13 members, there were eight invested for the Friend class, and a long-time Pathfinder was invested as a Master Guide. Numerous honors were also presented, as well as two Pathfinder Excellence Awards.



The special celebration impressed many church members to support the Pathfinder work in their local churches. Several young people signed up to become Pathfinders as a result of the program.

-- Samuel Siew, Director, Makarios Pathfinder Club, Jurong English Church

## Singapore L.E. Receives Top Ten Award

At a special presentation service on September 15, the Singapore Adventist Mission (SAM) honored Miss Joan Lee for her selection for the Far Eastern Division Top Ten Literature Evangelist Award. Pastor Peter Wong, then secretary-treasurer of the SAM, presented her with a pin and a certificate from the Far Eastern Division.

Miss Lee has been a literature evangelist for the past 11 years, and has qualified for L.E. credentials most years in spite of a sometimes-troublesome health problem.



Singapore L.E. Joan Lee receives the FED Top Ten Award.

This has made the Top Ten Award especially meaningful to her. Although Miss Lee has received many other job offers, praise God that she has remained dedicated to the Lord's work.

-- Samuel Siew,  
Acting Publishing Department Director, SAM

## SDA's Attend International Drug Conference

Dr. Chew Sze Ted, associate health and temperance director of the Sarawak Mission, and Pastor Jonathan Ng, director of chaplaincy and public relations of Youngberg Adventist Hospital, were among the 400 official delegates from 26 countries at the 12th Conference of the International Federation of Non-Government Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse, held at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Singapore November 12 to 16.

With the theme "Healthy Living Without Drugs," the conference was organized by Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association (SANA) in conjunction with international non-government organizations and the Colombo Plan Bureau.

Representing the Adventists' International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (ICPA), with headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland (USA), was its executive director, Thomas Neslund. He is in Southeast Asia to promote the 8th ICPA World Prevention Congress, to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from September 1 to 5, 1991.

Delegates from Adventist institutions were pleased with the opportunities to share their health heritage with the community in the fight against drug abuse.

-- Jonathan Ng, Public Relations Director, YAH



## ■ SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION COLLEGE ■

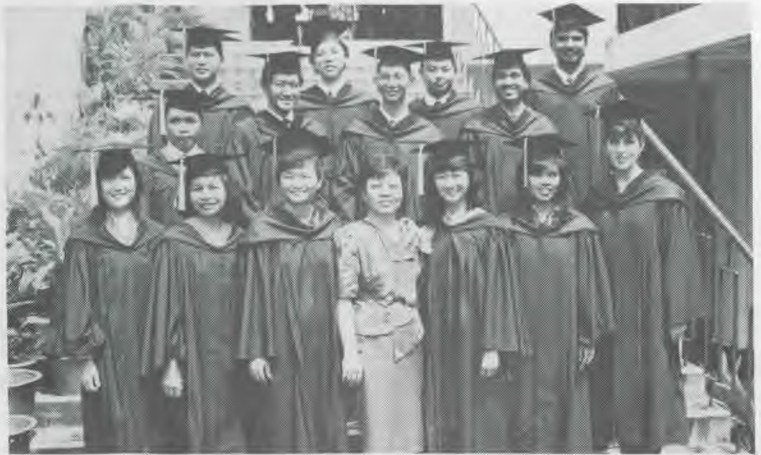
### SAUC Graduates Nineteen

"To Seek, To Obtain, To Share" was the keynote of the speakers during the Southeast Asia Union College graduation ceremonies, held on November 30 and December 1.

Dr. Ralph Jones, Acting President of the college, in his Consecration address, asked what the graduating class of 1990 was seeking. He admonished them to seek a better life and--more importantly--to seek Jesus, as it is only through Him that all things are possible.

Pastor Jonathan Ng, Director of Public Relations at Youngberg Adventist Hospital, spoke for the Baccalaureate service on Sabbath morning. He advised students, in the process of "obtaining," to further improve the network system built by previous graduates of SAUC.

The speaker for the Commencement was Dr. Gary Brendel, acting Chairman of the Education Department of SAUC. He challenged the graduates to share all that they obtain. Although, he stated, sharing is the most difficult aspect in a human being, scholars of SAUC have been trained to share; this is not a new concept to them.



A total of 19 have completed their college work, 17 of these in four-year programs. Of these, eight finished in business administration, four in elementary education, three in office administration, and two in religion/theology. Two have completed the two-year business administration certificate.

-- Patrick Stephen, SAUC graduate, Class of 1990

## ■ THAILAND ■

### Mission College Opens New Campus in Thailand

The flag of Thailand was hoisted for the first time on the new flag pole of Muak Lek Campus while students sang the National Anthem to mark the opening of the dedication ceremony and open house at Mission College, Muak Lek Campus, in Thailand's Saraburi Province.

There was standing room only as over 300 guests then crowded into the science room. Dr. Ronald Brody, president of Bangkok Adventist Hospital, offered a prayer of thanks to God for His guidance and love in the establishment of Muak Lek Campus. Mrs. Salinee Navamaratna, Mission College President, warmly welcomed those who honored Mission College by their attendance at the dedication. She reported on the

progress of Mission College as it has been established under the auspices of the Christian Medical Foundation of Seventh-day Adventists.

In his address to the audience, Pastor George Johnson, president of Southeast Asia Union Mission, reminisced about the development of the campus and thanked various persons who had worked directly with the program, either as staff, volunteers, or students.

He expressed appreciation to Mrs. Salinee for her leadership; Elder Wendell Wilcox, former president of the Thailand Mission, who had the vision of a college and was willing to step out in faith; Mr. Wayne Hamra, who pioneered the development of the property; Dr. Jon Dybdahl and then Pastor Arthur Bell, who contributed their many skills in continuing the work; and Dr. Helen Sprengel, who devoted her time and talents to the preparation of a curriculum and to fund raising. If it had not been for the spirit of sacrifice manifested by so



many faithful donors, the school would not have been ready to open on time. Bangkok Adventist Hospital, under the leadership of Dr. Ronald Brody, also provided much needed support.



*Art Bell, administrator of Muak Lek Campus; T. Y. Billones, vice president of BAH; Steve Dickerson, building consultant; Chaiwat Kootanasan, president of Medical Foundation; and Helen Sprengel, Public Relations Director, cut the ribbons to unveil the school sign.*

Pastor Johnson also thanked God for the miracles seen first-hand, and for opportunities provided for infinite, continuous development. He pointed out that Christian education is part of God's plan, through which He prepares men, women, and students for service. Pastor Johnson then dedicated Mission College, its students, teachers and its supporters to God's glory.

Dr. W. S. Bassham, president of the Thailand Mission, offered the dedicatory prayer. Mission College students provided music in songs which they had composed for the occasion.

The final thrill came with the unveiling of the signboard of Mission College, Muak Lek Campus. As dozens of bright-colored balloons floated heavenward, those who had worked so long and hard toward this day realized that their dream had finally become a reality.

*-- Helen Sprengel,  
Director of PR and Marketing, BAH*

## Health Promotion Center Opens in Thailand

On Friday, November 16, Bangkok Adventist Hospital (BAH) officially opened its Mission Health Promotion Center at Muak Lek, Saraburi Province, about a two-and-a-half hour drive into the countryside from Bangkok. This Weimar-type conditioning center

is the first of its kind in Thailand.

At the opening ceremonies, Dr. Ronald Brody, President of BAH, gave the welcome and report. Guest of honor, and special speaker for the occasion was Thailand's Minister of Industry, Police General Pramarn Adireksarn. He also took part in the unveiling ceremony, the tree planting, and the ribbon cutting. A prayer of dedication was offered by Pastor George Johnson, SAUM president. On the opening day, the Bangkok Post newspaper carried a four-page supplement on the Health Promotion Center. In addition to the day's program, it had numerous photographs and articles on the lifestyle programs to be offered, the history of BAH, and the wholistic approach of the NEWSTART program. It also gave testimonies of several Thai participants in previous Seventh-day Adventist health programs, both in Thailand and at Weimar (USA)

For several years the leaders of BAH have worked for such a facility. With approximately 80% of such illnesses as heart disease, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure and other degenerative diseases being caused by food and lifestyle habits, they felt it was vital to offer a NEW START to the people of Thailand.

In 1983 and 1984, BAH personnel conducted three successful pilot programs in Nong Nooch Village, near the resort town of Pattaya, with more than 50 Thai participants. One lady, Mrs. Vilaiwan Eiamchareon, was suffering from tremendous stress because of business and family problems. She could walk only short distances before exhaustion. She attended several months of the BAH health promotion programs, and gained new vitality and purpose in life. After the first month, she could walk 4-5 km, and after the second month she could walk and jog up to 15 km per day. "My endurance is better and my friends who have attended with me," she says, "also have had much better health since this vacation with a purpose."



*Minister of Industry, Police General Pramarn Adireksarn, cuts the ribbon for the opening of the health center.*



With this and other success stories, both from the BAH programs and from similar programs around the world, BAH moved out in faith to build the 45-million-bhat (more than \$3 million) Health Promotion Center. It is possibly the first such facility in all of Asia.

The center can accommodate up to 60 people at a time in a hotel-like facility with modern rooms and buffet-style vegetarian meals in the cafeteria. An auditorium, a library, and occupational therapy department provide additional convenience.

Surrounded by hills and plenty of land, the center offers a personalized exercise program in the open air. Outdoor paths, tennis courts, and a swimming pool and jacuzzi, along with hydrotherapy and physical therapy departments, offer ample exercise and massage treatments. Medical and nursing personnel and a good laboratory provide the medical back-up needed for the program.

Regular classes are offered to provide instruction in exercise, cooking and nutrition, weight control, stress, and other problems of modern society. In the evenings, participants have programs of music, slides and sharing, while on weekends there are outings to scenic sites.

The 20-day lifestyle program is scheduled regularly, with only a short break between programs. The center will also offer stop-smoking programs and executive health programs.

-- Marilyn Johnson, Managing Editor, MESSENGER

## Phuket Hospital Celebrates 50th Anniversary

On October 9, Phuket Adventist Hospital celebrated its 50th anniversary. Hospital president Ronald Koh hosted a dinner for staff and special guests.

Among the guests for the occasion was Mr. Kiat Nyoipan, Phuket Provincial Deputy Governor. In his speech, Mr. Kiat thanked the hospital for its many years of dedicated service to the citizens of Phuket and surrounding provinces. Pastor George Johnson, chairman of the hospital board, presented the Deputy Governor with several Spirit of Prophecy books in the Thai language.

Other guests included Dr. and Mrs. Paul Watson, who served at PKAH for eleven years during the 1960's and early 1970's. Pioneer physician Dr. Franklin Crider was also honored during the celebration, along with doctors, dentists and administrators of present and former years. Also receiving honor were those workers who have given more than 10 years of service at PKAH. A historical exhibition attracted many who attended



SAUM President George Johnson presents books to the Deputy Governor.

the anniversary celebration. During the ceremony, sons of the man who initially invited the SDA church to open a clinic in Phuket and the man who donated the land for the hospital witnessed the unveiling of photographs of their fathers.

Phuket Adventist Hospital began as a clinic under the leadership of Arthur E. Geschke. Today it continues, with God's blessing, as a beacon of truth in southern Thailand.

-- Russell Standish, AHSa Director, SAUM

## Cell Group Yields Fruit

After months of Bible study with the cell group organized by Miss Saowaluek Roongjirarasamekool, two brothers have made their decision to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

The cell group has been supported by Miss Somporn Phiboonwatanaporn, a former chaplain at Bangkok Adventist Hospital, who has been battling with cancer for several years.

Two evangelistic principles are at work in their program. The first is that of the cell group system. The second is the "Bridges of God" program. The Spirit of Prophecy teaches that small cell groups are an ideal and God-appointed vehicle for reaching out to save souls around us. Mrs. Ellen G. White has indicated that we should gather together in small groups and pray for the individual conversion of a particular person by name. We should lift him up in prayer many times a day, and as a group work for his conversion and salvation.

The "Bridges of God" program reaches out to family members, relatives and friends. In this case, Mr. Bandit and his brother Bancha Rangantiwongse are related to Miss Saowaluek. It is often considered



difficult to work with one's own relatives. In this case, both brothers had previously rebuffed attempts to bring them to a saving knowledge of the Bible truth.

Mr. Bandit, in particular, was a good student, and could not accept any spiritual truths which he felt were not based on logic. He spent many hours defending his unbelief. But the love and concern of his relative, Saowaluck, and the prayers of those in her cell group melted his heart. At last he and his brother wholeheartedly responded to the pleadings of the Holy Spirit, and, on November 3, the two young men were baptized in the Bangkok Chinese Church.

-- Danny Pung, Communication Director, TAM

## Angels that Speak Korean

Mr. Thonglang Rujen, of Ban Khan, in northeastern Thailand, believes God answers prayers and that some angels can even speak Korean.

In 1964, he accepted Christ. Previously respected by his neighbors, he then faced distrust, misunderstanding, and persecution from even his closest friends and relatives. Yet he continued to study his Bible and speak for God.

Believing that God has given him the gift of hospitality, he has sacrificed time, money, clothes and personal effort for those around him, bringing not only personal satisfaction and reward but also changes in the lives of those around him.

Through the years, God has used this man to draw over 300 people to a knowledge of Christ. He has built up four churches, working in eight different districts without salary or regular employment. Though not prosperous in material wealth, he states that he has never been without the necessities of life, and feels rich in God's love, peace and the true values of life.

"One day," he says, "after 27 years of experiencing blessings from God, I thought there was little more that I could learn of His truth and blessings. Then one day He added an even greater blessing to me." A Seventh-day Adventist lay evangelist told him of the Sabbath and what a blessing it is. "I had never heard anyone speak before concerning this blessing. Since I had enjoyed so many blessings from God, I did not want to miss out on this blessing also. I hungrily listened to the message, and the more the truth unfolded, the more I saw its beauty.

Immediately he accepted the Sabbath message. He began to pray that God would help him build a church in his village. He talked it over with fellow believers, and together they saved what money they could. They prayed earnestly that God would bless

their rice fields for the next two years so that they could scrape together enough money to build a small jungle chapel.

Then the SDA pastor from the Roi-et Church visited the village, and with a twinkle in his eye, told Brother Thonglang that angels were coming from Korea to finance and help to build a church. A group of students from the Seventh-day Adventist university in Korea soon arrived to help with the construction. "Indeed, when they arrived, it looked like angels to us. For surely they were heaven-sent. We put our hearts and hands together and we built a very fine church in which we now worship every Sabbath day."

-- W. S. Bassham, President, TAM

## ADRA Thailand Battles AIDS

As Christians, Seventh-day Adventists cannot ignore anything that causes sickness and suffering to any of God's children, even when that suffering may be the result of lifestyle choices which are contrary to God's commands.

ADRA Thailand, recognizing the growing threat of AIDS within the country, has begun a unique project in the northeastern province of Sisaket. With few cities or large towns, this farming province has one of the lowest per capita income rates and lowest standards of living in Thailand.

One might ask why ADRA should target such an area for an AIDS education program, where high risk groups such as IV drug users and prostitutes are not likely found.

Because Sisaket is too dry for a second rice crop, local farmers migrate to the large cities as far away as Bangkok to seek employment during the dry season. In these cities, alone without family or community, the farmer often seeks solace at one of the low-priced brothels. In the cities, depending on the type of brothel, up to 60% of the girls are infected with the AIDS virus.

When the farmer later returns to his village, he may pass on the virus to his unsuspecting wife and children. Recognizing this problem, ADRA Thailand joined staff from the Sisaket Provincial Hospital and the Sisaket Provincial Health Office to develop a special program to reach poor country people.

Funded by the Australian government's aid agency AIDAB, the project seeks to provide AIDS education for the farmers and their families. According to project manager Dr. Chai Teerasut, rural people do not learn from books or reading, or even from listening to talks. Their learning takes place by stronger visual



experiences.

The project is therefore using a local drama form, Maw Lum, to present the tale of a young farmer who went to Bangkok to work and picked up the AIDS virus. Returning home, he brings sickness and shame back to his loving wife and unforgiving neighbors, who tell him loudly what he should have done to avoid getting AIDS.



A scene from one of the "Maw Lum" dramas.

The fun-loving Thais have responded well to the preliminary performances of the hilarious show. The drama will go into as many villages as the budget will permit. A health education center, being established in Sisaket Hospital, will produce song cassettes and video productions of the Maw Lum drama by the regular drama team as well as by student groups. The center also produces a monthly newspaper, written in simple language, about local events and health information, especially AIDS.

ADRA and the Sisaket Hospital hope to broaden the AIDS program to include ELISA testing, career counseling, and other educational programs. Dr. Chai states, "An integrated AIDS education and prevention program such as we would like to develop here in Sisaket could be a model to other northeastern provinces and perhaps even to other areas of the country, using their own local drama forms."

-- Lila Tidwell, Associate Director, ADRA Thailand

## Phuket Hospital Used as Answer to Prayer

Board members of Phuket Adventist Hospital were recently surprised to learn that God had used them as a direct answer to the prayers of the Thailand Mission.

As part of the daily routine, workers and staff of Thailand Adventist Mission gather together three times a day--morning, noon, and just before closing the office in the evening--to pray together and give thanks to God for answers to prayer.

For some time, they had desired to build one church in the province of Kalasin and another in the village of Ban Nadoo in the northeast. They had discussed this on various occasions, and had raised some funds and set aside other funds from the Mission budget for the two projects. Yet funds were still insufficient.

The project of having a church at Kalasin to serve as a center of work for the area would take Bhat 50,000, but TAM was still lacking Bhat 20,000. A church in Ban Nadoo would also cost Bhat 50,000, but they were still short Bhat 30,000 for that construction. For a small Mission like Thailand, with limited resources, Bhat 50,000 was an overwhelming obstacle.

The TAM staff took this matter to the Lord again, after discussing the Kalasin project, and wondered how God would answer the prayer.

Shortly after the work day had begun, Phuket Adventist Hospital administrator Ronald Koh phoned to Bangkok, asking to speak with Dr. W. S. Bassham, Thailand Mission president. In conjunction with the 50th Anniversary of the hospital, he said, the hospital board had decided to make a donation to Thailand Mission for expanding the work in Thailand. Would Dr. Bassham kindly fax back a request with the stated amount.

Thailand Mission employees regarded this as a direct and immediate answer to prayer, yet felt timid to ask for a large amount. Thus they sent a request for Bhat 20,000 for the church in Kalasin, hoping that this was not too much to ask. To the surprise and joy of TAM employees, the Phuket hospital board took an action to grant not Bhat 20,000, but Bhat 50,000--just the amount needed to open both churches.

TAM workers praised God for this direct answer to prayer, going on with strengthened faith. Phuket hospital personnel also felt blessed and had their faith greatly strengthened when they came to know that God had chosen them to act as an answer to prayer for needs of which they had been unaware.

-- W. S. Bassham, President, TAM

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## ■ HEALTH ■

### Then and Now

Dr. Lester Breslow visited Singapore in November, presenting a visiting professor lecture sponsored by the Singapore Cancer Society. His topic was the relationship of cancer and cigarette smoking.

While completing my doctoral work in the mid-'70s, I had heard Dr. Breslow speak on numerous occasions



at Loma Linda University. He was then the Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA), an active researcher and sought-after speaker. He was, and still is, a good friend of Loma Linda University. Though now retired, he still travels to present guest lectures.

As I listened to his lecture in Singapore, I was reminded why Dr. Breslow was and still is so popular among Seventh-day Adventist health professionals. Along with other associates, he pioneered the *7 Health Habits Study* back in 1965, with many follow-up studies in the 70s. These studies documented the importance of following seven simple yet basic health habits, showing that the more of these habits are followed, the lower would be one's risk of death.

These seven health habits coincide with the eight natural remedies given by God and outlined by Ellen White over 100 years ago. Let's look at a comparison of the "then" and "now."



There is significant agreement between the Then and Now. Trust in Divine Power has shown documented results in more recent studies. Some studies call this major natural remedy "meditation." As Christians, we know this as prayer and meditation, along with total dependence and faith in God and His Son, Jesus, as our universal yet very personal savior.

Once again, both God and science agree on ways to achieve optimal health and long life.

-- Gerard McLane, Director,  
Youngberg Wellness Center

## ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO

### "I'll Meet You in Heaven"

Joe Morgan was known by his friends as one who could "drink alcohol like a fish drinks water." As a supervisor at a giant copper mine in Papua New Guinea, he worked long days then stopped at a bar for beer and staggered home to his fearful family.

One day he staggered into his home and turned on his radio to hear the news. What he heard was the **best news ever heard by any man**--Adventist World Radio-Asia preaching the good news of salvation!

Listening to AWR became a habit, and then one Saturday morning Joe announced to his family that they were all going to church! It wasn't long before the love of God's family convinced Joe to give up his liquor, betel nut and cigarettes, and a baptismal day was set.

Only a few weeks before the planned baptism, a medical check-up revealed that Joe had cancer and had only a short while left to live. On his deathbed, Joe earnestly told his wife and six children, "I have no regret. I have made my choice to follow the Lord. Be faithful to the Lord, my dear ones, and I'll meet you in heaven."

Joe's wife and three teenage children were soon baptized. At his funeral, many of his relatives indicated that they would like to study the same Bible that had changed Joe's life so dramatically.

To date, Adventist World Radio has received 33,335 letters from listeners in 114 countries. Tell your friends about AWR, and pray that God will lead many of these listeners to accept Christ's salvation.

#### AWR-ASIA ENGLISH PROGRAM SCHEDULE

UTC	Sun	Mon-Fri	Sat
0000	Your Story Hour	Family Matters	Story Hour
0015	Your Story Hour	Bible in Sound	Story Hour
0030	Voice of Prophecy	Greatest Story	V. Prophecy
0045	Voice of Prophecy	V. Prophecy	V. Prophecy
0200	AWR Magazine	--	Mailbox
0215	AWR Magazine	--	Focus on Liv
0230	DX Asiawaves	--	Power
0245	Probe	--	Power
1000	AWR Magazine	Family Matters	Mailbox
1015	AWR Magazine	Bible in Sound	Digging Past
1030	It is Written	Greatest Story	Focus on Liv
		DX Asiawaves (Mon only)	
1045	It is Written	V. Prophecy	Probe
1600	AWR Magazine	Family Matters	Micro Snaps
1615	AWR Magazine	Bible in Sound	Mailbox
1630	Power to Cope	Greatest Story	DX Asiawaves
1645	Power to Cope	V. Prophecy	Probe
2300	Family Matters	Family Matters	Micro Snaps
2315	Bible in Sound	Bible in Sound	Focus in Liv
2330	V. Prophecy	V. Prophecy	DX Asiawaves
2345	V. Prophecy	V. Prophecy	Probe





**W**hen I first came to SAUC in March 1987, things seemed very different to me. This was the first time in my life that I had ever been in a Seventh-day Adventist community, although I had heard of SDAs before. The people here seemed to talk differently, walk differently, and behave differently.

I went for my first class, and was surprised that the professor started the class with a word of prayer. It seemed strange; nevertheless, I bowed my head in respect. In all my other classes that day, I experienced the same thing--prayer before class began.

Two days later, I attended my first chapel exercise in SAUC. The entire student body seemed cheerful. They sang Christian songs, someone prayed, and a speaker talked on some spiritual aspect and its relation to college life. I began to feel out of place; it was like I was in church.

Although I come from a staunch Roman Catholic background, my family and I were never so religious. I had studied in Christian schools in the past, but life did not seem to be as religious there. I felt that SDAs were overdoing this religious thing a bit. However, I didn't complain or argue.

What surprised me most about Adventists was the many "don'ts" and "cannots" attached to the religion. I told myself that my own religion was so much more fun. What I didn't realize then was that all religions have their "dos" and "don'ts." I was completely disregarding the good things about Adventists.

As the months passed, I began to adapt to life here. The people were very friendly, understanding and caring. On occasion, however, I felt personally attacked if a chapel speaker commented about my religion; I felt hurt and angry. "What makes him think that his religion is the true and God-chosen one?" I learned, with the help of some friends, to disregard such "attacks."

I must admit, though, I never did know much about the doctrines of my own religion. As far as I was concerned, I went to church regularly and went for confession once a month. This was all that mattered. There were certain teachings in my own religion that I couldn't accept, let alone understand. Nevertheless, I just took these things for granted. One Friday evening, a friend (who would prove to be very instrumental in my life in the near future) invited me to attend the Friday evening Vesper service at the SAUC church. I found in the informal service a feeling of closeness and caring. A couple of weeks later, I was invited to attend the church service.

I attended church that Saturday, and indeed found it to be a unique experience. Soon I found myself attending the Vespers and Church service more often. It was as if I was being attracted, drawn in. Taking compulsory Bible classes and talking with the students, pastors, and church leaders, I began to understand more about Seventh-day Adventists. By mid-1988, I was already participating in Sabbath School and church activities. Then the SAUC Church pastor invited me to be baptized.

This would be a very serious decision. If I did get baptized, it had to be my own decision, not weighted by what others wanted or thought. I then began to get more involved in church activities and began to seriously study the SDA religion.

On many occasions I became very disappointed and questioned the teachings of the church, due to what I saw as hypocrisies. However, it was at times like these that my friends advised me to look at Jesus as the example, and not make generalizations about the religion based upon what I saw. I soon learned that if one keeps his faith and looks only to Jesus, he will surely not falter.

In October 1990, I finally decided that I was ready to take that all-important step. After three-and-a-half years of serious consideration, prayers, and Bible lessons, I was baptized into the SDA church on October 27, 1990. Four weeks later, on December 1, I completed my studies and graduated from SAUC.

I am very thankful to God for guiding me through the past four years of my life in SAUC. I am also thankful to many friends at SAUC for their advice, care and strength. I am thankful to SAUC for giving me a well-rounded Christian education and for helping me better understand Christianity.

SAUC will always hold a special place in my heart for various reasons, but most importantly, because it helped me find Jesus.

-- Patrick Stephen



■ DEVOTIONAL ■

## No Room for Him

"This is Jerusalem. The World Service of Radio Israel. The time: 0600 hours. The news, read by Miriam Goldberg.

"Reports have just come in from Bethlehem that a group of shepherds are going around the village proclaiming the birth, last night, of the long-awaited Messiah. The reports say that the shepherds claim to have seen a vision which led them to the stable where the Messiah was alleged to have been born. And now, for the rest of the day's news. . ."

Had radio and television been present nearly two thousand years ago, would Christ's birth have made the news? I wonder! Today, Christmas is a well-loved festive season. People buy. People celebrate. People give gifts. It is a time of joy; a time when families gather together to partake of all sorts of pleasures; a time when the whole world goes on an uncontrolled spending spree. Most seem unaware as to what it is all about.

Jesus was born quietly, in a forgotten stable of an insignificant village. Sure, a few shepherds and wisemen visited Him, but what about the multitudes? While heaven sang in rapturous joy, the earth plodded on in its self-seeking. Jesus did not come in pomp and circumstance. His birth went largely unnoticed. His birth could have shaken the earth with His glory; instead, He came in the quietness of a lowly manger.

Jesus came into His own, but they did not know Him. He came to be the Savior of the world, but the world did not welcome Him. He came to be Immanuel, but we did not have the time. Christ could have been born in the best hotel room of Bethlehem if it had been left open for Him. But He was not choosy; He still is not. That night there was room for Him only in the stable, so that is where He was born! While the fool says in his heart, "There is no God," the wisemen found Him in a manger.

Far too often we are oblivious to the reality of that first Christmas. Our Christmases of today are totally out of sync with that first one. There were no brightly lit trees that night. Neither were there cards nor tinsel nor stockings nor Santa Claus nor family reunions. By comparison, that was a drab, chilly, lonely, and unwelcomed Christmas. Only the carolling angels and a few shepherds were present to add some warmth.

Yet that first Christmas was an unrepeatable prototype. On that day, God became man. The Word became flesh; El-Shaddai (God Almighty) became Immanuel (God with us); Yahweh Milchamah (Yahweh the Man of War) became a helpless babe. That was the night when divinity bound itself up to humanity forever. That was the night when sacrifice reached its pinnacle. That was a night of LOVE!

Therefore, it was not surprising to hear the angel pronounce: "This day is born to you, in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord." There was no room for Jesus in Bethlehem on that first Christmas. Is there room in your heart for Him today?

-- *Wann M. Fanwar, Pastor,*  
*Jurong English Church, Singapore*

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