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## **E-Gaw Tribe Work Bears First Fruits**

*see page 15*

## Precious Moments with Prayer

### Part 10 -- Prayer and Healing

At seventeen and in the tenth grade, I thought life was going good. As a Christmas gift, the teacher had just given the school a set of weights for the older students to use. I was lifting weights, when suddenly I felt a sharp pain. One of my classmates helped me to the bathroom, and there I fainted. The boys moved me back into the corridor and called the teacher.

Then and for the next two or three months, my mother took me to several doctors. They tried different treatments, but nothing helped. Finally a specialist said that I had a tumor--one of the worst possible kinds. They would have to do surgery.

Hospitals back then did not have the modern diagnostic equipment that they do now. Thus they told my mother that in the exploratory surgery they would cut from my chest down to my naval or below. If they found cancer, they would have to go through each arm and leg, even my fingers and toes, and remove all the affected lymph nodes from my body.

After the first of two major operations, I prayed and rededicated my life to God. I promised Him that if He saw fit to spare my life I would be a minister or whatever He would have me to be. Meanwhile, my widowed mother was at home also praying earnestly that her only child be spared. Several churches were also praying for me. But at the very moment that I gave my life totally to the Lord and His service, I knew that God had touched me and healed me.

Seventeen years later, while I was serving as a missionary in Thailand, doctors found another tumor in almost the same place. Some said that my cancer had come back. I said, "No way! Once God heals, you're healed. It may be a different type of cancer, but it won't be the same kind."

After doctors at Loma Linda University Hospital removed the tumor, they said my case would go down in the medical books, with two different kinds of tumor in the same place. This time it was one of the fastest-spreading but easiest-to-cure types. Miraculously they had found it when it was still very small while checking for something else. I am living proof that God still heals.

It is very difficult to understand why God heals some while others are left to suffer. In James 5:14-16 we are instructed: "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed..."

"To those who desire prayer for their restoration to health, it should be made plain that the violation of God's law, either natural [health] or spiritual, is sin, and that in order for them to receive His blessing, sin must be confessed and forsaken.

"...Every open sin should be as openly confessed. Wrong done to a fellow being should be made right with the one who has been offended. If any who are seeking health have been guilty of evilspeaking, if they have sowed discord in the home, the neighborhood, or the church, and have stirred up alienation and dissension, if by any wrong practice they have led others into sin,

these things should be confessed before God and before those who have been offended.

"When wrongs have been righted, we may present the needs of the sick to the Lord in calm faith, as His Spirit may indicate..." (*Ministry of Healing*, pp. 228-229)

When we pray for the sick, we should remember that "we know not what we should pray for as we ought." (Romans 8:26) Sometimes the person is healed, other times not. We know that it takes real faith to be healed. Yet I feel it takes even greater faith to accept it when God doesn't see fit to heal one right away...or not at all.

"...It is not always safe to ask for unconditional healing. Let your prayer include this thought: 'Lord, Thou knowest every secret of the soul. Thou art acquainted with these persons; for Jesus, their advocate, gave His life for them. He loves them better than we possibly can. If, therefore, it is for Thy glory and the good of these afflicted ones to raise them up to health, we ask Thee in the name of Jesus, that health may be given them at this time.' In a petition of this kind, no lack of faith is manifested." (*Counsels on Health*, p. 375)

I had just begun to write this article a few weeks ago when we received a phone call from one of our children in the USA saying that our six-month-old granddaughter was in the hospital in extremely critical condition. Immediately our family knelt down and spent an hour in earnest prayer that God would heal our beloved little Baleigh. Then we telephoned back to our daughter, only to learn that Baleigh had passed away.

The loss was very difficult for all of us to accept. But yet we know that God knows the end from the beginning. "He is acquainted with the hearts of all men. He reads every secret of the soul. He knows whether those for whom prayer is offered would or would not be able to endure the trials that would come upon them should they live. He knows whether their lives would be a blessing or a curse to themselves and to the world. This is one reason why, while presenting our petitions with earnestness, we should say, 'Nevertheless not my will, but Thine, be done.' Luke 22:42." (*Ministry of Healing*, p. 230)

One thing always helps me when God doesn't heal or do things just the way I think they should be done. That is to look at the life of Christ and realize all the suffering He went through during His life on earth--especially in the garden of Gethsemane and on the cross. God didn't interfere because He knew what was best for all of us. At one point, Jesus even felt as if God had forsaken Him. But God had not. Nor does He ever forsake any one of us. He is always there for us, by our side to help us through each trial that comes our way.

— Rayburn Smith, Publishing Director, SAUM

*(Editor's note: This is the last article in the series on prayer. Several readers have commented on the help that these articles have been to them. May this final article be a blessing to some who are facing crises in their lives at this moment.)*

## What IS Global Mission?

*Global Mission is YOU reaching out in whatever way God leads  
to share His love with those near to you.*

*Global Mission is NOW, using your talents for the Lord.*

For a very special occasion, the leader of a certain village invited hundreds of people to a great feast. He carefully instructed each invitee to bring a bottle of the very choicest wine. He emphasized that the wine must be the very best that money could buy. Then he told them that at the feast the wine would all be poured into a large jar, from which it would be served to everyone present.

At last it was the day of the great feast. Everyone came with his bottle. The village chief welcomed the guests, and directed each one to pour the contents of his bottle into the large container. And then the fine wine was served up to all of the guests. All waited expectantly to taste this wondrous drink.

But alas! When the leader tasted the drink, and as each guest at the feast tasted it, the flavor was not that of the choicest wine available, but just the flavor of water. For each person had thought that if he brought only water, when it was mixed with the other fine wine, just one bottle of water would do no harm. Surely it would not be noticed.

When all of the guests adding nothing but water, the result was....just WATER!

As Pastor P. D. Chun, newly-appointed Secretary of the Far Eastern Division, introduced Global Mission to all of the Singapore church members recently, he told this story. Unfortunately, he stated, that "fine wine" experience is too much the way it is with Global Mission. Each person in the churches believes that Global Mission is the idea of the General Conference, or of the Division....or maybe the Unions. But not an individual responsibility. So each person leaves God's work to the organized church, and alas, the work is left unfinished, the efforts are diluted.

What is Global Mission? According to Far Eastern Division President Ottis Edwards, "Global Mission is a bold step towards finishing God's work on this earth." It is identifying the unreached people groups in each territory, then developing a plan to reach those groups.

More specifically, Global Mission is entering new neighborhoods. And this can only be done through church members on the local level using their talents in cooperation, in partnership, with the Holy Spirit. The disciples received a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and God has promised that same Spirit to work with His people again.

Many Seventh-day Adventists look forward to that outpouring in the future, but, according to Ellen White

"it is the privilege of the church to have it now. Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and heaven is waiting to bestow it." (*Manuscript Release*, p.331)

Global Mission is each of God's people seeking a closer walk with Him through study and feeding upon His Word, through a richer prayer life, and through more consistent witness. Thus the Holy Spirit can restore in each individual the image of his or her Maker and give each one the power to follow Him.

God also guides His people where and when to go and He teaches them how to communicate the gospel effectively. He gives vision, inspiration, and ideas to those who truly want to serve Him.

Around the Southeast Asia Union Mission there are many who have vision, who are using their talents to spread the message of God's love and Christ's soon return. On November 9, during Elder Robert Folkenberg's visit to Singapore, Pastor George Johnson, SAUM President, interviewed several active laymen from various churches about their special witnessing projects.

Businessmen Yip Kok Tho and Peter Lai put up posters around their neighborhoods. In two months' time they had 15 people coming to talk with them, and they received phone calls from many others interested in learning more about the word of God.

Housewife Yip Siew Ing, along with two other Adventist lay members, recently opened a bakery called "Five Loaves" to share the bread of life with others. They open their homes or find other locations for bread-tasting sessions. More than 60 people visited Siew Ing's home for one such session. Running a bakery is hard work, but Siew Ing and her partners have found many opportunities already to share the Adventist health message with others, and they know that God is guiding in their efforts.

Until recently, David Tan was an active layman, and the manager of a very successful business. But he gave up that promising career to dedicate his life to serving the Lord full time. Today he is the manager of Southeast Asia Publishing House, and is constantly looking for ways to witness through the printed word. Currently he is leading in the development of free literature, including the publication of a new magazine called *Free!*, for free distribution in Singapore.

Terry Quek, supervisor of baggage handling at Singapore's international airport, has taken an interest

in children. He asks his fellow church members to save their copies of *Our Little Friend* and *Primary Treasure*. He gives these to his fellow workers to take home for their children. Mothers have frequently come back and asked for more, telling how the children enjoyed the stories and activities. Along with each magazine he includes a poem by Lynn Richards which he once found in *Our Little Friend*:

*A little boy who has no toys  
Is a sad little boy indeed,  
But the little boy who knows no God  
Has even a greater need.  
Why, why? Little boys and girls today  
Don't always need their toys to play;  
But they must know of Jesus' love  
So that they can have a home above.*

And Terry Quek wants to do his part to see that these little ones do learn of Jesus' love.

Others are raising funds and traveling to do missionary work outside their own country. Secondary school teacher Fam Saw Ching is enthusiastic about the work of the Lightbearers. In the past four years this group of young people have organized several year-end trips to Thailand and Sarawak where they help the village people to construct church buildings or engage in other needed projects.

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-- Marilyn Johnson, Managing Editor, MESSENGER

## Did God Create the Bedbugs?

The Genesis account of beginnings or the Big Bang? Fossils: What do they say? Was there a worldwide flood? Catastrophism: Is it Scientific?

Such catchy titles and others attracted about 60 teachers, pastors, principals, education directors, and departmental leaders to attend a Geo-Science Research Seminar in Singapore from October 24 to 27.

Conducting the seminar were Dr. Ariel A. Roth, of the Geo-Science Research Institute at Loma Linda University (USA), and Dr. George W. Reid, from the Biblical Research Institute of the General Conference (USA).

Attendees included delegates from educational institutions and Missions all through the Southeast Asia Union Mission

(SAUM). Others came from as far away as Myanmar (Burma), Sri Lanka, and Japan. A large number of members from all of the Singapore churches attended a special session at Southeast Asia Union College Church on Sabbath afternoon.

Although the materials presented in the lectures were "heavy stuff," yet they were made easier to understand with the help of slides, video films, photocopied materials, and the discussions. There were also frequent question-and-answer sessions.

Each day began with a devotional talk to help prepare the minds of the delegates. The worship messages were given by Pastor Kenneth Wade, Pastor George Johnson, and Dr. Russell Standish, leaders in the SAUM.

When the seminar was over, with brains loaded with knowledge and methods on how to teach Creationism, and with arms laden with reading materials, all agreed that it was time well spent. The knowledge, views, and expertise from the combined perspective of this scientist and theologian team reconfirmed faith in the Bible, in creation, and in God.

-- Edmund Siagian, Education Director, SAUM

## Changed by a Forgotten Book



A few years ago, as I stood in the lobby of a post office, I noticed a lady across the room taking the mail from her post box. The Holy Spirit impressed me to walk over to this lady, whom I had never seen before, and hand her a copy of *Steps to Christ*. She took the book and looked at it. As tears came to her eyes, she told me that she had been praying for something just like this.

Possibly you are thinking, "But I'm not a literature evangelist, and it is much easier for an L.E. to speak to strangers." Maybe that's true. But what about your friends? Do you give them books, magazines and tracts? You don't have to be a Bible scholar or even be able to give a Bible study. Just give them the printed Word, and let the Holy Spirit do the rest. What a way to witness!

Mrs. White emphasizes the importance of distributing such literature: "There are many places in which the voice of the minister cannot be heard, places which can be reached only by our publications,—the books, papers, and tracts filled with the Bible truths that the people need. Our literature is to be distributed everywhere. The truth is to be sown beside all waters; for we know not which will prosper, this or that. In our erring judgment we may think

it unwise to give literature to the very ones who would accept the truth the most readily. We know not what may be the results of giving away a leaflet containing present truth." (*Colporteur Ministry*, pp. 4-5)

The year 1991 has been Literature Evangelism Year. During the year, hopefully you have read the reports and stories from each of our Missions. At the end of the year, I would like for each of us to stop and ask ourselves if we could be much more effective in working for the Lord if we shared more books, periodicals or tracts with our friends.

Sometimes our attempts to witness to others may upset them or even turn them away from us or the Church. But if we give them something in writing, it is difficult for them to argue with it. And unless they throw it away, it will be there for a long time for them or for someone else to read.

A good friend of mine, Denton, bought an old house. While cleaning out the upstairs room, he found a copy of *Bible Readings for the Home*. At that time, Denton rode to work each day with some fellows who taught Sunday School and often talked about Bible subjects. Denton was not a Christian--in fact, he was quite a rough man. But he decided to play a trick on the other men. Each evening when he got home, he looked in the old *Bible Readings* book and found the answers to their questions. The next day he would give them the answers.

This game of his went on for some time. His friends were puzzled about what was happening. And as time went by, Denton also became a changed man.

One day he told his wife that they should start a Saturday-keeping church. Then one evening, as he was driving, Denton saw a Seventh-day Adventist Church sign. He stopped his car and went into the church, to find that they were having an evangelistic meeting.

Denton asked the evangelist if this was the church that published *Bible Readings for the Home*. Yes, it was. Denton asked if he could join the church. After asking a number of questions, the pastor and evangelist felt comfortable that Denton was ready for baptism.

Shortly thereafter, Denton was baptized on a Sabbath. On the following Monday, he began working as a literature evangelist. Today he is a Union publishing director, and has been responsible for over 150 baptisms.

Denton went back and found the lady who had left the book. She told him that they had never really used the book. But God used that one book to turn Denton's life around and to lead him to accept, love, and serve his Lord and Master.

In this new year, let us each take every opportunity to share God's word with others around us.

-- Rayburn Smith, Publishing Director, SAUM

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## ■ CAMBODIA ■

### Language School Reestablished in Cambodia

In the early 1970's, an English language school was established in Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia. In the spring of 1974, it came to an abrupt halt as the forces of the Pol Pot regime took over the city and much of Cambodia. The student missionaries had to flee to safety.

Recently the Seventh-day Adventist Church was reestablished in Cambodia along with ADRA/Cambodia. In the selection of a residence for the ADRA staff, one of the prerequisites was a lot of space for classes and worship services.

Mrs. Evelyn Tidwell, wife of the ADRA/Cambodia director, started the English classes. She began with just a few who had heard of her willingness to teach. One of these was the son of the landlord, who is also a vice minister in the Social Services Ministry of Cambodia. The young man, a student in Phnom Penh University, quickly spread the word among his fellow students that an English-speaking foreigner was offering free

English classes. Soon many motorcycles were parked outside the house, the large sitting room was filled with several classes per day, and the classes were so full that many had to be turned away.

Several of the language students took advantage of the offer to study the Bible in English, so there are three classes each week carefully studying the Good News Bible. When they tire of the strenuous effort, they ask Mrs. Tidwell to teach them English songs. Then the house is filled with the sounds of Adventist choruses!

A number of students have accepted the invitation to attend the religious meeting held each Sabbath morning. Each one pays close attention to the Bible stories, the parables and miracles of Jesus, and a series of Bible studies.

-- Charles H. Tidwell, Director, ADRA/Cambodia

■ PENINSULAR MALAYSIA ■

### Teluk Intan Church Conducts Evangelistic Effort

The Teluk Intan church members are on fire for God, and are working eagerly for souls. On September 20-23, Pastor Benjamin Paramiah conducted an evangelistic effort in the Teluk Intan Church.

About 120 people attended each night; 36 of them were interests from other religions. The nightly messages were on last day events.

At the end of the series, 15 visitors responded to the altar call, and indicated their interest in joining the Saturday night Bible classes in the church.

The following Sabbath morning, Pastor David Leoh, President of the Peninsular Malaysia Mission, baptized eight candidates who had earlier completed their Bible studies. More are preparing for a year-end baptism. On the same day, 30 individuals received certificates for completing their lessons through the gift Bible program.

In preparation for the evangelistic effort, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Govindasamy had also conducted a vegetarian cooking class in the church.

— Benjamin Paramiah  
Ministerial Secretary, PEM

### L.E.s Hold Annual Institute

The Peninsular Malaysia Mission (PEM) literature evangelists had their annual institute on September 24-27 in the Methodist House at Fraser's Hill.

Fifteen literature evangelists, SAUM Publishing Director Rayburn Smith, PEM Publishing Director Sam Govindasamy, and his two assistants, Peter Chong and Loh Kum Kee, attended the institute representing the publishing work. Also in attendance were the families of three L.E.s as well as the Peninsular Malaysia Mission officers, David Leoh, Lim Cheng Beng, and Benjamin Paramiah.

The institute in the cool, green hills above Kuala Lumpur began with Pastor Leoh's keynote address about the mountaintop experience of Christ's disciples. Pastor Benjamin Paramiah, the Church Ministries Director of the PEM, gave the morning devotions.

Mr. Rayburn Smith spent many hours during the institute teaching the colporteurs how to meet the objections of their customers. He also introduced to the L.E.s some new books which were just off the press.

On the final evening of the institute, many of the literature evangelists received incentive awards for their good sales and for their efforts in Christian witnessing.

— Benjamin Paramiah  
Church Ministries Director, PEM

■ SABAH ■

### Highlights of 1991

Sabah now has over 16,780 baptized church members. With 31 evangelistic efforts conducted by pastors and another 101 by laymen this year, there were 662 baptisms during the first nine months of 1991.

The Sabah Mission has put large amounts of money into Christian education this year. Classrooms have been added at both Sabah Adventist Secondary School in Tamparuli and Goshen Adventist Secondary School. Both schools now have greatly improved library facilities due to the help of Dr. and Mrs. Jay Lantry. Most of the primary schools in Sabah have had a good increase in enrollment. Goshen Adventist Secondary School now has a new principal, Pastor Daniel Bagah, who was

formerly the youth director for the Sabah Mission. He replaces, or actually trades responsibilities with, Pastor Nelton Bingku, who is now a departmental director in the Sabah Mission.

ADRA/Sabah has been involved primarily with water projects this year, installing 17 gravity water systems and 45 wells in various villages throughout the country. Volunteers from Adventist colleges in North America have helped on several of the projects. Some Bible studies are now in progress as a result of ADRA projects.

During 1991, Stewardship Director Ginduk Laung has conducted 23 stewardship seminars, mostly in rural churches. Tithes have risen at a rate of 6-7% per year over

the past five years. Self-support has increased in Sabah, and the Sabah Mission could conceivably achieve conference status within the next few years.

The Sabah Mission has added two new resort/retreat centers. One is at Dantai Beach, where 1,200 Pathfinders gathered for a Union-wide camporee in May. The other is the Kundasang Retreat Centre, at the base of Mt. Kinabalu, which will be ready for use by April or May 1992. These retreat centers provide permanent facilities where the church can hold camps and activities which strengthen the church.

Sabah currently has 29 district pastors to shepherd the Lord's flocks. With the help of many active laymen, many new territories have been entered, including some which can be reached only by a two-day walk through the jungle. With God's blessings, the work of the church has been moving forward in 1991, and will continue to move ahead in the coming year.

-- Charles Gaban, President, Sabah Mission

## Christianity and Mt. Kinabalu

*(Editor's note: The following is an excerpt from a personal letter to the Managing Editor of MESSENGER from her former student. Although devotional articles regularly appear elsewhere in MESSENGER, the brief thoughts expressed seemed worth sharing with our readers.)*

On December 1, my husband and I, with a group of students from Sabah Adventist Secondary School, went to climb Mt. Kinabalu. The experience of climbing the mountain taught us a lot about our Christian life.

As we climbed to the summit, we held on to a rope. As long as we held the rope and focused our sight in front of us, we were safe. Even so, Jesus is the rope, and so long as we hold on to Him we are safe as we travel along the pathway to heaven.

Many times in our spiritual life we face discouragement or disappointment, and we may give up. On our way to the summit, we were so tired that we felt that we could not make it to the top. But the guides kept encouraging us to go on. Finally we reached the peak of Mt. Kinabalu. If we had given up, we never would have made it.

God, too, works like a guide. He encourages us to keep on going, even when we are down. And we are very happy to have a God who really cares for each one of His children.

-- Soulin Sisodia, Teacher  
Sabah Adventist Secondary School

## Sabah Hosts Stress Management Seminar

A Stress Management Seminar--likely the first in the history of the Sabah Mission--was held on November 8 and 9 at the Kota Kinabalu Community Hall. Youngberg Adventist Hospital (YAH) and Sabah Adventist Community Services co-sponsored the seminar.

The Sabah Mission Health/Temperance Director, Dr. Elvin Chong, coordinated the seminar, while Youngberg Hospital personnel were the speakers. Specialist-physician Dr. David McFadden spoke on the physiology of stress and stress-related diseases. Mrs. Doreen Ng, YAH Personnel Manager, covered topics on relaxation and coping with family stress. The YAH Director of Counselling Services and Community Relations, Pastor Jonathan Ng, shared concepts on personality and coping with job stress.



Speakers for the Stress Management seminar included (from left) Dr. Elvin Chong, Dr. David McFadden, Mrs. Doreen Ng, and Pastor Jonathan Ng.

The local newspapers and radio station gave excellent publicity for the seminar, resulting in an overwhelming response of about 300 participants.

This seminar was part of the health evangelism outreach ministry of Youngberg Adventist Hospital (Singapore) with the aim of sharing expertise with the local missions and serving the community at large.

-- Elvin Chong  
Health/Temperance Director, Sabah Mission

## Sabah Has New Kind of Camporee

The Sabahans love to camp, especially at church camps. Thus the Sabah Mission Church Ministries Director Nelver Sikul suggested a new kind of idea—a Lay Activities Camporee. On October 17-20, more than 300 church members from all over Sabah attended the personal ministries camp at the Sabah Mission's Dantai Campground.

The camporee began on Thursday afternoon in the midst of a deluge of rain that swamped some tents. A similar storm struck on Friday, and one pastor reported that water had come through his tent with such force that it had carried his pillow away downstream. Nevertheless, spirits were not dampened.

Pastor Jonathan Kuntaraf, from the Church Ministries Department of the Far Eastern Division, taught a class in community services work. Pastor Mansor Ginging, Secretary

of the Sabah Mission, taught a class about Sabbath School work. Pastor Ken Wade, head of Personal Ministries in the Southeast Asia Union Mission, taught about personal witnessing.

From all parts of Sabah, pastors also presented reports of the work in their areas. Many churches have begun to implement the Sabbath School Action Units plan previously introduced by Pastor Wade. Already those churches are reclaiming former members who had quit attending. Some churches are also using the action units as the basis for evangelistic outreach or branch Sabbath School programs.

The Personal Ministries Camporee turned out to be a splendid idea for training many lay members and pastors at the same time. The people were faithful in attending the classes, and seemed to greatly enjoy the weekend.

— *Kenneth R. Wade*  
*Church Ministries Associate Director, SAUM*

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## ■ SARAWAK ■

### Highlights of 1991

Sarawak, land of the hornbills, with a population of 1.6 million scattered throughout villages and towns in its 124,450 square kilometers of land, has just over 10,800 Seventh-day Adventists.

This is 1,510 more than it had three years ago. Under the leadership of pastors who are caring for as many as 10-12 churches, and with the help of other church workers and many dedicated laymen, the church continues to make progress.

The Village Lay Preacher training program has also helped to make up for the shortage of pastors. These laymen have been taught to conduct Bible studies, do visitation, conduct communion services, anoint and pray for the sick, conduct funerals, and perform other pastoral duties.

The colporteur ministry plays a major role in the success of the work in Sarawak. Literature evangelists are in the front-line of the work to open new areas, to break down prejudice, and to prepare the way for the entry of the gospel. They have been active in giving Bible studies and in distributing free literature along with the books they have sold. Sales have increased almost 55% in the past year.

Pathfinding is an increasingly important program to nurture and keep young people in the church in Sarawak. In addition, many young people have given their hearts to

the Lord because of their involvement in Pathfinder clubs. There are now 22 Pathfinder clubs in Sarawak with 970 members.

ADRA/Sarawak has also helped to open new territories for the Advent message. Although it took five years, villagers of Rakut and Wong Panjai have now accepted the Lord as a result of the work of ADRA. Among the projects implemented in Sarawak are the digging of wells and the building of catchment tanks for rain water, the construction of fish ponds and rearing of fish for sale, instruction in vegetable gardening and teaching how to set up stalls for the sale of the produce, and relief assistance for the victims of a village fire.

Both of the Sarawak Mission's major schools, Sunny Hill School in Kuching and Ayer Manis School in Serian, have experienced growth during 1991. A major construction project at Sunny Hill School added 14 classrooms and various other facilities to serve the nearly-1,000 students of kindergarten through college level.

Several new church buildings have been built in the past two years. Some of the old jungle chapels built in the 1960's and 1970's have had to be replaced. In other areas, new territories have needed churches. While many local church members have donated timber or 5-10% of their salary each month, volunteers from Singapore, the USA and elsewhere have helped villagers to construct several of



the new church buildings. Many of our church members, however, still worship in rented shophouses in towns where land is difficult to buy.

In the capital city, Kuching, the new Sarawak Mission headquarters construction was completed and the facilities dedicated in April.

God has truly blessed in His work in Sarawak during 1991. The Sarawak SDA Mission looks forward to 1992 as a year of greater challenges, knowing that the work will move forward "not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord."

-- Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

## New English Teacher Joins Ayer Manis Staff

For the past two years, Ayer Manis School has been searching for a qualified English teacher, whose mother tongue is English, to head the English tuition classes for the school. On November 29, Mrs. Judy Walper arrived from Canada to fill the post.



New principal Joseph Kueh welcomes volunteer English teacher Mrs. Judy Walper to the Ayer Manis School staff.

A retired teacher, mother of five children and grandmother of six, Mrs. Walper still has lots of life and enthusiasm for teaching English. She also has musical talents which will be a benefit to the school.

The staff and students of Ayer Manis welcome Mrs. Walper to their campus.

-- Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

## Students Camp at Sematan Beach

More than 100 students and teachers from Ayer Manis Secondary and Primary Schools and from Balai Ringin Secondary School gathered at Sematan Beach Resort from August 16 to 20.

During the camp, Pastor Lawrence Randig, then principal of Ayer Manis School, led out in a Revelation Seminar series. Students also enjoyed Bible games and a treasure hunt, along with personal testimonies.

Mr. Petrus Ngadan Kuju, Director of Health and Temperance for the Sarawak Mission, also conducted three sessions on the dangers of cigarette smoking.

The climax of the camp came on Sabbath afternoon. Pastor Randig and Pastor Wung Wei Kong baptized eight students from Ayer Manis School and 18 from Balai Ringin.

Camp coordinator Cikgu David Jobi was exhausted when he returned home from the camp, but happy with the response. He commented, "I choose to wear out rather than to rust out for Jesus."

-- Petrus Ngadan Kuju  
Health/Temperance Director, Sarawak Mission

## Ayer Manis Welcomes New Principal

Mr. Joseph Kueh assumed the responsibilities of principal of Ayer Manis School on Sunday, December 1. An active member of the Kuching SDA Church, Mr. Kueh has spent many years as a teacher and principal in the government school system.

After taking early retirement from government service, he has now accepted the challenge of being the principal of a denominational school and has expressed his great desire to dedicate the remainder of his useful life to the Lord's service.

Mr. Kueh replaces Mr. Lawrence Randig, who has served as principal of the school for the past eight years. Mr. Randig is now accepting other responsibilities with the Sarawak Mission.

Ayer Manis School has produced most of the church workers currently serving in Sarawak, and still plays a key role in the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Sarawak.

-- Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

## Ayer Manis Bakery Under Construction

For the past several years, the Ayer Manis School bakery, which provides labor for students and income for the school, has had various temporary locations. It has sometimes functioned in the school kitchen, other times in a classroom or here and there.

When church members in the Serian area became aware of the need, Pastor Gilbert Tan organized volunteer groups from the churches in Serian and nearby villages.

Each group volunteered to give one day's labor toward the construction of a new building. Churches located farther away donated materials, including cutting and preparing timber.

By mid-December the bakery was completed and ready for use. Hopefully other church members will still respond to the need for improved equipment. This will enable the school to produce more and better bread to meet the ever-increasing demand for good quality bread in the market today.

-- Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

## ■ SINGAPORE ■

### G.C. President Visits SAUM

November 9 was a very special Sabbath for Singapore Seventh-day Adventists as all of the churches met at Southeast Asia Union College for a combined worship with General Conference President Robert Folkenberg speaking in the morning and afternoon services.

To accommodate the large number of members, closed circuit television also broadcast all of the service into the small chapel, the library, and the college cafeteria.

During Sabbath School, Pastor P. D. Chun, newly appointed Secretary of the Far Eastern Division, introduced the Global Mission program. Then pastors from Indonesia and Sri Lanka told of special soul-winning successes in their respective countries. In the few minutes allotted to him, Pastor George Johnson, President of the Southeast Asia Union Mission and currently Acting President of the Singapore Mission, briefly interviewed several lay members about their outreach activities (see "What IS Global Mission?" on page 3).

Pastor Ken Wade, Personal Ministries director of the SAUM, and Mr. Mark Haddad from the FED, presented the Sabbath School lesson on sacrifice.

At the beginning of the Divine Worship service, three Indian members accepted the Lord in baptism. Mr. Gopal, Mrs. Kaneshwari and her daughter Haima were baptized by Pastor George Johnson.

Elder Folkenberg spoke for the Divine Worship service in the college auditorium (see page 11 for his message). At the end of the sermon, Pastor Folkenberg went directly to the cafeteria, where the Chinese-speaking group were assembled, and spoke to that large group in person also.

After church, Pathfinders distributed packet lunches to all the church members. Following the lunch and fellowship



time, there was an afternoon program of special musical selections, messages from Adventist World Radio, and a report on the world church by Elder Folkenberg. During the last half hour, members of the congregation had the opportunity to ask questions of Elder Folkenberg.

In all, November 9 was a day of inspiration for church members in Singapore, as they heard what the Lord is doing for His church throughout the world, especially now in the Eastern European countries, and as they heard encouragement to follow Christ.

Following Jesus, said Elder Folkenberg, is like driving to an unfamiliar destination, trying to follow someone ahead of you who knows the way. You have to keep your eyes on the objective--on the leader--and stay as close as possible. In the Christian journey through life, are we allowing things to come between and distract us from our Leader? Or are we staying as close as possible, letting nothing come between us and our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ?

-- MESSENGER Staff

## My Sheep Know My Voice

Message of President Robert S. Folkenberg  
in Singapore on November 9, 1991

Driving along a road one day, a traveler saw some young men hitchhiking with heavy packs on their backs. He stopped and motioned for them to hop into the back of his pickup.

A short distance down the road, the driver looked into his mirror and saw that the boys still had the packs on their backs. At last, feeling that they must surely be uncomfortable, the man stopped and suggested that they take off their backpacks and relax. But they replied, "Oh, no, Sir, you've done enough for us already by picking us up. The least we can do is to carry our own packs."

Are we like that? Afraid to lay our burdens down, afraid to let Christ carry them? "A life in Christ is a life of restfulness. There may be no ecstasy of feeling, but there should be an abiding, peaceful trust....Your weakness is united to His strength, your ignorance to His wisdom, your frailty to His enduring might. So you are not to look to yourself...but look to Christ. Let the mind dwell upon His love, upon the beauty, the perfection, of His character....It is by loving Him, copying Him, depending wholly upon Him, that you are to be transformed into His likeness." (*Steps to Christ*, pp. 70-71)

Christ said in John 10:27-29, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand."

No one can snatch the believer, but you and I have the privilege to turn aside and reject salvation ourselves. "Neither life nor death, height nor depth, can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus; not because we hold Him so firmly, but because He holds us so fast. If our salvation depended on our own efforts, we could not be saved; but it depends on the One who is behind all the promises. Our grasp on Him may seem feeble, but His love is that of an elder brother; so long as we maintain our union with Him, no one can pluck us out of His hand." (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 553)

Jesus gives the assurance, the security of salvation. God wants us to come to Him, not worrying about whether or not He accepts us. "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John 6:37). He leaves us with no uncertainty. Any insecurity we may have about our salvation is not based on what God does or does not do, but on our own sin. One's character "is revealed, not by occasional good deeds and occasional misdeeds, but by the tendency of the habitual words and acts." (*Steps to Christ*, pp. 57-58) A relationship is not short-circuited by

one wrong thought but by the trend of the life.

Dealing with the sin problem is much like dealing with a case of measles. If you are worried mainly about your appearance, it is possible to get a good kind of make-up to cover all the ugly red spots so you don't look like you have the measles at all. Yet the infection is still rampant inside. On the other hand, if you are concerned about the disease inside, you will not be so concerned about the red spots, but about the fever and about what is going on internally.

If sin is a disease, we have to deal with the problem inside. The answer is not in emphasizing either of two extremes, one saying that man has to work out his salvation, the other stating that God is the one who has all the control.

"Those who accept Christ, and in their first confidence say, I am saved, are in danger of trusting to themselves. They lose sight of their own weakness and their constant need of divine strength....We are admonished, 'Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall.' I Cor. 10:12. Our only safety is in constant distrust of self, and dependence on Christ." (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 155). At the same time, "We should not make self the center and indulge anxiety and fear as to whether we shall be saved. All this turns the soul away from the Source of our strength. Commit the keeping of your soul to God, and trust in Him." (*Steps to Christ*, p. 72)

The red spots of measles show that something is wrong, and I need to see a physician. Sin, likewise, shows that something is wrong, and I need to see my heavenly Physician.

Salvation is something like marriage. Most marriages are not perfect. Still, if someone comes and asks you, "Are you married?" you probably won't answer, "I think so," or "I hope so," or "Maybe." Even so, we should be secure in our relationship to Christ, not "I think so," or "I'm working on it." Our insecurity discounts Christ's graciousness to us. Our salvation is based **not** on our good conduct, our good deeds or our lack of evil deeds. Our salvation is based on God's grace.

Do we lose our salvation because of our bad deeds? We may be more hesitant in answering that, but it is identical to the first question. If we don't get salvation by our good deeds, then we don't lose it by our bad deeds. Our actions tell how we are doing in our relationship with Jesus. Bad behavior is a symptom of a lack of faith, a symptom of the disease of sin. And that disease must be cured by listening to Christ's voice, by following Him.

God offers us the assurance of security, the guarantee of salvation, everything we could possibly ask. We are saved not because of any good things we do or any bad things we give up. We are saved because He is good, He is love. And when we open our hearts to Him, He comes in and makes our lives like His.

Let us uplift Christ and His righteousness by simply claiming and trusting Him.

## Co-Partnership with God

San Yu High School, which has been in existence for over 30 years, is a vast mission field. Every year more than 300 students come in voluntarily for a Christian education. Teachers at San Yu are in the inspiration business as much as in the information line. The teachers are not only to educate and prepare students for exams, but also to share with them the exciting message of a true and loving God.

During 1991, approximately 60 San Yu High School students have taken Bible studies under various teachers, the chaplain, and youth from the Thomson Chinese Church, which is located on the same campus.

One teacher, believing that God has entrusted her with an immense opportunity to influence and win her students to Christ, comments, "What a sacred mission; what a marvelous privilege!" Since the 1991 school year began in January, she has seen seven of her class members baptized. Several others are still preparing for baptism.

One Sunday-keeping Christian student commented, "My church tells me you are a cult, but I don't think so, because I have seen for myself who Adventists are!" Indeed, the world needs to "see" the truth. Men may combat and defy our logic; they may resist our appeals; but a life of disinterested love is an argument they cannot gainsay.

Of her four years in San Yu High School, one teacher says, "I've come to experience how rewarding and fulfilling life is being a co-partner with Christ in soul winning, how thrilling it is to let God use my life as a vessel for the truth. My life cannot be any happier!"

-- Yen Ang, Teacher, San Yu High School

## Dunman Church Seeks to Enrich Marriage

The Dunman Road SDA Church conducted a "Caring for Marriage" seminar during the first two weekends of September, a first in the Singapore Mission.

Three seminar speakers included Dr. Lai Chee Chong, church elder; Pastor Pham Kow Seng, an associate professor at Southeast Asia Union College; and Pastor Danson Ng, the seminar leader.

The speakers presented topics such as philosophy of marriage, self-worth, love, forgiveness, personalities and temperament, communication, conflicts, anger, and human sexuality.



Participants are ready to enjoy a meal together at the close of the Caring for Marriage Seminar.

Fourteen couples participated in the felt-need program, gaining insights, understanding, skills, and new friendships as the group interacted and shared experiences.

The seminar climaxed in a simple and yet meaningful marriage recommitment service, followed by a 10-course dinner organized by Mrs. Goh Tong Seng, Mrs. John Tan and other church members.

For follow-up, the couples joined one of four marital care groups to study the book *Courtship after Marriage* by Zig Zigler.

-- Danson Ng, Pastor, Dunman Road SDA Church

## "Talking Hands" Do Christmas Evangelism

Flamingos and penguins in tiny Santa hats, joined by the Jungle Party animal puppets, move to the tune of "Silver Bells." The theme song "O Come All Ye Faithful" comes on over the speakers. The emcee begins, "Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls....will you please give a warm welcome to your narrator, Mr. Cecil Bee Te Mee."

Enter the narrator puppet in white shirt, black tie and black-rimmed spectacles. "Thank you, thank you..." the puppet begins, "Now folks, you know the story of the Three Wise Men, don't you? But have you ever heard the story of the Fourth Wise Man...?"

And so continues each of the "Talking Hands" seven pre-Christmas performances in three major shopping centers. Southeast Asia Union College theology students Baratha Moorthy and Victor Lee, and recent graduate John Tan led the team of about 20 puppeteers, including children and youth from the various SDA churches in Singapore.

The one-hour programs included music and an adaptation of Henry van Dyke's "The Story of the Other

Wise Man." The story is about a "wise man," Artaban, who turned up too late to see the baby Jesus because he kept stopping to help people along the way to Bethlehem. He spent the rest of his life seeking the King among the poor and oppressed, and using up on mankind his three jewels which were dedicated to God. The play ends with Artaban as an old man going to Jerusalem for the Passover Week. As he pays the ransom for a slave girl's freedom, the earth is shaking, and he hears a voice saying, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."



During the program, short segments of the puppet play are interspersed with Christmas musical selections presented by SAUC students and various members of the Adventist community in Singapore. Shoppers and spectators are invited to join in the singing of two or three Christmas carols during each program.

Although the shopping centers pay "Talking Hands" or other groups to help attract customers, the "Talking Hands" aim to attract those customers to Jesus. Proceeds from the performances will be used to defray expenses and to upgrade the equipment of this new evangelistic group. In addition, the "Talking Hands" plan to donate a portion of their income to the publication of a new outreach magazine called *Free!* The first issue of the magazine, for free distribution to the Christian community in Singapore, is expected to be launched in late January.

The puppet group has already been invited to take part in several community efforts during early 1992. It is their hope to use this unique way of reaching people for the Lord.

-- Victor Lee, student, Southeast Asia Union College

## Jurong Kindergarten Graduates Tots

The Seventh-day Adventist Kindergarten in Jurong held its fifth annual concert-cum-graduation on October 29 and 30. Over the two evenings, the children from both the morning and the afternoon sessions of the Kindergarten-2 class presented a program that was a genuine blend of international flavors.

The Jurong SDA Church, on whose premises the kindergarten is located, was filled with hundreds of adoring parents and family members.

Special guest for the concert was Mr. Richard Yeo, principal of Yuhua Primary School. Mr. Yeo expressed that he was impressed with the creativity and efficiency of both the teachers and the students of the SDA kindergarten.



A kindergarten "graduate" displays her "diploma" as Pastor Fanwar looks on.

A total of 150 children graduated from the kindergarten (K2), thus completing their first level of schooling. The three-year preschool program, which teaches about 350 children in the Nursery (pre-kindergarten), Kindergarten-1 and Kindergarten-2, is a great asset to the gospel work in the Jurong area. There, many children are learning about Jesus every day. These school concerts, which are distinctly sacred in tone, serve to acquaint the parents with Christ and His church.

-- Wann Fanwar, Pastor, Jurong English Church

## Youth Have Annual Bible Quiz

The third annual Bible Quiz conducted by the Singapore Mission was held at the Southeast Asia Union College (SAUC) Church on Sabbath afternoon, November 16.

Five of Singapore's eight churches participated in the exciting event. Thomson Chinese Church, SAUC Church, Jurong English Church, Chuan Hoe Church, and Balestier Road Church were each represented by three-member teams. All participants were youth ranging from 15 to 30 years of age.

Quiz masters this year were Pastor Wann Fanwar, from the Jurong English Church, and Pastor Fred Fuller, pastor and Bible teacher at Far Eastern Academy. They prepared the questions for this year's quiz from the books of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, as well as 1 and 2 Samuel.

The objectives of the annual Bible Quiz are to foster Bible reading and to have fellowship among the youth from the various churches.

For the third year in a row, the Balestier Road Church team emerged as the champions. The challenge shield plaque has been engraved each year with the name of the winning church and displayed in that church until the next annual quiz. So the Balestier youth will keep the shield for another year.

In the quiz, the second place went to Thomson Chinese Church, and third place to the SAUC Church. All participants received gift vouchers for the Adventist Book Center (ABC) in recognition for their hard work.

-- Chan Shee Wai  
Youth Director, Singapore Mission

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## ■ THAILAND ■

### Highlights of 1991

The challenge is **GREAT**--Gospel Reaching Every Area of Thailand.

The vast majority of Thailand's 60 million people are Buddhists and Animists. The Christian church represents less than three percent of the population, and the Seventh-day Adventist membership is now 8,432.

Although the small membership number implies that the influence of the Adventist church in Thailand is insignificant, this is not the case. One reason for this is the reputation of the SDA hospitals, schools, and other institutions in the country.

A few years ago, the Thai government decided to limit the number of denominations found in the kingdom. Therefore, the Religion Department stated that only churches with memberships over 5,000 would be allowed to register as legal religious entities. Those with less than 5,000 would be required to join together as one group. Basically this left the Catholics, a combined group called the Pentecostal Alliance, and the Alliance of Christian Churches composed of Baptists and Presbyterians and a few other smaller denominations.

The Thai government was shocked to discover that the Seventh-day Adventist Church at that time did not qualify for legal registration. They assumed that because of our hospitals and schools we must have much more than the

required number of church members. Thus the government allowed the Seventh-day Adventist Church to include Sabbath School members in their total membership, and granted legal registration to the church.

Thailand Mission has one college, six secondary schools, two language schools, the Voice of Prophecy correspondence school, and several primary schools and kindergartens.

Mission College, which officially opened in August 1990, graduated its first ministerial class in June 1991, and all nine of these graduates are now working in the ministry in Thailand. The college also offers four-year degrees in accounting, business administration, English, and nursing.

The two English language schools, one in Bangkok and the other in Haadyai, are now financially able to support themselves. These language schools have also been an entering wedge in the cities.

The literature evangelists have done their part to spread the gospel in Thailand. During the past year, 75 baptisms have been the direct result of colporteur contacts and Bible studies. For some time the Publishing Department has been struggling under the burden of antiquated materials. Now, however, they have several new books hot off the press: *Harmful Drugs* by Chamee Atakit, *Healing Wonders of Water* by Bruce Thomson,

and *Eight Secrets of Health* by Dr. Ethel Nelson. A special school library edition of *The Great Controversy* and a devotional/morning watch book will be released soon.

The radio ministry continues to operate with two programs, "Joy in the Morning" and "True Way of Life," being aired on five stations throughout Thailand. The "Bible in Living Sound" has been completed in the Thai language, and these stories of the life of Jesus will also help to spread the gospel message over the air waves.

Though the challenges are great, Thailand Mission workers have seen the Holy Spirit in action. Miracles have taken place and are continuing to occur every day in Thailand.

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-- W. Steve Bassham, President, Thailand Mission

## E-Gaw Work Bears First Fruits

Nearly two years ago, the Thailand Mission began a project to open new work among the E-gaw tribe in the Golden Triangle area of northern Thailand. Today there are 14 baptized members in a remote tribal village in the mountains south of Fang.

Initially the E-Gaw work began under the leadership of Pastor Thino, a contract minister who is a member of the Lahu tribe but speaks fluent E-Gaw. More recently Commissioned Minister Nantawan has been studying with 13 families. Opening new work often progresses quite slowly, and is a laborious task. Thus it was a very joyous occasion in mid-September when members of five families took their stand for the Lord.



*Standing with their wives are (left to right) Pastor Thino, Pastor Udom, Pastor Boonrat Moolkeo, and Pastor W. S. Bassham.*

The E-Gaw are a delightful people, clean and intelligent. Their radiant smiles and their joyful singing reflect the love of Jesus in their hearts.

When Thailand Mission President W. S. Bassham and Pastor Boonrat Moolkeo, along with their wives, travelled to this remote jungle area for the baptism, they were overjoyed to take part in the baptism and to find many more who expressed the desire to be baptized in the near future.

Their stay with the E-Gaw people, however, was one of mixed emotions, for a measles epidemic was sweeping through the village at the time. Many adults and children were flat on their backs with fever, and the pastors and their wives feared that some of the children might actually die from lack of medical attention. The village is so remote that transportation to medical facilities--even an outpost jungle clinic--is extremely difficult.

Pastor Bassham and the others volunteered to take as many children as possible to the hospital, but the parents and relatives were very reluctant to send them. Many of the families are children of immigrants who have never registered with the government, and as such have not been recognized as full citizens of the country. Thus they are not eligible for welfare medical help, and do not have the money to pay for medical care.

Even though the church leaders implored the villagers to allow them to take the sick babies for medical care, the parents were adamant. They knew they would not qualify for medical help, and they did not want to subject their children to the rigors of the journey only to be disappointed and perhaps have a child die away from home.

Though the villagers are sad when babies die, they take death in their stride as a part of village life. They just expect that a certain number of the children will not survive their early years and that there will always be more children born. As one of the visiting pastors commented, "Since we had no medicine or medical people in our group, the best we could do was to weep and pray with them and leave everything in God's hands."

But again, there is joy not only in heaven but also in the village when one soul gives his heart to the Lord. And those 14 who were baptized in September will form the nucleus of an E-Gaw church community. The Thailand Mission hopes to gain government permission to build a Seventh-day Adventist church in that tribal village in the Golden Triangle in the near future.

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-- W. Steve Bassham, President, Thailand Mission

## Language School Student Is Baptized

Several years ago a young lady named Napaporn Chaiyanimstith, whose nickname is Tom, came to the SDA language school in Thailand, hoping to improve her English. When she took the placement test, Tom scored the highest possible, making only one mistake. So she registered for the top level class offered by the school.

Tom's English abilities made her a favorite of the teachers. She soon found herself involved with the language school, and began spending a lot of time helping—even doing some part-time teaching. She also attended Bible classes regularly.

The Bible held many interesting facts for Tom, and she became fascinated with its literature. As a result, she set an objective for herself to read the Bible from cover to cover. Many times, especially during her reading of Ecclesiastes, she would ask the teachers for explanations, as she found the wisdom of Solomon mind-boggling. Tom kept a diary of her favorite texts, and often referred to them throughout the day.

What a joy it was to the staff and teachers at the language school when Tom said she wanted to be baptized because she loved Jesus. After studying with Pat Gustin, former director of the language school, and Barbara



*Pastor Surachet Insom prepares to baptize language student "Tom."*

Spencer, pastor of the Ekamai English Church, Tom was baptized on Sabbath morning, September 7.

Tom is just one of the many Thai people who have heard the good news and have accepted Jesus as a personal Saviour. But there are many, many more who have not yet had that opportunity. The SDA language schools in Thailand constantly strive to open that opportunity to all who come.

*-- Danny Pung, Communication Director  
Thailand Mission  
-- Edgar Edge, Director  
SDA Language School, Bangkok*

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## ■ VIETNAM ■

### Highlights of 1991

From 1975 until 1988, the three countries of Indochina--Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam--were virtually closed to Seventh-day Adventist work. Then in 1988 an ADRA team was at last able to visit Vietnam. They established contact with faithful members of the Vietnam Mission in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), and they visited Hanoi, making favorable contacts with officials of the government there.

By the end of 1991 the Seventh-day Adventist Church has a viable ADRA presence in Vietnam, with a number of active projects and two regular staff members who are local SDA members. ADRA's relief activities during the Mekong Delta flood resulted in good newspaper, television and radio coverage, and ADRA has been developing a good reputation in government circles as well as with the general public. Other ADRA projects during 1991

included medical and health care assistance, surgical technical assistance, sanitation and feeding programs, motorcycle mechanics training, and English language training.

Over the past two years, various Seventh-day Adventist churches in the country of Vietnam have been granted government permission to reopen their doors for worship services. At the same time, however, authorities have torn down two of the Adventist church buildings, and turned another into a market place. Currently there are six organized churches which are permitted to hold worship services, but approximately 25 other churches and home church groups which have no permission to meet.

In September, a new company of 100 believers began in Dong Nai Province, 70 km. from Ho Chi Minh City, with government permission to worship each week. The



development of this company is largely attributed to the efforts of the youth and laymen of the Phu Nhuan Church. These youth have begun informal church leadership training to help prepare workers for the Lord.

Little things mean a lot in Indochina. A telephone has recently been re-installed at the Phu Nhuan Church, greatly enhancing communication inside the country as well as with the international church. For the first time in 17 years, the Phu Nhuan Church has at last been given permission to select a new church board.

In the hill country of Vietnam, the church still faces a struggle. It is illegal to be baptized there. The mountain people face heavy fines for being baptized, yet many are still choosing to follow the Lord. Recently six people begged a lay pastor baptize them. After the baptism, however, he was jailed and severely beaten, then later released with a broken rib and other wounds. In spite of the risks, it is among these highland dwellers that the fastest church growth is taking place.

During 1991 the Vietnamese currency has undergone severe inflation, making the Vietnam Mission operations extremely difficult. If the high inflation rate continues, the situation will soon become critical.

Despite many difficulties facing our church and members in Vietnam, however, they are not discouraged. The 35 pastors and contract workers, along with approximately 4,000 church members in Vietnam, are today pushing forward with activities designed to strengthen God's church in their country.

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-- Dennis Tidwell, Director, ADRA/Indochina

## ADRA Vietnam Promotes a Different Kind of Boat People

Boat people from Vietnam haven't been making much news lately, but ADRA was featured on the front page in local Vietnamese newspapers recently for a project which promotes a different kind of boat people!

The project came about as the result of heavy flooding in Vietnam's Mekong Delta during September and October. Floods in the delta rise slowly and then the flood waters usually stay for several weeks. The water often rises as high as one meter above the floor of the houses. The residents, having nowhere else to go, build bamboo platforms just above the water level, and whole families perch there day and night, week after week, waiting for the water to recede.

ADRA responded to the emergency by distributing rice to flood victims in the most severely affected districts.



*Paddling their own canoes, these heads of poor households set out for home in the new boats they received from ADRA.*

The rice was appreciated, but provincial and district authorities noted that in a couple of weeks the rice would be gone and the people would be starving again. The authorities suggested that ADRA consider providing small fishing boats to the very poor landless peasants, most of whom work in their neighbors' rice fields for daily wages. As long as the fields remain flooded, however, these people have no means of earning income. If each family had a small fishing boat, government officials stated, the people could go out each day to catch fish. They could sell some of the fish to buy rice, and they could eat some of the fish themselves. Thus they could support themselves for the duration of the flood season.



*ADRA personnel go by launch with the rice being delivered to flood victims.*

Recalling the old adage, "If you give a man a fish you feed him for a day, but if you teach him to catch fish, he can eat for the rest of his life," ADRA decided to put this wisdom into practice. At a cost of only about S\$60 (US\$35) each, ADRA ordered 164 locally produced fishing boats made of durable ironwood. When the boats were ready one week later, 164 families living in Dong Thap and Long An Provinces each received a boat and a 60-meter length of fishing net.

The local authorities helped select the most needy families to receive the boats. ADRA also filled out a questionnaire on each household which received a boat. The results showed that these people were indeed very poor--many families had a daily income of less than 8 cents (US 5 cents) per person!

ADRA hopes to conduct a follow-up survey after a few months to try to determine whether having a boat has significantly altered the daily income of those households which received the boat and fishing net. If providing boats does indeed make a difference in their lives, ADRA/Vietnam plans to implement an income generation project for the poorest people in the Mekong Delta by providing small fishing boats to 1,000 families.

Although "boat people" have become unwelcome in Southeast Asia, ADRA is pleased that it has been able to make a different kind of boat people out of 164 of the Mekong Delta's very poorest families and thereby help to make their lives a little less harsh.

-- Dennis Tidwell, Director, ADRA/Indochina

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## ■ SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION COLLEGE ■

### SAUC Graduates Twenty

Southeast Asia Union College (SAUC) held its 1991 graduation services on November 22-23, with 20 students receiving their diplomas.

For the Friday evening Consecration service, Pastor Fred Fuller, pastor and Bible teacher at Far Eastern Academy (Singapore), charged each graduate to be "More than Conquerors."

On Sabbath morning, Pastor George Johnson, President of the Southeast Asia Union Mission and chairman of the SAUC board, spoke on "Winners and Losers" in his Baccalaureate address.

The Commencement address was given by Dr. Niels-Erik Andreason, President of SAUC's sister college in the USA, Walla Walla College. Speaking on "Education for Life," Dr. Andreason urged all graduates to be of service to society, acting as catalysts for progress.

Although nearly half of the 20 graduates had been studying in the Business Administration department, there were five graduates each from the Office Administration Department and the Religion/Theology Department, and two from the Education Department.

As their gift of thanks to Southeast Asia Union College, the Senior Class presented a Toshiba facsimile (fax) machine to the college. They also donated S\$500 to the college Endowment Fund and S\$300 to the SAUC Church.



*Dr. Niels-Erik Andreason, Walla Walla College President, awaits instructions to much in for the Commencement service at the SAUC graduation.*

This year's graduates came from the countries of Malaysia, Singapore, Australia, Bangladesh, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, and the United States of America.

-- Mark Wong, student  
Southeast Asia Union College



**John K. E. Tan, Singaporean**  
*(pictured with his wife, Adelyn)*  
*1991 Theology graduate, with honors*  
*(1990 Student Association President)*

*I am indeed very thankful and grateful to God for the opportunity I have had in studying at SAUC. Never had I envisioned that I would be richly blessed by the experiences of leadership, trials, challenges and the cultural exchange of ideas and concepts.*

*At SAUC I have learned to be aware of both my strengths and weaknesses. Previously I had always been inhibited by my weaknesses and did not dare to take the challenge of stepping out to make the difference. But now my experiences have taught me to depend on God and step out in faith.*

*The relationships I have forged at SAUC will always remain as precious memories forever. I will miss the many friends I have made through my four years at the college, but it is my prayer and sincere desire that we will all meet again in the great reunion when our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, returns.*

**SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION COLLEGE**

*Let SAUC make a difference in YOUR life!*

■ DEVOTIONAL ■

## Saving by Giving

It was late Saturday night, and the wedding rehearsal was over. Sunday afternoon, June 1, Yong Fatt would be in church eagerly waiting for his beloved Mei Ling to walk down the aisle and become his bride.

But first there was a long drive home. Heavy traffic jammed the road near Johore Bahru's Senai Airport, so Yong Fatt chose a short cut to avoid the crowd. Rain was pouring down. It had been raining too much lately, and the river was flooding over its banks. The road was muddy and slippery.

Suddenly the jeep plunged into the river, with Yong Fatt, Mei Ling and their friend Shu Chen inside. Yong Fatt struggled free and managed to escape along with Mei Ling. But then, realizing that their friend was still in danger, he rushed back into the river to rescue her.

Chai Yong Fatt, a member of the Kulai Church in Johore, Malaysia, did not attend his wedding the next day, for he gave his life to save a friend.

Another young man sacrificed His life with much the same motive--to save the ones He loved. Two thousand years ago, Christ saw His friends perishing in the sin that flooded the earth. But unwilling that any should be lost, He left His Father, His home, and the pure, sinless environment of heaven on a rescue mission. He knew it would cost Him His life. Even so, He "humbled Himself" and sacrificed all that He held dear for the salvation--for the lives--of His beloved created ones on earth.

History and the Scriptures tell us that Jesus is in heaven today. His Holy Spirit is present in the world, appealing to everyone on earth to accept the lifeline of salvation. Jesus wants to use our hands, our feet, our minds, our tongues, our time, and our talents to carry on His mission of rescue.

Are you safe and comfortable today? Have you accepted salvation and now stand safe and sound on the banks of the rushing flood of sin and death? Christ asks you to stretch out a helping hand to save His children from death. It involves a risk. It means getting wet. It may result in physical danger or sacrifice to you and your family. If you are to follow Christ's example, however, you are not a spectator in the great controversy. You are a participant. You have been commissioned to save others.

You and I may never be called upon to give up our lives to save another from death. Yong Fatt gave his life to save a friend from physical death. But there is a death more to be feared, more urgently needing to be escaped. Are we willing to plunge in to save those around us who are struggling in rivers of discouragement, doubt, and sin? Are we prepared to sacrifice our time, our money, our talents in order to pull others to the safety of Christ's love?

As we get involved in the saving of souls, God's Spirit will be our partner. Let us faithfully work with Him that Christ's work of salvation on earth will soon be completed. And then He will return to take His bride, the church, home to live with Him eternally.

— George C. Johnson, President, SAUM

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