

SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION

# Messenger

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March - April 1992



*A Karen refugee receives  
a blanket from ADRA*

*see story on page 13*

## Waging Peace

“Every truly great leader knows that in order to distract the masses, he must have an enemy,” wrote Adolf Hitler in *Mein Kampf*. The title of the book translates as *My Struggle*.

Is this true for Christian leaders as well? Is it true, as some skeptics suggest, that the devil is the church’s greatest ally, for without him the church would soon be out of business? Must we have an arch rival, a foe to struggle against, in order to keep from falling into a calm, unconcerned complacency?

During the early years of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, many of the pastors developed reputations as powerful debaters. They would go into a town and challenge other ministers to a debate about which day is the Christian Sabbath.

As you can imagine, the Adventist ministers almost always won in the debates, but Ellen White was not impressed. She warned against such tactics, for she knew that it is possible to be **against** all the wrong things without being **for** the right things.

When our ministers focused their attention on straightening people out with regard to which day to worship on, it was easy for them to lose sight of the One they were to worship. And as they developed their debating skills, it became tempting for them to rely on their own keen wits instead of on the Holy Spirit to win converts.

Worse yet, converts who joined the church simply because they had been convinced by the weight of evidence and logic of a sharp-tongued debater might become Adventists without first having become Christians! Their commitment was not to Christ, for they had never been led to recognize their need of a Saviour. Their commitment was only to facts, doctrines, and logical argument.

Is it any wonder, then, that in some areas the Adventists came to be regarded more as legalists than as Christians?

### Christian warfare today

What about today? What impression do other Christians and non-Christians have of Seventh-day Adventists in your area? Are we known as the most caring, loving, Christlike people? Or are we known only as people who can win an argument about the Bible?

In recent discussions with groups planning evangelistic activities in Southeast Asia, I have encouraged leaders to

think creatively about the terminology we use to speak of evangelism. What images does the word “crusade” bring up, for instance? Many of the crusaders who marched to Jerusalem during the Dark Ages were Christian in name only, and the atrocities they committed have defiled that term with innocent blood. But even “campaign,” the term we substitute for crusade, is associated with warfare.

We sing “Onward Christian Soldiers,” “Sound the Battle Cry,” and other songs of warfare to lift our spirits as we go out to do battle with foes. And they are good songs. The church’s task is conquest for Christ.

But what is our focus?

If our focus is on the “enemy”—whether it be the devil, heretics in the church, false religion, drug dealers, tobacco companies, or any other evil that ought to be fought—we are in serious danger.

We need to fight the enemy. We need to sound the alarm when we see the devil marching into and around the church with temptations and deceptions. But we must resist the temptation to focus our attention and energy in that direction.

There are voices within the church that accuse church leaders of being complacent, and of having made peace with the enemy. They call for us to awaken out of slumber, and to carry on the Christian warfare more forcefully. We ought to pay attention to these voices. The church easily falls into a Laodicean state and becomes content with things as they are.

But in our warfare, let us also remember that Jesus is called the “Prince of Peace.” Let us heed the counsel of Paul to “so far as it depends upon you, live peaceably with all” (Romans 12:18 RSV).

Our task is to bring the Prince of Peace to the world, to lead hearts to surrender to Him. Thus, even in our warfare, Christians should be waging peace.

Do we have to have an enemy in order to wage this warfare of peace effectively? No. An enemy is not necessary. We will continue to serve and honor God even after the devil has been destroyed.

What we need is to have the Prince of Peace securely enthroned in our own hearts, in order that we may be able to spread His reign to others. In the next issue of *Messenger* I’ll share scriptural principles to help you make sure that you can have peace in your heart.

-- Kenneth R. Wade  
Ministerial Secretary, SAUM

## May 30 Is World Baptism Day

One of the objectives of the Global Mission program is to maintain a continual program of evangelism, constantly seeking, reaping, and keeping. This means looking for interests among all people groups, instructing, baptizing, including and retaining them as faithful and active members.

Each church should plan for monthly baptisms. Then candidates who are ready may be baptized right away. At the same time, these baptismal services provide an opportunity to call for decisions and to follow up on those who respond.

In addition, the Annual Council in Perth unanimously voted to "designate the last Sabbath in May as the Annual Global Baptism Day," recommending that all churches around the world join together to hold a baptism of the largest possible number of well-prepared candidates.

The service should be an evangelistic-type baptism, where church members invite their friends, family and interests. Each service should include a call for decisions, since a baptismal service is often the best time to get others to make their decisions.

Baptisms may be held in each church, or several churches may choose to join together for the service. Groups could be baptized together, such as children, youth, couples, friends.

The worldwide goal for May 30 is 150,000--a harvest from all corners of the earth.

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-- Carlos E. Aeschlimann, Associate Secretary  
General Conference Ministerial Association

## Thousands Turn Out for Moscow Series

Pastor Mark Finley recently conducted an evangelistic series in the Kremlin. On Saturday night when the meetings opened, he was greeted by two packed halls, with standing room only. Each of the more than 6,500 people attending had paid for a ticket to enter. More were left outside, clamoring to get in.

Truly the Lord is opening doors and making ready for His soon coming.

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-- Shirley Burton  
General Conference Communication Department

## Hot off the Press!

Two new books have just come off the presses in the Southeast Asia Union Mission. The first is from Thailand Publishing House, entitled *Eight Secrets of Health* by Dr. Ethel R. Nelson. Dr. Ethel Nelson, a pathologist, and her husband, Dr. Roger Nelson, a surgeon at Bangkok Adventist Hospital, have lived and worked in Bangkok for over 40 years.

This book goes back to the time when the Nelsons had just started working in Bangkok in 1951, and compares some of the problems of that time with the problems of today. Dr. Nelson goes on to tell how the eight secrets of health can improve one's life. This is a very good book to share with those who are concerned about their health. It is simple, basic, and very well written. *Eight Secrets of Health* is printed in English, and is soon to be printed in Thai and Malay.



Southeast Asia Publishing House has just released the book *The Heart of the Matter: What You Really Need to Know about Heart Attack*. This book is written by MESSENGER Managing Editor Marilyn Johnson, who is a trained nurse and teaches English and First Aid at Southeast Asia Union College.

*The Heart of the Matter* deals with the various causes, treatments and preventions of heart disease. It goes into considerable detail on the vital subjects of blood pressure, smoking, cholesterol, obesity, stress, and exercise, and tells how to combat each one. It is a good book on how to live a healthier life, especially if an individual or his relatives have had some heart problems. The book is currently printed in English, and is soon to be published in Tamil and Malay.

These are just two of the many simple and inexpensive books that the SAUM Publishing Department hopes to produce on healthful living.

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-- Rayburn Smith  
Publishing Department Director, SAUM

## Gospel Is Preached from Red Square

Beginning Sunday, March 1, the triumphant strains of "Lift up the Trumpet" marked the initial broadcast of Adventist World Radio from Siberia. This new station can reach out into western and northern China, Mongolia, Tibet, Bangladesh, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the Middle Eastern countries of Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey.

A contract with the organization managing the shortwave station in Siberia initially gave AWR the use of a 100-kilowatt transmitter for 23 hours a day, reserving one hour a day for maintenance. However, because of soaring costs of electricity and a decision to double the transmitter power to 200 kilowatts, programs will run for 15 hours each day.

One month after the signing of the contract, the station also offered AWR the full-time use of a 250-kilowatt transmitter, which will be available later this year. All of the facilities of the Siberian station were used for more than 40 years to disseminate communist propaganda and to jam Western programming.

A pioneer church member commented during a special service held on Sabbath, February 29 in Novosibirsk, "For more than 50 years I have prayed for this day. I saw those towers in the distance and prayed that they would take our message to the world. Today I see it happen, and I thank my God for what He has done."

On March 2, another contract secured six hours a day for radio broadcasts to Europe from a studio located at the edge of Red Square in Moscow. The Red Square AWR broadcasts begin May 1. Russian Voice of Hope Media center director Peter Kulakov assures church leaders that facilities are available in Russia to reach all of the Middle East and Africa through short-wave broadcasts. AWR leaders hope that such broadcasts can begin by January 1, 1993.

The opening of these new facilities in Siberia and in Moscow gives AWR a giant stride toward reaching its goal of making the Adventist message available to all the world via radio by 1995.

*-- Andrea Steel  
Public Relations Director, AWR-Asia*

## SAUM Staff Enjoy Retreat

Le Village Resort near the city of Kuantan, on the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia, will probably conjure up fond memories in days to come for the staff of Southeast Asia Union Mission and their families as they look back on the March 12-16 staff retreat.

With its white sandy beach, good food and comfortable accommodations, Le Village was an ideal site for a retreat. The SAUM family enjoyed swimming at either the pool or the beach, participating in table games, hiking half-way up a mountain, collecting sea shells, and doing a bit of sightseeing and shopping.

The theme of the retreat was "Abiding in Christ." Inspirational talks were provided by Pastor Kenneth Wade, Dr. Russell Standish, Pastor George Johnson, and Pastor Wann Fanwar. Each talk explored a particular facet of the general theme. With rousing singspirations and meaningful special songs, each morning and evening worship session was a genuine source of blessing.

The outstanding spirit of camaraderie and relaxation made the camp most enjoyable. The retreat will serve as a boost to the spirit of love and Christian leadership that are engendered by SAUM.

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

*And this gospel of the kingdom  
shall be preached in all the world  
for a witness unto all nations;  
and then shall the end come.*

## ■ CAMBODIA ■

### Strategic Plan for Cambodia Readied

Repatriation began on March 30 for Cambodian refugees who have lived for a decade or longer in camps on the Thailand-Cambodia border. Among the people who will move back into Cambodia within the next few months are more than 400 Seventh-day Adventist Church members.

None of these people were Christians before they left Cambodia, but came into contact with the Adventist message through the churches established in the camps. Many of them are excited about the possibility of carrying the light of the gospel back to their neighbors and family members who did not leave Cambodia.

The future is uncertain, though, for many of the refugees who lost their entire families during the years of Khmer Rouge rule, or later in the turmoil of 13 years of civil war. Although there is quite a lot of vacant land available inside Cambodia, it is not yet certain just how people will be located. A team has been clearing landmines for the past several months, but no one knows for sure where all the mines are and which land is safe.

The United Nations is supervising the repatriation program, and plans call for all 330,000 inhabitants of the camps in Thailand to be moved back to Cambodia before the end of 1992. If all goes well, the majority will be relocated before the rainy season begins around the first of June.

Recognizing that repatriation would begin soon, the Refugee Evangelism Committee of the Thailand Mission, in cooperation with the SAUM Global Mission

Coordinator's office, began an intensive training program among the refugees in September 1991. Approximately 100 church members in three different camps have been faithfully attending lay Bible worker training classes since that time. These people will play a key role in establishing congregations throughout Cambodia.

But the Seventh-day Adventist Church has many other plans for outreach and assistance as well. On January 20, leaders who have been most directly involved with the work in Cambodia met in Bangkok to formulate and refine plans for educational, health-oriented, language training, and evangelistic work in Phnom Penh and other areas.

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-- Kenneth R. Wade  
SAUM Global Mission Coordinator

### Cambodia Has New ADRA Director

The newly-appointed director of ADRA/Cambodia, Mr. Murray Millar, arrived in Phnom Penh with his family on March 12. Mr. Millar has a Master's degree in horticultural science (agriculture). In Cambodia he will be leading out in ADRA and in the church.

One of his initial reactions to his stay in Cambodia was, "As a family, we are greatly impressed with the friendliness of the Cambodian people. There appears to be a real genuine hunger for spiritual values. The physical needs in this country are enormous. Poverty is evident everywhere, beggars abound on the streets, and a considerable gap exists between the wealthy and the poor."

Originally from New Zealand, Mr. Millar has spent the past seven years at Pacific Adventist College in Papua New Guinea, where he has been head of the Agriculture Science Department, teaching, doing research and setting up a community agriculture extension program.

His Australian wife, Ruth, was librarian at Pacific Adventist College prior to coming to Cambodia. The Millars have three daughters, Heidi, 14; Julianne, 12; and Danielle, 8.

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-- Marilyn Johnson, Managing Editor  
MESSENGER



*Cambodia, with Buddhism as its predominant religion, presents a real challenge for the church.*

## ■ PENINSULAR MALAYSIA ■

### She Found Unconditional Love

Bed 226-4 was finally empty. For Teo Kheong Jen, the battle was over. Her struggle and fight against the ravaging disease of cancer had come to an end.

For many workers in Penang Adventist Hospital (PAH) who witnessed her fight, her deterioration and her death, it was a journey of faith with her.

Teo Kheong Jen, or Jane as she was known by hospital staff, had first come to PAH in February 1991, already diagnosed as having choriocarcinoma which had spread to the lungs. She had stopped treatments and was without hope. At PAH, through the witness of staff members and her doctor, Dr. Jeffrey Hardesty, she came to know of a God who loves unconditionally, a God who would stand by her in the midst of her trials.

Unconditional love was something that Jane had not experienced. When her husband learned that she had terminal cancer, he filed for divorce. Left alone to fend for herself, the pain of the disease was compounded by the aloneness of facing it. In her search for an answer, Jesus met her needs.

In November 1991, Jane was baptized into the Adventist fellowship. It was not long before her disease took its toll. It was as if the disease was held back for a while to give her time to know and decide for or against God.

Though Jane is gone now, PAH staff and Hospital Ministry team know they will meet her again. They also realize that there are many patients whom God leads to Penang Adventist Hospital every day, people who need the Lord.

*-- Pang Chu Yen, Doctor, PAH*

### PAH Does First Total Knee Replacement

On March 20, doctors at Penang Adventist Hospital performed the first total knee replacement surgery to be done at PAH. The 68-year-old female patient, who has a history of osteoporosis and osteoarthritis, had a total knee replacement prosthesis placed in her right leg.

The patient had been suffering from severe pain in her knee, and when she could no longer stand the pain, she consented to have the operation. She is recovering well, and is presently receiving physiotherapy treatment in the

newly relocated and expanded physiotherapy department on the second floor of the hospital. Her treatment includes the use of the hospital's new Continuous Passive Motion machine, which helps to strengthen and expand the range of motion of the knee. Several more patients are now waiting to have knee or hip replacements done at PAH.

*-- William Laspe, President  
Penang Adventist Hospital*

### Physical and Spiritual Revival in Muar

A combined emphasis on physical and spiritual health drew a large group of listeners to the Muar Church for seven nights in March. "The lectures are so good, you should have done more advertising," advised one Buddhist businessman who came to hear his son, a member of the Pathfinder Club, sing at the second meeting. He attended faithfully every night thereafter, and when he received a Chinese New Testament as an award for faithful attendance, he promised to start reading it.

The "In Search of Health Lectures" began on March 20 and continued through March 26. Miss Irene Tan, a health lecturer who took her training at Living Springs in the USA, spoke on various health topics from 8:15 until 8:50 each evening. Her demonstrations of hydrotherapy techniques on the last two evenings drew an especially enthusiastic response. The attendees all wanted her to come back and give further instructions. From 8:50 to 9:20 each evening, SAUM Ministerial Secretary Kenneth R. Wade spoke about spiritual health. With his theme, "In Search of God," he shared personal testimonies and experiences illustrating his and others' search for God. The messages were well received by Christians and Buddhists alike.

A large part of the evangelistic program centered in the daytime activities of Pastor Wade and Pastor Terrence Sim, who pastors the Muar and Melaka churches. Although the meetings were conducted during one of the worst heat waves to hit the region in recent memory, the pastors found many local church members and other lay people eager to help in visiting interests and former church members.

"The thing that impressed me," says Wade, "was how much the former members, appreciated having a visit from the pastor and another church member." Using the principles found in the book *Seeking His Lost Sheep* by Fordyce Detamore, the pastors and lay members kept

each visit short and to the point. After just a few general comments, they were able to assess the level of interest of each person visited. (Persons interested in receiving an outline of the principles found in Detamore's book should contact the Personal Ministries Director of their local Mission.)

Several of the former members attended the lectures faithfully and made a resolution to become active in the

church once again.

The Muar Church plans to follow up on this series with other health-oriented presentations and with another series of lectures involving prophecies and last-day events near the end of 1992.

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— *Kenneth R. Wade*  
*Communication Director, SAUM*

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## ■ SABAH ■

### Dantai Youth Retreat Camp Progresses

On New Year's Day 1992, a small group went to the Mission Youth Retreat Camp at Dantai to check on several aspects of the development and improvement of the camp. They were greeted by the buzzing of myriads of insects, the chattering and courtship displays of squirrels, the rustling of dry leaves created by the movement of lizards and crabs gingerly retreating into their hideouts, and the warbling and trills of some of the exotic birds of Sabah.

An avid bird-watcher, Sabah Mission Youth Director Nelton Bingku immediately became absorbed in watching the feathered friends gracing the trees. During 30 minutes with his binoculars, he identified 33 different birds—some of the best bird-watching he ever had in such a short time and within such a limited area. Dantai Youth Retreat is indeed a sanctuary of wildlife.

This camp has vast potential as an educational and recreational center to facilitate activities and training for the social, physical, and spiritual enrichment of the church members in general and of the youth in particular. The Union-wide Pathfinder Camporee, attended by over 1000 young people from all over the Southeast Asia Union Mission, was held at Dantai last year.

Through the Church Ministries Department, the Sabah Mission has come up with definite plans for further improvement and development of the camp site. They plan to clean and beautify the ponds, fill and level the land on both sides of the stream, relocate the playfield inside the Mission property, cement the main roads, and make trails and cemented walks. In addition, they will be making some semi-permanent houses to represent the various ethnic groups in Sabah, as well as building

ornamental huts, bird-watching stations and view towers at strategic locations. Trees will also be named and labeled.

The Adventist youth of Sabah will be closely involved in the implementation of these plans.

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— *Nelton Bingku, Youth Director, Sabah Mission*

### Global Mission Involves Laymen

From February 28 to March 1, several leaders from the Far Eastern Division (FED) and the Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM) met with more than 500 lay members and Mission workers at the Mission headquarters church at Tamparuli, Sabah to conduct a Global Mission Lay Involvement seminar.

The objective of the convocation was to give lay members an overview of the work of lay people in the church—an understanding that the work of the church will not be finished by the pastors but by the lay members themselves.

Those in attendance learned the principles of Global Mission. They received training in visitation, evangelism, shepherding, Sabbath School Action Teams, spiritual gifts, and various other important areas.

Church leaders from the various departments at the FED and the SAUM explained what part their departments could play in helping lay members to reach out and share the gospel message with others around them.

Representing the FED were Pastor V. F. Bocala, Ministerial Secretary; Dr. Jonathan Kuntaraf, Church Ministries (CM) Associate; and Dr. Kathleen Kuntaraf, Health Director. From the SAUM came Pastor George Johnson, President; Pastor Shupinar Koubong, CM Director; Dr. Edmund Siagian, CM Associate; Pastor

Kenneth Wade, Ministerial Secretary; and Mr. Rayburn Smith, Publishing Director.

On Sunday, those attending the meetings could purchase books at a sale put on by the Publishing Department. In total, church members bought approximately M\$3,000 (S\$1,920) of books, all offered at a 25% discount.

By their attendance, church members from around Sabah indicated their desire to finish the Lord's work. At the end of the seminar, those who had come were

eager to implement what they had learned.

A similar program was held at Ayer Manis School in Sarawak immediately before the Sabah meetings. The same type of program will also be conducted in Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore during the last half of May.

-- *Shupinar Koubong*  
*Church Ministries Director, SAUM*

## ■ SARAWAK ■

### New Treasurer Joins Sarawak Mission

Mr. Ishak Simatupang, along with his wife and three daughters, arrived in Sarawak during late 1991 to serve as Treasurer of the Sarawak Mission. The Sarawak Mission had been without a treasurer for about four years.

Coming from Indonesia, Mr. Simatupang had most recently been serving at the academy in Siantar, Sumatra, where he was Treasurer of both the academy and the extension of Indonesia Adventist University. He had earlier served as Treasurer in the Kalimantan Mission.

Mr. Ishak holds a Bachelor's degree from the Adventist University in Bandung. During 1992 he will complete his Master's degree in Business Administration from the AIIAS (Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies) extension classes from the Philippines.

### FEA Students Help in Sarawak

Far Eastern Academy (FEA) students spent a very useful and interesting vacation in Sarawak during early March. Almost the entire student body and faculty travelled to Sarawak to spend their school holiday doing many useful tasks around the Sarawak Mission.

One group of 13 went with the ADRA director to a remote region about 270 kilometers from Kuching. There they built water supply tanks for villagers, as water sources are inadequate and contaminated.

The second group, with their base at the Ayer Manis School about 70 kilometers from Kuching, divided into small groups to do various tasks in the area. Some went

to Plaman Baki and assisted the villagers in building a new church. Although the time was short, they were able to get the main posts and the roof on and the walls up halfway around the windows.

Still another group went to the village of Rayang and painted the lambshelter there. Others stayed at Ayer Manis School and painted the new bakery, repaired and painted the existing cafeteria and kitchen, worked on the new bathroom for the girls' dormitory, and many other miscellaneous tasks which were greatly appreciated by the staff and students of Ayer Manis School.

Some of the young people also went to the Murud Church to help conduct a Vacation Bible School along with Mrs. Dorothy Walter, Mrs. Dorothy Anam, and one of the lay leaders.

For the past several years the Sarawak Mission has greatly appreciated the contribution of the Far Eastern Academy students who have come to give of their time, talents and energies in filling some of the many needs around the Mission.

### Government Official Sets Example for Adventist Members

The Yang Berhormat (YB) State Assemblyman Frederick Bayoi Manggie has been a Seventh-day Adventist for several years, yet he has felt that his civil responsibilities in the Serian District of Sarawak should take priority over his religious convictions.

A little more than two years ago, the YB's wife was struck down with cancer. In his grief, YB Frederick began to have more serious thoughts of God. Recently he and his new bride went searching through their



house for all the charms and other witchcraft objects which had collected there. These were not "bad charms," but good charms such as those to keep away sickness. Nevertheless, they had their origin in witchcraft.

On Friday evening, March 27, the church elders and some members from the Pasir Church in Serian, together with Mission President Daniel Walter, gathered in YB Frederick's home to invoke God's presence and the protection of His guardian angels and to destroy all the elements of witchcraft.

There was a talk about repentance and the necessity of cleaning hearts as well as homes of all the visages of sin. The message was about confession to God, reading His many promises of protection and care, and God's love for those who surrender themselves to Him. Afterwards, the YB, his bride, and friends carried the charms out into the back yard and built a large fire to consume all the old charms from his home.

During the evening, the YB showed Pastor Walter an area behind the house which had for years been considered as haunted by demons. When various people had attempted to clear the area, the YB said, cut trees would refuse to fall; cut branches would not fall onto a certain area but would fall to one side or another. Mysterious paths appeared upon the ground, clean of leaves and twigs. It had seemed that many demons dwelt there, representing spirits of the Chinese, the Malay, the Iban and the Bidayuh.

On Sunday, March 29, Pasir Church leaders gathered at the YB's house and completely cleared the entire area, calling upon God to expel all the demons and to set a guard upon that area.

May all church members everywhere who attempt to keep even the "good charms" recognize the need of separating themselves entirely from all objects of

heathenism, witchcraft and earthliness, and put their trust and confidence fully in God and in Him alone.

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-- Daniel Walter, President, Sarawak Mission

## AY Group Conquers Mambong Cave

Very early Sunday, February 23, a group of Adventist youth from the Kuching Church, joined by students from the Batu Kawa government secondary school, set off for Mambong Cave, an hour's drive from the Sarawak Mission headquarters in Kuching.

About 60 youth, teachers and youth leaders went on the expedition organized by Mr. Watson Ho, who is the Pathfinder leader for the Kuching area and teaches in the government school.

Apparently no one has entered the cave for quite some time, as the path leading to the mouth of the cave is no longer clear. The group had to use ropes to lower themselves into the cave. Once inside, there was mud everywhere and they had to crawl on their stomachs through many narrow passages. There was total darkness except for the lights carried by the group. When they reached the outlet of the cave--five hours later for some--the spelunkers had to climb a rocky 70-foot cliff.

Although it was an exciting experience, many expressed afterwards, "This is my first and last!" Pathfinders found the day an opportunity to witness of God's love and protection through the expedition to Mambong Cave.

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-- Shupinar Koubong  
Church Ministries Director, SAUM

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## ■ SINGAPORE ■

### Volunteers Publish *Free!* Magazine

"Free! At last!" remarked many church members when they received the first issue of *Free!* magazine in the churches on Sabbath, March 28.

This quarterly magazine, designed to build bridges between Seventh-day Adventists and other Christians in Singapore, is the first locally-produced Christian maga-

zine offered free of charge to its readers. When 1,000 copies were introduced to Christian bookstore managers for free distribution to their customers, many commented, "It must be costly to print. How did you all manage to embark on this project?"

*Free!* was originally the idea of a few Adventist lay members who felt that there was a need for a Christian growth magazine with a local flavor. Its purposes would

be to meet the needs of Christians, to bring the gospel message to non-Christians who might read it, and to break down prejudice in the minds of its non-Adventist readers.

Commenting on the initial planning sessions back in July 1991, the Managing Editor, Pastor Ken Wade, stated, "It was remarkable to see how the Lord led us to a consensus and overall plan. We really sensed His leading, and we sense that His guidance will make this magazine a truly effective witnessing tool."

Articles in the magazine focus on areas such as family life, health, general lifestyle, and Christian doctrine. Each issue will also have a page devoted to teens, one for children, and a page for personal testimony. The magazine has a four-color cover, with a short inspirational message on the back cover.

According to Pastor Wade, it appears that many people "are intent on purchasing their salvation (or good luck) with money or righteous deeds. The message we need to portray to the world is that Jesus Christ has already paid the price for our redemption, and hence salvation is available without price to all who will receive Him as Saviour and Lord. Jesus said, 'Freely you have received, freely give,' and 'You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.' In response to Christ's free gift of salvation, the managing staff selected the title *Free!* for the magazine."

The 3,000 copies printed in the first issue of *Free!* have gone out to all of the SDA Churches in Singapore, to Youngberg Adventist Hospital, to Voice of Prophecy students, and to 10 Christian bookstores in Singapore. The second issue, with a targeted 5,000 copies, will be ready about mid-year.

The magazine is printed at Southeast Asia Publishing House. Funds for the project come from donations, from individual church members, from Youngberg Adventist Hospital, and from other well-wishers.

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-- Alfred Low, Sales Manager  
Southeast Asia Publishing House

## SAM Holds Self-Esteem Workshop

On February 15, the Church Ministries Department of the Singapore Mission (SAM) conducted a 2 1/2 hour workshop entitled "Building Your Self-Esteem." A total of 130 members registered for the Sabbath afternoon program.

The workshop facilitator-speaker was Pastor Elton Lee Ki-Plin, Associate Director of the SAM Church

Ministries Department, in charge of Family Ministry. Pastor Lee recently returned from Loma Linda University with a Master of Science degree in Marriage, Family, and Child Counseling.

The workshop provided hands-on experience in building and/or repairing self-esteem. The participants learned how to use their thoughts, emotions, body, imagination, intuition, and power of choice to develop positive self-esteem.

Of the 60 who gave feedback on the program, a considerable number indicated that they were interested in workshops on healing past hurts, coping with grief and loss, understanding their family, premarital counseling, or other topics on marriage or parenting.

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-- Elton Lee Ki-Plin  
CM Associate Director (Family), SAM

## "Five Loaves" Offers Bread of Life

Singaporeans are known as people who love to eat and shop; they hate to exercise. They hate the humid equatorial heat that surrounds them day and night. So it is their culture to sit in the shade and eat. Now, with the advent of modern air-conditioning and prosperity, the ultimate expression of this tradition is to eat, shop, sleep, and ride (cars, taxis, busses and trains), all in air-conditioned comfort.

There are three main races of people in Singapore. Each race brings with it many variations in its foods. To these are added restaurants representing foods from the USA, Europe, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and elsewhere around the world. And then what do you have? An island of gastronomical delights.

But the truth is that these delights have turned into a curse of bad health for the entire population, from the very young to the very old.

In this setting, the Seventh-day Adventist health message was immersed, perhaps buried, and definitely deeply opposed by the food culture of Singapore. Adventists have pondered, met together, experimented, and even started Adventist food outlets, but have not met with much success.

Yet, in the face of all this, four Adventists decided to start a bakery on November 1, 1991. A man who sells birds as pets, and three women—a construction-site supervisor, a nurse, and a secretary-homemaker—all united in a mission of health. Their plan was to begin slowly and cautiously, renting a bakery part-time after hours. They would produce wholemeal, multi-grain bread free of



*Three of the Five Loaves leaders (l to r) Mrs. Yip Siew Ing, Mrs. Chee Poh Geok, and Yip Kok Tho believe God is richly blessing Five Loaves.*

additives, preservatives and cholesterol. The group named their bakery "Five Loaves."

As Providence would have it, on November 3, 1991, the Government of Singapore announced that it would embark on a nation-wide campaign to promote health as a national priority. The targets are obesity, physical inactivity, smoking, blood cholesterol, blood pressure, diet and dental health.

In February 1992, three months after commencement, Five Loaves acquired a bakery of its own. The group bake full-time, six days a week. Production has increased from 400 loaves a week in February to 3,600 loaves a week by the end of March.

Through their contacts and bread-tasting sessions, Five Loaves has been able to sell directly to schools, government agencies, banks, factories and other organizations. It has introduced the health message to thousands of people, and has made the Youngberg Adventist Hospital health programs known to chief executives of many large organizations. This is only the beginning. Five Loaves workers see vast possibilities and a great deal of hard work ahead. Many people in Singapore are interested in health, making them receptive to the richness of the Adventist health message.

The group are also planning to organize their education program to spread the good news of health and the Gospel. To achieve this, however, they are looking for reliable, enthusiastic volunteers to follow through where a loaf of bread has opened up the way to present the Bread of Life.

(Anyone interested in helping with this project should contact Yip Kok Tho at Singapore 4816640.)

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*-- Yip Kok Tho, Layman  
Southeast Asia Union College Church*

## The Lunch Box

Every day, little children go to school with their lunch-boxes tucked snugly in their heavy schoolbags. I always wonder what is in that lunch-box--a sandwich, an apple, or a little pack of chocolate milk? Perhaps a piece of cake left over from the party the night before, an orange, or a can of carbonated drink? Or it may be a packet of noodles, carefully prepared by Mom bright and early in the morning, a fork, a napkin to clean oneself when the food is eaten up, and a bottle of plain water, boiled early in the morning by the hands of a caring mother.

The contents of a lunch-box, whatever they be, remind me of the many things we have in life. Some are simply given to us; some are left-overs and yet useful; some are acquired through sweat and love.

My mind goes back to the Bible story of the boy who had a lunch-box. In it were two fishes and five loaves of bread. They may have been left-overs from the previous meal, or a meal painstakingly prepared by his mother early that morning. We are not given the details. The interesting part of this story is not what he had or how the lunch came about, but what he did with it.

The small lad gave it all to Jesus. In other words, he gave what he had to the Master. And in the Master's hands, the meager lunch multiplied to such vast proportions as to cater for 5,000 people and more.

I often watch children at play. In a group, there is usually one child who takes charge. How does this child gain control of the situation? Usually he possesses a toy or something much desired by the others. He lords it over the rest by lending it to a few but not to all. According to his will and fancy, he recalls it, passes it around while the rest gaze with envy and anticipation as to when their turn will come. This is how children take control of other children and the situation.

However, this scenario is not limited to children, but is evident in adult life as well. We want to control, so we flash around what we have. We share our possessions with a privileged few--a ride in a brand-new BMW, or a party at the poolside of a newly-acquired luxurious home. Some of these have probably been acquired through much effort and time, while others are gifts from loved ones. They are much like the playthings the children have. We see a human thirst for "Power," drawing attention to how successful one has been. This power, often based on material possessions, is self-centered and is of limited benefit to others. The satisfaction it provides is but for a fleeting moment.

Christ's followers, however, can more widely share what they have if they, like the boy with his lunch, are willing to put self aside and hand what they have over to the Lord. With His blessing, whatever we have--little though it be--can be transformed to magnitudes known

only to Him. We can only stand back in awe and wonder and proclaim, "What power!"

-- Phoon Chek Yat, Theology Department Chairman  
Southeast Asia Union College

## ■ THAILAND ■

### Engineer to Help with Phuket Construction

Mr. John Malkiewicz, a government building surveyor from Perth, Australia, arrived in Southeast Asia with his family, including daughter Joala and son Jonathan, in January to serve as construction supervisor for the new facilities to be built at Phuket Adventist Hospital. The hospital is adding new first class patient rooms, and is totally modernizing the present hospital facility.

Mr. Malkiewicz took up his duties in Phuket on February 20. Prior to that, he was consulting with Youngberg Adventist Hospital on their further building plans, and was involved with certain aspects of the radio station construction project off Batam Island near Singapore. He has also been assisting at Mission College, Muak Lek campus, in Thailand.

Mr. Malkiewicz has previously given volunteer overseas mission service in Pakistan.

-- Russell Standish, AHS Director, SAUM

### Twenty-one Were Not Baptized

Although listed as one of the top priority projects in the Global Strategy plans for the Thailand Mission (TAM), the opening of new work in the province of Sakolnakorn was postponed for more than two years because of the lack of a resource person to direct the project. Nevertheless, TAM staff continued to pray for the project three times a day.

Now TAM workers can see that the Spirit of God was working in Sakolnakorn long before they were able to penetrate the area. In mid-1991 the first step in the plan went into operation. A literature evangelist moved into the Sakolnakorn province to begin work in the city and surrounding area. Former Sunday-keeping Bible worker Mr. Ekarat began as a true literature evangelist. He would

spend approximately half of his time making door-to-door and business contacts with his books to sell. The rest of his time he spent following up those contacts who expressed an interest in spiritual matters.

Almost immediately the Lord led Mr. Ekarat to a group of Sunday Christians who were looking for full Bible truth. The Thailand Mission rented a rather large house for Mr. Ekarat, providing plenty of space for religious services. Soon there was a group from the Buddhist community as well as the Sunday Christian group worshipping each Sabbath and attending Bible study group meetings in the evenings.

Mr. Danny Pung, the TAM radio evangelist, began to prepare radio programs for broadcasting in Sakolnakorn. Miss Rianthong, the Child Evangelism Director of TAM, put together a program to visit the area and organize Branch Sabbath Schools with the children. The hearts of the Sunday Christians were immediately won when they saw that something was being done for their children.

When the Church Ministries team began to make periodic visits to Sakolnakorn, holding cottage meetings and later evangelistic meetings, it became evident that God's Spirit was truly working there. In early 1992, the first 17 adults were baptized in Sakolnakorn. Another 21 asked to be



Pastor Chamee witnesses in the Sakolnakorn Public High School.

baptized at the same time. It was a difficult decision to delay their baptism, but the Church Ministries team felt that this group needed further preparation. Even though these 21 were not baptized, they are nevertheless rejoicing in the new-found faith of the three angels' messages and are preparing for the second coming of Christ. Another baptism is scheduled during the second quarter of 1992, during which time the Thailand Mission will welcome this second group into the church fellowship.

The Lord has blessed TAM workers more than ever expected. Now another province in Thailand has become a beachhead from which to spread the gospel throughout the surrounding areas.

— W. S. Bassham, President, TAM

## Karen Refugees Receive ADRA Aid

During the three-week period between January 15 and February 5, approximately 2,500 Karen refugees entered Thailand at Thu Mwe Ta after leaving their homes in eastern Myanmar (Burma), fleeing their homeland to escape the onslaught of the Burmese army.

Because of the suddenness and unprecedented intensity of the Burmese attacks, most of the refugees left their homes as quickly as possible, in many cases taking with them only the clothes they were wearing. Once in Thailand, they had nothing with which to build shelter or provide for themselves.

The situation was worsened by the cold and extremely dry weather at that time of year. With the very cold nights and no proper clothing, pneumonia can become a critical problem among the refugees. Furthermore, because of the dryness it is nearly impossible to begin cultivating anything before the rains begin in May or June.

Two ADRA/Thailand workers, Mr. Steve Nyirady, who is stationed near Mae Sot, and Mr. Jeffrey Wright, Public Relations Director, directed the relief operations. They purchased blankets and other relief supplies, including cooking utensils, medicines, foodstuffs, and clothing, worth 145,000 Bhat (S\$9,500) for distribution to the refugees.

On February 10 the team travelled from Mae Sot to Thu Mwe Ta to distribute the supplies with the assistance of the local Karen leaders.

The transportation of supplies from Mae Sot to Thu Mwe Ta was a logistical nightmare. Only about half of the distance may be travelled by land, and that is over elephant or oxcart roads which have been converted for use by conventional vehicles. The remaining distance must be negotiated on the Moei River, which serves as the border between Thailand and Myanmar. Because of the increased war effort, however,



Steve Nyirady oversees the distribution of blankets at Thu Mwe Ta.

most of the boats capable of transporting supplies up the river have been commandeered by the Karen army.

Although that particular section of the river flows along Karen-controlled Myanmar, the front battle lines are only about five kilometers away. Thus there is still some danger in travel there. Burmese artillerymen frequently overshoot their targets, accidentally shelling the border area, often even on the Thai side.

Because Thu Mwe Ta is only about 500 meters from the border, the situation of the refugees is not considered stable. Even during the distribution of supplies, the sounds of battle just up the river were plainly audible, and on several occasions stray mortar shells landed on the beach opposite the refugee village.

The Karen, originally from the northwestern region of China, followed the Mekong River into Southeast Asia several centuries ago. Some settled in Thailand, Laos and northern Vietnam, but the largest concentrations of the Karen people settled in Burma.

When the Burmese came to power in Myanmar, however, they set about systematically destroying the Karen and other minority groups. For over 40 years the Karen have been fighting the Burmese in the mountainous region of Myanmar that borders with Thailand. This year the attacks by the Burmese army are reported to be more frequent and more vicious than in the past. The Burmese, who outnumber the Karen by more than 10 to 1, have reportedly burned fields and rice stores, forced able-bodied people to porter military supplies, and destroyed villages. In addition, reports of rape, torture, and execution are worse than ever before.

While abstaining from taking a political stance on issues of this nature, ADRA/Thailand stands ready to offer assistance or provide relief to civilian men, women and children of any ethnic origin left destitute by war or natural disaster.

— Jeffrey Wright, Public Relations Director  
ADRA/Thailand

## ADRA Aids Fire Victims

On January 23, a fire broke out in the Hmong village of Doi Sang in northern Thailand. Within less than one hour, the fire destroyed 26 homes and 4 stores, leaving a total of 199 people without shelter and, in many cases, food or clothing.

The fire occurred during the day while most of the people were out working in their fields, so there were few people at the scene to fight the fire. Later investigation showed that the fire resulted from one person's careless smoking. The fact that all of the buildings in Doi Sang are made of bamboo combined with the dryness of the Thai winter provided perfect conditions for the spread of fire.

ADRA/Thailand responded to the situation by providing rice, cooking utensils, hand gardening tools, blankets, and clothing, valued at nearly 60,000 Bhat (\$\$3,900). Funding came from ADRA/International in Washington, DC, from ADRA/SAUM in Singapore, and from local sources. Church members and students from Chiang Mai Adventist Academy also provided relief clothing and blankets.



*A Hmong family inspect their home after the fire.*

Because the fire occurred in a Hmong village, getting relief through government channels would have been a somewhat slower process. In situations like this, it is often the prompt response of non-government organizations like ADRA that meets the immediate needs of the people.

The Hmong are an ethnic minority group, commonly referred to as a "hill tribe." Originally from western China, the Hmong migrated to Southeast Asia and now inhabit localized areas of Laos and northern Thailand.

*-- Jeffrey Wright, Public Relations Director  
ADRA/Thailand*

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## SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION COLLEGE



Sabbath, March 21, was a very special day for Vivi Tjokro, Melecia Nasino, and Meggi Lui, as the three young ladies were baptized at the SAUC Church.

Each newly-baptized person could probably give a testimony of how God marvelously worked in his or her life. Yet Vivi Tjokro's conversion is evidence of how God can step in and work things out in His own way, in His own time, when human efforts seem to utterly fail.

In January 1990, Vivi first came to SAUC. Born and raised in Indonesia of Christian parents, Vivi knew only a little about Bible history, but felt no attachment to Christ or any religion.

At SAUC she stayed in the dormitory for some time, but greatly disliked having regular morning and evening worship services so she finally moved out into the community. Several quarters later, as she took the required Bible courses in college, she slowly became interested in Daniel and Revelation. She had never known what was going to happen at the end of the world.

Eventually Vivi started to take Bible studies. But learning about the Adventist lifestyle from her health classes, she was sure it was impossible. As she became more interested in the Adventist message, her friends criticized and ridiculed her for not living up to the Christian lifestyle. No, she decided, Seventh-day Adventism was just not for her. Her friends and their activities were too important to give up for this religion.

As her social life and the stress of studies increased, so did an old health problem. Sleeping only four hours a night, having a few drinks with her friends now and then, struggling with her studies, taking little thought for her health brought on more frequent attacks. Her medicines made her too sleepy to study, and she felt caught in a vicious cycle.

In September 1991, Vivi again enrolled at SAUC. Soon, however, her parents decided to withdraw her from school and take her to China to seek both traditional and modern medical assistance, hoping to find some cure for her.

To Vivi, leaving SAUC was a relief. Everything seemed to be going wrong with her life anyway. She was having so many misunderstandings with her friends; her studies weren't going well; the lifestyle was a constant annoyance. So she started to pack for the trip, and began to tell people she was leaving.

To one of her teachers, the irrepressible thought kept coming back, "Oh, Lord, this is the end for Vivi. Now I fear she will leave all this behind and never give her heart to You. Please go with her, help her to still find you." To Vivi the teacher said, "Take Jesus with you."

Vivi did. For some reason she packed the book *Christ Our Saviour* along with a book on English grammar and one on overcoming indecision.

In China, Vivi's parents took her to the leading neurologists in Shanghai, Shenzhen and Guangzhou. To her surprise, each one prescribed the same medicines she had already been taking. Even more surprising--and annoying at first--each doctor also prescribed definite changes in her lifestyle. "Wah!" she thought, "All the same things I heard in health classes at SAUC!" Avoid alcohol and cigarettes. Don't eat food with too much salt or spice or fat. Get more rest....

And then there was the isolation. Vivi could not communicate with anyone. She didn't know the language as her parents did. So she turned to the books in her suitcase. She reviewed her English lessons a bit. Halfway through the book on indecisiveness she gave up on it. *Christ Our Saviour* was left. She tried to read, but found it hard to understand. So she tried the first chapter again. And again, until she understood what it meant. Gradually she moved on through the book.

Vivi began to talk with God, to tell Him about her disappointments, about feeling like a prisoner in the hotel room, about the doctors' advice. As the days passed, she read and prayed more and more. Her days became happier and happier. She could enjoy the time she spent with her new-found Friend, Jesus Christ.

In her diary, Vivi wrote one day, "What a great relief after I came to God. So wonderful! Never mind if my friends misunderstand or reject me; God still understands and accepts me." With peace in her heart she could face whatever her friends or brothers said.

Returning to Singapore from her month in China, Vivi began serious Bible studies. She later went home to Indonesia to work in her family's computer company. In March she returned to Singapore so that her baptism might be a testimony and a witness to her school friends.

Today Vivi is back in Indonesia "feeling great" since changing her lifestyle, unafraid to face whatever the future might bring. She knows that walking beside her each step of the way is her dear Friend Jesus--the Friend she met at SAUC.

Truly, when human efforts fail, God steps in. After all, Christ said, "I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

— Marilyn Johnson, English Teacher, SAUC

# The Reward of Service

There is a priceless reward for those who devote their life to His [God's] service.

He who has appointed "to every man his work," according to his ability, will never let the faithful performance of duty go unrewarded. Every act of loyalty and faith will be crowned with special tokens of God's favor....

The brows of those who do this work will wear the crown of sacrifice. But they will receive their reward.

To every worker for God, this thought should be a stimulus and an encouragement. In this life our work for God often seems to be almost fruitless. Our efforts to do good may be earnest and persevering, yet we may not be permitted to witness their results. To us the effort may seem to be lost. But the Saviour assures us that our work is noted in heaven, and that the recompense cannot fail.

Christ regards all acts of mercy, benevolence, and thoughtful consideration for the unfortunate, the blind, the lame, the sick, the widow, and the orphan, as done to Himself; and these works are preserved in the heavenly records, and will be rewarded.

The Lord desires us to rest in Him without a question as to our measure of reward. When Christ abides in the soul, the thought of reward is not uppermost. This is not the motive that actuates our service.

Those who give their lives to Christlike ministry know the meaning of true happiness. Their interests and their prayers reach far beyond self. They themselves are growing as they try to help others.

That man or that woman whose soul is drawn out in compassion and love for the erring, and who labors to bring them to the fold of the great Shepherd, is engaged in a blessed work. And, oh, what a soul-enrapturing thought, that when one sinner is thus reclaimed, there is more joy in heaven than over ninety and nine just persons!

The Christian laborer knows no drudgery in his heaven-appointed work. He enters into the joy of his Lord in seeing souls emancipated from the slavery of sin; and this joy repays him for every self-denial.

Every effort made for Christ will react in blessing upon ourselves.... Every ray of light shed upon others will be reflected upon our own hearts. Every kind and sympathizing word spoken to the sorrowful, every act to relieve the oppressed, and every gift to supply the necessities of our fellow beings, given or done with an eye to God's glory, will result in blessings to the giver.

That church or those persons who shut themselves away from bearing burdens for others, who shut themselves up to themselves, will soon suffer spiritual feebleness. It is labor that keeps the strong man strong. And spiritual labor, toil, and burden-bearing is what will give strength to the church of Christ.

In doing for others, a sweet satisfaction will be experienced, an inward peace which will be a sufficient reward.

When the redeemed stand before God, precious souls will respond to their names who are there because of the faithful, patient efforts put forth in their behalf.... Thus those who in this world have been laborers together with God will receive their reward.

In heaven we shall see the youth whom we helped, those whom we invited to our homes, whom we led from temptation. We shall see their faces reflecting the radiance of the glory of God.

The redeemed will meet and recognize those whose attention they have directed to the uplifted Saviour.... "I was a sinner," it will be said, "without God and without hope in the world; and you came to me, and drew my attention to the precious Saviour as my only hope. And I believed in Him. I repented of my sins, and was made to sit together with His saints in heavenly places in Christ Jesus."

Others will say... "When despair bound my soul in unbelief, the Lord sent you to me... to speak words of hope and comfort... You treated me as a brother. You sympathized with me in my sorrows, and restored my bruised and wounded soul... so that I could grasp the hand of Christ that was reached out to save me. In my ignorance you taught me patiently that I had a Father in heaven who cared for me. You read me the precious promises of God's Word. You inspired in me faith that He would save me."

If the time seems long to wait for our Deliverer to come; if, bowed by affliction and worn with toil, we feel impatient... let us remember... that God leaves us on earth to encounter storms and conflicts, to perfect Christian character, to become better acquainted with God our Father and Christ our Elder Brother, and to do work for the Master in winning many souls to Christ, that with glad heart we may hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

-- Christian Service