

SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION

# Messenger

ISSN 0026-0371

M.I.T.A. (P) No. 138/5/92

March/April 1993



*Rebecca Dee  
serves patients  
at Kler Ko Clinic*

*— see page 9*



## ■ CAMBODIA ■

### Two Hands, No Feet!

Returning from a refugee camp where he had fled during the great massacre of the Khmer Rouge regime, Mr. Pho Kheng had the misfortune of stepping on a land mine which blew off his feet and left him bleeding in the path. Fortunately, friendly hands found him and his life was spared.

Now, settled with his family in a village near Sisaphon, Northwest Cambodia, Pho Kheng is undaunted in sharing his new-found joy and faith. As often as he can, he calls together the youth of the village and teaches them Gospel songs and Bible lessons. He then sends them out to teach and share with the others in the villages. Within the first two months of his return from the refugee camp and the necessary time in the hospital getting the stubs of his legs cared for, he has raised up a group of more than 50 people who come to worship with him on a regular basis each Sabbath.

When Pastor Daniel Walter visited him recently, he showed Pastor Walter a vacant lot not far from his home and pled for someone to help the villagers to purchase the lot and build a church for them to meet in. Land in Cambodia is expensive, and for near destitute refugees to raise US\$1,000 for a church lot is far beyond their means. With the UN imposed sanctions against the Khmer Rouge who hold most of the forests in Cambodia, the price of timber has gone very high, so even a simple church will cost at least US\$5,000-6,000 just for materials.

Two hands, no feet; but a burning passion to save souls! Dare we disappoint Him?

---

— Daniel Walter, Director,  
Cambodia Attached District

### ADRA Helps Train Cambodian Doctors in Public Health

In March, 1993, 27 Cambodian doctors from each of the provinces in Cambodia, and from Phnom Penh, the capital city, began the first block of 12 weeks' study toward a Master's in Public Health degree. This course is being offered by ADRA over a period of three years using funds provided by the Canadian Government, and teaching staff from the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in the Philippines. This is a good example of how Adventist institutions and agencies can network with each other to provide benefit to non-Christian persons. Who knows what the eternal influence of such a program will be?

Cambodia's health needs are enormous: infant mortality rates are among the highest in the world; hospital facilities are among the poorest in the world. Many deaths could be prevented through teaching basic health care principles and equipping the clinics and hospitals with suitably trained staff and medical supplies. During the ravages of the notorious Pol Pot, almost all Cambodian medical staff were either exterminated or driven from the country. Today doctors serving the people in Cambodia do so having undergone limited training during the 1980's in teaching situations which were far from desirable. Those employed by the government today struggle to survive on the meager salary received each month and have no hope of putting themselves through upgrading courses. A





## WRITERS NEEDED for YOUTH DEVOTIONAL BOOK

A new youth devotional book is being planned. It will be the one book that will raise and hold the interest of the young people from day to day. It will bring inspiration and encouragement to each reader on a daily basis. The proposed book will contain a compilation of devotional articles written by young SDA's for young SDAs.

For this proposal to become a reality, writers are needed who are 16-30 years of age. Each writer may have multiple submissions. The office of youth ministries is anxious to have writers from the world church represented in the youth for youth devotional book. Your contribution is needed and will be greatly appreciated. The proceeds from the sale of the 1994 youth devotional book will be used to help sponsor prospective Adventist Youth Volunteers in mission service at home or abroad.

### *Guidelines for Contributors To The CM Department AYS Devotional Book*

1. Contributions will be accepted in a wide variety of spiritual topics, primarily from personal experiences of young people of God's presence in their lives or others.
2. All submissions should be in English, typed, double-spaced and when possible on computer diskette as well as a hard copy and send it in ASCII File (an international file) or let us know which program is used.
3. All submissions should be between 150-300 words in length and have a title.
4. Each submission should include a "Theme" Bible text including source and Bible version.
5. Each submission should include a suggested "prayer."
6. Give the sources of any quotes used in your contribution and when appropriate include written permission to use the quoted material.
7. Authors may submit multiple contributions.
8. Those who contribute to the Youth Devotional Book do so agreeing that all profits from the royalties of this publication will go to the General Conference Church Ministries Adventist Youth Service Volunteer fund.
9. The publishing house retains the right to make the final selections to be published and to edit all contributions.
10. Submissions should be sent before **July 31, 1993** to the: Adventist Youth Service, General Conference of SDA, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600, U.S.A.
11. Complete the following "Author Biographical Information" and return it with the manuscript:  
  
Example:  
  
Adreotti Gracci is from \_\_\_\_\_  
and writes from \_\_\_\_\_ where he is  
an auto mechanic, head of transmission  
department. He is busy in community and civic  
affairs.



practical, public-based health training program is suited to their current needs.

Please pray that the teachers will have more than human wisdom to meet the challenges of teaching post-graduate level in a medium which is a second language for the students.

---

— *MESSENGER Staff*

## **ADRA Brings Clean Water to the Poor in Central Cambodia**

Cambodia is a land of contrasts: the wealthy and the poor; the peace plans and the war zones; the flat open plains and the forested mountains; the short intense wet season followed by the long dusty dry season. The majority of Cambodians are paddy farmers, so they live on the flat plains and wait patiently for the annual monsoon rains to fill their water reservoirs. For many poor farmers, their reservoir consists of an open pond. These ponds are shared by ducks and buffalos, people and pigs. They look chocolate brown for most of the year. As a result of contaminated water, sickness is common, and many young children die annually. Some families are more fortunate and have hand dug wells. These are generally better water sources than open ponds, but the majority of wells dry up well before the end of the dry season. In many instances women and children walk up to 6 km daily to obtain water for household needs.

To add to the burden of these villagers, fighting in this area has resulted in well over 1,000 families being displaced from their villages. They have fled to more secure locations, and there they have to compete with the local residents for water.

During the past two years some attempts have been made to improve the water situation for these poor families in central Cambodia by a number of international agencies. However, in the majority of instances, the wells still run dry before the end of the dry season.

In April, 1992, while ADRA was monitoring the distribution of relief supplies to these internally displaced

persons in the Kompong Suay District of Kompong Thom Province, an urgent plea for assistance with water was received. ADRA responded by placing a proposal to the Australian Government to fund the locating and installation of 240 hand dug wells. By November of the same year, funding had been approved and ADRA moved quickly into operation.

ADRA's concern, however, was to do everything possible to ensure that every well dug had water in it throughout the dry season. Very little information could be obtained regarding the hydro-geology of the region. UNICEF had drilled wells in the vicinity, but found that the underground water supplies were far deeper than appropriate for hand dug wells. ADRA's approach was to bring in Roy Stirling, an experienced water diviner from Australia. Roy had 60 successful years of water locating experience behind him. (He turned 75 while assisting on the project site.) This experience proved beneficial to ADRA's ability to meet its objectives.

Over a period of three weeks Roy located 140 sites in 12 villages, which he claimed would provide water. He identified many small streams flowing weakly under the surface at a depth of two to eight meters. While most of these streams would not support a pump, they would provide adequate water to keep a well supplied with water for about 10 families. During the period of Roy's visit, 25 wells were dug by the local village people, and every one proved to have water in it. The water was clean because it was sourced by a stream and not merely by local soakage. You can imagine how thankful the local people are now that ADRA has been willing to take the time to assist them and that Roy has been able to unselfishly use a mysterious talent which God has blessed him with.

Your continued prayers are needed for this project, as it is located in the midst of a fighting zone. Already UN troops are pulling out of the area for fear of possible attacks. The dry season is progressing, but more people are being blessed with clean water as ADRA staff continue to work closely with the local village people in Kompong Thom Province of central Cambodia. This could be the only way these people are introduced to the One who can supply them with that "living water" which will mean they will never thirst again.

---

— *MESSENGER Staff*



■ PENINSULAR MALAYSIA ■

## Penang's Largest Baptism in Recent Years

The largest baptism in Penang in recent years was held on March 6, 1993 in a combined English and Tamil SDA church service where 16 people were baptized at the Divine Service. This was a follow-up to the evangelistic meetings held by Australian radio and television speaker and evangelist, Pastor Geoff Youlden, last November.

It was indeed an inspiring day to see every seat in the church filled with church members as well as new members. Also present to witness this event was Mission President, Pastor David Leah.

The 16 candidates came from various backgrounds including Buddhist, Methodist, Catholic, and Charismatic. An appeal was made at the end of the service and many others are now preparing for baptism later in the year.

Pastor Youlden said, "What impressed me was the number of young people responding to the call of the gospel. Indeed the future of the church is safe when we have young people coming into the church like we witnessed on Sabbath. It was a day of inspiration."



Each of the candidates had been prepared for baptism in special classes held by Dr. and Mrs. Hardesty, Dr. and Mrs. Chapman, Pastor Theva and Pastor Jonathan Cheong. At the end of the service the candidates all stood with their spiritual guardians, who are charged with the responsibility of caring for these "babes" in Christ.

Perhaps the whole day could be summed up in the

words of one member who said, "The work of soul-winning and evangelism indeed makes the church a happy church."

— *Joshua Gan, Church Pastor,  
Penang SDA English Church*

## Indian Camp In Teluk Intan

The Indian churches recently took part in an Indian Camp Meeting held at Teluk Intan, January 22-25, 1993. Pastor George Johnson, speaker on opening night, spoke to about 150 believers. Johnson's message was timely and heart searching for many. Others from Singapore participating in the Camp Meeting were Pastor Samuel Money, Director of the Voice of Prophecy and Pastor Joseph David, from the Tamil Company. Their messages on the former and latter rain sobered the campers.



A community outreach was set up at the Camp Meeting site and the campers were given the opportunity to donate blood. Brother M Joseph was instrumental in arranging to lift the public image of the SDA Church with this effort. VIP's from the Health Ministry were on hand to express their appreciation for the good spirit of the SDA community. We thank God for this.

Special thanks for the successful planing of this Camp Meeting go to Pastor P Benjamin, Pastor V N Joseph, Pastor V Thevarajulu, Pastor G P Joseph and Pastor T John, as well as the local elders of the Indian churches.

— *Sam Govindasamy  
Publishing Department, PEM*



## ■ SABAH ■

### Six Field Pastors Ordained

Six field pastors were ordained into the ministry at the conclusion of the Sabah Mission triennial session at Pioneer Memorial Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tamparuli on Sabbath, March 27, 1993. Pastor Ken Wade, Ministerial Association Secretary of Southeast Asia Union Mission, delivered an inspiring sermon prior to the solemn service.



*Six pastors who were ordained together with their wives (L-R) Escend & Alice, Lucy & Albert, Thony & Severinus, Wendy & Johnny, Toisah & Jim, and Muntin & Matium.*

Sabah Mission has always had difficulty finding Chinese or Chinese-speaking pastors for the Chinese congregations in the city areas. However, God always has a hand in His work and has provided three Chinese pastors to shepherd the churches at Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan and Tawau.

It was a joy to witness the ordination of Pastor Escend Chong of Tawau Church. His wife, Alice, continues to be of great support to him through her kind and friendly attitude towards everyone who goes to Tawau Church.

Providing leadership on the East Coast are Pastor Matium Alip with his wife, Muntin, of Sungei Manila, and Pastor Severinus Umpok and his wife, Thony, of Lahad Datu. The work is challenging, especially if it involves learning a new dialect or even a new language in order to be able to effectively convey the message of God's love.

Pastor Jim Gabu and his wife, Toisah, serve in the Papar district with churches located in Beaufort, Sipitang, Kuala Penyu and on Labuan island. Pastor Johnny Bongkulung and his wife, Wendy, care for churches in the Inanam district. A few of the churches are located in hilly areas but that is not a big problem for Johnny.

Pastor Albert Rambating and his wife, Lucy, recently moved to the Tagaroh district where Albert pastors larger churches than he has pastored before. Lucy is only a tiny lady, but like many of the other pastor's wives, she has a heart overflowing with Christian kindness and love.

The number of ordained pastors in the Sabah Mission now totals 19. More pastors are needed to convey the message of God's love.

*--Connie Gaban, Communication Director, SAB*

### Week of Prayer Yields Harvest

Fifteen souls were baptized on March 13, 1993, at the end of the Week of Prayer held at the Sabah Adventist Secondary School (SASS) in Tamparuli, Sabah.

The guest speaker, Pastor Samuel Money, shared many life experiences with the students, teachers, and church members in attendance.

In a question-and-answer session held at the close of the series, the students asked many questions in connection with their salvation.

A baptismal class was organized by the school Chaplain, Pastor Laung, after approximately 30 people responded to an alter call.

*— Samuel Money, Director,  
Voice of Prophecy and CM Associate, SAUM*

### Sabah Mission Triennial Session

The Seventh-day Adventist Mission of Sabah held its triennial session from March 25-27, 1993 at the Mission campus at Tamparuli. Delegates from all churches and companies attended the session as well as attendees from the Union in Singapore which included Wu Chook Ying, secretary and acting president, Tom Massengill, treasurer, Ken Wade, Ministerial Association secretary, Edmund Siagian, associate church ministries director and Simon Sim, staff auditor.

Sabah Mission has 116 organized churches, 64 organized companies, and 56 branch Sabbath schools under the leadership of 29 field pastors. The total church membership stands at 17,608. The witnessing efforts of many workers resulted in a total baptism of 2,053 souls during the past three years. A wide spectrum of lay

people assisted in public evangelism. There were 89 children's efforts, 62 youth efforts, 171 lay efforts, and 108 regular workers' efforts.

The Global Mission of the church is to proclaim the gospel to every nation, tongue and people. This commission is being cared out, and our churches will continue to be involved in this mission to reach new places.

From the financial aspect, Sabah Mission has been blessed with members who are also faithful tithe payers. In 1992,

the gross tithe received exceeded the million RMS mark. Yet although Sabah Mission is being encouraged to work toward self-support or conference status, the leaders are cautious about this move. The treasurer's report, as of 1992, shows that the percentage of self-support stands at 84 percent. Much yet needs to be done to reach a fully self-supporting status.

— *Connie Gaban, Communications Director, SAB*

## ■ SARAWAK ■

### News from the President's Desk

#### Changes in Administration

January, 1993 begins a new era for the Sarawak Seventh-day Adventist Mission, with national leaders taking over to chart and lead in the work. Pastor Daniel Walter, the former President of the mission, was called to lead out in the work in Cambodia. To replace him, the Southeast Asia Union Mission appointed Pastor Edmund Liah as mission President and Pastor Lawrence Banyie as mission Secretary, while Ishak Simatupang continues to serve as mission Treasurer.



*Pastor Walter receiving a farewell gift from the new Sarawak Mission President, Pastor Edmund Liah. Looking on happily is Mr. Roland Suboh, the acting Sunny Hill Principal.*

#### Church Officers' Training

Most pastors in Sarawak Mission have to take care of more than one church — sometimes as many as six to ten churches each. For this reason it is essential that the church officers be trained to perform their work. In January six

Church Officers Training sessions were conducted with an average number of twenty or more churches sending their church officers to attend the training.

During the two full days of training, the church officers were taught practical aspects of church ministry to enable them to perform their roles as leaders in their respective churches.

#### Village Lay Pastors' Training

The weekend of February 5-7, Pastor Edmund Liah, President of the Sarawak Mission, conducted a course on sermon preparation for the Village Lay Pastors' Training.

The 20 VLP's in attendance were taught different methods of sermon designs, they were asked to make sermon outlines using these new ideas and collectively contributed their own ideas to make the sermons come alive.

Those VLP's previously trained in this same manner are now actively preaching and leading out in the services of the churches in Sarawak.

#### Camp Meeting - 1993

During 1993, nine camp meetings are being planned — six have already been conducted during the months of February and March. Using the theme of "Building A People Of Power," some of the sermon outlines or Bible study guides will be: Building A People Of Power through (1) Witnessing, (2) Unity in the Church, (3) God's Love, (4) The Power of Prayer, (5) The Power of the Blood and (6) The Power of the Holy Spirit.

By God's grace the Lord can build a people of power for His kingdom.

— *Edmund Liah, President, SAK*



## Sunny Hill College

### New Facilities

Three new facilities have been added to Sunny Hill College. A new library situated on the ground floor of the college block, a Living Skills Workshop beside the physics lab under the school auditorium as well as a Junior Lecture Theatre.

The new library was completed the last week of November 1992 just in time for the new school year. Students will have a better environment and facility to study and research in.

The Living Skills Workshop was completed on February 24, 1993 and will provide a wide range of facilities for students taking "Kemahiran Hidup" classes to learn various practical skills. The Junior Lecture Theatre was completed for use in January 1993. The Primary School pupils use this hall for assemblies and other functions.

### New Staff

Helen Phang joined the Sunny Hill College staff in December 1992. She assumes the responsibility as head of Sunny Nursery and will also teach Chinese language in the Primary School. Phang graduated from Hong Kong Adventist College and formerly taught in Batu Kawa Chinese Secondary School.

Wung Wei Kong joined Sunny Hill College staff as College Chaplain and will teach some Bible classes. Wung graduated from Southeast Asia Union College and was formerly the Chaplain at Ayer Manis School.

### School Enrollment

As of March 10, 1993, 766 students were enrolled in Sunny Hill College. These figures include 476 on the Secondary level, 124 on the Primary level, and 166 in Kindergarten. Enrollment for Form 5 and 6 was still open at the time of this report.

### New School Head

The new Acting Principal at Sunny Hill College is Roland Suboh. Suboh's Senior Assistant is Sim Hua Kuang.

— MESSENGER Staff

## Ayer Manis School

### Serian Commercial Institute

Ayer Manis School is glad to announce that the school has acquired the Serian Commercial Institute.

Several courses are being offered by Serian Commercial Institute including Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced typing as well as computer courses with programs in Wordstar 5, Lotus 1-2-3 and Dbase 3.

Heading the Institute is Jimbai, who holds a Bachelor in Economics from Newcastle University in Australia.

The courses take six months to complete and the fees are RM120.00-140.00 for typing and RM150.00 for the computer courses.

### Week of Prayer

The Week of Prayer was held March 8-13, 1993 for Ayer Manis School students. Ishak Simatupang, mission Treasurer, was the guest speaker and spoke to the students twice a day using the theme "Jesus our Saviour."

Pastor Ganchai, the new school Chaplain, will conduct Bible studies for the 20 students who indicated their desire to follow Jesus at the conclusion of this week of spiritual emphasis.

### New Chaplain

Pastor Ganchai, a recent graduate of Hong Kong Adventist College, succeeded Pastor Wung as Chaplain of Ayer Manis School. He also teaches Bible and coordinates all religious activities of the school.

### Integrated Agriculture Project

Under the direction of Principal Joseph Kueh, the school has embarked on the Integrated Agriculture Project. At the present time the school manages four fish ponds, has planted 800 pineapple plants, 100 papaya trees, 70 orange trees, 100 pisang ambun, and 100 durian seedlings. Last year the school produced 1000 chickens for sale in the market.

According to the principal there is plenty of work for students, and the school is willing to pay one ringgit for quality work per hour. Student labour is available for all students who wish to work.

— Joseph Kueh, Principal, Ayer Manis, SAK



## Baby Arrives in a Dugout

In a sophisticated world a hospital is accessible to city dwellers in a matter of a few minutes due to well developed communications and transport systems. Health facilities exist in most cities in Sarawak, but they are not accessible in a matter of a few minutes for village dwellers.

In Sarawak, the poorest state in Malaysia, around 60 percent of the population lives in rural areas. In these places a visit to a health station may take hours by hiking through dense primary rain forest or by riding in a dugout canoe powered by a water pump engine.

ADRA Sarawak targets people living in remote areas for most of its projects. One such project is the Kalaka Micro Health Project, which provides health education in four villages. These villages are Sungai Antu A, Sungai Antu B, Ngiar, and Jelupang. This project is run by a village health educator who teaches hygiene, sanitation, nutrition, family planning, and home gardening.

Recently, Joyce Kinchang, the village health educator, was conducting village health meetings at Jelupang. While giving health lectures one day she noticed that a pregnant woman who usually attended was not there. She discovered that the woman had begun labour and her husband, mother, and brother were planning to take her by dugout canoe up river to the nearest health station. In order to reach the dugout they had to walk along a flooded jungle trail.

The family had been gone about 30 minutes when Joyce concluded her lecture. Sensing that they needed her help, Joyce decided to follow them, even though it

was already 9 o'clock at night. It didn't take her long to catch up with the group, because they were progressing slower and slower as the pregnant mother's labour pains became more frequent.

It took nearly an hour to reach the riverbank and the dugout. Their progress up stream was further slowed by the receding tide. To complicate things, the pressure lamp was behaving erratically and finally went out. They slowly made their way against the current with the aid of a dim torch.

The labor pains became intense and Joyce knew the baby was not going to wait to be born at the health station. There was no midwife or traditional birth attendant present, so Joyce knew it was up to her to deliver the baby. Fortunately there were no complications, and Joyce found a plastic bag in which to place the placenta, while she snuggled the baby in her arms. Eventually they reached the health station at 1 a.m. There was no place at the health station for the relatives to stay, so Joyce invited them to stay at her home at the ADRA center at Roban village, an hour away. This was the first time the grandmother had been there. They had never visited the center because they were afraid they would be forced to become Christians!

As a result of this overnight stay, as well as the loving care by the ADRA workers, the family has become very cooperative. They have even invited the ADRA workers to teach them more about the God who the ADRA workers worship. Now the people of Jelupang village regularly attend the Sabbath worship services conducted by ADRA workers in their village.

— *Petrus Ngadan Kuju, Director, ADRA Sarawak*

---

## ■ SINGAPORE ■

### Health Seminars for School Principals

By November, 1993, 400 school principals and vice-principals will have gone through a three-day Health Management Seminar conducted by Youngberg Adventist Hospital. This program is part of the Singapore Ministry of Education's Trim and Fit campaign to fight obesity and improve fitness of students. The main objective of

this seminar is for school principals to learn health tips and pass them on to their teachers, students, and canteen operators.

Under the leadership of Dr. Clarence Ing, director of the hospital's Wellness Center and specialist-physician in preventive medicine and ophthalmology, this seminar is a shorter version of the popular lifestyle reconditioning health program, NEWSTART, which the hospital has



been conducting for the general public for the past ten years.

During the course, participants check their blood sugar and cholesterol levels, and amount of skin fat. They have vegetarian meals, which are prepared by two dieticians, who also demonstrate how to cook dishes low in fat and cholesterol but high in fibre. Snaking is not

allowed. They exercise with aqu-aerobics and take brisk walks in the Christian cemetery across the road.

Some of the principals participating recently indicated their usual routine is to skip breakfast and arrive at school around 7 am. During lunch, visits from parents often occur. To make up for missing breakfast and lunch,

—continued on page 12

---

## ■ THAILAND ■

### Closing the Work — Opening the Challenge

As the Thailand government takes final steps to resettle the Cambodian refugees back to their homeland, Marc Coleman, director of Thailand Mission Refugee program and his wife, Cathy, are working hand-in-hand with Scott and Julie Griswold of Adventist Frontier Missions in the Kao I Dang and Site II refugee camps. They are

endeavoring to cultivate the Gospel of Christ to the last 59 baptized Cambodian refugees before they scatter back to their homeland, carrying with them the love of God and the plan of salvation wherever they go. The 59 Cambodian refugees were baptized in the months of January and February, 1993, on four separate occasions.

Your prayers will be powerful in pledging God to give strength to these brothers and sisters in Christ as they attempt to keep the flame burning and rekindled and give courage to one another.



### Spirit, Prayers, and Healing

On November 9, 1992, parents from Kho Lu village brought their two-year-old daughter with high fever and convulsions to the Kler Ko SDA clinic, which is a part of the Moei River Health Project begun several years ago with ADRA funding. The project provides primary health care and training for health workers at a number of locations along the Thai-Myanmar border.

We did a blood test and determined that the child was suffering from malaria. Immediately we gave her diazepam I.V. and cooled her down with cool water. At the same time we started a quinine I.V. drip. The convulsions stopped in a short time, but the child was unconscious and continued unconscious all night and all the next day.

The following night the child started convulsing again and again. This time even the diazepam injection didn't help much. The convulsions went off and on in close intervals. Now I started worrying. Our workers took turns watching the child for the whole night.



In the morning the convulsions were better, but the child was still unconscious and looked very pale. We watched her all day to see if she would improve some, but it seemed that her condition was the same. While watching the child, we prayed that the Lord would make her better if it was His will.

On the third night the child was still unconscious and the parents were very worried, and so was I. I asked the parents if they would like to take her to the hospital at Mae Tan. They asked, "Can't you do anything more for the child?" I told them I was doing all I could. I explained to the parents that she might need a blood transfusion since she was very pale.

To myself I thought, "This child is so serious. What if I take her to the hospital and she dies on the way? Or even if we do get to the hospital before she dies, what will the doctor say to us for bringing the child so late?" I thought all sorts of things and had a hard time deciding what to do. So I asked God to help me decide what was right in His sight.

Then the father said, "Never mind, Thramu, we will just keep the child under your care. The hospital in the town will give the same treatment you are giving her here anyway." I thought to myself, "I have done everything I can in this case, and I'll leave it in God's hand. He will do what is best according to His will."

The mother looked at the child and cried and her husband said to her "Don't cry; you are still young and you will still have many more children." These people are animist. He said "It depends on her fate. If she has Ta Hae Wii Ghay (good fate) she will live. All the Thra's and Thramu's have done everything for her so we should be satisfied."

I told the parents, "Since we are Christians, we believe in God. God can do anything, and there is nothing impossible for Him. I am sure if we leave all our troubles and difficulties with Him and ask Him to make your child well and trust Him completely, He will hear us."

So I prayed for the child. Then the father said to his wife, "Now you don't worry. God will care for the child." So I reassured them again that we were leaving the child's life in God's hand.

The child's grandfather came and looked at the child and was so upset that she was still unconscious. He said to his son (the child's father), "You must go home and Aw Khae (offer a chicken as a spirit sacrifice). Do that and do this, feed the spirits, and you have to build a new

house because the old house is not good to live in anymore, then only will your child get well."

The son answered him, "Aw Khae (spirit works) have nothing to do with the malaria parasites. The spirits cannot kill the malaria. Only the malaria drugs can kill the malaria parasites." I agreed with what the son said. He had quite a good understanding of the problem. But his father went home angry and said his son was disobedient to him.

The child had now been unconscious for three days. On the fourth day she started moving her hands and legs and started blinking but didn't respond when we talked to her. Gradually she became more conscious, but she had a hard time talking, and it was difficult for us to understand what she said. But it wasn't long before she started asking for food!

She was discharged from the hospital on the fifth day. We gave her some liquid iron for her anemia and advised the parents to feed her good food. The parents were so happy and the husband said, "See, the Lord is helping my child get better."

I believe that God answered our prayer and did a great miracle for those who didn't yet know Him. I'm glad that we have such a good opportunity here at the Kler Ko clinic to let the people know about our wonderful God and how He can help them in their times of greatest trouble.

---

— As told by Rebecca Dee to Lila Tidwell, TAM

## The Reality of the Rich

On March 7 a group of 43 Japanese college students plus interpreter, cook, and pastor arrived at the Don Muang airport in Bangkok. They were to stay in Thailand for almost one month, building two churches in the north, one at the Kamu hilltribe village of Huay Jo, and the other at the Hmong hilltribe village of Huay Nam Kham.

The students were from Saniku Gakuin College in Chiba (a province near Tokyo). They were studying English, theology, nursing, and education, and were all members of a group called ATI. These are English initials for a Japanese name which loosely translates "Living Together with Asia, Corporation." The easily discerned purpose of this student organization is to provide



opportunities for the students of Saniku College to share some of the material wealth of Japan with other Asian countries. Underneath the exterior, however, it provides much more than that. It also provides opportunities for Japanese students to share in the spiritual wealth of a heavenly kingdom.

When I joined the group in the northern province of Chiang Rai, together with Pastor Rungsit Saejang, Thailand Mission secretary, the churches were well on the way to completion. We went first to the Kamu village of Huay Jo to see a cement block church whose walls and roof were receiving a floor that day. About half the Japanese group was working on this church, and the other half was working two hours away on a wooden frame church for Huay Nam Kham. I spent three days in each village, working with the Japanese in the very hot days of the beginning of what was supposed to be dry season (heavy rains fell almost every night, adding a few colds to the list of experiences for the students).

The experiences of the group were not confined to building churches. They witnessed as animist villagers "threw away their spirits," they were stopped by the Thai authorities for passport checks, they rejoiced with six Hmong villagers who accepted Christ, and they shared in the tears of the village children when the goodbyes came.

There was one aspect of the group's work I would like to share with you in detail: the question of whether the villagers were poor or not. When I arrived, I was curious to see how the Japanese were feeling about their new surroundings, and I asked several of them how they felt. The universal answer was one of excitement and joy at being able to come to Thailand and provide something for the people here. Yet this was usually followed by a strange comment, "but the people here aren't as poor as we thought they would be!"

I looked at the houses. Bamboo or wood huts. The Japanese students had even been forced to put up plastic tarps to keep the rain from coming down on them at night inside their lodgings. I looked at the clothing of the people. Many of them, especially the children, wear passed-on shirts for dresses. Colors faded, material frayed; many of the people have only that one faded, frayed item. How poor did the Japanese students think these people would be?

As the groups worked, played with the children, sang with them, ate wild honey which the children brought, laughingly stumbled through the hazards of new languages, and worked some more, the churches neared

completion. I was told that there would be a baptism on the day the Huay Jo church would be dedicated, and the night before the baptism I asked, "How many people will be baptized?" The answer was "six Hmong people, and, well, we're not sure how many Japanese students." Odd, I thought. Why aren't they sure?

That night, four of the Japanese didn't sleep. Two students considering baptism and the two theology students studying with them stayed up all night talking, praying, and feeling Satan battle with their souls to keep them from baptism. The next morning one of them had decided for God and would join another Japanese student that was confirmed in her decision to be baptized that day. Yet there was one other student who was still not sure. She would wait until she saw the others baptized before she would know if this was the time for her to give her life to God.

On March 20, their last Sabbath in Thailand, we all came together on the banks of the Mekong River that separates Thailand from Laos. We joyfully watched our six Hmong brothers and sisters accept Christ, and then two Japanese sisters followed. And then all eyes were on the last student, who was still feeling the battle in her heart. She took a step forward and hesitated. She walked into the water, and then turned around, and then again turned to face Pastor Rungsit who took her hand. I have never seen such a visible struggle on any person's face as I saw that day. Shaking, she turned her tear-stained face up to the sun and accepted Christ, and came out of that river to the open arms of her student family.

After we had returned from the river, I spoke with Pastor Michael Walter, the spiritual leader for the ATI group, about what had brought these students to make their decisions to be baptized now, away from their families. His answer? "It is their experience of being with the people, the villagers. It's the love that they feel here."

The wild honey... The laughter... The tears given at the goodbyes... I came to an understanding of why the Japanese didn't see the village as being poor — the students had been given a precious gift. The gift of seeing the wealth of the love of God flowing through the people in those two northern hilltribe villages. The gift of seeing the richness of love.

— Yvonne Terry  
Global Mission Correspondent, TAM



## New Director for Publishing Work

Braam Oberholster has succeeded Rayburn Smith as director for literature ministries for the Southeast Asia Union Mission. Braam and his wife, Marie, arrived in Singapore in March of this year from South Africa, where he served for more than four years as a literature evangelist and then for 28 years as a publishing leader on different levels. His first assignment in the publishing work was August 2, 1960. Braam says he has three special hobbies: publishing work, publishing work, and publishing work. Marie's interests are knitting and sewing.

Braam and Marie have two sons, Braam (Jr.) and Dolf. They are both married and are both missionaries together with their wives in Africa. There are four grandchildren.

Oberholster is anxious to continue enlarging and enabling the army of literature evangelists in Southeast Asia. This is what he and his colleagues pray and work for. We feel strongly that the Lord has called Oberholster to lead in the publishing work in this Union. A strong field man, his experience and enthusiasm will be a real blessing to the work.

— *MESSENGER Staff*

## Health Seminars for School Principals

— *continued from page 9*



they are tempted to snack in between meals, then eat like a king for dinner. The program stresses eating regularly and taking wholesome food.

About 20 school principals will take part in each of the three-day live-in seminars with a total of 20 seminars to be held between March and November, 1993. Recently local television stations and newspapers gave excellent coverage for the program which has helped to create a favorable public image for the hospital in the community.

— *Jonathan Ng, Public Relations Director, YAH*

### SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION MISSION DIRECTORY

C. Y. Wu	Acting President
C. Y. Wu	Secretary, Religious Liberty
Tom Massengill	Treasurer
Peter Wong	Associate Treasurer
Steven Goh, Simon Sitt	Auditors
Shirley Chapman	Family Ministry
Shupinar Koung	Church Ministries
Samuel Mouy	VOP, Assistant Communication
A. J. Oberholster	Publishing
Edmund Siagian	Education, Associate CM
	Health & Temperance
	Health Care, Spirit of Prophecy
	ADRA
Kenneth R. Wade	Ministerial, Communication
Dorothy Walter	Child Evangelism
	Shepherdess International

### LOCAL MISSION DIRECTORY

#### Cambodia Attached District

(attached to Union office)

House No. 29 Street 287 Khan Toal Kork, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Fax: 855-232-6140

M Daniel Walter	Director
Van Thom Nhem	Acting Secretary

#### Peninsular Malaysia

166-A Jalan Bukit Bintang, 55100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Telephone: 242 7795

David Leoh	President
	Secretary
Lai Swee Chuan	Treasurer

#### Sabah

P. O. Box 7, 89257 Tuaran, Sabah, Malaysia

Telephone: 782346, 782244; Fax: (088) 782346

Charles S. Gaban	President
Mansor Gungging	Secretary
Lim See Hin	Treasurer

#### Sarawak

P. O. Box 41, 93700 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

Telephone: 242340, 242341, 242342; Fax: 242343

Edmund M. Liuh	President
Lawrence Baiyie	Secretary
Isak Simatupang	Treasurer

#### Singapore

90 Jurong East Street 13, Singapore 2260

Telephone: 561 0022; Fax: (65) 562 4923

Phoon Chek Yat	President
John S. K. Ho	Secretary-Treasurer

#### Thailand

Prakanong Post Office Box 234, Bangkok 10110, Thailand

Telephone: 391 0525, 391 3595, 381 1928; Fax: (662) 381 1424

W. S. Basshan	President
Rungsit Saejang	Secretary
Thor Pedersen	Treasurer

#### Vietnam

224 Phan Dang Lou, Phu Nhuan, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Telephone: 440179

	President
Tran Cong Tai	Secretary
Duong Thuong	Treasurer

### INSTITUTIONAL DIRECTORY

Mission College	Salinee Navamaratna
Mission Health Food Company	Ken Myers
Southeast Asia Union College	K. S. Koh
Southeast Asia Publishing House	Wong Yew Seng
Thailand Publishing House	Solomon S. Aglon
Bangkok Adventist Hospital	Ronald W. Brody
Penang Adventist Hospital	William Laspe
Phuket Adventist Hospital	Nursia Supriatung
Youngberg Adventist Hospital	Jostina Goh

The Messenger is published bi-monthly as the official organ of the Southeast Asia Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, 251 Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore 1334. Tel: 284 7281; Fax: 284 7757

Editor	C. Y. Wu
Circulation Manager	C. Y. Wu

Layout and Printing by Southeast Asia Publishing House