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*Singapore Mission
Triennial Session*

Message From The President

R D Riches

I write this from Hanoi, Vietnam, while staying with Dennis and Lila Tidwell in their rented house-cum-ADRA Office. Tomorrow we travel north with government officials on a search for new ADRA development projects.

I have spent the past four days in Phnom Penh with Pastor Daniel Walter and his small office team. We laid plans together for the development of the fast-growing Cambodian work. We have an opportunity there that few are privileged to have - to mould and shape an infant church. If there ARE any Adventists left from before the Pol Pot regime nobody knows who they are, or where they are. We have begun again with people who know little or nothing of the Scripture, of Christ and the Gospel, or of the Church. There will be no faulty concepts or philosophies to change, few prejudices to deal with, and no conservative/liberal divide. Nor will we have to argue the finer points of theology. We can set the standards and develop our own worship styles, and operate the church as best fits its national character. What a responsibility - to shape a church as God wants it. And to get it right!

What sort of church does God want, anyway? What does an ideal church look like? What does it do? Who leads it? Who does its work? Read the Book of Acts for guidelines: it is full of them. Start with Acts 2:42-47. Here is a church that is Christ-centered and Bible-centered, focused on people rather than money. It is a fellowship; the members are "together". They have all things "in common". They share a common Pentecost experience and now are one in belief, worship, and witness. In leadership and witness they are lay-centered. Members meet together to worship and socialize in their homes rather than in large central churches. They concentrate on living out their faith in the market place rather than preaching it from the pulpit. And God rewards them by adding daily to the church "those who were being saved."

People in Cambodia have a shared experience, too. For years they suffered physically and socially. Everything was taken from them. They were uprooted and directionless and made the sport of the depraved who governed and controlled them. Danger still abounds, but God is again "adding daily" to the church as our members share their new faith and life in Christ. In January, 1993, there were barely ten members in the whole country. Now there are over 400. Fifteen hundred people worship each Sabbath in 37 congregations. There are plans to purchase land and build churches, to print literature, and to train lay pastors and evangelists. Our members need Bibles and hymn books and picture rolls. Lay preachers need cycles and kerosene lights and generators. What a challenge to mould and shape a new church that has nothing apart from its faith in Jesus Christ!



While in Phnom Penh I was privileged to eat with the Deputy Minister of Religion. He told me he was happy for Adventists to be at work in his country. "You dig wells, teach health, and show people what to eat. You help people start their own businesses and are making this country a better place in which to live." I was happy to be told that! The Seventh-day Adventist Church

should work to make their world a better place. Its members should be recognized as the healthiest, hardest working citizens in the community - truthful and honest. Luke tells us that the early church in Jerusalem enjoyed "the favor of all the people". That is why God could add daily to the membership. That is what we want to make happen in Cambodia, and every part of this Union.

We are grateful for leaders such as Daniel and Dorothy Walter, for Van Thorn, Lim Peng and Ben Davis, and for the ADRA leaders who risk their lives daily in Cambodia shaping the church there as God wants it to be. They need our prayers.

Going Home

It was four years ago that the idea of moving to Southeast Asia to do "mission" service began to develop into a reality for our family. It has been nearly three-and-one-half years since we arrived here. It has not been long enough in one sense, but perhaps it has been long enough in God's eyes.

In the opening paragraph I put the world *mission* inside quotation marks because I have never believed one needed to move away from his or her own country in order to have a mission. And moving a distance from home does not automatically make one a missionary. Every Christian has a mission in life. That mission is to follow the leading of God, whether it is to the house next door, or to a land on the opposite side of the world.

Our decision to accept a call to the "mission" field literally required us to uproot our family of four from our home near Washington, DC, and move them to the exact opposite side of the world. It was not only the longitude and latitude that changed, though. We moved from a Western culture to an Eastern culture. I left my job sitting behind a desk in a climate-controlled office to begin an ambitious travel and teaching itinerary that took me to remote villages and jungles paths at the far reaches of Southeast Asia. We moved from a temperate climate to the tropics. We sold our home and moved into rented quarters. We sold our cars and took to riding public transportation.

All of this was not a sacrifice, it was a choice based on our sense of God's leading in our lives. And as we look back over the past four years, we know that He has led well, and our faith is strong that He will continue to lead us.

When we came to Southeast Asia, it was with intention of staying for a full six-year term. In fact we sensed the Lord's leading in opening the doors for us. Our two sons were nearing academy (secondary school) age, and we knew that there was a good academy that they could attend on the Far Eastern Division compound



in Singapore. That meant that we would be able to fulfill our goal of continuing in the Lord's work while having our sons live at home while attending an Adventist school. If all had gone according to plan, our sons would have finished their academy education about the time we finished our six-year term.

But when Far Eastern Academy closed its secondary school, things changed for us, and for many other "missionaries" who had come from the United States to Singapore. Most who had secondary students departed immediately, but we chose to stay on a bit longer, and to try sending our sons to boarding school in the U.S. It is now clear, however, that the Lord is leading us to return to the U.S. to be with our sons at least until they finish academy.

As I look back over our time in Southeast Asia, I like to think about Cambodia, and how the Lord opened the doors for us to begin the exciting work that is going on there. After I turned that project over to Elder Daniel Walter and his staff in Phnom Penh, I was able to turn my attention to assisting the West Indonesia Union Mission in their work of opening a radio station near Singapore. I also like to think of the many lay people and ministers and administrators it has been my pleasure to meet and work with throughout the Union.

When we depart Singapore in April, my wife and I will be sad to leave this chapter of our lives behind. We have truly thought of Southeast Asia as our home. We will sorrow at leaving behind so many friends, perhaps never to meet again until the final day of earth's history. But we will also be looking forward to know God's leading for the future, and to meeting all our faithful friends again when Jesus comes. When we leave Singapore, we won't know whether to think of it as leaving home or going home. But when Jesus comes, it will be time to go home for good!

— Kenneth R. Wade,
Former Ministerial and Communication Director

“Gema Harapan” Concert

One day a thought struck the members of the Balestier Seventh-day Adventist Church. “It would be nice if we could hear Debbie Wade sing once more before she returns to the United States. At the same time we could raise funds for *Gema Harapan*. And we could have fun putting the program together.”

Helen Foo, Yvonne McCarthy and Lilian Lim made the decision in their usual retiring way - and it was done! Debbie would sing, Esther Wong would play the organ and Grace Li would saw the violin. There would be food and drinks prepared by the Balestier ladies. Ticketing agents would be appointed in every church. Kenneth Wade designed the music program, Chinniah manned the sound-mixer, and others scurried busily around. The three ladies had spoken!

The night of the concert three hundred supporters filled the air-conditioned church. Esther Wong made the building revaberate with a selection of organ pieces. She brought the instrument to life with her energy and feeling.

Grace Li, a very young but talented violinist, left a deep and inspiring impression with the beauty of

sound she produced. All were enriched by her music.

Debbie sang beautifully for almost an hour. The caress of her clear gentle voice touched hearts especially with her message, “Softly and Gently Jesus is Calling.” She was joined later by her husband Kenneth in a refreshing blend of slides and song, and ended the program by promising him, on stage and in song, that she would be there for him even if he woke up one day and the sun did not appear!

We thank Debbie and Ken for their service in Singapore and wish them God’s guidance and blessings on their future plans. We thank Helen and Lolabelle for their sensitive piano accompaniment.

The concert raised a total of \$2,900. *Gema Harapan* received \$2,320 and the remaining \$580 were donated towards the air-conditioning unit at the Balestier Church library.

— Raymond Wee,
Layman, Balestier Church

■ CAMBODIA ■

Triumph & Trials -- Cambodia

Lay Bible Workers Bear Fruit

In April, 106 people joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cambodia, bringing membership at that time to over 300. These baptisms came as a result of the work of faithful laymen who returned from the refugee camps in Thailand during the first half of 1993. They came with a determination to start new companies wherever they settled. Thy have nothing of this world’s goods, but cannot be restrained from telling the Good News.

Civil War Hampers Work - Endangers Members & Workers

A fresh outbreak of civil war between Government



Group of 50 candidates from around Battambang, Cambodia, baptized April 22, 1994

forces and the Khmer Rouge guerrillas has erupted again over most of the western part of the country.

One group of baptismal candidates from Sdao Village could not join a combined baptism near Battambang because of fighting between their homes and the city. So the next day Daniel Walter and Van Thorn Nhem pressed their way through lines of fleeing frightened people to Sdao itself. They baptized 12 in a nearby reservoir, within sound of cannon and mortar fire, and then immediately evacuated them to Battambang.



Sdao villagers fleeing ahead of Khmer Rouge forces.

Seventy three kilometers (45 miles) from Phnom Penh a Khmer Rouge guerilla recently ambushed and shot Ben Davis, an American volunteer, while returning home on his motor-cycle after a weekend visitation of churches. Although wounded in his neck and foot, he managed to escape capture and certain death. Government soldiers rescued him and took him by army jeep to the nearest hospital.

Many members with no friends or relatives to take them in, are sheltering in the city church compound. Facilities are terribly strained and the two workers there are hard pressed to supply food for them.

The Cambodian District has been given a large donation for use in building village churches, but all work to purchase land lots to start constructions has been suspended indefinitely until reasonable security returns to the rural areas. Meanwhile, mission workers have turned their attention to the large cities where security is somewhat better.

First Stage of Training Center Nearing Completion

There is a need in Cambodia for trained workers at all levels. The Church is growing at the rate of nearly 200 percent each year. Training local personnel to assume leadership positions is of critical importance.

The mission realizes this and has set out in faith to build a training facility in Phnom Penh. Work is now in progress to remodel an existing house on a lot owned by the Church.

It was begun by a group of Japanese and Japanese Americans led by Pastor Chris Ishii, who not only donated US\$1,500, but also personally came to start the project.

A month later Pastor James Chaula Dok brought a group from California and Nevada, USA, who spent nearly three weeks continuing the work. In addition they contributed US\$83,000.00 towards it. Since then others have contributed as the need arose. The first stage of the project is now almost ready for occupation.

The second stage will be even more challenging to our faith as it requires construction of classrooms and boarding facilities. When completed, there will be room to train as many as 50 workers. The center will also be used for outreach programs such as youth friendship evangelism, stop-smoking clinics, cooking classes, health care classes etc. The structure is expected to cost a total of \$200,000.00

— Daniel Walter, Director,
Cambodia

More Than Military Warfare

Heavy fighting is continuing in the north western corner of Cambodia. While the Cambodian Royal Army has been losing ground to the Khmer Rouge, great spiritual victories are being won in the same region of the country.

In April, 62 people were baptized in Battambang Province. Four more were to be baptized, but the baptism had to be cut short as news arrived of Khmer Rouge troops on the move only four kilometers from

the baptism site. Shortly after the new church members departed, the Khmer Rouge overran the area. In Banteay Meanchey Province 13 more souls were baptized. Sixteen others were to be baptized the following Sabbath, but the Khmer Rouge overran their village before the baptism could take place. As I write, many of our new church members are behind Khmer Rouge lines. Please pray for them that they will be brave enough to continue their Christian witness even behind enemy lines.



70 Candidates baptized in Siem Reap, Cambodia, May 7, 1994

I will always remember the month of May as a month of miracles. Just 12 months ago my family and I were evacuated from Siem Reap Town after the Khmer Rouge attacked it. Twelve months and three days after that evacuation it was our joy to witness the baptism of 70 people in that same town - the largest baptism ever held in Cambodia. Fifteen of these new family members had come to know Christ and the Seventh-day Adventist Church through English classes taught by Wendy, my wife.

Today the Cambodian Church membership stands at almost 400. This is an increase of almost 300 percent since the beginning of last year. Many more are waiting to be baptized. It seems that war will continue in Cambodia for some years yet. Our people here need your prayers for courage to continue the spiritual battle to win souls for the Kingdom.

— Tim Maddocks, Assistant Country Director,
Siem Reap Project, ADRA/Cambodia

■ SABAH ■

The River that Went to Church

*"The wise man built his house upon a rock...
The foolish man built his house upon the sand..."*

The children of Sorinsim Seventh-day Adventist Church, Kota Marudu, Sabah, would have sung this chorus in Sabbath School on Christmas day, 1993. But not a single person was in church! Only the muddy, swift-flowing river went to church! And when the water ebbed it carried with it most of the building, leaving only a small portion of a wall and the roof structure. It was only one year old!



Sorinsim Church -- What's left of it.

When the mission president visited Sorinsim in 1992 he looked at the site for the new church building. Nearby was a large river but people assured him that it did not pose any danger. About 50 yards away a small mountain stream flowed into the large river. "Are you sure this site won't get hit by a flood from that little stream?" he asked. "Oh no! This place never floods!" was the emphatic reply.

That little stream became a menacing river last Christmas and the church was right in its path.

Each year-end, most areas along the West Coast of Sabah are hit by floods causing severe damage - massive landslides, road erosions, bridges washed away, loss of livestock and rice paddies, and other sources of food and income-generating produce.

Despite the loss of material goods, however, our members refuse to let discouragement drown them. We thank God for people who have "built their houses upon a rock."

— Connie Gaban,
Communication Director, SAB

ADRA Sabah & ADRA Japan Work Hand in Hand

Seventeen Japanese volunteers, the majority of them being from the West Japan Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, arrived in Sabah on January 10 to join with the Toviu and Lomou villagers on the completion of an important ADRA project: the Toviu-Lomou Gravity-fed water system. The project, funded by members of the West Japan Conference, took three and half months to complete.



ADRA Japan team digging ditches to lay pipelines at Toviu and Lomou.

The villagers, led by Mr. Kapas Ponguk, built a 25,000 gallon concrete reservoir on a distant hillside. With the help of ADRA Japan volunteers, they dug ditches and laid more than 10 kilometers of pipeline which would supply clean water to 103 families in Toviu and Lomou.

On January 18 an official opening ceremony marked the completion of the project. Pastor Kiyoshi Fugjita, Director, ADRA Japan, Dr. Charles Gaban, Sabah Mission President, Mr. James Lai, Director, ADRA Sabah, mission departmental leaders, and several government officials attended the function.

The Japanese team - 14 pastors and three members - worked hard during the day and conducted meetings in the Toviu Church every night. Special songs and their presentations inspired the people. The team made



ADRA Japan team

many new friends and learned enough of the local language to carry on a simple conversation with them. Friendships developed between the Seventh-day Adventist members and other religious groups in Toviu and Lomou as a result of working together on the project. Lay members there are taking advantage of the "open-door" opportunity to witness.

— *Connie Gaban,*
Communication Director, SAB

Baptism in Keningau

Pastor Sambuling Lajanin baptized nine persons, six of whom were Roman Catholics, at the close of a four-day youth camp at Bonset, Keningau, March 16-19. All were young people who attended a Bible study series



Anita Anthony Basil (Tambunan, teacher) being baptized by Pastor Sambuling Lajanin as eight others waited for their turn.

conducted by Pastor Hillmon Long, the new district leader in the Keningau-Tambunan-Tenom area.

More students of this series are expected to sign up for baptism shortly. The lectures have continued beyond the close of the camp. Pastor Hillmon has



Nine souls lined up for baptism beside the stream. Extreme right is Juliana, wife of the church elder in Keningau.

worked hard to visit many homes in an initiative that promises to be the first of its kind in this district.

This was the second baptism to be conducted this year. The first was in January. At that time a pastor from another mission was baptized, also by Pastor Sambuling.

Pastor Hillmon directed the youth camp which had participants from Tambunan, Keningau, Tobah Baru, and other neighboring places. The theme of his meetings was, "Can The World See Jesus in You?"

More than 50 campers participated in hiking, swimming, social get-togethers, nature study, and religious activities beside a still-running Bonset stream that made this camping affair all the more vibrant and exciting.

*Moises Sumile,
Keningan SDA Church*

■ SARAWAK ■

Gaep, The Organ Man

Gaep is an active church member of the Engkeroh Mawang Seventh-day Adventist Church, Mongkos District, Sarawak. He became inspired to play the organ because of the encouragement shown to him by



Gaep, The Organ Man

Pastor Martin Sasun, now retired. Others started to learn but became discouraged and stopped. To ensure that there was always an organist for the church, Gaep determined to become proficient at the keyboard. He is now using it in place of the old church organ.

The church thanks Pastor Martin for his influence on Gaep, and for encouraging him to use his musical talents to the praise of God. Gaep also sings in a quartet which takes part in district-wide mission programs in Kuching and Ayer Manis. His songs are now recorded on cassette and are available from the Mission. We continue to encourage our young people to use their talents in service to God.

*— Dindal Rahun,
Pastor, SAK*

Ishak Simatupang Leaves for Further Study

Ishak Simatupang and his family left Kuching on January 17 for the USA, where Ishak will study at Andrews University for a Master's degree in Business Administration. He had served as the treasurer of the Sarawak Mission for two years prior to his departure.

During his short stay in Sarawak he was active in evangelism, and conducted several evangelistic



Farewell to Ishak Simatupang, his wife and family

meetings. He was a fiery speaker and many people took their stand for Christ. He was well liked by the church members and pastors. Both he and his family were a positive influence on the Adventist community. We wish them God's blessings as they upgrade themselves at Andrews University.

— *Edmund Liah,*
President, SAK

Youth Volunteers

Forty one Upper Columbia Conference Youth Volunteers (USA) came to Sarawak on March 23, and stayed until April 11. They brought with them funds to build the Ejit Church which is in the Julau district of



Volunteers -- Upper Columbia Conference, USA, building the Ejit Church.

Sarawak, 400 kilometers by road from Kuching. By the time they left, they managed to complete 80 percent of the building. The members also worked hard along with them.

The volunteers stayed in the longhouse with the villagers. This sharing of lives so touched and impressed some of the young people that four boys and one girl decided to give their lives to the Lord. Pastor Lawrence Banyie baptized them in the Kanowit River on April 6 as part of the special dedication service for the newly completed church.

— *Lawrence Banyie,*
Secretary, SAK

Vegetarian Cooking Demonstration

More than 60 persons came for the Vegetarian Cooking Demonstration on March 19 - 20 at Sunny Hill College Auditorium. Mrs. Sie Tiong Gee, a renowned international vegetarian cook, was there to demonstrate her skill in many oriental cuisines. Mrs. Sie is from Indonesia. In addition, Dr. Kathleen Kuntaraf presented a lifestyle Seminar, and Dr. Arthur Kwok conducted a small-scale health screening.



Vegetarian cooking demonstration at Sunny Hill College Auditorium.

The best way to promote health reform to church members and the public is by such lectures and practical demonstrations. Participants enjoyed the food prepared by Mrs. Sie. We look forward to another session in the future.

— *Chai Mien Seng, Pastor,*
Kuching, Seventh-day Adventist English Church

Sunny Hill College Evangelistic Center

Sunny Hill College with its 1000 students is a productive field for evangelism. Pastors Wung Wei Kong, Sim Nueng and Chai Mien Seng are always busy leading Bible study groups and conducting Bible classes. Seven students were baptized in April. A further 100 students are in the Bible Club.

We are very grateful to Penang Adventist Hospital for donating M\$15,000 for use in this evangelistic center.

— Lawrence Randig,
SAK Education Director



Andrew Lim, Penang Adventist Hospital, giving a check to Roland Suboh, SHC principal.

■ SINGAPORE ■

Total Health Seminar

Dr. Fred Lam, Vice-President, Youngberg Adventist Hospital, and Pastor Jonathan Ng, Director, Public Relations, conducted a seminar on Total Health at Miri Seventh-day Adventist Church, January 28 - 29. Church members and friends received a great blessing from their professional services.

Dr. Lam discussed the topics of physical and spiritual health, and Jonathan Ng emphasized the importance of mental and social health. They said that when God created man he was physically well, mentally alert, socially concerned and spiritually committed. Sin destroyed that condition but Jesus's second coming was to restore that image so that man can be healthy, happy and holy once again.



Total Health Seminar, Miri SDA Church.

Youngberg Hospital conducted the seminar as part of their community service project in sharing expertise with local Adventist churches. We thank them for their contribution in outreach ministry.

— Jabeni Keli,
Pastor, Miri SDA Church

"Shut-in" Ministry, Southeast Asia Union College Church

In the late '70s, John Keys, Michael Lim, and his wife Winnie, members of the Southeast Asia Union College Church, began a "Shut-in" Ministry in their church. They planned to share their love and Christian joy with the disabled at the Cheshire Home, patients in the hospital, and absent members of the church.

Each Sabbath afternoon from 3:30 to 5.00 a group of faithful members still carry on this ministry. During Christmas and Chinese New Year, the Silra Home (Singapore Leprosy Relief Association) and the Adventist Home for the Elders also receive special attention. On Adventist these occasions the members distribute hong pows (monetary gifts) and food hampers.



SAUC Church members visit with "Shut-ins".

It is a joy for the group to bring sunshine and encouragement into the lives of the shut-ins. Jesus says, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40).

— *Michael Ho, SAUC Church Pastor*

Introducing New Dentist

Dr. Vincent Chee graduated from Loma Linda University with a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree in 1992. He joined the Modesto Dental Group in California, USA, and became acquainted with the latest dental technology. His use of the intraoral video camera which helps the dentist to diagnose chips, cracks and other dental problems more readily, received prominence in the local newspapers.

Dr. Chee, with his wife Shirley, and eight year old daughter Priscilla, recently returned to Singapore to serve as staff dentist at Youngberg Adventist Hospital.



Dr Vincent Chee, his wife Shirley, and daughter Priscilla.

Dr. Chee is no stranger to members in Singapore and Peninsular Malaysia. He worked as a church pastor in Peninsular Malaysia after having graduated from Southeast Asia Union College with a Bachelor of Theology degree in 1980.

We welcome Dr. Chee and his family to Youngberg and trust that his ministry will be a blessing to the church and the Singapore community

— *Jonathan Ng,
Public Relations Director, Youngberg Hospital*

Sharing of Expertise

Sharing of expertise with the community has been the hall mark of Youngberg Adventist Hospital for the past 40 years. The Minister of Health, Mr. George Yeo, recently officiated in the opening ceremony of the National Smoking Control Campaign 1994, organized by his Ministry. Pastor Jonathan Ng, Director of Counselling Services & Community Relations, YAH, was a guest speaker, together with Dr. Peter Yan, National Heart Association, and Dr. Arthur Lee, Institute of Mental Health. Pastor Ng, with his 20 years of experience in smoking cessation programs (5-Day Plan), spoke on "How To Set Yourself Free From Smoking." He also took part in counselling sessions for smokers following the forum.



Jonathan Ng speaking to members of the National University Hospital staff.

On another occasion Jonathan Ng spoke to 100 members of the National University Hospital staff on "Effective Parenting." The program was organized as part of staff development.

This involvement with the community helps to give the hospital a good public image.

— *Jonathan Ng,
Public Relations Officer, Youngberg Hospital*

The Third Triennial Session of the Singapore Adventist Mission

The Third Triennial Session of the Singapore Seventh-day Adventist Church convened on April 9 and 10. Over sixty members, including representatives from Southeast Asia Union Mission and the Far Eastern Division, met at the Seventh-day Adventist School's AVA room to review the growth of the church in Singapore for the last three years, and to set new directions for the next three.

The session kicked off with a keynote address by the Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM) Ministerial Secretary, Kenneth Wade, who focussed on the Mission's Motto, "One Mission, One Vision". Pastor Wade suggested adding the words, "leading to fission" and thus emphasize the Mission's need to stick together for the release of immense power to accomplish its objectives.

Dr. Phoon Chek Yat, Mission President, reviewed some of the milestones achieved in the last three years:

- the formation of a Tamil company.
- the ongoing upgrading of its schools.
- the inception of a student care facility at Hougang
- a successful evangelistic campaign in 1993
- involvement in radio evangelism through Radio "Gema Harapan"

Following the reports, SAUM President, Robin D. Riches, challenged the Mission in his vesper message to focus more on evangelism and to creatively overcome the barriers present in urbanized Singapore.

Delegates voted on three major strategies to govern church growth over the next triennium:

1. Modification of the mission structure.
2. The adoption of an MBO (Management by Objectives) approach.
3. The ordination of women elders.

Modification of the Mission Structure, Adoption of an MBO

Instead of having the mission's pastor staff double up as departmental directors as in the old structure, the

new structure will see the formation of a Ministries Coordinating Committee. This committee will comprise full-time personnel selected from among the pastors. Two departments, ministerial and publishing will be specifically handled by two of the pastors serving on the committee



Delegates to SAM's 3rd Triennial Session.

The team's main responsibility is to create and implement strategies to realize the goals set by the mission's constituents. The maximum use of limited resources towards achieving these goals will be emphasized through the "Management by Objectives" approach." It will also function as a research and development team to cater to the unique needs of the Singapore Seventh-day Adventist congregation and community. Each church will receive a maximum of one pastor from the remaining members of the pastoral team.

Selection of Women Elders

The Mission's Church Ministry Department organized a forum in November, 1993, entitled "The Role of Women" to educate the church leaders on the subject. Almost two-thirds of those present favored the notion of ordaining women as elders.

During the Triennial Session the issue was taken up again. Pastor Wann Fanwar presented a brief Biblical study on ordination, and following a debate the delegates voted on the motion. Approximately 70 percent favored the ordination of women elders. It was made clear, however, that although the session gave the go-ahead for women elders to be ordained, the local churches be given the prerogative to make their own decisions.

At the close of the session it was the prayer of the delegates that the SAM, next triennium will see more souls won to the kingdom as they unite their efforts under "One Mission, One Vision."

— Sally Phoon, Professor, SAUC

■ THAILAND ■

Japan Missionary College Volunteers Build Church.

Global Mission in Thailand began in 1990. Since then several congregations have been raised in unentered areas. A 1993 survey showed a need for 20 more churches in Thailand. There seemed to be no way to even start the project because of an appropriation cutback from the Division. But God continues to work. In March 34 student missionaries and three pastors from Japan Missionary College spent three weeks building a 6 x 9 meter church at Mae Samai. This is the ninth church building project the group has carried out in Thailand. Next year they plan to come back again.

During the evenings Pastor Yamaji, leader of the group, held evangelistic meetings, and on March 26 seven H'mong people and two volunteers were baptized along with the dedication of the church.



Church built by Japanese Group at Mae Samai, Thailand, March 1994.

Dickman Church Builders.

On March eight a group of 15 people, both young and old, arrived in Bangkok from Harbert Hills Academy in Tennessee, USA, with funds to build two

churches in the Ubon area. Since their time was limited, they hired carpenters to do all of the work on the Bak Choom Church, while they did the finishing work on the Sri Muang Mai Church. Each evening they held medical clinics and Bible meetings. Many people became interested and are soon to be invited to an evangelistic series to be conducted by Pastor Paiote. They also gave additional funds for a third church building, and for fans in the Bak Choom Church. They left Thailand with a promise to raise funds for five more churches.

Ekamai English Prophecy Seminar.

More than 60 people registered for the English Language Prophecy Seminar that began on March 27 in the Ekamai International School, Bangkok. Among them was a Jewish professor at Chulalongkorn University, two Taiwan nationals from an inter-denominational church, some Sikhs, a Catholic, and several Buddhist students. Pastor Wendell Wilcox, who is here on a two-year AVS term as pastor of the Ekamai English Church, conducted an afternoon session of the seminar three times a week in addition to his evening meetings. The attendance held at around 30 per night.

H'Mong Youth Camp

This year 300 young people gathered at Chiengkong from March 22 - 27 for the fourteenth annual H'Mong Youth Camp. They all paid their own travel and food expenses, in addition to the camp fees of Baht150.00. Some of the churches represented have witnessing teams that go out to neighboring churches. Once a year they come to the youth camp and share their experiences. All who attended studied diligently how to win souls to Christ, but felt they needed to study more to do a better work. At the close of the camp 14 young people were baptized.

Karen Annual Meeting & Camp

Approximately 850 Karen Seventh-day Adventist members from Thailand and the Myanmar Border gathered beside the Moei River for the Karen Annual Meetings from March 27 - April 1. Pastors Boonrat, Surachet, Anucha, Marilyn Beveridge and Phamor Phupichitprai were the TAM guest speakers for these meetings. It was thrilling to see the enthusiasm of the delegates as they spent four days and nights studying the Bible.



850 people gathered for the Karen Camp Meeting and annual meetings.

ADRA's Kler Ko Project.

Situated on the Moei River which separates Myanmar and Thailand, Kler Ko village is the site of one of the few primary health care centers in the region. Operated by ADRA Thailand, the clinic meets basic medical needs for a people who are primarily refugees from the world's longest running military conflict. This civil war in Myanmar began in 1948 in an attempt by the Karen to gain independence. Today there are approximately 70,000 Myanmar Karen along this border.

The program directors, Rebecca and Shweleong Dee, who are a nurse/pastor team, provide spiritual help as well as physical. In their last report, included in a long list of medical conditions treated, immunizations given, etc., the following items were listed: 20 sermons preached, and nine baptisms conducted.

Next month ADRA plans to send a medical/dental team to Kler Ko to treat those patients who

need a more specialized care, but who cannot travel to major hospitals. For more information on this project contact

**ADRA Thailand,
PO Box 234, Prakanong,
Bangkok, Thailand 10110**

— *Rungsit Saejong,
President, TAM*

ADRA Thailand

Greetings from Thailand! May is upon us and the hottest time of the year. We have had a little more rain than usual this year, which has brought some flash floods to Bangkok. Bangkok is very low lying and ground water is only a foot or so below the surface. On the other hand, a drought would cause the river level to drop resulting in the sea flowing upstream and contaminating freshwater supplies.

But whilst Bangkok floods, much of the country suffers chronically dry conditions. This is especially true of the North-east. For this reason ADRA operates an on-going program of well-drilling in the Isan Region.

News from Laos is that Todd Bruce and his wife Linda are in Vientiane, continuing the English Language program which Yvonne Terry so successfully started. Yvonne has returned to the USA to further her studies at Loma Linda University. We are very grateful to her for the good work she has done. Todd is now the country director of ADRA, Laos.

ADRA/Thailand is about to start two new projects: an AIDS education program for sixth-graders in Sisaket Province. This will be officially opened by the provincial governor later this year.

The other project is an integrated agriculture/irrigation/SED/reforestation program in Petchaboon Province. Last week the entire office staff visited the site and did some construction work to start off the project. It is good for those permanently in Bangkok to get some "hands on" experience occasionally.

— *Nick Brightman,
Director, ADRA Thailand*

■ VIETNAM ■

Vietnam Camp-out

Dear Pastor and Mrs. -----

After you left Can Tho, we remembered you and prayed for you. May God bless and guide you, He stay close beside you today, tomorrow and always, Now perhaps you continue your busy works!

Jeff visited us when he came from Ho Chi Minh City. He has now gone back to Can Tho.

We finished camping Sunday afternoon later than the plan about two hours. We were very happy because God blessed us in all the camping time and we got many results to grow up in spiritual life through that day. If you stayed more few days and met together with us in that camping how happy for us.



Before, we report the government and the local police office about the camping program, then they provided us the permission.

We send you some pictures about camping activities because that's my birthday so I would like to invite them and pay for all spending. You see the pictures at Saturday night, they put on art about Bible story. The prodigal son, Luke 15, Ananias and Sapphira story, Acts 5, and some folk-story. Then we ate sweetened porridge.



At 11 pm Saturday we sat beside the riverside and in turn each one to share about our faith life. We quietly prayed one by one and divided into few groups for prayer. How can describe our mood about that night. We gather until over midnight. In the early Sunday morning we gathered again sang Christian songs and prayed together.

Then we played many games very interesting that you can see in the pictures which I send to you.

*** We have decided to leave this letter unedited.**

Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) Course Completed in Ho Chi Minh City

On April 5 two hundred and fifty physicians and nurses from Ho Chi Minh City and nearby provinces completed a four-day Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) continuing medical education course.

The course was presented in cooperation with the University Training Center (UTC) and was jointly sponsored by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency Vietnam (ADRA/Vietnam) and Loma Linda University.

"We were extremely pleased with the response to the course by the local physicians and nurses," said Dr. Duong Dinh Cong, Secretary General of the UTC. "We expected only 100 to 150 physicians and nurses to attend, but were pleasantly surprised with nearly double that amount."

The first two days of the ACLS program consisted of lectures on advanced cardiac life support. Then followed two days of practical "hands-on" experience using equipment brought to Vietnam from the United States.

"I have been very impressed with the eagerness and enthusiasm of the Vietnamese participants," remarked Mr. David Lopez, the coordinator of the ACLS continuing education course. "They have been turning out in such large numbers and they arrive early."

The ACLS team brought with them approximately US\$80,000 worth of equipment consisting of two ventilators, a cardiac defibrillator, a rhythm generator, and two life-size mannequins and one infant mannequin. This equipment was left at the UTC for its on-going medical education training programs.

This was not Loma Linda University's first introduction to Vietnam. Its International Heart Team initiated an open-heart surgery program in this same city.

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