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Penang Adventist Hospital Celebrates 70th Anniversary and Holds Ground-Breaking Ceremony

by James Wah

December 12, 1994 was a distinctive day for Penang Adventist Hospital. Chief Minister of Penang, Dr. Koh Tsu Koon and his wife, were guests of honour when the hospital celebrated its 70th anniversary and the ground-breaking of its building project--a five-storey extension complex. On hand to welcome Dr.



Dr. Koh (center), Chief Minister of Penang, in front of a model of PAH's proposed hospital extension.

Koh and his wife were PAH's President Dr. Ronald Brody, Mr. John Lee, president of AHSA, Union officers, and the administrative personnel of the hospital.

In his speech Dr. Koh said that the state government planned to make Penang a centre of excellence for medical services to serve the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle. It was

not enough to have more private medical institutions, he added, but the services provided by these institutions should be of a high level. "Provisions of excellent services must begin at home," he said, "and Penangites deserve nothing less than the best." He also commended the hospital for its unique policy of channelling its revenue back to the hospital to improve its facilities and equipment. PAH is more than just another private hospital for the Chief Minister as his wife and mother were patients of the hospital and his two children were born there.

This new extension will cost approximately 20 million ringgit and will house new operating theatres, upgraded medical and paramedical departments, and around 130 beds. ☩

James Wah is the chaplain of Penang Adventist Hospital.

about the cover:

An Adventist Cambodian Woman and Her Two Children.

Photo Credit: R. D. Riches.

1995 has been designated *Year of the Adventist Woman* by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Future covers will feature Southeast Asian Adventist women. If you have an outstanding picture of an Adventist woman whom you think deserves recognition, please submit it to the *Messenger*. We regret, however, that not all pictures may be used. We look forward to hearing from you. *The Editors.*

reflections on stewardship

by Joshua Mok

Many church members tend to define stewardship as something that refers to the giving of money to the church. In the New Testament, stewardship (*aikonomia*) is never used to designate the action of giving, much less the giving of money. It relates primarily to the office of administration or management. It is the responsible administration of something that has been received as a trust.

What then is Christian Stewardship? The essence of it lies in managing resources that God has placed into our hands in the interest of a business. He has entrusted Christians to carry this on for Him. God has given us not only the honour of managing this important task (II Corinthians 3:17-30, Matthew 28:18-20), but also all of the resources necessary to accomplish it. The object of all stewardship activity then is to use the resources in such a way that people come to know and trust in the only true God.

Stewardship is a way of life! ☩

Joshua Mok is secretary of SAUM.

The Future of the Medical Work in Singapore

by R. D. Riches

Over the years Youngberg Adventist Hospital has been a great blessing to the church in Singapore. It has given us an identity of which we have rightly been proud, and has truly exemplified the principles and practice of Christian love and service by which our church is known throughout the world. From its inception it has been guided by committed men and women who have brought honour to the institution and the church.

Unfortunately, patronage of the hospital by both our own church members and the general public has been in continuous decline during the past twenty years. This has coincided with the rise of newer and better equipped private hospitals and the permanent return to their homeland of long-term missionary personnel. As a result, operating losses have increased each year. The last time the hospital showed a gain was in 1975. It was then that its long-term missionary doctors left permanently for the States. Three years later, in 1978, a recommendation was made that the institution be closed. By then losses had escalated and newer, better equipped private hospitals had been opened in competition to Youngberg. Despite several changes in management during the next nine years, losses continued.

Finally, in 1987 the Board voted to develop a part of the property in order to pay off large debts to the Union, and to provide necessary capital for continued operation and for renovation of the hospital structure. It was confidently expected that this would lead to an up-turn in the financial fortunes of the institution. Although there was a positive change during the year following the renovation this, unfortunately, could not be maintained because of rapid increases in salaries and other basic expenses. It was evident that a 40-bed hospital was no longer financially viable in the Singapore market.

In October 1993, the Hospital Board approved development plans which would increase bed capacity to over 200, and so provide the economy of scale that could make the hospital viable financially. In doing so it was aware that losses would continue throughout the development period and for at least the first two years of operation after the completion of the project. However, it was anticipated that these would be offset by monies advanced to the hospital by the developer, to

begin when government approval was received. These financial projections were based on the assumption that the development plans would be submitted for approval to the government by the end of that year. Unfortunately, there was an unavoidable, five-month delay in submitting them while the Board waited for approval of the project from the Division and the General Conference. Even so, government approval was expected by August, 1994. This was first postponed until the middle of November, and then again for an indefinite period into the first half of 1995. These delays threw out all financial projections and precipitated an operating crisis. With liabilities of over \$1 million and cash in hand of about \$50,000, the institution was technically bankrupt. During the month of December much thought and effort was given to finding ways of cutting losses and keeping the hospital functioning. By the beginning of January, however, it was evident that this was not possible. Losses for November and December had increased and greater losses were expected for the holiday months of January and February. The impact of such losses, if allowed to continue, could well have serious negative consequences on the functioning of the Union as a whole. On Tuesday, January 16, the full Union Executive Committee met and voted with much sadness and regret to cease present in-patient operations, effective March 1, 1995.

However, it was the unanimous wish of the committee, that all effort be put forth to continue a medical work in the city. A task force was set up to examine all possibilities and to bring back recommendations to the Union as early as possible. This was accomplished within three weeks. The decision has now been made to continue the present out-patient program. The centre will, therefore, continue to serve the public with family practice, ophthalmology, and dental clinics. The dialysis centre operated by Dr. Fred Lam will continue. Several consultants have agreed to continue their clinics. The Health Education program will be further developed. Other options will be considered in future by the newly formed Management Committee.

We ask for your understanding and prayers as we develop a new future for our medical work here in Singapore.✠

R. D. Riches is president of SAUM.

"What is taking him so long?" Tina wondered impatiently, looking up the trail to Wat Phnom. Suddenly she spotted her husband, completely engulfed by people and waving for her to join him.

Pushing her way through the throng of onlookers, Tina's eyes fastened on the object of her husband's attention. A young boy was holding the starving form of a baby. "Where is the baby's mother?" Joel questioned the confused boy.

Abruptly the scared boy fled the throng of onlookers and the two questioning Westerners. From a distance Tina and Joel followed as the boy ran towards a fragile-looking woman and handed her the baby.

"We want to help you. Please let us take your child to the hospital," they pleaded, thinking that malnutrition and dehydration was the basic cause of the child's frail condition. Reluctantly, the woman consented.

In the hospital, a shiver ran through Tina and tears blurred her vision as she read the scale: 3 kilograms. "She's two years and three months old and weighs less than some newborns." The child cried as the mother tried to feed her from her meagre breasts.

A few days later, when calling at the hospital to leave some food, they were shocked to discover both mother and baby gone. No one knew where. They



SITHA. Photo by Colin Radford.

lifted on their behalf.

Several days went by. Then a bewildered pastor brought a thin, sickly woman and child to Tina's house. "She came to return some food containers," he said, obviously doubting her story. "She says she knows you." With tears of excitement and relief trickling down her cheeks Tina replied, "I sure do! *Net srei, som mao tiny.*" (Woman, please come in.)

Immediately, Tina and her maid cooked a nutritious rice soup for Narie and her baby, Sitha. Biting their lips to fight the tears, they watched as a worn and weary mother slowly fed her fragile child. How much suffering and pain this woman had known. As a child, an unskilled person had given her an injection which hit her sciatic nerve causing a life-long pronounced limp.

All was looking up until the lab reports brought back the shocking news.

narie & sitha

(Adapted from ADRA *On the Go*, Cambodia 1994)

A Story by Cheryl-Kim Quillin

searched Wat Phnom to see if she had returned to begging, but found nothing. Tina and Joel shared this sad story with the ADRA and SDA staff and earnest prayers were

Her husband was abusive and had recently run off to marry another. With no means to support herself, she was shamed into asking people for money to live.

After much pleading and a promise to take food to her family in the village, Narie consented to stay one week with Tina and Joel in their spare room.

The next morning Tina was startled when Narie came into the kitchen with Sitha, visibly distraught. The baby reached up to touch her mother's tear streaked face as if to comfort her, then the hand fell limply back as her eyes rolled back into her head. "The child is dying!" Panic stricken, they rushed Sitha to the hospital where doctors inserted an IV tube into her scalp. Fluid again began to fill the parched little body.

A few days went by and the child was treated for worms, respiratory infection, dehydration and chronic malnutrition. All was looking up until the lab reports brought the shocking news that Sitha had AIDS.

The ward was immediately filled with panic. Mothers and children were afraid to be on the same ward as Sitha, even refusing to speak with Narie. Terrified and distraught, Narie sat bewildered, an emotional wreck. How much more pain would she have to endure? The next day, lab tests revealed that she was also HIV positive.

(** Continued On Page 5)

☛ SITHA... *Continued From Page 4.*

It was a quiet and painful trip back to the village. Mother and child were both innocent victims of a husband's unfaithfulness. How hard it was to inform her that her desperate fight for her daughter's life was useless. "During your child's next round of diarrhea just hug her and hold her. Talk to her, show her that you love her until her fight for life has ended." Tina's tears now flowed unheeded. "This woman has known more grief in her short 27 years than I'll ever know, and now she has discovered her own fate. Lord, send your comforter to this woman. Let our prayers of intercession cover this little Buddhist woman for she doesn't even know you exist."

Joel reached over and took the hand of his wife. In deep emotion he said, "Remember the words of Jesus: 'Inasmuch as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto me.' We must expect to see hundreds more like this in Cambodia in the near future. Are we prepared for it?"

In silence and darkness they sat in the truck as it bounced along the washed-out road to the village. ☛

Cheryl-Kim Quillin, R.N., is a health educator for ADRA Cambodia.

Never lose an opportunity of seeing anything that is beautiful, for beauty is God's handwriting. . . Welcome it in every fair face, in every fair sky, in every flower, and thank God for it.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

concerns in cambodia

- Diarrhea is the No. 1 cause of death in children in Cambodia.
- Poverty engulfs the country. Nurses make US\$10 per month. Soldiers earn \$15-30 per month. Others desperately try to sell anything to provide the next meal for their families. The average annual income is \$200 a year. For people to survive, corruption is a way of life.
- On the border between Thailand and Cambodia, 90% of the prostitutes tested positive for AIDS.
- There is 1 doctor for every 25,000 people.
- Cambodia has the 3rd highest incidence of AIDS in the world.
- Women's literacy is at 24% compared to 52% for men. A woman is likely to get just 1.7 years of formal schooling in her lifetime.
- 8 out of 1000 women who give birth to live children die in childbirth (over double the world average).
- 7.5 million people live without access to basic sanitation.
- 300 people are maimed or killed every month by land mines. One mine remains in the ground for every two people in the country.

ADRA, Adventist Frontier Missions and the SDA Church have been researching these problems and are endeavoring to find ways and means of meeting them and helping our much loved Cambodian people find relief and peace in God. ☛

FROM MONK TO MINISTER

Lim Sokha Leads Monks to Christ

by Cheryl-Kim Quillin & M. Daniel Walter

Smiles spread across their faces as Net Teng and Cheam Norng, previously Buddhist monks, received word that they were now officially Lay Bible Workers for the SDA Church in the Pursat Province of Cambodia.

Lim Sokha, lay pastor for Pursat Province, says, "I was visiting a sick person in the village and made acquaintance with the two men. Somehow, they took a liking to me and listened as I spoke of Christianity. They asked me for a Bible each." He continues, "A few weeks later, they sought me out to ask a number of questions. They asked if I would study with them to help them learn to be Christians."

On September 20, 1994, the two former monks were baptized along with 49 others. At present, Net Teng, who was a monk for 15 years, is working in Sthany Village with about 10 families, while Cheam Norng, former monk for 12 years, is leading a group of believers in Bang Bantout Village. ☛

Daniel Walter is director of Cambodia Attached District; Cheryl-Kim Quillin works for ADRA Cambodia.

A Report From Sabah Mission

by Daniel Bagah

Sabah Mission's 19,000 members are steadily being recognized as influential and active agents of change (for good) by the state government. The Adventist lifestyle has become a norm and, as a church, we are being accepted as people with principles and no longer branded as people with "funny do's and don't's." Our schools, elementary and secondary, have gained a reputation for being orderly, committed and academically successful. We praise God for his blessings and care.



The Sabah Mission Retreat Center.

There are still a number of areas where the Three Angels' Messages have yet to be proclaimed. Sabahans are becoming more affluent. This has had adverse effects on some of our members and is creating a lot of concern. Our youth are now bombarded with modern sensational stimuli and we have to work doubly hard to make them understand that the church does care about their well-being.

CHANGE OF GUARD. To help guide Sabah Mission in meeting these challenges, the SAUM Executive Committee voted new appointments at the end of 1994. Pastor Mansor Gingging is the new mission president. He replaces Dr. Charles Gaban, who recently retired to the United States. Pastor Gingging was formerly Mission Secretary. In

the same meeting, the Union Committee took an action to appoint Pastor Francis Lajanin as the new Secretary.

Our two secondary schools in the mission also experienced administration

changes. At Sabah Adventist Secondary School, George Lamam replaced Konis Gabu as principal. Mr. Gabu is currently on study leave with his family in Pennsylvania. Mr. Lamam was formerly a senior teacher at SASS. Richard Kilus has been appointed principal of Goshen Adventist Secondary School.

He was formerly the school treasurer and vice-principal. Former principal Daniel Bagah, is now director of the Youth Ministry, Communication, and Religious Liberty departments of the Sabah Mission. He replaces Nelton Bingku, currently in charge of Education, Home and Family Life Ministries, and Music.

Please remember our Mission in your prayers as these new leaders meet the challenge to lead the work in Sabah

into the 21st century.

SABAH & SARAWAK HOLD COMBINED WORKERS' MEETING AT KINABALU. The Sabah Mission Retreat Center, at 6000 feet above sea level, is located at the foot of Mount Kinabalu, Southeast Asia's tallest mountain. On January 24-29, 1995 it provided just the correct setting for the Combined Workers' Meeting of the Sabah and Sarawak Missions. It also provided opportunities for workers from both missions to "recharge their batteries."

Elder Ron Watts and his wife, Dorothy, from the British Columbia Union Conference in Canada, provided very inspiring daily devotionals. Topics like *Prayer Country* and *The Three Circles of God's Love* continue to inspire our workers as they tend God's vineyard and prepare His people for that great harvest.

The workers were challenged to experience the joy of committed service by Elder Robin Riches, the Union president. Dr. John Duroe, SAUM's Ministerial Secretary, provided training on small group procedures. He will be remembered not



Konis and Masnie Gabu and family.

only for the practical aspects of the workshop, but for his enthusiasm and "banana party" breaks!

The Combined Workers' Meeting was a real blessing. Workers of both missions returned to the field well nourished, refreshed and reconditioned. The cold mountain-top experience ended on January 29 as our workers meandered their way back to the hot and humid valleys of Sabah and Sarawak. Even before the meeting was over, plans were being made by Mansor Gingga and Edmund Liah, presidents of Sabah and Sarawak Missions respectively, for another combined meeting next year. ☺

Daniel Bagah is the communication director of Sabah Mission.



Pastors and participants of the Combined Ministerial Retreat.

sarawak

Pioneer Missionary Passes Away

by Lawrence Banyie

Pastor Elam Sinaga, for 20 years a pioneer missionary to the Ibans on the Tatau River passed away after a brief illness on November 24, 1994, at the Sarawak General Hospital. He was 89 years old.

Elam Sinaga was born to a Lutheran family in Simataniari, Tarutung, North Sumatra in 1905 to a Lutheran family. He received his elementary education at a Lutheran Primary School and a Malay



Elam Sinaga.

government school in Tarutung. His parents sent him to the Adventist-operated Batakland English School in Sipogu to learn English. It was here that he learned about the Sabbath and other Bible truths. Like his uncle before him, he accepted the Adventist message, and was baptized secretly at 10 o'clock at night by Pastor Kime, the teacher at the English School.

Upon returning home after graduation, his furious father disowned him, and told him to leave the house. He never wanted to see his son's face again. With no money and no belongings, he met with Pastor Gus B. Youngberg who was on his way to Singapore, and decided that he would continue his schooling there. Thus, in 1924 he found himself at the *Malaysian Union Seminary* (today better known as *Southeast Asia Union College*), where for the next four years he worked his way through school. After his graduation in 1928 he was called by the Union to be a missionary to Sarawak, the stipulation being he first find himself a wife! He went home, and in 1929 married Turasi Napitupulu in the first Adventist wedding in their village. Pastor Kime officiated.

On January 4, 1930, the Youngbergs and the Sinagas arrived in Sarawak from Singapore. Elam Sinaga spent most of that year at Batu Tiga learning the Iban language. In March 1931, the Youngbergs and Sinagas departed for Tatau. There they pioneered the work among the Ibans on the Tatau River, and established schools and a Mission Station at Bukit Nyala. World War II and the

Japanese occupation was the only interruption to their work in Sarawak.

Elam Sinaga was ordained to the Gospel Ministry in 1947 by Pastor J. M. Nerness at Ayer Manis. In his 37 years of active and dedicated service, he also served as district pastor, departmental director, school superintendent and radio speaker.

Even after his retirement in early 1967, Pastor Sinaga continued to serve as the senior pastor of his home church. His exemplary life and service will continue to be a source of encouragement and

"My desire is to see many Ibans and Bidayus waiting for the coming of Jesus."

strength to both the workers and church members alike. He once said, "My desire is to see many, many Ibans and Bidayus waiting for the coming of Jesus."

Pastor Sinaga is survived by his wife, Turasi, one daughter Mrs. Elizabeth Saben, one son Dr. Hulman Sinaga, one son-in-law Alex Saben; one daughter-in-law Ellen Siregar, and seven grandchildren. A host of relatives, close friends and church members throughout Sarawak mourn his loss. ☺

Lawrence Banyie is the departmental director for Youth and Communication at SAUM.

A Report From Sarawak Mission

by Edmund Liah

140 BAPTIZED. 140 souls were baptized as a result of a Field School of Evangelism conducted by Pastors Lawrence Banyie and John



Mass baptism at Ayer Manis.

Duroe at Ayer Manis Secondary School from November 18 to December 3, 1994. 117 were baptized on November 26 during the mass baptism and 23 more were baptized at the closing Sabbath of the field school. Nightly attendance ranged from 400-500 people.

Prior to these evangelistic meetings, thorough groundwork was completed by the churches in Serian through action groups and small group meetings. Pastor John Duroe also conducted a special class for pastors and laypersons.

ADRA BUILDS BRIDGES. Pastor Edmund Liah, president of the Sarawak Mission, officially declared open 10 ADRA *belian* (hardwood) bridges on February 10, 1995. The 10 bridges were ADRA Sarawak projects funded by ADRA South Pacific, the Australian International Development Agency Board, and local donations. The approximate cost of the bridges was MR\$40,000 and was completed under the leadership of Petrus Ngadan, director of ADRA Sarawak, and Douglas Endawie, a local businessman.

The bridges benefit 500 people and allow the villagers along the Anyut River in Paku to transport jungle products to market. On rainy days or during flash floods, villagers along the Anyut River had to wade in waist-deep swift waters thus making it dangerous to bring their produce to the market for sale or to travel to work. With the completion of the 10 bridges, walking time has been reduced and travel is easier. The villagers who benefit from the projects are predominantly Anglican.

AIAS CONDUCTS DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM IN KUCHING.



Participants of the Distance Learning Program

13 teachers from Ayer Manis Secondary School, Sunny Hill College and Goshen Adventist Secondary School (Sabah) attended a one-month study program in Kuching recently

leading towards a Master of Arts in Education. The program was conducted by lecturers from the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) in November 1994. Courses offered included Classroom Management, Planning and Evaluation, and Spiritual Communication.

This is the third year in which AIAS has conducted the program. In 1995 AIAS will be offering another three courses: *Christian Ethics* by Dr. B. Norman from May 22 to June 6, *Methods of Learning and Instruction* by Dr. H. Eager from October 30 to November 9 and *Educational Foundations* by Dr. L. Bissell from November 13-22.

The Distance Learning Center in Kuching helps missions in Sarawak and Sabah upgrade their teachers to the Masters' level without losing their services.

SUNNY HILL HOLDS KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION.

On October 26, 1994, 100 kindergarten children marched down the auditorium with caps and gowns to receive their graduation certificates. The ceremony was witnessed by hundreds of parents, students and family members. Most of these students are currently enrolled in Primary One at the Sunny Hill Primary School.

The Sunny Hill school administrators and board are pleased by the dedication and hard work of

the kindergarten teachers. They especially wish to thank Mrs. Maria Banyie, former Kindergarten School Coordinator, who recently left Kuching to be with her husband in Singapore.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL HELD IN LONGHOUSE.

36 children completed a Vacation Bible School conducted by Mrs. Jeserine Tam and Mrs. Ganchai Jinta at Angan Long House in Sibul from November 7-17, 1994. The theme of the Vacation Bible School was *Jesus Loves All the Children of the World*. This longhouse of 20 doors was penetrated as part of the Global Mission Outreach Project of Sibul Church under the leadership of Pastor Ganchai Jinta.

At the end of the Vacation Bible School, Village Chief Angan presented the children with their certificates. In his short speech the chief encouraged all children and parents to remember and apply the lessons learned.

Sarawak Mission sent a Global Mission worker to Selangau District in 1995 to open up unentered areas. Please remember to pray for and support this Global Mission Project. It is our dream to have a permanent Adventist presence in the Selangau District and to see a new church

built in this area in 1995.
Reported by
Jeserine Tam.

NEW SDA CHURCH IN PAYANG.

Payang Village in

Braang has been blessed with a beautiful new church thanks to the Madison Campus Church under the leadership of Pastor Jim Davidson. The church raised all the funds and donated it specifically to



Newly completed Payang SDA Church.

Payang Village. The total building cost came to RM\$26,000. The church is able to accommodate approximately 100 worshippers and is built on a hill-top overlooking the Payang and Bedak Villages. It is surrounded by beautiful hills and provides a conducive atmosphere for worship and meditation.

At present, there are seven Adventist families in Payang and Bedak. The majority of the villagers are Catholics. Under the leadership of Martin Sasun, a retired pastor, let us pray that the church will grow and will continually be a light on a hill-top to the villagers in Payang and Bedak.

BINTULU SDAS HAVE PERMANENT WORSHIP BUILDING.

The Bintulu SDA Church members will be moving into a permanent worship building during the first quarter of 1995. The church, located on the second floor of the Bintulu Shopping Center, cost MR\$120,000, and was financed by

allocations received from the SAUM Development Fund, the Bintulu Church Building Fund and donations from Adventist church members in Sarawak. It

will accommodate 100-150 people and has three rooms.

For almost 20 years, the Bintulu SDA Church survived in rented premises.

Because of that, the church moved from one locality to another. With this permanent place of worship, the experience of moving will be history.

SHIRLEY CHAPMAN CONDUCTS FAMILY SEMINARS.

Pre-marriage Seminar.

Church Ministries Associate Shirley Chapman conducted a one-day Pre-Marriage Seminar for engaged couples in Kuching last November. Mrs. Chapman covered many of the important

aspects of marriage life that young couples often take for granted. Topics included *How to Cope with In-Laws*, *Making Love Grow in Marriage Life*, *Family Budget* and other related topics that have to do with the family.

"We are glad we attended the seminar," young couple Jimbai and Evelyn say. "It will help us to adjust to one another after marriage." They were married soon after at Pasir SDA Church.

Parenting Seminar. Shirley Chapman also conducted a Parenting Seminar for 40 members of the Bombok and Semaba SDA churches on November 4-5, 1995. Mrs. Chapman stressed the saying "*Practice what you Preach*". She pointed out, "Many of the habits that children learn are not taught, but caught. Spending lots of time with children when they are young and their minds are easily molded is one secret of successful parenting."

The seminar ended with parents dedicating their lives to God, asking that they be guided accordingly in the training of their children. ☪

Edmund Liah is president of the Sarawak Mission.

Senior Citizens Visit Sentosa

by Samuel Siew

On November 24, 1994, in conjunction with the Senior Citizen's Week (November 20-27, 1994), the Adventist



Senior Citizens visit Underwater World.

Better Living Centre (ABLC) organized an outing to the Underwater World at Sentosa for the residents of the Adventist Home for the Elders as well as for other senior citizens around the Kim Keat area.

A total of 40 participated, accompanied by more than 20 volunteers. According to Samuel Siew, "The purpose of the outing was to provide joy to the underprivileged senior citizens." The group also enjoyed the popular dancing waters of the Sentosa Musical Fountain.

ABLC hopes to reach out to more underprivileged citizens in the future. ☺

Youth Cruise

by Samuel Siew

On December 10, 1994, the Youth Ministry of the Singapore Adventist Mission, working together with the Adventist Better Living Centre, organized a Youth Cruise aboard the PUJA, a yacht that can accommodate a total of 58 passengers. Tickets for the cruise were sold out.

A number of those who went for the cruise were non-SDAs thus providing an opportunity for witnessing and fellowship with others.

Youngberg Hospital's Community Health Promotion

by Jonathan Ng

In support of the Singapore government's campaign on a healthy lifestyle, and in line with the emphasis on community health promotion, in November and December 1994 Youngberg Adventist Hospital teamed up with the Potong Pasir Community Centre Management Committee to hold a health promotion program entitled *Coping With Stress*.

Using the theme *Managing Stress for Success*, YAH Director of Counselling Services Jonathan

Ng, shared with the participants strategies on coping with work stress and methods of building up one's reserves and coping skills. Conversing in both English and Mandarin, Mr. Ng spoke also on coping with family stress, a popular request from participants.



Participants taking the self-analysis test in stress management.



Jonathan Ng receives plaque of appreciation from S. K. Lim.

Mr. S. K. Lim, Vice-Chair of the PPCCMC, thanked YAH for its contribution in promoting a healthy lifestyle in the community and encouraged the residents to actively participate in future community health programs in 1995. ☺

Jonathan Ng is also public relations director at YAH.

Though programs were limited because of lack of space, the youth enjoyed the cruise, dining on board under the stars and enjoying the scenery of Singapore by night from the Southern Islands. It was a time of making new friends and renewing old ones. We praise the Lord for the fine weather (and for the fact that none of the passengers got seasick)! ☺

Samuel Siew is director of the Adventist Better Living Centre as well as youth ministries coordinator for Singapore Adventist Mission.

New Acting Academic Dean

by Phoon Chek Yat

Dr. Gordon Hare, professor emeritus of Mathematics from Walla Walla College, is the new acting academic dean of Southeast Asia Union College. He arrived on the SAUC campus on December 22, 1994, together with his wife, Ilo. Dr. Hare was invited to serve as acting dean after Dr. Gary Brendel accepted a call to work for ADRA International in Washington D.C. † Dr. Hare had already planned to join the Science, Math and Computer Science Department at SAUC for the first half of 1995.

Dr. Hare served Walla Walla College for 37 years, and was chair of the Mathematics Department for 17 years until his retirement in August 1994. Mrs. Ilo Hare was Dean of Women at WWC for over 20 years. This is not Dr. Hare's first trip to SAUC. In 1991 he spent eight weeks here as a visiting WWC professor.

SAUC is proud and happy to have this fine couple join the college team. ☺

†EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. R. Gary Brendel is currently Senior Advisor for Human Resources Development at ADRA International. Dr. Brendel served as academic dean, registrar, and director of the WWC/SAUC Affiliation Program from 1991 to 1994.



Ilo and Gordon Hare.

SAUC Granted Maximum Accreditation by AAA

by Phoon Chek Yat

On January 15-17, 1995, Southeast Asia Union College was evaluated by the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges and Universities (AAA). The committee evaluated SAUC under 13 general sections and was satisfied with the progress that had taken place since the last evaluation. As a result, they recommended that the college be granted a five-year accreditation, the maximum period awarded by the AAA.

The team comprised of Dr. Reo Ganson (Chair), Associate Director of Education, General Conference, and team members Dr. Milton Thorman, Director of Education, Asia-Pacific Division, Dr. Leverne Bissell, Chair of Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, Dr. Richard Hutagaol, President of Indonesia Adventist University, Dr. John Matthews, Associate President of Mission College, Mr. Steve Rose, Associate Treasurer of the Asia-Pacific Division, Dr. Edmund Siagian, Director of Education at Southeast Asia Union Mission, and Dr. Charles Tidwell, Academic Dean of Hong Kong Adventist College.

The six major commendations from the team were as follows:

1. A notable upgrading of the academic facilities--Lecture Hall, Library, Computer and Science Laboratories.
2. A high percentage of implementation of the recommendations from the 1992 Board of Regents team report. Of the 33 mentioned, 32 have been completed or are in the process of being completed.
3. The involvement of department chairs in the selection and hiring of college faculty and staff.
4. Long-range master planning in the areas of physical plant, academic programs, finances, teachers' upgrading and religious programs.
5. The harmonious corporate spirit that exists among the faculty and the students which was expressed by the faculty and students themselves.
6. Aggressive scholarship plans in recruiting more SDA students from the Southeast Asia Union constituency.

Once again, SAUC has been commended on its progress, the result of a fine spirit that exists among the Board, faculty and students.

I am thankful to the evaluation team for their hard work and their recommendations that present another set of challenges to work on for the next few years. ☺

Phoon Chek Yat is president of Southeast Asia Union College.

southeast asia union college is affiliated with
Walla Walla College in Washington, U.S.A.

For further information on programs and scholarships available, contact The Registrar, 273 Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore 1334. TEL: 285-7976. FAX: 283-7850.

Muak Lek Undergoes First Major Evaluation

by John Matthews

From January 18-20, 1995 a team of evaluators appointed by the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA) visited the Muak Lek campus of Mission College for the first official denominational inspection since the College opened its doors five years ago. For several months a number of individuals worked feverishly to complete all the documents. On the day that the team arrived, there was a large pile of materials stacked in the conference room ready for inspection. The College had done its part and now the students, faculty and administration could almost sit back and relax—except of course that they were concerned about the results. Evaluation team members walked around the campus, talked to administrators, faculty and students, and worked into the late hours preparing their report.

Not all was hard work. The atmosphere on campus during the evaluation was a reflection of the worldwide community of believers that our Church has become. It was like a family get-together with old friendships renewed, old memories shared and new ones made. Faculty and students enjoyed meals and chats with team members. Students in the Thai Culture class, under the direction of Achaarn "Honored-Teacher" Sudpratana, presented a delightful program of Thai music, dancing and games. There were exhibits of handicrafts and the art of making the beautiful Thai garlands was demonstrated. These aspects of the visit turned the "examination" into a pleasant and memorable experience.

On the last day of the inspection, several Board members gathered at Muak Lek. The Board Chair, Pastor Robin Riches, flew in from Singapore. Mission College President Salinee Navamaratna also joined the group from Bangkok. After lunch, everyone gathered for a reading of the draft report that will be submitted to the appropriate committees of the Asia-Pacific Division and the General Conference for approval. Dr. Reo Ganson, Associate Director of the General Conference Education Department, discussed the 30 pages of commendations and recommendations.



Preparation of decorative salads and fruits by students in the Thai Culture class.

The commendations in the report are a tribute to the faithfulness of those who have supported Mission College over the years, as well as to those who have laboured to build the College and develop its programs. Here is a sampling:

- An admirable fund-raising program for the development of the campus.
- Development of the new, exceptionally representative library;
- Progress since 1988 in developing the physical plant, including the current progress on the auditorium and cafeteria.

Those who were present when the report was read could feel justly proud

to glory in what God has wrought through His people. Of course there were a lot of recommendations as well and these were welcomed. The College is still in its early years and the recommendations will help to establish the direction in which it develops as a representative SDA institution. It was clear that the evaluation team was not on campus to criticize but to support and to offer advice on building a quality program.

The accreditation recommendation made by the evaluation team is for a period of three years. On an initial accreditation visit, this is the maximum permissible. Mission College Muak Lek came out with an A+ rating for progress. Three years later, the team will be looking for in-depth quality in the program. It may be a little more difficult to score A+ next time. However, with God's grace, the College community plans for the Mission College miracle to continue. ☪

Reflections on 1994

by John Matthews

A year ago, soon after I arrived in Thailand, I wrote my first PR article as the Mission College Muak Lek administrator. The article was based on first impressions and a sense of wonder at what God had accomplished through the dedication of His people. After 12 months, I am still amazed but I now have a deeper understanding of what it has taken to develop the College to its present level. I have watched students mixing mortar and laying bricks and then seen them as members of our first graduating class receiving their diplomas from the hand of a Thai princess. With joy in my heart I have witnessed parents dressed in traditional Thai costume, themselves poor and without much formal education, standing proudly beside their children on graduation day.

(☪ Continued On Page 14)

Mr. John

Founder of the Christian Orphanage Home

by Rianthong Chen

Mr. John is a kind-hearted, Adventist man who loves children. All his life he has seen children suffering--uneducated and living in poverty and has always wanted to help them.

One day he decided to try. Because the government school was located too far away at Baan Khanejue, he gave needy children in that area a place to live and to attend school. The place is now called the Christian Orphanage Home. Presently, Mr. John has 60 orphans under his care. Their ages range from 6 to 14, and currently there are 32 boys and 28 girls in the Home. This is the second year he has raised these children. Their daily schedule begins with morning worship. They also have evening worship every day and special programs on the Sabbath. The children especially love to sing.

When they have no food, John will go into the forest to get bamboo shoots to eat and to sell. He uses the money he gets to buy other necessary things for the children. There are many church members who know of his love and help with his ministry. They voluntarily help John get more bamboos when they do not have money to give. These members also pray for John and his "sons" and "daughters." John and the children trust and depend on God's providence every day.



Mr. John, center.



The children of the Christian Orphanage Home.

In the past, a Sunday-keeping church has given help to John, but when they asked if they could take over the responsibility, John refused. He knew that they worshipped on another day. John wanted to see his children follow the truth and keep the commandments of God. His decision made the other church's people angry and they stopped their help. However, John and the rest of the Adventist church members believe that God will not forsake them. They trust that the Lord will take care of these children and hope someday they will become soldiers in His army. ☺

Rianthong Chen is the communication director for Thailand Mission.

For more information on John and the Christian Orphanage Home, contact Pastor Pamaw Phupichitprai, Ministerial Secretary, Thailand Adventist Mission, Box 7 Klongtan, Bangkok 10116, Thailand.

greetings from adra thailand

by Nick Brightman

Greetings once again from Thailand. This is my final message this year which I hope will reach you not too late in the New Year. As I am going on furlough next week, there are many details to attend to.

This time of year is always busy for us as we have to resubmit proposals for our on-going projects. Our clinic at Klerko on the Burmese border has been funded again by the Bangkok Adventist Hospital. ADRA International has also granted 1995 funding for our dental program at Phanat Nikhom refugee camp. This is probably the last year this project will operate as the number of Khmer, Vietnamese and Lao refugees is gradually dwindling. We have had to close the English teaching program as no further refugees are being resettled in third countries.

Our sixth-grade AIDS education project has reached a high point with the provincial drama competition. All 900 schools prepared dramas which were judged at district level. The winners of each of the 21 districts were judged at provincial level, and on December 1, 1994, World AIDS Day, the six finalists performed in front of the governor and television cameras. The winning school was awarded a trip to Australia to share their knowledge with Australian school children. They will go to Australia at the end of the school year. I must say the quality of performance by these youngsters was superb.

In my last letter I mentioned that we had requested funding for a project to train senior students at our Chiang Mai Adventist Academy to become AIDS educators. This has now been approved and the project commenced. Many of these young people are from hill tribes which are so strongly targeted by brothel owners. This will give villagers the opportunity of hearing messages brought in their own dialects. In that these young people will all be Adventists, we are also hoping they will have opportunity to share their faith.

May God bless you. ☺

Nick Brightman is director of ADRA Thailand.

EKAMAI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IMPRESSES EVALUATION TEAM

by Edmund Siagian

November 28-30, 1994 will be remembered fondly by the administrators, faculty and staff of the Ekamai International School and the Adventist Ekamai School because of a recommendation by the eight-member evaluation team led by Dr. Milton Thorman, Education Director of the Asia-Pacific Division. The team was fully impressed with the campus, and gave the school a full five-year accreditation.

Mr. Stanley Baldwin, new chief administrator, and his fellow administrators Laurence Chu, Suwat Vatanasak, Somchote Chulkasate, Prayut Rungjirarasameekul and Jittapa Winitkoonchai, deserve congratulations. They worked hard to prepare for the evaluation, and gave the visiting team a very welcome and hospitable stay.



Part of the EIS campus.

Besides visiting classes, interviewing administrators, faculty and students, and writing reports, the evaluation team also enjoyed a multi-cultural variety show by the faculty and students for the benefit of all visitors. ☸

Edmund Siagian is the director of education at SAUM.

Seminars for Pastors

by John Duroe

Pastors from six of the local missions met in January for seminars in Port Dickson (Malaysia), Bangkok, Cambodia and Sabah. Pastor and Mrs. Ron Watts from British Columbia, Canada, were invited to speak on church growth, prayer and family communications. Dr. John Duroe, SAUM Ministerial Secretary, introduced training material for Small Group Leadership Training at the various seminars.

The pastors in this Union are anxious to see God's work progress quickly in each mission, but they realize that this will only happen through prayer and a cooperative attitude to God's Spirit. Please pray that you may share with your pastor a continuing commitment to expanding unity with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. ☸

John Duroe is SAUM's new Ministerial Secretary.

☛ REFLECTIONS FROM MISSION COLLEGE. . . *Continued From Page 12.* I have considered the sacrifices made by parents and students and remembered what it is like to pay for one's education by the sweat of one's brow. In all this, I have observed the slow but sure development of a sense of institutional identity--a feeling that this little college in the Thai countryside is our College and that it stands for something worthwhile and enduring.

During a recent lull in the normally hectic pace of an administrator's life, I took some time to reflect on the past year and put into perspective the building program, meetings with denominational and government officials, a kaleidoscope of student faces, graduation ceremonies, letters of encouragement and checks in the mail from generous donors. What is it really all about? What makes the sacrifice of supporters and faculty and students worthwhile? Everything seemed to come into better focus when I thought of the baptisms and graduation services. There have been 14 baptisms during the current school year. 12 more students, all from non-Christian backgrounds, have recently requested Bible studies. Most of our 17 graduates have found good jobs and over half are denominationally employed. What is the purpose of an SDA college? Essentially, to bring students to a knowledge of Jesus Christ and to prepare them for lives of service in this world and the world to come. By this measure, Mission College has begun to fulfill its mission. That gives a feeling of satisfaction. But the task will not be complete until our Lord returns. We at Mission College must keep striving to ensure that this institution is one that will help to hasten the day. ☸

John Matthews is associate president of Mission College--Muak Lek.



LAWRENCE BANYIE joined the Southeast Asia Union Mission as Director of Youth Ministries and Communication in January 1995. He was formerly the Secretary of Sarawak Mission. Lawrence and his wife Maria have two children, Lovena, 18, and Lyndelle, 8.

PRAYER REQUESTS.

Every weekday at 8:30 a.m. the staff of the Southeast Asia Union Mission meet together to share a devotional period and prayer. If you have a personal request you wish us to pray for, please send it to the President's Office, Southeast Asia Union Mission, 251 Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore 1334.

◀ **MIRACLE.** . .Continued From Page 16. The officer took the LE with him into the home. After the lady quietened down, he asked the LE to give her the same presentation. The LE gladly did, and she bought the books. The LE enrolled her for the Bible course and then he also prayed for her and her family.

Maybe this was the only way truth would ever have gotten into that home, who knows. But one thing is very sure, our God can use any circumstance to His advantage and to the advantage of that of His children. This was a miracle for the Master, wasn't it?

Friend, could it perhaps be that God is calling you today to work miracles for Him? To be a literature evangelist is an exciting life with scores of soul-winning opportunities every day. Why not consider it today? ☞

Braam Oberholster is the director of publishing at SAUM.

by Michelle Phoon

What if

You never tried
To do what's right

What if

You never tried
To see the light

What if

You didn't care
Or never dared

Full of what-if's

Life is

But what-if's, they don't exist

It's the what have's that do

It's the what have's that matter most

Yeah, what-if's are nothing

If we look to the now and tomorrow

And make the what-if's no more.

Michelle Phoon is a senior communications major at Walla Walla College.

When the most important things in life happen, we quite often do not know at the moment, what is going on.

C. S. Lewis

If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for anything.

Unknown

Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of 80 and gradually approach 18.

Mark Twain

For Your Information

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

Two Chinese-speaking pastors are needed for one year by Chinese groups seeking to develop churches in the Australian cities of Brisbane and Adelaide. Those interested please contact: Pastor Eric White, Volunteer Service Coordinator, South Pacific Division, 148 Fox Valley Road, Wahroonga, NSW 2076, Australia.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY to the family and friends of Pastor Saiking Omar, former pastor of Damai SDA Church in Sabah. Pastor Omar was involved in an auto accident on February 19, 1995 and died shortly after.

Miracle For The Master

by A. J. Oberholster

It was Monday morning. A literature evangelist (LE) parked his car in the street near the home where he was about to start work. You see, this LE believed in going from door to door without missing one home. He had made a note of where he stopped on Friday, and today he was going to start at the very next house.

He approached the house with a song in his heart, grateful for the opportunity to share God's truth with yet another family. Little did he realize what was awaiting him that morning. He rang the doorbell with a smile. A lady opened the door very cautiously, just enough for her to see who it was. The next moment, the door closed without much ceremony, and the LE knew that in this house lived somebody with a problem.

Yet he walked away smiling, and approached the next home with even more confidence. You see, good LEs refuse to let other people or circumstances dictate how they should feel. At this door he was met by a friendly lady who invited him in, and before long he was busy with this presentation of *The Bible Story* books.

In the meantime, the lady in the first house called the police, telling them that there was somebody at her door--somebody who looked as if he was up to something. It could be that she was not used to seeing a smile on a man's face, like the one the LE had. The police immediately sent an officer out to check what was going on. The officer arrived at the first house and was then directed to the second house. The door stood ajar and the officer thought he would stand just outside the door and determine what this stranger in the neighbourhood was doing.

He heard the LE giving his presentation. He then heard how the lady made her decision to buy. Next he heard how the LE was enrolling her for a free Bible course. Then the LE suggested prayer, and offered a beautiful prayer for the family of the home. The officer was very impressed. He walked into the home and asked the LE to show him the books as he did to the lady. The LE then gave his second presentation for the morning. The officer bought. The LE thought that his work in that home was done now, but the officer then asked him about the Bible course as well. The LE stood up and was about to leave when the officer reminded him that he hadn't prayed for him and his family yet. Another prayer was offered.

Now the LE really thought that his work in that home was done--there was no more he could do. But then the officer ordered him to go with him to the first house. He went, what else could he do? The officer rang the bell and as the lady opened the door her eyes were big with excitement. She shouted: "It's him, officer, it's him! I'm glad you got him!" (Continued On Page 15)

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