

southeast asia union

Messenger

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Christian Money Management

by Joshua Mok

Money management assumes eternal significance when we consider the following inspired statements:

- "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs." (1 Tim. 6:10, NIV)
- "We should never forget that we are placed on trial in this world, to determine our fitness for the future life. None can enter heaven whose characters are defiled by the foul blot of selfishness. Therefore, God tests us here, by committing to us temporal possessions, that our use of these may show whether we can be entrusted with eternal riches." (Counsels on Stewardship, p. 22)

If our management of money is a test of eternal consequence, then every Seventh-day Adventist needs to know and explicitly follow Christian money-management principles. What are God's money-management guidelines?

1. Return the tithe.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty." (Mal. 3:10)
 "Before any portion is consumed, we should set apart that which God has specified as His." (CS 81).

Tithing is a constant recognition of God's ownership.

2. Give freewill offerings.

"Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you." (Deut. 16:17, NIV)
 "This is what the Lord has commanded: From what you have, take an offering for the Lord. Everyone who is willing is to bring to the Lord an offering. . . ." (Exodus 35:4,5, NIV)

Offerings are an expression of love and gratitude to God.

God's only plan for the financial support of His church is through proper management of His money by His children in the following ways:

- A faithful return of the whole tithe.
- Loving, freewill offerings proportionate to our income.

Joshua Mok is also the church ministries associate in charge of stewardship.

about the cover:

Shirley Chapman is currently in charge of Family Ministry at the Union. *Messenger* salutes Mrs. Chapman for her dedication and service. Mrs. Chapman and husband Raymond, are returning to Australia in August after eight years of service in Southeast Asia.



In Brief . . .

ADVENTIST ACADEMY DESTROYED: Recently, Karen Adventist Academy, located on the border of Thailand and Myanmar, was destroyed by fire, a result of the political and civil war. It is not known how many were killed. At nearby Eden Valley Academy teachers have also suspended schooling indefinitely for the safety of their students. Please continue to pray for the educational work in northwestern Thailand. ☹

MAFIA THREATENS MOSCOW CLINIC: Lawless groups in Russia are now threatening the staff of the Moscow medical clinic with bodily harm if they don't agree to pay "protection money." Authorities have been notified and available legal measures have been taken, but threats continue on almost a daily basis. Pray for our believers in Russia. ☹

From the GC President, April 17, 1995

SDA YOUTH PUT SABBATH FIRST: Sam Randolph, a high school senior at Takoma Adventist Academy in Maryland, is well known for his excellence in basketball. However, his decision not to play on the Sabbath has attracted more attention from the media. ESPN, a cable TV sports network, spent a day at his school filming him in action, and to the *Washington Post*, he said, "I can't foresee the future, but when I think of my future, I can't imagine playing on Sabbath." ☹ **Robert Castillo**, a junior physical education major at Pacific Union College, had attended a Lakers game and placed second in a half-time contest of long-distance shooting. The winner would represent the Lakers at the AT&T Long Distance Shootout NBA All-Star Game. When the actual winner could not make it, they invited Robert to take his place and mingle with the likes of Charles Barkley and Shaquille O'Neal. However, when Robert found out they videotaped the competition on Saturday, he only hesitated a moment before refusing. "Everyone said the opportunity was the chance of a lifetime, but it didn't seem like such a big deal. There are a lot more important things in life than competing. God's blessings are much greater than one moment of fame." ☹

Sam's Story--Adventist Review World Ed., May 1995

Robert's Story--Pacific Union Recorder, May 1, 1995

SDA GOVERNOR: Sylvestre Mvutse, an Adventist graduate of the Adventist University of Central Africa, was recently appointed governor of Cibitoke province in Burundi, central Africa. Cibitoke is the most densely populated region of Burundi. ☹

Record, March 18, 1995

Ullanda Innocent: From Coca-Cola to Christ

Ullanda Innocent, once dubbed "Queen of Jingles" by popular US talk show host Joan Rivers, presented a sacred concert and shared her conversion story with Singaporeans at SunTec City Auditorium on April 29 and 30, 1995. As a result of this concert, 23 people gave their lives to Christ. Courtesy of Adventist-Laymen Services and Industries (ASI), Innocent also performed in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur (see story on page 6).

Innocent is most remembered for her solo in the famed Coke ad, *I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing*. Her voice may also still be heard on commercials for Snickers, American Airlines, McDonalds, and hundreds of others. She had guest appearances on The David Letterman Show, and Saturday Night Live. She has exchanged jokes with Bill Cosby and

recorded with such artistes as Whitney Houston and Michael Jackson. What made her give this celebrated lifestyle up?

"I'm not interested in doing contemporary Christian music because I came out of worldly music--to me it is a compromise."

Ullanda McCullough-Innocent was brought up in a Christian home in Detroit, Michigan. "Motown was a big thing in those days," she says, and lists Dionne Warwick as one of her early musical influences. "I wanted to be famous and sing for a lot of people," she laughs, "Have lots of money." At 13 she joined the choir of the church her grandfather was pastoring. "Both sides of my family were very musical." At 18, a good friend, Pamela Vincent, encouraged her to get involved in singing backup. That was the beginning of her professional career in backup singing and jingles and the rest, as they say, is history. When asked if she had ever planned to go solo, Innocent replied, "No, actually I didn't, I loved singing in the background, I enjoyed the harmony and it wasn't as scary because someone would always be in front."

In 1985 a near-death experience on a flight from Los Angeles to New York changed her life. The flight was turbulent and the singer prayed desperately for her safety. The plane landed intact and she dedicated the rest of her life to the Lord,



Clare Kiu

Innocent now defines her music as "traditional, inspirational, sacred, conservative Christian music." Esther Sanidad, her personal assistant, describes their work, "We're doing full-time music ministry. We travel wherever the Lord would have us to go --we do concerts, crusades, and work with ministries such as *Breath of Life* and *It is Written*." Innocent's husband of almost four years, Patrick Innocent, a teacher, is making plans to join her ministry full-time. At present they only see each other two or three months a year. He comments, "I feel that the skills I have working with young people could also be applied to this ministry."

Ullanda Innocent now performs songs by Steven Curtis Chapman and Phil McHugh among others. She adds, "I am not interested in doing contemporary Christian music because I came out of worldly music and to me it is a compromise. I don't feel very good about that at all." She cites Larnelle Harris and Sandi

Patti as musical influences after conversion. Her current album *Something Special* features artistes like First Call and members of Take 6 (an Adventist award-winning group).

She shares this message with young people and aspiring musicians: "Jesus loves you and died for you. We are all going to be held accountable for what we do in this life. You should sincerely seek the Lord and decide in your hearts now as to whose side you are going to be on, the Lord's side or the Enemy's side. Once you make the decision, give everything to the Lord--turn over the music you like, the food you like to eat, the way you like to dress --everything about you should speak about Christ. Pray about the music you listen to. Music is a very powerful tool, either for God or for the enemy."

Excerpts taken from Innocent interview on April 28, 1995 by John Tan for FM 105.5.

First Cambodian SDA Wedding



On March 28, 1995, *Nov Ratho and Em Vichan* became the first Cambodian couple to have a Seventh-day Adventist wedding. Services were held in the newly constructed Battambang church. "Refreshments were served in the church yard and the bride and groom highlighted the occasion by feeding each other--not cake, but bananas!"

New Arrivals

James Craik and family arrived from Alaska on January 25, 1995. Brother Craik will be the building supervisor in the construction of churches in Cambodia. The Craiks were former missionaries in Brazil.

Arnold Hooker and family arrived on January 17, 1995. After some intensive language study, they will be moving to the Kompong Cham Province, a populous area where they will be opening new churches and establishing the SDA work. The Hooker family is being sponsored by Adventist Frontier Missions.

Candace Renk arrived from Oregon on February 15, 1995. She is currently the communications secretary.

Rogelio Taer arrived from the Philippines on February 7, 1995 to take up the post of treasurer. Both Mr. and Mrs. Taer are certified public accountants. The Taers have four children.

Daniel Walter is delighted to welcome these new workers. The process of training skilled local workers will take several more years and funds for training are still desperately needed.

Permanent Church Building Erected

The first permanent church building erected since the Cambodia mission was reorganized in 1993 is now complete. It is located in Battambang, the second largest town in the country, where over 100 baptized church members had been meeting in the shade of a large mango tree! Distinguished guests included the Chief of Cabinet of the Provincial Governor's Office, the Chief of the Religion Department for the province of Battambang, the Battambang District Leader, the Sub-District Leader and the chief of the village. Daniel Walter, Cambodia District Director, led out in the services and was accompanied by Pastor Van Thorn, Cambodia District Secretary, and Pastor Hang Dara, Field Secretary.

Adventists and other Christians who have attempted to establish their work in this Buddhist nation have found it difficult. The first SDA missionaries were colporteurs who entered the country over 50 years ago. In the 1960's Pastor and Mrs. Ralph Neall came to Phnom Penh and established a small church. This first church building was destroyed during the war. Now relative peace has returned and under the present government religious freedom has been guaranteed by the new constitution, and the Adventist church has been one of the first Christian churches to be registered with the Ministry of Religion and gain official recognition.

With guerilla warfare still very active in many parts of Cambodia, it is not yet possible to erect permanent buildings. Temporary buildings are being erected in these high-risk areas so that the people can at least have a place to worship and pray for peace. ☸

Vacation Bible School Meets With Overwhelming Response



Over 500 children attended a Vacation Bible School conducted recently by Karen Zimmerman of Fallon, Nevada. A hundred more had to be turned away per day because there was physically not enough room to accommodate them all on the mission grounds at Phnom Penh. Assisting Mrs. Zimmerman were Marla Savik, Eileen Leatherdale, Dorothy Walter, and Pastor and Mrs. Hang Dara. This team was also invited to Battambang where they conducted a second VBS for nearly 100 children. Follow-up work is being conducted in both cities.

NOTE: Mrs. Zimmerman's first VBS effort was held last year when she accompanied her husband, Ed, who is helping with the construction projects of the Cambodia Attached District.



Daniel Walter, district director, cutting the ribbon at the official opening of the first SDA church building.



Don't Say Goodbye

by Scott Griswold

Last night, a tiny eight-year-old Khmer girl threw her arms up in the air and said, "Pick me up just one more time." She and other children had followed me from a restaurant. It was nine o'clock at night, but the street was still full of life.

"How about a story?" I asked watching with delight as their eyes sparkled. They liked the story of the Jesus who loved even bad people, who had the power to heal sicknesses, and forgive sins. We traded songs, me singing Christian songs in broken Khmer, two sweet girls and a boy singing songs from the radio. Suddenly we were running, playing tag--with everyone "it"--running, laughing, collapsing in a heap. It felt so carefree.

But soon it was time for all of us to get some rest. "Goodbye Tilda," I said to one of the little girls. "No goodbye," she cried out.

And then I realized how much this meant to these kids. For me, it was just another good story, a fun game, a bunch of children. For them, it was someone who cared. They come from homes where daddies work long hours and where mommies cry, scold, and try to keep food on the tables--so little time and room for love. And so one love-hungry child reached up her arms and said, "Pick me up. Hold me one more time." And I saw the world, hungry for Jesus' love and wondered, "Who will pick them up?"

Reprinted from AFM: Southeast Asia Projects. Scott Griswold and family are sponsored by Adventist Frontier Missions and have been working in Cambodia for over three years.

Cambodia Membership Passes 1000

On February 14, 1995, the 1000th member of the Cambodia Attached District was baptized in a village called Chong Kal, located in the northern part of the Siem Reap Province. During the ceremony, 63 candidates were baptized in an artificial lake near their village. Elder Daniel Walter, District Director, conducted the baptismal service.

Two and a half years ago there were no Seventh-day Adventists in Cambodia. When relative peace returned to the country after almost 20 years of civil war, refugees who had fled temporarily into Thailand began to return to their native land. Among them were scores of church members who had learned of Adventism while in the refugee camps. Upon their return, they are spreading the gospel to other parts of Cambodia. There have been no evangelistic meetings, and no radio or television programs, just simple people with a clear and comforting message, sharing with their neighbours and giving their testimony. It has resulted in over 750 baptisms and the establishment of at least 44 companies and one organized church.

Retired Missionaries Return To Serve After 20 Years

Drs. Ralph and Beatrice Neall, recently retired from Union College, have responded to a call to train lay pastors and lay Bible workers in Cambodia. Cambodia is their former mission field where they spent seven years prior to the outbreak of civil wars which forced them out of the country more than 20 years ago.

Currently, the Nealls are training 22 pastors and 63 lay Bible workers to try to cope with the explosive church growth in Cambodia. The church leaders are delighted to have teachers who can teach them in their native language.

On a recent weekend they conducted three baptisms prepared by these lay Bible workers. The total baptized was 58, more than double the number the Nealls had baptized during their seven years as leaders in Cambodia before the outbreak of the civil wars.

All reporting from Cambodia by Daniel Walter, director of the Cambodia Attached District. The Walters have been in Cambodia since 1993 when the Cambodia Attached District was reorganized.

ANSWERED PRAYER

20 Accept Christ at Ullanda Concert

Twenty souls accepted Ullanda Innocent's invitation to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour on April 25, 1995. More than 700 people turned up at the Valley Country Club in Subang Jaya to hear her testimony. Half were non-SDA. However, preparation for the concert did not go as smoothly as the final night and much prayer was involved.

The venue originally intended for the concert was Dewan Sivik in Petaling Jaya. Tickets, posters, and programmes had been printed and given out free of charge. Everything went according to plan until the local authorities announced that they required the use of Dewan Sivik for the country's general elections held recently. Prayers were offered and in just two days the Peninsular Malaysia Mission were successful in renting the Valley Country Club. "Our challenges did not stop there," says Irene Chee, one of the coordinators of the concert. The Mission had a difficult time obtaining a professional visa for Ms. Innocent. "Since it was a gospel concert, we were told one week before the concert that we required approval from two additional government departments other than the normal four approvals obtained earlier." She continues, "I thank God for all the prayers that accompanied me during the times I was at the Immigration applying for Ullanda's professional visa. Every time I was there I would call the mission and request united prayers at that moment. We received the approval for Ullanda's professional visa just two working days before the concert. God is indeed great and powerful. Prayer is really the key to all success!" ☞ *Reported by Irene Chee.*



13th Indian Camp Held

More than 100 Indian church members attended a camp meeting organized by the Peninsular Malaysia Mission held at Templer Park from March 9-12. Campers from various Indian churches met and listened to Pastor Paul Raj of India, the main speaker of the camp. The emphasis of the meetings was small group ministries.

"The camp was a great success with strong leadership and support from every Indian pastor in the Peninsular Malaysia Mission," says Samuel Money, director of Church Ministries at SAUM. ☞

"TAKE MY HEALING TO THE NATIONS" PAH holds Ministry Camp

The Penang Adventist Hospital Ministry group recently rededicated their lives to the finishing of God's work at a Hospital Ministry Camp held at Christian Convention Centre at Batu Ferringhi. The theme of the camp meeting was "Take My Healing to the Nations."

The group is composed mainly of younger hospital staff and medical doctors as well as the young people of Penang SDA Church. It is strongly supported by Dr. Ronald Brody, president of PAH, and other senior church members. We pray that the Lord will richly bless these young people as they allow Him to use their hands with His touch. ☞

Edmund Siagian, education director of SAUM, was guest speaker of the camp.

"Next to the word of God, music deserves the highest praise. She is mistress and governess of human emotions which control men--or more often overwhelm them--whether you wish to comfort the sad, subdue frivolity, encourage the despairing, humble the proud, calm the passionate or appease those full of hate. . .what more effective way than music could you find?"

Martin Luther

sabah

Angels Do Watch Over Us

by Edmund Siagian

"Always put your left hand against the windscreen when another vehicle is overtaking you at great speed, especially over loose gravel roads. This provides some support if a flying stone hits the windscreen and reduces chances of the windscreen breaking..." The advice is quite a good mouthful. But before it could sink in, a pickup sped by, hurling dust and gravel all over Sabah Mission's new Toyota Landcruiser followed by a sharp cracking sound. When we finally realized what had happened the mixed feelings expressed in Dorothy Walter, Jupitha Lim and Nelder Sikul's faces were not difficult to interpret--shock--and relief because no one was injured. The windscreen, though intact, had shattered into a million pieces. One round piece fell off to provide a "peephole" for driving purposes! Miraculously the windscreen remained intact while we travelled another 10 miles over rough roads before reaching an agricultural station where we were able to get some help. The glass crashed to the dashboard and floor as we got out and closed the doors.

God is good to us. He must have sent His angels to watch over us during the freak accident. He must have helped Brother Mantibi and his family provide food, water and rest for us after travelling over 100 miles of rough terrain. Brother Mantibi even led us to a small shop where we got the last few meters of a plastic sheet that served as a windscreen (complete with adhesive tape!) for the rest of the trip. God also allowed no rain to fall on our makeshift windscreen! Surely the Enemy was not pleased with our visit to hold Sabbath School and Children Ministry meetings and seminars to the villages of Sook and Sinulihan, notorious for its witchcraft and devil-worshipping.

That night, as we were hospitably taken in by the Gutut family, we realized that God uses people filled by His love as much and as effectively as He does His guardian angels. ☩

Edmund Siagian is also the church ministries associate in charge of Sabbath School. The group travelled on to Keningau, Telupid, Tamparuli, Tenghlan, Menggatal, Malang and Kota Kinabalu.

sarawak

HARVEST SABBATH

The months of April and May have been designated harvest Sabbath months for the Sarawak Mission as farmers once again take stock of their

"So far, 100 sacks of padi have been returned to the Lord."

harvests and return tithes to the Lord. David Ngali, pastor of the Tebedu District, has reported that from his district, 100 sacks of padi have so far been returned to God as tithe. "We praise God for the bountiful harvest our folks are experiencing," says Lawrence Randig, communications director for Sarawak Mission. ☩

SAK HOLDS LAYMEN'S CONGRESS

87 laymen attended a laymen's congress held by the Sarawak Mission from March 29 to April 2, 1995. Jonathan Kuntaraf and Samuel Money were the main speakers and topics included effective sermons, hospital visitation, and righteousness by faith. Certificates of recognition were given to the participants at the close of the congress. ☩

News from the Sarawak Mission reported by Lawrence Randig, communications director.

Upper Columbia Conference Assists in the Building of Churches

Two churches were recently built in Skarok and Menawa (Lubok Antu District--literally translated *Devil's Whirlpool*) with the assistance of 26 members from the Upper Columbia Conference. The group had first raised funds to help build these two churches. Under the leadership of Mr. Ray Hall, the buildings were completed in just two weeks. ☩

OFFICIAL NOTICE:

The **56th Session** of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held from June 29 to July 8, 1995 in the Jaarbeurs Conference Centre in Utrecht, Netherlands. The first meeting will begin at 1500 hours, June 29, 1995.

Singapore Mission Holds Women's Convention


by Wann M. Fanwar

The *Year of the Adventist Women* is the official designation given to 1995 by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Worldwide, the Church is celebrating the role that our women have played in the progress of this Church. With this in mind, Singapore Mission, with the help of an interested group of women, held a Women's Convention on April 23, 1995 at the Asia-Pacific Division compound. About 80 women attended, making this one of the most successful mission projects to date.

The keynote address was given by Dr. Linda Koh, Asia-Pacific Division Church Ministries Associate Director. The theme of her presentation was *Women Leadership in the Church and Why the Need for Women's Ministry*. For the first time in Singapore, Adventist women focused on their special roles. After Dr. Koh's presentation, a survey was run to assess the needs of the women members. Women's Ministry coordinators were also appointed at every local church.

Because of the interest generated by this convention, further meetings are being planned by an ad-hoc committee. As the women of the church in Singapore become fully aware of both their potential as well as their contributions, God's work will receive further inspiration. With this important start, Women's Ministry in Singapore is finally coming into its own. ☞

Wann Fanwar is Ministries Coordinator of the Singapore Mission.

 **FM 105.5**

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YOUNGBERG UPDATE

Three months ago, Youngberg Hospital down-scaled its operations to an out-patient programme. It has since functioned successfully in this capacity. The Management Board has considered several options for future development, among them requests from medical groups within Singapore to enter into lease agreements or partnerships. "We have discovered from our contacts that there is an enthusiasm both in the Church and the city itself that Youngberg continue an active and growing medical presence," says R. D. Riches, president of the YAH Board.

On May 24, Dr. Charles Loo, a Loma Linda graduate and resident of Singapore, accepted the invitation of the Board to serve as the Centre's consultant executive, with responsibility for development and marketing. Pastor Riches continues, "We are optimistic about the future, at the same time recognizing that there may still be critical times ahead as we guide the Centre to a stronger footing." ☞

Youth Network Present Contemporary Drama

by Wann M. Fanwar

On April 14, 1995 the Youth Network of Singapore presented a contemporary youth drama entitled *Chances* at the Balestier Road SDA Church. As a result of *Chances*, 7 young people are now undergoing Bible studies. The drama was about a secular-minded boy who attends church as a challenge to date a Christian girl. He soon finds himself involved in a comedy of errors that eventually lead him to Jesus. The subtle thrust of the drama is that God took a chance with us--we can do the same with Him.

Planning began in June 1994 when a group of young pastors and youth leaders came together to study what could be done to retain Adventist youth in the church. As time went by different ideas were formulated and various plans were made. A youth network, whose aim is to provide opportunities for Adventist youth to do things that are otherwise difficult or impossible to accomplish at their local church, was formed. *Chances* offered the opportunity for adult members to serve as script writers, music and drama directors, and youth members--who were characters in the drama--to work together for the Lord. ☞

According to Pastor Fanwar, "The Youth Network is an arm of the church that can help the Singapore Mission involve more of its youth in the finishing of the gospel."

KHUN SAA CHURCH DEDICATED



Pastor Rungsit looks on as two Japan Missionary College students cut the ribbon.

30 Japanese Students Help Build Church

by Rungsit Saejang

As the road breaks over the mountain and begins a torturous descent, the distant roofs of Khun Saa (population 460), a small Hmong hill-tribe village, appear below. At the

very edge of the village is an easily distinguished red roof--the new SDA church--a gift of love made possible by students from Japan Missionary College. On March 25, 1995, the church was officially opened by Pastor Rungsit Saejang, president of the Thailand Mission.

The church is now one of the largest in Northern Thailand and seats over 250 people. The group of Adventists in Khun Saa has been growing steadily for the past 20 years. Pastor Rungsit shared the fact that the church members are one of the highest per capita givers of tithes and offerings outside the Bangkok area, in spite of a high percentage of low income people.

One of the largest sparks that kindled the enthusiasm that made this miracle possible came from 30 vibrant students from Japan Missionary College (JMC). When these students heard of the need for a new church in this remote village, they generously answered the call and gave up a three-week school vacation to build the church. Since 1985 groups from JMC have been coming to Thailand and building approximately two new churches per year. At the dedication service, gifts of love were exchanged between the Hmong church members and the Japanese students. Tears of joy were shed as warm embraces sealed friendships forever.

The most precious was yet to be given. Twenty-three baptismal candidates gave their lives in total surrender to Jesus Christ and were baptized in a nearby stream. Among them were Zuag Lis, an 88-year-old Hmong grandmother, and two JMC students--Ando Hitomi and Hitomi Sato--both 19-year-olds and from non-Christian backgrounds. Surely God and the angels must have smiled in love and rejoiced. ☩



23 are baptized.

Rungsit Saejang is president of the Thailand Mission.

New President

by Somkiat Choomkong

Dr. Rapeepan Wangchumtong is the new president of Phuket Adventist Hospital. She assumed office on



Dr. Rapeepan (left), receives symbolic key from Mrs. Nursia Supunavong, outgoing president.

February 1, 1995. Dr. Rapeepan was formerly vice president for medical affairs at Bangkok Adventist Hospital, a post she held for seven years. She was also director of the Mission Health Promotion Centre in Muak Lek before coming to Phuket Adventist Hospital as staff internist in 1993. Dr. Rapeepan replaces Mrs. Nursia Supunavong, who is now the nursing director for Bangkok Adventist Hospital. ☩

Mrs. Somkiat Choomkong is in charge of public relations at Phuket Adventist Hospital.

YOUTH CAMPS HELD

From March 29 to April 2, the Thailand Adventist Mission held a Youth Congress at Saraburi Scout Camp. More than 200 youth from around Thailand attended and enjoyed Christian fellowship. On Sabbath afternoon five young people were baptized.

From April 4 to 9, the 15th Hmong Youth Camp was held in Chiangmai in which 14 were baptized. ☩

Southeast Asia Union College



MAKING A COMEBACK. We're here now (pictured above):
BACK ROW (L-R): Debbie Lai, Dawn Sim, Lovena Lawrence, Jessica Thai
MIDDLE ROW (L-R): Wendell Ginggaing, Jocelyn Ng, Lola Bingku, Dillon Hee
FRONT ROW (L-R): Juanita Golotoh, Cherandy Lim, Eric Yeo, Evonne Lee

THE ALUMNI:

BACK ROW (L-R): James Lai ('86), Wilfred Sim ('72) & Chai Siew Moi ('71),
Lawrence Banyie ('74), Wong Kim Leng (60s)
MIDDLE ROW (L-R): Mansor Ginggaing ('83), Gan Theow ('72)
and Ivy Ng ('72), Nelton Bingku ('73), Donald Hee ('72)
FRONT ROW (L-R): Tommy Golotoh ('93), Andy Lim ('75), Lee Chiang ('64)
and Esther Yeo ('78), Lee Peng Cheong ('74)

*Southeast Asia Union College is holding
its annual
ALUMNI HOMECOMING
from August 4-6, 1995. Don't miss it!*

For more information call (65) 285-7976 or fax (65) 283-7850.

1995: Year of the Adventist Woman

SPECIAL REPORT: Literacy

∞ Of the one billion adults illiterate worldwide, 3/4 are women.

"When we educate a man, we educate a single individual, whereas when we educate a woman we educate a whole household."

Thus said Begum Mir Amiruddin at the South India Adult Education Conference in 1939. Literacy is a women's issue and a family issue, emphasizes Professor Stella Grieg in her *Literacy* article (see *Review March 95*). In a similar article (*AR May 19, 1995*) Lynne Waihee, former first lady of Hawaii adds, "Women's literacy is important because women, as the persons universally responsible for rearing children and keeping the household in order, ultimately shape the society we live in." She continues and says that there are other reasons for Christian women to be literate--reasons beyond improvements in economic, health and social conditions. Literacy is basic to understanding Scripture. "If we are to have the best understanding of the word, we must be able to read the Bible for ourselves, companing Scripture for Scripture."

This year *Women's Ministry* is emphasizing literacy for 1995. It is planned that there will be one literacy program in each division during the year.∞

MUAK LEK GRADUATES 41

by John Matthews



On March 12, 1995, Mission College Muak Lek simultaneously celebrated the opening of the new Kiti and Tasanee Auditorium and held its second annual commencement services. Thirty-four students completed the requirements for degrees in Business and English. An additional seven received Bachelor of Ministry degrees from the Thailand Adventist Seminary.

The new auditorium was named in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Kiti Taychachaiwongse, both loyal supporters of Mission College for many years. Mr. Taychachaiwongse was not able to be present at the opening ceremonies because of commitments abroad but his wife and daughter, Krisanee, participated in the ribbon cutting along with a number of denominational and government dignitaries. The auditorium, used officially for the first time on graduation weekend, can accommodate 500 students. At present 160 students are enrolled. The Muak Lek administration is confident the auditorium will be seating a much larger student body in a few years.

The only hitch on that day occurred when the electrical authorities cut electricity to complete major line repairs. However, the speaker, R. D. Riches, president of the SAUM, could easily be heard and the graduates and visitors were blessed by his message. In fact, this slight problem allayed concerns regarding the acoustics in the new auditorium. ☒

Former Administrator Visits

Pastor Art Bell, a former administrator of Mission College Muak Lek, visited the college campus recently. On his month-long visit, he, his wife Vi, and his travel companions spent much time landscaping the grounds. They constructed an outdoor baptismal pool and built a car and motorcycle park, all with their own personal funds. Pastor Bell was also a guest speaker at the commencement services. We thank the Bells for their contributions, past and present! ☒

John Matthews is associate president of Mission College (Muak Lek campus).

New Administration at Chiangmai

Max Dowling of Brisbane, Australia is the new administrator of the Chiangmai Adventist Educational Centre (CAEC). In March Max and his wife Janelle arrived in Bangkok where they completed a short course in Thai before moving on to Chiangmai. Fellow Australian and much respected former administrator Marilyn Beveridge has since returned to her homeland. ☒

Message from Vietnam

Letter from Tran Cong Tan,
secretary of Vietnam Mission

"We thank God and the Southeast Asia Union Mission, and all our brothers and sisters around the world that continuously pray for God's work at Vietnam during the past 20 years. Thanks to your prayers God's work is gradually developing here in Vietnam."

"Vietnam Mission is very old now and we need your prayers and help to rebuild it. We have six official churches and 28 home churches, each with its own pastors and workers. Though the Vietnam government still does not regard us as an official religion, we have many projects going on. One particular project is at Phu Nhuan church, where we are supporting old people and orphans. Some need clothes, others need money for school fees.

"Please continue to pray and help us. If you would like to make a donation, please contact me or the SAUM."

Contact Pastor Tran at 848-440179 or FAX 848-447602.

Missions Combine for Literature Convention

by Samuel Siew

The Literature Ministries Departments of both the Singapore Adventist Mission and the Peninsular Malaysia Mission held a combined Literature Evangelist Convention in Genting View Resort, Malaysia from March 12-15. This is the first time that both missions combined their efforts to hold such a convention. A total of 47 literature evangelists, leaders, and guests attended the convention.

This was also the first time literature ministry seminary training was conducted. This kind of training, which includes exams, will eventually lead to a literature ministry seminary certificate. Many LEs expressed their interest in this training as well as wanting to complete the necessary courses in order to achieve the certificate.

A special outdoor dinner by the pool was arranged on the last night. This was followed by the awarding of trophies to all those who excelled in their work in 1994. A commitment service was also held in which the literature evangelists rededicated their lives to the service of the Lord's work.

Samuel Siew is publishing director of the Singapore Mission.

SAUM LEs Visit Philippines

by A. J. Oberholster



A group of 18 literature evangelists from the Southeast Asia Union were guests at the Literature Evangelist (LE) Convention held in the Philippines from February 6-9, 1995. 2500 LEs from all over the Philippines met for three days of

motivation and inspiration. The 18 SAUM LEs worked hard to reach the required targets set for LEs in this Union. We congratulate them on their success. One LE in this group sold MR\$49,000 worth of books in just five months!

Braam Oberholster is publishing director of the SAUM.

First in LE Training



From February 15-19, 1995, this group of literature evangelists met at the Sabah Mission Retreat Centre for training. This was the first group in the SAUM to start a diploma course in literature evangelism.

WANTED!

MEN & WOMEN WHO:

- * Love their God, their church, and their fellow men.
- * Are serious about the fact that Jesus is coming soon.
- * Long to see spiritual growth in their own lives and in the lives of others.
- * Have a passion for souls and an earnest desire to be used by the Holy Spirit.
- * Want to experience the joy of working with angels in reaching souls with God's truth.
- * Are willing to become literature evangelists in any of the following missions:

MISSIONS

VACANCIES

Sabah	25
Sarawak	30
Singapore	20
Peninsular Malaysia	25
Thailand	30

For more information regarding training, remuneration, etc., write to:

The Publishing Director
Southeast Asia Union Mission
251 Upper Serangoon Road
Singapore 1334

ADRA^{southeast asia}news

14,000 NEW REFUGEES. In January, Myanmar government troops overran the Karen military bases in what has become one of their most aggressive campaigns in recent years. This has resulted in an influx of some 14,000 new refugees into Thailand. Emergency funds from Sweden, Australia, and ADRA International enabled ADRA Thailand to provide large quantities of blankets, roofing material, food and other necessary supplies for these new victims of man's truculence.

AIDS EDUCATION. The AIDS education project at Chiangmai Academy is well under way. The first group of students have been trained as AIDS health educators and have visited some of their villages. Final preparations are now under way for the final part of the Sisaket 6th Grade education project in which the winning school group visits Australia. Tickets have been purchased and the children arrive in Sydney May 8 for 10 days. They are expected to perform at the Thai Embassy in Canberra. "This project has been a real asset, both in terms of AIDS awareness and Thai-Australian relations," says Nick Brightman, director of ADRA Thailand.

OPIUM ADDICTS. ADRA Thailand branched out into a new area of work this year-- they are committed to helping hill-tribe opium addicts break the habit. Because many hill-tribe areas produce opium as a cash crop (especially the Hmong tribe), it is common for them to become addicted. Once hooked, they become unproductive and unable to play any kind of role in society. Children turn to stealing in order to eat, and communities in which a large number of addicts exist often break down. As a consequence of this problem, ADRA Thailand is planning to set up a small rehabilitation centre in a Hmong village. "The program will be low technology and geared specifically for the local people," Nick Brightman adds. "Funding has been applied for from Bangkok Adventist Hospital and we hope to commence the project at any time now."

"SMART" MOVE TO VIETNAM. ADRA Vietnam is pleased to welcome the Smart family from Australia. After a few months of Vietnamese language study Paul Smart will serve as Associate Director for Finance and Hazel Smart will be the Administrative Assistant. The Smarts are not strangers to the Asia-Pacific Division. Hazel was born in the Philippines, and since their marriage they have worked in both Philippines and Indonesia in private business. When they accepted the call to Vietnam, the Smarts were at Avondale College in Australia, where Paul was studying for a degree in theology.



Hazel and Paul Smart with sons, Aron, 4, and Matthew, 2.

MAMI TAKAHASHI recently joined the ADRA Vietnam team as an intern. She is involved in visiting project sites, writing project proposals, monitoring projects, and experiencing the varied aspects of being an ADRA worker. Mami previously interned in the Programs Division of ADRA International at the General Conference headquarters in Maryland. While there, she learned about the development management of ADRA and found ADRA's work "very interesting." ☞



Mami is looking for pen-pals. Write to her c/o ADRA Vietnam, G.P.O. Box 111, Hanoi, Vietnam.

OTHER NEWS:

- ☞ **Kenneth Flemmer** is the new Executive Director of ADRA/Asia-Pacific. He comes directly from ADRA International, where he worked as an assistant vice president. Flemmer replaces John Sipkens, who recently retired to the United States.
- ☞ A group of volunteers from **Walla Walla College** in College Place, Washington, will be assisting ADRA Sabah in the implementation of a Gravity Water System at Kampung Bambangan, located in the interior of North Borneo, from June 20 to August 5.

News from ADRA Thailand supplied by Nick Brightman, country director. The Brightmans recently returned from furlough in Scotland, and East Africa, where they climbed Mt. Kenya, "one of the few places on the equator it snows." Dennis Tidwell, director of ADRA Vietnam, wrote to welcome his new staff.

SAUM Holds Leadership Seminar

Over 55 leaders of the various missions and institutions of the Southeast Asia Union attended a leadership seminar conducted by Elder Philip Follett at Southeast Asia Union College from March 14-17, 1995. Elder Follett is a vice-president at the General Conference. He conducted a similar seminar for the Asia-Pacific Division last year.

Many found the seminar useful. Says Lawrence Banyie, youth and communications director of the SAUM, "The workshops were very beneficial to us. There were actual situations and problems that we had to work out that were indeed similar to the problems we face daily in our work. We had an opportunity to actually apply different methods and techniques to situations that exist locally." ☒



Phil Follett (right) and Ian Grice, treasurer of the Asia-Pacific Division.



Small group discussions. L-R: Simon Siew, dean of men at SAUC, Mansor Gingga, president of Sabah Mission, Ken Myers, director of Mission Health Food, Somchai Chuenjit, pastor of BAH, and George Lamam, principal of SASS.

to muse
on. . .

He always wanted to explain things.
But no one cared.
So he drew .
Sometimes he would draw and it wasn't anything.
He wanted to carve it in stone or write it in the sky.
He would lie out on the grass and look up in the sky.
And it would only be him and the sky and the things
inside him that needed saying.
And it was after that he drew the picture.
It was a beautiful picture.
He kept it under his pillow and would let no one see it.
And it was all of him.
And he loved it.
When he started school he brought it with him.
Not to show anyone, but just to have with him like a friend.
It was funny about school.
He sat in a square brown room.
Like all the other rooms.
And it was tight and close.
And stiff.
He hated to hold the pencil and chalk,
With his arms still and feet flat on the floor,
Stiff,
With the teacher watching and watching.
The teacher came and spoke to him.
She told him to wear a tie like all the other boys.
And he said he didn't like them.
And she said it didn't matter!
After that they drew.
And he drew all yellow and it was the way he felt about
morning.
And it was beautiful.
The teacher came and smiled at him.
"What's this?" she said.
"Why don't you draw something like Ken's drawing? Isn't it beautiful?"
After that his mother bought him a tie.
And he always drew airplanes and rocket ships like
everyone else.
And he threw the old picture away.
And when he lay alone looking at the sky,
It was big and blue and all of everything,
But he wasn't anymore.
He was square inside
and brown,
And his hands were stiff.
And he was like everyone else.
And the things inside him that needed saying didn't need it
anymore.
It had stopped pushing.
It was crushed.
STIFF.
Like everything else.

Poet unknown. Reprinted with permission from Insight.

To New Posts...

Wong Yew Seng, General Manager of Southeast Asia Publishing House from 1993-1995, has accepted a call to be director of publishing at the East Asia Association in Hong Kong.

Lily and Yew-Chong Wong will be joining the faculty of Southeast Asia Union College in June 1995. Dr. Wong Yew Chong will be the academic dean and vice-president in charge of marketing, and Dr. Lily Wong will chair the Education Department. Dr. Gordon Hare, acting dean at SAUC since January, and wife Ilo returned to the United States on May 30. ☺

Potpourri

Percentage of Christian missionaries who go to countries with a majority of the population professing Christianity: 99.

Source: The State of Religion Atlas, O'Brien/Palmer, 1993 (as cited in Leadership, Spring 1994)

Ratio of SDA's to world population:

1863 - 1:367,143

1994 - 1:669

Donald Yost, Director of GC Archives

"They are the first generation to see entertainment not as a privilege but as a right--their basic necessities of life are food, shelter, clothing, TV, and a CD player."

Young Minister on the X Generation (Xers: Those born between 1963 & 1977)

"I asked the R. J. Reynolds executives why none of them smoked. One of them said, 'We don't smoke this****. We reserve the right to smoke for the young, the poor, the black, and the stupid.'"

David Goerlitz, former Winston cigarette actor, recalling an occasion on location at Mt. Evans in Denver. (Goerlitz quit smoking after suffering a stroke and is now an anti-smoking advocate.)

"Let my heart be broken with the things that break the heart of God."

Bob Pierce, founder of World Vision

Bible Commentaries Published

by James A. Cress

The largest printing project in the history of the Review and Herald Publishing Association offers the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* series to workers in economically-challenged areas.

Commissioned by the General Conference Ministerial Association, this publishing venture is producing the eight-volume, hard-bound, gold-embossed set for US\$52. A substantial subsidy by the Review makes possible this low price. Hopes were for 5000 sets to be sold before publication but three-fourths of the total run of 20,000 sets have already been pre-purchased! More than half a million pounds of paper in 36 huge rolls are required for the project. ☺

James Cress is secretary of the Ministerial Association of the General Conference.



Dwarfed by the mountain of paper for the SDA Commentary project are Bob Kinney, president of the Review and Herald Publishing Association; James Cress, Ministerial Association Secretary of the General Conference; and Hans Steinmuss, Vice President for Manufacturing at the Review.

IMAGE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS*

"What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the name "Seventh-day Adventist?"

1970's	1980's	1990's
1. Observe Saturday as the Sabbath.	1. Observe Saturday as the Sabbath.	1. Observe Saturday as the Sabbath.
2. Religious group/church/religion.	2. Religious group/church/religion.	2. Religious group/church/religion.
3. Have specific dietary customs.	3. Different eating habits.	3. Strict dietary laws.
4. Very strict in their teachings/devout people.	4. Misguided doctrines.	4. Mormons/LDS.
5. Specific religion or religious personality.	5. They are good people.	5. Resent/not happy or interested with SDAs.
6. They try hard to convert people to their faith.	6. Religious zealots.	6. Names of SDA friend or relative.
7. Don't believe in medicine; against blood transfusions.	7. Mormons/live in Salt Lake City.	7. Cult/sect/David Koresh.
	8. Door-to-door solicitation.	8. Christian church and people.
	9. General negative remarks.	9. Door-to-door sales.
	10. Cult.	10. Far-fetched religion/fanatics.

*Survey conducted in North America. Taken from Feb '95 Adventist Review p. 18-20. Most recent survey conducted August '94.

I met her at a train station. One of those archaic buildings where you can't tell the difference between an old spit stain and one that just dried up yesterday. The dim light from the opening leading to the platform above made the place seem less friendly, like a stranger staring. I stood in the midst of passing furs and trench coats, wondering whether to brave the cold on the platform above or remain sheltered in that dismal place.

"Procze,*" she said. Turning around I saw her and her wrinkles and her very red hair sitting among soggy boxes, selling *Enquirer* equivalents.

"Procze," she said again, pointing to an empty bench beside her commercial area. Grateful for a friendly face, I sat and coaxed my freezing features into a painful smile, not minding the dog that lay growling at her feet.

"Not good," she said, poking at a picture on the front cover of her paper and shaking her head. A picture of a train track. I shrugged my shoulders and waited for a simplified explanation. *American... robbed... pushed... not dead... in hospital* are the words I think I understood. "*Nie dobre, nie dobre*," she sighed again.

After that, we gestured a bit and laughed a bit and sighed at the picture from time to time, the start of a peculiar friendship.

When I got back from my trip, I felt I had to find her. As soon as the train screeched to a stop I hurried to her spot and gave her a hug. Every consequent Thursday after that I was there. But one Thursday, tired and not feeling up to travelling 30

wildflower

by Arlene B. Siagian

minutes just to see her I stayed out of the cold and slept. Next week the same thing happened. I figured that like that aging train station, she would always be there.

I figured that like that aging train station, she would always be there.

found her at a street corner, now selling wild flowers. Her dog had died, she informed me. And her spot in the train station was now a hot dog stand. I felt miserable, so she brought me to her church to pray.

As we left the cathedral she said to me, "Do you believe in God?" "Yes, I do," I said.

"And Mother Mary?"
"I only believe in God."
"No Mother Mary?"
"No Mother Mary."

Then I bought her some fish.

She changed her spot again after that and then again and then again and I finally had to leave without knowing where she was. I wonder if she knew that I looked and looked and looked. ☞

* Procze -- Polish for please; Nie dobre -- not good at all

Arlene Siagian writes from Sabah.

When I finally found the time to go back, she was gone. A few months went by before I

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