



# MESSENGER

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SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION

April - June 1996



*"Character is the great harvest of life."*

MB 90

## Recapture The Vision

In the past decade or so, many of us could be classified as the “pillow people” of the church. It seems that we were here simply to have an easy life. Perhaps this is why our gracious Father used the recent dramatic events to wake us up in order to transform us to be the “pillar people”— people who are strong and motivated to do something for Him.

*We have to look at our church and its mission in a new way. We must see “Mission” as a primary responsibility of the church.*

Let me use the following illustration – In His will, Jesus wants us to be fishers of men. There are many ways to fish, but the most common methods are the “kelong”<sup>\*</sup> way.

The “kelong” method may have been one of the best ways to fish in the past. I suppose the shallow waters then were not so polluted and fishes would congregate in schools into the net. There

is no need for fishermen to do anything but to sit and wait. The only work is to haul in the catch at the end of the day. But it is no longer today. Today the kelong are mostly used as tourist spots or social spots.

Many now enjoy deep-sea fishing where the thrill of a sure-catch is. They also get the satisfaction of seeing their rewards.

Can you see the paradoxical picture? When people ask about our Church, we often tell them what we do not do. We also like to boast about our “SDA kelong.” When we hear about our kelong being taken or we have to change our kelong method, regardless of the reasons, we “rebel” to any change. In the past, our goals were set for survival. In a sense, this also kept us busy enough because it gave us something to do and something to tell the world. At the same time, we always questioned ourselves as to why are there fewer fishes caught. The answer is simple. It is because we have no vision in this “fishing business” and this breeds failure.

As we look at the success of other churches, many do not own or run educational institutions which are amongst the best in Singapore. They do not have a worldwide network as we do. However, they have a clear-cut vision that brings them success. They believe in lifestyle evangelism and not the kelong style evangelism. To achieve this, they invest their efforts and resources in preparing and equipping their members to develop their spiritual gifts and maximize their use in the ministry. They send their members out to where the fishes are. They all know they are doing something - the fishing business according to God’s plan.

Can we have a new start? Yes, of course. God wants our church to grow. Read Matthew 13:31-32 and Ephesians 3:9-10, you will find that church growth is inherent in God’s plan for His church. It is not God’s plan for the church to remain small or to plateau. Growth is not an option for us. All heaven is available to help us accomplish that task. Jesus is drawing people to Him, God is at work in our world, and the Holy Spirit is working in people’s hearts, directing the salvation enterprise. Therefore, we have to look at our church and its mission in a new way. We must see “Mission” as a primary responsibility of the church.

We have to thank God for this intervention that has happened. Perhaps it can help us to realize that the status quo of our church is no longer viable. I firmly believe that God is using this crisis to pull us together. But the intervention itself will not produce growth, it only opens windows of opportunity that can create an environment where growth is more likely to occur if appropriate strategy is applied.

Let’s pray diligently for God’s guidance.

<sup>\*</sup>*a fishing hut on stilts built out in the sea with a big net at the bottom to scoop the catch*



Matthew Yuen, President  
Singapore Adventist Mission

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*“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.”*

LS 196

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## Prime Minister Speaks at Adventist Graduation in Cambodia

**H**is Royal Highness Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the First Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, was the guest of honor and speaker for the first graduation services of the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) Master of Public Health degree program in Cambodia. During the convocation which was held on April 3, the Prime Minister spoke first in the local Khmer language and then he switched to excellent English to express his appreciation to all of the various organizations who had made the program possible. He commented that this MPH graduation was a milestone in meeting the needs of his people. He identified the area of health as one of the most urgent needs of the country after the devastation of two decades of war. During the 1970s, most of the nation's doctors and health professionals were either exterminated or forced to flee the country.

Other guests of honor for the graduation service were Cambodian Minister of Health Chhea Thang and Canadian Health D G Longmuir, along with two undersecretaries from the Cambodia Health Department. Also participating in the ceremony were Dr David Birkenstock, Dean of the AIAS School of Graduate Studies; Dr Hedrick Edwards, director of the AIAS Health Education Department; Mr Murry Millar, director of ADRA/Cambodia; and Mr Colin Radford, who has been coordinator of the ADRA/Cambodia MPH degree program since 1994.

The ceremony marked the culmination of four years of cooperative efforts between ADRA/Cambodia and the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies. Also very much involved in the success of the program were the Cambodian Ministry of Health, the Canadian government, the World Health Organization, and numerous other agencies. Professors came from various parts of the world, freely sharing their time and expertise.

In the program, 19 Cambodian doctors took a variety of theory and practical training courses. Fourteen of the doctors completed the MPH degree and four received the diploma in Public Health.

During their Master of Public Health course, the participating doctors took 43 semester credit hours - a total of 2,500 clock hours - of post graduate study in a wide range of health-related topics.

In 1992, the students began with an intensive training course in English, taught by three Canadians. The first block of courses toward the actual MPH degree began in 1993. However, that series of lectures ended early, due to the fear of the civil unrest at the time of the first democratic elections since the Pol Pot reign of terror began in the 1970s. In June 1994, after major restructuring, the course began full time again and continued until March of this year.



Cambodian First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh (center) with AIAS Graduate School Dean David Birkenstock (left) confer the MPH degree on one of the Cambodian graduates.

"It was a high day for the Cambodian Ministry of Health as well as for ADRA/Cambodia," said Millar. "This course began on a shoestring budget and faced major obstacles in the early stages of implementation, but ended, literally, with a trumpet fanfare." ADRA volunteer Mark Schwisow, an engineer who is building apartments for the SDA Mission, provided trumpet music for the processional and the recessional. The usual academic regalia - caps, gowns and hoods - were provided by AIAS since they were not obtainable in Cambodia.

The graduation ceremony was held in the Ministry of Health building, in a hall which seats about 200 people. For the special occasion, the outside of the building, the fences and the gardens had been decorated with flowers and roll-on grass carpeting.

During the ceremony, each graduate bowed very low while approaching Prince Ranariddh to receive the well-earned diploma. As the Prime Minister handed out the diplomas, he also presented each graduate with a gift of US\$100 - equal to five months' salary - from the government of Cambodia. In addition, he contributed US\$400 from his personal finances to pay for a celebration banquet for the graduates.

To show his understanding of the significance of the occasion for each graduate, he invited each MPH degree recipient to pose with him for photographs. The First Prime Minister himself appeared fascinated by the graduation ceremony, especially the placing of the hood on the candidates. When the AIAS Dean, Dr Birkenstock, thanked him for his participation in the ceremony, Prince Ranariddh responded, "I am touched and moved by what I have seen today."

David Birkenstock, Dean,  
AIAS School of Graduate Studies  
Ken Flemmer, Director, ADRA-APD

### First Pastor Ordained in Cambodia



Pastor and Mrs Lim Teng Pheng

**O**n March 16, Pastor Lim Teng Pheng became the first Cambodian pastor to be ordained to the gospel ministry inside the country of Cambodia. Two other Cambodians had been ordained earlier, but in other countries.

As a teenager, Lim Pheng fled into Thailand with the surviving members of his family while Cambodia was in the midst of civil war. Later he found his way to the United States and

eventually settled in Maryland. Through a series of Providential leadings, he completed his theological training at Columbia Union College in 1991.

The following year he returned to his homeland to serve as a volunteer. In 1995, Pastor Lim Pheng married Agusta Dian, from Sarawak, Malaysia, who has been working as cashier at the Cambodia Mission office for several years.

Officiating at the ordination service were Southeast Asia Union Mission Ministerial Secretary John Duroe, Adventist Frontier Mission worker Pearo Ackles, volunteer and retired Union College professor Ralph Neall, and Cambodia Mission Director M Daniel Walter.

Daniel Walter, Director, Cambodia Mission

### Bibles and Bikes for Cambodia

**I**n response to an appeal for help, the Collegedale Church in Tennessee, USA, sent money to Cambodia for the purchase of 20 bicycles and 1,000 Bibles, whiteboards and blackboards for the laymen who are spreading the gospel throughout Cambodia.

About 75 active laymen were responsible for most of the 499 baptisms in Cambodia during 1995. These baptisms resulted in a 50 percent increase in total church membership within the country.

On hand for the delivery of the evangelistic materials was Wolfgang Jedamski, the administrator of the Collegedale Church at Southern College. He was in Cambodia to make plans for future volunteer groups to construct churches and other projects in Cambodia.



Wolfgang Jedamski (left) presenting the Bibles to Hang Dara, field secretary in Cambodia.

### Laos Pastor Ordained in Australia

**I**n Australia, in Sydney's Cabramatta Church, Khamsay Phetchareun recently became the first Laos-born Seventh-day Adventist to be ordained as a minister.

Originally from the northern Laotian village of Naxiengdy, he too was forced by civil war to flee into Thailand. There he met an old friend who had become a Christian and was then ministering to the more than 1,000 Christian refugees in the camp. One day he discovered a discarded pamphlet in his own Lao language. It advertised an Adventist correspondence course which interested him. Later he visited the Thailand Mission compound in Bangkok, where he met Adventist Frontier Missionary Judy Aitken, who introduced him to Adventism.



Pastor Phetchareun is pictured with his wife (centre) and Mrs Judy Aitken

Eventually he immigrated to Australia. In Sydney, he worked as the coordinator of the Cabramatta Migrant Evangelistic Centre, which later became the Cabramatta Seventh-day Adventist Church. Several years later he began studying theology at Avondale College, continuing to pastor in Cabramatta part time. Following his graduation, he resumed fulltime work, and was ordained on March 2.

Among others who participated in the ordination service were Pastor Eddie Piez, who sponsored Khamsay Phetchareun as a refugee, and Judy Aitken, who now helps to coordinate Adventist Frontier Mission work from Berrien Springs, Michigan.

*South Pacific Division Record*

## Formation of Farlim Company

On March 16, 1996, the Farlim group of believers was officially organized into a company by Penang church pastors Chai Mien Seng and James Wah, and PEM Mission President David Leoh. In his message to the believers, Pastor Leoh spoke of the missionary zeal of the early Christians and challenged the Farlim Company to achieve regular church status by the Mission's Triennial Session in 1997.

In 1993 when Farlim, a large tract of land occupied by vegetable farmers, became a satellite town, the Mission saw the opportunity of establishing some SDA presence there. Consequently, a building was rented and SDA doctors Alfred Poey, Ng Tat Low, William The, Daniel Yeoh and Fam Siow Leong conducted free night clinics for the Farlim community. Later health



exhibitions and screenings, cooking classes, prophecy seminars were held, culminating in a series of evangelistic meetings by church members from Penang Adventist churches. Nine persons have been baptized thus far with a couple more preparing to join the group in the near future.

Some members of the English and Chinese churches in Penang are very supportive of the work in Farlim. It is hoped that before long the Farlim Company of believers

will increase in such numbers that it can be organized into a church to take its place in the sisterhood of churches in the SDA Mission of Peninsular Malaysia.

James Wah, Farlim Company



The Tamil group in Skudai is growing rapidly. From a handful of believers in 1994, it now has 40 regular members. The group has no pastor and the program is run by local church elders. Recently J E George and N Vincent were ordained as church elders to help carry out the duties in this fast-growing group.



It took a mother's strong influence and love, VOP lessons, a baptismal class, and the Pathfinder Club for Tong Chia Seng, 14, to choose to follow the Lord. He was baptized on June 1, 1996 in Kuantan and he is convinced that "the lifestyle and habits of a Christian are so different from the rest of the people that I want to be a Christian now!"



The Sungei Way Indian Church organized a one-day outing to the Templer Park in Tanjung Malim for its young people. The social event united and rejuvenated the youth who have often felt neglected during Sabbath services among the adults.

## PEM's New Headquarters

Peninsular Malaysia Mission sold its property at Jalan Bukit Bintang and bought a five-storey building at Kuchai Business Centre, Kuala Lumpur.

PEM new address:

22-1 Jalan 2/114  
Kuchai Business Centre  
Jalan Kuchai Lama  
58200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Tel: 03-7847795

Fax: 03-7844600

### Sabah Conducts Al Hanif Seminar

Imagine, listening to a sermon about the Sabbath, preached from the Koran, the Moslem holy book.

From March 5 to 8, about 70 pastors and church elders in Sabah did exactly that as they studied together from the Bible and the Koran, learning to appreciate the way God worked through the descendants of Isaac and Ishmael. In addition, they learned how to make friends with Moslems.

Leading out in the Al Hanif seminar were Dr Robert Darnell from California, and Dr Gerald Whitehouse, newly appointed director of the Global Centre for Adventist Moslem Relations.

At the seminar, a number of the pastors in Sabah dedicated themselves to making preparations for future training and long-term involvement in sharing the good news with Moslems. The Al Hanif team plans to return to the Union next year.

**John Duroe**  
Ministerial Association Secretary, SAUM

### Sabah Mission's 12th Session



Pastor R D Riches, SAUM President, addressing delegates of Sabah 12th Session

The Sabah Mission held its 12<sup>th</sup> Triennial Session on February 12 to 16, 1996 at the Mission Retreat Centre in Kundasang Rantau. The theme of the session was "United in Christ." One of the major actions was to elect department directors. The following persons were nominated and approved by the Session to head the various departments in the Mission for the next three years:

- Daniel Bagah** Youth, Health and Temperance
- Escend Chong** Stewardship and Spirit of Prophecy
- Jupitah Gaban** Children and Women's Ministry
- James Lai** ADRA and Communication
- Mansor Ginging** Public Relation and Religious Liberty
- Nelton Bingku** Education and Home and Family
- Nelver Sikul** Ministerial
- Shuking Gadaun** Sabbath School and Personal Ministry
- Tommy Golotoh** Publishing

The Mission executive officers were elected at the SAUM Session held in Singapore in November, 1995.

The session was attended by about 160 delegates and staff representing 116 organized churches and 59 companies. The SAUM officers that were present were Pastors R D Riches, president and Joshua Mok, secretary, and Dr Edmund Siagian, Education and Communication director.

### Women's Group in KK are Turning Heads



On February 10, the Women's Ministry group of the Kota Kinabalu SDA church, under the leadership of Teresa Ginajil, visited the Sri Pritchard Old Folks' Home in Kinarut, about 15 kilometres from KK. They brought along sunshine to the shut-in, encouragement to the old and abandoned folks, food to the hungry and forgotten, and gifts to many others.

With the support of church members, the women's group conducted a wholesome programme at the assembly hall. The children's choral group, a trumpet duet by a brother team, and the AY singing group all added variety. Two boxes of blankets and towels were presented to the old folks at the end of the programme.

Among the participants was the former Member of Parliament, George Sangkin, who was there to give moral support. In spite of his heavy responsibilities as a government official, Brother Sangkin is an active church member who has been active in visitations and soul-winning efforts.

The KK Women's Ministry group is planning more visitations and community service in Sabah.

Moises Sumile, KK Church

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*"A kind, courteous Christian is the most powerful argument that can be produced in favour of Christianity."*

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GW 122

## SAUM Pathfinder Camporee '96

The 5th The Union-wide Pathfinder Camporee was held at the Kompleks Pelancongan Balok, along Batok Beach in Kuantan, Pahang, Malaysia, from June 2 to 7, 1996. This is the first SAUM-wide Pathfinder Camporee to be held in Peninsular Malaysia Mission.

Three hundred and fifty-five campers from Singapore, Sabah, Sarawak, Peninsular Malaysia, and Cambodia attended.

The Camporee was planned and organized by Pastor Lawrence Banyie, SAUM Youth Director. Dr Hiskia Missah, the Asia-Pacific Division Youth Director, gave the keynote address, as well as the morning worship talks; while Pastor Robin Riches, SAUM president, gave the evening talks. Dr Edmund Siagian, SAUM Education Director, talked on Adventist education; Pastor Samuel Money, SAUM Personal Ministries and Sabbath School Director, talked on youth witnessing; and Dr John Duroe, SAUM Ministerial



Secretary, covered the topic of Prayer. These talks were aimed at helping the Pathfinders learn to "Rejoice in the Lord" in their personal devotions, in their studies, in school, and in sharing the good news with their friends.

Competition events included tent pitching, knot typing, first aid, semaphore, and fire building. The Singapore Mission emerged the overall champion in the competition activities, with Sarawak second, and Sabah third.

The highlights of the Camporee were the baptism of three young people and the investiture of four Master Guides. Twenty-three youth leaders were given long-service awards in recognition of their leadership of ten years and above.

The Pathfinder leaders unanimously agreed that the venue of the next SAUM-wide Pathfinder Camporee will be Singapore in 1998.

Lawrence Banyie, Youth Director  
Southeast Asia Union Mission

## Literature Ministry REACH-OUT

Literature evangelists in Singapore has extended their ministry to other untouched areas in Singapore. Several hotels, the Singapore Changi Prison, and a drug rehabilitation centre received message books for their libraries. This was made possible by the generous support of local church members through the Literature Ministry REACH-OUT program in Singapore. Other parts of SAUM will soon be introduced to REACH-OUT.

Just recently, a hotel in Singapore permitted "The Great Controversy" and "The Marked Bible" to be placed in every room. Each book had a label inviting the reader to take it home if he was interested.

Therefore, there is a need to service and replace the hotel rooms regularly with these books.

If you are interested in seeing our truth-filled books in more public places, your contribution to the SAUM Publishing Department REACH-OUT program will help fulfill the objective.

Braam Oberholster, Director  
SAUM Publishing Department

## Statistical Report for First Quarter

Mission	Number of Baptisms	Members Dropped/Transferred	Church Memberships at End of Quarter
Cambodia	120	93	1,448
Laos	20	0	76
P Malaya	8	4	3,798
Sabah	85	0	20,144
Sarawak	21	1	12,373
Singapore	16	9	2,236
Thailand	92	47	10
Vietnam	32	0	5,213

## Lest We Forget

*The history of how the Phuket Adventist Hospital property was acquired truly reveals God's providence.*

Shortly after the war, the medical work in Phuket began in an old Chinese school owned by Mr Tan Ching Ho. The Mission Clinic was located downtown on Dibuk Road, opposite a noisy row of iron smith shops. The search began for a quieter location and a beautiful piece of vacant land was seen on the edge of town. The owner, Mr Anupas Hong Yok, a rich business man, was asked whether he would sell that piece of land for a hospital building. The request was denied.



Shortly after that, Mr Anupas became very ill and consulted Dr. Watson at the Mission Clinic. He suffered massive bleeding from the stomach and required surgery and blood transfusion and

consulted Dr Watson at the Mission Clinics. At that time, it was virtually impossible to find blood donors due largely to local superstitions. Arrangements were made for Mr Anupas to be flown to Bangkok Sanitarium and Hospital for emergency surgery. The bleeding was controlled, but unfortunately the malignancy had already spread to the liver, making a complete cure impossible. In gratitude for the medical services received, he decided to donate that piece of land in Phuket that the Mission Clinic had earlier

requested. After his death in the 1960s, his relatives handed over the land for the construction of the Phuket Adventist Hospital.

## Mrs Apsorn of BAH Honoured

Mrs Apsorn Dabanand, one of the first graduates of the School of Nursing of Bangkok Adventist Hospital, was recently awarded a pin of honour by the Nursing Association of Thailand for her outstanding achievements and contribution to the nursing profession. The award was presented by Princess Galyani Vadhana, sister of the King of Thailand.

Mrs Apsorn has worked in various capacities at the School of Nursing and Bangkok Adventist Hospital since her graduation in 1950. During her 45 years of denominational service, she has worked as an Instructor and Associate Director of the School of Nursing, Personnel Manager and Vice President for Patient Care and Human Resources. Presently she is a consultant to the Human Resources Department of the hospital.

Her other outstanding achievements include: recipient of the U.S. Government Scholarship; a representative of the Kingdom of Thailand at the International Congress of Nurses in Singapore, Japan, USA, Switzerland, and Israel; attendee of the Nursing Education Congress organized by World Health Organization (WHO) in India.

Well done, Mrs Apsorn, we are proud of you!

**Lee Chin Beng, Personnel Director  
Bangkok Adventist Hospital**

## NEWSTART for Company's Managers

*For four days, fourteen management staff of Texchem Corporation Sdn. Bhd experienced "a start of a new beginning"*

The health seminar was held at the Pedu Lake Resort, a tropical rainforest area, 90 kilometres from Alor Setar. Two doctors, two staff nurses, and one dietitian from Penang Adventist Hospital led out in the NEWSTART seminar for the large organization which has 23 subsidiary companies in Southeast Asia.

Most of Texchem participants went away from the retreat with a healthier lifestyle. Several gave up smoking, experienced weight loss, and 90 percent have continued to follow a good exercise program since the seminar.



Members of the group have requested that the company organize similar programs in the future. Some have even suggested that the program be held every six months to check on their improvement.

After hearing participants' reports of the program, Texchem President Fumihiko Konishi has agreed to send a second batch of managers "to learn from the experts from the Adventist Hospital."

*TexView article and photos contributed by  
Lim Chooi Eng, Marketing/PR Director  
Penang Adventist Hospital*



## Bangkok's Adventist International Women's Club

The guest of honour at the Adventist International Women's Club in Bangkok, Mrs Sarala M Fernando, Sri Lanka's Ambassador to Thailand, challenged the Adventist women "to look for opportunities to contribute their best for humanity." She also shared valuable information about the changing role of women in Asia.

At the beginning of this year, the Ekamai English Church, in its mission statement, voted to change its name to Bangkok International Church (BIC) of Seventh-day Adventists; and secondly, to include a ministry to reach the international community in Bangkok. Faced with these new challenges, the pastoral staff laid plans



Mrs Sarala Fernando (seated centre)

for evangelistic outreach activities. Part of this plan was the formation of the Adventist International Women's Club. The main objective is to unite the Adventist women of the four main churches in Bangkok - Ekamai Thai Church, Bangkok Adventist Hospital Church, Bangkok Chinese Church and Bangkok International Church. The group will then reach out to the international women's community in Bangkok to provide assistance to meet the mental, physical, social and spiritual needs of these women.

A few members of the Club have started a Branch Sabbath School and a Telephone ministry where people in trouble can call in for counsel and advice.

## Primary Health Care Training in Northern Thailand

A primary health care training program was conducted at Chiang Mai Adventist Education Centre in early May this year. Health educators, Pastor Phamow Phuphichitprai from the North Region, Pastor K L Gratton Perera, TAM Health and Temperance Director, assisted by Mrs Lyna Hutapea, a Bangkok-based Indonesian registered nurse and health educator, trained a total of 34 lay preachers and leaders. The trainees were taught how to organise

rural health clubs and to share health knowledge of personal hygiene, nutrition, sanitation, the effects of alcohol and tobacco, family planning and AIDs with their respective communities.

TAM Health and Temperance department will work with ADRA Thailand to follow up the rural health club development and provide assistance in the Northern Region.

## Youth Camps Reap Souls in Thailand

Twenty-eight young people were baptized in two youth camps: 14 in the Hmong Youth Camp in Don Muang, Bangkok, and 14 from the Northeast Region Youth Camp in Ubon.

About 400 Hmong young people from the hilltribe churches of Northern Thailand attended the Hmong Youth Camp held from March 26 to 31. Pastor K L Gratton Perera, TAM Youth Director, delivered the keynote address. Pastor Phill Rosburg, Youth Director of North Carolina Conference, his wife, Mrs Sylvia Roseburg; Pastor Abel Panganan, a pioneer Youth director of Thailand and presently pastor of the Filipino Church in USA, were guest speakers. Five other Hmong youth leaders and pastors currently residing and serving the Hmong community



in USA came along to support and encourage the Hmong youth in Thailand. The

Sabbath worship was a grand event with the youth wearing their colourful tribal costumes.

The Northeast Youth Camp was attended by about 100 young people from the churches around the region. Pastor Kasem Laoken, TAM Northeast Region Director, Pastor K L Gratton Perera, and Pastor Rungsit Itseringkarn, TAM South and Central Region Director, led in the daily devotionals and training programs.

Youth from both camps felt committed to serving the Lord and a greater bond of brotherly love among themselves.

Gratton Perera, Youth Director  
Thailand Mission

## SAUC Report

The Union Committee at its Midyear Meeting on May 22, 1996, took the following action regarding the future of SAUC:

1. That Southeast Asia Union Mission affirm the continuing operation of a Union college and that a core-centralised campus with facilities such as classrooms, dormitories and faculty housing be established outside of Singapore.
2. That Southeast Asia Union College remain in the present campus not beyond July 1999 (36 months) or until the government takes over, whichever is earlier.
3. That Southeast Asia Union College administration be authorized to initiate articulation with other colleges and universities for a commercial or alternate setup of SAUC in Singapore and/or other potential cities in the region.

4. That the following committee be set up to develop a transitional plan for the transfer of SAUC to the new locality and that the plan for implementation be presented at the SAUM Annual Council on November 18-20, 1996:

Tom Massengill (Chairman)  
 Edmund Siagian  
 Phoon Chek Yat  
 Wong Yew Chong  
 Siriporn Tantipoonvinai (or John Matthews)  
 Nelton Bingku  
 Alex Rajakumar  
 One to be appointed by TAM

Joshua Mok, Secretary, SAUM

## Tragedy at College Bible Camp

On April 30, 1996, Pastor Ng Kah Seng, who was attending the SAUC Bible Camp along with 97 faculty members and students, went for a swim off the coast of Tioman Island. Two students who accompanied him and during the swim the three got separated. The two students returned to camp

thinking Pastor Ng had already made his way back. Shortly after dinner, it was discovered that Pastor Ng had not returned. The alarm was raised and search parties were immediately organized. SAUC students, local residents, tourists and the local police joined in the search which went on till way past midnight. The search continued for the following two days, with help from scuba diving club personnel, the marine police,

and coast guard vessels.

On Wednesday evening, by the jetty on the same quiet beach where Pastor Ng was last seen, three college students were baptized at the end of the Bible Camp, by Pastor Doug Martin, the camp speaker. On Friday morning, May 3, his body was found near that same jetty.

A memorial service was held at SAUC auditorium on Saturday night and the cremation service was held on May 5 at Mount Vernon Crematorium.

Pastor Ng was pastor of the SAUC church from 1981 to 1986, when he went to the AIIAS, Philippines for further studies. He returned to the college as pastor and instructor in 1988 and became chairman of the Theology Department in 1993. He is survived by his wife, Hazel, and two children Lionel, 13, and Raelene, 11.



Pastor Ng Kah Seng

*An educational fund has been set up by the Southeast Asia Union College for a period of six months for the continuing education of Lionel and Raelene Ng. You may make your contributions payable to Southeast Asia Union College and mail to:*

Dr Phoon Chek Yat, President  
 Southeast Asia Union College  
 273 Upper Serangoon Road  
 Singapore 347689

*"Genuine love is a precious attribute of heavenly origin, which increases in fragrance in proportion as it is dispensed to others."*

OHC 231

## Christian Children of the Killing Fields

S or Phar is always writing her ABCs over and over in the little note book on her desk. Or maybe the ABCs are just a cover up for the beautiful lady with the fancy dress she's drawn on one corner of the page. Um So Pha is a very well behaved little girl and listens attentively. Rathana is very competitive, she always has to be the loudest in every answer she yells. But right now it Chun Thong that catches my attention - "What is this, Chun Thong?" I ask. He speaks from under his desk, thinking no one will ever find him. I try again, "Chun Thong, what is this?" Realizing I can see him, he slowly slips back onto his chair and shouts, "Mango, teacher!" The pre-schoolers are a real challenge to teach, but as I look into their big, brown, adoring eyes, it becomes worth it all!"



Margot Duroe teaching her children how to count.

First graders have a little better notion of what school is all about, but they are still full of energy. A little boy with beautiful olive skin, and a little dimple that lights up his many smiles, sits in the back row and never stops fidgeting. I look over in his direction and I can see he's not listening to a word I'm saying. "Sony, how do you spell green?" I ask. Several other students eagerly reply, "G-R-E-E-N!" I look around and smile while asking if we have five Sonys in the class, the children laugh and keep quiet while Sony tries to answer. Finally he

succeeds and flashes me one of his big smiles, the little dimple now seems bigger than ever!

As I enter my second grade class room, the children immediately jump up and wish me a "Good afternoon, teacher!" I smile while I return the greeting and set my books down on the desk. I turn and look at them through puzzled eyes. They are still standing patiently with their hands folded respectfully. Srey Keo then whispers, "Sit down, teacher, sit down." I suddenly remember my que and with a giggle, I ask them to sit down. They chant in return, "Thank you, teacher."

The second graders are a joy to teach and very fast learners. I can hardly keep up with them. We are all sorry when class has to come to a close. I ask Srey Neung to pray. I then sit in anticipation of the usual long prayers the dedicated young children so easily say. Before she starts, Sok Puon slips up onto my lap, Srey Leup grabs my hand and Suchia presses close while Srey Keo rests her forehead on my shoulder. Others gather around and in the heat and stickiness of the afternoon, they smother me, but it doesn't matter because their love is overwhelming me!



Margot Duroe served as an AVS student missionary in Cambodia for one year. She recently returned to Singapore to continue her studies at Southeast Asia Union College.

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*"Nothing tends more to promote health of body and of soul than does a spirit of gratitude and praise."*

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MH 251

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## Mad Cows, Mad People?

Mad cows make mad people, right! Well, that's the fear of some people during the recent scare over mad cow disease in Great Britain. Ten Brits got a disease similar to a cow disease – bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) – that make cows' brains spongy. The human form is Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD).

What is known about CJD? Very little. It's rare in humans – one in a million. But the unknown prompts fear. People called for every cow in England to be killed (the best way to eradicate such infections), and McDonald's restaurants tentatively stopped serving British beef.

All this for 10 cases. A *Washington Post* headline declares "Eating Cows Is the Real Madness." The writer, who's probably a vegetarian, says that the unknown "has created a scare far out of proportion to the available scientific evidence. It contrasts starkly with the mountainous amount of credible information on the health-care costs of meat sold and bought in every U.S. supermarket. Heart disease, cancer, hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and food-borne illnesses are among the medical blights directly associated with flesh-eating."\*

Incubation of CJD is three to 10 years, and its origin and transmission are unknown. Current research suggests BSE is primarily transmitted to beef cattle by farmers who feed cattle infested waste parts from sheep and goats. Feeding diseased animal parts is itself a tremendous risk, and farmers are forcing naturally vegetarian animals to become carnivorous – all to boost protein intake inexpensively.

If you are not a vegetarian, good reasons exist to become one. But this isn't the reason. Evidence simply is lacking that CJD is contracted by eating BSE-infested beef or drinking cow's milk. Yet, if I were a meat eater in a country in which a few thousand cows out of 11 million were infected, I'd probably stop eating beef.

Until real answers come from further research, this is a perfect time to tout the great alternative to animal meat: plant protein foods – God's original diet for good nutrition and disease-risk reduction. It's also backed by solid research, not fear.

Stoy Proctor, Associate Director, GC Health and Temperance Department  
\*Colman McCarthy, "Eating Cows Is the Real Madness," *Washington Post*, Apr. 9, 1996, p.D16

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