



The **SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION** Messenger

MITA (P) No. 108-05-96

July - December 1997



Granny Yong Touch of Cambodia was baptized by Pastor Robin Riches, President of SAUM. Story see page 3.

Contents

Perspective	1
Missions	
Cambodia	3
Sabah	7
Singapore.....	8-9
Thailand.....	10-11
Department (SAUM)	4-6
Hospital	12-13
SAUC	14
Tribute	15-16

The Secret of Victorious Living

When Jesus spoke with Nicodemus about being born again, He touched a sensitive spiritual nerve. No veneered religion, however attractive, will do. Real faith has to plunge deep beneath the surface, so deep beneath the surface, so deep that Jesus spoke of an entirely new life, one built upon a new birth.

Notice how this conflicts with contemporary values. Today's seeker is told that within one's self resides a vast storehouse of capacity waiting eagerly to be released. All sorts of systems are promoted to liberate the "real" us, including positive thinking, transcendental meditation, cosmic self-discovery, spiritual power pointing, horoscopic channelling, and a grab of psychological techniques touted by celebrities and the lesser known.

At the core of it all is a premise as old as a peril-ridden tree in Eden: that happiness and success, to say nothing of self-esteem, can be acquired and made to flow from within.

The Bible confirms the value of every person on the basis of a cosmos-wide status conferred by the Creator. The way God looks at us was confirmed by Jesus' coming among us at unthinkable sacrifice. "Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above," wrote the apostle James, "coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (James 1:17, RSV). The point? Personal worth is real, but it rests not in self, but from how our Creator values us. It's shown in how He made us and what He has done to rescue us--both Eden and Calvary. We are God's treasured creatures, destined to be heirs of His kingdom.

Victorious living is found only in a shift of spiritual paradigms, from rule-based spiritual service to a new walk in love, infinitely intimate, profoundly powerful. Like the unfettered wind moving its way through newly open chambers of the heart, God's Spirit occupies the lives of willing believers, taking command. At last Jesus is Lord.

How different the Christian life looks from the surrendered side. No longer driven by multiplied rules, obligations, opinions of others, or self-forgiving greed,

now we walk hand in hand with Jesus. He is tender, yet infinitely strong. Old guilt sloughs away in the presence of His grace. In response to our appeal, He steps in to become the master of all our lives, anointing us with His own righteousness, the same that restores us to fellowship with Him.

Old struggles lose their grip as they come under His power. Daily refreshed with prayer and Bible study, the believer grows ever more Christlike.

Grasp the picture: we the creatures of His hand, long runaways and aliens, now returned--not into some shallow, sentimental harmony, but for real, welcomed back into the kingdom of God. Now of grace, soon in glory.

Jesus assured Nicodemus that this alone leads to eternal life. The old battles of trying and failing to make oneself good are things past. The war that arose in heaven continues on earth, but now on the turf of the triumphant Jesus.

So does this mean temptation has been disarmed? No, but Someone else joins us in battle, One who has met the test and overcome every temptation. To the degree that we stay at His side we are victors.

Human frailty is still ours, and we are still less than we ought to be. But we have given Christ the wheel of our lives, and at every moment He retrieves us. Lapses may trouble us and provide Satan an opening to discourage us. But we will not accept them as normal, sheltering them with an excuse, for they are not normal. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

But doesn't each mistake in some way unravel the cord of acceptance by Christ? In the little book *Steps to Christ* Ellen White took on that question directly: "The character is revealed, not by occasional good deeds and occasional misdeeds, but by the tendency of the habitual words and acts" (pp. 57, 58).

What is the direction of our lives? Are we with Jesus? Then we are on the way to victorious living.

Robert S. Folkenberg, President
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

"Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (James 1:17, RSV).

Granny Gets Baptized

Granny Yong Touch had been a Buddhist her entire life. One day the 95-year-old grandmother joined her young grandson in attending the church in Tropeang Ampil Village. There she heard about a man named Jesus who could walk on water.

This story puzzled Granny. That night she dreamt she was standing on the banks of a deep river looking for a way to cross it without a boat. Suddenly a man in white clothes appeared beside her and asked, "Do you really want to cross the river?"

"Yes," answered Granny firmly.

"You can cross the river if you believe," the man said kindly. "Follow me." To her amazement, he walked on the water just as Jesus had in the story. Granny followed the man in white and soon she too was walking on the water!

The next Sabbath the old woman met with Pastor Pen Narith and told him about her dream.

"You saw Jesus in your dream!" the pastor exclaimed.

With a humble heart, Granny reverently responded, "Now I will believe in the Christian God because He has power."

On June 21, 1997, Granny Yong Touch was baptized by Pastor Robin Riches in Tropeang Ampil Village. People in her village say she is too old for Christianity. In fact, they are already building a



FIG 1

coffin for her. But Granny says, "I only regret that I just found the true God after so many years. I may be old in years but I was only recently born again. I know that I will die soon, but I have the hope that when God comes, I will be raised back to life. Jesus has promised 'Whoever hears my words and believes in him who sent me has eternal life. He will not be judged, but has already passed from death to life.'" (John 5: 24, 25).

Now weak because of her age, Granny needs your prayers as she witnesses to her family about the power of God in her life.

Pastor Pen Narith

New Mission Director for Cambodia Mission

Dr. Bruce Bauer and his wife Linda arrived in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on September 5, 1997. Dr. Bauer is the new director for the Cambodia Mission.

Previously, Dr. Bauer taught for fifteen years in the Language School in Japan. For five years he was the President of the Guam/Micronesia Mission and for the last eight years he taught Missiology at Andrews University.

The Bauers have two married children and one grandchild.

The Bauers are replacing Elder M. Daniel Walter. Elder Walter had been the Cambodia Mission Director for the last four and half years and has recently accepted a call to be the Ministerial Secretary and Global Mission coordinator for the Southeast Asia Union Mission.



VOP Broadcasts Go Internet

The Voice of Prophecy can be heard anywhere if you have Internet access, a sound card, and external speakers. The necessary software (usually Real audio or Stremworks) can be downloaded free from the radio station's Web site carrying the broadcasts you want to hear.

Contact www.vop.com and access "Where You Can Hear Us." From there you can link any of several stations that broadcast VOP on the Internet.

Taken from Ministry November issue.

SAUM SS/LA Advisory and Congress

An SAUM SS/LA Advisory was held in Kuching, Sarawak, Sept. 9-11, 1997. One of the major decisions made during the advisory was to train 2000 lay leaders by the year 2000. The breakdown of the number of laypersons trained by Missions is as follows:

Cambodia Mission	60
Peninsular Malaysia Mission	70
Sabah Mission	650
Sarawak Mission	650
Singapore Mission	70
Thailand Mission	300
Total	2000

The SAUM SS/LA Advisory was followed by a Congress from Sept. 11 to 14, 1997. A total of 330 registered delegates from all over the Union territory attended. On Sabbath, Sept. 13, the total attendance exceeded 1,000 because members of the nearby churches came to participate.



On Sabbath afternoon, the most outstanding laymen were honoured with gold pins.

William Ch'ng, from Singapore, has supported God's work with his time, talents and business resources. He was influential in establishing the "Van Ministry" in Singapore. He is active in the Health and Community Services. He was also the prime mover in the building of a 2 million-dollar church in Jurong, western part of Singapore. Recently he was appointed the president of the ASI chapter in the SSD territories.

Ee Kim, age 42, from Cambodia, was chosen as the most outstanding layman from Cambodia. He lives in Takeo, 70 kilometres from Phnom Penh. He has brought 20 people to Christ during the past years. In addition, he worked with Sunday church groups and led 15 of them to the Adventist truth.

Dr. Chen Yu Ghee, from Kulim, Peninsular Malaysia, is the prime leader in establishing two churches--the Penang Adventist Hospital and the other is the Kulim, where he has his private clinic.

Abong Ganing, a church elder from the Ng Ejit Church in Julau, Sarawak, has led 80 people to baptism during the past two years.

Jackson Minda, a church elder from the Pasir Nanga Church, Sarawak, was instrumental in pioneering new work in two new territories in his area. He has won 60 souls to Christ during the past two years.

Rodney Ranyis, is an elder from the Kg. Pasir Church, Serian, Sarawak. As school teacher at the Government aided school, he uses the VOP lessons to give Bible studies. He has led 40 students to Christ during the past two years.

Mr. Gideon Gumar was chosen as the most outstanding layman from Sabah Mission. It is reported he has led about 120 people to Christ during the past years.

*Pastor Samuel Money
Sabbath School/Personal Ministry*

The Publishing Work in Thailand

The publishing work in Thailand has gone through some difficult times in recent years. This was mainly due to a lack of experienced leadership. Pastor and Mrs. Diosdado Corpuz recently arrived in Thailand from the Philippines where he will lead out as the publishing leader for this large country with 60 million people.



Pastor Corpuz is a dedicated, committed, "pure-bred" publishing leader. He started as a literature evangelist more than 38 years ago, and in due time became a leader. Mrs. Corpuz is a teacher by profession. The Church is glad to have the Corpuzes working for God in Thailand and welcome them as members of the team in the Southeast Asia Union and Thailand Mission!

*A. J. Oberholster, Director
Literature Ministry Department*

Stewardship Leaders Training Workshops

Training and equipping selected stewardship leaders from the districts in Sarawak and Sabah was the goal set by the two Mission stewardship departments.

The Mission stewardship director will arrange and coordinate the district stewardship workshops for the members. These workshops will be assisted by those trained stewardship leaders. They will also be expected to conduct the workshops themselves in the local churches.



Stewardship Leadership Training Workshop in Sabah



Stewardship Leadership Training Workshop in Sarawak

Two training workshops were conducted for about 25 selected stewardship leaders in Sarawak on March 21-23 and April 27, and one in Sabah for 8 leaders on Sept. 26-28. Topics covered for these training workshops were Christian Stewardship, Gospel Finance, God's Remnant Church With a World Mission and Last Days Message, SDA Church Tithe and Offerings Plan, Mission Financial Self-Sufficiency, Local Church Strategic Planning and Financial Budgeting, and Family Money Management. The participants received thorough instructions on these areas of stewardship emphasis. They will later assist the Mission stewardship directors or even conduct

workshops on SDA Tithe and Offering Plan, Local Church Budgeting and Family Budgeting themselves.

Joshua Mok, Stewardship Director

SAUM World Ministers' Councils

About 120 pastors and their wives from Sabah, Sarawak, and the Union office gathered at the Mission Retreat Centre at Kundasang, Sabah from August 5 to 9, 1997 and another 100 from Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, and Singapore gathered at Thep-Pra-Tan Park View Resort, Thailand from August 12-16, 1997 to seek spiritual inspiration, Christian fellowship, and to learn new ideas of preaching the gospel.

Inspirational talks and training sessions were presented by experienced personnel from the General Conference: A Church Without Laymen--Rex Edwards; Sexual Ethics for Church Professionals--Joel



Sabah WMC in Mission Retreat Centre

and Magarida Sarli; Making the Bible a Delight and Saving Our Children--Virginia Smith; Motivating and Training of Laity--Joel Sarli; Family Evangelism--Adly Compos; The Ministry of Risk Management--Mervyn Leicester; Issues in the Church--William Johnson (Thailand only); Righteousness by Faith--Athal Tolhurst (Thailand only); Charismatic and Tongue--Athal Tolhurst (Thailand only)

Separate meetings were coordinated by Mrs. Netty Rantung in the afternoons for the shepherdess dealing with topics like PK's in the parsonage, spiritual life for the pastor's wife, women's health issues, psychology of character development and family team. The climax was the Sabbath afternoon spiritual feast of testimonies and reports of global mission work by the representatives from the GC and from each mission. All were inspired and challenged to rededicate their lives to the finishing of the work in Southeast Asia.

Joshua Mok, Secretary, SAUM

The Walters

Long-time veteran missionaries Pastor and Mrs. Daniel Walter have joined the SAUM office family. Pastor Walter who served as president of the Sarawak Mission and the Cambodia Attached-District, is now the Ministerial and Global Mission director for the Union. Although Mrs. Dorothy Walter has been a department personnel of the Union for about five years, it is only now that she can work in her office for longer periods of time to do paper work and prepare her workshop and seminar materials! She continues to direct and coordinate the works for Child Evangelism, Women's Ministries, Family Ministries and Shepherdess for the Union.

50th Year VOP Celebration at SAUM

The VOP Head Office in California, USA sent a plaque to congratulate the Singapore VOP for its 50 years of service in SAUM.

Pastor Joshua Mok, SAUM Secretary gave away the plaque to Pastor Samuel Money in a simple ceremony attended by the SAUM staff.



Pastor Joshua Mok, SAUM Secretary giving away the plaque to Pastor Samuel Money.

Southern Asia-Pacific Division New Address

Be informed that beginning November 17, 1997, the Southern Asia-Pacific Division (acronym SSD, and to which our Southeast Asia Union belongs!) is operating from the new campus in the Philippines. Any correspondence to them should be addressed to the new location. Their new address is:

Southern Asia-Pacific Division
P O Box 040
Silang, Cavite 4118
Philippines

Operation English Class

Two 1000 Missionary Movement students were assigned to help Pastor Soonthorn Koonsawang minister to the needs of the many students who live in the Chiangmai SDA church compound dormitory. Wanting to do outreach and witnessing in the local community, the two missionaries decided to commence free English classes. The question was raised of how to inform the people that these classes would be held. Messages written on pieces of paper were distributed to the community near the church compound.

Opening day arrived and no-one turned up for the classes. Two days, then a week passed and still there was no interest in the English course being offered. What to do! It was realized that the information material had to be more formal. Nice cards were printed and distributed announcing the commencement of classes. God answered the many prayers that were offered as 15 non-SDA students enrolled. A group of 22 senior students, staying at the Thai Highlander Foundation heard about the English program and requested classes be taught for them too. So every night, Monday through Wednesday from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. classes are held in their dormitory hall.

This missionary endeavour continues and the two missionaries firmly believe that this program is one where the Holy Spirit is leading these people to come to know the Lord. They have been able to visit in the students' homes and share with them the joy of salvation. Please remember these students in your prayers as they will continue the wonderful experience they have of working for the Lord here in Thailand.



Some of the students of Ham Kwang Cheon

27th Sabah-wide Pathfinder Fair

Sabah Adventist Secondary School campus was the venue chosen by 1140 Pathfinders, comprising of 43 clubs from 16 zones, to participate in the 27th Sabah-wide Pathfinder Fair on the weekend from August 29-31, 1997. Worthy of a special mention is the first time presence of the Faithful, Crocker Range, and Cactus Clubs from Tambunan which is a new pastoral district. There are 84 Pathfinder Clubs in 21 zones in Sabah.

The theme of the Fair is: *We Serve, We Seek, We Save*. At the vesper service on the opening night, Pastor Nelder Sikul, the Mission Executive Secretary, stressed the need for youth to set their goals in life and make use of their talents for the Lord as they serve, seek and save. On Sabbath Pastor Lawrence Banyie, Youth



Director for Southeast Asia Union Mission, preached to one audience--mainly Pathfinders, and Pastor Escend Chong, the Mission Youth Director, preached to the other audience.

The Fair activities on Sunday was declared open by Pastor Lawrence Banyie. It began with a grand assembly of the Pathfinders from all over Sabah followed by a show of beautifully decorated floats which depicted the Fair theme. The Fair ended at 4 o'clock on Sunday afternoon.

James Lai, Communications Director, Sabah Mission

World Ministers' Council Held In Sabah

About 120 pastors and their wives from Sabah, Sarawak, and the Southeast Asia Union Office gathered at the Mission Retreat Centre at Kundasang from August 5 to 9. The purpose of the meeting was to seek spiritual inspiration and learn new ideas of presenting

the gospel.

The keynote address was presented by Pastor Violeto Bocala, president of the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. Inspirational talks and training sessions were presented by experienced personnel from the General



Conference such as Dr. Joel Sarli and Dr. Rex Edwards. In the afternoon, separate sessions were presented also by Adly Compos, Joyce Neergaard, Virginia Smith, Netty Rantung, and Barbara Folkenberg specially designed for the ministers' wives. Of special interest was the presence of Mrs. Barbara Folkenberg, the mother of our General Conference President.

James Lai, Communications Director, Sabah Mission

Educational Rally in Sabah

On August 23, an Educational Rally was held at Tenghilan Seventh-day Adventist Church for all the southern schools comprising of Sabah Training Primary School, Sabah Adventist Secondary School, Sekolah Rendah Advent Tenghilan, Sekolah Rendah Advent Kelawat, Sekolah Rendah Advent Rangalau, Sekolah Rendah Advent Gaur and Sekolah Rendah Advent Podos.

The Education Director for Sabah Mission, Mr. Nelon Bingku said that the purpose of the rally was to reinforce the need and awareness for Christian Education to the Adventist community. Sabah Mission operates twelve Elementary Schools and two Secondary Schools.

Special features included presentation of songs by the students of the respective schools and a special mention of the history of each schools which have produced workers not only in the mission fields but in the public service. A special message was given by Dr. Edmund Siagian, Director of Education for Southeast Asia Union.

James Lai, Communications Director, Sabah Mission

Amazing Facts Graduation and Celebration

About two hundred and fifty members came to Balestier Church from all churches in Singapore to witness the Amazing Facts Graduation on 7 June. Sixty-five Amazing Facts students had completed their first level of studies and were entitled to receive their first certificates and gift Bibles. There was much joy and praises to the Lord from members to see non-members coming to the service. There were congregational singing, special musical items, testimonies, and a message of salvation entitled: "By His Precious Blood" given by Pastor Samuel Money, Personal Ministries Director of SAUM.

The Amazing Facts campaign is the first phase of preparation for this coming December crusade. Members and pastors from all the churches are actively involved in this preparation effort. The flame of evangelism in our churches are glowing brightly again.



Amazing Facts student receiving certificate and gift Bible from Roxanna Lee

The second phase of preparation for the coming December crusade is through the multimedia presentation of "Discoveries in Prophecy" videos in all the churches from July to November, and at the same time encouraging members to purchase the videos to screen in their homes and invite their relatives, friends and neighbours to attend or to lend for viewing in the privacy of their homes. This preparation hopes to strengthen the convictions of the Amazing Facts students in the truths of Jesus Christ and at the same time cultivate more interest base for the crusade.

We are very excited about the great harvest in December.

Pastor Danson Ng, Coordinator, Evangelism and Personal Ministries

Scharffenberg Month

September 1997 can truly be called Scharffenberg Month. For a full four weeks, the good doctor of

preventive medicine went out with the pastors and the lay persons to meet the needs of the people of Singapore. Hundreds of lives were touched with the wonderful message of healing and "wellness." To the church members involved it was an eye opener--the multitudes were longing and thronging for the message. To the multitudes, the experiences were tremendous--many wishing that more of these programmes will be organized in the near future.

As this very important part of the Lord's work is continued, it is hoped that He will use everyone to reap the harvest that has been sown.

"We especially appreciate the efforts of all who have contributed in one way or another. Our heartfelt thanks to each of you," concluded Mr. Teo.

Bob Teo, Chairman, Adventist Better Living Centre

Adventist Better Living Centre Sets Up Fitness Gym in School

The San Yu Adventist School was the recipient of the Fitness Gym sponsored by the Adventist Better Living Centre. A Fitness Club was set up as an ECA for students to make use of the Gym and the response was overwhelming.

The Gym was opened on January 20, 1997. After each school day, students will spend one to two hours working out with the equipment. Each student has a program to follow and some students are so enthusiastic that they come four days in a week. The sponsorship of the Adventist Better Living Centre is to reach out to



the students in the school and it is hoped that through the using of the Gym equipment our students will be more physically fit.

Samuel Siew, Director, Adventist Better Living Centre

SAM and PEM Women's Retreat Sept 19-21, 1997

Despite the haze at PSI 200 (Pollution Standard Index 100 is considered as unhealthy), 28 ladies from Singapore and 11 from Penang braved their way to Pulau Besar, Melaka for a retreat organized by the Women's Ministries Department of Singapore Adventist Mission.

The ladies gained invaluable insights as they listened spellbound to their various speakers:

1. Mrs. Netty Rantung (SSD Shepherdess) on how to hold fast to the promises of God and to be faithful to Him.

2. Dr. Sally Phoon (Assistant Academic Dean of SAUC) on how to communicate heart-to-heart with their husbands.

3. Mrs. Brenda Flemmer (secretary, SSD Education Department) on the trends of the 21st century, warning especially of the New Age Movement.

4. Mrs. Dorothy Walter (Women's Ministries Director of SAUM) on women's leadership in the community, church, and military, her Bible example of Deborah captivated the crowd.

5. Mrs. Maria Wong (Colour Consultant) on how to look presentable by knowing your colour.

All the ladies returned home satisfied, eager to meet again in Chiangmai.*

Reported by Kathleen Pauner

*The SSD and NSD have planned a bi-Division Women's Convention in July 2-5, 1998 at Chiangmai. For more information you may contact Mrs. Dorothy Walter, Women's Ministries Director of SAUM, or Mrs. Kathleen Pauner, Women's Ministries Coordinator of Singapore Adventist Mission.



Group picture taken in front of the beautiful Pandanusa Island Resort.

Her God is Real

Swee Huat was born into a Buddhist family. His mother was and still is a devout Buddhist. Since young he followed his mother to worship at many temples more out of filial piety than religious conviction. After he left home to pursue his tertiary education he became an atheist. He concentrated his energies in building up his career and exercising for good physical health.

Ruth, his wife for 18 years, however has been an Adventist since her youth. Before and after their marriage they had numerous discussions and arguments over religions and Christianity. He continued to be a non believer. In the meantime Ruth faithfully brings her children to church and prays for him.

In early 1997, Swee Huat agreed to start reading the Bible and to take Bible lessons from Pastor Fanwar. Each Monday evening Pastor and Mrs. Fanwar would go to his house to conduct Bible lessons. Finally he was convinced that the God of his wife is real and he gave himself to the Lord. He was baptized on Nov. 29,

1997 at the SAUC Church. In his testimony before his baptism, Swee Huat related how he found that building a successful career and good physical health need to be complemented by spiritual health. He also admitted that "This time my wife wins; this is one thing I am happy to lose."

Reported by Kathleen Pauner



Ho Swee Huat was baptized by Pastor Fanwar.

Not Clear! Not Clear!

"Ot ch'bah! Ot ch'bah!" Not clear! Not clear! How I hated hearing those words. They were worst than useless. But many of the Khmer people had never had vision care before and in their innocence they supposed that the first lenses I put in front of their eyes would give them perfect vision. "Not clear! Not clear!" was the natural response. What I needed to hear was a simple "Yes" or "No" to my simple question, "Is this better?"



Not Clear! Dr. Hearn fitting eyeglasses

We were working in a beautiful rural setting shaded by banana trees with the lovely Elephant Mountains as a backdrop. As a retired optometrist, I had collected about 1500 pair of used eyeglasses and had come with my wife to this troubled country. Carol is working full time developing a Khmer-English hymnal and on weekends comes with me to the villages to dispense the glasses that I prescribe.

At best it is a primitive examination. My teachers in optometry school would be shocked if they could see how crude the tests are, but their faces would light up as ours do when some see clearly for the first time in their lives.

This Sunday, we had worked all morning in the little village of Kampong Spue, then ridden for two dreadful hours in a tough little Toyota pickup over unbelievably bumpy roads to a second village where we had been told there would be four or five more people needing vision care. When we arrived late in the afternoon there were fifty people waiting for us! How graciously they greeted us with cool water and freshly picked coconuts.

I knew it would be impossible to see all of these people. We had to get back to Phnom Penh before dark. As we hurried, frustration and fatigue suddenly

overwhelmed me and when I heard those counterproductive words of the hundredth time, "Ot ch'bah!" I said in my heart, "Sweetie, I'll show you 'Not clear!'" And I put a powerful minus lens in front of her eyes!

Suddenly her face lit with surprise and joy and she exclaimed, "Ch'bah, Ch'bah!" For the first time in her life she could see! God had somehow worked a little miracle for both of us and led me to an impossible lens that was a miracle of sight for her.

As Carol searched for a pair of eyeglasses with the woman's strong prescription and placed them on her face, she stood and marvelled at the sight. In all of her 50 years she had not known that it was possible to see like this: individual leaves on trees, faces of friends and loved ones in all their beauty and expression, and the clouds in the sky, not just white blobs but lovely fleecy things with definite shapes. She stood still with hands clasped and looked and looked.

As we said good-bye, we thanked God that we are able to help some people see a little better. Pray with us that we can not only give people better physical vision but give them also a glimpse of a God who loves and cares for each one.

Carol and Dick Hearn

Going Home

"Pa! Pa!" the little girl shouted when she finally spotted her father in the crowd and, beaming, she broke into a run which carried her into his open arms.

On Monday, July 21, 1997, 9-year-old Yuri was reunited with her parents on the Thai/Cambodian border. The little girl was attending primary school in the capital when the fighting broke out in Phnom Penh so could not return to her home in the northern town of Samrong.



Children from the International Children's Care

Several Cambodia and Thailand SDA Mission staff members drove nearly six hours from Bangkok to the border, planning to meet her father, Pastor Chhum Samithy, stranded in Samrong about 23 miles from Thailand. However, he did not reach the border as planned so the group returned to Bangkok.

The following day, the team contacted Pastor Samithy and learned the CPP troops had surrounded Samrong. He could not leave his house, even to receive medicine for his son who was suffering from dengue fever, because of the chaos and confusion.

One day later, Pastor Samithy evacuated 18 children from the ICC (International Children's Care) orphanage he worked for, his family members, and 5 church builders. The group fled to the border in the Mission's pickup truck and trailer which Gary Rogers (church builder for the Mission) left behind when he went to the Thai border several weeks earlier. With funding provided by Denzil McNelius, he had just completed building a new church in Samrong and also added a new classroom for the orphanage.

Because fighting divided the country and planes were not flying to nearby cities, young Yuri flew to Bangkok with a Mission staff member. At midnight, on hearing that the orphans and crew were out of Samrong and waiting at the border, the Mission team in Bangkok sped back to Osmach, a border town, this time with Yuri in the vehicle. Early the next morning, they met with the Thai/Khmer Cooperation officers and other border officials who pitied the little girl being separated from her family and allowed her to be reunited with them. At the same time, through the officer's cooperation, the team was able to hand over medicine for the son, very weak now, as well as food supplies, canvas for tents, ground sheets, mats, and mosquito nets.

Several days later, the Thai government opened the border and allowed this group to cross into Thailand to a refugee camp several kilometres from the fighting in Osmach. After a week in the camp, the group finally received permission from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of both the Thai and Cambodian governments to return to Cambodia through Poipet, a border crossing to the south. After reentering their homeland at Poipet, the 30 people continued the 12-hour drive down to Phnom Penh. They travelled perched on top of a tarp covering the back of the pickup and trailer which carried all their earthly belongings and several sacks of rice.

On Tuesday, September 9, 1997, the 18 orphans

journeyed to their new home in Kampong Thom, accompanied by Don Beveridge, from ICC-Asia Pacific. Pastor Samithy and his family have returned north in an attempt to reestablish their home and orphanage in Samrong.

Praise God, this story has a happy ending. But military forces are still battling in the northwestern section of Cambodia. Please continue to pray for the 22,000 refugees waiting in the camps, exposed daily to malaria and other diseases.

New Offset Presses for Thailand Publishing House

On 27 October 1997 Thailand Publishing House bought a new HAMADA E 47NP jobbing offset press which costs one million four hundred thirty thousand baht only (Baht 1,430,000.00). This is part of the continuous machinery upgrading programme of the Publishing House.

The offset press has:

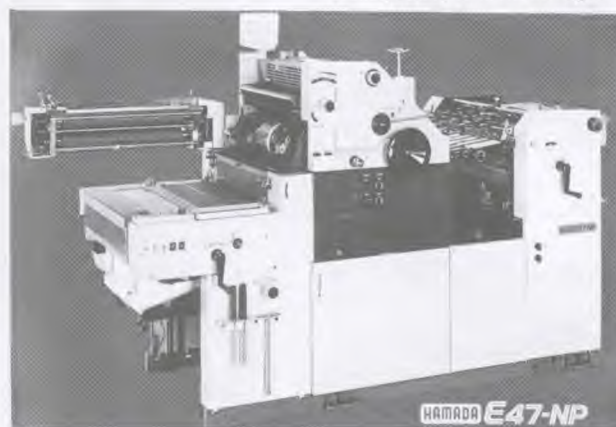
1. a maximum image area of 454 x 345 mm.
2. minimum sheet size of 90 x 140 mm.
3. maximum sheet size of 470 x 365 mm.
4. speed range from 3,000-9,000 (iph) impression per hour.
5. a numbering and a perforating section.

This press can print, number and perforate simultaneously. This means that printing will be faster and cost reduced.

Thanks go to Southern Asia Pacific Division, Southeast Asia Union, Review and Herald, and Adventist Frontier Mission for making it possible for us to purchase this offset press.

We look forward to serving you with more efficiency.

Johnny Rueh, General manager



Walkathon

The Bangkok Adventist Hospital and Mission College organized a joint walkathon on June 28, 1997. The event was organized to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the BAH, and the 50th Anniversary of the Mission College Faculty of Nursing.

The event was officially opened by the Deputy Governor of the Bangkok Metropolitan, Dr. Kachit Chupanya. Almost 1,000 persons, from many organizations participated.

The deputy governor in his opening address, praised the individuals who organized the event. He also commended the BAH and the Mission College for actively participating in community services for the welfare of the people. He challenged the people to follow the example that had been shown, to make the city of Bangkok a more attractive place to live in, and to improve the quality of the life of the people.

After a short break, during which breakfast was served to all participants, students from the Mission College, led again by the brass band, marched for the kilometre towards the open market near the hospital. Placards and banners were carried, and leaflets distributed, informing the people on the dangers of aids and drug abuse.



L-R: Miss Laor Panvichien, Mrs. Udomsri Palatraksa, Mrs. Salinee Navamaratna, and Mr. T. Y. Billones receiving the donations.

Mr. Billones, President of the BAH, thanked all participants and especially Dr. Kachit for supporting the event. The Walkathon was a great success, in not only raising funds for the Christian Medical Foundation, but also informing the public that BAH and Mission College cared for the quality of life of the community.

*Lee Chin Beng, Business Manager
Mission College, Bangkok Campus*

Anniversary Celebrations of Bangkok Adventist Hospital and Mission College

The grand joint celebrations of the 60th Anniversary of the Bangkok Adventist Hospital and the 50th Anniversary of the Mission College Faculty of Nursing were celebrated in a week-long extravaganza from June 9-15, 1997. The auspicious occasion was graciously presided over by Rear Admiral Vitura Sangsingkeo, MD, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Public Health. Colourful balloons carrying a beautiful banner announcing the occasion was released by the Rear Admiral into the sky.

In his key-note address, Dr. Vitura said that he had known Bangkok Adventist Hospital for a long time for its fine reputation and for its outstanding contribution in the fields of health promotion and health education. He reiterated that PAH should not be contented with the present successes, but should look forward to achieving even greater successes in the years to come. The BAH choir, led by Dr. Polbert Diaz, VP Medical, then sang a beautiful song, "Thank You Lord". The opening ceremony was festive, yet sober.

Morning worship talks throughout the week were given by our pioneers. They related many stories of miracles in their early years. The stories brought joy and tears as they related God's countless blessings upon the hospital. They also recounted stories of the personnel who sacrificed and endured hardship during the war while required to operate the hospital on their own. Mr. Marvin Baldwin, former President of BAH in the 60's, and Mr. Komol Santimalapong, former Assistant Treasurer of BAH in the 60's, recommended that BAH/MC do not look back and be satisfied with their past glories, but to look forward with renewed vision to face the challenges in the years to come.

Beautiful music renditions also marked the celebration. Dr. Elvie Villanueva, BAH Surgeon, invited the Coo's family from the Philippines to present a musical concert, entitled "Moods and Melodies." Other special music was brought by the talented family of Nida Asumbrado-Roquiz, and others from the BAH family.

A grand joint Anniversary Banquet celebration was organized on June 12, 1997. Almost one thousand people attended including the illustrious first graduating class of 1950. More than US\$10,000.00 was raised that evening. It was stated in the key-note address by Pr. Robin D. Riches, President of the Southeast Asia Union Mission, that in spite of BAH's past

successes, there remains a challenge. There is increased competition from newer and larger hospitals. Patients expectations are higher than any time in the past for greater quality care, for highly trained professional personnel, and for the latest in medical technology. Bangkok Adventist Hospital and Mission College Faculty of Nursing should commit themselves to maintaining their places in the forefront of the changes that are taking place. Pastor Riches congratulated the management and staff of the BAH and Mission College for their 60 years and 50 years of distinctive service to the people of Thailand.

The culmination of the week-long celebration was the graduation exercise of Mission College on Sunday,



Standing front row: Dr. Siriporn Tantipoonvinal (2nd), Rear Admiral Dr. Vitura (3rd), Mr. T. Y. Billones (4th), Mrs. Nursia Supanavong (5th)

June 15, 1997. The much beloved Princess Somsawalee of Thailand came to the Mission College, Bangkok campus to present diplomas to the graduates. The princess congratulated all graduates for choosing the nursing career and challenged each one to do his or her best for the benefit of the country.

Mr. T. Y. Billones, President of Bangkok Adventist Hospital, and Dr. Siriporn Tantipoonvinal, President of Mission College, stated that with the anniversary celebrations, they had reached an important milestone and a hallmark in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist work in Thailand. Pastor Robert S. Folkenberg, President of the General Conference in his faxed message of congratulations said, "Your world church is proud of what you have accomplished. And we want to challenge you now, not to look just at the past, but develop a vision for the future and expand the potential which you have. Let the example of Christ who is the Great Healer motivate everything that you do. As people come to you for medical care and

treatment, continue to use every opportunity to share with them the good news of salvation, thus fulfilling the commission of Christ to take the gospel to all people."

*Lee Chin Beng, Business Manager
Mission College Bangkok Campus*

Helen Jane Sprengel (Tarasenko), RN, Ph.D.

In the early 1900's, Dr. Helen's parents emigrated from Russia and settled in North Dakota where Helen was born and reared. She attended Sheyenne River Academy and continued up the educational ladder with the completion of a Ph.D. from the University of Santa Barbara. While a senior student at Glendale Adventist Hospital School of Nursing, she met and later married Reuben A. Sprengel, MD. They have two married daughters, Kaye Whitney, R.P.T. and Jean Rogers, MD.

Dr. Helen's career had taken her to many parts of the world and had occasioned many diverse and creative contributions from her energetic mind. In 1958 the Sprengels accepted a call to Bangkok Adventist Hospital where for eight years Dr. Reuben served as Chief of OB/GYN services and Dr. Helen as Director of Nursing Service and instructor in the School of Nursing. During this time she also pioneered and directed the School of Practical Nursing. She was credited with raising over \$3,000,000 for the College.

Dr. Helen also taught classes at the College in addition to her many other duties. She would leave Bangkok Adventist Hospital at 4:00 a.m. arriving at Mission College, Muak Lek, in time for class at 8:00 p.m. by using taxis, public bus or train, and even motorcycles.

She was asked to add to her duties the position of Education Superintendent of SDA schools for Thailand. This involved over a dozen schools with nearly 5,000 students enrolled, all designed to meet government standards. The English Language Schools of Thailand were lacking a director. To keep them functioning until a director could be found, Dr. Helen added that to her responsibility for many months.

Hats off to an outstanding person! What a credit she has been to what Adventist women can accomplish when they give themselves unreservedly in the hands of God for unselfish service.

Lee Chin Beng, Mission College Bangkok

SAUC's Last Alumni Weekend

SAUC hosted her last alumni homecoming weekend over August 7-10, 1997. Many alumni, some who studied on this campus as far back as the 1940s, were on hand to reminisce. The programme started on Thursday night with fun games at the quadrangle.

Friday night Vespers saw Jeremy Low ('76) who returned from Hong Kong to reminisce his student days of bell-bottom pants and philosophy of work, and as a business teacher. Madge Tan ('71) presented a gasping "walk down memory lane" slide show.

The college Lecture Hall was packed on Sabbath morning when the Singing Men led by Simon Sim presented Sabbath School with slides, many songs as they recalled their special moments at SAUC. Fred Long (59) later taught the Sabbath School lesson.



There were four alumni participating in the Divine Service. Edwin Sormin ('64) learned Christian qualities such as integrity and safe sex at SAUC! Telly Ku-Yong ('71) came from Indonesia to study in Singapore with no particular school in mind but somehow the Singapore Immigration "assigned" her to study in the SDA School. To her, SAUC is an acronym for School Always Uplifting Christ. Dr. Andy Ng (75) spelt SAUC with LOVE. L= the Church as a Loving family. O=outreach opportunities SAUC offers, V= veneration with which SAUC is held by her alumni, and E= empowerment by the Holy Spirit for the truth to be witnessed. Madge Tan presented the legacy of SAUC which has educated three generations of her family.

The International Cultural Show commenced at 8 pm on Saturday with a stirring march-in of national flags. SAUC has always enjoyed a wide diversity of nationalities and cultures on her campus. The various ethnic dances and songs were a grand extravaganza of glorious colours and much excitement especially from the unique Japanese "cheer boys" and the beautiful Chinese fan dance.

The 1997 Alumni Homecoming Weekend closed with the International Food Fair on Sunday, August 10. It was declared open when Pastor Daniel Tan, SAUC's longest serving president, cut the ribbon and rang the school bell.

This may have been SAUC's last alumni homecoming weekend but our SDA college in Singapore will continue to live on forever in the hearts of her alumni.

Shirley Doo, Chair, English Dept. SAUC

SAUC 1997 Graduation

A very special group of SAUC students pledged to go forth with Colossians 3:23 as they begin the next phase of their life. On November 22, 1997 Southeast Asia Union College proudly graduated 27 students. The biggest group, 18 strong, graduated in Business Administration. The Business Department could also boast of Tjan Ling Ling, who graduated magna cum laude. Three graduates completed their degree in Teaching English as a Second Language. Both the Office Administration and Theology Departments had 2 graduates each. Adelyn Poh graduated magna cum laude for her Bachelor of Theology degree. There was one Computer Information Systems graduate and one Education graduate.



Among the proud parents and alumni present at SAUC's second last graduation was Dr. Ng Gan Theow, Dean of AIIAS Theological Seminary in the Philippines, who was also the baccalaureate speaker on Sabbath morning. Bring well-wishes from Walla Walla College which has enjoyed an affiliation with SAUC, was Dr. JoAnn Wiggins, Professor of Business, who was the commencement speaker on Saturday night.

Shirley Doo, Chair, English Dept. SAUC

Gertrude Green, RN, MS

Gertrude Green has capably and enthusiastically served in mission service for 52 years, ten in China and 42 in Bangkok, Thailand. She began her life in Rochester, New York and her education as a nurse at the New England Sanatorium. She continued studying at Columbia University, New York, and Boston University, Boston, where she completed her MS in Nursing, followed by postgraduate work in Midwifery.

In 1941, Dr. Harry Miller invited Miss Green to join the work in Yeng Cheng, North Central China. She began with one year of language study. The first five years were troubled dodging the Japanese, even though they had many, many students to teach. They tried to escape the country. Most of the railroads had been destroyed, as were their belongings, so they travelled by boat and overland carriage.

In spite of the turmoil, they were allowed to continue their work for another five years during which time Dr. Miller opened another hospital which ultimately became the second largest in China. Miss Green was in charge of the nursing service. She said: "It was terrible! But we had one miracle after another from God!"

Following the ten years of war and escape, Miss Green was called to Bangkok Adventist Hospital to become the Director of the School of Nursing and Nursing Service. Since Thailand required its graduate nurses to also be educated in Midwifery, Miss Green then became the Director of Midwifery. Altogether, she served Thailand for 42 years!

On June 12, 1997, the Midwifery Department Building was named "The Gertrude Green Building" in honour of Miss Green. She also has been named Honoured Alumna of Atlantic Union College, Columbia Union College, and listed in the Hall of Fame for the Adventist Nurses' Association.

The missionaries who worked with Gertrude Green



Miss Gertrude Green

considered her a colleague and a friend, always willing to help, always alert and caring about others. Her students respected her as a dynamic teacher and leader. She shopped for her staff like they were her children and she called them "her girls". Now that she is retired and living in the United States, she lives alone for she has no immediate family. She gave her all to missions! God Bless you, Gertrude!

Lim Chin Beng, Business Manager

Mrs. Salinee Navamaratna

Mrs. Salinee Navamaratna was one of the students in the first graduating class of Bangkok Adventist Hospital School of Nursing in 1950. She has worked in the same hospital and the School of Nursing until her retirement in 1995. Mrs. Salinee received her BS degree from Philippine Union College, and her MS degree from Loma Linda University.

Mrs. Salinee was a nurse par excellence, and was the Director/President of the School of Nursing, now known as Mission College Faculty of Nursing, from 1963 to 1995. She led, developed, and nurtured the School of Nursing to become one of the best educational institutions in Thailand, offering a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. The graduates, well accepted wherever they go, holding leadership positions in the organizations wherever they serve, are testimonies to the excellent leadership Mrs. Salinee had manifested to the college.

In 1988, Mrs. Salinee engineered the conversion of the diploma program to baccalaureate program, thus, the establishing the Mission College. With her foresight, she obtained the license to operate a multi-faculty college. She envisioned that in the near future, Mission College would be able to offer many other courses other than Nursing, where our young people could be trained for denominational work. Her dream became a reality in 1990, when the establishment of Mission College Muak Lek Campus, was approved by the Ministry of University Affairs, and had the programs accredited a few years later.

In 1993, Mrs. Salinee Navamaratna received three awards for her outstanding achievements, as follows:

1. Nurse of the Year Award in Nursing Education from the Nursing Council of Thailand.
2. Meritorious Award from the Bangkok Adventist Hospital.
3. Educator of the Year Award from the Thailand Mission.

In 1995, Mission College was given the coveted "College of the Year" award for academic excellence by the National Academic Council of Thailand.

In 1989, she received an honour pin and citation from the Ministry of Social Welfare of Thailand for her contributions to the community.

Her contribution to the nursing profession in Thailand has brought honours not only to Mission College, but also to the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a whole.

After serving the denomination for 50 years, Mrs. Salinee retired in July 1995, leaving a legacy that the next generation of leaders can well emulate.

As a tribute to the self-sacrificing spirit, manifested by Mrs. Salinee Navamaratna, and for her dedication to the medical work in Thailand, the Administration of the Mission College named the auditorium in the college as *Salinee Navamaratna Auditorium* in her honor. The unveiling of the name plaque was performed on June 12, 1997 by Mrs. Salinee herself. Well done, Mrs. Salinee. We are proud of you.



Lee Chin Beng, Business Manager
Mission College Bangkok Campus

News from SAUC

Dr. Lily Wong, chair of the education department of Southeast Asia Union College, was invited to visit Xiaman, Zhangpu and Beijing to provide advice to the Chinese principals and the Chinese government official on early childhood education at the above three localities from Dec. 7 to 12, 1997.

Dr. Sally Phoon, academic dean of Southeast Asia Union College, since October 1, 1997 recently has been voted by the Association for Theological Education in South East Asia (ATESEA) to be the secretary to the Commission on Women in Theological Education from 1998 to 2001. She is also called upon to serve in the Commission in Divorce and Remarriage of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in 1998.

Dr. Sally Phoon has been selected for listing in the forthcoming 15th edition of the Marquis *Who's Who in the World*.

SOUTHEAST ASIA UNION MISSION

• TEL: (65) 284-7281 • FAX: (65) 284-7757

DIRECTORY

President, ADRA R. D. Riches
Secretary, ASI, Stewardship, Joshua W. Mok
Trust Services
Treasurer, Retirement Thomas J. Massengill
Auditors Steven Goh, Eddie Heng
Youth, Health/Temperance Lawrence Banyie
Ministerial Secretary Dan Walter
Global Mission
VOP, Personal Ministry Samuel Money
Sabbath School
Publishing, Spirit of Prophecy .. A. J. Oberholster
Education, Communication Edmund Siagian
Family, Women, Dorothy Walter
Children Ministries, Shepherdess

Local Mission Directory

CAMBODIA. Box 488, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
TEL: (855-23) 368-082 FAX: (855-23) 428-201
Director Bruce Bauer
Secretary Van Thorn Nhem
Treasurer Reno Ng

PENINSULAR MALAYSIA. 22-1 Jalan 2/114,
Kuchai Business Centre, Jalan Kuchai Lama,
58200 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
TEL: (03) 784-7795 FAX: (03) 784-4600
President David Leoh
Secretary Francis Lajanim
Treasurer Lai Swee Chan

SABAH. Box 7, 89257 Tamparuli, Sabah,
Malaysia
TEL: (088) 782-346 FAX: (088) 782-240
President Mansor Ginging
Secretary Nelver Sikul
Treasurer Lim See Him

SARAWAK. Box 41, 93700 Kuching, Sarawak,
Malaysia
TEL: (082) 242-340 FAX: (082) 242-343
President Edmund Liah
Secretary Gilbert Tan
Treasurer Clara Ho

SINGAPORE. 90 Jurong East St 13, Singapore
609648
TEL: (65) 561-0022 FAX: (65) 562-4923
President Matthew Yuen
Secretary Toh See Wai
Treasurer John S. K. Ho

THAILAND. Box 11-234 Prakanong, Bangkok
10110 Thailand. TEL: (662) 391-0525 FAX:
(662) 381-1424
President Rungsit Satayawaksakool
Secretary Boonrat Moolkeo
Treasurer Solomon Agdon

VIETNAM. 224 Phan Dang Luu, Phu Nhuan, Ho
Chi Minh City, Vietnam. TEL: (848) 440-179
FAX: (848) 447-602
Acting President & Secretary Tran Cong Tan
Treasurer Duong Thuong

Institutional Directory

COLLEGES
Mission College Siriporn Tantipoonvinae
Southeast Asia Union College Phoon Chek Yat

HEALTH FOOD
Mission Health Food Company

HOSPITALS
Bangkok Adventist Hospital T. Y. Billones
Penang Adventist Hospital Ken Rose (Acting)
Phuket Adventist Hospital Rapecpan
Wangchumtong

PUBLISHING HOUSES
Southeast Asia Publishing House Peter Wong
Thailand Publishing House Johnny Ruch

EDITORIAL STAFF

editor Joshua W Mok
assistant editor
& layout Kathleen Pauner
circulation manager Lucy Ho

PUBLISHER Joshua W Mok

Views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily represent those of the editors or the Seventh-day Adventist Church. **Messenger** is produced quarterly by the Southeast Asia Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists. Letters, inquiries and manuscripts are welcome and should be directed to The Editors, **Messenger**, 251 Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore 347688.

Printing by Thailand Publishing House