

The



*Southeast Asia  
Union Mission*

# MESSENGER

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Literature evangelists and leaders at the Convention, Genting View Resort, Feb. 18-21, 1998

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## EXPERIENCE

# THE POWER OF HIS WORD

The General Conference has chosen the following themes starting 1997 till 2000.

1997 - "Experience the Joy of Salvation"

1998 - "Experience the Power of His Word"

1999 - "Experience the Unity of Christian Family"

2000 - "Experience the Reality of His Coming"

This year our focus of emphasis is on "Experiencing the Power of His Word"!

It was the first Easter Sunday afternoon, two disciples of Jesus left Jerusalem heading towards Emmaus, a village about 11 kilometers away. They were talking about everything that had happened. They were quite discouraged and were doubtful of what they had heard about the resurrection of their Master. As they talked and discussed, Jesus came up, walked along and joined them in their discussions. They did not recognize Him. Sensing and seeing their despondency, Jesus gave them a Bible study. Beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.

As they approached the village, they invited Jesus to stay for the night. While at the table, their eyes were opened and they recognized Him but He suddenly disappeared. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" Should this not also be the experience we all must have as we open the Scriptures and let Jesus speak to us? This can be our daily experience provided we heed the gentle scolding of Jesus to the two disciples. He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart not to believe all that the prophets have spoken!"

A complete and implicit trust in the Bible is absolutely necessary for us to experience His power in our lives. "For the Word of God is living and active (powerful), sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Heb 4:12).

Let us then diligently study the Scriptures daily testify about Jesus and come to Him to have life (John 5: 39-40) for the Scriptures are able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Tim 3:15)

Joshua W Mok, Editor

## SURVIVORS

"They're alive? That's impossible!" the man said shaking his head in disbelief at the mangled metal of the wrecked car. "How could anyone survive an accident like this?" Yet all five people journeying back in that car from Kompong Som, a beautiful sandy beach located in the southwestern part of Cambodia where a countrywide Pathfinder camporee was held, survived.

Nhem Van Thorn and Cheam Sithy, CAM Pathfinder director and accountant respectively, were returning with Ravy, Dara and Pev, three teenagers from the camporee. They were exhausted from the fun and tiring week long camp. The youth were sleeping in the back seat while Sithy was fighting hard to keep awake for Van Thorn who was driving. But eventually Sithy too succumbed to fatigue and dozed off. He awoke with a start when he heard a loud noise. The car had gone off the road!

"Van Thorn!" Sithy shouted.

Sithy tried his best to hold onto the steering wheel but it was too late. He overcorrected, sending the car down off the road. It rolled twice on the way down the embankment, landing upright. The momentum sent the car back up the hill but the embankment was so steep that the car simply rolled back down again. The car again landed on all four tires.

Then they heard the sound of crunching metal as the car, still moving, smashed into a tree trunk. The impact was so hard that the car did a 180 degree turn around the tree, flinging two of the backseat passengers out of the vehicle.

For the third time, the car landed upright. And providentially for Dara, he would have been under the car had it continued to roll.

Van Thorn, with his seat belt still on, was unconscious. Sithy felt a sharp pain in his left shoulder and back but was still able to move. He looked and found an unconscious Pev slumped

in the back seat. To his horror, he did not see Dara or Ravy in the vehicle.

As the car door was jammed, Sithy managed to crawl out through the back window. As he made his way out of the car, he heard an old lady crying out, "Help! Help! That boy is dying!"

As Sithy looked toward the rice field, he saw Ravy lying unconscious with his face down in the mud. He rushed over and pulled him out. He could have suffocated in the muddy water.

However, Sithy could hardly support Ravy because he himself could hardly stand. So he called for help.

Van Thorn and Pev, by this time, were walking unsteadily towards his direction to help get Ravy out of the muddy paddy field. As they rushed to find some water to clean Ravy, Sithy heard Dara painfully moaning for help. He was covered with fresh blood that seemed to come from everywhere. Their hearts skipped a beat.

"Help!" Sithy called again, not knowing whether Dara was still alive.

A villager came to help and Sithy continued running up the road. He needed to get a mobile phone from a passerby so the Mission could send someone to help them.

But when he finally found a handphone, he realized they were out of the coverage area. He begged the curious onlookers who were heading to



Phnom Penh to help pass the message to the Mission as soon as they reached a coverage area.

One man went even further than calling; he drove directly to the Mission and described the accident. It was a tearful time for the family members and close friends of the victims who could only imagine the worst.

On receiving the news, Bruce Bauer and Reno Ng, Mission president and treasurer respectively, immediately headed to the accident site, joined by Gary Rogers, the Mission builder.

Ravy and Dara, both in great pain, were taken to the local hospital and laid on cement beds. The hospital could not even provide pain killers for the boys. Sithy sent someone to get the necessary medication from a pharmacy nearby.

The Mission officers arrived then and transferred both boys to Phnom Penh where Ravy underwent emergency surgery for internal bleeding from a ruptured spleen and Dara's broken nose was fixed.

"It's God's miraculous protection," Reno said thankfully when he saw all of these.

Today, they have fully recovered from the accident and Ravy and Dara both continue to participate in the youth activities of the Phnom Penh Church.

Cheam Sithy, Accountant, Cambodia SDA Mission

## MOOEY, BEE, BYE

Imagine going to church and having not one song to sing about the Sabbath or the Second Coming of Christ. Imagine having to do all of your singing from a Pentecostal hymn book.

This is the situation in the Cambodia Seventh-day Adventist Church. Imagine sitting on a grass mat on the floor of a grass hut with perhaps 20 other smiling happy Christians waiting for the service to begin.

The leader announces the song, perhaps it is number 27, "Jehovah is My Fortress," on how He can keep the waves of death that are around us from harming us. This is one of the songs that Khmer Christians sang last July while listening to the shelling

all around, holding their Bibles over their heads for protection from falling objects.

In a strong voice the leader says, "Mooney, Bee, Bye" (One, two, three), and without a pitch of any kind the singing begins. Each worshiper chooses his own pitch. Sometimes it is chaos, but it is joyful chaos, and they are praising the Lord the best they are able. Usually by the end of the first stanza they are more or less on the same pitch.

We are beginning to teach the leaders of the churches to set the pitch before Mooney, Bee, Bye, but it is a long difficult struggle. Few of the churches have any kind of musical instrument to help.

Seyla Khat, a Cambodian lady who escaped from the communist regime, who met Jesus Christ in the refugee camps, emigrated to the U.S. about 10 years ago, and is now studying Elementary Education at Andrews University. She dropped her classes for a quarter to return to her native land and help with the music in Cambodia. Her dedication to work for the Lord is an inspiration.

Carol Hearn, here for her second mission, is working on producing a Seventh-day Adventist hymnal in the Khmer language and Seyla is assisting in that project. Music has such power to touch men's hearts for good or evil. The mission is committed to giving the Cambodian people all of the tools possible to raise thoughts and hearts to the throne of grace.

The hymnal project is scheduled to be completed September 1, 1998. Please pray for the success of the project and those dedicated to teaching Christ to Cambodia through music.

Mrs. Carol Hearn, AVS

## GLASSES FOR THE MASSES

This is a land of 11.2 million people, many of whom spend their lives in bright sunshine and through most of the year in clouds of dust. Both conditions contribute to eye problems. It is a land where 20 years ago wearing eye glasses was cause to be shot. Wearing glasses was a sign of some education and the Khmer Rouge wanted to rid the country of people who were intelligent. It is a land,

according to the World Health Organization (WHO), with the highest rate of blindness and vision problems in all of Asia.

Prescription eye wear is financially out of reach for most of the people who spend each day working to earn the next day's rice. To help meet this need they have come with rudimentary vision examining equipment, and a supply of donated used eyeglasses.

As the population ages the greatest need is for reading glasses. Fortunately many of the donated glasses are bifocals. Unfortunately, some of the donated glasses are unique prescriptions and do not fit the identifiable needs of any individual.

One or two weekends a month Dr. and Mrs. Hearn load up two large suitcases full of glasses and head out into the provinces to serve the people in remote areas. People come walking from miles in every direction. At one location, they arrived in the middle of the afternoon to serve an estimated 5 to 10 people after holding a clinic in an adjacent village. Fifty people were waiting and had been waiting for several hours. They were only able to see about 20 before dark, but came back the next week when they saw another 50.

The patients run the gambit from one-eyed, one legged war veterans to the governor of the province. Each patient receives a piece of Christian literature and some TLC (tender loving care).

Dr. and Mrs. Hearn will be going to little village of Tang Krasang where they are told hundreds of people are hoping for vision care. Some are sure to be disappointed as it is impossible to care for that many people in a two-day clinic.

The need is great. Please pray that they not only help these people see better physically, but also give them a glimpse of a God who cares.

Dr. Richard L. Hearn, AVS

## ORDINATION OF CHURCH ELDERS

On Sabbath afternoon, December 20, twelve Cambodian pastors and their wives sat on mats around a cross-shaped table decorated with purple

orchids. Dr. Bruce I. Bauer and Pastor Lim Pheng charged them to lead their congregations into a closer relationship with God and to be examples to other Christian believers.

Then each couple participated in the ordinance of humility and the communion service which followed. Finally, Dr. Bauer called each couple forward for the laying on of hands and ordination as local church elders, praying for each pastor and his wife individually.

While Dr. Bauer proudly presented a certificate to each newly-ordained pastor, cameras flashed for this joyous occasion.

As a result of this special ordination service, the pastors in Cambodia can conduct communion services and baptize as needed in their local churches.

Staff Writer

### INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SALT

The Bible mentions salt more than 30 times. Salt has a religious significance and symbol of purity.

Salt is essential to health. Body cells must have salt in order to live and work. Blood, sweat, and tears are salty.

Salt is an antiseptic (germ killing) property that makes it useful for bathing of infections including being used as a mouth wash. It is also used for cleaning teeth.

Among people today salt is still used as a sign of honour, friendship and hospitality. A saying is "there is salt between us" meaning "we have eaten together, we are bonded friends."

Salt was once so scarce and precious that it was used as money. Caesar's soldiers received part of their pay in common salt. This was known as *salarium* from which the word *salary* comes.

Salt was a chief economic product of the ancient world. It was important in the development of the earliest highways of trade.

Roman soldiers built one of the great military roads in history, the *Via Salaria* (Salt Road), from the saltworks at Ostia to Rome.

Quoted from ABDC ACTS-Arts and Publishing

## PLANNING CAMBODIA'S ACADEMIES

Dr. Edmund Siagian, Education Director for the Southeast Asia Union Mission, came to Cambodia from January 7-9, 1998 to help lay plans for two academies.

One will be in Kompong Thom Province and one in Phnom Penh. The one in Phnom Penh will be K-12 day school. The Kompong Thom school will be a boarding school with grades 7-12, adjacent to the ICC (International Children's Care) orphanage which will offer grades K-6.



Dr. Siagian encouraged the Phnom Penh teachers to get more education. Plans are underway to begin an official college program for the training of Adventist teaching staff. He also encouraged the teachers to help look for more teachers here in Cambodia who would like to become Adventist teachers.

The Phnom Penh school (Cambodia Adventist Primary School) started three years ago with 30 students in grades K-2 and three staff members. Last year, we had to move the school because we had 95 students in K-5 and eight full-time staff members and three part-time staff. This year, we had to move again because the enrollment has increased to 133 students in grades K-6, and we have 12 full-time staff members.

Dr. Bruce Bauer, President of the Cambodia SDA Mission, pointed out to the committee, "If we only add one grade a year to our school system, the first student to graduate from our academies would

do so in 2004. Can we wait that long?"

The students in public schools in Cambodia have to go to school on Sabbath. Cambodia needs more trained workers.

Sharon Rogers, CAPS Principal

## HELPING HANDS

The sun was already sinking in the west as Mr. Rogers drove the construction workers back from Kompong Thom Province to Phnom Penh. He could not believe that the past two weeks had passed so quickly.

It seemed as if it were only the day before that he had picked up Ed and Karen Zimmerman and 12 other volunteers at Pochentong Airport. Most of them were from a youth Sabbath School class in Fallon, Nevada and had come to lend a helping hand to build the Poon Village Church.

Now they were returning to the city so the group could fly back to America the following morning.

As they traveled, one of the volunteers asked him, "Do you think it's worth it? Flying to the other side of the world to help for two weeks? Our airfare was \$1,400 each and labor here is so cheap!"

Even a non-math wizard can figure out that \$1,400 multiplied by 14 people is nearly \$20,000. And that would pay for building two churches in Cambodia.

To that thoughtful question, Mr. Rogers had to answer, "Yes, it is worth it!"

First of all, it gave a big boost to their building



project. They went from a foundation to a roof in two weeks.

But the greater value cannot be seen: the encouragement to a handful of Adventist believers in a small village in Southeast Asia who will never forget that they are part of a much larger family, with Christian brothers and sisters halfway around the world who care enough to come and help them construct their church.

Or who can estimate the value of the Vacation Bible Schools that the group conducted each day? Hundreds of children heard the story of Jesus for the first time.

And we should consider the value of the trip for those who came to serve. His guess is that those people will never be the same, and as they travel back to their home church with exciting stories and burning hearts, perhaps a whole church will catch a new and fresh view of missions.

Yes, it is expensive to take a mission trip, but Mr. Rogers believes it is well worth the cost, and so much more. "You see, the actual value will never be seen until we all meet together in heaven!" he concluded.

Gary Rogers, Global Mission Builder

## CAMBODIA FIRST PATHFINDER CAMPOREE

Scott gazed out across the ocean as the sun began to set. Many Cambodian young people lingered in the water, splashing, and shouting, enjoying their first taste of salt water swimming. The rest were setting up camp.

It was the first day of the first countrywide Pathfinder camporee. More than 200 Pathfinders (15-20 year olds!) had come together at Kompong Som.

He watched as the various clubs struggled to get pup tents erected. They stayed to themselves, not mixing much.

"Get the lines straight on the tent," one shouted. "We don't want to lose any

points in the inspection tomorrow!" The big talk was about the competitions--fire and table building, swimming and relay races, and most important of all, volleyball games, club against club.

The sun rose and set on that beach several days, bringing with it the mingling of the Pathfinders in inspiring worships, small group teaching and, of course, the competitions. There were disappointments and victories. There was a spirit of encouragement as they tried their best.

In the fullness of the sun's midday heat, close to fifty young people splashed into the water as Khmer Christian tunes boomed across the beach from a borrowed public address system. They were baptized into Jesus as Seventh-day Adventist soldiers to spread the Gospel in Cambodia where the majority of the people are still without hope.

Together, more than 200 Pathfinders knelt in the sand to praise God and plead for His Spirit. Now they were all one team.

As the sun rose Sunday morning there were tears shed and promises made between clubs to meet again. In a country where many never travel out of their own village area, the camporee had taught them they were not alone, that many other young people had taken their stand for Christ and more would take it in the future.

The campers went their separate ways, but they knew they shared the same Way.

Scott K. Griswold (Adventist Frontier Mission)



## NEW APPOINTMENTS

*Pastor David Leoh*, president of Peninsular Malaysia Mission accepted the call to be the new manager of Southeast Asia Publishing House located in Kuala Lumpur, effective January 1, 1998.

*Dr. Phoon Chek Yat*, president of Southeast Asia Union College, will serve as acting-president of Peninsular Malaysia Mission, replacing Pastor David Leoh, effective January 1, 1998.

*Mr. Ted Mohr*, a Hospital Services Consultant in the USA, is chief executive officer of Penang Adventist Hospital. He relieves Dr. Ken Rose, acting-president since Dr. Ron Brody left on retirement in July, 1997.

*Pastor Chhom Samithy*, Secretary of Cambodia Attached District, replaces Van Thorn Nhem, effective January 1, 1998.

## SAUM INFORMATION SHARING

### *Local Church Leadership and Personal Witnessing Training*

A goal of training 2000 lay leaders in the Union by the year 2000 has been voted at the 1997 Union Annual Council. The "2000" goal was distributed to the missions accordingly. Two workshops assisted by the Southern Asia-Pacific Division personnel and coordinated by the Union

Ministerial and Sabbath School/Personal Ministry directors were scheduled one in Thailand on January 21-25, 1998 and another in Sabah on February 17-21, 1998. Other missions will also be conducting the workshops for their pastors and lay leaders.

### *1998 Missionary Book of the Year*

The Division is printing one million copies "The Book That Could Not Be Destroyed" in English as the 1998 Missionary Book of the Year. The Union has placed an order of 20,000 copies and voted to print 40,000 in Malay, 4,000 in Chinese and 10,000 in Thai. These books are to be circulated by church workers and members on a sponsorship basis.

The book is a powerful tool to be placed in the hands of our church members for them to give away--approximately one copy per member per year.

### *Defined Retirement Contribution Plan for Malaysian Employees*

Starting January 1, 1998, all Malaysian employees on church employment will stop earning service credit for retirement purpose. Employing organization will contribute an additional 3% of salary to his/her EPF account on top of the regular contribution.

### *1997 Union Statistical Report*

Mission	Churches	Companies	Membership	Joined (Baptism & POF)	Dropped (Death, Apostasy & Missing)
Cambodia	1	32	2,011	89	0
Laos	1	1	137	0	0
Peninsular Malaysia	26	4	4,006	73	6
Sabah	117	100	21,168	242	94
Sarawak	80	20	13,002	140	0
Singapore	6	0	2,261	17	0
Thailand	33	62	10,842	170	56
Vietnam	7	30	5,524	0	0
<b>SAUM</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>58,951</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>156</b>



## REPORT OF LE CONVENTION

Literature Evangelists from all over the Union—Thailand, Sabah, Sarawak, Singapore, and Peninsula Malaysia gathered at Genting View Resort, Malaysia for a convention held February 18-21, 1998. That is an annual event which all the “ministers of the printed page” always look forward to. That is a time for them to “charge their batteries” for the year ahead. This time they were not only charged, but just about totally reconditioned, judging by the evaluation forms completed at the last meeting of the convention.

Visiting speakers from General Conference, Jose Campos, and from the Division, Howard Faigao, together with the devotional speakers, kept the attention of the audience as they were motivated to be more committed, more dedicated, more aggressive in proclaiming the gospel through the printed page. The spiritual tone of the convention was high at all times. Just about all the periods were filled with spiritual food, from the song service to the divine service. It was not salesmanship that was stressed all the time, but “soulwinship”. Pastor Campos with his Mexican accent and dramatized illustrations kept his audience’s attention all the time. So did Pastor Faigao with his unique teaching style.

Sabbath afternoon was the time scheduled to interview literature evangelists who had outstanding experiences. A story was related of a lady literature evangelist whose customers saw an angel with her. One literature evangelist was transferred to an unentered Muslim area seven years ago. There was no Adventist presence at the time of

his arrival, now there is a group meeting every Sabbath in his home. His wife does her share by running a language school for children in their home, thus developing interest among the parents.

For more than two hours these experiences were related one after the other. The presence of God could be felt in the audience. Many literature evangelists wanted to tell what God was doing for them, but time was short. One day in heaven, under the tree of life, literature evangelists will sit—more than 23 000 of them from all over the world—will tell thrilling stories of God’s guidance, protection, and blessings in their work as ministers of the printed page. Time will be no problem then, because they will have an eternity in which to do it. Every literature evangelist will get an opportunity then to tell his experiences.

Our thanks go to the faithful literature evangelists in the Southeast Asia Union, who, with sacrifice, commitment and dedication, were responsible for the 197 souls baptized as a direct result of their work in 1997. That was especially commendable knowing that they worked in territories where the majority of people are Muslims and Buddhists. They thank God for the privilege to be in His service at this time of the world’s history.

A J Oberholster, Director, Publishing Dept. SAUM



SAUM Publishing Leaders and some administrators at the Literature Evangelist Convention.

## VISIT TO CAMBODIA

Joshua Mok, Union Secretary and Stewardship Director, visited Cambodia Attached District headquarters on February 23 - March 1, 1998. He conducted a Stewardship and Church Clerk training for the pastors for two and a half days. Some time was spent orientating Chhom Samithy the new secretary of the mission. On Sabbath he visited and worshiped with three groups of about 70 believers in the Takeo district.

The pastors in Phnom Penh received two weeks pastoral training from Drs. Ralph and Beatrice Neall, retired professors of Union College and former Mission president of Cambodia Mission. They conducted the classes in the Cambodian language and the pastors enjoyed their teaching on the prophets and the gospel of John.

Cambodia Attached District was reorganized about five years ago. Now it has 20 local pastors caring for 72 groups with about 2,000 members. The needs are tremendous in Cambodia—financial as well as manpower. They need your prayers and support.

Joshua Mok, Secretary, SAUM

## BAPTISM IN IPOH ENGLISH CHURCH

A baptism was conducted by Pastor Dan Walter, SAUM Ministerial Secretary and Global Mission director at the Ipoh English Church on 14th of February, 1998.

The Sabbath church service was packed with members from the Indian, Chinese, and English churches. It was a joyous occasion for all as it was the first time there was such a combined church worship in Ipoh. It was also the first time for Pastor Dan Walter to visit the Ipoh church.

After some months of Bible studies with the writer, Mr. Paul Lim Joo Heng, secretary and accountant in a major company in Perak, and his wife Diana decided to surrender their lives to Jesus and to observe the Sabbath.

The congregation and the Chinese Church children's choir sang and praised God for such a historic occasion. Rodney Tinggas from University Sains Malaysia played a special song on his guitar. It was followed by an inspiring and timely message from Pastor Dan Walter.

After the baptismal vows were read out to the candidates, and prayer was offered by Pastor Francis Lajanin, the Mission Secretary, the congregation moved over to the baptismal pool to witness the ceremony.

Tommy Ooi, Church Elder, Ipoh English Church

### FORTHCOMING EVENT

## SAUM EDUCATION ADVISORY

Date: April 5-7, 1998  
Place: Singapore  
Venue: Southeast Asia Union Mission



From left to right: Pastor Dan Walter, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lim and Tommy Ooi

## ALOR SETAR NEW WORK

Because of God's providence and Peninsular Malaysia Mission's support, Alor Setar New Work now has a permanent place to use as a church, as well as a community service center.

At present, Alor Setar New Work's members are having their Sabbath-worship services in a rented place. They have about 20 members and visitors coming regularly to attend the Sabbath-worship. On weekdays, a total of 140 kids or more attend their children's English class. As a result of the many community programs run by the Alor Setar New Work team, many have come to know much about Adventism and have become interested in the Voice of Prophecy correspondence lessons. Consequently, more Bible-study groups will be arranged to meet the increase of the Bible interests. At present they have six active Bible-study students.

The location of the new church building may help to draw more outsiders and truth-seekers to come to attend and participate in their church worship services and other community programs. Needless to say, the new church building will somehow help to stimulate the growth of the gospel work in this unentered area, Alor Setar city.

Wong Kok Boon



New Alor Setar church building

## STEWARDSHIP TEAM LEADERS TRAINING WORKSHOP

The Sarawak Mission Stewardship Department under the directorship of Pastor David Ngali organized the first stewardship team leader training workshop for 1998 in Pasir Church, Serian District, on Feb. 6-8 weekend. A total of 35 stewardship team leaders attended the training workshop. These leaders were handpicked from the churches last year by Pastor Ngali for special training on stewardship matters to assist him in his stewardship education and promotion in the churches throughout the Mission. They attended two workshops last year on SDA Church Tithe and Offering Plan. Each team had two leaders assigned by Pastor Ngali to conduct similar workshop in two churches on assigned dates. A total of 30 workshops were conducted by the 15 teams of stewardship leaders.

The first workshop this year on February 6-8 was on local church strategic planning and budgeting. Leaders were thoroughly trained on how to assist the churches to do strategic planning and budgeting.

The next training workshop has been scheduled for June 19-21 on family money management. They are eagerly waiting to receive the training so that they will be equipped to train others.

Joshua Mok, Secretary & Stewardship Director, SAUM

### FORTHCOMING EVENT

## BI-DIVISION WOMEN'S CONVENTION

**Date:** July 2-5  
**Place:** Chiangmai, Thailand  
**Venue:** Empress Chiangmai Hotel

## SABBATH OBSERVANCE SUPPORT WORKSHOP

On February 7, 1998 the Singapore Mission held a Sabbath Observance Support Workshop at the SAUC lecture hall. The attendance of some 120 parents and youth gave ample evidence and endorsement that it was something the members had been looking forward to.

The workshop was organized because at the last SAM triennial session held on April 5-6, 1997, the issue of Sabbath challenges faced by our youth in the form of classes and exams regularly held on Sabbaths in government Primary, Secondary, Junior colleges, Technical Institutes, Polytechnics and Universities were discussed. There was consensus that the problem was affecting the growth of the SDA Church within the community and many anecdotal evidences also point to it as a main reason for backsliding within the church among the school-aged members and children.

Many Church youth and Sabbath School members when faced with the demands of their schools, polytechnics and universities to attend classes and exams on Sabbaths simply comply rather than stand against the system for their faith.

However, there had always been those who stood up for their faith and were willing to put their educational pursuits at risk no matter what the cost or pressure put upon them. For such the Church had always, with varying degrees of success, offered to provide quarantine and/or invigilation for the Adventist students concerned. However, since there is no official government policy on this matter, unlike those concessions made for their Adventist youth drafted into National Service, the outcome of such intervention is always unpredictable.

Recent experiences had been that the Educational authorities at all levels remain highly unaccommodating to Adventist Sabbath-keeping practices. As such, the SOS (Sabbath Observance Support) Committee was set up to make recommendations that would give more moral and

tangible support. The SOS committee was thus formed in October '97 and by January '98, had made several recommendations to the SAM Management Committee. These included streamlined procedures and advice for students on how to avoid and handle Sabbath challenges. At the heart of these recommendations was the launch of a SAM-SOS Educational Fund, which to date stands at about S\$5,000.

Besides the need for a strong personal relationship with God, systematic steps and procedures were outlined by the speakers on how to overcome their Sabbath challenges.

Based on feedback, the organizers know that that was something good that they must further develop and fine tune. They need to unite the people together for the common good to help one another to face a common challenge. They must strive to help their Adventist student population get all the education they need in a system that poses numerous Sabbath challenges. The consequences of failure is serious and unthinkable. "With God's help, we can."

Tan Tiam Chye, SOSC Chairman

## WINNING A STRANGER

Just before the crusade last November, Steve Guptill, Education Director of Southern Asia-Pacific Division, boarded a taxi. The driver, a young man, inquired about the banner outside the Balestier Church. He was interested in the book of Revelation and the Mark of the Beast.

Not long after, Dr. Guptill had to leave for the Philippines. He recommended this young man to the church pastor for follow-up. He was invited to the screening of the video series by Mark Finley. He came regularly and the members befriended him.

He attended the Amazing Facts crusade and enrolled in the Amazing Facts Bible Study course. So far he has completed 14 lessons. While researching at the public library he suddenly realized that indeed the seventh day of the week is Saturday. We praise God for this. Please pray that he will

continue to come to church and fellowship. Friends, it's not difficult to win souls to Christ if we befriend them, meet their needs and love and fellowship with them.

David Kam, Balestier Church

## THE COORDINATOR'S PERSPECTIVE

It was, indeed, the event of 1997 for the Mission and the churches. From the very first night when Russell and Cynthia Burrill and Daniel Mckibeen presented the series there was a good attendance. This did not diminish even when the meetings were shifted to the Balestier Church after the fourth meetings. In fact, the attendance held and built up to more than 400 people during the final night of the meeting. Many cars had to be turned away due to overcrowding in the car park. A total of 247 non-members attended the meetings. About 47% of these were brought by Church members. Thirty-three persons accepted Christ as their personal Saviour and indicated their desire to prepare for baptism. Several factors contributed to the success of the effort: (1) the one and a half years of emphasis and ground preparation, (2) the unity and the cooperation of church members and pastors, (3) the interesting, inspirational and practical presentations, (4) most importantly the powerful influence of the Holy Spirit on those who were seeking and longing for the truth that can only be found in a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. When believers work together in the spirit of love, unity and passion for souls they manifest what true discipleship of Christ is. The spirit of evangelism has been renewed through this evangelistic effort and the hope of expanding God's kingdom in Singapore is bright before us. Let us continue to press on and hold up the torch of evangelism high in this closing days of earth's history!

Danson Ng, Evangelism Director, SAM

## SAM UPCOMING EVENTS

### Family Camp Meeting

Date: 12 to 14 June, 1998  
 Venue: Sijori Resort, Batam, Indonesia  
 Theme: "Preparing My Family for eternity"  
 Speaker: Carlos G Martin, Professor of Missions, Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies  
 Presenters: Linda Koh, Family Ministry Director, Southern Asia Pacific Division  
 Dorothy Walter, Family Ministry Director, Southeast Asia Union Mission  
 Dan Walter, Ministerial Secretary, Southeast Asia Union Mission

### Partners for Life Workshop

Date: 4 to 6 September, 1998  
 Venue: Mayang Sari Beach Resort, Bintan, Indonesia  
 Theme: "Making Good Marriage Better"  
 Presenters: Paull and Rebecca Dixon. Both have served in Family Ministry for the past 12 years.  
 Attendees: For married couples only (Children are not allowed)  
 All enquiries to the Family Ministry, Singapore Mission.

## SINGAPORE REHABILITATION CENTRE

With God's providence, the Adventist Rehab Centre in Woodlands, Singapore was officially opened on Sunday, 23 November 1997.

With only three staff members, and half equipped, patients have started arriving in mid-December to the centre.

The Centre will be providing community support to Singapore's northern sector residents, with special emphasis on the poor. The services provided include the following:

1. *Physiotherapy for the following types of patients:* Neurological, neurosurgical, orthopaedic, paraplegic, and geriatric patients.

2. *Day care:* The centre will also provide day-care services. There are also plans to cater vegetarian lunch for the patients.

3. *Ambulance services:* Presently the centre has one ambulance. (It is really a minivan modified with ramp to accommodate wheelchairs). It provides transportation to and from the Center, at a fee.

4. *"Health Education" and "Health Life-Style" classes:* Patients and their family members are encouraged to attain a healthier life-style and prevent recurrence of illness. This particular service makes the Rehabilitation Centre one step ahead of other centres in Singapore.

**Financial Limitations:** Upon the acquisition of this Centre and its operations, it was officially agreed with the Ministry of Health, to skew its services towards the poor. Thus the revenue received from patients will not cover operating costs. However, they believe that by God's grace, ends will meet. A source of revenue would be from systematic fund raising.

At a fund raising dinner for all church members in Singapore at Savoury Restaurant on 23 November 1997 a total of \$12,780 was raised to assist in the initial setup cost.



Adventist Rehabilitation Centre Committee Members

**God's Abundance:** There is an unlimited source of financial and human resources for God to use. Do you hold either?

We can all play a part. Call us at: Tel. (65) 368-8401; Fax: (65) 368-8034 or take the MRT to Marsiling Station (N17) to 10 Woodlands St. 31, #03-00, Singapore 738579.

Doreen Ang, Director, Adventist Rehab Centre

## FARE THEE WELL!!

She answered your telephone calls, received your fax messages and called you at times for committee meetings. She was often the first voice you would hear when you dial 561-0022. Florence Wong had been doing all this since she joined the Singapore Mission in August 1989. Last year end when the Southeast Asia Union Mission relocated her husband, Pastor Peter Wong, to Kuching, Sarawak, Florence followed suit. We appreciate her eight and a half years of service and wish her well as she takes up a new responsibility in Sarawak.

Also leaving at the end of last year was Wann Fanwar. A magician of sorts, he juggled rather competently between several key positions especially during the latter part of his six years of service. He was called from the Hong Kong Conference to the Singapore Mission and taught classes at the Southeast Asia Union College. From an e-mail received in late February 1998 he is enjoying his studies at Andrews University.

His wife, Sheila, worked at the Union office as secretary to the Publishing, Education and Communication departments. Always cheerful, helpful, and caring, she efficiently juggled office, church and home in a very remarkable way.

We want to thank the Fanwars for their contribution to the work in Singapore and wish them well at Andrews University!

## CHARITY BAZAAR AND MUSICAL CONDUCTED BAZAAR

### BAZAAR

A first for Thailand Mission, it seemed an insurmountable task at the beginning when the challenge of collecting goods for sale was called. But the obstacles were overcome and donations came pouring in from members of the four churches in Bangkok.

Held at Ekamai Thai School on November 28, 1997, the Charity Bazaar was blessed with donations such as household appliances, kitchen ware, clothes, towels, school supplies, cosmetics, food and drinks, and many more.

All profits, amounting to 37,364.75 baht will be given to International Child Care Center for the needy orphans there; Chiangmai Academy for the scholarship of the poor hilltribe students; and for hilltribe agricultural projects.

Many thanks to our generous donors and kudos to the church members, Mission office workers and friends who helped in selling the goods.

### MUSICAL

A Christmas musical was staged on Dec. 12, 1997 at the Bangkok International Church by the Art and Soul group.

Entitled "One Small Child," it attracted audience from the four SDA churches around Bangkok, plus the families of students from Ekamai International School and the Language School.

Founded in May 1997, Art and Soul is a street evangelism group whose aim is to share Jesus with the community. They venture out once a week to sing Christian songs, distribute Christian tracts and talk to the public. So when the invitation to perform for charity was given through their director, Arlene Siagian, they readily agreed and worked hard in the preparation of the program.

Thailand Mission commends the dedication of these young people and is very grateful for their remarkable efforts which have been evident in their outstanding program.

The proceeds of the musical, amounting to 29,120 baht will go the Chiangmai Academy Scholarship Fund.

Katsuki Matsuura, Fundraiser/Coordinator Mission Projects,  
Thailand Mission



## FIELD SCHOOL OF EVANGELISM

On January 5-17, 1998, a Field School of Evangelism was held at Ubon Province in Northeast Thailand. Thirty pastors from Thailand and Laos attended the field school.

Pastor Dan Walter, SAUM Ministerial Secretary, was invited to teach on how to hold an effective evangelistic meeting. In the evenings, Dr. John Duroe, SSD Communication Director, assisted the pastors to hold the meetings in the field. As a result, 105 people joined the church, 101 of them through baptism and four by profession of faith.

Appreciation goes to the contributions of Pastor Dan Walter and Dr. John Duroe and the rest of the workers and participants.

Boonrat Moolkeo, Secretary, Thailand Adventist Mission

**CHOLON CHINESE CHURCH  
(VIETNAM)**

The Chinese Church in Cholon, Ho Chi Minh City is an active church. It has a regular attendance of about 60 people. Luong Chi Dao is a lay-pastor who volunteers to take care of the church in the absence of a trained pastor sent from the Mission. Many of its members have gone to Australia, Canada and United States but are faithfully supporting their home church in Vietnam.



Church choir presenting Christmas carols.



Children choir on Christmas Eve.

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