

The



*Southeast Asia
Union Mission*

MESSENGER

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April - June 1998



Hmong Youth Camp. see page 15

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WHERE'S OUR FOCUS?

Stewardship, as a ministry, must continually re-examine its focus and maintain its Biblical basis. Church funding, tithes, and offerings are all part of stewardship, yet a primary focus on money strengthens only the materialistic thrust of life and destroys the giving dimension of stewardship.

Stewardship is a dynamic partnership with God. It is not enough to encourage people to give; we must first help them in their spiritual growth. Giving must flow out of an attitude of worship, rejoicing in God as Creator, Redeemer, and Friend. The lifestyle of joy in Christ should be our primary focus. From there, we can naturally expand to other areas.

Stewardship ministry must maintain a twin focus: the broad focus on a lifestyle in Christ and the narrower focus on finances. The latter will retain its balance only in the context of the first.

Stewardship ministry is three-phased. First, recreate the vision of biblical stewardship. Much of our church understands stewardship to be giving, and giving to be funding the church. Giving is really managing God's assets in partnership with Him, guided by the Holy Spirit. God funds His church. He has chosen to involve us in managing His money through tithes and offerings because we need to integrate Him into this difficult and challenging area of life.

Next, recruit and train pastors and church leaders to this renewed vision. Past stewardship abuses will change only when we accept and implement this vision. Administrators will provide a strong support when they see the biblical rationale and the practical results. In some sections of the world, such as Inter-America, a biblical approach, pastoral training, administrative support, and an emphasis on systematic giving are producing miraculous results.

Finally, develop multiple resources to train pastors and members in biblical stewardship as a lifestyle.

You can be part of this great challenge. Review your vision of God, of how He wants to be involved in your life and ministry. Commit yourself to sharing a greater vision of partnership with God. Ask Him to guide you as you develop materials to reach the people God has placed in your care.

Benjamin C Maxson, Director, *General Conference Stewardship Department*

COMING AGAIN—BUT WHEN

All Christians hope to have eternal life when Christ comes. But when is Christ coming? “No one knows, however, when that day and hour will come—neither the angels in heaven nor the Son; the Father alone knows.” Matthew 24:36 (TEV).

In Sras Keo Village, however, an unbaptized church member named Mao Sam Nang dreamt that Christ will return soon.

One stormy night, a loud clap of thunder woke this woman from a sound sleep. She prayed, “God, please calm the storm.”

Suddenly the storm stopped and she rested peacefully. She dreamt she was walking along a road with some other women. Then the sky opened and she could see a blinding light through the small hole.

Two of the accompanying women pointed to the hole and said, “That’s where Christ will come from.”

But the people answered, “We don’t see where.”

Again the woman pointed at the sky and suddenly the hole began to grow larger and larger.

Then the gates of heaven opened and the woman saw three angels come through the gates and climb down a ladder to earth. Jesus was standing at the top of the ladder. The woman saw many people walking in heaven behind him.

When the sun rose that day, it was blood red. She heard the people complain/cry out, “It’s so hot!” They knelt on the ground, covering their heads with bushel baskets to hide from God’s glory. But the woman did not feel the heat from God’s glory.

When she woke up the next morning, the woman realized it was all a dream.

“They called out to the mountains and to the rocks, Fall on us and hide us from the eyes of the One who sits on the throne and from the anger of the Lamb!” Revelation 6:16, TEV.

Christ is coming soon.

PLUS-12, PLEASE!

For the first few kilometers the road to the town of Pursat is relatively smooth, giving a false sense

of security. Then it drops off. As the road conditions begin to deteriorate, the blowing dust and bouncing begin.

Eight of us had piled into the mission van early one Friday morning to do health and vision clinics in several villages around Pursat. After reaching the town, we bounced along for another 13 kilometers off the “main” road on an even bumpier one to a village where there are some Christian believers.

The only income for these villagers is making grass mats which are used to roof and side the grass houses they live in. A healthy man can make about 20 mats a day and sell them to earn a family income of about 60 cents a day.

We conducted our first clinic that day seated with the patients on a large log since there were no chairs in the village.

On Sabbath we drove down another cattle path to a little wooden house on stilts for the worship service. Dr. Bruce Bauer, Cambodia SDA Mission President, spoke on forgiveness to the group seated on the floor. Afterwards we returned to the pastor’s house for lunch, but nearly 100 people had gathered there to worship God so we had another church service. By the time that service was over, it was time to go to the river for a baptism.

Two of the local pastors were performing their very first baptism that day so it was very special. There was a bit of confusion at first, but soon the pastors were baptizing like veteran ministers. Fourteen precious souls were welcomed into fellowship that day.

Sunday morning we headed back toward Phnom Penh. We drove down a sandy path to a little grass church. On the floor was a well-worn blue tarp. Then out of nowhere appeared a wooden bed which literally fell to pieces when it was tipped up on end to bring it through the door. But, unlike the king’s men in the Humpty Dumpty nursery rhyme, these men knew how to put it back together again. Soon we were spreading out our glasses on the bed. We were in business again. We saw 17 people before it was time to pack up and move on toward Phnom Penh.

As Dr. Bruce turned the van around, we suddenly found ourselves up to the axles in sand. All of us piled out and began pushing. We just got in deeper and deeper. After praying and then putting some pieces of wood and palm fronds around the tyres (plus digging with our hands and pushing), we were finally able to get moving again.

After lunch at the pastor's house, we drove to another house on stilts for our final clinic. There was an unsafe-looking ladder leading to the first floor so we voted to hold the clinic under the house. While Dr. Mary Ann McNeilus, visiting from the U.S., sang Christian songs with the children, my husband examined eyes as fast as he could.

One elderly lady needed a very strong plus-12 lens. Thank God, we had a pair with us. When I first put them on her face, she looked startled. Then she flashed the biggest toothless smile I had seen all weekend. Amazed and still a bit dazed, she wandered over to the health lecture and joined the other women. I know her mind was not on health principles. She looked off into the distance through her new eyes. She would slip her glasses off, look around, then slip them back on and smile, and smile, and smile. She could see clearly for the first time.

We thank God for the opportunity of helping a few people in Cambodia see better and live better lives.

We pray that some will use their new vision to read about Jesus and His great love.

Carol Hearn, AVS Worker

THE DANCING RICE FIELDS

"The church is over there under the mango trees," Pastor Hy Vannarith instructed the driver, pointing across several rice fields to a small clump of trees. With no physical structure in sight, the driver of the vehicle abruptly turned off the narrow sandy "road" and drove down into the parched paddies.

After bouncing along for several minutes, (providentially, it was the dry season and we had a 4-wheel drive vehicle!), we reached the bamboo

church shaded by the mango trees. Here, Joshua Mok, Secretary of the Southeast Asia Union Mission in Singapore, reminded the eager listeners about the importance of stewardship and of returning tithes and offerings to God.

We visited three churches that Sabbath day, including the Takeo City Church and the newly-built Barai Village Church, completed on November 11, 1997, the first permanent SDA church structure in Takeo Province. It even has an outhouse with an electric light!

Please continue to pray for these three groups of believers as they witness to their neighbours about God's love.

CAM Staff

THE POWER OF GOD'S PROMISES



Sitha wanted to die. He was 45 years old but both blind and lame. Ten years before, while walking in the forest, he had stepped on a landmine. When Sitha regained consciousness, his right leg had already been amputated and his world became dark forever because he lost his sight.

Then he met Pastor Pen Narith who shared the good news of God's salvation and how we can live for eternity. The pastor told Sitha, "When Christ returns, the Bible says. . . There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared." Revelation 21:4. And in Isaiah 35:36, we read that "The blind will be able to see, and the deaf will hear. The lame will leap and dance, and those who cannot speak will shout for joy."

Today, Sitha has received new sight, the clear vision of spiritual oneness with God.

Pastor Pen Narith

SAUM-WIDE EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS' ADVISORY-CUM-SEMINAR

On April 5-7, a Union-wide education administrators' advisory-cum-seminar was held in the SAUM Conference Room, Singapore. It was attended by about 25 educational leaders (college administrators, Mission education directors, and secondary school principals) from all over the field.

Devotional messages were given by Elder Robin Riches (Southeast Asia Union Mission president) and Dr Siriporn Tantipoonvinai (Mission College president).

The main advisory was led out by Dr Edmund Siagian (SAUM education director) and Dr Oliver Koh Kang Song (SSD education associate-director). Presenters for the seminar included Dr Phoon Chek Yat (SAUC president), Ms Memory Sampson (MC recruitment and marketing director), Dr Geoffrey A Pauner (SYAS principal), Pastor Toh See Wei (SAM education director), Elder Tom Massengill (SAUM treasurer), Elder Dan Walter (SAUM ministerial/global mission director), and Mdm Teo Lun Fung (CARE program coordinator).

Reports were given by the Mission education directors as well as the school principals. Professional enrichment and spiritual and social encouragement were gained by the attendees.

A greater sense of urgency in finishing God's work, having unity and commitment, and a need for better linking among administrators were also felt and hoped for.

Edmund Siagian

SS/LA DIRECTOR'S CERTIFICATION SEMINAR

Dr Hendrik Sumendap (SSD Sabbath School and Personal Ministry director) organized and coordinated with the General Conference for a SS/PM Leaders' Certification seminar held on April 5-9 at the Manado Beach Hotel, Indonesia. Dr

Jonathan Kuntaraf (GC SS/PM director) and Elder Ken Flemmer (SSD/NSD ADRA director) served as main resource and presenters. The 19 delegates attending the tri-Union meetings were SS/PM directors and leaders from the East Indonesia Union Mission, West Indonesia Union Mission, and the Southeast Asia Union Mission. Representing SAUM at the Leaders' Certification program were Pastor Samuel Money (SAUM), Pastor Teng Lim Pheng (CAM), Mr George John (PEM), Mr Shuking Gadaun (SAB), and Pastor Matthew Yuen (SAM).

Samuel Money



THE LITERATURE MINISTRY

Literature evangelists in the Southeast Asia Union Mission territory were responsible for seventy-seven (77) souls baptized during the first quarter of 1998. The team consists of about eighty (80) literature evangelists and eight (8) leaders. The following is a breakdown of their reportable achievements during the first quarter of this year:

Free literature given away	8,655
Voice of Prophecy enrollments	698
Bible studies conducted	1,388
Souls won through baptism	77

Two new literature evangelist clubs were organized in April: one at the Tawau Church with fifteen members, and another at the Sabah Adventist Secondary School with more than fifty members. Thanks and praise be to God!

A J Oberholster

ANNOUNCEMENT:

**Southern Asia Pacific Division Regional
SS/Lay Congress**

Venue: Mt. Klabat University, Manado,
Sulawesi, Indonesia
Date: July 29 - August 2, 1998
Who Can Come: Open to all SDA Sabbath
School and Personal Ministries
members
Fee: US\$20.00 (for food and lodging)
Transportation: To be borne by individuals,
local churches or local missions. (Silk
Air travels 3 times a week from
Singapore to Manado)
Organized by: The Three Unions:
East Indonesia Union Mission
West Indonesia Union Mission
Southeast Asia Union Mission
Whom to contact: Local Mission SS/LA Director or SAUM
SS/LA Director
Closing Date to submit names: June 30, 1998

**PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT
NEWSBITS**

On June 8 1998, two credentialed literature evangelists from the Philippines, Brother and Sister Gerez, arrived in Thailand for a term of at least two years. They will be stationed in Pattaya where new work has started recently. We welcome the Gerezes to our LE team!

The number of souls baptized as a direct result of the work of literature evangelists to date this year is 83. That averages one baptism for every one of the literature evangelists in the Union territory!

A J Oberholster

**MISSION COLLEGE (NEW
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE)**

▲New developments and progress regarding the new Union College at Muak Lek Campus were described in the November 1997 issue of the *SAUM President's Newsletter*. A lot of time, money, and effort

have gone into the project.

An important SIPC (Strategic Implementation Plans Committee) meeting will be held again in Bangkok on February 13. Items on the agenda will include the following: approval of curriculum and documents to be submitted to the Ministry of University Affairs (Thailand); approval of concept plans and preliminary design plans for sports area, fields, and changing rooms; student centre, concept plans for church, renovation of administrative building and library; furnishing and finishing; additional roads; personnel updates. Pray for its success! (January 1998)

*At a recent meeting of the College Relocation Coordinating Committee architectural drawings and plans for the church, library block, science block, and student centre were approved. The church design is a unique mixture of eastern and western cultures and is to be entered by the architects for a national design award! Building work on faculty housing and hostels continues, with all houses and two of the hostels up to the roof level. Although one month behind schedule, it is anticipated that all will be ready for the beginning of the new school year. (March, 1998)

*New Student dormitories and faculty homes are almost completed. (May 1998)

*The Union Executive Committee, at its Midyear Meeting (June 30), approved the inauguration of a new Union College in Muak Lek, Thailand, beginning July 1, 1998. Accordingly, the SIPC (Systematic Implementation Plans Committee) for the new college which was set up two years ago was dissolved on the same day. (June 1998)

**GLOBAL MISSION ACTIVE IN
CAMBODIA**

Global Mission has funded several projects that have directly impacted Cambodia where, prior to 1992, there were no Seventh-day Adventists. These include church planting in several towns and villages, opening an elementary school, printing Bible lessons

for Buddhists, producing new Khmer literature and pamphlets to help create an interest in Christianity, and a Cambodian Adventist hymnal. Beside the efforts of the Cambodia Mission officers, most of these projects were made possible through the work and leadership of AVS and AFM workers, pastors, laymembers, and missionaries and friends from abroad.

SAUM CHURCH MEMBERSHIP GROWTH--FIRST QUARTER 1998

Reports received from the Missions by the SAUM Secretariat show tremendous results in baptism to help boost the membership growth of the Southeast Asia Union Mission during the first quarter (January to March) of 1998. Through the Lord's blessings, it is surely much better for most of the Missions, when compared to the number of souls won for the Lord for the same period in 1997. The statistical figures for each Mission are as follows:

Mission	1st Qtr 1998	(1st Qtr 1997)
Cambodia	136	No report
Laos	25	No report
Peninsular Malaysia	16	15
Sabah	313	35
Sarawak	201	138
Singapore	7	11
Thailand	227	208
Vietnam	198	52
TOTAL	1,123	459

OFFERING FOR FREE LITERATURE

On Sabbath February 13, 1999, the offering given in all churches in SAUM territory will go to purchase small books and tracts to be distributed free by literature evangelists. We appeal to all members to please support this worthy cause. Start putting away for it NOW! Don't put your money where your mouth is--put your money where the souls are!!!

1ST CELEBRATION OF WOMEN MINISTRY IN SSD

The first celebration in the SSD of 100 years of women in ministry beginning with Mrs. S. M. I. Henry was held in Sabah on April 18 at the Keningau Women's Retreat held at a resort in Tambunan. There were about fifty women gathered for this retreat. A special cake was cut to recognize women active in ministry.

Dorothy Walter



FAMILY CAMPS

Family camps are being conducted in most of the missions. One such camp was held at Fraser's Hill by the Petaling Jaya Church, K.L. May 1-3. Worship and how to make our worship more meaningful was the theme of the camp. The families had time together to enjoy the beautiful park.

Dorothy Walter



PEM CHURCH CLERKS WORKSHOPS

A Church Clerks Workshop coordinated by Pastor Francis Lajanin and assisted by Pastor Joshua Mok was conducted for the church clerks and pastors of the Klang Valley and Telok Intan churches on March 6-7, 1998. A total of 15 people attended the workshop. The workshop's objectives were to train the church clerks in handling membership transfers, compiling membership statistical reports, keeping current the membership record and auditing local church membership.

The need for church membership audit is long overdue. We have many churches with only 40 percent weekly Sabbath attendance of church membership. Many members are on the missing and backsliding lists yet nothing has been done to clear the record. We too have many members who have moved to other churches but membership not transferred.

Following the Klang Valley Workshop, other workshops were conducted for Penang district churches, Kinta District churches, Seremban, Melaka, Muar, Kulai and Johor Bahru on April 20-25, 1998. The goal is to complete the training of all church clerks and the auditing of all local church membership records by the end of the year.

BADLY WOUNDED; MIRACULOUSLY SAVED

On December 30, 1997, at 6:05 p.m. the car my husband, Pastor Edward, my uncle, Mr. Joyman Jagdeshwarar (from India) and myself were travelling in, met a terrible accident.

The car's tyre burst and skidded and tumbled into a 200 feet valley. We were badly wounded and unconscious, stuck inside the wrecked and shapeless vehicle. By the grace of our Lord, we were dragged out of the car by a lorry driver and were immediately rushed to the nearby hospital in Tapah.

My uncle was severely wounded and was in his

last stage of life. The doctors tried their best to save his life but it was in vain. My husband and I were transferred to the Emergency Ward in Ipoh Hospital. My husband, by the mercies of God, regained consciousness after two full days, while I regained mine from time to time. He was discharged from the hospital after five days with a stiff-neck collar and he had to have treatments to relieve his neck and spinal agony.

I was in traction lying on the bed without any major movements for one month. After that, I had to wear a jacket called "Halo Vest" for another two months. At present, I am also wearing the stiff-neck collar to protect my neck from any sudden jerky movements.

We praise the Lord for His abundant mercy and grace that He has showered upon us—He has saved us miraculously. To add to our immense happiness after the survival of this accident, the Lord has blessed and saved our little child despite the dreadful turmoil it could have undergone in my womb. This is our humble testimony of gratitude which proves that God is ever guarding and guiding His children.

Renitta Edward, spouse of Pastor Christopher Edward
of Bagan Datoh and Teluk Intan Indian Church

TITHE BLESSINGS

Being a Christian, I wanted to obey God truly. During the meetings conducted by Pastor Ron Hobson (Revival of Hope), I was deeply convicted regarding the tithe. My family immediately started to put aside our tithe before we did anything else! After a few months, we saw an increase in our income and thus, our tithe as well. God has been true to us when we obeyed and trusted Him, His promise, "Bring the full tithe into the store house, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing." Malaci 3:10, has been fulfilled. We want to thank God for this wonderful experience.

Regina Devi

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AUDIT WORKSHOPS

Three weeks were spent conducting Church Membership Audit Workshops for the pastors, church elders and church clerks in 19 districts of Sabah Mission from May 12 to 30, 1998 by Pastors Nelver Sikul and Joshua Mok, secretaries of Sabah Mission and SAUM respectively. Training was given to the local church leaderships to audit the apparent inaccuracy of the church membership record in the local churches. Steps to audit membership are as follows:

1. Update the church membership record by filling in all the missing information (e.g. full names, dates of birth, dates of acceptance and dismissals)
2. Ascertain current church membership in each church (regular active members and non-attending members who have not been dropped from the church)
 3. From current membership list, sort out those who have stopped attending church, classify them under the following categories:
 - a. Missing members (whereabouts unknown)

Recommendation: dismissal (missing)
 - b. Apostatized/backsliding members (given up faith in Jesus and living a life-style not in harmony with church teaching)

Recommendation: visits and final dismissal (apostasy)
 - c. Members have moved elsewhere but attending church there.

Recommendation: transfer of membership
 - d. The sick, old and handicapped members but still faithful.

Recommendation: regular visits
4. Submit the above 3a, b, c lists to the church board for discussion and action and final recommendation to the church business meeting for appropriate actions.

Deadline: complete the audit by end of 1998 in each church.

Church clerks were given special training on

church membership transfer, entering and dropping names from church membership record books, quarterly statistical current membership and composite membership reports, and job description. It is planned to have all church clerks in all the churches thoroughly trained and equipped to handle the task of this important church office and is hoped that they will be re-elected to repeated terms of service to provide continuity in record keeping and reporting.

I W Mok

AIAS DLC IN SABAH

Upon the request of the Sabah Mission, AIAS has set up a Distance Learning Centre in Sabah for the Master of Ministry program. Two courses were offered this year on Hermeneutics (the study of the methodological principles of interpretation) of Adventist Theology by Dr. Humberto Treiyer. About 20 pastors attended the classes. Thirteen of them registered as students for the Masters program, two of them from Sarawak, one from Thailand and the rest from Sabah itself.

It is hoped that all Missions can participate in this upgrading program for their pastors. Each year courses offered will be communicated well in advance to the missions so that qualified pastors will be able to attend the courses.

DATING, COURTSHIP & MARRIAGE SEMINAR

One hundred fifty enthusiastic young people gathered at the Sabah Mission Retreat Centre for a seminar on Dating, Courtship, and Marriage, May 29-31. The retreat was organized by Sabah Family Ministries Director Nelton Bingku. The young people had the opportunity to learn more and also to make new friends. There have been several marriages of couples who met at one of these retreats from the years past. Some of the participants said they needed to have it every month!!

Dorothy Walter

DISASTER RESPONSE

In April, a sudden fire reduced the longhouse, Rumah Sangil, at Kg. Mejau, along the Tatau River in Sarawak, to a heap of ashes. Of the 11 families who lived in the longhouse, none were able to save or salvage much of anything from the longhouse when the sudden blaze broke out. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries or loss of life, but all their food and possessions were totally lost.

Appeals for help went out as quickly as possible for the victims. The Sarawak Mission immediately sent out an appeal to all churches, and quickly gathered donations and food and materials for the victims. The Malaysian Airlines very graciously offered to carry up to 300 kg of the materials free of charge to the nearest airport, Bintulu. From there, a generous church member transported all the materials in his van to the river port some 30 km away. And a local boat company carried them the remainder of the journey to where the victims were being temporarily housed in Rumah Pandong.

The village Chief, Mr. Sangil, was especially thankful for the generous and quick response for the assistance given. Happily, the little Adventist jungle chapel that serves the village was spared from the fire.

**BAPTISM REPORT - 1997**

A total of four hundred and twenty-two souls were baptized in Sarawak Mission throughout 1997. This was the highest baptismal record in the last

three years. This achievement was possible due to the combined effort of the laity and the ministerial team with the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

With the emphasis on more church members trained and involved in soulwinning activities, Sarawak Mission expects a greater harvest of souls in the years to come. The baptismal goal for 1998 is 500.

Gilbert Tan

GLOBAL MISSION-LIMBANG TOWN PENETRATION

The Sarawak Seventh-day Adventist Mission took a bold move to penetrate Limbang Town with the Advent message. This medium sized town is sandwiched between two Brunei territories which makes it a busy town.

In the month of January, Pastor Edmund Liah, Sarawak Mission President and Chai Mien Seng, Global Mission worker, and Wilfred Sim, Industrial Manager made a trip to Limbang to survey the town. Their findings revealed that the town is ready for evangelism. Another reason for establishing a centre in Limbang town is to provide a place of worship for current Adventist church members who are working in Brunei. These members come from many Asian countries, working in various sectors in the country. Opening new work in Limbang town serves as a launching pad to penetrate the surrounding region with the message.

When the GM Centre or better known as the Adventist Community Health Centre was opened for the first time on Sabbath morning, March 14, there were 15 people who came to worship. Most of them were from Bandar Sri Begawan, Brunei and only one was from Limbang town itself.

The Centre will be officially opened on May 17, and a Government Minister has been invited to grace the occasion. In connection with the opening day, a health screening clinic will be conducted, involving a number of medical personnel.

SWK Staff

AWARDS TO FOUR LEs

Four Sarawak literature evangelists received awards for increase of sales at the LE Convention, Genting Highland Resort, on February 14. They were Vincent Itam, Kunsuharsi, Richard Moss and Flora Sirub. The awards were given away by Jose Luis Campos, Howard Faigao and Abram Oberholster, Publishing Directors of the GC, SSD, and SAUM respectively.



CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL WITNESSING SEMINAR LAUNCHED

About 50 people attended the launching of the Christian Leadership and Personal Witnessing Seminar conducted at Kuching Chinese Church on February 18-22, 1998. The launching was led out by Pastors Samuel Money, Lawrence Banyu, SAUM Lay Activities Director and Youth Director respectively and Pastor Lawrence Randig, Lay Activities Director of Sarawak Mission. The topics were: The Art of Personal Evangelism, Preaching and Sermon Preparation, Simple Method of Bible Study, Local Church Evangelism, and Shepherding the Flock.

Sarawak Seventh-day Adventist Mission was committed to train 650 laymen for a three-year period from 1998-2000. To implement the program the Mission officers and the departmental directors have formed two teams of 3-4 trainers in each team who will conduct training seminars in the different

parts of the Mission field. To date, three such training seminars have been conducted for the Bau/Lundu district, Penrissen district, and Simunjan district. A total of 150, church leaders had been trained in the three districts.

TEACHERS' RETREAT

A very enriching but relaxing teachers' retreat was held by the Sarawak Mission on May 12-14, 1998 at the Rainforest Resort Centre, Damai. It was organized and directed by Pastor Lawrence Randig, SAK education director. About 70 teachers and family members attended the retreat. Everyone was really blessed by the devotional talks presented by Pastor Edmund Liah, SAK Mission president, as well as by the serenity of the place and the beauty of nature surrounding the modern but rustic log cabins and tree-houses where the campers stayed! Topics on renewal of teachers' commitment to Adventist education and school cooperation were presented by Dr. Edmund Siagian, SAUM Education director, while Ms. Memory Sampson (Mission College Recruitment and Marketing director) presented lively session on teachers' professionalism and ethics, creative and well-planned lessons, and contemporary and special teaching techniques.

Edmund Siagian, SAUM Education Director



JOY IN HEAVEN--FIVE-FOLD

Although the heat from the afternoon sun would drive many to stay indoors it could not keep some 250 members, students and families from attending the Amazing Facts Fellowship Rally on 21 March 1998. They packed the seats of the Singapore SDA Chinese Church.

Heartwarming testimonies by those who studied the course attested to the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit. A non-Adventist Christian, spoke of his joy in discovering the Sabbath truth. Another affirmed her faith in God that He will take care of her life even as she is battling with cancer.

In his message "The Day of Salvation" Pastor Toh See Wei spoke of the urgency of the time. At the end of his talk he appealed to those who want to respond to Christ and His Love. Seven requested for the Amazing Facts lessons. Three indicated their desire to be baptized and wanted to attend the nearest SDA Church.

The afternoon events culminated in the graduation and baptism of several students. Ten completed 14 lessons (Level 1) and five the 28 lessons (Level 2) of the Study Guides. They received diplomas from Pastor Joshua Mok. The baptism of five students, a result of the Amazing Facts course and the evangelistic meetings held last December, was our greatest joy. We owe the success of the rally to many people. We praise the Lord for those who are actively spreading the Good News of Salvation. The offering of S\$780.00 received helped defray some of the expenses of the day. The next rally will be held on 19 September 1998 at the Balestier SDA Church at 4:30 pm. We want to encourage more members to take up this work of soul-saving. You can introduce the course to others or help to follow up the interests generated. Time is running out ... let us pray and work now!

Danson Ng, SAM Evangelism Coordinator

AY2Y

Helping a friend quit substance abuse took on a new meaning for some San Yu Adventist School (SYAS) students who were participants in the Adventist Youth to Youth (AY2Y) Camp. Fifty students accompanied by four teachers and other youth leaders camped in the SYAS campus from 16 to 19 March for the first AY2Y camp organized in Singapore.

The AY2Y concept, first introduced in North America in the 1980's, approaches the problem of substance abuse from a peer prevention programme model. Its key components include leadership training, information sharing, fun events, family group activities and environmental change strategies. The underlying principle behind these components is a strong spiritual belief that God provides the power to overcome and abstain from destructive alternatives.

Young people are being taught methods to lead and help their friends to either abstain from or quit harmful habits like smoking, alcohol abuse, drug-taking, illicit sex, and gang activities.

A day before the camp started 11 students and four youth leaders were selected to attend an intensive 12-hour leadership course. Their main task was to lead the campers in small groups known as family groups. During the seven family-group sessions, these leaders were to help their groups bond together in trust and unity to enable sharing of problems. Many of the leaders were apprehensive of what seemed like a daunting task. However, by the fifth session there was evidence of bonding and a sense of belonging within the six groups.

Campers who were strangers in the beginning left as close friends by the last session. The sense of spiritual bonding felt generally in the camp resulted in 15 students requesting Bible study. Another eight received Christ as their personal Saviour with four wanting to be baptized soon.

Remarked Yan Siew Ghang, SYAS chaplain and camp coordinator, "We didn't expect such commitments. It was not the expressed intention of this camp to get the participants spiritually

committed. I believe the Spirit of God moved in this camp and touched these campers' hearts. The results are similar, if not, better, to a gospel camp."

The campers moved along a jam-packed schedule of activities in addition to family group sessions. Student-led worship sessions, health talks, preventive-education talks by the Central Narcotics Bureau and the CID Secret Societies Branch, seminars on goal-setting, self-esteem, mind management and parent relationships, group games, and a drama workshop filled the participant's timetable.

The camp ended on a high note with a closing ceremony that was topped by a special presentation from the different family groups. The realistic skits and entertaining items displayed the positive lessons experienced by the AY2Y campers.

As a direct follow-up to the camp, the SYAS, under the direction of Yan Siew Giang, is organizing an AY2Y Club as an extra-curricular activity.

John Tan, Coordinator, Youth Ministry

DOCTORATE DEGREES AWARDED

Recognizing their interest in and support of educational endeavours and the fine arts, the Council on Honorary Degrees and Awards of Andrews University awarded honorary doctorate



degrees to Dr. Tan Hian-Tsin and Mrs. Tan Tsao Sui-Lan.

Dr. Tan Hian-Tsin received the Honorary Degree Doctor of Laws (LLD) while Mrs. Tan was awarded the Honorary Degree Doctor

of Fine Arts (D.F.A.). Dr. Tan Hian-Tsin had previously received an honorary doctorate degree in Management from Ren Min University in Beijing, People's Republic of China.

Doctors Tan received their awards on the morning of June 7, 1998, along with the graduates and undergraduates of Andrews University. The ceremony was witnessed by their children and grand children and over twenty other relatives who went to Andrews University for the presentation. It was indeed a grand and auspicious occasion.

Kathleen Pauner

FAMILY CAMP MEETING

Thirty-eight members from the churches in Singapore attended the family camp meeting, June 12-14, at Desaru Golden Beach Hotel. The group arrived at the resort on Friday morning by ferry and enjoyed the recreational facilities the whole day.

The theme, "Preparing My Family For Heaven" which was in line with the Mission's triennial vision—"In Heaven with Jesus," was launched on Friday evening by Dr. Carlos Martin, Assistant Dean of the Theological Seminary at AIIAS. Dr. Martin presented all the spiritual messages with emphasis on preparing the family for heaven. The messages were very inspiring especially as he unfolded the principles of God's word in story forms. Dr. Linda Koh, director of Family Ministry (SSD), gave helpful and practical family seminars on improving family relationships and communication, disciplining children, and relating to teen-age children. Mrs. Dorothy Walter took charge of the children's programme by teaching the children to do art and craft and in discovering nature. Pastor Dan Walter dealt with how the family can witness for the Lord in their homes.

Danson Ng

KAREN BIBLE CAMP

A Bible camp for the Karen members was held in the campus of Chiangmai Adventist Education Centre on March 23-28, 1998. A total of 144 members representing the six Karen churches attended. The themes chosen for the camp meeting were "Jesus is Coming Again" and "Experience the Power of His Word". Pastor Phamol Phoopichitprai, regional director for the North and North-west Thailand, was the main speaker on the "Last-day Events" and Joshua Mok, Union Secretary and Stewardship Director, spoke on "Experience the Power of His Word."

The Thailand Mission employs seven Karen pastors to care for the six Karen churches with about 600 members in Thailand. There are about 3000 members in the refugee camps at the Thai and Myanmar border with 12 pastors supervising the work. They need our prayers and support.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S CARE (ICC)

An International Children's Care Centre (named Kirsten Jade Rescue Centre) was opened in November 1996 at the compound of Chiangmai Adventist Education Centre. Four buildings were built to house 32 kids ages from 3-15. These children are either orphans or neglected children from the villages. The school-aged children are sent to school. Currently 18 kids are in primary school, 2 in Academy and 12 in Adult School.

A family (house parents) is assigned to each house to cook for the kids. The older kids are to wash their own clothing and work in the vegetable and fruit garden. Morning and evening worships are carried out faithfully.

The centre is sponsored by the International Children's Care, USA, and assisted by the ICC, Australia. They are responsible for building new buildings (2 more buildings will be built when funds are available), upkeep and maintenance of the buildings, utilities and salary of the house parents.

Individual donors are invited to assist in the food and clothing expenses, tuition and fees of the students. Sponsorship of individual student is also encouraged.

Mrs. Suwahkhon Phupichitprai is the director of the Centre.

Anyone interested to give financial help to the centre or provide sponsorship of individual children can contact her in the following address:

ICC, Thailand
P O Box 79, Maeling Post Office
Chiangmai, Thailand 50001



BAPTISM IN KAREN REFUGEE CAMP

The Karen people who have been living in a refugee camp in Suanphueng, Rachburi are over 9,000 right now, because the Karen Buddhists attacked the Karen Christians at Tawai, Myanmar. That's why they escaped to Thailand. At present there are about 60 Adventists, from 16 families, in this refugee camp. They have a Sabbath worship at the bamboo house which they erected. On February 6, eight candidates who studied the Bible with Pr. Prasert Raksouwai and one of the laymen were baptized by Pr Anucha Saeyong, TAM Sabbath School Director. Pr. Pairote Phookjit, TAM Family and Youth Ministries Director, who participated this ceremony says, "The most urgent needs for them are some medicines and mosquito nets."

HMONG YOUTH CAMP

From March 31 until April 5 a Hmong Youth Camp was held in Chiangmai, Tung Jor. The place in which this Youth Camp was held is a beautiful forest conducive to meditating on our Creator's goodness. The theme "Experience the Power of His Word" chosen for this camp was especially emphasized by Pastor Joshua Gan, Chinese Church Pastor, to about 160 young people. On Sabbath day, most of the young Hmong boys and girls wore their beautiful costume which we seldom see on ordinary days. And many people from Khunsa Nai Church near this camping place participated in the divine worship service, also wearing their costume. On that Sabbath 46 boys and girls including few adults, gave their hearts to Jesus through baptism. We pray that God will guide them with His mighty hand until Jesus comes again

BIBLE CONFERENCE

A Bible Conference was organized by the Chaplain Department of the Bangkok Adventist Hospital on November 1 and 2, 1997 at the Muaklek Health Promotion Center. About 30 workers and nursing students participated. Pastor of the Ekamai International Church, Pastor Gratton Perera, gave the inspirational talks on God's sacrifice to humanity.

The group was divided into dynamic groups to study and discuss God's word and His plan for mankind. Socials and nature study were also organized to enliven the meetings. Participants felt that God had been very close to them. Some non-SDA students also commented that they felt God is reaching out to them, and the knowledge received had given more value and meaning to their lives. During an altar call, many of those present stood up to rededicate and commit themselves to follow Jesus. The meetings concluded with a solemn candle lighting ceremony, signifying themselves as a small light, contributing toward a bigger light in this dark world.

The group left the Bible Conference with a new zeal and inspiration to let their light shine to their friends.

By Lee Chin Beng, Mission college



PASTOR JOHN LORNTZ CONDUCTS WEEK OF PRAYER

A senior pastor of Fletcher Church, North Carolina, U.S.A., Pastor John Lorntz, conducted the Week of Prayer at Bangkok Adventist Hospital Church on January 26-31, 1998. The theme "Called to Be Happy, Healthy, and Holy" has enormously changed hearts and lives of many of the hospital workers, students and staff as well.

Besides pastoring Fletcher Church, Pastor John Lorntz also conducts evangelistic crusades in many different countries in Central America, Europe, Mexico and Cuba. While at Bangkok Adventist Hospital, he spent most of his time visiting and encouraging workers and students to study and learn more about Jesus. His mother Mildred Lorntz, who came along with him, gave out tokens just before her son preached. This added interest to those who attended the meetings regularly and promptly.

At the culmination of the Week of Prayer, one nursing student gave her heart to Jesus and was baptized. Several others made requests for Bible study.

Jubilee J. Tanada, Head Chaplain, Bangkok Adventist Hospital

BANGKOK ADVENTIST HOSPITAL

In March of this year the Government of Thailand assigned top hospital administrators to evaluate the Bangkok Adventist Hospital. The team reported that BAH was ahead of many of the best private medical institutions in the country. They plan to advise management of these hospitals to visit BAH to study its policies and operational systems. It is forecast by the Thai Ministry of Health that 90 percent of all private hospital in Bangkok will record operating losses by the end of 1998, due to the recession. During the first four months of the year, however, BAH was able to record a modest gain, and confidently expects a healthy gain by year's end. This is due to cost cutting measures approved by the Board in January. Throughout 1998 the Ministry of Health is promoting a healthy life-style throughout the kingdom, with greater emphasis on preventive medicine and general health education. Government researchers have used the Health Centre in Muak Lek as a case study. Recently the Ambassador of Uruguay spent fourteen days at the Centre, participating in one of its health programmes.

Robin D Riches.

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