

The



*Southeast Asia
Union Mission*

MESSENGER

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EXPERIENCE THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS FAMILY

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LEST WE FORGET

A reflection on the greatest danger we face as Adventists.

Moses' great burden as he prepared to lay down the mantle of leadership was: "Beware lest you forget the Lord your God." (Deut. 8:11) History has repeatedly shown that as a movement matures and gains respectability and legal standing, as it comes into the third and fourth generations, it has a tendency to forget its reason for existence, a tendency to lose its soul.

Today we face the danger of forgetting three fundamental things: Who we are; Why we are; and Where we are.

1 WHO ARE WE?

In Deut. 8, God speaks to a nation of uneducated former slaves on the verge of the Promised land and on the verge of affluence. And the caution He gives them is utterly pertinent for us today.

Seventh-day Adventism can take us from the social and economic gutter and introduce us not only to salvation in Jesus Christ but also to a new life of intellectual and economic success to what we sometimes call "upward mobility." The tragedy all too often, however, is that when we have achieved, then we turn our backs on the Church, we lose our identity, and we forget the God who brought us, so to speak, out of the gutter.

2 WHY ARE WE?

Why do we exist as a separate entity? With the multiplicity of religious denominations around the world, why one more? What do we have for the people that makes a difference?

Without denying the Christian integrity of anyone, we need to understand that the Advent movement was especially raised up by God, in accordance with prophecy, to "rebuild the old waste," to "raise up the foundations of many generations," to be the "repairer of the breach," and "the restorer of

paths to dwell in." (Isa. 58:12)

I think there is much we can learn, as a people, from other religious groups—from their deep spirituality and social conscience. But I see in the World Council of Churches, for example, a movement whose focus is limited to this world only, a movement that seems to have lost the vision (if it even had it) of a transcendent future, a future beyond the things of time and space. There is hardly any concern in the World Council about getting ready for the coming of the Lord.

So this emphasis is the special task committed to us as a people within the context of the great controversy and the ministration of Christ in the heavenly sanctuary. That's why we are. Nobody else is doing it. God wants it done. And by the grace of God, we exist to do it.

3 WHERE ARE WE?

As Moses spoke to Israel the words of Deut. 8, they stood on the border to the Promised Land. Where are we today?

It is clear to me that the great outline prophecies of the Bible are now in the distant past: the great earthquake, the Dark Day, the crimson moon, the great meteoric shower, and a host of other chronological prophecies given in Scripture. For me, the clear message of all this is that the hour is late.

But instead of looking at every Mickey Mouse event as a sign of the Coming, I try to take in the big picture. My focus is on watching the development of that critical mass of human evil and defiance that has triggered God's judgment in the past.

Before Sodom fell, for example, the city seemed to have taken a fatal plunge into the most egregious evil, evidenced in the behaviour of its male residents outside Lot's house that fateful night. "The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great," the Lord had said to Abraham, "and their sin in exceedingly grave" (Gen. 18:20) "They were haughty and

committed abominations before Me," the Lord said to Ezekiel; "therefore I removed them." (Eze. 16:50)

Today we see the same sacrilegious brazenness parading in our streets, with the overt or tacit support and approval of community leaders, governments, and the media.

We know from history that a civilization is nearing its end when it begins to shake its fist in the face of God in arrogant defiance. If we have not yet come to that place, we are rapidly approaching it.

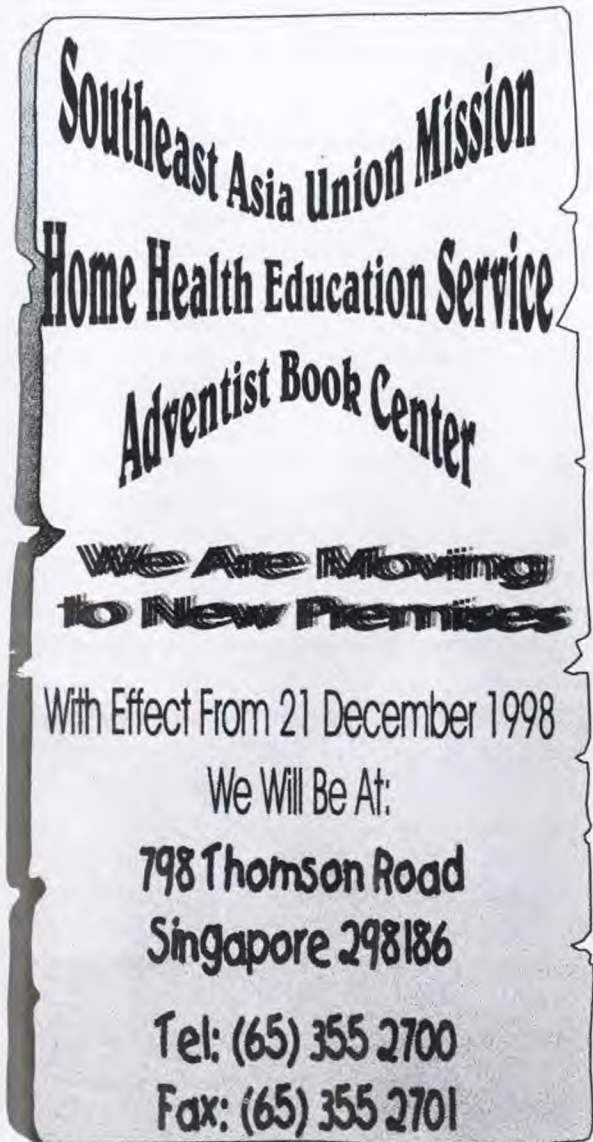
Similar conditions also preceded the destruction of the antediluvian civilization. For one they, as the book of Genesis records it, "the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence." (Gen 6:11)

Is that not our situation today? Yet life goes on. And in one sense, everything looks so normal. It is a normalcy that has always intrigued me. And I notice that in His reference to Sodom and Gomorrah, Jesus by passed the immorality and the violence and focused instead on the normalcy.

"In those days which were before the flood," He said, "they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be" (Matt. 24: 38, 39). And before Sodom fell, "they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building," until fire and brimstone began to rain down from heaven and destroyed them all. (Lk 17:28, 29)

So let's remember where we are. We are standing on the very verge of the heavenly kingdom. Soon the heavens will split asunder, and we shall see Him for whom we've so long waited.

Adapted from Roy Adams' article
"Lest We Forget" printed on
Oct. 28, 1998, *Adventist Review*.



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UNION MID-QUINQUENNIAL ANNUAL COUNCIL REPORT

The Union held its Annual Council and pre-meetings at the Mission-Health Promotion Centre, Muak Lek, Thailand on Nov. 20-24, 1998. Most of the 50 delegates arrived Friday evening. Pastor Bruce Bauer preached the Sabbath Service on "Giving and Receiving Forgiveness" at the Mission College Church where all delegates attended the service. Pastor Dan Walter led out in the afternoon Global Mission spotlight programme at the Health Centre. All Missions participated in sharing the exciting stories of God's leading in starting new work in many unentered areas. Saturday evening and Sunday morning were spent in interviews between the Union officers and departmental directors with the Missions' officers. The Annual Council started at 2:00 p.m. Sunday. The President gave a progress report of God's work throughout Southeast Asia, especially in the countries of Laos and Vietnam. The Secretary gave the following three quarters 1998 statistical report: membership: 60,183; baptism and profession of faith: 2,263; churches: 271, and companies: 246. The two morning devotions speakers were Dr. G. T. Ng from AILAS and Pastor Wendell Wilcox, retired former SAUM and TAM president and presently serving as volunteer pastor of Mission College Church. They both presented inspiring messages for the delegates. The nominating committee met three times to discuss and to elect all Mission officers whose term expired at the time of the Annual Council. Peninsular Malaysia Mission has a new president, Francis Lajanim. Dr. G. T. Ng was called to lead Singapore Mission. The Sabah, Sarawak, and Thailand teams were reelected to office for another term till 2000.

The theme of the world church for 1999 is "Experience the Fellowship of His Family." The Missions heartily accepted recommendations from the GC message, and mission committees agreed to organize Home Visitation Team in all churches with the purpose of (1) visiting every Adventist family once a month, (2) caring for the needs of the flock,

and (3) promoting closer fellowship in the family of faith.

The GC and the SSD in their Annual Council have incorporated in their Working Policy books the Total Commitment to God Declaration. At the Council all delegates voted to do the same for the SAUM Working Policy book. The Declaration deals with spiritual accountability in the Church of God of all levels, starting from church members, to church pastors, congregations, schools, colleges and universities, hospitals and health-care institutions, publishing houses and Adventist Book Centre, food industries, Missions, Unions, Divisions and General Conference. It heightens the awareness of, and accountability to, God and to the Mission which is an integral part of the Christian relationship and commitment to Him. We have decided to publish part of the document in the *Messenger* to help the Unions, Missions and all institutions within the Union to develop accountability based on the Gospel commission.

A possible joint partnership of Mission Health Food and Sanitarium Health Food Company and a local Thai Company was at its final stage. A new company may be registered and a possible site for factory was seriously considered. The Union, through the MHF Company, has pledged to commit its share of US\$4,000,000 to the project.

Dr. Siriporn, president of the Mission College, reported about the progress of the new international program. News came to Singapore stating that the English and General Education curriculum submitted to the Education Ministry of Thailand were approved. The College can accept international students beginning January 1999. Mr. Tom Massengill reported the progress report on the building development. The housing for staff and the three dormitories are almost completed. The Sports Complex is underway. The library, information technology building and the church will go for tender shortly.

The Council adopted the Practical Pastor Training Programme for about 100 pastors who do not have formal academic training and cannot meet

the entrance requirement of an academic course of studies. The programme will equip these pastors with approximate equivalent of two years of college training, but would be "non-academic". The pastors will receive a certificate or diploma upon completion of the training.

Pastors uniform was an interesting discussion item at the Council. The uniform discussed ranged from a T-shirt with church logo to long sleeve shirt with a "clergy" type collar, "Bush Jacket" types of heavy long/short sleeve shirt with epaulets and name tag, white shirt long/short sleeve with a cross embroidered on the pocket and the wording "SDA Pastor" under the cross, and a robe similar to a graduation robe but with appropriate markings and decorations. Other additional items included in the uniform were tie rack with a chain fastener, displaying the church logo, tie bar (clip), displaying the church logo, plain colored necktie with the church logo, and a name tag with the church logo and words "SDA pastor."

The Missions were authorized to adopt any type of uniform for their pastoral workers. More consultations are needed with the pastors and members before any official uniform is adopted. It was felt that pastoral uniform could enhance the role and performance of the pastors.

The Council also approved the recommendation from the Thailand President Fund Committee to stop granting service credits for retirement purpose to all denominational employees in Thailand starting January 1, 1999. In its place two defined contribution plans were adopted: Education Provident Fund for teachers and Pension Fund for all other church employees. For Education Fund, the school contributes 3% of teachers' salary and is matched by another 3% by the teacher. As for Pension Fund, the employing organization will contribute 3-6% of employee's salary and is matched by another 3-6% by the employee. An employee cannot receive the employer's portion of the contribution if he/she terminates employment before completing 5 years of service. 50% of employee's portion of contribution plus interest will be given to the

employee when he/she terminates employment after completing six years of service, and subsequent 10% increase for every year of service until 100% payment after the 11th year.

In adopting the new defined contribution plan, the Mission and institutions in Thailand will continue to contribute to the SSD Defined Retirement Benefit Plan according to the current contribution rates to care for current retirees and vested employees.

For those employees who are not vested at Dec. 31, 1998 (6-15 years of service), an account for each of them will be held at SAUM. Funds will be placed in the individual's account based on years of service credit earned through Dec. 31, 1998 at the applicable SAUM retirement rate. Those funds shall accrue interest semi-annually at the current Education Provident Fund rate. Once the employee has been continuously employed 15 years and reaches 55 years old, these funds shall be deposited into their individual Provident Fund/Pension Fund account.

For those vested employees (15-40 years of service), the years of service credits through Dec. 31, 1998 will be frozen for retirement purposes. At the time the employee is eligible for retirement on the SSD Defined Retirement Benefit Plan, he/she will receive retirement benefits based on the years of service credit frozen at Dec. 31, 1998 with benefits based on the plan at time of eligibility.

The Annual Council concluded with a ceremony of the signing agreement of the affiliation of the three Union hospitals with the Adventist Health West and Loma Linda Medical Centre. Dr. Tom Zirkle representing the Loma Linda Medical Centre and Pastor Robin Riches, president of the SAUM signed the agreement. This agreement will enable our hospitals to refer patients to US and they in turn will provide medical technological helps to our hospitals.

The Lord has been good to us throughout the Council, unity and love prevailed in all discussions. With one heart and mind we all pledged to the good Lord to commit ourselves to the finishing of His work in Southeast Asia

By Joshua Mok, Secretary, SAUM

ANNUAL COUNCIL REPORT



A part of the delegates to the 1998 SAUM Council at Muak Lek, Thailand, singing the theme song "Family of God" at the opening of the mid-quinquennial Council.

Elder Robin Riches (SAUM president) and Pastor Joshua Mok (SAUM secretary) leading out in the Council meetings, while Pastor Dan Walter (standing) checks with a point in question on his Practical Pastor Training Programme.



Elder Riches signing the agreement between SAUM and the Adventist Health West. Looking on intently are Dr. Tom Zirkle (seated, from LLU) and the three SAUM Hospital presidents (T Y Billones, BAH; Ted Mohr, PAH; and Rapeepan S David, PKAH).

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Reverend Dan Walter displaying his new clerical robe.



Pastor Francis Lajanim, PEM president-elect, leading the delegates in singing.



The SAUM and Council secretary, Pastor Joshua Mok, making a point



Dr. G T Ng giving a devotional talk.



Delegates in an earnest season of prayer for the Council and Mission College.

A DECLARATION OF SPIRITUAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE FAMILY OF FAITH

Introduction: The Divine Mandate—The history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is filled with examples of individuals and institutions who have been, and are, vibrant witnesses to their faith. Because of their passionate commitment to their Lord and appreciation of His unbounded love, they all have the same goal: to share the Good News with others. One key Bible text has motivated them. It is a text that fires the souls of Seventh-day Adventists everywhere. It is what is called the Gospel Commission, the mandate from the Lord Himself, as recorded in Matthew 28:19,20, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.” The New International Version says: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...”

This mandate, from the Lord Himself, is simple, beautiful, and binding. It is for every follower, whether member, pastor, or administrator—Go . . . teach . . . baptize . . . make disciples. This principle ignites the mission of the Church and sets the standard for any measuring, any assessment, of success. It touches all, whatever their responsibility, whether they are laypersons or church employees. It spans all the elements of church life, from the local church to the General Conference, in schools and colleges, publishing houses, health care institutions, and health food organizations. The promise is encapsulated in the baptismal vows, in mission statements, in aims and objectives, in policies, and in constitutions and bylaws “to witness to His loving salvation,” “to facilitate the proclamation of the everlasting gospel,” “to supply the multitudes with the bread of life,” and “to nurture them in preparation for His soon return.” The four-fold command to go . . . teach . . . baptize . . . make disciples sounds wherever Seventh-day Adventists work or come together.

As the Church has grown in size and complexity,

more and more members, pastors, and administrators have asked serious questions about how the Church relates to the Gospel Commission. Do the wheels and the gears of the Church just turn out above average products and services that cannot be readily distinguished from their secular counterparts? Or does the Church make sure its basic products and services reveal to the world the way to eternal life? Nothing should be excluded from these questions, whether it be church worship services or organizational or institutional programs and products.

The Church as a whole must ask and answer the hard questions about how it is relating to the guiding principle of the Gospel Commission. How can the guiding principle be actualized in the lives of members, pastors, and congregations? How can they measure their progress in fulfilling the Gospel Commission? How can the Church’s universities, colleges and academies, health-food factories, high-tech health care institutions, clinics, publishing houses, and media centers develop accountability based on the Gospel Commission?

This challenge calls for a frank and analytical approach in determining where the Church is in relationship to the Lord’s command. It is not enough to measure success by secular standards, not enough to give those standards priority. Total commitment to God involves, primarily, total acceptance of the principles of Christianity as outlined in the Bible and as supported by the Spirit of Prophecy. Congregations, institutions, individual church employees, and church members can easily find satisfaction in goals reached, funds raised, buildings completed, budgets balanced, accreditation achieved or renewed, and yet fail to be accountable before God to the Gospel Commission. The first and continuing priority for the Church must be this directive from the Lord: Go . . . teach . . . baptize . . . make disciples.

While the Gospel Commission does not change, its fulfillment is demonstrated in different ways. A pastor works within a different context than that of a classroom teacher, a physician, or an institutional

administrator. Whatever the personal or institutional role, each one is accountable to God's command. Among the great benefits resulting from an assessment of their effectiveness will be the increasing trust that develops as each member, each pastor, each administrator, each church institution addresses this priority and gives it proper attention.

The family of God acknowledges that each person is individually accountable to God. At the same time, believers are admonished to examine themselves (see 2 Cor 13:5). A spiritual assessment process has its place in the personal life. Just as surely, it has its place in organizational life.

Spiritual assessment, while appropriate, is also a very delicate matter. For humankind sees only in part. The earthly frame of reference is always limited to that which is visible and, to a brief span of time, surrounding the present. Nevertheless, there is much to be gained from careful and thoughtful evaluation of personal and organizational life.

It is possible to identify several principles which can guide such an assessment. While any attempt will be incomplete, the following areas of specific assessment will heighten awareness of and accountability to God and to the mission which is an integral part of the Christian's relationship and commitment to Him. The list is not comprehensive of those identified for attention, but the principles outlined here are applicable also to other individuals, organizations, and institutions.

(A) What Total Commitment to God Involves for Each Church Member—Each Seventh-day Adventist, whether denominational employee or layperson, is promised the gift of the Holy Spirit which will enable spiritual growth in the grace of the Lord and which will empower the development and use of spiritual gifts in witness and service. The presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is demonstrated by:

1. Maintaining, where possible, a Christian home where the standards and principles of Christ are both taught and exemplified,
2. Experiencing a life that rejoices in the

assurance of salvation, is moved by the Holy Spirit to effective personal witness to others, and which experiences in Christ a gracious character that is consistent with God's will as revealed in His Word,

3. Using the spiritual gifts God has promised each one,

4. Dedicating time, spiritual gifts, and resources, prayerfully and systematically, in the Gospel proclamation and, individually as well as part of a church family, becoming the Lord's salt and light through sharing His love in family life and community service, always motivated by the sense of the soon return of the Lord and His command to preach His Gospel both at home and afar, and

5. Participating in a plan for systematic spiritual growth and assessment of one's personal walk with God by forming mutually accountable spiritual partnerships where the primary objective is to prayerfully mentor one another.

(B) What Total Commitment to God Involves for a Church Pastor—A Seventh-day Adventist pastor, called and empowered by the Holy Spirit, driven by love for souls, points sinners to Christ as Creator and Redeemer, and teaches them how to share their faith and become effective disciples. He or she regularly shares a balanced spiritual diet fresh from communion with God and His Word. The pastor shows the saving grace and transforming power of the Gospel by:

1. Striving to make his or her family a model of what the Lord expects in marriage and families,
2. Preaching Bible-based, Christ-centered sermons that nurture the members and support the world Church, and teaching the fundamental beliefs with a sense of urgency rooted in the Seventh-day Adventist understanding of prophecy,
3. Appealing for all to submit to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit so that the Gospel may be validated in the compassionate life of the faith-directed believer,
4. Leading the local congregation in a strong evangelistic outreach that both increases membership and establishes new congregations,

Total Commitment to God

while maintaining strong support for the local and worldwide work of the Church,

5. Evidencing effectiveness in ministry as the family of God increases numerically and grows in spiritual experience and worship, thus hastening the return of the Lord, and

6. Affirming the prioritization of personal spiritual growth and mission effectiveness by regularly participating in a spiritual outcome assessment process. The division will facilitate the development of an assessment model, to be implemented by each union/local conference, which includes a self-assessment module as well as elements addressing the pastor's responsibility to the congregation(s) and the world Church organization.

(C) What Total Commitment to God Involves for a Congregation—A Seventh-day Adventist congregation creatively and self-critically functions as a witnessing and nurturing community, facilitating the Gospel proclamation, both locally, regionally, and globally. It lives in its world as “the body of Christ” showing the same concern and positive action for those which it touches as the Lord did in His earthly ministry by:

1. Demonstrating an abiding assurance in the saving grace of Christ and a commitment to the distinctive teachings of the Word,

2. Understanding and accepting its role as part of an end-time movement with a local, regional, and global responsibility for the spreading of the Gospel,

3. Developing strategic plans for sharing the Good News in its community, with the goal of ensuring that all persons understand how Jesus can change their lives and preparing them for His soon coming, and by helping establish new congregations,

4. Nurturing the lives of members and their families so they will grow spiritually and will continue confidently in the mission and truths expressed through God's last-day Church,

5. Acknowledging the privileges of being a Seventh-day Adventist congregation and the concurrent accountability to the world family of Seventh-day Adventist congregations, as outlined

in the *Church Manual*, by accepting and implementing broad plans that empower the spread of the Gospel in wider contexts, and by participating in the organizational, financial, and representative system designed to facilitate a global outreach, and

6. Participating in an assessment plan that leads the congregation to awareness of its strengths and weaknesses and the progress it has made in its mission to teach, baptize, and make disciples. The assessment plan will normally be a self-assessment program conducted annually by the entire congregation meeting as a group; but, periodically, it should include an assessment of the congregation's participation in, and responsibility to, the broader organization. Each division will facilitate the development of the assessment process, in association with the unions and local conferences/missions, that will be used within its territory.

(D) What Total Commitment to God Involves for the Elementary Schools and Academies—A Seventh-day Adventist elementary school/academy creates a climate that nurtures the student spiritually, mentally, physically, and socially, and instills confidence in the relevance, role, message, and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The schools provide excellence in Seventh-day Adventist education by:

1. Developing, for the institution, a comprehensive spiritual master plan and curricula for all subjects that, in addition to academic excellence, support the Seventh-day Adventist world view and integrate faith with learning,

2. Employing fully committed, professionally competent Seventh-day Adventist teachers, who are actively involved in their local church, and who integrate faith and learning as they nurture their students in being good members and citizens of both church and society,

3. Working with parents and local congregations to ensure that each student is presented with the claims of Christ and is given opportunity to decide for Him and be baptized,

4. Transmitting to students an understanding

of the biblical role of the last-day people of God and how they can participate in fulfilling the mission of the Church,

5. Involving staff and students in outreach initiatives in ways appropriate to student age and planning community opportunities for witness, and

6. Participating systematically in a division-developed, and a union- and conference-

implemented, spiritual assessment process which provides annual reports to the school board and its various constituencies.

(E) What Total Commitment to God Involves for the Colleges and Universities—A Seventh-day Adventist college/university offers academically sound, tertiary and/or post-graduate education to Seventh-day Adventists and to students of nearby communities, who welcome the opportunity to study in an Adventist environment, by:

1. Developing a comprehensive spiritual master plan, proposed by the faculty and approved by the board, that identifies the spiritual truths and values, both cognitive and relational, which the institution is committed to share with its students and to comprehensively identify the opportunities through which those values will be communicated during a given period of time in campus life,

2. Maintaining a classroom and overall campus environment which ensures opportunities for both academic instruction and Gospel encounters that produce graduates who are recognized by both the Church and society for their excellence in both the academic and spiritual aspects of their lives; men and women who are well-balanced spiritually, mentally, physically, and socially; men and women who love their Lord, who hold high His standards in their daily lives, who will help build strong, thriving local congregations, and will be salt and light to their communities both as laypersons and as church employees,

3. Affirming unambiguously in classroom and campus life the beliefs, practices, and world view of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; sharing the joy of the Gospel; demonstrating confidence in the

divinely established role of the Advent movement and its continuing significance in God's plan for these last days; facilitating activities for faculty, staff, and students to engage in Gospel witness and Christian service; and encouraging the faculty and staff to a consistency of life-style which is manifested in nurturing, compassionate faculty/staff relationships with students,

4. Employing fully committed, professionally competent Seventh-day Adventist teachers, who are actively involved in their local church, and who integrate faith and learning in the context of nurturing their students to be productive members of both society and of the Lord's Church, and who interact with parents and other constituents in order to understand and to fulfil their high academic and spiritual expectations for educational programs serving the youth,

5. Evaluating the achievement of the objectives outlined in the spiritual master plan by a faculty-developed, board-approved, comprehensive assessment program, designed with sufficient specificity to evaluate each element of campus life, to guide the college/university administration in taking affirming or corrective measures, and to serve as the basis for annual reports of the spiritual health of the institution to the governing board and various constituencies, and

6. Submitting the proposed spiritual master plan and assessment program to a General Conference-appointed, international panel of highly qualified educators who will provide the college/university board with a written evaluation of the spiritual master plan and the assessment program.

(F) What Total Commitment to God Involves for the Hospitals and Health Care Institutions—A Seventh-day Adventist hospital/health care institution provides the highest quality, whole-person, health care to the community it serves by developing a comprehensive spiritual assessment plan that includes:

1. Creating a well-planned, positive atmosphere that focuses on the healing presence of the Lord,

2. Developing a professionally competent, mission-oriented, and compassionate staff who sensitively ministers to patients from the context of their Christian faith as well as distinctive Seventh-day Adventist beliefs,

3. Ensuring that all those within the institution's sphere of influence are aware that the health care facility is affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church by developing staff-orientation and community-witnessing programs that portray positively both the hospital and the Church to those it serves,

4. Sensitively stimulating spiritual inquiry and responding to it systematically,

5. Allocating such financial and personnel resources as may be possible to the local, regional, and global soul-winning, educational, and/or health care mission of the Church, and

6. Demonstrating accountability for fulfillment of mission through participation, at least triennially, in a comprehensive evaluation process developed, planned, and overseen by the respective division executive committee to assess progress toward achieving specific, measurable, mission outcomes.

(G) What Total Commitment to God Involves for the Institutions of Mass Communication: Publishing Houses, Media Centers, Adventist Book Centers, and Radio Stations—A Seventh-day Adventist institution of mass communication provides quality productions that enhance the mission of the Church and the commitment of its members to mission by:

1. Encouraging initiatives and the distribution only of that which contributes to the Gospel proclamation and the nurturing of church members within the context of the last-day message,

2. Planning or supporting evangelistic activities which may lead to personal contact and involving the local congregation, wherever possible,

3. Using technology and media in a way that is sensitive to available funds, so that resources are maximized for the mission of the Church,

4. Coordinating initiatives with other church

entities to ensure interaction with and support of related programs and projects,

5. Providing such staff as may be possible or appropriate to assist pastors and congregations in the follow-up of those responding to outreach initiatives, and operating a feedback system for product development or modification, and

6. Establishing, under direction of governing bodies, systems for periodic review of materials and programs, both for members and for the general public, thus providing management and governing bodies with an analysis of effectiveness in meeting mission goals, ensuring concurrence with Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and practices, and preparing reports for presentation to each regular meeting of the constituency and annually to the board.

(H) What Total Commitment to God Involves for the Food Industries—A Seventh-day Adventist food industry develops products that contribute positively to health, and provides a resource to assist the giving of the Gospel in these last days by:

1. Manufacturing and selling only those products which are consistent with the divine principles of diet and health,

2. Training personnel to inform the public on sound health practices and assisting the Church in developing increasingly better health among the members,

3. Providing low cost vegetarian food to the world's developing countries,

4. Implementing programs under which those influenced by the health message may receive further information about the Church,

5. Budgeting financial assistance for the mission of the Church on a basis established by the division executive committee, and

6. Periodically evaluating performance in terms of efficiency, return on investment, and contribution to the mission of the Church, based on a system administered by the board and established by the division committee, in consultation with the International Health Food Association.

(I) What Total Commitment to God Involves for a Conference/Mission, or Union—A Seventh-day Adventist conference/mission or union, with leadership that has a personal relationship with Jesus and is submitted to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, motivates members, pastors, teachers, and all other denominational employees to present to their neighbors and communities the saving truth as it is in these last days, and oversees and prioritizes its plans, initiatives, and finances to give first place to continuous soul-winning and nurturing ministries by:

1. Identifying and promoting the spiritual objectives, both evangelistic and nurturing, of the conference/mission or union and, through a strategic planning and financing process, involving the collective participation of its membership and organizations,

2. Showing, through the personal example of leadership, that the Church is continuing, without wavering, its divinely appointed role as a witness to this dying and needy world,

3. Nurturing and supporting pastors, members, and congregations so that they may grow as disciples and experience ways of fulfilling the Gospel Commission,

4. Exercising administrative leadership in institutions and entities under its direction to ensure that the mission of the Church is kept clearly in focus, and developing and implementing initiatives to establish new congregations in communities and areas where needed,

5. Assuring that budgetary provisions for local, national, and global evangelistic endeavors are carefully balanced against the resources allocated to the nurture of the believers, and that both are demonstrated to be of the highest priority, and

6. Cooperating with the division in developing and implementing assessment processes, which may be evaluated by a committee designated by the General Conference, by which members, pastors, congregations, institutions, and the conference/mission or union itself may ascertain their commitment to and effectiveness in carrying out the Gospel Commission and reporting their findings to

the respective constituencies.

Conclusion True Measure of Success—Truly, the spiritual mandate is simple. Go . . . teach . . . baptize . . . make disciples. Responsible Seventh-day Adventist Church members and all church employees must remember that each one will be held accountable before God for this principle. Someday, at the great judgment bar, the Lord will ask, “What have you done, relying on My grace, with the gifts, talents, and opportunities I gave you?”

As He did 2,000 years ago, the Lord commands His Church today: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Go . . . teach . . . baptize . . . make disciples. Total commitment to God mandates the fulfillment of this Commission, which is still the only and true measure of success.



*The
Editorial Staff
wish
all of you
a Merry Christmas
and
a Happy New Year*

SAUC TO SERVE THE SINGAPORE SDA MISSION

Since its official beginning in 1924, Southeast Asia Union College (SAUC) has been managed by Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM). As a SAUM institution, SAUC was commissioned to meet the needs of the eight missions in the Union. SAUC has met its mission by faithfully and successfully training institutional workers and active laypersons for the mission fields of Cambodia, Peninsular Malaysia, Myanmar, Sabah, Sarawak, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Some 60 percent of the names listed in the "Local Mission Directory" at the back of the SAUM newsletter, *Messenger*, are graduates of SAUC. We thank the Lord for what He has enabled SAUC to accomplish as a Union institution



NEW ROLE OF SAUC

Beginning January 1999, SAUC will play a new role under the supervision of the Singapore Adventist Mission (SAM). SAUC becomes a Mission institution. To meet this new challenge, SAUC will seek to meet the needs of the Singapore Adventist Mission in the following ways:

1. Provide a tertiary education for our young people which allows them to observe the Seventh-day Sabbath, and to uphold our Christian values and philosophies;
2. Conduct tertiary education which is more relevant to the local needs of Singapore and the

Singapore Adventist Mission;

3. Offer our young people alternatives to local national universities with a preparation for either an American liberal arts education, or an Australian/British education system.

RECOGNIZED TWO-YEAR ASSOCIATE DEGREE

Beginning in 1999, SAUC will offer two-year associate degrees in:

1. Business Administration/Computer Information Systems
2. Early Childhood Education
3. General Studies/Liberal Arts

These programmes are approved by Singapore Ministry of Education and endorsed by the Adventist Accrediting Association of Schools and Universities (AAA)¹. These credits are thus transferable to any of our SDA colleges and

universities, and the majority of the US colleges and universities in the American liberal arts education system.

MOU'S WITH AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES

SAUC is in the process of signing Memorandums-of-Understanding (MOU) with two Australian universities (Edith Cowan University, and Victoria University of Technology) to offer three- and four-year degrees in Early Childhood Education right here in Singapore. A Letter of Intent has been signed with Victoria University of Technology. SAUC's two-year diploma will be given the advance standing of two-year credits to both their BA degree programs. This recognition makes SAUC's diplomas

more significant to SAUC's objective—to meet the education needs of Singapore and the SAM constituency.

THE BEST OF TWO-WORLD CURRICULUM

Also in conjunction with these two-year diplomas and advanced diplomas, SAUC is offering a new curriculum that will enable students to qualify for the Singapore education system as well as fulfill the General Education diploma for American colleges and universities. In this flexible curriculum, a student who has completed the two-year diploma in Liberal Arts (General Studies) will also be able to sit for the "A" levels (Science) exam (in the Australian/British education system), or continue on towards a three- or four-year degree program in the American education system.

Under this new curriculum, our young people will have the options of furthering their studies at the local universities, or continue overseas in Australia/New Zealand, or enrol in the third or fourth year in a US College or university.

PRAY FOR SAUC

With these new opportunities that SAUC has as a SAM institution, we solicit your prayers and generous support as SAUC enters a new phase in her ministry to our Church.

By Shirley Doo, PRO SAUC

¹The Adventist Accrediting Association of Schools and Universities (AAA) is one of the accrediting bodies in the USA to ensure that the schools and universities are up to standard in their education. On top of that, AAA will also ensure that all schools under its umbrella will uphold Adventist standards as well.

ADRA STAFF MEET WITH THAILAND'S PRIME MINISTER

ADRA staff recently visited Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai at his government office to film a video on AIDS awareness. The meeting was arranged by Dr. Vicharn Vithayasai of Chiang Mai University, who ADRA has been working closely with to promote AIDS awareness issues all over Thailand.

The PM spoke for 10 minutes about the need to support AIDS victims and to treat them with respect. He also emphasized his government's commitment to the AIDS problem.

After the filming, the PM, Mr. Chuan spoke with Dr. Vicharn, Roy Richardson (ADRA Thailand Director) and Warren Scale (ADRA Australia) about the problem of AIDS and what approaches his government is taking against it. Mr. Chuan was presented with a set of AusAID funded posters on AIDS education which will be distributed throughout the country. Mr. Richardson said that "Mr. Chuan showed great interest in the work ADRA was doing with AIDS Education and was humoured by some of the cartoons he looked at. He encouraged us to continue to do the good work we are doing to help rural people in Thailand."

On the PM's suggestion, the ADRA staff then met with the Deputy Secretary-General to the Prime Minister Ladawan Wongsriwong to discuss ways to curb child prostitution in Thailand.



From Left: Marlon Butler (ADRA Thailand), Warren Scale, Roy Richardson, Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai, Dr. Vicharn Vithayasai (Chiang Mai University), Walaya Vatanasak and Somchai Sukkaew (ADRA Thailand).

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