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# MALAYAN UNION MISSION

# NOTES OF PROGRESS

Vol. 9

January, 1940

No. 15

## GENERAL MEETING IN INDO-CHINA AND THAILAND

By E. A. Moon

During October and early November Pastor C. L. Torrey and I spent five weeks visiting the French Indo-China and the Thailand (Siam) Missions. We traveled by a small French steamer from Singapore to Saigon where we were met by Brother Howlett. There we found our training school in session with an enrollment of sixteen earnest young men, diligently devoting themselves to getting a preparation which will fit them to be workers for God. This training school is filling a long-recognized need in Indo-China, and we believe that the school will develop and enlarge rapidly as time goes on. Brother Howlett and his associate teachers are giving these young men a practical training, and we enjoyed the privilege of visiting this school.

The branch publishing house, which is being established in Saigon by the Malayan Signs Press, is being operated in connection with the school. Most of the students work in the printshop when classes are not in session. One or two young men are earning their way by canvassing in the city. Brother Bowers has taken an active interest in getting this new publishing house started, and recently spent several weeks in Saigon supervising the installation of machinery and getting things under way. When Brother Torrey and I were in Saigon, everything was in readiness to begin actual printing.

From Saigon we traveled by train to Tourane where Brother Wentland and the Mission committee had arranged to hold the biennial constituency meeting of the Mission. There was a good attendance at this meeting, including all the workers of the Mission. The meetings were held in the new church building, which had just been completed in time for this session. A profitable time was spent together in considering needs of the work, in spiritual refreshing, and in the study of God's Word. From Tourane we traveled back to Saigon by way of Djiring, where the Mission is putting up a small building as a dispensary for the Moi people. These people are

the primitive mountain tribes of the interior of Annam. A young man who has been employed as a dresser in one of the government hospitals has been asked to take charge of this work, and he, with his family, will soon be established in that place and will be engaged in medical missionary work.

The next week-end was spent in a district meeting held at Omon in Cochinchina. There was a good attendance of believers at all of the meetings; and at the evening meetings, there was a large attendance of the non-Adventist village people.

From here Brethren Torrey, Wentland, and I traveled back to Saigon to get a bus for Phnom Penh. Phnom Penh is the capital city of Cambodia. Brother Robert Bentz and his family are stationed there, and are engaged in work for the Cambodian people.

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## CHURCH CALENDAR

January 6—Home Missionary Day

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On the trip from Saigon to Phnom Penh we had a rather exciting experience. We were riding in a large motor bus which was carrying about forty passengers; and in the evening at about 8:00 for some reason the driver lost control of the bus and it plunged down a rather steep embankment, rolling over onto its top in a large ditch filled with water. We were all knocked about and shaken up, but almost all the passengers escaped serious injury. Two men were taken to hospital with cuts and scratches. We managed to crawl out through the windows; and after a time were able to get all of our baggage together, but most of it was badly damaged through being submerged in the water. We were thankful to the Lord for sparing our lives.

After two days visit with Brother and Sister Bentz and their little son, Brother Torrey and I went on to Bangkok. The next day after our arrival in Bangkok we went out to Ubol to visit Brother Abel's station. There we found the Ubol Mission School with an enrollment of nearly 400. This

school is still being conducted in a rented building. Definite plans are under way for the purchase of land and the erection of a school building of our own in this place. A portion of the Ingathering money raised in Thailand this year is to go into a fund for this building. After our return to Bangkok from Ubol, we spent three or four days attending the constituency meeting of the Thailand Mission which was held in our church building in Bangkok. There was a splendid spirit of cooperation on the part of all the workers and believers present, and it was a good meeting. Thailand has workers of four nationalities: besides Siamese and Chinese workers they have one Karen worker from Burma who is working among his own people in western Thailand and one Batak worker who is doing evangelistic work for the Malay speaking people in the South Siam peninsula.

We found the Bangkok Mission Clinic even busier than we had ever seen it before. Dr. Waddell and his staff of workers are pressed to the limit to care for all the patients who come to the Clinic day by day for help. We must very soon provide a building of our own to be used instead of the present rented quarters which are totally inadequate for our needs. In addition to the three-story building which was originally rented, the Clinic has rented two adjacent shop houses; and while Brother Torrey and I were in Bangkok, the Clinic Board voted to rent two more shop houses in order to provide urgently needed space.

Our Mission school in Bangkok has an enrollment of about 200, the largest it has ever been. A number of schools have recently been closed in Bangkok, and Brother Ritz told us that during recent weeks more than 300 students have applied for admission to our school whom they were unable to accommodate because of lack of space and shortage of teachers.

On our return trip from Bangkok to Singapore by train we enjoyed brief visits with our workers in Penang and Kuala Lumpur. The prospects have never been better for a large ingathering of souls in Thailand and French Indo-China. We found the workers

and believers of good courage, and we believe that during the coming biennial term the accomplishments in these two fields will far exceed anything which has been reported in the past.

### OPPORTUNITIES

By R. M. Milne

It is no longer necessary in any part of our field to search about for openings or to create opportunities to do mission work. No matter where one goes or in what line of work, most earnest appeals, most desirable openings confront one.

It may be that a little money is needed, or some new literature, or a teacher, a colporteur, a preacher, a nurse, or a doctor.

Day by day we pray, "Bless Thy work," "Hasten on Thy work in the earth," "Bless Thy work and Thy workers everywhere." Are these expressions but habit? Or do we mean them? God is answering these prayers, yes, even though we did not pray, He is thrusting these openings before us as it were; for He wants to see the work finished more than we do. He has already gone ahead. He wants us to hurry up.

Years ago the message through the Spirit of Prophecy was: "With almost impatient eagerness the angels wait for our cooperation; for man must be the channel to communicate with man."—*Desire of Ages* p. 297. "Heavenly intelligences have been waiting to cooperate with human agencies, but we have not discerned their presence."—*Testimonies*, Vol. VI p. 297.

With such promises for us, we must not hesitate or say it can't be done. "All God's biddings are enablings."

### MORE INGATHERING

By R. M. Milne

Sunny Hill School, Kuching, Sarawak, has been growing rapidly this past year, more than doubling the number of students. Total enrollment now is 148, and more are asking to attend next year.

In order to provide room for classes the teachers moved out of their upstairs quarters to the Dato's house at the 2nd mile. The Dato's house is very large and rambling so that it easily accommodated the six teachers with their families and several boarding students. It seemed the ideal place.

But after barely getting settled they were notified to remove as the building was needed for war purposes. This created a real problem, for it is almost impossible to get houses near the school and rents are high. In order to compensate for the trouble and expense of moving, the Government very kindly gave us \$200.00

It costs only about \$400.00 to put up a good serviceable house; and as the school has plenty of land, the Mission added \$200.00 to this gift, and it is hoped that the house will be erected and ready by the time school opens in January. More houses are needed, and it is hoped that some way may be found to add these in the near future. At present the most urgent need is more class rooms for the growing number of students, so a new school building was made the objective of the Ingathering this year. The campaign was delayed till very late. With all the calls for China Relief, Patriotic Fund, and Winter Clothing for China, it seemed a very unfavourable time to solicit as people have given very generously to these funds. However, they were in sympathy with our plan to erect a class room building for Sunny Hill, and in spite of these many calls they responded very well. Almost twice as much as last year was received, with more to come. Prospects are good for reaching \$2,000.00, which would be the best ever reached in Sarawak.

Further as a special favour, the Government has granted permission to solicit in any part of the state, and they have not limited us as to time. The teachers have been very enthusiastic in collecting funds for the new school building and every one has taken part. Brethren Y. F. and Allan Chong went by bicycle to the rubber estates near by. Brethren Daniel Tan and M. P. Sormin and two of the young ladies worked the shops while the principal, Mr Chu Sing Fatt, with Pastors Lake and Milne called upon the towkays and Europeans. Other districts will have to wait till the new year. When these are worked, there should be enough funds on hand for the school building that is so badly needed.

### SUMMER SCHOOLS IN THAILAND

By Mrs. R. M. Milne

I was happy this summer to have the privilege of spending two months in Thailand, our sister land to the north of Malaya. This is

a large field, and, in many ways, a difficult field in which to labour; for its Buddhist population seem to be, for the most part at least, quite satisfied with their faith, their daily offerings of food and perhaps money to the many priests that throng the streets in the early morning hours, and the thousands of temples that lift their gleaming white walls and multiple roofs all over the land.

For years our work has gone very slowly there but in God's providence the last few years have seen an awakening. More and more of the Siamese are beginning to ask questions and to desire the truth. Our work is still largely for the Chinese people living in Thailand, but we are happy for the increased interest among the Siamese or Thai people as they prefer to be called.

Located in two strategic places, in Bangkok, capital city, and in eastern Thailand at Ubol we have two schools with a fast-growing attendance. The recent closing of many Chinese schools has brought to our doors many students desiring to enter our schools. Their fathers have given to the Harvest Ingathering and now to have to turn away many of these boys and girls for lack of room and teachers is sad indeed.

A month's work in each school was conducted for the teachers and although the regular school was in progress, by shortening classes and closing early we were able to have about 2½ to 3 hours' work each week day and several hours on Sunday. A series of ten lectures on Christian education was given, each teacher copying the outline for later use. Such topics as God's purpose in Education; the value of a Christian Education; God's methods of Education; a brief history of Education in ancient Israel; Trends and Methods of Present-day Scientific Education and a consideration of what we should teach in our S.D.A. schools was covered in these lectures.

Time was also given to a discussion of various phases of school life; objectives in teaching Bible, Arithmetic, Geography and Reading were presented, followed by discussion in Methods of Teaching these four subjects. Some suggestive projects were worked out by each teacher; viz., each made a relief map of newspaper pulp, locating mountain ranges, rivers, important peaks, etc., and painting it, when finished, with metallic paint. Some also made production maps of Thailand or of China or other countries, placing bits of cotton, coal, rice, etc., in those sections where produced. Wild life and fisheries also figured in these maps.

## REPORT OF TITHE AND OFFERINGS

### MALAYAN UNION MISSION — 10 MONTHS ENDING 31ST OCTOBER, 1938 and 1939

(All items in local currency)

Mission	Tithe		Loss or Gain	Sabbath School		Loss or Gain	Harvest Ingathering		Loss or Gain
	1938	1939		1938	1939		1938	1939	
B. Borneo	942.57	1,676.90	734.33G	472.62	485.50	12.88G	515.00	607.25	92.25G
F. I. China	1,205.36	1,637.06	431.70G	428.80	324.81	103.99L	2,064.10	3,755.00	1,690.90G
M. States	10,978.40	11,182.73	204.33G	3,951.80	3,863.04	88.76L	10,646.04	4,190.79	6,455.25L
Sarawak	988.32	851.32	136.70L	361.19	406.07	35.26G	983.55	—*	983.55L
Siam	1,313.51	1,942.65	629.14G	709.27	739.89	30.62G	6,152.50	6,088.79	63.71L
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,428.16</b>	<b>17,290.96</b>	<b>1,862.80G</b>	<b>5,923.68</b>	<b>5,819.31</b>	<b>113.99L</b>	<b>20,361.19</b>	<b>14,641.83</b>	<b>5,719.36L</b>

\* Campaign had not started when this report was sent in.

*L. F. Bohner, Treasurer.*

A course in Handcraft was worked out and each teacher made a nice Notebook of freehand paper cuttings, paper folding; Posters, large and small, and a nucleus of Furniture models to be added to later.

A great need for many years in our schools has been a textbook for teaching Bible in the lower grades and we hope this need has been partially met in the abridgment and adaptation of the English text, "When the World was Young" which was completed in late May of this year. This material had all been translated and there remained only the final checking before going to press.

This material was made the basis for our work in Bible Methods,—demonstration lessons were presented, each teacher taking his turn teaching one or more lessons and receiving suggestions and criticisms on his work.

A notebook of illustrations and memory verses was made by each teacher to accompany this Bible textbook.

Nor did we forget that Music is a part of school work and the teachers were happy to learn about 16 new songs for children, many of them action songs. These songs, with the 23 that are included in the new Siamese song book should provide new song material for a time.

Government regulations are very strict in Thailand and any change in the school programme must be passed upon by the Educational Department. Religion, as such, may not be taught even in our mission schools but all the teachers were united in determining to find some time in the daily programme wherein a regular course in Bible could be taught. At that time about an hour a week was allotted to "Morals" and that was used for teaching the Sabbath school lesson and J.M.V. work. The Sabbath

school lessons have been the only thing that has been published in Siamese that could be used as a basis for Bible teaching, but we hope that now with the new textbook ready and plans for others to follow, that this difficulty may be overcome.

In Bangkok our six regular teachers took all the work given and one of our boys, who was then teaching in an outside school, also attended regularly. One other teacher is doing only part-time work.

In Ubol we have 11 teachers and they too, entered most enthusiastically into the work given, several expressing themselves as being particularly pleased over the new Bible textbook. They are labouring under difficulties in both building and equipment but coöperated

to the fullest in our intensive programme for the month.

Perhaps one of our greatest needs in Thailand now is suitable housing for our schools. The building at Ubol is a positive menace, being undermined by white ants as well as being a potential fire-trap. A portion of the Harvest Ingathering Funds is to go to the purchase and building of a new school for Ubol. We shall rejoice when this can be accomplished.

Both these schools are doing good work scholastically and spiritually and while not all the teachers have been baptized as yet, all are studying and all are loyally co-operating, and we look for much larger returns in the Lord's vineyard in Thailand as a result of their combined efforts.

#### NEWS NOTES

Pastor and Mrs. J. M. Nerness became parents of a daughter born at Kuala Lumpur on the 30th of November.

A large group were Invested at the Union services held in the Victoria Memorial Hall on Sabbath, December 2.

Pastor K. O. Tan has just returned from a several month leave of absence during which time he placed many subscriptions for the Chinese "Signs" in Sumatra.

Brother Wu Bing Ging recently arrived back in Singapore after several months in Java in the interest of the Chinese "Signs."

On the 10th of December, at our Singapore church Miss Emily Le-Vos and Mr. Alfred T. C. Poey were married by Pastor V. E. Hendershot before a large group of friends that completely filled the church.



*The interior of our fine new church in Tourane, Annam*

## NOTES OF PROGRESS

Published monthly by the Malayan Union Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, 399, Upper Serangoon Road, Singapore, S. S.

LEONARD F. BOHNER—EDITOR.

### DEDICATION OF THE TOURANE CHURCH

By E. A. Moon

While Pastor Torrey and I were at Tourane attending the Annual Meeting of the French Indo-China Mission, we had the privilege of taking part in the dedication service for our new church building at Tourane. After a sermon by the writer, the dedicatory prayer

was offered by Pastor Wentland in the Annamese language.

Our brethren in the northern part of the Indo-China field are very grateful for this splendid new church building, and many expressions of gratitude and appreciation were heard during the days that we were there attending the meetings. Brother Wentland and the workers and believers had worked hard to get the building finished in time for their Annual Constituency Meeting.

The building measures 11 by 24 meters, which would be about 36 by 78 feet. It is well constructed of brick with cement plaster, and has a good tile roof and cement floors. The building has been well planned and has rooms for Sabbath School classes, a worker's study and prayer room, a small balcony

at the rear of the auditorium, and a small living apartment upstairs at the rear for the local evangelist. The total cost of the land and the building was about 5,000 piastres, which at the present rate of exchange would be a little less than \$2,500.00 Straits.

This is the only building owned by our Mission in all of Indo-China which is constructed of brick, concrete, and tile. We have several other chapel buildings in the field, but they are all constructed of cheaper and lighter materials, most of them with thatch roofs. The Indo-China brethren contributed what they could toward the cost of this beautiful new church, but the larger part of the money was provided by the General Conference from the Church Extension Fund.

### REPORT OF LAYMEN'S WORK FOR THE THIRD QUARTER, 1939

	M. States	*Thailand	F. I. C.	B. N. B.	Sarawak	Union
No. of Churches	13	3	8	10	5	39
No. of Churches Reporting	10	2	7	6	3	28
Membership	739	134	247	321	113	1554
No. Reporting	549	11	120	168	193	873
B. Readings or Gospel Meetings	972	202	538	209	187	2108
Missionary Visits	1473	428	855	165	267	3188
No. Persons Taken to Meeting	342	142	127	135	62	808
Christian Help Work	329	458	185	118	1814	2904
Treatments Given	221	409	371	71	574	1646
Clothing Given Away	200	83	69	45	68	465
Literature Distributed	8264	11657	1193	147	723	21984
Missionary Letters Written	236	43	115	47	21	462

\* For Two Quarters

"We have no time to lose. The end is near. The passage from place to place to spread the truth will soon be hedged with dangers on the right hand and on the left. Everything will be placed to obstruct the way of the Lord's messengers, so that they will not be able to do that which it is possible for them to do now. We must look our work fairly in the face, and advance as fast as possible in aggressive warfare. From the light given me of God I know that the powers of darkness are working with intense energy from beneath, and with stealthy tread Satan is advancing to take those who are now asleep, as a wolf taking his prey. We have warnings now which we may give, a work now which we may do; but soon it will be more difficult than we can imagine. God help us to keep in the channel of light, to work with our eyes fastened on Jesus our leader, and patiently, perseveringly press on to gain the victory."—"Testimonies," Vol. VI, p. 22.



Our new church building recently dedicated in Tourane, Annam