

MALAYAN UNION MISSION

NOTES OF PROGRESS

Vol. 10

March, 1940

No. 17

A Review of Our Work in Sarawak

By Pastor W. W. R. Lake

For some time now we have been getting letters from interested people overseas as to the reason of our silence in regard to the onward march of the message in Sarawak. Perhaps one of the chief reasons we have not reported is that we wanted to be quite sure of what we were reporting. Having now assured ourselves of this and being reminded again of a verse quoted recently in a daily newspaper about the Codfish and the Hen, we are glad to send you a few lines of the work here. Here is the verse:

*The codfish lays a million eggs,
The little hen but one,
But the codfish doesn't cackle
To inform us what she's done.
So we despise the codfish and
The little hen we prize—
Which indicates to thoughtful
minds
"It pays to advertise."*

Sunny Hill school is enjoying the best patronage ever having an enrollment of nearly 200 students. From Primary I to Junior Cambridge seven teachers and one student teacher have their hands busy from 8 in the morning to 3.30 in the afternoon. It must ever be borne in mind that this school is a bi-lingual one, teaching two languages from the lowest to the highest standards, and not merely English with Chinese as a foreign language. The Chinese department is in charge of Brethren Y. F. Chong and Allan Chong. The entire school with its extra curricula activities is under the principalship of Brother Chu Sing Fatt.

With a splendid piano gifted to the school by liberal church members in Singapore and Kuching, a music department has now been opened. Though many students have applied for music instruction only five have been enrolled due largely to lack of accommodation and the want of another teacher. Brother M. P. Sormin is in charge of this department along with his regular teaching school work. The higher standards are conducted by Brethren Chu Sing Fatt, Daniel

Tan, and Koay Choo Gean; the Kindergarten by Miss Pauline Leong assisted by a student teacher, Miss Phyllis Tsen. Ten Junior Cambridge students are preparing themselves for the public examination.

Two other features have been added to the school life; viz, agriculture and carpentry. Two periods a week are devoted to the soil when the entire student body and faculty take part. Each bed of vegetables is marked and assigned to a group of students which they jealously guard as the produce becomes theirs after each commodity has been weighed and a value set according to market

CHURCH CALENDAR

March and April — 1940

- March 2—Home Missionary Day
9-16—MV Week of Prayer
16—MV Project Offering
(Tatau River Boat)
30—13th Sabbath Offering
(Far Eastern Division)
April 6—Day of Fasting and
Prayer for Greater
Evangelism
20—Missions Extension Day
(Equipment Dusun
Training School)
26—Elementary School's
Offerings

prices. This procedure is only of paper advantage for the faculty to gauge what each group does during the school year in monetary values. Carpentry is under the supervision of Bro. Tsen Tau Nam, a student. Already the practicability of this department is assured. The school gives out in work to worthy students about \$35 per month. What a blessing to our children to earn their tuition and a part of their board. Shall we deprive them of it?

Another feature which to us is very encouraging. The whole school has joined up in the J.M.V. The little ones up to the II standard have their meeting every Friday afternoon; while the others from

Standard III to Junior Cambridge meet on Sabbath afternoon.

We are glad to report that parents who had backslidden and sent their children to outside schools have returned to the fold bringing their children with them to be enrolled in Sunny Hill school. They recognize the solemn fact today that our school is a safe refuge in these times of stress, trouble and free thinking. It is needless to say anything about Sunny Hill church other than the fact that a revival is in process and hearts are getting in tune with the Infinite and His message for these latter days. Sabbath keeping is getting to be a habit with those who have broken it lightly, and God's monetary dues are being met with a willingness where indifference existed.

After all is said about the bright outlook on the campus, the one absorbing and pressing need is a school building. The original purpose of this building was to accommodate 25-30 students and not 200. There seems to be little hope to collect funds from the public to add to a mere \$500 which we now have for a building which will cost in the vicinity of \$5,000. Would somebody who has been blessed of the Lord help us to put this building up? It has been said:

"We lose what on ourselves we spend:

*We have as treasure without end
Whatever, Lord, to Thee we lend."*

Let us now trek the 34 miles from this institution to another. Situated on the summit of a hill and commanding a wide sweep of skipping hills dotted with kampongs is Ayer Manis, the training school of the Sarawak Mission. With Pastor J. Pohar in charge and an auxiliary helper, Brother Tsen Shau Tze, this institution is forging ahead with 16 students in the lower classes, and four grown men of church affiliation from the Tatau and other places to prepare themselves for the work of God. With over 60 acres of land and only four or five acres under paddy

and vegetable cultivation, the rest lies fallow. Most of the students are too small to help in further cultivation. If we could only get more funds, perhaps most of the paddy land could be cultivated and thus save the Mission from buying rice for the support of the students who are fed and housed without charge,—a condition that prevails in all schools for the Dyaks, Ibans, and other tribes in Sarawak. It is Brother Pohan's purpose to concentrate largely on the training school for Dyaks and Ibans. It is a recognized fact that foreigners cannot carry satisfactorily the message to the native tribes of Sarawak. A visit to the kampongs would convince anybody of that. Their mode of life, their unhygienic homes, their superstitions which in themselves preclude understanding, and a self-complacency, make it wellnigh impossible.

It can and must be done by their own people largely. Recent reports reveal that "there is the sound of a going in the tops of the mulberry trees." What should be our attitude when we hear this? "Then thou shalt bestir thyself, for then shall the Lord go out before thee." The scheme of human redemption is amazing. It is He who sends His Spirit; it is He who stirs hearts; it is He who reveals Himself to people; and it is He who draws souls by the chords of His love. But our duty as messengers is made plain. We are to bestir ourselves and get in tune with Him. Are we ready to follow wherever that may take us? The Lord is now leading, have we the faith to follow? "Tis better to walk by faith than by sight,

*And the pitch-black night
With no outer light,
Is the time for faith to shine."*

Riding the crest of the waves for a day and a half, and serpentineing the Tatau river three hours in an outboard motor boat finally lands us in one of the most engaging and fascinating scenes of the world. Here for seven years, the medical and evangelistic work has been in operation. Started by Brother and Sister G. B. Youngberg and others, and now carried on by Brother and Sister Elam Sinaga and Brother and Sister S. Hutepea the work has been established reflecting sacrifice and service in unstinted measure to their everlasting credit. The people here though shackled by incredible fear, haunted by superstition, and with a self-complacency which is amazing have received the impact of the Gospel, and to the surprise of many surrendered their hearts to God. In a few weeks from now another church building will be

dedicated, another church organized, and another nine souls will be buried with their Lord to the glory of God the Father. These church buildings do not cost the mission anything in money. The Iban believers cut the wood from the jungle, prepare it, and build the churches. The only thing they ask us to do is that we send workers to teach them the way of life. Simple as this request may seem, it costs money. The transportation is high in this Venice of the East where the only roads are waterways, and the only means of transportation is an outboard motor boat. The old Sri Iban with its inboard motor engine gave meritorious service at a cost of about one tenth of what it costs to run an outboard motor. For every ten cents spent on fuel to operate an outboard motor boat the Sri Iban consumed just one cent of crude oil. This disparity embarrasses our mission when funds are so limited and calls come in for more extended service for the people. We appeal to our constituency in Malaya and friends to kindly provide us with a new hull for the Sri Iban engine as the old hull has rotted away. There is now a steel hull for sale for \$800 but where is the money? Who amongst us would be willing to help us to carry the message to the many unwarned kampongs on the Tatau? Can we do less than James Brooke that intrepid adventurer and wise statesman and the first white Rajah of Sarawak when he said in 1841 "Sarawak belongs to the Malays, sea Dyaks (Ibans), land Dyaks, Kayans, Kehyahs, Milangs, Muruts, Kadayans, Bisayahs and other tribes, and not to us. It is for them we labour, and not for ourselves." The task is no easy one. Often failures have resulted in grief, but our workers keep at it uncomplainingly realizing that the task is God's, and He giveth the increase. And too, they realize that

*"Only those are crowned and
sainted
Who with grief have been
acquainted."*



*Students
and Teachers
Invested in Ubol
during Elder
Bond's visit*

So onward goes the Message of hope and cheer to benighted souls in this kingdom. Shall we not by faith and works do our part in the finishing of the task?

PROJECT DAY

MARCH 16

LEST WE FORGET

By H. W. Jewkes

One day, one offering, a splendid opportunity!

Let every eye be turned to Sarawak and see them anxiously waiting, yearning for the long promised missionary boat. Let every ear listen to their call. They have been calling, for over a year now.

It is our privilege to give on March sixteen to help answer this call. All our churches on this day will take up a special offering. It is for the M. V. Project—a boat for Sarawak; to ply up and down the Tatau river carrying messengers of the King of kings, bringing healing to body and soul.

Time hastens on. The Dyak waits. He must not be disappointed. Old and young, come with an unusual offering on March 16, the M. V. Project Day.

INDO-CHINA COLPORTEUR INSTITUTE

By R. M. Milne

On Jan. 26 the six regular colporteurs met at the training school in Saigon and joined with the students for a week of study and instruction on the literature ministry.

Special emphasis was placed on the need for a fuller consecration and a deeper spiritual life for all those who engage in this self-supporting missionary work.

Formerly all our Annamese literature was printed at the Malayan Signs Press in Singapore, but

FINAL REPORT OF TITHE AND OFFERINGS
MALAYAN UNION MISSION — YEARS 1938 and 1939

(All items in local currency)

Mission	Tithe		Loss or	Sabbath	School	Loss or	Week of Sacrifice	Loss or	
	1938	1939	Gain	1938	1939	Gain	1938	1939	
B. N. Borneo	1,266.22	2,141.32	875.10G	574.99	608.36	33.37G	149.57	145.74	3.83L
F. I. China	1,431.35	2,056.70	625.35G	486.16	422.61	63.55L	336.54	299.40	37.14L
Malay States	14,026.30	13,696.07	330.23L	4,858.15	4,774.76	83.39L	796.93	811.91	14.98G
Sarawak	1,191.29	1,040.02	151.27L	447.60	500.22	52.62G	120.85	117.45	3.40L
Thailand	1,601.00	2,398.47	797.47G	889.49	914.54	25.05G	269.10	248.78	20.32L
Totals	19,516.16	21,332.58	1,816.42G	7,256.39	7,220.49	35.90L	1,672.99	1,623.28	49.71L

Leonard F. Bohner, Treasurer

now the newly established branch in Saigon is beginning its work. The first job to go on the new press is another edition of "Happy Home." Since the war began it has been impossible to buy white printing paper in Saigon so this booklet is appearing in red, yellow and green. It looks nice too, and we hope for a long-continued sale of this useful little book.

The next job,—and waiting now to go on the Press—is the Cambodian edition of the same book. As Cambodian type is expensive and difficult to obtain we have had the book written carefully and plates made. This will cost less than half the typesetting job and, if it is successful, may prove the way to give Cambodians the printed message at a price they can afford.

A few months ago one of the colporteurs started taking orders for the French "Life and Health." He had such good success that several others are going to try it too. Also some districts that had never yet heard of our message have recently been worked by colporteurs.

Bro. Tran-ngoc-Te, the Field Secretary, is working hard to cover every section of the field with the message. Much more literature and tracts for free distribution, as well as consecrated colporteurs are urgently needed. However, the prospects are so promising that it encourages every one to put forth every effort to accomplish this object.

NEWS FROM FINLAND

The last issue of the "Review" to reach Singapore contains extracts from a letter sent by one of our leaders in the East Nordic Union, which is made up of Sweden and Finland. Knowing that some of our readers do not have access to the good old "Review" we are printing these few lines.

"The real raid came in the afternoon. Words fail to describe the

FINAL HARVEST INGATHERING REPORT

(Local currency)

B. N. Borneo	520.00	612.25
F. I. China	2,678.10	4,505.00
M. States	11,353.19	9,454.54
Sarawak	993.55	1,166.50
Thailand	8,817.52	7,793.99
Totals	24,262.36	23,532.28

tragedy. The bombed houses are but four or five blocks from our church and headquarters. . . death and destruction struck in our neighbourhood. I shall never forget the horrible sights that met my eyes. . . What a sad city stood there, as dusk was creeping on."

Describing the streams of refugees he says, "All autos, buses, lorries, wagons, and bicycles were on the move. Women with two or three small children in their baby carriages, and carrying large bundles on their backs, hurried off in the dark evening to safety—most of them not knowing where they

would spend the night. . . How heartrending it was to see them."

"Well, that was the beginning. You have read about it in the newspapers, and they have not overstated the facts, I am sure. They simply could not. . . There are some who are responsible for this awful thing. May God be merciful to them in the day of reckoning."

After describing how our work is closed in places and severely hampered all over Finland he closes with "our people in Finland are full of courage in spite of the dark future before them. They are encouraged by the thought that the Adventists the world over are praying for them. Our leaders there are brave. I am proud of such Christian fellow workers. They believe in God and the Advent hope."

Dear Brothers and Sisters, are we remembering the peoples in war-racked China, Poland and Finland, daily before the throne of Grace?

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR DROUGHT SUFFERERS IN KOREA

Let us remember that the regular church collection on Sabbath, March 30 is to go to Korea for drought relief work.

Many of our fellow believers in Korea are suffering great privations. Those of us who have the necessities of life cannot "pass by on the other side of the road." Remember Christ when on earth said, "ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto me."

Often a good share of our churches fail to announce these special calls. Let us all cooperate so that throughout the Union we will take up collections for the same projects on the same Sabbath.



A recent Indian baptism near Kuala Lumpur.

NOTES OF PROGRESS

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LEONARD F. BOHNER—EDITOR.

EDITORIAL

Are We Doing Our Best

This issue of the "Notes of Progress" contains the final reports of Tithes, Sabbath School offerings, Week of Sacrifice Offering and Harvest Ingathering returns for the year 1939. Last year is gone and we can do nothing now to improve this report. We can however by studying the report for last year determine to improve our opportunities in 1940.

In the Union as a whole a gain in Tithes is reported this means one of three things or a combination of some or all of them; our members have been more faithful; the income of our believers has increased; we have increased our membership. This tithe gain is a healthy sign and I am sure that all rejoice over it.

In these days when we have so many opportunities of extending the work of the Gospel let us each individually determine that we will "give our best for the Master."

It will be noticed however that there were losses in the other three financial items. The losses in Sabbath School offerings and in the Week of Sacrifice offering were very small but they were losses. In passing it is sad to note that in two of what are usually considered our larger institutions no returns were reported for the Week of Sacrifice. Had these two schools done their share a nice gain would have resulted for the Union as a whole.

In these days when we have so many opportunities of extending the work of the Gospel let us each individually determine that we will "give our best for the Master."

NEWS NOTES

Pastor E. A. Moon is away from the office for six weeks on a trip through Thailand and French Indo-China. He will attend the Annual meeting of the Thailand Mission Executive committee and help lay plans for enlarging the work of the Bangkok Mission Clinic.

FREELY GIVE

MARCH 30

By H. W. Jewkes

"That that is yours is mine and that that is mine is my own," is a feeling in the world today. This is not according to the plan of our Master. He said, "Freely ye have received freely give." Indeed, my Sabbath school friends of the Malayan Union, may it be our joy to give as the Lord has given to us.

Every Sabbath school member around the circle of the earth will freely give on March 30 to make a large overflow for our field. What will be our response?

The overflow on June 25, 1938; with our help, was \$11,684.85. All this was given to the Far East. What a blessing! Now the needs are greater. The calls have multiplied. Brethren and sisters are we doing all we can?

Let us arise to the task and give freely that there may be a greater overflow for the Far East, March 30, on the Thirteenth Sabbath.

Evangelistic services are being conducted in Singapore in a rented hall every night in the week. During the week lectures are given in English, Chinese and Malay.

Brother Jewkes has recently started evangelistic meetings in the Penang Chapel. According to reports the attendance is steadily increasing. The papers are cooperating nicely in giving space for full reports of the lectures.

Reports reaching the Union office from Kuching, Kuala Lumpur Penang, Bangkok, Ubol and Saigon show all that our schools are having the largest enrollment ever reported. At the present time we have more than sixteen hundred students in our schools.

Doctor J. C. Hayward is at present in Singapore examining the Seminary students. Mrs. Hayward is accompanying the Doctor.

Miss Elizabeth Rogers is temporarily invalided with a broken foot. She is visiting at the Hendershot home in Singapore.

Doctor and Mrs. A. E. Geischke coming to assist in the medical work in Thailand are due in Bangkok this month.

1940 HARVEST INGATHERING WORK BEGUN

For some weeks now Pastors R. P. Abel and Tan Kia Ou have been soliciting funds for the Ubol School project. Land for this new school building has been purchased and building operations will begin as the funds are collected. An old Seminary student and good friend of our work Mr. Thu Wing Fook has pledged five hundred ticals towards this new building.

Pastor Nerness with Brethren C. C. Hwang and R. Abdy made an Ingathering trip to the East Coast early in the year on which they collected seven hundred dollars. As this issue goes to press Brethren Nerness, Hwang, Wan and Chu are busy in Johore, where they are averaging a hundred dollars a day.

Within a few weeks Pastor Lake hopes to make an Ingathering trip to Miri in the interests of the Sunny Hill School building project.

We have neglected to report a beautiful wedding which was in the Singapore English church by Pastor Hendershot during December. On the 31st Miss Florence Goonetillike and Mr. W. H. B. Monerasinghe were married. The church was beautifully decorated by Mrs. S. H. Tan.

TWO PHANGS WITH BANGKOK MISSION CLINIC

For several months Pastor N. T. Phang, our oldest ordained minister, has been the Chaplain of the Bangkok Mission Clinic. Every morning he conducts a short worship for the Clinic staff and the out patients. This worship which is conducted in Hakka is translated into Teochew, Thai and English. Pastor Phang will strengthen the spiritual phase of the Clinic's work.

Miss Helen Phang, a graduate of the Shanghai Sanitarium and recently a student at the Philippine Union College, is the Superintendent of Nurses at the Clinic.

DO YOUR BEST — TATAU RIVER BOAT — MARCH 16.
DO YOUR BEST — 13TH SABBATH OFFERING — MARCH 30.