

NOTES OF PROGRESS

OUR HOPE IN THE LITERATURE MINISTRY

By Tan Kia Ou

The literature ministry in the Malayan Union has met with good success because of the close cooperation of all mission workers—directors, field secretaries and colporteurs.

Ever since the outbreak of war in China and the great conflict in Europe there has been a slump in the commercial world, and people find it harder to earn their livelihood; consequently the sales in the literature has been affected to a certain extent. But we must be very thankful to God, for we have just as much freedom to work for God as heretofore.

As we lift up our eyes and observe the conditions in the world today, we know that the end is near



Pastor Tan Kia Ou.

even at the door. Very soon we shall see Christ coming in His glory. For this reason our colporteurs should work harder in winning souls and finishing the great commission the Lord has entrusted to us.

Malaya is a fertile and peaceful country providing a good opportunity to work for God. We are very thankful to have many colporteurs who have overcome all difficulties and obstacles. They have worked continuously for a number of years, and we respect their courage and faithfulness. But, we are also sorry to find some who did not remain long in the canvassing work, some who have worked spasmodically. These colporteurs who failed did so because they did not

CHURCH CALENDAR

May 4—Home Missionary Day
May 18—Christian Stewardship Day

apply some very fundamental principles to their work.

I would like to introduce a few of these principles of success to my dear fellow-colporteurs.

1. A strong determination and an entire consecration to the work.

2. Dependence upon God; that is, approaching God very often in supplication and prayer.

3. Diligence in work—devote as much time as possible to work and do not allow any secular business, minor ailments, hot weather, or any other excuse to hinder you.

4. Economy—spend as little as possible. Save all unnecessary expenses. Do not spend beyond your income. Lay some by for a rainy day.

5. Prompt settlement—settle your accounts with the Tract Society promptly and do not become indebted.

If my fellow-colporteurs will observe these general principles, I am sure they will enjoy good success in their service for God. Let us all take courage and lift a little harder, work a little longer, save a little more, and pray more earnestly and the work will soon be done and God will take us home with Him.

OUR 1940 INSTITUTE

By C. C. Huang

Owing to the fact that Pastor R. M. Milne and Pastor Tan Kia Ou, Field Secretaries for the Malayan Union Mission, had to rush to Thailand and French Indo-China for special campaigns, it was impossible for us to conduct an institute for our colporteurs in January as has been customary for some years. However, March 17-23 was the memorable week when our faithful colporteurs throughout the Malay States Mission gathered together in Singapore; their purpose was not alone for intensive study and self-improvement, but for sweet fellowship and mutual encouragement as well.

There are several good reasons why Singapore was most profitably chosen as the location for our 1940

institute. Firstly, it was our plan to make the Institute as impressive and instructive as possible, and we were a little fearful that it might be too monotonous if we were to hold institutes in Kuala Lumpur year after year. Secondly, it was our purpose to arouse a colporteur-ing spirit among our churches in Singapore. Thirdly, it was our hope that the colporteurs-to-be in the Malayan Seminary might be benefited by an institute of this nature. Lastly, it was our desire that our colporteurs, especially those who had never been to the "South Pole" of the Peninsula before, might become acquainted with our publishing house, our educational institution, and the Mission headquarters so that they might have a greater vision in the work of God.

We are extremely grateful that Pastor G. A. Campbell, Publishing



Mr. C. C. Huang.

Department Secretary for the Far Eastern Division, was with us during the Institute, and gave us most helpful and interesting instruction on the high principles of Christian salesmanship. We must also offer our hearty thanks to Brethren V. E. Hendershot, G. H. Minchin, L. I. Bowers, Y. H. Phang and others for the spiritual studies which they gave every morning during the devotional hour. Brethren Milne, B. T. Lan, and the writer were also privileged to help in both the technical and divine studies.

I like to think of an institute as a centre of learning where new colporteurs come to receive their training and veterans come to take post-graduate studies. Among the thirteen regulars (many student



Wu Bek Ging and family.

colporteurs attended part of the time) who went through the mill of this institute, five had not attended any institute before. These are today rejoicing with their veteran friends for the inspiration and instruction that they received from the institute and are working with might and main to win souls for their Master through the printed page.

It is our earnest prayer that the Lord will bless us with an even greater army of colporteurs—self-supporting missionaries—that the benighted peoples throughout the length and breadth of this mission may be warned of the soon-coming Saviour. May God, according to His riches and glory, make the literature ministry in this field a more soul-winning agency for Him.

FROM FRENCH INDO-CHINA

By Tran-ngoc-Te

We spent three days in Hatinh where we sold 52.00 piastres worth of books. Altogether we sold 92.00 piastres worth. We thought that we



Yong Pau Ching. Mrs. Y. C. Wan. Yong Pau Kam.

should go to Thanhhoa, but there was an epidemic there and I didn't like to leave Brother Huong for several weeks because if he got sick, both he and his parents would be discouraged and blame us. Now I plan to stay here from a week to eighteen days and show him how to work in the villages.

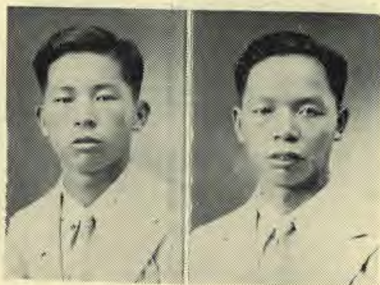


C. A. Davidson and family.

During our trip the people were very nice to us. We met many Annamite doctors and the French officers were very nice to us too. We are thankful to God for the privilege of being colporteurs.

Please remember us in your prayers; we need God's help and His power in order to have more success, not only in increasing the number of books sold but also in having more people come to our Saviour.

For several days now I have been sick and have suffered very



Chen Ee Tsai. Cheng Fah Chung.

much. I tried some French medicine, but it has not cured me yet. We work very hard even though the weather and sickness troubles us.

	Malay States	Thailand	Ind
1934	15,768.63	3,195.58	8
1935	17,683.21	1,702.76	5
1936	10,943.05	3,747.41	6
1937	18,430.19	4,436.78	1
1938	22,159.88	2,759.85	3
1939	12,713.93	3,271.87	2

79 Publishing Houses, 195 Languages
1938 — Total World S

LITERATURE INTEREST AT UBOL

The colporteur rally and institute was much shorter this year than was planned, but interest in the literature work was most excellent.

There are many people in East Thailand, but the population is almost entirely rural. Markets are few and far between and people do not have much ready cash.

April is vacation month and several will spend it in missionary work. Two of the teachers plan to sell *Health and Longevity* along the railway line towards Bangkok. This territory has been sold over before and the book has been published for a long time, but they are optimistic and determined to succeed.

Two young ladies who did so well in Ubol last year will try the larger town of Korat. Another teacher will go with several boys on a tour by ox cart, endeavoring to reach villages never entered before. Still others will work in Ubol and along the river.

With so little literature to sell



Malay States Colporteur

Sarawak	B. N. Borneo	Union
375.32	552.37	28,214.62
1,192.92	675.70	27,013.55
1,102.19	466.63	22,391.89
1,690.74	881.69	27,348.44
1,290.20	1,007.85	30,228.68
1,856.12	535.95	21,311.93

workers in the Publishing Department.
\$4,190,330.00 U.S. gold.

and the difficulty of carrying it about in such districts, the enthusiasm and earnestness with which these young people undertake the work is remarkable.

Surely there are many honest souls in East Thailand that the Lord wants gathered in, and may these young people have the joy of finding at least a few of them.

LITERATURE WORK
IN THAILAND

By V. L. Kon

Last year Brother Chau So sold 721 subs. to the Chinese *Signs* besides a goodly number of Chinese books. M. David took 71 subscriptions to English periodicals. We have also sold about 120 sets of *Busy Man's Library* and *Marvelous Age*. Last year during the school vacation four boys from Bangkok and several teachers and students from the Ubol school went out to sell *The Book of Knowledge* and *Chu Chart*. Altogether 3,800 *Book of Knowledge* and 1,589 *Chu Chart* were sold.



Institute—March 16-23, 1940.

They sold their books to the governors and officials as well as to the common people. Wherever they went the people received them heartily and were willing to buy their books.

At one house we told of our work and presented our books. The man just laughed and said that in our



Mr. and Mrs. Huang Chiang Min.

book it says that God created the heavens and the earth. That was absurd for no one knows who created the universe. The Buddhist books did not say who created things. Even Buddha didn't know the beginning. But after explaining it to him in a polite way, he seemed impressed. He bought six copies and asked us to come again when we had more new books to sell.

We have heard from many that they like the books. Some have written to the office asking for



Thomas Lim. P. G. Peter.

more. We hope and pray that some will come to the knowledge of the Truth through reading these books.

The last week in February a short institute was held in the Bangkok school. During the school



Lee Lok Thean and family.

term several of the boys have been coming on afternoons and Sundays, but during April when there is a month's vacation, this group is going to South Siam.

It is a cheerful and enthusiastic band. The principal of the school and one of the teachers are the leaders.

MY COLPORTEUR
EXPERIENCES

By C. A. Davidson

In the capacity of a recruiting agent for the Kingdom of God, I would say that the colporteur work is the highest and noblest work of the most dignified type.

I like to call myself an apostle of Health, as I handle only the health journals. I enjoy recalling to memory that while Christ was on earth, He healed first, then taught and preached. So I try to imitate my Master.

This is my fourth year of canvassing. During these four years, I have had a lot of trouble and hardship, but I have faced it all calmly as a soldier and disciple of



Ho Ngin Yin. Chan Yan Him.

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LEONARD F. BOHNER—EDITOR.

Christ. Yet it is also a privilege to be a colporteur evangelist. From my own experience, I would say that it is a pleasure to be a faithful, honest and true colporteur. Colporteurs with initiative and a burden for souls are the public's educators, physicians, lawyers, preachers, counsellors and friends. Many have complimented me on my knowledge and eloquence. Many have mistaken me to be a lawyer or a doctor. Although I have a little knowledge in these lines, I do not accept their compliments, but explain to them that I am a Solicitor-general for King Emmanuel and a representative of the Physician of physicians. The Bible appropriately says that God honours and favours those who honour Him. Let praise and glory be to God.

During my last year of canvassing, I have travelled nearly ten thousand miles, had audience with over ten thousand people, men and women of all ranks; interested over one hundred souls whom, I believe, will soon join the Kingdom of God. The energetic colporteur has the chance to travel, enjoy beautiful scenery, talk with professors, royal folks and sultans. I am not afraid to face these people. I have gained audience with many of them and have been entertained by them in their residences and palaces. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Phil. 4:13.



School Institute—Bangkok—Last week of February, 1940.



Colporteurs' Institute—Saigon—January 26—February 3, 1940.
Regulars in front row.

But the colporteur is not only a traveller; he is perhaps the only one who can find souls in places where the minister cannot go. Oh, it is a joy to be a colporteur evangelist!

Dear fellow colporteurs, and those who wish to be colporteurs, we should have stamina and courage. With Christ, we can drive away Satan and do miracles and wonders in bringing many precious souls for God and preparing the way for His Kingdom of Glory. Dear brothers and sisters, drive away your sighs, dismiss your doubts and fears and put on the armour of God. Cultivate the prayer habit, and let the prayer of faith be your weapon for success. I am a man of prayer. I have achieved honour and success through supplication and prayer and angels have stood by me and ministered to me, helped me overcome and kept me from harm and

danger and weakness.

The harvest indeed is plenteous, but the labourers are few; it is only through the help of the colporteurs that we can finish the carrying of the gospel message. Dear brothers and sisters, don't misuse your talents. Now is the accepted time; come, enter into the mighty army of the King of kings, rally with the colporteurs and recruit souls for God.

Why should you delay? Why should you waver? Christ our Captain is in front of us. Make the decision now. "My God shall supply all your need, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19. This is my humble appeal, dear readers and colporteurs, on behalf of the Master.

PROSPECTS

In spite of the war and other unfavourable conditions within our Union this year, there are many reasons why we should be optimistic.

Several new Chinese books will soon be ready. The Press in Shanghai promises *Ministry of Healing* by the end of May besides several small books. At present our own Malayan Signs Press is preparing a good book in Chinese which ought to be ready for the last half of the year.

The newly established branch in Saigon is printing now, and we hope it will not be long till some new books appear in Annamese. For years we have talked and planned for something in Cambodian. *Happy Home* will soon be ready in this language.

Three books are now available in Malay.

Best of all is the courage of our regular colporteurs.