

MALAYAN UNION MISSION NOTES OF PROGRESS

Vol. 11

June, 1940

No. 1

PROCLAIMING THE MESSAGE IN PENANG

By H. W. Jewkes

On 18th February we held the first of a series of public lectures in 1940 at the Adventist Chapel, Penang. Over 2,000 announcements had been systematically given out or mailed to the citizens of Penang; and we were pleased to have the Chapel filled with men and women of most of the nationalities, represented in the city, but our hearts were saddened to realize that not one Malay was there.

The meetings were held three times a week and we were pleased to have a number attend most of the lectures. We have made some good contacts, and trust that some will turn to the Saviour with all their hearts.

At the beginning of the meetings, I had a friendly visit with the editor of the leading paper in North Malaya. He was very kind and co-operative, and said he would do all he could to make the meetings a success. It was suggested that he send a reporter to the meetings to prepare a write-up of each lecture, but on second thought he suggested I write up a summary of about 1,000 words of each lecture and he would have it printed the following day. Though this entailed a good deal of extra work it was doubtless for the best, for it gave opportunity for careful thought and logical arrangement of the subject matter.

Though only about 50 could hear the lectures each evening, 7,000 copies of each were scattered over the city and neighbouring states, even into Thailand. Our prayers went with these copies of the printed messages; the results will not be known till we reach the land of promise.

Comments on the lectures were varied. After reading the one entitled, "The Dead cannot Act, Think, or Talk," a retired Englishman said, "I think that is the best lecture yet. I agree with you heartily." Commenting on the lecture, "Modern Slavery in Penang," a subject dealing with narcotics, a prominent citizen declared that it was very good and I knew she spoke from a full heart, for her husband is held by

the clutch of the weed. A prominent business man remarked, "We have been having some pretty straight sermons lately." Little do we know of the far-reaching influence of these printed messages.

Since closing the Evangelistic Meetings we have begun a series in Malay at the Mission Clinic waiting-room. Brethren M. Siregar and D. Liem are in charge of the meetings.

CHURCH CALENDAR

June & July, 1940

- June 1—Home Missionary Day
- 15—Sabbath School Rally Day
- 22—Special Day of Fasting and Prayer
- 29—13th Sabbath—South America
- July 6—Home Missionary Day
- 20—Mid-Summer Offering
- 27—Educational Day and Offering

This is the first series of public lectures to be held here in Malay, and we are happy to report that the room has been filled each evening, and it is gratifying to note that from five to ten Malay men are coming regularly. We solicit your prayers for the speedy finishing of the work in Penang.

OUR MOST NORTHERN COMPANY OF BELIEVERS

By E. A. Moon

In Hanoi, the capital city of French Indo-China, we have a company of believers who meet in a little rented chapel from Sabbath to Sabbath for Sabbath school and Sabbath services. Two or three years ago Brother Wentland, the Director of the Indo-China Mission, learned of an interest in Hanoi. A group of people sent an invitation to the Mission, asking that someone come to Hanoi to teach them the truth of the Bible. It was not until about a year ago that the Mission committee found it possible to send a worker.

During my last visit to French

Indo-China I had the pleasant privilege of spending about a week in Hanoi with Pastor and Mrs. Wentland. During the time we were there, meetings were held every evening and on the Sabbath day. These meetings were well attended, and we were happy to meet several persons who are definitely interested in the truth. There are already a few baptized members in Hanoi, but it is expected that as a result of the studies being given by our Annamese worker that soon there will be several more ready for baptism. And so the Spirit of God leads us on into these distant places where there are those who are honest in heart and who are waiting to hear the glad tidings of salvation.

Hanoi is about 550 miles north of Tourane; and as far as we know, there are as yet no believers between these two cities. One of the brethren who was recently baptized at Hanoi is now actively engaged in the colporteur work and is meeting with good success. Hanoi is only a relatively short distance from the southern boundary of China, and thus definite evangelistic work has been begun in this most northern city of the Malayan Union.

CLINIC BUILDING FOR PENANG

A desirable piece of property, including a good building, has recently been purchased in Penang and will become the permanent location for our Penang Clinic which heretofore has always been operated in rented quarters. This property is in a good location across Chulia Street from the present Clinic and just a short distance nearer the centre of Penang. Doctor Hayward has been appointed Medical Director of the Penang Clinic. Doctor Hebard carries the responsibility of Medical Director of our Penang medical work in general while devoting a large portion of his time to the work at the Sanitarium.

The only way to regenerate the world is to do the duty which lies nearest us, and not to hunt after grand, far-fetched ones for ourselves.—*Charles Kingsley.*

A FAITHFUL, ISOLATED SABBATH KEEPER

By E. A. Moon

Away up almost at the northern end of Thailand (Siam) is the village of Payao. This village is on the highway leading from Lampang on the Thailand State Railway, north to Yunnan in China and west to the Shan States of north Burma. Several years ago our colporteurs met a Chinese shopkeeper in this village and this man appeared to be interested in the doctrines as taught by Seventh-day Adventists. About six years ago Pastor Milne baptized this brother.

A few weeks ago Brethren Ritz, Kon, Hiu and I visited this brother in his home. We found him faithfully observing the Sabbath and doing active missionary work. This brother has been holding up the light of truth in this isolated place for these several years since his baptism and has had the privilege of seeing one of our workers only occasionally. He sends his tithes and offerings to the office in Bangkok regularly. He has never had the privilege of attending church services or Sabbath school with any of our groups of believers anywhere.

NOTES FROM INDO-CHINA

By R. H. Wentland

If we would add up all the difficulties and long column of troubles which seem to be blocking the advancement of God's work, we would have reason for discouragement. But, we don't do that. We have so many things to be thankful for as we see the ever brighter future and the progress the work is making that we have not time to listen to calamity howlers. We find that troubles and trials work well into a strong work by the presence of God.

It may be that we will have about twenty-five souls to baptize before we leave on our furlough in July. Eight have already been baptized and many others are waiting for the ordinance just as soon as we can get around to administer it.

Our colporteur work has a better start than it had last year, and the press is at work preparing literature just as fast as it can. The colporteur future has never been better.

It will not be long now before our main building for our medical unit shall be a finished matter at Djiring. Because of the many

Adventist people who have gone to that place to work for Brother Julien on his plantation it will be possible for us to organize a church there in the next few weeks. The Moi people have become very friendly, and very few pass by without greetings. We are looking forward with keen interest to the work for the Moi people at Djiring.

We shall start at once to open our work in Indo-China under the name of the mission incorporated. This has now been completed and so it gives us full freedom in French Indo-China, equal to that of the Catholic church. We believe that this is a step in the right direction, and as far as we can see now, it is what we have been praying God for now a number of years.

WHAT A LADY DID WHO COULDN'T DO ANYTHING

By R. H. Wentland

A lady who couldn't do anything did something. She was the wife of a man who owned a sawmill in northern Minnesota, U.S.A. She lived a long way from any Adventist church, and neighbours were few and far apart. She could not preach and she could not give Bible studies, but she did not content herself with the fact that she could not do any missionary work.

My grandfather was a lay preacher for the Baptist church in the state of North Dakota way back about the year 1860. He had a large family and while the winter months covered the farms with snow, four of his sons went to northern Minnesota to work for this man who owned a sawmill and whose wife was an Adventist.

When the snow began to thaw and field work on the farm was about to start, the boys went to their boss for their pay cheques. While he gave them their pay cheques, this cautious sister who couldn't do anything did something—she slipped a nice bundle of tracts into one of the boys' pocket. He took them home and gave them to his father who at once devoured the contents and began to preach the same to his congregation. What happened? Why, a Sabbath school was started and my grandfather, his wife, all of my uncles and aunts, with the exception of the one who carried the literature home, became Adventists. Not only this large family, but also several of the neighbours became Adventists.

I personally know some of the neighbours who became Adventists,

but space does not permit me to say much about them. Out of our own family, or rather descendants of my grandfather's family, there are today four ordained ministers. One of my uncles has been president of unions in Europe for many years. I can count thirty-five of my own near relatives who are Adventists today because of this little act that sister did years and years ago.

None of us knows where this sister lived. Her address has been lost. She has never learned of the harvest of souls that resulted from that parcel of literature she gave the boys as they left. She, perhaps, died long ago. Who knows but what she may have said sometime, "I'll not hand out any more literature; it doesn't do any good anyhow," because she never learned of one soul that became even interested because of what she did. But what about it? No, she never learned of the result. She did her faithful part. She planted the seed, and God watered and nourished it. Some day in heaven I shall ask an angel to look up this dear Adventist sister and we will have a grand reunion. Will she be happy? Will she feel repaid for the money and the postage she spent getting that literature from the conference office to her home?

Remember, you may not always see the results of your literature work here, but rest assured that someday you will see what has been accomplished.

THE MALAY STATES SABBATH SCHOOLS ADVANCE

By Pastor J. M. Nerness

Communiqués issued by our twenty-two Sabbath Schools in the Malay States Mission for the quarter just closed reveal encouraging advancement on all fronts. In searching for the factors contributing toward this being the best "first quarter" in offerings and toward the remarkable increase of 8% in the total mission Sabbath School membership, it is disclosed that these gains were due to following the Master's plan in ordering the battle. Throughout the field, those giving full time to the work have caught the vision of enlisting our loyal laymen to put of their best into the battle for truth. Some examples will serve to encourage.

For years the enemy was in unchallenged possession of a small town near Ipoh known as Siputeh. Some of our scattered believers in that community knew that our

REPORT OF TITHE AND SABBATH SCHOOL OFFERINGS
MALAYAN UNION — 1ST QUARTER ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1939 AND 1940

(All items in Local Currency)

Mission	Tithe		Percentage		Sabbath School		Percentage	
	1939	1940	Gain	of Gain	1939	1940	Gain	of Gain
B. N. Borneo	285.01	526.80	241.79	85%	154.80	172.80	18.00	12%
F. I. China	362.55	1,997.48	1,634.93	451%	94.55	101.61	7.06	7%
Malay States	3,138.29	3,392.57	254.28	8%	1,155.62	1,334.63	179.01	15%
Sarawak	250.42	326.06	75.64	30%	112.81	156.21	43.40	38%
Thailand	643.88	983.02	339.14	53%	183.16	250.52	67.36	37%
Totals	4,680.15	7,225.93	2,545.78	54%	1,700.94	2,015.77	314.83	19%

The statement for the 1st Quarter of 1940 which appears above certainly is one which should give encouragement to all. Did you notice that every one of our five missions show a gain in both Tithe and Sabbath School offerings. In these momentous times I believe it is fitting that we should each one be more faithful than ever before in paying an honest Tithe and in giving a more liberal Sabbath School offering. With the War have come higher prices in rubber and tin from which some of our members get their income. Others have received higher wages as a result of the higher prices. Let us determine that as far as we are personally concerned these increases will continue during the remaining three quarters of 1940. Let us give while we may, remembering, that "the Lord loveth a cheerful giver."—*L. F. Bohner, Treasurer.*

worker at Ipoh had all his time taken each Sabbath in meeting with other companies so they determined that the time had come for them to lift the banner of truth by conducting their own Sabbath School. Brother Wong Kiat Sam encouraged them in this undertaking and helped them find a place in which to meet. These laymen provided seats and other necessary fixtures from their own means with which to conduct a small but strong Sabbath School. Let us pray for these brave soldiers of the cross who do not enjoy the help of our loyal workers as they meet from week to week.

Four of our six Sabbath Schools in the Kuala Lumpur sector are the charge of Brother Abdy. To keep these pressing forward in a strong way has been a real test of his generalship, but faithful laymen have volunteered to help. One of the volunteers who attends four of these Sabbath Schools without fail is Brother Santiago Decruz. Physically, he has been suffering from ill health but because he is spiritually strong, he takes his violin and mounts his bicycle to spend the entire Sabbath in missionary work.

The greatest advance during the quarter was made in the vicinity of the Singapore Chinese Church. Sister S. H. Tan, the superintendent, with her corps of workers set out to lead the church to new positions. The goal of \$210 was passed by \$56.62. At the outset of the quarter, the company consisted of 85 members and because all agreed that this was not enough a goal was set to increase the army of the Lord there to at

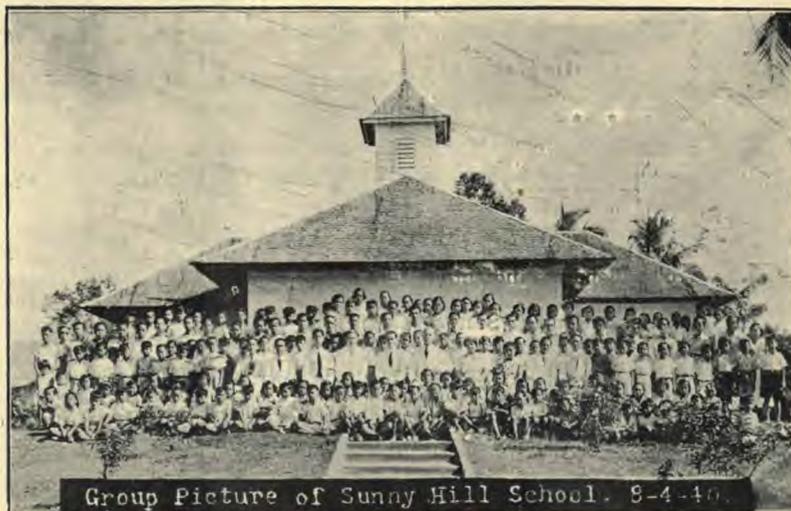
least 120 before the quarter ended. The enlistment totalled 121 when the quarter closed. In other words they added one member for every two who had been in attendance at the beginning of that period.

Other schools from all sectors of Jehovah's Malayan line could add a good report, but space does not permit. However, as we note the cheering growth of our S. S. work for the quarter we should set our hearts upon pressing the work forward with renewed courage and rejoice in the promise given through the Spirit of Prophecy: "The secret of our success in the work of God will be found in the harmonious working of our people. There must be concerted action. Every member of the body of Christ

must act his part in the cause of God, according to the ability that God has given him. We must press together against obstructions and difficulties, shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart."—*C. S. page 75.*

**PENANG SANITARIUM-CLINIC
EXTENSION CAMPAIGN**

Pastor R. M. Milne is leading out in a campaign to raise funds to help finance the purchase of the new Penang Clinic building and to enlarge the present Sanitarium building. Several large amounts have been received from liberal men in Penang and Ipoh. Pastor's Phang and Hendershot recently made a trip to Penang to help in the drive.



Group Picture of Sunny Hill School. 8-4-40

Students and teachers in the Sunny Hill School, Kuching, Sarawak

NOTES OF PROGRESS

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LEONARD F. BOHNER—EDITOR.

NEWS NOTES

In a letter just received from Brother Mampe Siregar in speaking of the Penang Malay effort he writes, "we are glad to say that some Mohammedans have come to the meetings regularly. I am thankful to God for the attendance. As far as I know, this is the first time we have been able to get Mohammedans to regularly attend lectures."

* * * *

Brother Choo Yun Fatt who has been working for some time in Singapore has been assigned to Ipoh. Brother Wong Kiat Sam will spend the next few months in helping raise Ingathering funds.

* * * *

The North Johore district which for some time has been without a worker now is manned by Brother Wan Yun Chong, who moved to Kluang with his family recently. Brother Liew Yun, the principal of the Te Sin School, is looking after the interests of the Kuala Lumpur Chinese church.

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The Seminary has been forced to turn away a large number of students as in several standards they have as many students as the educational authorities permit.

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Professor Hendershot has just completed a successful Week of Prayer at the Seminary.

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Did you have a part in making the splendid Tithe and Sabbath School offering gains recorded in this issue possible?

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Reports from Penang indicate that April was one of the best months in the history of the Sanitarium-Clinic. March was the best month that the Bangkok Clinic has had to date. The combined monthly income of the two institutions is over ten thousand units of local currency.

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The school attendance in the Union is nearing the two thousand mark.

CHANGES

At a recent meeting of the Union committee, Pastor R. P. Abel was appointed Director and Treasurer of the Thailand Mission, effective upon the departure of Pastor A. P. Ritz for furlough. Pastor L. I. Bowers was asked to serve as Director of the British Borneo Mission during the year that Pastor Youngberg is away for furlough. Brother Bohner will carry the work of Manager of the Malayan Signs Press this year in addition to his duties in the Union.

STOP PRESS!

SPECIAL DAY OF PRAYER

By E. A. Moon

From the headquarters of the Far Eastern Division we have been informed that a telegram has been received from the General Conference brethren at Washington, D. C., requesting that Sabbath, June 22 be observed in all of our churches throughout the world as a day of special prayer and fasting.

In view of the tremendous events which are rapidly transpiring in the world and in these days of perplexity and uncertainty, it is indeed fitting that we turn our hearts to God in special supplication on behalf of His work and His people in areas of the earth where there are troubled conditions and in behalf of world conditions in general.

Shall we not search our hearts and make sure that each one of us is in the right relation with the Lord and that we are ready for the serious times which are just before us?



Brethren Decruz and Abdy leaving for branch Sabbath Schools

NEW DOCTOR ARRIVES FOR THAILAND

Doctor and Mrs. A. E. Geschke and baby daughter passed through Singapore early in April enroute to Bangkok where Doctor Geschke relieved Doctor Waddell while he took a well-earned vacation.

It has not been definitely decided whether the Geschkes will remain in Bangkok or open a new medical unit in southern Thailand. With the arrival of Doctor Geschke we now have two doctors in Penang and two in Thailand.

INDO-CHINA PRESS COMPLETES FIRST BOOK

The first book to be published by the Saigon branch of the Press is now being sold by the colporteurs. This small Annamese health book is a reprint of one formerly published in Singapore.

Our first book in Cambodian, a translation of the Annamese health book, is now going through the Saigon branch.

Brother Howlett and his staff are expecting a type-casting machine from France to arrive shortly.

AND STILL ANOTHER BOOK

It is said that the following notice appeared in a North Carolina paper, written by a Negro preacher: "Mount Moriah Baptist Church, the Rev. John Obadiah. Pastor. Preaching morning and evening. In the promulgation of the gospel three books are necessary—the Bible, the hymnbook, and the pocketbook. Come tomorrow and bring all three."—A good suggestion for any one of our many missionary campaign services.—Home Missionary Promoter.



The first Ibans (Sea Dyaks) to enter our Ayer Manis Training School. These men from the Tautau River will make fine workers.