

MALAYAN UNION MISSION
NOTES OF PROGRESS

Vol. 11

October, 1940

No. 3

OUR SCHOOLS IN THAILAND

By E. A. Moon

The Thailand Mission conducts two large mission schools, one at Bangkok and the other in East Thailand at Ubol. Both of these schools are carrying on strong work and each year some of the young people are baptized and join the church. Bible study and the various activities fostered by the Junior Missionary Volunteer Society are regular features of the work. A good proportion of the students are regular members of the Sabbath school, although most of them come from non-Christian homes.

The school in Bangkok has an enrollment of 235. This is the maximum number we are permitted to have, according to the regulations of the Thailand Education Department. If we had the facilities and the teachers we could easily double this enrollment, as many have been refused admission who would be glad to attend our school. Brother Prachurd is the principal and there are several other teachers associated with him in the teaching work.

At Ubol the total enrollment so far this year is around 450, and the actual attendance at the time of my last visit was 438. Thus the attendance at Ubol is the largest of any of our schools in this Union. Brother Puie is the principal, and there are eleven other teachers on the faculty. On the Sabbath when I was there thirteen young people were baptized by Pastor Abel. This school has been carried on heretofore in rented quarters, but at the present time a new building is under construction on an attractive site containing about three acres, which we recently purchased.

MATERNITY HOME
AT PHNOM PENH

By E. A. Moon

At the annual committee meeting of the Malayan Union held in December, 1939, plans were laid for the opening of a clinic and maternity home in Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia, in French Indo-China.

This institution was opened the

middle of July with Sister Marthe Bentz in charge. Sister Bentz is a graduate nurse and midwife and is well qualified to carry on this work. A building has been leased which provides space for fourteen beds for mothers and the same number of little beds for babies. There are also the delivery room, reception hall, etc.

When I visited Phnom Penh, the day after the institution was opened, there was already one maternity case being cared for. The Cambodian mother and her baby boy seemed quite happy to be in this cheerful pleasant place.

We believe that there are good prospects for a great deal of work for this new medical centre, and that it will be the means of interesting some of the people of that part of the field in the truths of the Bible.

CHURCH CALENDAR

October and November, 1940

- Oct. 5—Home Missionary Day
26—Spirit of Prophecy Day
Nov. 2—Home Missionary Day
9—Colporteurs' Rally Day
16—23—Week of Sacrifice

SABBATH SCHOOL PROGRESS
IN THAILAND

By A. P. Ritz

For several years Brother Hiu has carried on a branch Sabbath School in the outskirts of Bangkok where each Sabbath about thirty Chinese children meet. Recently two more branch Sabbath Schools have been started. One is held in the Thai language, and meets each Sabbath afternoon at the home of Brother and Sister Ee. This is a new venture and with children who have never attended religious services. Therefore they have to be taught to be orderly, taught to sing, and the Gospel story has to be told from the very beginning.

The other new branch Sabbath School is conducted by Pastor Kon Vui Leorg at the home of one of our Chinese members who lives quite far from the church. Here are two families with many children, as well as some others who come in. We trust that these efforts will result in arousing an

interest in the hearts of some for the things of God and eternity.

The attendance in our other Sabbath Schools is better than formerly. The average attendance at our Thai-English Sabbath school is now about 200. This is good considering the fact that this School meets at 8:00 on Sabbath morning. This is necessary so that our services may be concluded in time for the Chinese services which begin at 10 o'clock. In my recent visit to Ubol I found a good attendance there also, for the Sabbath School and church service.

Our Sabbath School offerings for the first two quarters of 1940 show a 25% gain over the same period for 1939. We are thankful for the progress of the Sabbath School work in Thailand and we trust that the Lord will continue to bless abundantly.

M. V. WEEK OF PRAYER

By A. P. Ritz

In harmony with our usual plan of conducting a week of prayer for the students in our schools early in each school year, we held special services for the students in the Bangkok school each morning during the week of June 15 to 22.

The outline studies as supplied by the Educational department were largely followed, and we had some good times together as we reviewed many of the truths of God's Word, and drew the attention of the boys and girls to matters pertaining to our relationship to God and Heaven and eternal life. With approximately 250 students and teachers gathered in the chapel, we were inspired to do our best to impress these young people with the seriousness of the time in which we live, and with the necessity of making the choice of wisdom as they face the future. At the closing service on Sabbath we made a call for those to stand who were determined to become Christians.

For some time Brother Prachurd has been conducting a baptismal class with sixteen of the older students. In the near future we hope to see all or most of these take their stand for God. Some are very strongly opposed by their parents.

"HEART" BEATS

By H. W. Jewkes

Even though we are now into the last month of the third quarter of 1940, complete reports have not arrived from all our local missions revealing the full story of progress, yet we are confident that the 'heart of the church' is doing its duty in every part of the field.

Comparing the second quarter of 1940 with that of 1939 we are happy to announce that there is a splendid increase in membership. Malaya tops the list with an increase of 111 members, and Thailand follows as a close second with 103 new members.

The Investment idea is finding new life in Sarawak. A year ago only \$1.45 was gathered in whereas this past quarter reveals a congratulatory increase to \$24.53.

The appeal to Sabbath School members, that sounded in 1925, for birthday gifts to advance the work into new fields has always received a hearty response in the Malayan Union. Thailand during the past quarter leads our five missions to an increase of 48 per cent over last year's second quarter. This is indeed encouraging, especially in view of the recommendation from the General Conference "that during the present world emergency due to war and the inability of several countries to contribute directly to the worldwide missions programme, the birthday offerings now being used for new work and workers, be devoted to meeting emergency needs for the duration of war conditions."

Surely we will earnestly do our part to the giving of more birthday offerings than ever before, for this objective is as vitally important as it has ever been during the past fourteen years since the plan was first launched.

During the past quarter a new Sabbath School was started in Kulu, Thailand, with a membership of 7. This may seem a small number compared to the largest Sabbath School in the Union, which also is in Thailand, at Bangkok having a membership of 195; but it is a good beginning and we will be looking for good reports from this new 'heart of the church.'

Branch Sabbath Schools are increasing in numbers. Thailand claims three, Sarawak two, and Malaya ten. Here we have the beginnings of more Sabbath Schools. To keep up the interest in soul saving, which is the goal of all goals, every Sabbath School should have at least one branch school. Superintendents and church lead-

ers, let us branch out into greater soul saving.

Borneo leads in members entitled to perfect record ribbons. Sixteen ribbons were earned for one, two, and three years as the past quarter closed. But when it comes to perfect record cards of honour we turn to Malaya again who leads with 189. Friends, yes Sabbath School members; let us not lose the blessings that come from daily study of the Book of books and the joyous privilege of being present and on time each Sabbath at our Sabbath School.

French Indo-China sends in a good report. Their membership is only 202 whereas their average attendance is 267. Three of their Sabbath Schools reached the weekly financial goal, and four of the seven schools reached the membership goal. Are we all doing our utmost to bring in the "missing" members? He loves every one.

Time hastens on; the end draws near. Are you a regular Sabbath School member? If not, why not? It's time to join the Sabbath School army of 2,330.

PRAYER

By W. W. R. Lake

If the essence of prayer is desire, and nobody is without desire; if prayer is the sublating and correcting of desire, the weeding out of the base, the planting of the beautiful and good; if prayer is the effort to get at the meaning of things, and getting at the meaning of things is surely getting nearer to God, then it is obvious that the Ibar brethren in their simple faith have solved much of the meaning of prayer, and submitted their desires to the alchemy of the Word of God. Three experiences have been sent to me by brother Elam Sinaga of the Tatau River work which illustrate their Christian character in these principles.

"We had gathered at the home of Brother Turi when this brother with face aglow related his experience with a poisonous snake. While out in the field working, an "ular negkrudu" bit him on the leg injecting its venomous poison. The usual result of an attack from this reptile is an exaggerated swelling followed by coma, and in some instances, death. Our brother remembering God's promise that 'they shall take up serpents and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them,' prayed that this experience would not only enlarge his faith in His Master but

it would open the eyes of those around him so that they might believe in the true God and His willingness to hear petitions and answer. Was he rewarded for his simple faith? The answer is found in that no terrifying symptoms developed to the astonishment of all the people. The news spread far and wide to the glory of God.

"A sister testified to the same thing. She also was bitten by a poisonous snake by the name of "ular entikeor." When she realized what had bitten her, she screamed, but remembering God's promise of help she knelt down and asked the Lord to fulfil His promise in her case. The usual resultant effect of a bite from this reptile is cramps, ghastly bluish tint of the skin, and coma ending sometimes in death. But to the surprise of all nothing happened to her. At this gathering she testified to the power of prayer and the goodness of God, and what a privilege it was to her to find that the King of Kings answered the petition of a poor ignorant woman.

"Another brother got up and with a ring in his voice testified to the truthfulness of God's Word and effect of prayer upon his life. He told us that a centipede of an unusually vicious appearance punctured his foot with poison, but remembering God's expansive providence and power, he raised his voice to Him, and the awful pain that usually results from contact with a centipede did not appear.

"You know, brother Lake," writes brother Elam Sinaga, "I am fully persuaded to believe the truthfulness of the promises of God when I see it manifested in the lives of these simple people who take God's Word just as it stands and just what it says. They pray like little children, believe like little children, and expect their answers from the Lord in accordance with the teachings of His Word like little children. That is why, brother Lake, we should not disappoint them in the least."

These prayers have been answered but there are certainly prayers that are not answered, at least in the form in which the petitions are made. "For this thing," said Paul, "I besought the Lord thrice." A crescendo of agony, then silence, wherein a still, small voice said to him, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Paul trailing his infirmity through the world, enlightened and inspired by God's grace, was an infinitely greater Paul than the Paul from whose flesh the thorn might have been removed. The reason people keep on praying is because multitudes

MALAYAN UNION MISSION — EIGHT MONTHS ENDING 31st AUGUST, 1939 and 1940

REPORT OF TITHE AND SABBATH SCHOOL OFFERINGS

(All items in Local Currency)

Mission	TITHE		Gain	Percentage of Gain	SAB. SCHOOL		Loss or Gain	Percentage Loss or Gain
	1939	1940			1939	1940		
B. N. Borneo	1,172.14	1,350.44	178.30	15%	388.48	368.64	19.84L	5%L
Fr. Indo-China	1,320.29	3,598.14	2,277.85	173%	255.12	256.41	1.29G	½%G
Malay States	8,397.35	10,110.21	1,712.86	20%	2,958.89	3,400.19	441.30G	15%G
Sarawak	670.87	1,024.91	354.04	53%	298.85	410.82	111.97G	37%G
Thailand	1,465.64	2,210.81	745.17	51%	524.39	663.22	138.83G	26%G
Total	13,026.29	18,294.51	5,268.22	40%	4,425.73	5,099.28	673.55G	15%

Leonard F. Bohner, Treasurer

of them have made the discovery that while prayer does not always change things it changes them, and they have learned the meaning of the paradox, "When I am weak, then am I strong."

"SUNBEAMS"

By H. W. Jewkes

Since the beginning of two Pre-junior Classes for our boys and girls, new life has been demonstrated in the Junior Societies of Malaya. As this year began, there came with it the requirements for the "Sunbeam" and "Lightbearer" classes. Immediately the boys and girls started to complete these requirements.

In Penang, enthusiasm was so keen that the teachers also joined the juniors in completing the requirements, and on June 28 the Penang Junior Society took the honours in having the first Investiture service for "Sunbeams." Fifteen were invested with all dignity and splendour with Melanthon Nadeak presiding as chairman.

A very fitting programme was arranged, all candidates taking part and demonstrating their ability in having completed the work satisfactorily.

An indication of the activity of this society is further shown by their Missiary Work. For the first half of this year, they present the following report, which indicates, "A little child shall lead them:"

Bible Reading	8
Missionary Visits	35
Persons taken to Meetings	47
Persons helped	163
Treatments given	53
Clothes given	100
Tracts distributed	5,633
Missionary Letters written	25

The Junior Society at our Mount View School, Kuala Lumpur, is also actively working to complete the "Sunbeam" requirements. Fourteen boys with the teachers are nearing the top of the requirement ladder.

Singapore always does its part. Word has been sent in that a large number of the children are enrolling in the Classes.

From Kuching, Bro. Choo writes that sixty children are working on the "Sunbeam" requirements.

There are more Juniors who would thrill with the opportunity of working for the "Sunbeam" Insignia. Seniors, leaders, let's give them the privileges that are theirs!

TO SAVE OTHERS IS TO SAVE ONESELF

By Wong Kiat Sam

Every Seventh-day Adventist, whether he be missior-worker or lay-member, young or old if he but has an ardent desire and aim and believes that "to save others is to save oneself," will surely gather men to Christ as a fisherman gathers fish. There is a Chinese proverb which says, "If you have saved one soul, it is equivalent to your having built a seven-story pagoda." They value the life of a person as about the cost of building a pagoda. But to us Christians and according to the Bible, the price of one saved to Christ is unlimited. It is invaluable, for the world with all its riches cannot buy a soul. So everyone who is a Seventh-day Adventist, should put forth his utmost efforts in the cause of saving the lost.

Because "the love of Christ constraineth us," we should hold up the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ before all men in every place no matter what the circumstances.

First of all we should be witnesses in the home, then to our kinsmen, and lastly to those around us.

Prayer with industriousness is the secret to success. We should pray often and work very hard. If we think of doing a great work for God by converting precious souls to Christ and put no effort into it, as surely as the ocean contains water, it will come to nought. If a bee were to fly in and out among the beautiful flowers only, it would accomplish nothing. But if it goes into the flowers one by one, in the end it will have gathered all the honey. If we really believe that to save others is to save oneself, we will certainly go to every home, one by one as the bee does to the flowers, and preach the truth to them.

Tracts should be in our pockets all the time, for by them, we are able to preach to others. Besides, tracts are easily distributed. On the train or boat, anywhere we go we can give them away and thus sow seeds of truth in the hearts of men.

I am a Christian today because I received some convincing tracts from some faithful members and was converted through reading them.

During my past experience I have met with many people of various nationalities. I have had Bible studies with them and many have accepted the truth. How was I able to come into contact with them? The only answer I can give you is, through tracts. So let us take tracts with us wherever we go.

Every Christian who has his name written in the book of life should be wise as a serpent but harmless as a dove to preach this gospel to the people who are still sitting in the shadow of death. My former plan was to get acquainted with a stranger a day. Then I would study their habits and work. If they were in trouble

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.

I would help them. If they were sick I would visit them so that in a short time we would become friends. The next step was to write missionary letters to them, or take them to the church to have Bible studies, and to pray for them. In this way I hoped to bring them to the way of life.

Dear brethren and sisters, there are many other ways in which you can win souls for God. Pray to Him earnestly in this time of trouble for new strength and courage to do His will. Once more I would like to draw your attention to the statement "To Save Others Is To Save Yourself." So work hard for God in this soul-winning task that you may have many stars in your crown of life when He comes the second time.

NEWS NOTES

Brother S. N. Siregar one of the Seminary teachers spent his recent holiday period canvassing in Johore with the Malay Health book. He reports an interesting and profitable trip.

Pastor L. S. Sibarani who has been located for some years just outside of Jesselton from where he has worked back into the mountains building up new companies of believers has now moved with his family to Marudu Bay. He will continue the work started by Pastor Sibadogil.

Pastor R. P. Abel recently made a trip from Ubol to Saigon where he performed a marriage and held a baptism.

Pastor M. T. Sibadogil and family have returned from Sumatra. Pastor Sibadogil the principal of the new Sabah Training School in North Borneo hopes to open the school within a few weeks.

Public meetings will be started shortly in the Singapore church by Pastor J. M. Nerness.

Over two hundred "Sentinel" subscriptions were taken by Brother Chin Kong Tai in Penang during the recent school holiday.

Professors Jewkes and Minchin are spending some weeks in Thailand and Indo-China in the interests of our Educational, Sabbath School, and YPM work.

ANOTHER DOCTOR ARRIVES FOR THAILAND

With the arrival of Dr. and Mrs. G. G. Innocent and family in Bangkok we have now three foreign physicians connected with our medical work in Thailand.

The Innocents will be stationed in Bangkok to help carry the heavy responsibilities of the Bangkok Mission Clinic. We extend a hearty welcome to this additional medical-missionary family.

WEDDING BELLS

We are glad to report that during the past few months there have been five weddings among the workers in the Union. Nine out of the ten contracting parties are active workers in some branch of mission activity.

At Ubol two of the teachers, Kru Yoi and Miss Saing, were married by Pastor Abel.

Two marriages were solemnized in Irdo-China just before the departure on furlough of Pastor Wertland. Brother Tran-ngoc-Te, the Field Missionary Secretary for that mission was married to a young lady from Cantho. Our Annamese translator Miss Phan Thi Nhon married Brother Thanh one of our colporteurs.

On August 5th, Mr. Teo Mui Seng and Miss Esther Hu were married in Penang by Pastor J. M. Nerness. Both these young people are employed at the Penang Sanitarium and Clinic.

At the Seminary Chapel on the 18th August, Mr. Phong Yun Yin and Miss Phang Sin Chin were united in marriage by Pastor J. M. Nerness.

The Editor extends to these ten young people the best wishes of fellow workers throughout the Union.

NEWS NOTES

Two persons were baptized in Kuala Lumpur following the church service on 14th September.

Pastor L. I. Bowers left for North Borneo on the 13th September. Mrs. Bowers is finishing the school year and will then follow her husband.

Mrs. R. M. Milne is spending some weeks in Sarawak helping the school teachers in teaching the methods. This is similar to the teaching she did in Thailand last year.

Pastors Tar Kia Ou and R. M. Milne are working in Thailand and Indo-China expecting to return to Singapore at the end of October.

MEDICAL WORK ON BHUKET

As this issue of the "Notes of Progress" goes to press Doctor and Mrs. A. E. Geschke with their co-workers are at Bhuket getting ready to open the new Bhuket Mission Clinic.

From all indications this should be a success from the start. We look forward to an article, shortly, from the doctor concerning the work on Bhuket.

STOP PRESS

All will rejoice with the Seminary teachers and students who this week almost doubled their thousand dollar Ingathering goal by raising more than nineteen hundred dollars. Malay States Mission has now joined British Borneo and Sarawak in going-over-the-top. We trust that Thailand and Indo-China will shortly follow.



First "Sunbeams" of the Malayan Union Invested in Penang



Prospective "Sunbeams" in Kuala Lumpur